

Prior to the early 1950's, Chi Phi existed primarily as a small, conservative Southern fraternity. However, as new, younger men assumed positions of influence in the fraternity the desire for growth and expansion became ever greater.

The 1955 Congress of the Chi Phi Fraternity inaugurated an expansion program designed to increase the number of chapters, resulting in the establishment of a chapter at the University of Connecticut in 1956. Also, in 1955 the pro-Greek administration at Indiana University, under the direction of President Herman B Wells, undertook a fraternity expansion program which would bring chapters of three national fraternities to the Bloomington campus at three-year intervals, since at that time the fraternity system at Indiana University had absorbed only about 30 per cent of the eligible men. President Wells was an alumnus and founder of the Indiana University chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Dean of Students Robert H. Shaffer was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, and the Adviser to Fraternities, John Heiney, was an alumnus of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity.

The first fraternity invited to participate in the program was Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity. However, they did not progress fast enough to meet the requirements of the Indiana University administrators; therefore, in the spring of 1957 an invitation to colonize was extended to Chi Phi Fraternity. Judge Luther Z. Rosser, Chi Phi National Director, Carl J. Gladfelter, Grand Alpha of Chi Phi, Victor Cullin, Chairman

of the Chi Phi Expansion Program, Russell L. Guin, and Irving B. Countryman met with Dean Shaffer at the University shortly thereafter to discuss the proposal. After these men found the conditions at Indiana University to be ideal for the establishment of a successful chapter, they informed Dean Shaffer of their acceptance of the invitation, in accordance with the mandate of the 1955 Congress.

It was decided that if Chi Phi were to start a colony at Indiana University, the University would provide a house formerly rented by Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity, who were then in the process of constructing a new house. This future Chi Phi Fraternity House, located at 814 East Third Street, was to be remodeled by the University during the summer of 1958 and be ready for occupancy in September, 1958.

The next problem was to locate a suitable chapter adviser to organize the new colony. Brother Gladfelter found such a man, Gilbert Gass, at the Alpha-Chi Chapter at Ohio Wesleyan University. Brother Gass was an experienced fraternity man, having served as Alpha of his chapter. Therefore, in September, 1957, Brother Gass entered Indiana University to begin work on an M.A. degree in mathematics and to establish a colony for the Chi Phi Fraternity.

At this time Brother Gass' sister was president of the Ohio Wesleyan chapter of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority. Miss Gass contacted one of her sorority sisters at Indiana University, who in turn recommended Otto Linn as a possible rushee

for Brother Gass. With this referral, Brother Gass entered Unit 17 of the Men's Quadrangle on the night of October 6, 1957, to rush Mr. Linn.

After talking to him for some time, explaining various aspects of the fraternity and its objective of establishing a colony at Indiana University, Brother Gass pledged Otto Linn, a sophomore from Sheridan, Indiana, majoring in pre-dentistry, as the first member of the Chi Phi colony, then called the Chakett Club.

Mr. Linn, who left school in June, 1958, told his friends of this new fraternity on campus, and they in turn told others of the advantages of joining a new fraternity--one based on your, not others', ideas and beliefs. Through this snow-balling effect, plus the cooperation of the campus newspaper, The Indiana Daily Student, the Chakett Club began to form the beginnings for the next chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity. The nucleus of the colony was in Units 7 and 17 of the Men's Quadrangle, but the Chakett Club spread all over the campus within a month.

The first meetings of the Chakett Club were conducted in the Social Lounge of the Men's Quadrangle, and in mid-November, 1957, the meetings were moved to the Formal Lounge of the same building. Rushing was the principal order of business. During the fall semester of 1957, the University permitted the Chakett Club to conduct open rush and by mid-December the colony had grown to 37 men.

The following list gives the names of the original pledge class, and for those men who later became the charter initiates of the Iota Delta Chapter, the date of pledging is also given.

Otto L. Linn	
DAVID J. BELDUS	October 14, 1957
Louis T. Zunk	
Thomas A. Miller	
John L. Brooks	
MICHAEL J. MONTGOMERY	October 16, 1957
Richard G. Fleck	
DONALD L. MEYER	October 21, 1957
Robert L. Green	
Jerry E. Werling	
Owen L. McDonald	
DONALD J. DEGANUTTI	October 28, 1957
Ray A. Muston	
JOSEPH F. RICE	November 5, 1957
Robert M. Burnham	
Kenneth S. Smith	
WILLIAM F. MAHL	November 6, 1957
Gene A. Jeric	
MICHAEL C. CANINE	November 6, 1957
PAUL F. VERTESCH	November 13, 1957
Richard C. O'Neal	
ROBERT S. HART	
Robert J. Sadenwater	
CHARLES E. TINKLE	November 18, 1957
EDWARD R. KESL	November 20, 1957
DAVID L. ENGEL	November 20, 1957
ROY M. MITCHELL	November 20, 1957
GRANT N. GANSINGER	November 21, 1957
William R. Wilson	
DORMAN A. RAY	
JOHN F. BOXELL	December 3, 1957
JAMES R. MOHR	December 3, 1957
PHILLIP G. MOSBAUGH	December 3, 1957
CHARLES M. RAY	December 7, 1957
Jerry Harty	
CHARLES A. HARTMAN	
STEVEN A. DANIELSON	December 17, 1957

At this time the National Office notified the Chakett Club that Brother Gladfelter would visit them soon. It was decided that his visit would be an appropriate time for the Indiana colony to make its debut before the neighboring Chi Phi chapters

and the local alumni. "The Chakett Club Kickoff Dinner," a buffet luncheon, was attended by some 70 brothers and pledges. It was held in the Sigma Nu Fraternity House, which had been donated for the occasion. Chapters which were represented at the gathering were Iota (Ohio State University), Kappa (University of Wisconsin), Sigma (University of Illinois), Alpha-Tau (University of Michigan), and Alpha-Chi. Speakers on this Saturday afternoon were Brothers Countryman, Gass, and Gladfelter, Dean Shaffer, and John Heiney. Among the alumni present were Brothers Clayton Boringer, Henry Bruder, Calvin S. Hamilton, Robert Layfield, Robert Secor, Arthur Wupper, and the chapter adviser of Sigma, Richard Jones. On the following Sunday the members of the Chakett Club met with Brother Gladfelter to discuss their future and questions which had arisen during the fall semester. The weekend was a huge success, and the men of the colony gained an insight into the national aspect of the fraternity. From this basis the group began to formulate plans for the future.

From the Kickoff Dinner until the conclusion of final examinations in January, 1958, the only business conducted was arranging with the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority to enter the I.U. Sing, an annual competitive singing contest held in late April, 1958.

At the outset of the spring semester, 1958, the Chakett Club was reduced to 27 members due to withdrawals from school and depledging. During orientation week of January, 1958, the

colony elected Roy Mitchell as its president, Phillip Mosbaugh, vice-president, Michael Montgomery, secretary, Donald Meyer, treasurer, and Michael Canine, rush chairman. Mr. Canine headed a rush committee composed of Grant Gansinger, Gene Jeric, and Paul Vertesch.

On Tuesday, February 4, 1958, the officers and two other members of the Chakett Club met with Judge Luther Z. Rosser, the National Director, and Brother Gass in Room 315 of the Van Orman-Graham Hotel in Bloomington to acquaint the officers of the Chakett Club with the procedure for petitioning the Chi Phi Fraternity for a charter in order to be recognized as a chapter of the fraternity. The members of the Chakett Club present were Pledges Mitchell, Mosbaugh, Montgomery, Meyer, Canine, and Joseph Rice. Brother Rosser told the group that they must present to the fraternity a formal petition for a charter, and he furnished them with a copy of the petition used by the Zeta Delta Chapter (University of Connecticut). He told them the next step was to obtain letters from three alumni, recommending the establishment of the chapter. The three alumni who were asked to furnish these letters were Brothers Irving B. Countryman, Gilbert Gass, and Carl J. Gladfelter. The five nearest chapters were then to be notified that the Chakett Club had petitioned for a charter, and were to be asked for their approval of the chapter's establishment. The five chapters nearest to Indiana University were Iota, Pi (Northwestern University), Sigma, Alpha-Tau, and Alpha-Chi.

With these three steps accomplished satisfactorily, the National Director then would certify to the Grand Council that the Chakett Club was ready to be installed as a full chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity.

After petitioning procedures were discussed thoroughly, a number of pertinent phases of the fraternity were discussed: initiation plans, duties of the officers, rush, finance, social functions, zone meetings, and the 1958 Congress. With reference to rushing, Judge Rosser commented that he had never seen a group get started any better than the group at Indiana University. He forecast that the Chakett Club goal would be 54 men by June, thus having doubled their initial size.

Seeing the Chakett Club well on its way to success, the National Office of the Chi Phi Fraternity requested Brother Gass to go to the University of Washington to form another colony. Brother Gass left Bloomington on February 5, 1958, having successfully completed his colonizing assignment at Indiana University.

The University again extended the rushing period for the Chakett Club, so that by March 6, 1958, 56 men had been pledged to the colony.

For the first part of the spring semester, the Chakett Club continued to conduct its meetings in the Men's Quadrangle. However, due to the success of the Club, antagonism was aroused among the predominately non-Greek residents of

the dormitory. By March, 1958, the Club was forced to move its meetings to a second floor room in the Business and Economics Building. In mid-April, 1958, the Chakett Club again moved its meetings to the Marine Room of the Indiana University Memorial Union, where they were conducted throughout the remainder of the semester.

At a meeting on February 10, 1958, Donald Deganutti was elected keeper of the lodge room, William Mahl, historian, John Boxell, corresponding secretary, Joseph Rice, social chairman, David Beldus, athletic chairman, and Phillip Mosbaugh, Inter Fraternity Council representative.

The petition for a charter was sent to the National Office at the end of February, 1958. William Mahl served as chairman of the petition committee.

The first faculty adviser for the colony, Mr. Richard Holmes, a graduate instructor in statistics, was chosen in late March. Not only serving as an adviser, he was helpful in assisting the Little 500 Bicycle Race team train for the race.

From its beginning, the entire membership of the Chakett Club had met as one body. But, with the approaching initiation of 18 of the original members, it became essential for the pledges to meet separate from the candidates for initiation. At the end of March, 1958, the first pledge class was organized, Dorman Ray being elected president. Charles Ray served as pledge trainer for the group.

Since an alumnus of the Ohio Wesleyan chapter had done

much of the organizational work and since the Chakett Club was a close neighbor of the Alpha-Chi Chapter, it was decided by Brother Gass' chapter to assist the Indiana colony by setting up a building fund in the name of the Chakett Club. Other Chi Phi chapters were asked to support this fund. A number of chapters responded, and on April 14, 1958, the Ohio Wesleyan chapter sent the Chakett Club a check for \$546. The chapters at Amherst College (Phi), University of California (Lambda), University of Connecticut, Cornell University (Xi), Georgia Tech (Omega), University of Illinois, and Ohio Wesleyan University were among the contributors. This was the beginning of the building fund for the Indiana colony. In the ensuing weeks, more funds were received from other chapters.

On April 20, 1958, seven members of the Chakett Club were initiated at the Alpha-Chi Chapter in Delaware, Ohio.

The new brothers were:

David John Beldus	Wabash, Indiana
David Lee Engel	Wanatah, Indiana
Edward Robert Kestl, Jr.	San Pierre, Indiana
William Frederick Mahl	Michigan City, Indiana
Donald Lee Meyer	Clinton, Indiana
Charles Major Ray, Jr.	Cranford, New Jersey
Charles Everman Tinkle II	Greenwood, Indiana

The following weekend, April 26, 1958, seven men were initiated at the Sigma Chapter and four were initiated at the Iota Chapter. Initiated at the University of Illinois were:

Steven Alvin Danielson	Valparaiso, Indiana
Donald Joseph Deganutti	Indianapolis, Indiana
Roy Martin Mitchell	Newtown, Indiana
James Robert Mohr	Elkhart, Indiana
Michael James Montgomery	Muncie, Indiana

Phillip George Mosbaugh
Joseph Francis Rice

Arcadia, Indiana
Beech Grove, Indiana

The Ohio State University chapter initiated:

John Frederick Boxell
Michael Clark Canine
Grant Nicholas Gansinger
Paul Francis Vertesch

Marion, Indiana
Reading, Pennsylvania
Whiting, Indiana
South Bend, Indiana

Also on the weekend of April 26, 1958, a Midwest Zone Meeting of the Chi Phi Fraternity was conducted at the Kappa Chapter. The Chakett Club was represented by Brothers Mahl and Ray.

In April, 1958, Brother Irving B. Countryman, Sigma '17, was selected as the first alumni adviser for the Indiana colony. At that time he was president of the Indianapolis Chi Phi Club, and was influential in developing a close relationship between the National Office of the Chi Phi Fraternity and the Indiana colony.

In early May, 1958, the 18 brothers of the Chakett Club met for the purpose of adopting a pledge policy. After considerable discussion, a "progressive" pledge policy was adopted. This was a new innovation to the fraternity system at Indiana University.

The colony was advised on May 15, 1958, of the appointment of Richard H. Eisinger as ritualistic adviser for the 1958-59 school year. He had graduated from Cornell University in 1958, having been a member of the Xi Chapter. Brother Eisinger started his M.B.A. program at Indiana University in June, 1958, and served the Indiana University Chi Phis as not only a ritualistic adviser but in every phase of successful chapter operation.