

# Indiana Chapter of Delta Upsilon Fraternity Centennial Commemoration Event

December 12, 2015

A program commemorating the chapter's centennial was held on December 12, 2015 at Chapman's Conference Center. Speakers reviewed highlights of Indiana University and chapter history from 1915 until 2015. An overview of the program follows. Following the program, everyone circled the room to sing Delta Upsilon songs. Thanks to the many alumni who sponsored undergraduate member attendance at the program.

*Indiana  
Chapter*  
**Delta Upsilon  
Fraternity  
Centennial  
1915 - 2015**



**The present:** Austin Baker, chapter VP, addressed the most current concern resulting from some missteps of the chapter last semester. During the fall 2015 semester, the chapter's new executive board carefully and conscientiously satisfied the requirement of IU and DU to get back on the right track for the future. The chapter had a very successful fall rush identifying 25 high caliber new associates, all of whom have completed the 8-week training program, have met academic standards, and are scheduled to be initiated in January. Social probation will be ending in January so chapter activities are set to begin again soon. A new philanthropy with a special guest appearance from Russell Wilson is slated for the spring. The chapter thanks the alumni and corporation board for helping us through our sanctions.

**Recent Years:** Matt Thompson said the 90s into early 2000s was a period that marked growth for the Indiana Chapter of Delta Upsilon after a brief period of low occupancy. During the rebuilding process, many individuals were afforded wonderful leadership opportunities that have helped those members succeed in their chosen professions. The academic average of members has been consistently high with the GPA of residents quite consistently beating the live-out members. Recruitment grew dramatically providing a member base that allowed the chapter to have many members in campus leadership roles including IFC presidents; participation in the full spectrum of campus activities with notable intramural teams and good showing in activities like IU Sing and the Dance Marathon. The chapter house is nearing 100 years old and has been upgraded dramatically in every way with comfortable and attractive public areas, dedicated study facilities and house-wide wireless internet, redesigned bathrooms, attractive student area hallways, a rebuilt now useable poop deck roof, air conditioning, and fire suppression. Brent Stanton has been the house plant director during many of these years which has been a great asset for both members and alumni.

**1980s:** Dan Ladendorf recalled that the SPEA building and art museum were opened in the 1980s, basketball coach Knight threw a chair across the court, and the basketball team won two national championships. In 1980, 59 men lived in the house with a capacity of 75 and there were few live-out members. Everyone slept in the top floor cold dorm. Chapter members sang on the front porch following each weekly chapter meeting. All members ate together at a family style dinner four nights a week; there were regular dinner speakers that included university presidents Wells and Ryan. The pledge experience changed from degrading activities to meaningful education and all members attended a chapter retreat at locations such as the French Lick Resort or Columbia Club. Dan attributed Judge Terry Bullock as the most inspirational force in the chapter's programming and leadership.

**1970s:** Pete Yoder reported that this was an era of significant changes, notably the elimination of a curfew at women's housing units. Previously, women had to be in their dorm or sorority by a certain time; this change introduced a significant change in the schedule of all social activities. Chapter parties included homemade swimming pools and water slides. There were significant changes in the chapter house with many men preferring to sleep in their study rooms rather than in the cold dorm. To provide sleeping space, a loft or elevated sitting area was created with sleeping space below creating mini apartment living. Just as the house was wired to provide phone and computer/TV outlets in every room, cell phones replaced land lines and wireless connections to computers was preferred. The evolution of pledgship to eliminate hazing and focus on training continued. On campus, the chapter was the big winner in IU Sing and had 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place finishes in the Little 500.

**1960s:** J. Terry Clapacs said the big news in the 1960s was the new south wing. Construction of new, bigger houses in the North Jordan area and expansion of Third Street houses added to the pressure for prompt action. No one wanted to change the historic Third Street façade so the south expansion was the only option. Acquisition of a house across the alley allowed added parking so expansion on the present prime location was feasible. Occupancy potential went from 48 to 75 with a huge recreation room, equal in size to the living room, on the main floor. Access to the expanded bathrooms was a challenge but it happened. The firetruck continued to be a major focus of the chapter's "personality" and we continued with sorority exchanges and competition in the little 500. Recruitment of high school seniors was still the pattern and we had great summer rush parties. For spring break, Daytona Beach had become the location of preference.

**1950s:** Bill C. Brown explained that he was one of the veterans that started their college after military service. With a student body of about 16,000, everything was simpler than today. There was no need for a bus service; the football stadium was where the arboretum is today. There were more restrictions such as a requirement that women be in their housing unit by 10:30; 11:30 on weekends. Social events were often formal. The DU house had a great location right across the street from the major housing for women and I think the women were prettier then. Academic requirements for admission seemed looser than now; the business school was known as Business and Economics or "Big & Easy." The firetruck was a mark of distinction for DU; I'll never forget how thrilled my dad was when he got a ride on the truck during a father's day weekend. One evidence of the campus growth at the time was the expansion of the union building to include a hotel and conference center.

**Early Years:** Ronald Kovener showed historic pictures of major and typical events such as the huge attendance at a mothers' day event, the formality of campus and chapter parties, the early little 500 bike races, pledge and rush events, and the extravagant rose ball. The original fire truck was shown along with scenes from the "Fireman's Fling" party that the truck inspired with samples of the publicity about the party that appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and the national *Look* magazine. *Look* called the fireman's fling the "Best College Party." The current chapter house was shown under construction along with members outside the Gentry mansion before it burned and the Worrall mansion occupied by the Wranglers before they affiliated with Delta Upsilon. Cay Smith was Ron's guest at the event; her father was a Wrangler and she supplied some of the early pictures shown. Herman Wells and William Lowe Bryan were shown and credited with creating the beautiful, academically superior campus. Wrangler John Whittenberger, founder of what is now the Indiana Memorial Union, was shown to illustrate the proud heritage created by the Wranglers.