

# The Sword & Shield

MICHIGAN ALPHA CHAPTER OF PHI DELTA THETA FRATERNITY

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Volume LXXIX, No. 2 Fall 2008

## Homecoming 2008

*New and Old Alums Reminisce, Reconnect and See Progress Made by Active Chapter*



A strong contingent of alums visited Michigan Alpha's Homecoming Open House at 1437 Washtenaw. It was a classic crisp, sunny fall Saturday in Ann Arbor. The only tradition missing was a Wolverine win as the team fell to the Fighting Illini by a disappointing score of 45 to 20.

Prior to the mid-afternoon kickoff, alums parked for free on the lawn and enjoyed meeting their fellow alumni and active brothers. The actives had the house in top shape and put out breakfast foods with coffee to welcome returning alums as well as their guests.

Alumni attendees included **Dr. Ted Ludwig '61, JT (Tom) Buck '77, Tom Kelly '82, Michael Reid '82, Greg Karmazin '87, Mike Rossi '87, Derek Adragna '88, Dan Dretler '88, Randy Scheid '88, Matt Stump '88, Chris Shepard '88, Evan Isaacs '06, Jason Barley '06, Matt Scarleta '07, Kellyn Parker '07 and Jon Buck '08** among others who briefly dropped in to say hello.



The Alumni Association is considering ideas for expanding homecoming festivities next year. Homecoming 2009 will be held on September 26 when the Wolverines take on the Indiana Hoosiers.

## Active Chapter President's Report

*Michigan Alpha is Strong and Getting Stronger Thanks to Alumni Support*

By **Ethan D. David '10**



As outgoing President of the Michigan Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta, it is my distinct pleasure to report to the alumni that the state of our fraternity on the U of M campus is strong and getting stronger thanks to the hard work of active chapter members and generous support of alums.

On behalf of the active chapter members, I express my deepest gratitude to the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association/Housing Corporation and Chapter Advisory Board. I also thank all the alums who contributed to the 2007-2008 Annual Fund. A total of 160 alums contributed an all-time record amount of \$28,035 to the yearly giving initiative administered by the Alumni Association.

I especially want to convey the active chapter's appreciation to Alumni Association President JT (Tom) Buck '77 for his continued commitment and passion about the fraternity.

### Alumni Investment in the New Michigan Alpha Team

The number one reason for the active chapter's success is that the brothers have formed a tight-knit team that approaches all aspects of fraternity life with the goal of upholding Michigan Alpha's tradition of excellence while developing friendships that we hope will last a lifetime.

The active chapter members are mindful of our fraternity's rich history on campus. We understand the trust you've placed in us to carry on the tradition. We want you to be proud to say you're a Phi not just because of your experience at U of M, but also for the reason that the active chapter is a leader in the Greek System on campus.

We know that your financial support of the chapter house and the active chapter during these challenging economic times demands great respect. I want to assure you that your investment in the new Michigan Alpha team is very worthwhile.

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Visit the Alumni Association on the Web!  
**www.pdtma.com**  
Register your e-mail address and receive our e-newsletter.

### The Sword & Shield

Believed to have been founded in 1930, the *Sword & Shield* newsletter is published bi-annually by the Michigan Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta at the University of Michigan for its alumni members and friends. This newsletter affords a means of informing each alumnus of the chapter about the affairs of the Michigan Alpha active chapter membership and the Michigan Alpha Alumni Association while keeping alumni connected with one another. Printing and mailing of the *Sword & Shield* is paid for by the Alumni Association with money from the Annual Fund. This is your newsletter, so you are encouraged to contribute articles and information that can be shared with your fellow brothers.

#### Alumni Secretary and Sword & Shield Editor

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##### **Vice President**

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#### Active Chapter Officers

##### **President**

**Ethan David '10** - Lansdale, PA  
eddavid@umich.edu

##### **Executive Vice President**

**Joseph Gibbs** - Bloomfield Township, MI

##### **Treasurer**

**Jeff Le** - San Diego, CA

##### **Secretary**

**James Stanhope** - Plymouth, MI

##### **Recruitment Chair**

**Alexander Carrick** - Rochester, MI  
acarrick@umich.edu

##### **Social Chair**

**Jim Alsopbrooks** - Pickney, MI

*(President's Report Continued from page 1)*

### **Chapter House Projects Improve Living Conditions**

Many maintenance and improvement projects to the chapter house have taken place this year. Your donations have made the 105 year old facility safe, secure and comfortable for the active members.

It is also important for alums to know that the excellent condition of the house has helped with our recruitment during rush as a number of the older fraternity houses on campus are struggling with deteriorating living conditions. We've found that the house is an important tool during rush that helps the actives highlight our heritage and self-respect to rushees.

The house has been updated with a substantially rebuilt bathroom on the third floor while parts of the second floor bathroom were improved. Having decent bathrooms definitely makes living in the house a better experience. The annoying floor bubble on the second floor has been fixed.

The basement features a new counter top and cabinets for our dining area. A serious water leak problem with the steam heating system was repaired. A number of improvements were made in the kitchen, and we purchased a new commercial-sized refrigerator.

The Alumni Association's investment in maintaining the chapter house is yielding tangible results as more active members plan on living in during the coming year. Having more brothers live in the house reduces the cost burden per resident and enhances the overall finances of the active chapter. In addition, a fully occupied house fosters more cohesion in the active chapter.

### **Busy Fall for the Active Chapter Builds Brotherhood**

Michigan Alpha got off to a quick start at the onset of the 2008-2009 school year. We hosted our annual philanthropy car wash with Kappa Alpha Theta sorority in September. The event attracted many U of M students and Ann Arbor residents. Donations from the fundraiser were given to CASA which is an organization that provides assistance to underprivileged youth in the community.

The active members engaged in a packed calendar of activities this fall. We developed brotherhood through group outings to a Detroit Tigers game, Michigan football games, numerous barbecues at the house, IM football games, Mudbowl tournament practices and events with sororities.

Michigan Alpha prides itself as a house that embodies fraternal brotherhood. Our sense of team spirit truly demonstrates the national fraternity's open motto "We enjoy life by the help and society of others."

### **Fall Rush Yields a Pledge Class of 19 Solid Young Men**



Our commitment to building the future of the fraternity was on display throughout rush. We quickly dove into recruiting Phi Delt Men through a wide range of events including a dodge ball tournament, a poker tournament, a billiards night, large group dinners, ultimate Frisbee, and getting together to watch Monday Night Football.

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*(President's Report Continued from Page 2)*

I would also like to extend a special thanks to Alex Carrick who gave a 110% effort as our recruitment chair. Alex set a goal for a large pledge class of top quality men and he delivered. Michigan Alpha is back to its historic membership levels (65 actives by December), and we believe we can maintain these numbers in coming years.

**Michigan Alpha in Top 5 of IM Sports Standings**

Even as classes became more difficult and mid-term tests loomed large, the dedication of Michigan Alpha members to fraternity activities was firm. I am particularly proud to report that Michigan Alpha's days as a top intramural sports power on campus have returned.

Currently, out of nearly 30 fraternities, Michigan Alpha is in the top 5 for overall IM sports championship points. The active chapter rallied to bring at least 10 brothers to each game to cheer the team to victory.

This tight-knit brotherhood has long been a hallmark of Michigan Alpha and separates us from the fraternities on campus with higher membership numbers. Our belief is that it is a better fraternity experience to know all your brothers and support them as they contribute to the team effort.

**Social Life is Alive and Well**

The fall term featured many engaging social activities while complying with the Phi Delt General Headquarters' Alcohol Free Housing Policy. We had a well-organized date party at the Original Cottage Inn followed by a night of nonstop laughter at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. We had several gatherings with sororities and our reputation with them is positive.

Football Saturday pre-game tailgating near Michigan Stadium remains popular with the brothers. Active members have had the opportunity to meet and reconnect with alumni visiting Ann Arbor on football weekends. Our Homecoming Open House at 1437 Washtenaw provided alums with a chance to meet the active members, tour the house, have refreshments and reminisce about past glory.

**Keeping the Momentum Going**

Congratulations to newly elected Michigan Alpha President John Sturgis VII and all the other the new members of the Executive Board. These brothers are highly motivated and they will undoubtedly keep our momentum going during 2009.

Once again, I wish to restate my sincere thanks to everyone who played a role during 2008 in making Michigan Alpha a preeminent chapter of Phi Delta Theta. During my term as president, I've had the opportunity to see other Phi Delt chapters and meet many Phis from across the nation. I firmly believe Michigan Alpha is among the leaders and best fraternities not only within the U of M Greek System, but across the country.

With the continued support of alumni, the active chapter will achieve new heights. While the legend of Michigan Alpha's storied past on campus is tremendous, I firmly believe you will find that the new generation of the fraternity is dedicated to ensuring that our best days are yet to come.

**Michigan Alpha Seniors Profiles**

**Name:** Andrew O'Donald

**Hometown:** Greenville, MI

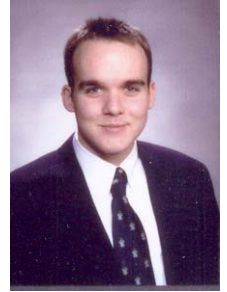
**Hometown High**

**School:** Greenville Senior High School

**Pledge Class:** Fall 2005

**Majors:** Business & Ancient Greek

**GPA:** 3.4

**Activities and Leadership Positions at U of M:**

Member of the U of M Ski Team

**Activities and leadership positions in Michigan Alpha:**

Alumni Secretary, Webmaster

**Experience in Michigan Alpha:**

Phi Delt has taught me leadership and organizational skills that complement my academic work at U of M. I've made great friends whom I plan to stay in contact with throughout my life.

**Plans After Graduation:**

I plan to work for Microsoft at their headquarters in Seattle. I will be working in a marketing position.

**Name:** Joe Churukian

**Hometown:** Farmington Hills, MI

**Hometown High**

**School:** University of Detroit Jesuit High School

**Pledge Class:** Winter 2006

**Majors:** Neuroscience & Armenian Studies (Pre-med)

**GPA:** 3.5, Honors: University Honors (2005, 2006, 2007); William J. Branstrom Freshman Prize (2006)

**Activities and Leadership Positions in Michigan Alpha:**

Scholarship Chairman and Librarian.

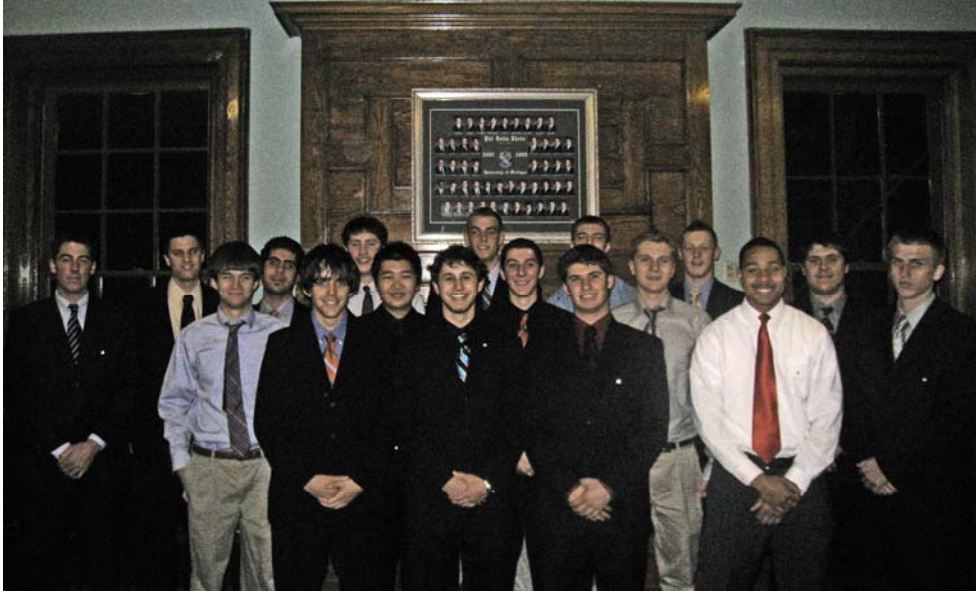
**Experience in Michigan Alpha:**

Joining Phi Delt was one of the best decisions I made since coming to college. The fraternity has made my years at U of M more meaningful and enjoyable.

**Plans After Graduation:**

After graduation, I plan to attend medical school.

## Michigan Alpha Pledge Class for Fall 2008



Taylor Andrews, Rochester, MI  
 Jordan Banks, Farmington Hills, MI  
 Karl Cran, Bloomfield Hills, MI  
 Peter DiLeo, Greenville, SC  
 Tom Hardenbergh, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Andrew Malmquist, Tecumseh, MI  
 James Milne, Flint, MI  
 Ben Murray, Bloomfield, Hills MI  
 Marc Neidlinger, Marshall, MI  
 Wes Smith, Rochester, MI

Matt Socha, Naperville, IL  
 Carl Stanhope, Plymouth, MI  
 Sam Steinberg, New York City, NY  
 Kyle Taylor, Flint, MI  
 Jason Varbedian, Rochester Hills, MI  
 Stuart Whalley, Rochester, MI  
 Mackenzie Young, Ada, MI  
 Boris Yu, Portage, MI  
 Donovan Zerki, West Bloomfield, MI

### Senior Spotlight:

#### Jeffrey Bartels, Jr. '09 *Plans Future as Navy Fighter Pilot*

**Hometown:** Kalispell, Montana  
**Major:** Geological Sciences  
**Pledge Class:** Fall of 2006

#### Career Plans:

I joined the Naval ROTC at U of M to become a fighter pilot. I recently got the news that I've been selected for flight school. This is an extremely competitive program, but I'm looking forward to the challenge. I believe in a strong national defense and it would be a great honor to serve our country as a Naval aviator.

#### Experience in Michigan Alpha:

Being a member of Phi Delta Theta has enabled me to make friends that will last a lifetime and experience the thrill of college with a group of men who have the same morals and values that I possess.

It has been enjoyable to have brothers who provided a great deal of support while I completed the demanding challenges of the NROTC program and worked to become an officer in the U.S. Navy.



## Alumni Updates

Have an update to share? Submit it to the Alumni Association through our web site ([www.pdtma.com](http://www.pdtma.com)) or e-mail it to the Secretary of the Alumni Association at [gkarm@aol.com](mailto:gkarm@aol.com).

### Herald Hughes Jr. '50

(2200 Elm Ave. Apt. 1015, Laurinburg, NC 28352-8055; [heraldh@umich.edu](mailto:heraldh@umich.edu)) I am now retired, living with my wife, Jo, in a completely independent continuing care retirement community. It is located in Laurinburg, NC. Our eldest step-granddaughter will give us our first great-granddaughter in August. Our oldest two grandchildren will graduate from college next spring. The elder, our granddaughter, will then marry in June, 2009. I have enjoyed continuing on my former company's, Mutual of Detroit Insurance Co., board of directors. We're only 35 miles south of Pinehurst, NC, so if any brothers get down this way, give us a call.

### Bruce Dutcher '50

(7650 Cary N.E., Rockford, MI 49341-7911) I have a fond memory of the 1949 trout opening. Brothers Robert Spry (dec.), Douglas Wicks and I, along with our friend Philip Stirdivant, Jr. (dec.) of Theta Chi, decided to go to Baldwin, MI. We rented canoes and floated from M-37 down to Bowman's Bridge on the Pere Marquette River. The river was up somewhat, and the bigger brown trout were out in their feeding lanes looking for worms, etc. We hit it just right and took two coolers full of browns -- 10 inches to 18 inches long -- just beautiful trout! After leaving some of our bountiful catch with our parents, we brought back to Ann Arbor much of the same and invited our girlfriends to partake of a great trout fish-fry and barbecue at the Arboretum. This is a top memory for me in my 70+ years of trout fishing in many places, in a number of states. I very much enjoyed those wonderful college years, 1946-1950, at U of M. I miss every brother who was there: outstanding individuals!

### John Jenks '53

(13410 Outlook Dr. #415, Apt. 415, Overland Park, KS 66209 US; [jmj75@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmj75@sbcglobal.net)) I am now a 77 year old retiree who has enjoyed a marvelous life.

(Continued Page 5)

**William Michaels '54**

(74 Morgan Ln., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 -3816; wbm@wbmichaels.com) Naval Officer-CVA-33 2 years. Land department of Std Oil -Denver,CO, Bismarck,ND, and Casper, WY until 1960-Worked as a stockbroker for 35 years with three large firms, and for 18 year as an independent with Raymond James and Cantella & Co./Boston. Living in Tulsa, Ok for 35 years and La Jolla,CA for 8 years and Basking Ridge, NJ for 4 1/5 years. Retired but still registered with a couple of clients.

**Douglas Roby Jr. '56**

(222 Iothrop Rd., Grosse Pointe, MI 48236-3530; roby32@sbcglobal.net) Still proud to be a Phi. Currently there is a great group of actives in the house. Serious, solid young brothers. Don't let them down, they deserve our support.

**Richard Staelin '61**

(5200 Piney Creek Ln., Durham, NC 27705-7915; rstaelin@mail.duke.edu) I am still an active researcher and teacher at Duke University. I recently visited Skip Hildebrand in Florida for a few days. My wife and I are in the process of building a home in Tortola. We are not sure if we will ever retire there, but it is a nice place to visit for some extended periods of time.

**Patrick O'Neil '65**

(36 Benthaven Isle, Montgomery, TX 77356; pwoneil@ibm.net) My company closed and I am now retired.

**John G. Neville '70**

(7029 Carter Trl., Boulder, CO 80301-3841; jgneville@comcast.net) I bought Michigan football season tickets 3 years ago (with "Gape" Rich Rasmussen 1970 and another Boulder Michigan alum) from a woman I met flying from Colorado to the Ohio State game. Since then, I have joined Gape and other Phis (Bruce Baughman, Bill Keating, Mike Smith and Charlie Hood) for one or two games a year. I hope to do the same this year (probably Homecoming). In Colorado (Boulder, where I have lived for 31 years and am retired), I see Chick Dobson fairly regularly. I also see Pat Shea, Ralph Farley and Jim Dost occasionally.

**Nathaniel J. Love '81**

(6497 Brookhills Court S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49546-7280; loven@meijer.com) I have recently celebrated my 30th anniversary at Meijer and am currently the Vice President of Meijer Drug Store. Marcia and I just celebrated our 21st anniversary and our oldest son Ben will start his freshman year at Central Michigan University. I am about to enter my ninth year as PDT

Province President of Sigma North. Ben and I will be heading off to Sea Base in a few weeks. Looking forward to another year of football games. Stop by our tailgate at the B-School parking lot where we have been for over 20 years.

**Jeffrey Post '82**

(1341 Glendaloch Circle, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2830; jlutherpost@gmail.com) First 10 years out of school I was a successful actor in Hollywood. Following that I became a design professional in automotive industry (Ford Motor Company). Currently Director of Marketing for a sustainable product development company named Circle (a member of the Sustainable Solutions Network). Connect with my brothers every year, usually for U of M sports games. Became Open Water Scuba certified with my 14 year old daughter this year, and dove in Key Largo (soon Hawaii).

**Michael Citren '83**

(10112 Lakestone Place, Rockville, MD 20850; mcitren@acecoworld.com) Life in Washington, DC has been good. I have been married 16 years and have 3 children. I would love to reconnect with some Phis whom I have lost touch with over the years.

**~ Michigan Alpha Class of 1958 ~****50 Year Reunion & Visit to the House Homecoming Weekend**

View our web site — [www.pdtma.com](http://www.pdtma.com) — to find their names!

**Contribute to the Annual Fund!  
Testimonials About Why to Give**

"Phi Deltas are the best all-around types in the fraternity world we knew and loved. I support perpetuating the Phi Delt legacy and long fine heritage of well-rounded gentlemen."

**Bill Michaels '54**

"Fraternities provide an opportunity for friendships to be made as well as life long lessons to be developed. Many leadership skills that I employ today I now know were started at Michigan Alpha. Phi Delta Theta is a fraternity for life and as we grow older we realize that more and more. As the current chapter prospers, I think it is important to support the organization."

**Nat Love '81**

"The brotherhood at Michigan Alpha gave me a foundation of relationships that have been invaluable. I want to continue a rich and rewarding tradition for the future of the fraternity."

**Jeffrey Post '82**

# It was 40 Years Ago Today...Michigan Alpha 1968. Where are They Now?



*Homecoming 2008, Alumni Updates & Active Chapter President's Report*

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