



Delta Delta Data

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Delta Delta Celebrates 150 Years of Brotherhood



350 Delta Delta Sigs returned to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our chapter on June 12-15.

"Words cannot adequately express how grateful I am for the celebration that you and your team created. When I walked into the house, it seemed as if I was transported back in time. A warm, satisfying and humble spirit seemed to overtake me. Several of my classmates of 1969 expressed similar experiences.

The house, the events, the history, the brothers sharing themselves in the dining room with the current undergraduate brothers in charge, the book, the dinner and cocktails, the paddle, etc... all so well coordinated. I could feel the heartfelt input that it all required by so many. The time, coordination and effort were more than impressive. Again, without adequate words to convey my thoughts and thanks." With warm brotherly love. In Hoc, Jim "Bo" Bockel '69

Bob Keagy '79 remarked, *"The afterglow from the 150th Anniversary Celebration is still with me! I knew it would be a magical event and weekend, and it was. Your team's thoughtful organization, planning and execution were appreciated. It was so much fun to see the older and younger guys. To find out how their lives have unfolded and relive what for most are the fondest of memories."*

Brother Bockel's and Keagy's reflections did indeed capture the spirit of our chapter's 150th anniversary celebration held on June 12-15. With 350 brothers in attendance, it was indeed an epic occasion for those who attended and will remembered fondly for many years to come. Enjoy this edition of the *Delta Delta Data* as it recounts 150 Years of Brotherhood at Purdue University.

Welcome Reception Kicks Off 150th Events

The 150th Anniversary Celebration kicked off Thursday afternoon with a Welcome Reception held at the chapter house. Over 200 Sigs arrived early to meet up with their pledge brothers and to have a chance to hear what new Purdue head football coach Barry Odom had to say about the upcoming season. Coach Odom texted Jeff McKean after he returned home and passed on his appreciation for having the chance to speak to so many fans.

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Coach Barry Odom



THE SIGMA CHI CREED

I believe in fairness, decency, and good manners. I will endeavor to retain the spirit of youth. I will try to make my college, the Sigma Chi Fraternity, and my own chapter more honored by all men and women and more beloved and honestly respected by our own brothers. I say these words in all sincerity that Sigma Chi has given me favor and distinction: that I will endeavor to so build myself and so conduct myself that I will ever be a credit to our Fraternity.

George Ade ΔΔ 1887

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Brothers Recognized for Their Contributions

Significant Sig Presentation

The Class of '58 took the occasion at the 150th celebration to present George Valaoras '58 with his Significant Sig award. George was recognized for his long career leading several major manufacturing



Significant Sig George Valaoras '58 with his sons, Tom and Nick, and son-in-law Josh Kirschner (all Sigs) at the presentation.

businesses. Past Grand Consul Keith Krach '79 presented the award and Bernie Sergesketter '58 made his class's congratulatory remarks. Also in attendance from the Class of '58 were Harry Thompson, John Sand and Bob Puzey. George's two sons, Tom and Nick, and son-in-law Josh Kirschner (all Sigs) were also present to honor George.

Delta Delta Brothers Recognized

Tom Hall '81 and Jeff McKean '86 were both presented Delta Delta's Ben Taylor Award. The Ben Taylor Award is given to alumni who have shown exceptional dedication and commitment to the chapter over a number of years. Phil Steele '77 spoke of each brother's contributions to the over 250 brothers at the cookout.

Tom Hall has served as House Corporation president for the past nine years. Years that have been particularly challenging for Delta Delta as the chapter navigated the Covid pandemic; the multiple dis-

ciplinary actions incurred by the chapter; the resultant national membership review; and the revitalization program that followed. Throughout the many ups and downs associated with these challenges, Tom has been the steady hand that addressed the concerns and worked closely with the undergrads to reestablish the standards expected of all Sigma Chis.



Tom Hall '81

Jeff McKean '86 has been actively involved in creating and organizing some of Delta Delta's largest events as well as being a strong advocate for the undergraduates during Jeff's years on the House Corporation.

In 1991 Jeff proposed and organized the first Delta Delta golf outing. This event has been held annually (except for 2 years during Covid) for 34 years. It is believed to be the longest running alumni event by any fraternity at Purdue. Jeff,



Jeff McKean '86

who never met a challenge he wasn't willing to take on, undertook the huge task of organizing Delta Delta's 125th Anniversary celebration in 2000. Over 400 brothers returned to take part. When Jeff was asked to lead the planning for the 150th Anniversary Celebration, he stepped forward to put on Delta Delta's biggest and most memorable event with 350 brothers returning. Jeff's willingness to commit the time and energy to orchestrate these events is based on his love of our Fraternity and willingness to "pay it forward" for future generations of Delta Delta Sigs.

Brothers Celebrate Love For “Dear Old” Sigma Chi

“I would just like to take a moment to officially congratulate you on 150 years of the Delta Delta chapter! I thought your banquet was superbly executed and that is kudos to your thoughtful approach to making sure it was a memorable occasion for all. Further - I was impressed with the turnout of so many men who came from all over to celebrate the occasion, a testament to the love they have for dear old Sigma Chi. Well done, brothers! And congratulations!” IHSV, Mike Church, Executive Director, Sigma Chi Fraternity

150th Anniversary Celebration Banquet

Jeff McKean '86 started the formal banquet by officially welcoming the



Jeff McKean '86

330 brothers in attendance. Father/Brother Joe Noonan '85 then led the invocation with the Sigma Chi Grace.

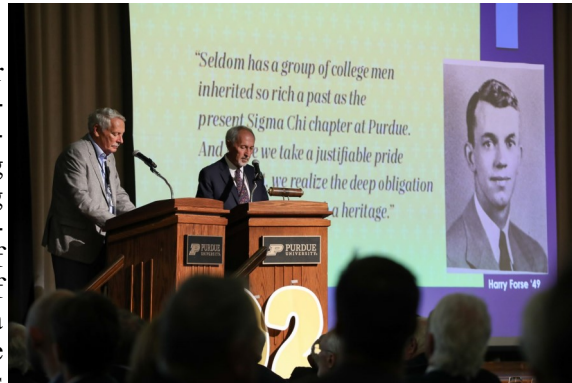
Once dinner was completed, the evening's program got underway with Jeff McKean '86, serving as Master of Ceremonies, promising an evening filled with history, nostalgia and remarkable stories of brotherhood. Jeff's personal story of his family's involvement with Sigma Chi touched everyone's heart as he spoke about one day having his grandson live in the “big yellow” house.



Norm Bafunno '83

Norm Bafunno '83 engaged the crowd as he spoke on the ever present “spirit of youth” that brings generations of Sigs together based on our common experience of being

Delta Delta brothers. Grand Consul Bob Wilson then took the stage and briefly highlighted the many contributions Delta Delta had made to Sigma Chi as Grand Consuls, national officers, Horizons and KTLW facilitators, and even as far back as 1899 when the Fraternity adopted the Sigma Chi flag designed by Henry H. Vinton, 1885. Brother Wilson's passion for Sigma Chi and love for the Fraternity inspired everyone in the room.



Harold Force '73 and John Taylor '75 present the chapter's illustrious history.

Special Moments in Delta Delta History

As the lights dimmed three brothers (Phil Steele '77, Harold Force '73 and John Taylor '75) took the stage to recount special moments surrounding Delta's founding; the character of its brothers; and the spirit that typified the nature of our days at 202 Littleton. Brother Krach commented, “These reflections on the history and tradition of Delta Delta touched every heart in the room. They brought our past to life and seamlessly tied in the enduring ideals of the White Cross.”

Speakers Highlight Sigma Chi Experiences

Each of the evening's speakers, Keith Krach '79, Pat Loehrer '75, Bill Trachtman '82 and Scott Hut-

ton '94, spoke of their own Sigma Chi experience and how impactful it had been. Each with a slightly different perspective. Keith on the value of the trust we formed between our Sig brothers; Pat in a hilarious manner equated our growth as Sigs throughout our lives to a long marriage; Scott spoke of the impact on one's career and the support our brothers give each other; and Bill reflected on the poignant memories of sharing his own stories with his Delta Delta son,

who, referring to the movie Field of Dreams, asked, “Is this heaven?”, to which Bill responded, “No, it's 202 Littleton.”

Class of '73 Presents Crest

Twenty five years ago at the 125th Anniversary Celebration, Nick Fritsch '63 presented the chapter with the restored Sigma Chi crest damaged in the 1961 Blue Formal fire. That crest was lost during the renovation. At this year's 150th Celebration, the Class of '73 presented the chapter

with a beautiful bronze crest to be placed over the Great Hall fireplace.

In presenting this symbol of our Fraternity to chapter Pro Consul Heemir Patel '27, Harold Force '73 spoke of the importance of the friendships



Jeff McKean '86 (L) with the lifelong Heemir Patel '27.

his pledge class had formed and their desire to contribute to the future success of our younger brothers.

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150th Celebration Has Something for Everyone

Chapter Meeting and Update

Friday morning started with a continental breakfast and a ritualistic chapter meeting held in our secret chapter room. The highlight was hearing the "Charge" and having each brother take his turn in the Good of the Order as he reflected on his Sigma Chi experience.

The chapter meeting was followed by an opportunity for the alumni to get an update on the chapter's status from former Consul Mitchel Rittman '26, Chapter Advisor Nate Gustus '05 and House Corp President Tom Hall '81. Sigma Chi Foundation President Mike Greenberg also outlined the Bell Chapter endowment program available to Delta Delta that provides funding for Sigma Chi's leadership and scholarship programs.

Delta Delta History Presentation

Phil Steele '77 and Ralph Blin '74, then amazed the large group of brothers as they regaled them in some of Delta Delta's most interesting historical stories. Taken from the book, "150 Years of Brotherhood, Sigma Chi Fraternity at Purdue University" the stories, facts and dates recounted our chapter's storied history. Joe Garnett '87 commented, "What a great job on the Delta Delta history session and book! I'm glad I left the pickleball to catch your presentation. I bet you and Ralph could've shared many more hours of material." Indeed they could have, but you'll have to buy the book to get "the rest of the stories".



John Harper 1875
Father of ΔΔ

NIL Panel Discussion

One of the highlights of the 150th celebration was the panel discussion on NIL/Transfer Portal/Revenue Sharing put together to provide the current perspective on the state of college athletics and



NIL Panel moderated by Mark Herrmann '81 (center).

particularly how it is impacting Purdue sports. Led by moderator Mark Herrmann '81, Director of Leadership and Alumni Engagement for the John Purdue Club, the panel was comprised of Ken Halpin, Purdue Deputy Athletics Director / Chief Operating Officer; Elliott Bloom, Director of Men's Basketball Administration and Operations; Jared Thomas, former Executive Director of UConn collective Bleeding Blue; and Richard DuPont, agent and NFLPA Certified contract advisor for Excel Sports Management.

The indeph conversation covered the complete range of issues now impacting the direction of all college athletic programs. Purdue stated it has committed to aggressively recruiting future and current athletes in order to remain competitive in the new world of college athletics.

Cocktails with the President and Mayor

The celebration's formal banquet kicked off with a cocktail hour held in the south ballroom of the Purdue Union. After a great deal of mingling amongst old friends, West Lafayette Mayor Erin Easter and Lafayette City Council member Eileen Hession Weiss, both welcomed the Sigs to their respective cities with Mayor Easter presenting a proclamation to Jeff McKean.

Keith Krach '79, former chairman of Purdue's Board of Trustees, introduced Purdue President

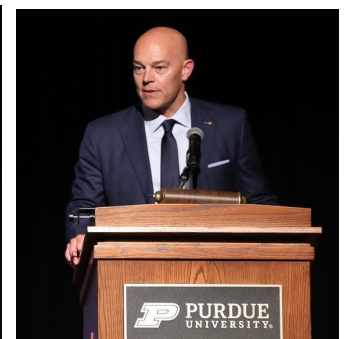


Purdue President Mung Chiang

150th Celebration Banquet Speakers



Keith Krach '79



Scott Hutton '94



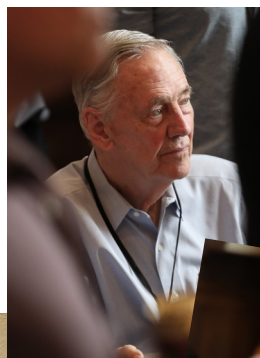
Bill Trachtman '82



Pat Loehrer '75

Mung Chiang, who officially greeted the crowd. He congratulated Sigma Chi on their leadership role at Purdue from the chapter's inception in 1875 to the many ongoing contributions

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Brothers from All Generations Leave Their Mark

Continued From Page 4
our alumni continue to make. His enthusiastic remarks were a great start to the evening.

150th Anniversary Celebration Banquet

Friday evening's formal celebration banquet was attended by over 330 Sigs, with its most senior attendees being five brothers from the Class of 1958. It was an evening filled with history, nostalgia and remarkable stories of brotherhood.

Undergrad Leadership Discussion

One of the most interesting discussions that took place over the weekend was the undergrad leadership



Sig undergraduates met with a number of alumni.

discussion with Brian Craig '98, Norm Bafunno '83, Todd Kaminski '82, James Cole '98 and Steve Smith '97. The undergrads present had a chance to question the alums and get their input on preparing for their careers, suggestions on selecting a career path, and the importance of being active in Delta Delta leadership roles.



One of the group photos included this one of all the brothers with their brothers.

150th Celebration Group Photos

Most of Saturday morning was focused on taking a number of group photos of all the brothers who had siblings who were Delta Delta Sigs, individual class photos, and the large group photo of all in attendance at the historic event.

Lunch with Matt Painter

Purdue Basketball Coach Matt Painter entertained the Sigs as they enjoyed lunch under the big tent on the



Purdue Golf Coach Matt Painter

Couse. It was fun to interact and get the "inside scoop" on Boiler basketball as this year's team looks to be a contender for a national championship. Legendary coach Gene Keady was there to greet the Sigs and take photos.

34rd Annual Golf Outing

Over 240 golfers headed for the Purdue golf courses following lunch. For the better golfers the competition for top honors was tough. For most of the golfers, though, it was a great day of golf on a couple of beautiful golf courses.

Non-golfers had a chance to attend a bourbon tasting hosted by Brush Creek Distillery at the new Boiler Prime Steakhouse, and take a

guided tour of Purdue's athletic facilities that included the football training complex and Mackey Arena.



Brothers enjoy time at the Sig cookout.

Cookout Under the Big Tent

The three-day celebration concluded with a cookout under the tents on the from lawn of the Sig house. It was an ideal setting to enjoy an evening recounting all that transpired over the past three days and to reflect one last time on the friendships and memories that had begun at 202 Littleton.



Brothers attend mass with Deacon Jim Rush '80 and Father Joe Noonan '85.

Evening Concludes

As the brothers congregated in small groups to say their goodbyes, and perhaps share one more beer, the tenor of the evening went from loud exuberance to quiet reflection. Many of the brothers noting how quickly the years have passed and how they had shared in each other's lives from their earliest memories. Starting at 202 Littleton to those that had taken place over the past 20, 40 and 60 years. Memories that will last a lifetime and perhaps be passed on to future generations of Sigma Chis.

150th Anniversary Celebration of Delta Delta of Sigma Chi

Banquet continued from Page 3

Jeff McKean returned to the podium and asked each of the Significant Sigs and Order of Constantine Sigs to stand and be recognized. Twenty – five of Delta Delta's 45 living Significant Sigs were present, and six of the seven living Order of Constantine Sigs attended. Also recognized were 102 brothers in attendance who had been Sigs for over 50 years and received Sigma Chi's "ΣΧ 50" pin.

Fitting Ending to a Great Evening

The brothers sang the "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" to Pam Faerber (the wife of George Faerber '71 and who was the chapter's 1971 Sweetheart) and concluded the evening with a rousing version of "My Name is Sigma Chi" fittingly written by Charles Eldridge ΔΔ 1885.

To All Who Contributed
Keith Krach '79 stated, "You organized the most meaningful and memorable 150th celebration any of us could have imagined. Every detail was perfect—and your love for Sigma Chi and Delta Delta came through with clarity and heart."

White Rose Ceremony Honors Schellhase '68

The Class of '68 held a White Rose Ceremony in the Library for their pledge brother Mike Schellhase who recently entered Chapter Eternal. Tom Leslie '68, Frank Hughes '68 and Robert Kaley '68 recounted Brother Schellhase's close involvement with his PBs. Mike's wife, Cheryl, was also remembered. She had passed away just a few months earlier.

Also in attendance were Mike's brother, Dave '66, sons, Mark '95 and Greg, along with his grandson, Owen.



L-R: Dave Schellhase '66, Owen Schellhase, Mark Schellhase '95 and Greg Schellhase at the White Rose Ceremony.



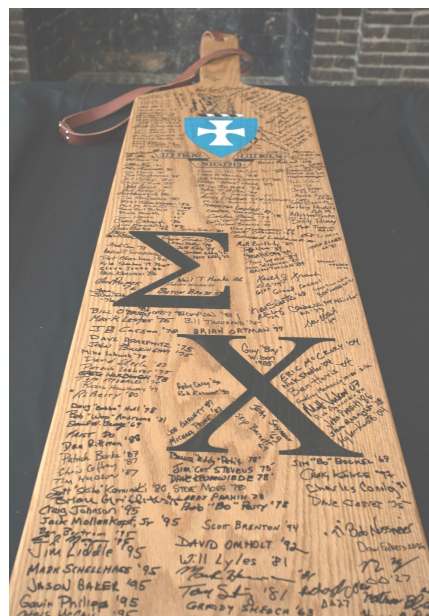
Class of '68 brothers who attended the White Rose Ceremony for Mike Schellhase.

The World's Largest Fraternity Paddle

Leave it to the Class of '73 and Harold Force '73 to come up with a plan to have something special for the 150th Celebration to record each brother's attendance by signing a Sigma Chi paddle. Not just any paddle, but the world's largest fraternity paddle which stands 9' 2" tall, 20" wide, and 1 3/4" thick.

Emblazoned with the Sigma Chi letters and crest it now has over 300 signatures of Sigs from the Class of '58 to the Class of '28.

Harold added several levels of varnish to protect the signatures and finish of the paddle, which will reside in the chapter house as a reminder of the brotherhood we all share.



Check Out the Photos From the 150th Celebration

Even if you didn't attend the 150th you'll want to browse through the many excellent photos from this celebration. Type in and go to:

<http://bit.ly/4meiJWv>



ALUMNI AND UNDERGRADUATE UPDATES AT WWW.THESIGHOUSE.COM

Awesome “150 Years of Brotherhood” Book On Sale

“Had a chance to review the Delta Delta 150th anniversary book--it is outstanding! My sincere appreciation to Phil and your collaborators who put it together. Tons of great memories and interesting historical facts. It is displayed proudly on the coffee table in my den--I'm sure it will be referred to often for a "pep" talk when I need a lift!” Steve Cosler

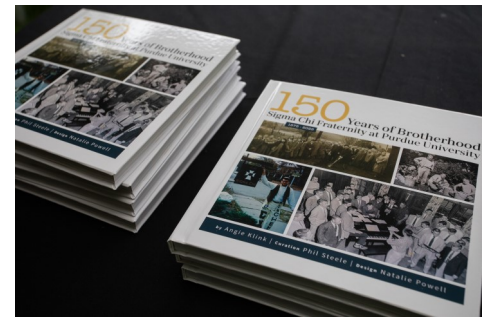
“The book is awesome, I’m flipping through it 4-6 pages a night and enjoying each part of it as I do. Random little parts of pledgeship, PIT, etc. crawl out of my brain each time I read about tub fights or the Purdue

Case, etc. What a great book and cool piece of history.”
Chris Horney ‘08

Order Your Copy Today

Every Delta Delta Sig Should have a copy of our chapter’s illustrious history. Your name is included as part of our long legacy at Purdue.

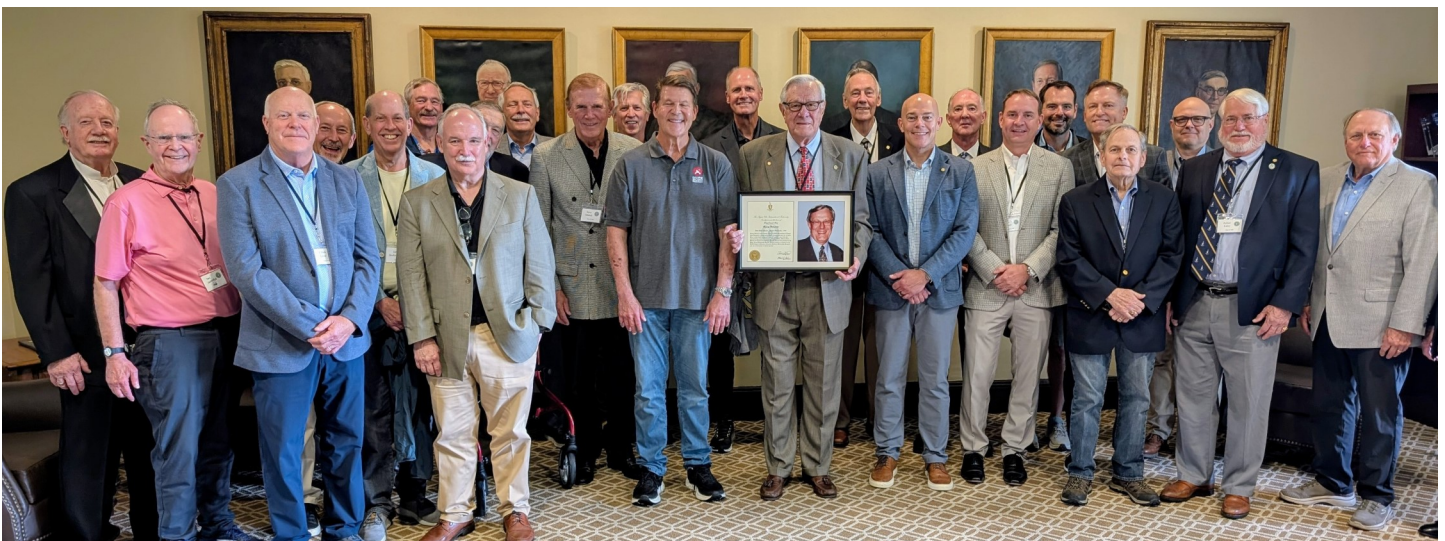
TO ORDER “150 Years of Brotherhood, Sigma Chi Fraternity at Purdue University” go to the link below. The book’s price is \$53.43 (\$39.50 + \$13.93 shipping/handling fees). Books will be mailed to each brother.



Book Order Link

To order your book type the link below into your browser or click on the link if viewing this newsletter electronically.

<http://bit.ly/45v0uoO>



25 Significant Sigs returned for the Significant Sig presentation to George Valaoras ‘58 held at Delta Delta.