

The Epsilonian

A Publication of Alpha Epsilon of Chi Psi

July 2021



2021 Homecoming & Annual Chi Psi Banquet

Return to “Ann Arbor Town” this fall for Homecoming and our annual Chi Psi Banquet at the Lodge!

We look forward to seeing everyone on campus back in “Ann Arbor Town” for the Chi Psi Banquet and homecoming. Mark your calendar and register today!

Chi Psi Banquet at the Lodge

Reconnect with alumni Brothers at the Alpha Epsilon Lodge at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, September 24 for cocktails, dinner, and class reunions hosted by the Epsilon Trustee Corporation. Also, get a chance to meet and greet the eight gentlemen who make up the Alpha Epsilon “Re-Founding Class” of 2021.

Homecoming

On Saturday, September 25, we will be attending the U-M Homecoming game at Michigan Stadium. Kickoff is at 3:30 p.m. There will be a pre-game brunch at the Lodge open to all alumni and family. In addition, the ‘80s era alumni will be hosting an informal post-game gathering back at the Lodge. Stay tuned for additional details.

Register to Attend

Please register online today at bit.ly/ChiPsiHoco21 so we can get a headcount. All alumni Brothers and their guests are welcome.



Check out our photo gallery at alphaepsilonofchipsi.com!

180th Annual Convention

Chi Psi is hosting the 180th Annual Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina this summer! On July 21-25, 2021 undergrads, alumni, and Chi Psi leadership will gather at Alpha Pi Delta at NC State.

Five-to-six delegates from the Epsilon colony will attend for training, education, risk management, and networking with Chi Psis from across the country. Our delegates are focusing specifically on recruitment resources to prepare for the upcoming fall.

We hope to see many of you there!

Find more information at chipsi.org/180

Mike Murray, E'81

“Chi Psi Taught me Three Valuable Lessons for Life”

Like many of you, I recently received an Alpha Epsilon Alumni survey. One question stood out to me: “How did your Chi Psi experience impact you personally and professionally?” Over time, the lessons I learned at the Lodge forty years ago have become so fundamental to how I relate to people. The three most valuable lessons I learned were to care for others, shoulder responsibility, and play win-win.

One of the people who taught me to care for others was **Pete “PV” Stynes, E'78**. I'd entered Michigan with high expectations for myself and was unsure if I could meet them. A few weeks after pledging, I realized that Pete, a senior with an outstanding GPA, had a class in the same lecture hall as me. He made a point of saying hello whenever he saw me and invited me to drop by the Lodge if I needed help or just wanted to hang out.

His concern made a lasting impression on me. He didn't have to care about me as a freshman pledge, but he welcomed me as a peer. I resolved that I'd support pledges and younger Brothers in his honor.

I moved into the Lodge in the fall of 1978. There was no organized meal service on the weekends, but the kitchen was open for use. Brothers were supposed to clean up after themselves, but lapses led to dirty pots and pans.

Lodge Manager **Steve Crow E'79** created a Kitchen Crew to clean the kitchen each Sunday night, and I volunteered. I had plenty of late Sunday nights working on assignments, but I never skipped my kitchen duty. It wasn't glamorous, but it needed to be

done, and I had a responsibility to the Brotherhood.

My senior year, I went on a Chi Psi Self Development retreat. In one exercise, I was paired with **Chris Laus, E'80**. I assumed Chris was my opponent and played to outscore him, but when the game concluded, the facilitator revealed that the objective of the game was to maximize the sum of the players' scores. Because I'd played selfishly, we scored poorly compared to other pairs. I learned that seeking a win-win outcome was a better way of engaging with others.

I have seen the value of these lessons in my career. In 1991, I started to work at Acuson, a major medical ultrasound manufacturer, joining their Sequoia project with the objective of achieving breakthrough performance. After four years of intense effort, our team fulfilled its objective. Physicians using a Sequoia system could see anatomical features that had never been seen with ultrasound before, and Scientific American magazine ran a two-page article on the project.

Sequoia taught me that engineering is a surprisingly social process. The team succeeded because we worked well together. We cared about each other's success, shouldered responsibility, and played win-win. Sound familiar?

A brief act of fellowship. A mundane weekly chore. A 15-minute exercise at a weekend retreat. Each seemed immaterial at the moment. And yet these experiences, which I would never have had in an impersonal dorm or an isolated apartment, prepared me to contribute to a system that changed patients' lives.

Can the Chi Psi experience impact future generations of Michigan students? It did for me. And to all those Brothers who contributed to my experience, I offer my deepest thanks.

This article has been edited for length. For the complete article, go to alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/news/mike-murray.



Mike Murray, E'81 with Sky Lance, E'83 (left) at Walden Pond in Concord, MA. Photo courtesy of Sky Lance, E'83.

Stay Connected

Are you getting our monthly emails, Brother?

If not, shoot us an email with your name and grad year and let us know to add you to our alumni email list. Reach us at connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com.

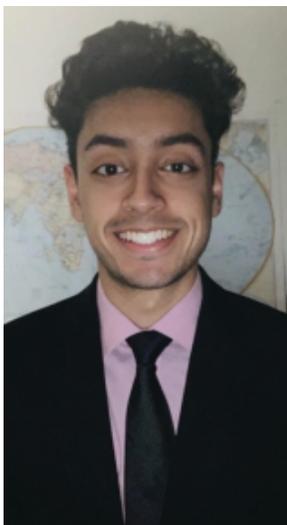
Help us keep in touch with our Brothers

Visit alphaepsilonofchipsi.com to review the lost email and mailing address lists linked on our home page. See any Brothers you know? Send us their contact information at connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com.

Connect with Brothers Online

Have you seen our alumni directory? Log in at alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/login using the username and password we emailed you. Visit the Alumni Directory page to search for Brothers or use the alumni locator map to see which Brothers live near you.

Excerpt from Suyash Dixit, E'23's Letter to Chi Psi Alumni



At our Program for Self-Development retreat, I remember sitting around a bonfire with all the guys, sharing our life stories. I was struck by the fact that even though all of us came from wildly different backgrounds and grew up in different environments, there was one common thread between us: we all had the same vision for the kind of men we wanted to be in the future, the leadership styles we wanted to embody, and the legacy we wanted to leave behind at Michigan.

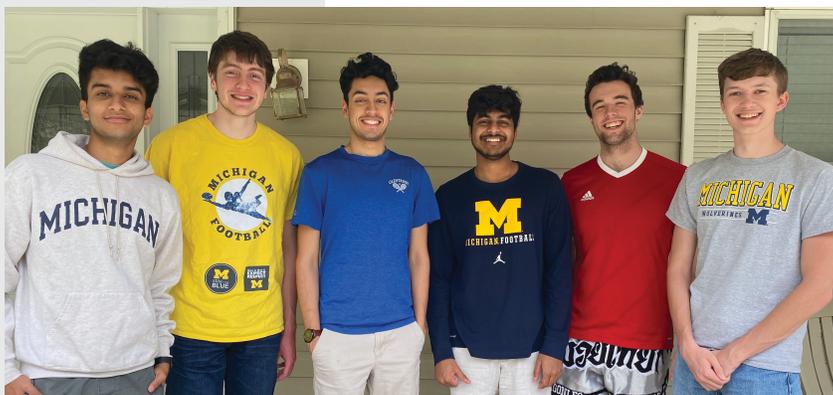
Recently, we had a few

opportunities to meet several Michigan Chi Psi Alumni and to develop an understanding of what this idea of a real Brotherhood looked like. Being the oldest fraternity on campus, the sheer amount of history in the Lodge's halls made me realize that we'd stumbled on something so much greater than ourselves. The alumni talked a lot about the power of the Chi Psi network and the fact that Brothers always look out for each other, especially after their college years.

Watching everyone reminisce about their Chi Psi days and talk about stories from years ago as if they happened yesterday opened my eyes to what our group could eventually become through hard work and resilience. While this process won't be easy, I'm a firm believer in the fact that tremendous opportunity comes with tremendous responsibility. We're beyond excited to play a part in finally restoring Alpha Epsilon to what it once was.

To read the rest of Suyash's letter, visit alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/news/

Meet the Re-Founding Class of 2021



Left to Right: Thejas Rengaswamy, James Wishart, Suyash Dixit, Saketh Thota, Derek Johnson, Blake Duddles

Blake Duddles - (rising junior) from near Traverse City, MI. He is planning on pursuing a degree in economics or psychology. "I joined Chi Psi because I wanted to be a part of a fraternity whose core values are important and upheld."

Derek Johnson - (rising senior) from Birmingham, MI majoring in Mechanical Engineering and minoring in Japanese. "A group of like-minded gentlemen can make a large positive impact, and I am excited to see if we can set the example for the Michigan Greek community."

James Wishart grew up in Ann Arbor. In his freshman year, he was a member of Michigan Research and Discovery Scholars, a UROP living-learning community, and did research in an ultrasound lab on hardware acceleration. "I'm excited to grow our Alpha and find some more gentlemen on campus."

Mukesh Sivakumaran - (rising sophomore) from Ann Arbor in LSA pursuing the pre-med track. He is involved in many organizations like the Men's Glee Club, TedX, IASA, and MLEAD academy. "I joined Chi Psi because I wanted to form new bonds and long-term relationships with my fellow students."

Saketh Thota - (rising junior) from Portage, MI majoring in Computer Science. He's always loved giving back to communities and has been an Engagement Ambassador through Red Cross. "Greek Life was never something I thought I'd be a part of, but I found that Chi Psi's focus on Brotherhood, its history at UM, and this opportunity to help it grow into a meaningful experience for members of this Alpha was something I wanted to be a part of."

Suyash Dixit - (rising junior) from Portage, MI majoring in Mechanical Engineering. On-campus, he is currently part of the Michigan Baja Racing Team and plays IM tennis. He is looking forward to becoming a part of the Chi Psi Brotherhood and all the memories that have yet to be made.

Thejas Rengaswamy - (rising sophomore) pursuing a degree in Business Administration. Thejas is part of Theta Capital, an investment club that aims to increase investing literacy in students. He is also a part of Michigan Sahana, an Indian Classical Music club where he plays the violin. "Every meeting with Chi Psi led to a more positive and constructive view of what Greek Life could be."

176
Years of Alpha Epsilon

\$50,000
Annual Fund Goal

\$43,533
Raised as of June 24

50
Alumni Have Given

3
Ways for YOU to Give

Visit
alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/ways-to-give



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#3

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Chris A. Laus, E'81
TRUSTEE

Marek C. Lockhart, E'85
TRUSTEE

James R. Van Dyke, E'01
TRUSTEE

ALPHA ETERNAL

Remembering Our Brothers



Rev. Chandler Corydon "Cory" Randall (1/22/1935 - 4/16/2021)

Cory attended UMich on a baseball scholarship and carried a full load of classes in addition to full-time work and active membership in Chi Psi. He earned an A.B. in History in 1957 and then studied for the priesthood in the Episcopal Church at Berkeley Divinity School, obtaining an S.T.B. degree in 1960 and later an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Yale in 1985. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop Crowley in 1960 and a priest in 1961. He entered the Hebrew Union - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, earning a Ph.D. in 1969. Throughout his career, he was a revered spiritual leader.



Brother Robert Nissley, E'59 (10/7/1937 - 5/20/2021)

Bob was the President of Michigan Ladder Company in Ypsilanti for 45 years and served as a Past President of the American Ladder Institute. He was an active member of Chi Psi Fraternity and a man with deep Christian Faith. Fishing was a great passion for him especially when he was spending time on his boat named "Happyniss."

Epsilon Keeps Strong Presence at National Office

During Epsilon's dormancy, our Alpha continued to be represented at the National Office with five Epsilon alumni serving in support of our fraternity.

Most notable was **Brother Verne Istock, E'62**, who served with distinction as #7 of Chi Psi from 2014–2019. Verne is the 4th Epsilonian to hold this position, which ties Epsilon with Alpha Chi for the most alumni who have served in that role.

Brother Richard Burns, E'68, serves on the Board of the Chi Psi Educational Trust alongside **Brother Steven Crow, E'79**. **Brother James Van Dyke, E'01** served as Chair of the Executive Council of Chi Psi and currently Chairs Spencer Properties. Lastly, **Brother Nick Milonas, E'07** has recently joined the Executive Council as a Board Member.

With this many fellow Epsilonians in such high places at the National Fraternity, one would assume it's only a matter of time before the Central Office returns to its rightful home in Ann Arbor.