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PHI KAPPA PSI

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THE SOPHON

FALL 2015

MICHIGAN ALPHA FOCUSES ON PHILANTHROPY

CHAPTER RAISES \$150,000 FOR INJURED BROTHER

It has been a productive and fulfilling period for Michigan Alpha. Under the guidance of an alumni supervisory committee, we modified the undergraduate committee structure to ensure optimal performance of the chapter and maximum alumni involvement. To see a full list of our advisors with contact information, visit www.michiganhippsi.org.

GPA AND RECRUITMENT AT TOP OF THE CLASS

Michigan Alpha had a very productive year academically with a 3.34 GPA last semester. Additionally, 13 active members were recently accepted to the highly competitive and prestigious Stephen M. Ross School of Business, easily surpassing every other Greek organization on campus.

Recruitment Chairman **Matthew Phillips '14** is very excited about the upcoming fall pledge class, stating, "We are still in the process of recruitment, but we are confident the young gentlemen we have already met will continue to strengthen Michigan Alpha." Alumni are encouraged to send recruitment recommendations to Matt at matthewgirardphillips@gmail.com.

PHILANTHROPY EVENTS

Philanthropic service has been a major point of emphasis in recent months. This year, we will continue Home for the Holidays, our largest philanthropy event of the fall semester, with our brothers and the ladies from Kappa Kappa Gamma shopping for the kids from a local Ypsilanti elementary school.

After the first Freeze the Puck on Cancer event last winter, we have decided to do it again this winter. Last year, we raised nearly \$2,500 for the Kathy A. Janssen Foundation, which was established in the name of the deceased mother of a Michigan Alpha brother. The chapter sees great room for growth of this event moving forward, and is excited to have started what will become an annual event.

TAYLOR JANSEN '13 PARALYZED FROM ACCIDENT

The most significant event since the last newsletter is an accident involving our own brother, **Taylor Janssen '13**. Over the summer, Taylor was playing volleyball on his lake with several friends and dove into the lake when the volleyball went astray. Sadly, the water was very shallow and Taylor fractured his neck at the C5 vertebrae. Although Taylor was just recently released from the U of M hospital, he remains paralyzed with full mental capacity. But that is just where this story begins.

Since Taylor's accident on July 18, Michigan Alpha has quickly and successfully rallied around our brother. **Seth Johnson '13** started a GoFundMe page online, which has helped raise more than \$150,000 for Taylor's recovery process with any extra funds going toward Taylor's mother's foundation (mentioned to the left). Taylor's story and brotherhood support has been featured on local and national news platforms constantly for the past few months, and he consistently receives visits from his brothers at the U of M hospital. Please keep brother Taylor in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to battle this injury. To donate to Taylor's GoFundMe page, please visit www.gofundme.com/zvkvng.

To support Taylor Janssen '13, visit his GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/zvkvng.

Amici,
Jack Scott '14
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MICHIGAN ALPHA BROTHERHOOD VALUABLE FOR LAW SCHOOL TRIO

One of the greatest qualities of Michigan Alpha is that our brotherhood extends long past graduation from Michigan. **Patrick Sierawski '07**, **Michael Sulaka '07**, and **Gino Roncelli '07** have seen their brotherhood grow over the years and after graduation outside of Phi Psi. Loose friends in high school, the trio explored Michigan together as freshmen, joined Phi Kappa Psi, and after graduating from Michigan, stayed in touch all through law school. After law school graduation, Pat, Michael, and Gino ended up sitting 10 feet from each other for the Michigan bar exam this past July.

Michael earned his J.D. and MBA from the University of Detroit Mercy and is transitioning into corporate law, while studying for his master's of laws degree in taxation at Boston University School of Law. He is thankful for the influence of older Michigan brothers, including **Ben Glaze '05**, who inspired him and **Justin Finkleman '07** to start the clothing line, Stroke, while undergraduates. "Joining Phi Psi and meeting Ben Glaze really rubbed off on me, and still has a lasting impact today with how I work with nonprofit organizations. The philanthropic aspect of Phi Psi continues to resonate with me today." Michael is founder and CEO of Shine Media, LLC, a media consulting firm working with non-profits to help them fundraise through text-to-donate efforts.

Patrick accepted his bid to Phi Psi because he didn't want to lose the great friends he made during recruitment, a choice that turned out to be one of the best decisions of his life. Pat graduated from Wayne State University Law School, and hopes to work for the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office. As a highly engaged leader of the Housing Corporation, Pat gets to see the

ins and outs of today's chapter and is proud of the current leadership for driving the new mentality of Phi Psi. He fondly remembers waking up at 6 a.m. for all home football games, and the influence of older brothers, such as **Ben Coleman '03**, who were always willing to give advice and help whenever asked.

Gino is thankful for the talented and ambitious men he called his brothers, whose support helped him gain a sense of confidence at Michigan Alpha. Like Patrick, Gino is thankful for the advice **Ben Coleman** bestowed upon them as undergraduates, keeping them from making any decisions that might have lasting repercussions. Gino earned his bachelor's of business administration from Ross Business School, and his law degree from Wayne State University School of Law. Today, he is an analyst at Roncelli Inc., a family-owned international commercial builder based out of Detroit. While his first four years out of college have been dominated by much work and less play (certainly with exception), Gino comes back each year for Founders' Day and tailgates, and plans to be more prominently involved with Michigan Alpha with law school finally completed.

From the same pledge class to graduating from law school, Pat, Gino, and Michael are thankful for their Phi Psi connection. The trio rushed together, graduated together, and succeeded together, and look forward to keeping their brotherhood alive for years to come. All three enjoyed this past Founders' Day with the brotherhood and look forward to the next. You can reach out to Michael, Pat, and Gino via e-mail at msulaka@gmail.com, patsierawski@gmail.com, and gino.r.roncelli@gmail.com, respectively.

MENTORING PROGRAM COMING TO MICHIGAN ALPHA

The mentorship of a Michigan Alpha alumnus at 19 years old forever changed **J.S. Roy '97**. Today, he wants to make sure future Michigan Alpha brothers have the chance to mentor or be mentored.

Jerry Nelson was J.S.'s first exposure to an entrepreneur, and right away influenced J.S. to follow in his footsteps. After recommendation from **Chris Quick '99**, J.S. began on an entrepreneur path with a class on entrepreneurship his senior year, and has spent the years since becoming a self-proclaimed serial entrepreneur.

In hopes of continuing to foster a sense of mentorship at Michigan Alpha, J.S. wants to create an alumni-undergraduate mentoring program. There are three main goals for the project:

Create, maintain, and grow an alumni database for use by both alumni and undergraduates to identify who they would like to connect.

He is leveraging the Michigan Alpha LinkedIn group to assist with this.

- Expose undergraduates to alumni in as many different industries as possible through bi-yearly panel discussions with alumni about their industries and careers. The panels will be held in conjunction with football in the fall and Founders' Day in the spring.
- Provide undergraduates with skills that are vital to success after graduation, but aren't necessarily covered by a standard college education. Topics like networking, how to develop professional relationships, the importance of mentoring relationships, and self-assessment.

There are a number of ways alumni can get involved.

1. Join the "Phi Kappa Psi-Michigan Alpha: Undergrad and Alumni Group" on LinkedIn.
2. Fill out a Michigan Alpha alumni profile.

The link to the google document can be found as part of the mentoring program discussion on the LinkedIn Group.

3. Reach out to Michigan alumni you're in touch with and get them to do steps one and two.
4. If you want to be a part of the panel discussions or run one of the education sessions, reach out to J.S. at jroy@chicagoothbo.edu.

J.S. has been working on start-ups for the last eight years, and today splits his time between developing solar micro-grids in Africa and operating a youth hockey camp company in Chicago. He and his wife, Katie, live in Chicago and are expecting their first child December 1.

J.S. Roy '97 is working to bring Michigan Alpha. To get involved, email jroy@chicagoothbo.edu.



MAHC MAKES STRUCTURAL AND FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENTS

With the crisp fall air settling into Ann Arbor and the Midwest, the Michigan Alpha Housing Corporation is fondly looking back on a great summer and early fall. In the past six months, we have been able to achieve some major milestones for our chapter and alumni.

CHAPTER HOUSE UPGRADES COMPLETED

Thanks to the efforts of **Brian May '99** and **Brad Holman '02**, we have refinanced our chapter house at 630 Oxford to take advantage of better lending rates, paid off our capital loan from Nationals, and made some structural improvements to the house. If you visited the house in the past few years, you would have noticed a serious lack of lighting in the main chapter room. You might have also noticed that the bathrooms were not built to handle the use of 20+ college-aged men. Both of these issues have been resolved with new lighting installed into the ceiling of the main room and all upper bathrooms completely overhauled and replaced. It is important to note that these improvements would not have been possible without the financial support of alumni like you. Thank you to those who supported.

UNDERGRADUATE COMMITTEE RETREAT

Our leaders of undergraduate advising had an eventful weekend in August when they hosted the annual undergraduate committee retreat. Thanks to the efforts of **Nic Katona '99** and

Arthur DiBlassio '59, the undergraduates were educated on proper management, leadership, and risk management techniques. The undergraduates also had the opportunity to review their mission, goals, and process for success. MAHC sees this as a critical process in the effort of elevating the undergraduate chapter to a top position on Michigan's campus and nationally within Phi Kappa Psi.

ALUMNI EVENTS

As for alumni engagement, we have had a few new events take place in Chicago and Ann Arbor over the past few months. Earlier this summer, **J.S. Roy '97** hosted alumni at his house in Chicago for a delicious BBQ rib roast. Although we didn't have quite the turnout that we were hoping for, we still had a great time reflecting on our experiences over the years while feasting on some great BBQ. Alumni were also recently treated to the Phi Psi Cup golf outing in Ann Arbor on October 3. Hosted by **Jared Frost '03**, **David Nidetz '03**, **Tim Schaetzl '04**, and myself, we had alumni from the early to mid-2000s competing for the honors of best Phi Psi golfer. Although Tim carried the day, we all had a great time doing our best to not lose too many balls in the tall grasses of the course. The Phi Psi Cup was especially well timed because we were able to host our annual in-person MAHC meeting at the chapter later that evening, where

we spoke with the undergraduates about their goals and status on campus.

UNDERGRADUATE PHILANTHROPY EVENTS

Looking forward, we are excited about the opportunity to support the undergraduate philanthropic events, whether it is Freeze the Puck on Cancer, their Boys and Girls Clubs engagements, or anything else that they put their minds to. We are also excited about the opportunity to continue our Founders' Day awards tradition. Remember, we need submissions for candidates for our awards: Mr. Phi Psi, philanthropy, and entrepreneurship. If you know somebody who deserves to be nominated, please e-mail michiganalphaalumni@gmail.com!



As always, keep your eyes open for updates on the Michigan Alpha Alumni Facebook group, LinkedIn, or your general e-mail.

Live Ever,
Jack Gray '07
jpgrayjr@gmail.com



ing a mentoring program to get involved, e-mail him gobooth.edu.



THE SOPHON

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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.

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