



# THE SOPHON

*Michigan Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi*

PHI KAPPA PSI

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SUMMER 2020

## CLIMBING TO THE TOP



### Michigan Alpha Chapter Needs Alumni Support to Continue Improving

**M**ichigan Alpha Chapter continuously stands out as a top-tier fraternity at the University of Michigan and maintains good standing within the National Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity. Our brotherhood is strong at 103 men and they've shown improvement in their GPA over the past few years. That academic success helped us in earning the Dr. Thomas D. Myers Scholarship Award from the National Fraternity. Our success isn't limited to the classroom, however, as we were Mud Bowl Champions last year; the fifth time since 2011!

While we've experienced great success on campus, we are still battling unforeseen costs in maintaining our chapter house at 630 Oxford. We care for our men and continue to add life safety features required by the City of Ann Arbor, including an ADA-compliant wheelchair ramp and a fire suppression system. Completing these updates is necessary to maintaining our special zoning as a chapter house while providing a top-quality facility for our members.

With the help of our generous alumni and a grant from our fund at the National Fraternity, we were able to meet the first payment in May. Our next fundraising target is \$22,500 by November 1, 2020. Can we count on you for a donation? See the righthand section of this page to learn more about ways to support the chapter. Please make your donation by October 30 so that we can make the first payment on November 1.

We want to thank all of the alumni and parents who have supported the chapter already this year. All gifts are important and will make an impact. We hope that we can count on you, once again, to support the Michigan Alpha brotherhood.

Live Ever,  
Michigan Alpha House Corporation Board of Directors

#### Here's how you can give back today:

- **Recurring or one-time gift option:** [www.michiganphipsi.org/donate-now](http://www.michiganphipsi.org/donate-now)
- **PayPal:** [michiganalphaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:michiganalphaalumni@gmail.com); ask and we can provide wire instructions
- **Mail Checks:** Michigan Alpha, Payment Processing, P.O. Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902-2187

#### HOUSE CORPORATION BOARD

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# SERVICE TO OTHERS AND THE WORLD

## *Matt Raeburn '00 Found Support and Inspiration Through Phi Kappa Psi*

**S**taying true to Phi Kappa Psi's motto of The Great Joy of Serving Others, **Matt Raeburn '00** focuses on others and the world around him, first by practicing environmental law and now by tackling climate change. And if not for Phi Psi, his life would likely be quite different than it is today.

"I owe so much of my success as an environmental lawyer and policymaker to my experience at Phi Psi," Matt said. "My big bro, **Brian May '99**, and my other Phi Psi brothers helped me learn how to lead, manage, and innovate in circumstances beyond any one person's control. And that, in a nutshell, is life combatting climate change."

As a senior policy analyst for the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment, Matt advises the Minister for Climate Change on how to adapt their country to physical impacts, from sea level rise to more frequent severe storms and droughts. Despite its location and size limiting what it can accomplish, New Zealand's political and economic climate allows for far more progress on climate change than anywhere in the U.S.

"I still lose arguments with the top decision-makers, but we're better than most about coming together for a common good that's about more than the individual," he shared.

Keeping the core values of the brotherhood at heart, especially the concept of coming together for a common good, has served Matt well over the years. Looking back, much of what he learned from his Phi Psi brothers at Michigan Alpha has influenced him years beyond graduation.

"Michigan Alpha helped me become the man I am today," he stated. "I'd like to think that, because of Phi Psi, I'm a better person who genuinely



tries to be of service to others and to understand their views rather than focusing only on myself and passing judgment."

Whenever he starts to lose his way, Matt always comes back to Phi Psi's basic principles.

"Self-seeking, dishonesty, and self-centeredness have never made me content. Neither has making money or buying into an illusion of safety and financial security," Matt said. "It's connecting with other people, being vulnerable, helping and being generous with my time and resources that has made me happy. Because that's who I am. And I am who I am in large part because of Phi Psi."

Twenty years since joining the brotherhood, Matt has realized that the fellowship of Phi Psi can be found in many places and that it's worth looking for.

"I've found it in my work, in my boxing gym, in recovery from substance abuse—lots of places. It's the connections with other people that make life worth living. And the best way to connect is by helping someone. Do that and our strong bond shall ne'er be broken."

While Matt takes pride in his Phi Psi membership and his colorful career, he is most proud of being a dad to his 6-year-old daughter, Ramona. And thanks to Phi Psi, he learned to be bold, take risks, and put the good of his family first, which has included switching jobs and hemispheres.

Matt and his daughter, Ramona, live in Wellington, New Zealand. Connect with Matt and learn more about his life fighting climate change at [mattraeburn@gmail.com](mailto:mattraeburn@gmail.com).

## HAND SANITIZER DRIVE

**I**n 1852, William Henry Letterman and Charles Page Thomas Moore started the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity based on the concept of providing service to those who are less fortunate. This is why Phi Kappa Psi's maxim is The Great Joy of Serving Others. Since then, Phi Psi's across the world have been giving of their time and talents to causes important to them and their families.

Housing Corporation President **Roger Goodrich '80** has kindly set up a fundraiser providing you the opportunity to purchase and ship hand sanitizer to whomever (e.g., hospitals and clinics, police departments, fire stations, yourself). You can purchase the hand sanitizer by going to <https://sanitizer.nanosolpro.com/product/>

[antibacterial-hand-sanitizer/ref/rgoodrich](https://nanosolpro.com/ref/rgoodrich). CBD products can be purchased at <http://nanosolpro.com/ref/rgoodrich>. Please note that all CBD products contain 0% THC; this is verified by a third-party lab, Certificate of Analysis.

15% of your purchases will go to Michigan Alpha Chapter in order to provide a rent credit to the students and, if there is money left over, repair the main room floor at the chapter house. Another 15% of your purchase will go to the outstanding loan payment to improve the house fire suppression system and add a wheelchair ramp for accessibility.

The initial stock of hand sanitizer is 20,000 8 oz. bottles. These are all made in the USA.

The bottles may be purchased in any quantity; however, one case holds 24 bottles, so ordering in multiples of 24 is convenient from a shipping perspective.

**Make sure to include PKP at the end of your name (e.g., John Doe PKP) so that PKP will receive funds from your order. As long as Roger Goodrich and his phone number are displayed in the top right corner of the website then Michigan Alpha will receive a credit from the purchase.**

Feel free to link in your personal network as safety is an issue that is important to us all. Additionally, you can ship the hand sanitizer to any address, including in your local community!

# Building a Sense of Unity at Michigan Alpha

## Craig Haines '69 Calls Upon Brothers to Support Active Chapter

**Craig Haines '69** is one of many Michigan Alpha alumni who hasn't lived in or visited the new chapter house at 630 Oxford, but that's a moot point to the retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. Fifty years ago, Craig was a sophomore at the University of Michigan and thought he would be living in the old chapter house at Hill and Washtenaw. Due to a large amount of maintenance work required for members to continue living at that location, Craig ended up being the last brother initiated in the old chapter house.

Craig made many memories and learned several valuable lessons from his brothers, including his brother by blood, **Michael Haines '64**. He hasn't been in contact with the active chapter in recent years, but he admires the efforts of the undergraduates to build a bigger and better brotherhood. Craig showed his support of Michigan Alpha with a contribution to the chapter's annual fund and encourages his brothers to do the same.

"I feel like the brothers in the current chapter are experiencing some of the same problems we had in 1969. Often the current residents of the house didn't create the problems; they inherited them," Craig said. "I commend the officers for fighting



to solve the problems. They could walk away and leave the problems behind. This group has chosen to fight. They have better means for getting information to the alumni than we had."

After graduating from Michigan in 1972, Craig immediately entered the Air Force and went into pilot training in Alabama. Craig's Air Force career spanned 20 years and included stops in Alabama (twice), California,

Iceland, upstate New York, Arizona, and Oklahoma. He flew the B-52, T-33, and T-37, and found a few similarities between his squadrons and Michigan Alpha.

"Both had like-minded individuals with common interests pursuing a common goal. You



learn to take care of each other," Craig said. "As a leader, you learn if you take care of your people, they will take care of you. I never worried about my own individual success but had a successful career because I took care of my people."

After retiring from the Air Force in 1993 and working for a few years in retail, Craig was hired by American Airlines as a simulator instructor pilot in 2000. He started with MD-80s and now teaches 737s.

"We have a sense of unity not often found in the corporate world," Craig said. "I continue working even at age 70 because of this environment. Not many people can say they love their job and see no need to retire."

That same sense of unity is something that Craig wants to see from the Michigan Alpha alumni base in support of the chapter's undergraduates.

"It doesn't take much. You don't have to stand up and give much," Craig said. "There's enough of us that a little bit from each person can help them build up to where they have money."

You can connect with Craig at [hainesster@gmail.com](mailto:hainesster@gmail.com).

**William Alter**  
San Diego, Calif.

**Gregory Cowles**  
Portland, Ore.

**Henry Hill**  
Greenwich, Conn.

**Joseph Maguire**  
St. Louis, Mo.

**Wyatt Sales**  
Boulder, Colo.

**Juan Thompson**  
Washington, D.C.

**Alec Azar**  
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

**Max Diaz**  
San Francisco, Calif.

**Clayton Kramm**  
Rochester, Mich.

**James MacKenzie**  
Birmingham, Mich.

**Joseph Sear**  
Eden Prairie, Minn.

**Jack Timko**  
Basking Ridge, N.J.

**Alexander Bamford**  
Greenwich, Conn.

**Jacob Firek**  
Nashville, Tenn.

**Ben Jackel**  
San Diego, Calif.

**William Pater**  
Denver, Colo.

**Langston Sholl**  
Los Angeles, Calif.

**Darius Vahabzadeh**  
Rye, N.Y.

**Talal Benahmed**  
Los Angeles, Calif.

**Luke Flaska**  
Chicago, Ill.

**Parker Lynch**  
Los Angeles, Calif.

**Benjamin Rifkin**  
Greenwich, Conn.

**Asher Tannebaum**  
Mamaroneck, N.Y.

**Dylan Bengtson**  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

**Patrick Gallagher**  
New Haven, Conn.

**Andrew Maccagnone**  
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

**Nicholas Russell**  
New York, N.Y.

**WELCOME,  
NEW MEMBERS**

# MICHIGAN ALPHA THRIVES

## Active Chapter Achieves Success in Academics, Philanthropy, and Recruitment

Throughout the course of the winter semester the brotherhood of Michigan Alpha has achieved notable success in the classroom. This consistent upward trend in the chapter's GPA can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of each brother, along with the precedent set forth by our academic chairman, **William Conway '18**. His encouragement, coupled with the aid he provides, has been unparalleled. The chapter boasted an astounding 3.41 GPA, demonstrating our commitment to learning and academic excellence.

Looking at philanthropy and service, the brotherhood did a fantastic job giving back to the community. **Alden Sulger '17** and **Henry Hill '20** partnered with an Ann Arbor school, Angell Elementary, hosting a weekly Running Club. Each week the pair led University of Michigan students in running and playing outdoor games with elementary school students after school. Furthermore, the brotherhood partnered with the sisterhood of Alpha Phi in Michigan's Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser dedicated to helping communities attack cancer. Together, we raised over \$3,000 to help fight the ongoing battle against cancer.

This past year, Michigan shifted formal recruitment from fall to winter. Recruitment Chairmen **Thomas Hughes '18** and **Keaton Bell '18** took this change head on and led Michigan Alpha to a strong winter recruitment, welcoming 26 new brothers. Each of these individuals possesses great character and embodies what it means to be a brother of Phi Kappa Psi.

While this past semester has brought many unforeseen challenges, the brotherhood of Michigan Alpha continues to persevere. Now, more than ever, we are thankful to be able to rely on the bonds formed by this fraternity. Seeing how our year was abruptly cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I know I speak for everyone when I say we could not be more eager to reunite in Ann Arbor this fall. No matter the challenges we face, no matter the obstacles thrown at us, our brotherhood continues to thrive.

Live Ever Die Never,  
**Alex Diaz '18**  
Chapter President



# THE SOPHON

*Michigan Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi*

## PHI KAPPA PSI

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Search "Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, Michigan Alpha alumni"



*Members of Michigan Alpha participating in the annual Mud Bowl.*



*Michigan Alpha brothers enjoying a nice dinner together.*



*Congratulations to our graduating seniors!  
We know that your final semester didn't go exactly as you had planned, but we are proud of you for all of your accomplishments. You will always have a home at Michigan Alpha.*



*Brothers studying abroad before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.*