



THE SOPHON

SPRING 2013

MICHIGAN ALPHA LAUNCHES \$50,000 CHALLENGE

- *New Pledges and Gifts Matched Dollar for Dollar*
- *Join Us Now to Double the Impact of Your Gift*

We have some exciting news to share with you. To propel the *Great Tradition – New Vision* campaign forward, **a group of alumni are issuing a challenge to the Michigan Alpha alumni: these brothers will match any new gift or pledge, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000!**

This challenge includes one-time gifts, new pledges, and increased pledges. But in order to secure the full \$50,000 match, that same amount of new donations must be pledged. By sending in a gift today and taking advantage of the challenge, you will double your impact and put us one step closer to reaching our \$400,000 goal. We are halfway there so please don't miss out on the opportunity to capitalize on this generous offer!

We have a tremendous group of young men on campus and our chapter's future is bright, but it will take all of us to build the foundation for our next century of success.

Please send in your gift immediately, so we can take full advantage of the challenge. If

we are successful in our endeavor, the campaign stands to gain \$100,000. Simply sign and mail the enclosed pledge form today so Michigan Alpha can reach its goal and continue our strong bond.

Amici,
Al Dickerson '57
Dick Chamberlin '58
Art Di Blassio '59
Dave Frayne '89, Secretary
Brian May '99
Nic Katona '00, House Corporation President
Bill Wiedman '01
Brad Holman '02, Treasurer
Jared Frost '03
Jack Gray '07
Pat Sierawski '07

Campaign Leadership

If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact **Brian May '99** at bdmay10@gmail.com or **Nic Katona '00** at nic.katona@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!



**CAMPAIGN STATUS
AT-A-GLANCE
As of May 7, 2013**

\$254,711 Total Commitments
83 Contributors
843 Mailable Alumni

Want a Quick and Simple Way to Give Back to Michigan Alpha?

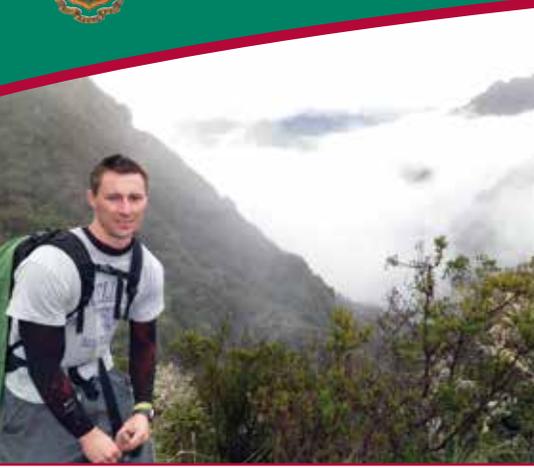
Make an Immediate Impact through Our New Online Giving Program



Brothers, a direct online giving link is now accessible. The new page, www.michiganhipsi.org/campaign, will allow you to support our capital campaign with an easy online form.

Through this online giving process, you are welcome to make a one-time gift or recurring monthly gifts, which will be recognized in future Michigan Alpha publications.

We hope you will take advantage of this new tool for supporting *Great Tradition—New Vision: The Campaign for Michigan Alpha*.



Above: Bill Wiedman '01 on the Inca Trail in Peru.
Below: Eric Rosenberg '02 and Bill at Kellogg graduation in 2012.



FRATERNITY EXPERIENCE COMPELLED BILL WIEDMAN '01 TO GIVE BACK TO PHI KAPPA PSI

For Bill Wiedman '01, going to Michigan and joining Phi Kappa Psi were two decisions that had an immeasurable impact on his life. "The undergraduate experience in $\Phi\Kappa\Psi$ developed a lot of lifelong friendships, gave me a tremendous support network, and helped me grow a lot from both a social and leadership perspective. Just as important, it was really fun. I try to live my life to the fullest, and those four years at Michigan and in $\Phi\Kappa\Psi$ were about as full of fun and entertaining times as you could imagine."

Bill says being in $\Phi\Kappa\Psi$ helped prepare him for life after college. "I was able to take on leadership positions to create positive change, which is a valuable asset and skill in the working world. I grew a lot socially. Living in the fraternity house for two years is an intense social experience, which has helped me better understand other points of view, how to create positive impressions on new people, and taught me a lot about patience and respect. It also helped me transition to living on my own as an adult."

Being able to enjoy the fraternity experience and learn those valuable life lessons are why Bill contributed to the capital campaign. "I gained a lot from the fraternity and those who supported me. I don't think I would have been quite as successful without that, and I feel obligated to return some of that success to the source and help others be successful in the future."

He encourages all brothers to give back what they can to create a better future for $\Phi\Kappa\Psi$ at Michigan. "Having a permanent home on cam-

pus will provide stability for $\Phi\Kappa\Psi$ for years to come. Supporting the campaign will build a connection to the fraternity for all of us. Whether that support is monetary, helping brothers in need, providing job opportunities, or advice to younger members, it is all important. Even a small gift helps build that connection, and it's really easy to give."

Bill went on to receive dual MBA and masters of engineering from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and McCormick School of Engineering. Bill is vice president at American Securities, a middle-market private equity firm in New York City. He works on the strategy team, helping to evaluate potential investments and working with management teams of the companies they own to assist them in setting corporate strategy. He helped build the strategy team at American Securities from a two-person team to one of the leading groups of its kind in the private equity space. "It has been tremendously fulfilling. I enjoy challenging myself and my teams to both learn and win together."

In the years since graduation, Bill has maintained his connection to $\Phi\Kappa\Psi$ and his brothers. "I am in a 16-team fantasy football league with a bunch of guys that provides entertainment all year. I also see all the guys in NYC frequently. **Jason Schleifer '02, Bobby Counihan '01, Matt Zloto '01, Chris Quick '99, Mike Tomsky '00,** and others. I recently went out to Chicago to hang out with **Lee Laudicina '01, Eric Rosenberg '02,** and a few other guys." Bill encourages brothers to get in touch if you are ever in the New York area. E-mail: wwiedman@gmail.com

Canonsburg Club Gives Jack Gray '07 Opportunity to Support Chapter

Looking back on his experience with Michigan Alpha, **Jack Gray '07** said there were far too many memories to choose a favorite, but whenever the entire brotherhood was in attendance and focused on Phi Kappa Psi, it made for great memories.

Those moments and the bonds he built as an undergraduate are why Jack wanted to give back to the capital campaign. "I felt that it was important to support the capital campaign because I want future members to have similar, wonderful experiences with Michigan Alpha. I know that brothers for 100+ years worked hard to ensure that I had a great experience. Why should I be any different?"

Jack chooses to give back by participating in the Canonsburg Club, an opportunity to make an automatic monthly contribution of \$18.52 to the campaign. "The Canonsburg Club was simply the easiest way for me to finan-

cially contribute to the future success of Michigan Alpha. I contribute a significant amount of time to the house corporation, so I knew that my financial support, although small, would go a long way. I also couldn't argue against the fact that it costs less than four beers per month."

Jack is confident that his monthly contribution is going toward a good cause and that the active members deserve alumni support. "The undergraduates have their heads on straight and this money will do something good for the guys. The main complaint that I hear these days is that 'the undergraduates are screwing everything up, and that those guys just don't get it. Why should I donate to a failing cause?' This negative scenario

simply isn't the case. I think that sometimes we have selective memories and forget that there are ups and downs within any group of guys ages 18-22. Providing them with the opportunity to succeed is just as critical as them actually following through on that success."

Jack says if you are still on the fence about contributing, reach out to the house corporation. "I would highly encourage you to join the house corporation. Even if your participation is limited, you will still



Jack Gray '07
mountains of



THANK YOU, GENEROUS ALUMNI, FOR COMMITTING \$254,711

We are deeply grateful to the following Michigan Alpha brothers and friends for committing \$254,711 to *Great Tradition—New Vision: The Campaign for Michigan Alpha*. These brothers recognize the importance of ensuring the future of Michigan Alpha and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. All

donors contributing a minimum of \$2,500 will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the renovated chapter house. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has mistakenly been omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 to make a correction.

FOUNDERS SOCIETY
(\$100,000 and up)
Michigan Alpha
Undergraduate Chapter

William C. Martin,
Wittenberg '58
Loyal A. Eldridge '60

BROTHERHOOD SOCIETY
(\$50,000 to \$99,999)

WOLVERINE SOCIETY
(\$2,500 to \$4,999)
Cynthia Buell
In memory of

AMICI SOCIETY
(\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Richard W. Buell '62
R. Thomas Costello '56
Richard W. Fanning '89
Mike Agosti '90
Robert M. Stern '93
Chadwick Hauff '93
Scott T. Stasik '96
Nicholas Katona '00
Brad C. Spiegel '00
Bradley M. Holman '02
David J. Neditz '03

LETTERMAN SOCIETY
(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Richard H. Chamberlin '58
Kelly and Brian D. May '99
William C. Wiedman '01
Jared C. Frost '03

MOORE SOCIETY
(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

F. Dewey Tennent '44
Dr. C. Kohler Champion '57
Allen B. Dickerson '57

MICHIGAN SOCIETY
(\$1,000 to \$2,499)
Karen and Michael Stern
In honor of
Jordan Stern '11

Quentin B. Sickels '46
Arthur R. Di Blassio '59
In honor of
the new house
David H. Kibler '59
Frank L. Lenzotti Jr. '59
Alden B. Glidden '62
David W. Frayne '89
Alan Huddy '89
Chris T. Cramer '91
Bradley L. Hibbard '97
Joseph P. Digirolamo '98
Harold J. Koss '01
Jared A. Stasik '01
Benjamin J. Coleman '03
Brendan B. Dowdle '03

**MAIZE AND BLUE
SOCIETY**
(Up to \$999)

Kathleen Abrash
Susan Aronson
Antoinette Boyko
Jim Clisham
Daniel Labes

Lisa McGarrity
John Rapson
Leslie Ruby
Charles Scott
Robert Scott
Virginia Simon
Mark Weiss
John W. Fauver '40
James S. Linderman '48
John F. Beyer '49
Ned G. MacWilliams '49
Theodore E. Gibson '50
J. Robert Effinger '53
Stephen R. Pauli '53
James B. Book IV '58
Kenneth P. Erickson '58
Charles H. Matthews '58
Erik H. Serr '61
William F. Graham Jr. '63
Robert C. Linderman '63
In honor of
James Linderman '48
Paul S. Williams '64
William A. Rotzien '66
Thomas M. Adams '83

Mark J. Steffanina '87
James R. Rossow Jr. '88
Mark D. Kalinowski '89
Abdiel Fuentes-Garza '99
Eric Ryckman '99
Christopher Quick '99
Matthew D. Raeburn '00
Jonathan B. Lau '01
Lee A. Laudicina '01
Monet H. Duval '02
Michael J. Ellis '02
Marc R. Stasik '03
Tyler Krone '05
Michael S. Bertenthal '07
John P. Gray Jr. '07
Kyle Baird '08
Tucker T. Billups '08
Alexandros E. Mitri '10
Raymond E. Escobar '11

MICHIGAN ALPHA TRADITIONS RETREAT A SUCCESS

On Saturday, March 30, Midwestern alumni gathered at the home of **Al Dickerson '57** to share the Michigan Alpha Chapter traditions across multiple generations. We remembered traditions and memories that spanned a wide variety of topics: recruitment, pledge program, Brotherhood Week, initiation, Michigan Alpha songs, philanthropy events, chapter houses, fun brotherhood events, social events, and intramural sports. We laughed a lot as we shared photos, memorabilia, and fond memories, and our ideas were loosely documented for use



by the active chapter. We left the event with a positive feeling that many of our Michigan Alpha traditions are still alive and well, and the active chapter has also added some great new events and traditions. We enjoyed a beautiful, sunny view of Lake Michigan as we shared our memories and ideas. Thank you, Al, for hosting.

Those in attendance were **Al Dickerson '57, Dick Chamberlin '58, Nic Katona '00, Brad Holman '02, Jack Gray '07, Hayden Shenker '11, and Dave Frayne '89.**



7 hiking in the
New Zealand.

get an opportunity to see and meet the undergraduates, as well as understand where and how your donations are going to work for Michigan Alpha."

Jack works with the Business Innovations team at Amway in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is a design researcher and analyst for the team, which allows him to travel all over the globe to understand how current and future distribu-

tors are interacting with their communities, run-

ning their business, and participating in Amway. "As you can imagine, working for such an interesting and complex company like Amway, offers a lot of opportunity for change."

He says being in Phi Psi helped prepare him for this position. "Being a brother of Phi Psi forced me to learn how to work with and understand people who were completely different than me. Although it wasn't easy, and a bit uncomfortable at times, the bonds forged in Phi Psi made me recognize that there were different types of people in this world and those different types should be embraced. This has been a huge principal for me to live by in life after college."

The bonds Jack built as an undergraduate remain strong. "I keep in close contact with a majority of my pledge class and the classes above and below me. I even recently had a moment while visiting Chicago when I walked into a bar with a few of my pledge brothers only to realize that half of the bar was taken over by four different years of Michigan Alphas. It was like we hadn't missed a step from graduation."

Jack encourages all Michigan Alphas to support the campaign so future brothers can have the same opportunity to garner leadership skills and lifelong friendships. If you are interested in reaching out to Jack about joining the house corporation, you can reach him at jack@jackgrayjr.com.



Fall 2012 pledge class at Thanksgiving dinner



THE SOPHON

**Phi Kappa Psi - Michigan Alpha
House Corporation**
P.O. Box 131133
Ann Arbor, MI 48113

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FIRST CLASS
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Undergraduate Members Enjoy First Semester at 630 Oxford

Brothers Give Back to the Community

I finished my first term as president of Phi Kappa Psi Michigan Alpha after our executive board transition in December. The officers have been working toward achieving our short-term goals of what we want to accomplish within the year, as well as the long-term goals associated with keeping the brotherhood strong far into the future. The first weekend after classes began we held our committee retreat. Each committee within the chapter gave their plans for the semester, and the rest of the attending brothers gave their opinions in an open-forum style setting. This retreat was extremely successful and helped set goals for the semester.

As this is our first semester residing at 630 Oxford Road, we have been striving to make it a great year to get our brotherhood on a good path in the transition. This most certainly began with winter recruitment, which took place January 16-26. After our very successful 24-person fall pledge class, our winter recruitment chairmen were able to find five men who were worthy to join the brotherhood of Phi Kappa Psi.

Throughout the fall, our philanthropic endeavors reached new heights, and we hope raise the bar for ourselves even higher throughout the year. So far, we've raised enough money to sponsor a class from Southeastern High School in Detroit with a trip to the University of Michigan to tour campus and see what can be achieved with all of their hard work in school. We provided Christmas gifts to underprivileged children in Detroit. We helped the Detroit Partnership in their urban farming initiative by getting a group of brothers to travel to Detroit to set up gardens. We raised money for Relay for Life and Treats for Troops. We are developing a plan to bring back Phi Psi 500, which has been lost in recent years, that we hope to host in the fall.

Our chapter has an extremely tight-knit brotherhood of 112 brothers, and we're confident that we can thrive at the University of Michigan. The new house has provided us with fresh new challenges and opportunities. We are already capitalizing on these opportunities and ensuring that Phi Kappa Psi is the fraternity to be admired by all on the University of Michigan campus.

Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is currently attending the University of Michigan, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.



CHAPTER OFFICERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| President
Dan Adsit '15 | Chaplin
Andros Mitri '13 |
| Vice President
Hayden Schenker '15 | Messenger
Alex Mortensen '16 |
| Corresponding Secretary
Bryce Doreen '15 | Sergeant at Arms
Jack Thompson '16 |
| Treasurer
Mike Nussbaum '15 | Historian
Josh Leibowitz '16 |
| Recording Secretary
Reid Mechanick '15 | |

Thank you for all your support. Without you we would not be able to have a new chapter house or a wonderful, strong tradition. We hope to see you all at Founder's Day in spring 2014.

In the Bond,
Dan Adsit '15
Chapter President
danadsit@umich.edu