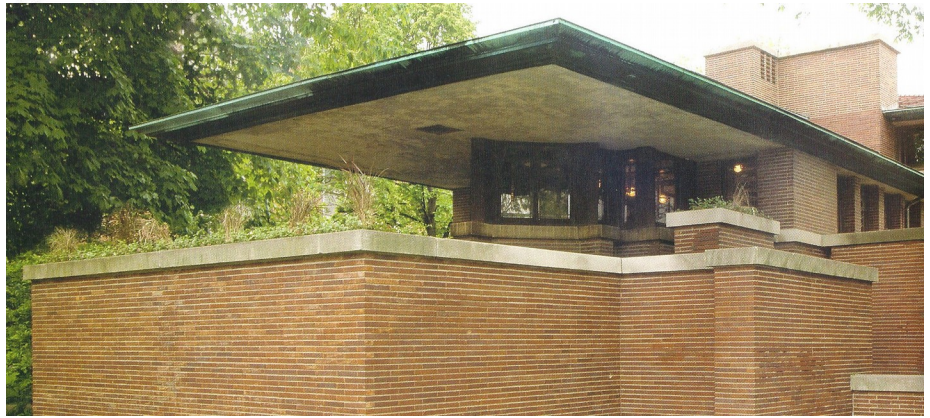


Fraternities play crucial role in historic preservation

The restoration of the house Frank Lloyd Wright designed for Frederick Robie on the south side of Chicago is nearing completion. The house is celebrating the centennial of its construction in 1906 and also celebrating its rescue from the brink of demolition 50 years ago. The house at 5757 Woodlawn Ave. is recognized worldwide as the most important work in the foundation of modern architecture. But, in the 1950s, before architectural preservation was widely practiced, the seminary that owned the house renewed plans first announced 10 years earlier to demolish the house to make way for a dormitory building.

The first threat of demolition aroused a storm of protest but was delayed more by the war than acquiescence by the property's owner. The first threat fostered creation of an architectural preservation commission in Chicago and the house was declared a Chicago Landmark. But, the Seminary seemed nonetheless determined to proceed with demolition.

During his very brief tenure as a student at the University of Wisconsin, Wright joined Phi Delta Theta fraternity. The University of Chicago Phi Delt chapter house



Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Robie house at 5757 Woodlawn Ave. in Chicago.

was located two doors north of the Robie house at 5737 Woodlawn Ave.; the seminary owned the lot between the two properties. The Phi Delt offered to vacate their house to save the architectural masterpiece designed by one of their members. The Zeta Beta Tau chapter house, located next to the Phi Delt house, joined the effort, also offering to vacate their house.

These offers were a turning point in the effort to save the Robie house since the three properties provided the seminary

with enough land for the dormitory they sought to build. Bob Miller, president emeritus and now historian of Phi Delta Theta, confirmed that the chapter moved a block away to 5625 University Ave. in 1958, an action that was central to the Robie house preservation effort. This little-known but important role of Phi Delta Theta and Zeta Beta Tau has recently been publicized in the fall 2008 edition of the *Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly*.

— Ronald Kovener

Bill Butler named one of DU's Distinguished Alumni



Bill Butler

Wilford "Bill" A. Butler was awarded the Delta Upsilon Distinguished Alumni Award by Delta Upsilon International Fraternity on Jan. 10 at the Fraternity's winter educational conference. Butler became the chief staff executive of the Fraternity soon after his graduation from Western Michigan University in 1961 and served in that role for more than 23 years. Near the end of his long tenure with DU, Butler originated the Distinguished Alumni Award as part of the Fraternity's 150th anniversary celebration. Two Indiana alumni were among the seven who received a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1984, the year the award was initiated: Robert C. Haugh, '48, and Beurt R. SerVaas, '41.

This year, as DU celebrates its 175th anniversary, Bill Butler's very significant contribution to the Fraternity was recognized. In typical Butler style, his acceptance remarks were filled with good advice to chapter leaders about ways to improve their operations, attract and recognize alumni support, and successfully recruit high-quality members. The packed ballroom gave Butler's contribution to DU and his timely, insightful remarks a standing ovation. Indiana chapter president Ryan Duerring and treasurer Anthony Sabatino were among those present for the ceremony. In addition, Kyle Berkopes, '03, and Ronald Kovener, '55, were in attendance.

Those in attendance at the conference visited the DU International headquarters on Saturday afternoon, where they viewed the many artifacts and displays that commemorate the Fraternity's history. In the snowy, icy dusk, the newly completed Founders' Memorial Courtyard was a special attraction (see related story in this edition of *The Wrangler*), and the wall displaying the 35 alumni who have been pictured on the cover of *Time* magazine was dramatic evidence of the Fraternity's rich heritage.



Two of the 35 covers of *Time* magazine that have featured DU alumni show Joseph P. Kennedy, Harvard '12 (father of president John F. Kennedy), and Edgar Bergen, Northwestern '27 (father of Candice Bergen and creator of Charlie McCarthy, reportedly a chip off the old paddle). David Starr Jordan, Cornell 1872 (Indiana University president), is also among those whose images highlight this "Wall of Time."