

## Quick Notes

- A Phi Delt-orchestrated **ALS benefit** walk is in the works for early **April 2006**.
- Phi Delta Theta will see its first **Founders Day** celebration in several years, on **March 11, 2006**.
- **Michigan Alpha** is seeing its largest pledge class in almost a decade.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# THE SWORD & SHIELD

MICHIGAN ALPHA CHAPTER OF PHI DELTA THETA FRATERNITY

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 2005

## Undergraduate President's

# Report Chapter Will Continue to Thrive with Planning and Dedication

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who invested time and effort into bringing our chapter back to campus, and seeing us through our initiation and installation ceremonies. All of the undergraduate brothers had a great time, and we are all very proud to have joined the brotherhood of Phi Delta Theta. We have since had the opportunity to learn all the traditions of the fraternity, and we are now planning and organizing for a new successful year.

This fall before initiation, we had our first full pledge term, for which we developed a program for our phikeia to complete to learn more about our fraternity, our school and our brothers. We are continuing the program with our phikeia this term, building upon the lessons and skills we are striving to teach these young men. It is our hope to build better brothers with these lessons and keep the tradition of Phi Delta Theta strong here at Michigan.

Additionally, our social events have proven to be very successful this year,

ranging from comedy clubs to sporting events. We are planning an outing to a Pistons game next month. We are truly enjoying our time together as brothers, as well as getting to know other Greek houses on campus. We also participated in the annual Greek Week competition, taking first place overall.

One of our brothers, secretary of our executive council, **Jason Barley**, took it upon himself to plan for our participation in Phi Delta Theta's supported charity activity, the Jackson Walk 'N Roll for ALS. We participated in a fundraising walk in Jackson to raise money for this charity founded in honor of one of our alumni, Lou Gehrig. Jason spent a lot of time organizing our participation, and we hope to host a walk on our campus next year using the experience we gained in Jackson. Stay tuned for more details on this in the next few months.

The executive council has spent a good amount of time determining our path for the next few years, and establishing a structure and a plan for this

chapter after we have gone. Restarting the chapter has been quite a learning experience for us, and we are still learning the intricacies of budgeting and planning, and running our meetings respectfully and efficiently. I believe our organization will indeed thrive with careful planning, and that is what we are currently seeking to achieve.

I would like to invite anyone who might be willing to talk at our chapter meetings about leadership, brotherhood or the history of the chapter. If you are interested, please contact me. We would be more than happy to have you. I am certain all of you have lessons that you have learned in life that would help us in our own journeys and assist in building us into truly "the leaders and the best."

Yours in the Bond,

Greg Lavigne  
Chapter President, Michigan Alpha  
[gregwl@umich.edu](mailto:gregwl@umich.edu) ■

## Michigan Alpha Walks 'N Rolls for ALS

By Jason Barley, Secretary

This September 18, the members of Michigan Alpha participated in the second annual Jackson Walk 'N Roll for ALS. The walk, planned by ALS of Michigan and various members of the Jackson community, attracted approximately 300 people. The brave participants undertook a three-mile walk through Cascade Falls Park in Jackson.

The majority of the walkers were from the Jackson community, participating in honor of victims of the horrific disease; however, the brothers of Michigan Alpha came with other means of motivation. More than 20 brothers were in the event, and the crowd stopped and stared as the mass of college students strolled in to register to participate at 9:00 a.m. the

day after a home football game. After a brief introduction to the chapter, the crowd applauded when learning that the collection of students were attending the walk in honor of Lou Gehrig, a brother in Phi Delt.

This, however, was not the only shock of the day. After only having been on campus for a meager 10 days, the brothers of Phi Delt managed to raise approximately \$2,000 for the walk. In total, the walk was estimated to have raised \$15,000. So, with minimal preparation, Phi Delta Theta came through once again and raised nearly 15 percent of the walk's proceeds, which will go toward research for the disease and helping pay the hospital bills of victims. ■

# Alumni President's Report

## Five Years Alcohol-Free, and Proud of It

Brothers, Parents and Friends of Michigan Alpha:

This past August, our fraternity passed a historic milestone: the fifth anniversary of the decision to move to alcohol-free housing. This decision, more so than any other, has positioned Phi Delta Theta for continued longevity and growth in this new century.

This transition at Michigan Alpha has not been without controversy. Over the last several months, tough choices had to be made by the alumni board as landlord concerning who could live in the house this fall. The steadfast position of the alumni board, along with the continued diligence and support from the chapter advisory board, has clearly communicated the standard of behavior we expect of the young men who occupy 1437 Washtenaw.

I am compelled to reprint in total a letter from Bob Biggs, the fraternity's executive vice president, discussing this historic milestone and the positive results to date:

*Phi Delta Theta proudly celebrates its fifth year of alcohol-free housing, which requires all chapter facilities and their surrounding properties to remain alcohol-free under all circumstances. The celebration is complete with a strong focus on the Cardinal Principles during all chapter functions, safer chapter facilities, a stabilized per-man insurance rate, renewed relationships with the surrounding communities and higher member grade-point averages — just a few of the many objectives the General Council had when they adopted the policy in 1997.*

*There are countless reasons why the fraternity implemented the alcohol-free housing policy. However, the General Council narrowed them down to a few well-thought-of goals that we are happy to report have come to fruition after only five years. All Phi Deltas should be ever mindful to embody the Cardinal Principles and promote them during all activities. We are securing the prestige of Phi Delta Theta for future generations.*

*A values-based organization will attract the right kind of men to join, accept leadership roles and guide the fraternity into a productive future.*

*We are also meeting the academic needs of today's college men by providing an environment that is conducive to study. This manifests itself through the upward trend of our members' grade-point averages. Our facilities are not subjected to the deterioration that accompanies functions with alcohol. Our valued alumni are*

*readily supporting chapters that look at their fraternal experience as a brotherhood and not as membership to a drinking club. Through all of this, our insurance rates have remained stable, and we have been able to keep our per-man rate at a reasonably low cost — markedly lower than that for fraternities that allow alcohol in their facilities.*

*General Headquarters has gone to great lengths to tutor the leadership consultants in alcohol-abuse education for young men. It has spent countless hours on the creation of easily utilized information for chapters that are unsure of the steps necessary to carry out the alcohol-free vision. It has offered educational outlets for members and boldly implemented a disciplinary response for chapters that would not comply.*

*But the bulk of the work was done by the men who live with alcohol-free housing every day. Our gratitude extends to the chapter officials, both undergraduates and alumni, who have taken the General Council's noble vision and made it a reality. In doing so, Phi Delta Theta International Fraternity is an example for other fraternities looking to progress into the 21st century with the dignity, brotherhood and moral standards their founders envisioned.*

*You will find a comprehensive review of the reasons for the conception of the alcohol-free housing policy in a white paper published by Dr. Edward G. Whipple, vice president for Student Affairs at Bowling Green State University. It is located on our Web site, [www.phideltatheta.org](http://www.phideltatheta.org). The review includes updates on the progress the fraternity has made through the policy over the past five years. Our alcohol-free housing brochure and media guide are also accessible on our Web site.*

*We have always been proud to be Phi Deltas. Our pride stems from the ideals we believed in when we took an oath to be true to the fraternity. Our pride continues when we see the steps that Phi Delta Theta has taken to remain true to that oath throughout its 158-year existence.*

*Yours in the Bond,  
Robert A. Biggs  
Executive Vice President*

*I couldn't have said it better myself. Please join with me in celebrating this successful "paradigm shift."*

*Yours in the Bond,  
Rex Vaughn '74  
Alumni Board President, Michigan Alpha*

## New Rush Strategies Yield Results

By Kellyn Parker

The school year is well underway and, while the football season has given me something to worry about, rush definitely has not. After returning from the annual Phi Delt convention in Oxford, Ohio, this summer, the rush plan at Michigan Alpha received a major overhaul.

Deciding to focus the recruitment effort upon the whole chapter and not solely on the shoulders of one recruitment chairman, we split up into five teams of about six brothers each. These teams, in conjunction with the recruitment

chairman, put on numerous events, starting the year off with four consecutive cookouts at the chapter house during the week of move in.

We have also incorporated recruitment into our weekly brotherhood events: Prospective members are invited to attend our Thursday night Texas Hold 'Em games, Monday Night Football games and Sunday night house dinner, and to participate with us in our intramurals.

To date we have collected the names

and e-mail addresses of more than 60 prospects who attended our events. The effort culminated in a very successful rush week with the new team system. Each team was assigned a day of rush and given \$100 to put on an event. These events included portable bowling, dodgeball, women's Jell-O wrestling, a Buffalo-wings-eating contest and a root beer pong tournament. Thus far, 24 bids have been extended to the future brothers who will comprise our Gamma pledge class for the fall of 2005. ■

## State of the Chapter House

### Undergraduates Maintaining the Excellent Condition of the House

The house currently has 23 Phi Deltas residing within its walls. This is the most we have had since we turned the house over to the chapter more than three years ago. It is hoped that, with a successful rush, the house will approach full occupancy in fall 2006.

During the last three academic years, the undergraduate membership has demonstrated a desire to maintain and improve the very good condition the house was in when it was turned over to them, following the completion of Phases I, II and III of the master plan to renovate 1437 Washtenaw. The alumni should know that this group of Phi Deltas has done an outstanding job in maintaining the condition of the chapter house. The alumni greatly appreciate this fact.

The house corporation recently installed closet rods and shelving in bedroom suites 8, 9, 10 and 11, along with new mattresses and bed frames. In addition, a new oak entry door and frame were installed to room 4, and the water feed to the boiler was replaced. The usual general cleaning up (including carpet cleaning, fire suppression and alarm certification, touch-up painting and drywall repair, electrical inspection, etc.) prior to turning over the facility for this academic year was performed over the summer.

The next phase of the master plan is currently on hold, pending receiving the financial support to enable additional improvements. Phase IV will involve repairing/replacing the pavement and

*By Joseph Fattore '80, Vice President, House Corporation Board*

concrete sections around the exterior of the house, as well as landscaping and restoring the north porch handrail. The planned tile replacement for the second- and third-floor showers was not performed this past summer. Hopefully, our financial picture will improve enough to allow for this work and for commencing our final phase of improvements in summer 2006.

I hope any alumni who may be passing through Ann Arbor will take a moment to come by the house. The feedback from those who have visited since the renovations has all been very positive. The house corporation, in partnership with the newly installed chapter, welcomes you back ... anytime. ■

## Phi Delta Theta Annual Fund

### Why Should You Support the Annual Fund?

Your support for our alumni chapter's annual fund proves your commitment to the future of Michigan Alpha. **Your annual gift is an investment in the fraternity's potential to make a positive impact in the lives of young men as the fraternity did for you, me and so many of our alumni.**

Your annual contribution affirms your belief that:

- ◆ Phi Delta Theta still provides the best *leadership development and character building* opportunities on campus.
- ◆ The *spirit of volunteerism* that drives our alumni board and other volunteers is vital to the strength of the organization.
- ◆ The *value of friendships* forged at Phi Delta Theta grows as time passes and should be celebrated with reunions, annual gatherings and other events that bring alumni back to the place they can always call home.

Alumni contributions to the annual fund make possible *The Sword & Shield*, event invitations and other forms of alumni communications.

You can make a donation now by:

- Filling out and returning the enclosed form.
- Calling our toll-free donation hotline at 800-975-6699.

**Your annual support is crucial to the success of our chapter and our alumni relations program.** ■

*The Sword & Shield*

## Homecoming Report

*By J.T. "Tom" Buck '77*

### Alumni and Family Enjoy Homecoming 2005

The day of homecoming opened to a blue sky with a crisp morning that grew warm as friends and brothers greeted each other at 1437 Washtenaw. The undergraduate brothers prepared a scrambled-eggs breakfast for alumni visitors and had the chapter house in pristine condition. New carpeting was in place in the game room, and the residential rooms were open for inspection by moms and dads.

Our alumni visitors included **John T. Buck '55** and his wife Nancy, **David Liederbach '84** and family, **Doug Young '76** and his wife Kim, **Red Weller '84** and family, **Earl Keim '52**, **Greg Karmazin '87** and his wife Nicole, **Mike Gunderson '74**, **Joe Kraus '82** and **John L. Kraus '79**, **Nat Love '81**, **Rolie Zagnoli '84**, and me and my wife Karen. Throughout the day, a total of 19 Michigan Alphas stopped by the house for the event. Phi visitors also hailed from Massachusetts Gamma and Ohio Iota.

The unfortunate part of this beautiful sunny day was Michigan's loss to Minnesota.

Please mark your calendars for next year's homecoming event, on October 28. ■

## Greek Week

*By Jacob Bach, Greek Week Representative*

### Phi Delt Wins Greek Week '05

Less than four months after rechartering the Michigan Alpha Chapter, a new trophy has been added to our already-full trophy cabinet: The newly initiated brothers of Phi Delta Theta, paired with two other houses, brought home first-place honors in the annual Greek Week competition. Events this year included kickball, volleyball, Greek Sing, variety, arm wrestling, euchre and many others.

The early stages toward the victory began back in January with the first meeting of our team. The six representatives (two from each house) sat down and laid out our plans for success. We identified the strengths each house had to offer and plotted our strategy from there. For the next three months we attended biweekly meetings and began to set up the rosters for each event.

Led by a wonderful performance at Greek Week's final venue, the Sing and Variety Show, team six edged out the other 14 teams to bring home the victory. In addition to winning first place in the overall competition, Phi Delt made use of a cowbell and won the spirit competition as well.

With the chapter having been back on the University of Michigan's campus for such a small amount of time, it is satisfying to know that Phi Delt has already returned to its winning ways. ■

# Alumni Updates

**M. Bliss Bowman '46** (2468 Hickory Glen Dr., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2206) I am 90 percent retired but do come into the office when we are in Michigan. We winter in Sarasota, Fla., do some summer traveling and spend the rest of the year in Michigan. Our family is all grown up with three children, two of whom were schooled in Ann Arbor, plus six grandchildren, three of whom have graduated from college, with one finishing law school in May 2005. Only one of the three went to Michigan. I am glad to see the younger generation working so hard with the chapter. Things never seemed to change when it came to collecting the house bills. I was glad to see that **Banning "Brud" Lary '45** and **Richard "Dick" Amos '49** are still alive and active in civic affairs. We saw **Roger Smith '46** this past summer in a restaurant, celebrating his 79th birthday. I understand that **Ed "Ned" Atkins '45** and his wife have moved back to Manistee after living several years in Kalamazoo. **Ben Smith '43** was very sick this past summer but has recovered. **Robert "Bob" Chap-puis '48** and his wife have moved to Ann Arbor from Fort Wayne. **Donald "Don" Lund**

**'45** never left Ann Arbor. He is very active with the Michigan baseball program and is president of the Dugout Club.

**George M. Broderick '51** (2896 Lengel, Cincinnati, OH 45244) Janet Duff, the beautiful wife of brother **Edward "Roy" Duff '52**, died in July 2001. Roy's address is 444 Whitman Court, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

**Richard W. Young '51** (5633 Sanctuary Dr., Ada, MI 49301; rwy@behler-young.com) Barbara and I enjoy good health and go between our home in Grand Rapids, a place in Stuart, Fla., and a place on the Pere Marquette River. We went back to Ann Arbor for the 50th reunion of my law school class and also saw the new chapter of Michigan Alpha. I attended with sons **Doug Young '76** and **Bruce Young '78**. Grandson **Cameron Young** was a member of the pledge class. I get together with **Lawrence "Jim" Hicks '51** and **John "Jack" Kunkle '49** in Florida. I was pleased to see information on several guys I knew, in a recent *Sword & Shield*.

**James W. Root '52** (14611 Broadgreen, Houston, TX 77079-6426; jimroots@aol.com) Since retiring from Shell

Chemical in 1989, my wife Sally and I spend winters in Houston and long summers in Weld, Maine. E-mail me.

**Kenneth W. Copp Jr. '55** (21B Charleston Greene, Danville, KY 40422-1800; kwcjr@claysisp.com) It was great to see the renewed house when the 1950s classes returned in fall 2003 and also to visit with brothers not seen for many years. I do see **Arthur "Punky" Boylan '57** and **Timothy "Tim" Reiman '55** from time to time and plan to see **Howard Gordy '54**. I received the Golden Legion two years ago. Wow! Am I that old?

**William N. Rexford '56** (271 Montpelier Ct., Westminster, MD 21157-4576; rexford@mris.com) I'm glad you're back, Phis. It proves relationships can endure turbulence! It proves men of faith can unite to restore what's good and honest and healthy to a man's soul.

**Carl G. Annessa '79** (1201 Bluewater Dr., Mandeville, LA 70471; carl.annessa@hornbeckoffshore.com) I am working hard and living with two teenage daughters and one in college, keeping me busy.

**Thomas R. Walsh '79** (5203 Deer Pointe, Rockford, IL 61114; tom.walsh@associatedbank.com, walshhome@insightbb.com) Homecoming 2004 was an outstanding time, as Karen and I brought our three future Phis (Austin, Tyler and Hewitt) to Ann Arbor for the first time. The house looked better than I'd ever seen it! My utmost thanks and gratitude go to all the alumni board and others who brought our great chapter back to the University of Michigan. We owe you, bros!

**Angel Irazola '00** (1410 N. Scott St., #752, Arlington, VA 22209; irazola-angel@hotmail.com) I work for Merrill Lynch, analyzing and investing client portfolios. Any contact information from the classes of 2000 and 1999 would be greatly appreciated. ■

## In Memory

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of brothers **Andrew "Andy" Marsch '44** (3/9/05) and **Byrne Marshall '58**. Phi Delta Theta mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends. ■

464-18 FN

*The latest news on the  
chapter and your alumni  
brothers!*

**Phi Delta Theta Fraternity**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
Alumni Relations Office  
P.O. Box 2019  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2019  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
State College, Pa.  
Permit No. 2