

# The Epsilonian

A Publication of Alpha Epsilon of Chi Psi

November 2021



## Lodge Renovation Plans Reach New Heights

### ***New “Founders Room” Offers Flexible Space and Pays Homage to David’s Cottage, Chi Psi’s first Lodge***

A central element of our re-founding effort at Epsilon includes long-planned upgrades and improvements to the Lodge that are designed to carry it into the modern era. While the Lodge has been well-maintained, the fact is our gracefully furnished main floor belies an infrastructure in need of significant repairs and upgrades.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, and careful management of finances over the last 20 years, the Epsilon Trustee Corporation has invested in needed exterior maintenance and upgrades to bathrooms, sleeping rooms, and the kitchen. However, the facility continues to operate off of essentially the same heating, plumbing, and electrical systems installed in 1915. While the Lodge’s main floor common spaces are in excellent condition, the Lodge lacks the sort of study, relaxation, and amenity spaces that students find as common-place at the University of Michigan.

To ensure the re-founding of Alpha Epsilon is built on our traditional values of a Lodge-centered, four-year experience for our undergraduate Brothers, it is critical that the Lodge meets the highest standards of housing and amenities for those who will live there—just as it did for the men whom Brother John Wendall Anderson entrusted it to over a century ago. To that end, several building system replacements and upgrades are planned for the coming year, including:

- Replacement of the Lodge’s current steam heating with a forced-air system to provide both heating and cooling to the building;
- Replacement and repairs to the plumbing and electrical systems including upgrades to electrical power, safety systems, storm, and sanitary sewer systems;

- Further enhancements to the sleeping rooms including updated furnishings, closet storage systems, and lighting;
- Repairs to structural elements, including the front porch, chimneys and foundation.

But perhaps the most exciting plans lie beneath the surface—literally. The basement is a hodge-podge of storage spaces and under-utilized space. The removal of the overhead piping from the radiator steam system is making possible a dramatic, modern grouping of study, social, and gathering rooms. The centerpiece of this plan, pictured above, is the “Founders Room.” This flexible gathering space is designed as an homage to “David’s Cottage,” Chi Psi’s storied first Lodge.

The Founders Room will provide a location for social and alumni events, and will connect to our historic Tap Room, featuring a fully restored Pretzel Bell bar. Adjacent to the Founders Room will be two large study areas. All of these areas will take advantage of the natural light and high ceilings that are currently hidden beneath the ceilings and walls of the lower level. In addition, improvements will include modern restrooms and laundry facilities.

These exciting plans are being developed by Ann Arbor architect and Brother **Dwight Herdrich, E’84**, with the input of our Re-Founding Class of undergraduates. Subject to achieving our fundraising goals, the Corporation plans to begin the foregoing projects with the installation of the new heating and cooling system in time for the re-activation of Alpha Epsilon and the move in of our newly initiated Brothers in the Fall of ’22.

## CLASS UPDATES

# Brothers from the 1950s to the 2010s Share Alumni News

**Thank you to all the Brothers who responded to our call for class updates! Alumni who submitted news are listed by class year below. Do you have an update to share? Submit your alumni news at [bit.ly/Epsilon-Class-Updates](http://bit.ly/Epsilon-Class-Updates).**

**John Boyles, E'56** Graduated from U of M School of Business in 1956 and U of M Law School in 1959. Very active in University activities and Grand Rapids and West Michigan charities. Still active in a law office. Founded the Mr. Fables restaurant chain. Served on many boards incl. Old Kent Financial Corp and numerous charities. My wife Janet and I and our 3 children and 7 grandchildren have traveled the world together.

**William Raisch, E'59** Very successful career in secondary education as an administrator in MO. Active at local, state, and national levels. Helped develop a very successful program for disadvantaged youth in Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan area. Continue to help non-high school graduates earn a GED Certificate. Served as editor of Purple & Gold – worked with Bill Liecler in central office in Ann Arbor. Living in Hilton Head, SC with my wife of 52 years. Our son and daughter and their children live in the area as well. Gardening, reading, some travel, piano playing, volunteering, friends and family, etc. ...life has been good to me and I feel blessed.

**Roger Kallock, E'60** 50 year international consulting supply chain leadership career. Expanded in 2001 when I completed 3 years as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Material Readiness. Was senate confirmed in 2000.

**James Dodge, E'62** I stayed at UofM to get my MBA. My career in business took my wife Peggy and me across the country before settling in New England. We raised three daughters who have given us six grandchildren. We were leaders in our communities and believe we made lasting contributions. We now enjoy a wonderful retirement in Florida.

**Robert Peterson, E'62** Met my wife, Sue, on a first date arranged by a fraternity brother– our 57th wedding anniversary was August 15. I graduated from UofM Law in 1965 and have been with the same firm for 57 years– almost 500 lawyers. On several non-profit boards.

**Steven Handlos, E'66** Employed by a paper company as a forester at graduation. After 15 years, became self-employed as a systems analyst. I wrote a lot of computer software and did some income tax work. I work as a seasonal employee of Turbo Tax.

### Dean Hedstrom,

**E'71** Return to Minnesota, corporate job, married, build a house, start a business, divorced, build the business, married, found another business, sold business, too much international travel, retired, help a friend reorganize his business, turn-around another business (not so successful), former clients still find me and I am as busy as I like. Sandy and I are exceedingly happy.

*"Being a Chi Psi was key to my social development. It also enhanced my academic performance and career priorities. I think the experience is just as needed for current and future generations as it was for mine."*

*- Marc D'Annunzio, E'93*

**Keith Bilby, E'78** With GM since 1980. Married 1997 with two boys, one of whom just graduated from UM. He did not have the opportunity to pledge Chi Psi but his fraternity was a marching band trombone house near Elbel Field. Volunteered with Boy Scouts, church and middle school robotics.

**William Miles, E'83** Graduated UofM Engineering, but went on to become commercial photographer/director- following my dream. Lived in Boston for 15 years, now 16 years in Woodstock, NY with my life partner Kristen and a blended family of 4 kids, now all young adults.

**James Cordes, E'88** I am insatiably curious about humanity and science. My career has been on the manufacturing side of IT, always seeking to understand and support customers. I am married with one son (now in high school). My wife is now a master's candidate in Landscape Architecture at Temple University. I ski (water and snow), photograph everything, collect and drink all fine wine and spirits, an avid chef and creator of culinary experiences. Traveling is a must.

**Jeff Ehrlich, E'90** Married for 15 years, 2 kids, 2 dogs. Love my career in the mortgage industry! Active in our local church, serving and giving.

**Matt Bejin, E'96** After graduation, I worked for Accenture and through work, I lived in Germany and San Francisco, but finally settled back in Michigan in 2001 and haven't looked back. My wife and I married in 2003 in Ann Arbor and have two wonderful sons. I changed career paths and entered into HR via recruiting in order to have a more stable home life. I now run the HR and back-office operations for a healthcare company in Troy. My wife and I are involved in our church and went on several mission trips with the youth group prior to having children. Our sons play baseball, soccer and also swim. My wife and I get involved

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## Re-Founders Prepare to Apply for Alpha Status in Summer 2022

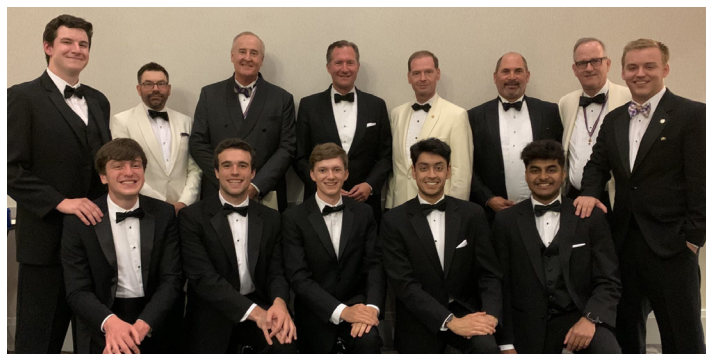
Over the last two months, the Epsilon Re-Founding Class has seen tremendous growth so far this fall in a number of areas. The group is officially up to 13 accepted bids, with 100% retention from the prior year, and another 5-10 men already strongly interested in Chi Psi. From holding recruitment events, Lodge meetings, and holding weekly formal dinners (with the Dinner Rules of course!) with several alumni, the group has done a great job of taking ownership of their own experience, and have been focused on bringing quality men who are excited to build the Brotherhood.

Several of the men were able to attend the Lodge Opening Ceremony at Alpha Phi Delta (Kentucky), and five of the men attended the 180th Convention at Alpha Pi Delta (North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC).

The official Pledging Ceremony was conducted in late September for the 7 re-founders, and a fantastic Homecoming Weekend was celebrated at the Lodge with a strong alumni presence, something the gentlemen enjoyed and were very excited to hear about how Chi Psi mattered to the Epsilon alumni.

Brotherhood events are a regular occurrence, as well as community service events and a group mental health meeting every week in the Fireplace Room. While only one resident currently lives in the Lodge due to it being rented out prior to the project, there are multiple Colonists at the Lodge every night, and the group is truly becoming more and more of a Brotherhood.

While there is still a lot of work to be done over the course of the year, the goal of applying for Alpha Status at Convention this summer is the ultimate priority, and the group has no intention of falling short of the Chi Psi and Alpha Epsilon expectations that precede them.



*Epsilonian delegation at the 180th Chi Psi National Convention.*

### STAY CONNECTED

## Find Alumni Brothers Online

Are you plugged into our Alpha Epsilon alumni website and Facebook group? Follow us to reconnect with your Brothers online, find out about upcoming events, and keep up with the latest news from the Alpha.

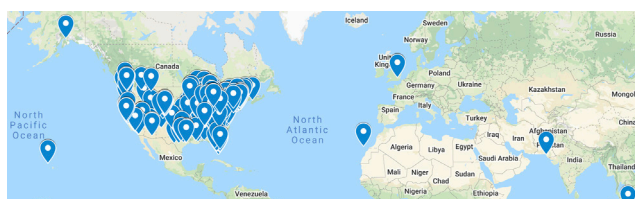
#### WEBSITE

Visit [alphaepsilonofchipsi.com](http://alphaepsilonofchipsi.com) today and login to see exclusive alumni content including alumni updates, flashback photos, and more. Don't remember your login info? Email [connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com](mailto:connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com) and our alumni communications partner will help you log in.

#### ALUMNI MAP

Chi Psi Michigan alums are finally gathering again! See which alums live in your neck of the woods and find their contact information with our new interactive alumni locator map. To see the full map, log on to our alumni website and visit the "Alumni Directory" page under "Alumni" on the main site menu.

If you notice your information is out of date on the map,



email your new info to us at [connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com](mailto:connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com).

#### FACEBOOK

Also make sure to join our private alumni Facebook group where we share pictures, stories, and everything Epsilon. Visit [bit.ly/Epsilon-FB](http://bit.ly/Epsilon-FB) and then request to join the group; a group administrator will approve your request.

#### INSTAGRAM

Keep up with the Alpha by following them on Instagram. Search for their handle:

[@michiganchipsi](https://www.instagram.com/michiganchipsi).

**INSIDE:**

- *First Look at Lodge Renovations*
- *Alumni Class Updates*
- *Re-Founding News*
- *And more!*

**Officers**

**Epsilon Trustee Corporation**

**Brian T. Heil, E'80**  
TRUSTEE AND #1

**David M. Di Rita, E'86**  
TRUSTEE AND #2

**David L. Decker, E'86**  
TRUSTEE AND #3

**Brad R. Plymale, E'90**  
TRUSTEE AND #4

**Richard R. Burns, E'68**  
TRUSTEE

**Dennis G. Miriani, E'87**  
TRUSTEE

**Epsilon Educational  
Endowment**

**Steven L. Crow, E'79**  
#1

**Andrew N. McQuarrie, E'06**  
#3

**Steven A. Starnes, E'01**  
#4

**Nicolas Wetzler, E'00**  
TRUSTEE

**Chris A. Laus, E'81**  
TRUSTEE

**Marek C. Lockhart, E'85**  
TRUSTEE

**James R. Van Dyke, E'01**  
TRUSTEE

**A Chi Psi Homecoming**

Thank you to all the alumni who attended our Homecoming events in Ann Arbor in September! A wonderful time was had by all—and we are happy to report that only one spooning was endured during the banquet. Visit [bit.ly/AE-hoco-21](http://bit.ly/AE-hoco-21) for more photos.



**Alumni News ...continued...**

whenever we can. I enjoy hunting with my dog Ruby, and teaching my sons how to hunt and fish.

**Brian Niedzwiecki, E'06** Upon graduation, I got a job with Target Corp. at HQ in Minneapolis, and I've been here ever since (15 years). I spent 13 years in Merchandising as an Inventory Planner and Buyer, but currently in Properties Management where I help take care of our physical store space. I'm married (Caitlin) with 2 kids (Emmy 7, Stanley 4).

**Brendan Buckley, E'11** Happily married since 2017 and the father of one son, born in 2020. Currently a Navy helicopter pilot stationed in sunny San Diego.

**Nathan DeKett, E'11** I still live in metro Detroit. I married a woman I met in the Lodge. We left through the window the night I met her. We now have a toddler and another on the way. Related to Chi Psi, I always

thought that I learned valuable life skills there, like how to speak in public, be persuasive, and build consensus.

**John Hollett** The Epsilon Trust deserves our unqualified commendation for the long and hard work they put in to keep the Lodge flame alive. We were in Ann Arbor two weeks ago for our annual trip from Jacksonville to Michigan for the colors and apple season in the Harbor Springs area. The physical building looks so good, and the memories it conjured up are still very near to the surface. Keep up the excellent work and please keep me in the loop for further developments on building a new Lodge mentality and culture. I was so fortunate to be accepted into the Epsilon Brotherhood via the Universal Transfer System from Stevens (Alpha Xi '65) and graduate with both my Naval Architecture degree and MBA from UofM.