

Indiana Chi Phi Alumni Association

October 20, 1993

I.U. Student Activities Office
Indiana Memorial Union, Rm 30
Bloomington, In 47405-3212

ATTENTION: Richard N. McKaig

SUBJECT: IOTA DELTA'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Dear Dick:

Thanks very much for agreeing to be the Keynote speaker at our 35th Anniversary banquet on October 30, 1993. I have concentrated on Iota Delta's history at I.U., but can quickly provide some general Chi Phi history, if desired.

Chi Phi Fraternity at Indiana University

Chi Phi was a promise of something new in the 1950's, something different, something better. The Chi Phi Experience was founded on the character and ideals of Fraternity - Trust, Cooperation, and Brotherhood. At that time, we were revolutionaries in banning "green beanies" and hazing. The men chosen to be the first Chi Phi's at I.U. were special, most being a little older and a little more mature. Chi Phi stood for adult treatment of Pledges and Brothers.

No Chi Phi Alumni Association existed then, but there were a lot of people who cared about Chi Phi. Men like President Wells, Dean Shaffer, Irv Countryman. Some Chi Phi's, some not, who helped us sweat out the tough times and enjoy the good ones. It was the loyalty and untold effort of such men who made Chi Phi thrive at Indiana University, building with each year our home at I.U. and so many personal memories. There is a Bond that holds Brother to Brother together in good times and bad. **That was Chi Phi then, that is Chi Phi now!**

Founding of Iota Delta Chapter at I.U.

The establishment of Chi Phi Fraternity at Indiana University was the result of two decisions made in 1955. At the Chi Phi Congress that year, this conservative southern Fraternity inaugurated an aggressive expansion program, leading to creation of a Chapter at the University of Connecticut in 1956. Meanwhile, the administration of Indiana University, under the leadership of President Herman B. Wells, began a fraternity expansion program of its own. President Wells was an alumnus and founder of the Sigma Nu chapter at I.U. and had served as its National President. Dean of Students, Robert H. Shaeffer, was also a strong fraternity man, being a Sigma Chi.

With such expansion forces at work, Chi Phi had a major opportunity. The decision to colonize came in the Spring of 1957. Gilbert Gass, the undergraduate President of our Chapter at Ohio Wesleyan, was recruited to enroll at I.U. and start the movement of Chi Phi onto the campus. Two weeks later, Otto Linn became the first Pledge of Indiana Chi Phi's. Within three months, there were **56** Pledges!

In those early days, Alpha Gamma Delta sorority played an important role in Chi Phi's success on campus. As we had no home, the Alpha Gam's hosted parties with Chi Phi, became our sponsors with the Mini 500 and Little 500, as well as participating in the Little 500 Pit Decorating contest. Together, we won awards in each of these efforts, truly a remarkable accomplishment and moment of pride!

In the Fall of 1958, Chi Phi moved into its first Chapter house at 814 East Third Street, a former KDR house refurbished by the University. **Rush** was again the top priority and **28** new members were pledged. Since the Colony had not yet received its Charter from National, early Initiations had to take place at the **Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio State, and Illinois** Chi Phi chapters. **Thirty-three men** were initiated as Charter Members of the **Indiana** chapter.

On November 15, 1958, the Colony received its Charter and was installed as the **Iota Delta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity**. At the installation banquet, President Wells said, "This is an important day in the life of the University. We are delighted to welcome you to I.U.. Chi Phi has a rich tradition of good alumni and a good National organization!"

Iota Delta Through the Years

Five years after receiving its Charter, Iota Delta moved to its current location at 17th and Jordan Avenue. In May 1964, the new Chapter house was dedicated, with a large number of Chi Phi alumni, undergraduate Brothers, National officers, parents, and I.U. officials attending the festivities. The house was seriously damaged on March 29, 1971, by a fire which destroyed the top floor, being caused by a defective electrical blanket. Fortunately, no one was injured in this disaster.

Chi Phi's have participated in campus life with a Student Body President, other Class officers, in IFC offices, as well as being members of the I.U. Marching Hundred, I.U. Foundation, Varsity Cheerleaders, and so on. A number of Brothers have been named to scholastic honoraries, including Phi Beta Kappa. In 1962, James Russ was the recipient of the first annual Dr. Herman B. Wells "Outstanding Senior" award. Our Iota Delta Chapter has won First Place and other awards in Campus Quiz Bowl, Fall Carnival, I.U. Sing, and Homecoming displays.

Intramurals have been a vital part, a successful part, of the Chi Phi Experience. Iota Delta has several trophy cases full of awards for past intramural victories. Perhaps the highlight of each school year for Indiana Chi Phi's is the **Little 500 Race**. This Spring event has been a rallying point for Brothers, alumni, and parents over the years. Though never winning the Race, Chi Phi has repeatedly garnered trophies as one of the Top Ten teams. Working and participating in Little 500 activities has been the source of much enthusiasm and lasting memories for many Chi Phi's.

Another contribution of Iota Delta to the campus community is the **philanthropic projects** it has undertaken. Undergraduate Brothers have redecorated the Boys Club, entertained orphans at Christmas, plus conducting Bed races, car washes, pole-a-thons, and so on for years, raising over \$ 25,000 to benefit Muscular Dystrophy research.

Iota Delta's Strength and Challenge

There has always been a strong relationship between the National Office and Indiana Chi Phi's. National was instrumental in formation of the Chapter 35 years ago, was crucial in financing of our present home, and has given important guidance in good times as well as bad. In conjunction with the Chi Phi Educational Trust, it has also granted a number of loans and scholarships to assist deserving Iota Delta men in furthering their education. In turn, a number of Indiana Chi Phi's have been an asset to the National organization. Three of our alumni have served on the Grand Council, while others have won Distinguished Service Citations at the National Congress. In 1993, David B. Estes, ID '69, was recognized as the national "Alumnus of the Year" of the Chi Phi Fraternity, only one such award being given annually!

Through the years, another organization which has greatly benefitted Chi Phi at Indiana University has been the Iota Delta Parent's Club. This group of interested parents has been a distinctly valuable asset for over a quarter of a century by their involvement in Chi Phi life and in financing various repairs and improvements to the Chapter house.

The **Chi Phi Experience** is a challenging one - a challenge to grow through the **Brotherhood**, growing in ability, self-confidence, and maturity; working for it as an undergraduate Brother; and contributing to it as an Iota Delta alumnus. Your relationship with Chi Phi does **not** end with graduation. The goal of the Charter Members was to make Chi Phi "The Place To Be" on the I.U. campus. As long as there are men attracted by the Challenge to give their **Best**, to make **Iota Delta** the living example of Chi Phi ideals, then **there will always be a Chi Phi at Indiana University!**

Sincerely,

Joe Goeller
President