



Indiana Chi Phi Alumni Association

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Timeless Brotherhood for Butler Fraternity Coming Home to a Housewarming

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I imagine that I could find similar tales in the Chi Phi Grapevine, but these stories in the Indianapolis Star impressed me with similarities to our challenges during the 50 year history of Iota Delta. Joe Goeller, Secretary ID '63

Timeless Brotherhood for Butler Fraternity, October 9, 2009

In Cathy Kightlinger's article on the restoration of the [Phi Delta Theta fraternity house at Butler University](#), I was amused by the comment of Ron Reed, a 1990 graduate and Phi Delta member, who stated that being back on campus made him feel young again. Speaking from my vantage point at age 91, and a former member of the Indiana Gamma chapter, I have to say Reed is young (Coming home to a housewarming, Oct.4).

I became a Phikeia (a pledge) at the "Castle on the Hill" in September 1935. The venerable [Hilton U. Brown](#), former editor of the [Indianapolis News](#), himself at that time in his 90s, had been one of the first chapter members. An active alumnus, he attended many of our meetings.

Brown's son, Hilton U. Brown Jr., also a chapter member, was killed in action at Nuart, France, on Nov. 5, 1918, during [World War I](#). Prior to his death, while fighting in the trenches, during lulls between battles, he was inspired to compose "To College Brothers" - a masterpiece - which all subsequent Phi Delt's have memorized. The heartfelt sentiments of [fraternity life](#) live on in his moving poem.

I believe Hilton U. Brown Sr. and Jr. would be happy to know the chapter thrives again today. **Kenneth R. Wolling, M.D.**

Coming Home to a Housewarming, October 4, 2009

The men of Butler University's [Phi Delta Theta fraternity](#) have a new castle - so they took advantage of the school's homecoming festivities last weekend to show it off.

After seven years of not having a [frat house](#) on campus, the fraternity opened the rebuilt structure just in time for the Butler Phi Delt chapter's 150th anniversary this year.

The \$1.9 million renovation turned a dilapidated structure into an environmentally friendly building with lots of modern amenities, including wireless access.

During construction, workers found a time capsule that included Civil War era letters, said **Joe Bari**, a [Phi Delta Theta](#) who graduated in 1989 and lives in [Indianapolis](#).

Bari and more than 200 other alums stopped by last weekend to visit the new frat house (made of Carolina granite and Indiana limestone), and to take part in celebratory activities, including a traditional chariot race.

"It's been a long struggle to get it done. It was very rewarding. For the last seven years, we worked toward that day," said **Ron Reed**, a 1990 graduate and Indianapolis resident. "You just feel young again when you go back."

Forty-six of the fraternity's 72 members are living in the house, which first opened in 1929 and was the first house on [fraternity row](#). **Cathy Kightlinger**

Like the Phi Delt's and their success story, Indiana Chi Phi alumni will begin preparing for the return of Iota Delta Chapter to [Indiana University](#) in 2013.