



# THE SOPHON

SPRING 2012

## MICHIGAN ALPHA ALUMNI AND UNDERGRADUATES EXCELLED IN 2011

**A**fter succeeding longtime house corporation President **Dave Frayne '89** in early 2011, I must admit I was a bit concerned. Our long-term lease at 700 S. State was expiring shortly and the undergraduates were getting nervous about recruitment. We had a signed purchase agreement for 630 Oxford with a fraction of the assets required to close the deal. In addition to my demanding job, I had a full slate of community-building activities and my wife was pregnant with our first child. Frankly, I was wondering what I had gotten myself into.

### GROWING ALUMNI LEADERSHIP STRENGTHENS CHAPTER

A year later, I am proud to declare 2011 a tremendous success. Thanks to the efforts of the undergraduates and strong commitment from our alumni, we overcame every challenge thrown our way. While this was truly a team effort and many contributed their time and talent, I'd like to thank chapter Advisor **Nic Katona '99**, **Jack Gray '07**, **Bill Wiedman '01**, **Al Dickerson '57**, **Dick Chamberlain '58**, **Archie Di Blassio '59**, and **Brad Holman '02** for their leadership and passion for Michigan Alpha. It is truly inspirational.

While the house corporation stayed quite busy, the undergraduates continued their ascendancy of the Greek scene at the University of Michigan. The chapter boasts more than 110 members, and their leadership presence on campus is strong with five Michigan Alpha brothers holding top IFC posi-

tions, including president, vice president of internal recruitment, and vice president of public relations. Our active members made philanthropy a priority in 2011. Whether it was Treats for Troops in Afghanistan, supporting underprivileged youths during the holidays, or sending an 8-year-old to Disney World through the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the undergraduates truly live by "the great joy of serving others."

As the time to celebrate the successes of 2011 has come and gone, what stands before us in 2012 is very exciting. We have a group of energized undergraduates eager for a home to call their own and a growing team of dynamic leaders who are dedicated to ensuring success. As we finalize our long-term plans and think about the future, I can see another 100+ years of Phi Kappa Psi excellence right in front of us! I look forward to sharing more details on our long-term plans in the next issue of *The Sophon*.



Thank you again to all who contributed in 2011. Whether it was your presence, donation, or mentorship for our undergraduates, we could not have done it without each and every one of you.

Live Ever, Die Never,  
**Brian May '99**, House Corporation President  
Bdmay10@gmail.com



### Members Value Last Semester at 700 South State Street *Phi Psi 500 to Return to Michigan Alpha*

**S**ince our executive board transition in December, our new officers have been hard at work defining the chapter's short-term goals for the semester, as well as the long-term goals for our upcoming move to the new house. We began 2012 with our Committee Retreat, where each committee outlined their plans and shared their input. The retreat was extremely successful and helped solidify what accomplishments this semester will bring.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Ethan Cohen '10, Manny Lopez '10, Michael Kovach '09, Corey Javer '09, Ethan Kurtzman '10, and Zak Klausner '14 storm the field after the Michigan-Ohio State football game.*





## Last Semester at 700 South State Street

(Continued from page 1)

Being our final semester at 700 South State Street, we strive to make it memorable. After recruiting a very successful 23-member fall pledge class, our recruitment chairmen are excited to welcome an additional pledge class.

Throughout the fall, philanthropic involvement reached a new height and we continue to raise the bar. To date, we have raised enough money to sponsor a local child's dream trip to Disney World through the Make-a-Wish foundation. We also provided Christmas gifts to underprivileged children in Detroit. We plan to use this momentum to carry out our normal winter events (Treats for Troops, working with Detroit Partnership, and Relay for Life), as well as rekindle a Phi Psi tradition that has been absent from our chapter—Phi Psi 500. We are developing a plan to initiate the Phi Psi 500 and hope to hold the event in 2012.

Our chapter has an extremely tight-knit brotherhood comprised of 113 men, and we will continue to thrive on the University of Michigan campus. The move this fall will provide us with fresh new challenges, but as a brotherhood we will prevail and are ready to have a chapter house we can call our own. While 2011 was a great year for Michigan Alpha, we know that our achievements in 2012 will bolster our legacy as one of the strongest chapters on campus.

Thank you, alumni, for all your support. Without you, we would not have a new chapter house or a wonderful tradition to strengthen and carry proudly. We hope to see you all at Founder's Day on March 24.



Amici,  
**Zak Klausner '14**  
Chapter President  
zklausner@gmail.com



Home for the Holidays fundraiser with Kappa Kappa Gamma—Brent Petrone '08 poses for a photo op while Max Hill '09 acts as Santa.



Brothers celebrate their win against Sigma Alpha Epsilon in the annual Mudbowl football game.

## 2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
**Zak Klausner '14**

Recording Secretary  
**Alex Kasnetz '14**

Vice President  
**Jordan Stern '14**

Chaplin  
**John Baird '12**

Recruitment Chairman  
**Andrew McCoy '14**

Historian  
**John Wanglin '14**

Corresponding Secretary  
**Matt Wales '14**

Sergeant at Arms  
**Matt Ginsberg '14**

Treasurer  
**Mike Corey '14**

Messenger  
**John Arnold '14**

## CONGRATULATIONS, NEW INITIATES

**Daniel Adsit '11**  
Plymouth, Mich.

**Nicholas Diehl '11**  
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

**Reid Mechanick '11**  
Pound Ridge, N.Y.

**Sam Byrne '11**  
Chicago, Ill.

**Bryce Doreen '11**  
Roswell, Ga.

**Stephan Miller '15**  
Dallas, Texas

**Troy Carroll '11\***  
Northbrook, Ill.  
(Brother **Brett Carroll '08**)

**Alfredo Holguin '11**  
Rye, N.Y.

**Guillermo Rosemblat '11**  
Miami, Fla.

**Will King '11**  
Evanston, Ill.

**Avery Roth '11**  
Scarsdale, N.Y.

**Eduardo Consuegra '11**  
Greenwich, Conn.

**David Kinrich '11**  
Los Angeles, Calif.

**Hayden Schenker '11**  
New Hope, Pa.

**Stephen DeBrincat '11**  
Northville, Mich.

**Grant Kugler '11**  
Greenwich, Conn.

**Mike Scott '11**  
Westport, Conn.

**Steve Denowitz '11**  
Westport, Conn.

**Jonathan Landre '11**  
Canandaigua, N.Y.

**Joseph Simon '11**  
Detroit, Mich.

**John DeWulf '11**  
Phoenix, Ariz.

**Nicholas Liberator '11**  
Avon, Conn.

\*Legacy; relative in parentheses



## TEAMWORK TRAINING AT MICHIGAN ALPHA

### Chris Cramer '91 Shares Success



As the senior vice president and chief financial officer for Bath and Body Works, **Chris Cramer '91** knows what it means

to utilize the life skills learned at Michigan Alpha. "The fraternity teaches you to compromise and work through things with other people. Living in the house with that many people under one roof, you have to learn how to relate to and get along with other people. This is one of the, if not the most, critical skills in working within a team."

Chris applied the fraternity's training in diversity and teamwork to his academic arsenal. "My education at the University of Michigan provided a good foundation for entry into the business world. I also obtained an MBA from Cornell University which helped position me for the future," he says. "You start in an entry-level capacity and work your way up. The key is working hard, learning the business, being a positive team player, and delivering results. I've tried to do all those things throughout my career and will keep doing those as I move forward."

He wants to remind younger Phi Psis to soak everything in and to take advantage of all learning opportunities offered in college and at Michigan Alpha. "Dig in and learn as much as you can every day. You never know what you'll need to know to make a difference." Chris adds, "Keep a positive attitude—it makes a huge difference in your own work and that of your team."

Between work and his family life, Chris remains busy but enjoys staying in touch with friends from Phi Kappa Psi: **Sanjay Setty '90**, **Vince Roldan '92**, **Eric Biegansky '88**, and **Greg Ekker '91**.

"The chapter is a great way to stay connected with lifelong friends and with Michigan. It's also great to give back to the chapter, as I benefitted a lot from it."

Chris and his wife, Karin, live in Columbus, Ohio, and have two children, Matthew (11) and Elizabeth (9). When not enjoying his family time, Chris likes to exercise, golf, and read. Reconnect with him at [ccramer@bbw.com](mailto:ccramer@bbw.com).

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### CHAPTER ETERNAL



**John E. Rexford '40** entered Chapter Eternal February 15 at the age of 91. John played a critical role in Michigan Alpha's recolonization in 1983 and was a dedicated supporter through the 1980-90s. He was a resident of West Bloomfield, Mich., at the time of his passing.

**John F. Fralick '68** entered Chapter Eternal on March 18, 2010. He was a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**John R. Barney '47** lives in Glenview, Ill., with his wife, Jean. He retired in 2009 and enjoys playing golf and bridge, fishing, and gardening. E-mail: [barney2jr@gmail.com](mailto:barney2jr@gmail.com)

**Benjamin L. Olsen '50** retired in 1994 as president of Ben Olsen Inc. He and his wife, Evelyn, live in Colorado Springs, Colo., and have four grown children: David, Tim, Kristin, and Siri. Ben enjoys snow skiing and

is happy to hit the slopes for free with his senior citizenship.

**John P. States '56** retired in 2002 after 32 years working for State Farm Insurance Group as a life insurance lawyer. "After a 20-year layoff, I got my set of bagpipes out of the closet and began playing again as a member of the Jacobites Pipe and Drum Band." Jack and his wife, Mary, live in Bradenton, Fla. E-mail: [jpstates@verizon.net](mailto:jpstates@verizon.net)

**William F. Graham '63** and his wife, Lynne, live in Lake Bluff, Ill. Bill retired from Donlen Corporation as vice president of client relations in 2011. He and Lynne enjoy their summers in Tawas City, Mich., and welcomed their first granddaughter in June 2011. E-mail: [wfgraham401@comcast.net](mailto:wfgraham401@comcast.net)

**Glenn R. Fitzpatrick '66** is the owner of GSC. He and his wife, Sharon, live in San Diego, Calif. E-mail: [glenn@fastprice.org](mailto:glenn@fastprice.org)

**Timothy G. McDonnell '85** and his wife, Christine, live in Hendersonville, Tenn. He is the supply chain leader for Ingersoll Rand. E-mail: [tmcd995@comcast.net](mailto:tmcd995@comcast.net)

**J. Chad Hauff '93** celebrated his ninth wedding anniversary with Jill and their daughter's fourth birthday. He sees **Rob Stern '93** frequently and keeps in touch with **Matt Zweig '94**, who is a successful lawyer in New York. Last spring he cheered on **Tim White '95** when he ran the Boston marathon. In April, Chad will run the marathon for the second time. He hopes to return soon for a football game and see the new chapter house. "Amici and Go Blue!" E-mail: [saryon@umich.edu](mailto:saryon@umich.edu)

**Scott T. Stasik '96** and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Saginaw, Mich., with their three children: William, Ava, and Hanna. Scott sees many of his Phi Psi brothers during football season. He still vividly remembers carry-in his freshman year, marking it not as his favorite memory but certainly the most memorable. "The guys who were there would agree I'm sure!" Scott has worked at AXA Advisors for 11 years. E-mail: [scottstasik@gmail.com](mailto:scottstasik@gmail.com)

**Douglas E. Elsey '05** is a registered nurse at St. John Providence Health System. He and his wife, Alana, live in Sterling Heights, Mich. E-mail: [douglec@umich.edu](mailto:douglec@umich.edu)

**Ben J. Glaze '05** is a financial analyst for Stone Tower Capital in New York, N.Y. E-mail: [glazeben@gmail.com](mailto:glazeben@gmail.com)



# SAVE THE DATE

## FOUNDER'S DAY

5:30 P.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Cocktail Hour at 700 S. State.

Afterward, we will visit our new home at 630 Oxford then proceed to Palmer Commons for dinner and a presentation.

For more information or to RSVP, contact **Rory Deane '10** at rdeaner12@gmail.com or (313) 806-6840.

Cost to attend is \$60 and dress is semi-formal with suit or sport-coat desired.



# THE SOPHON

## Phi Kappa Psi - Michigan Alpha House Corporation

P.O. Box 131133

Ann Arbor, MI 48113

*Address Service Requested*

PSRST  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LAWRENCE, KS  
PERMIT #570

## Recruitment Recommendations

Alumni, we value your input on membership selection. If you know someone who would be an asset to the chapter, please send your recommendations to **Andrew McCoy '14** at akmccoy14@gmail.com.

## MICHIGAN ALPHA HOUSE CORPORATION

President

**Brian May '99**

*Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Secretary

**Dave Frayne '89**

*Plymouth, Mich.*

Treasurer

**Brad Holman '02**

*Madison Heights, Mich.*

Chapter Advisor

**Nic Katona '03**

*Chicago, Ill.*

Chapter President

**Zak Klausner '14**

Chapter Treasurer

**Mike Corey '14**

Members

**Al Dickerson '57**

*South Haven, Mich.*

**Dick Chamberlin '58**

*Hickory Corners, Mich.*

**Archie Di Blassio '59**

*Ann Arbor, Mich.*

**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.

## JOIN US ON LINKEDIN!

Stay connected with your Michigan Alpha brothers by joining our LinkedIn group. Join the "Phi Kappa Psi - Michigan Alpha: Undergraduate and Alumni Group" to network with your fellow Phi Psis.



*Dressed as several Waldos, the fall 2011 pledge class enjoys the Phi Kappa Psi Halloween party.*

## Find Us on the Web

### Check Out Our Facebook Groups

Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity,  
Michigan Alpha Chapter,  
Phi Kappa Psi

### LinkedIn

Phi Kappa Psi—Michigan Alpha: Undergraduate and Alumni Group

**Phi Kappa Psi at the University of Michigan**  
www.michiganphipsi.org