

# The Epsilonian



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## Letter from the #1

**Thoughts from Alpha Epsilon's Outgoing #1** By *Suyash Dixit E'23, #1*

As the semester winds down and crisp fall foliage gives way to snowy home football games, I cannot help but feel a sense of pride and hope with regard to where we stand as a newly re-founded Alpha. Resilience is one word that I think perfectly sums up our experience since the school year began. It was a period of growth, overcoming obstacles, and forging roles within the Alpha by learning how to play to our strengths.

For our re-founding class of 18 men, the biggest goal this semester was to recruit a solid pledge class and eventually fill the lodge in light of six graduating seniors. Initially, without any prior experience planning recruitment, this proved to be difficult. During the middle of the semester, shifting our strategy from extensively planned formal rush events to a series of casual hangouts and activities was extremely beneficial in two ways. It allowed us to develop authentic friendships with potential new members over the course of the rush process, and in turn, allowed them to better evaluate their personal fit within the friend group. In the end, we're proud to say that we signed a pledge class of six outstanding gentlemen that exemplify the ideals of Chi Psi. Weekly Pledge Education meetings began in full force in early November, with the aim of completion by mid-December in

preparation for a January initiation.

In addition to the rush efforts, significant progress was made this semester on the philanthropy, service, and Brotherhood fronts. Actives planned a "Haunted Lodge" fundraiser on Halloween weekend, set up in a typical haunted house format complete with decorations, a fictional murder mystery centered around Lodge history, and jump scares. It's a goal of ours to make this an annual tradition, incrementally improving all facets each year. Our service partnership with Natural Area Preservation of Ann Arbor forged last year has been going strong, with park cleanup workdays occurring frequently. Between busy Football Saturdays and the grind of the academic calendar, actives, and pledges went on a fall Brotherhood retreat to a Northern Michigan cabin in early November. This was a fantastic opportunity for the group to get closer on a much-needed break, featuring fishing, target practice, and plenty of euchre around the fireplace. Brothers and pledges also bonded through participation in several intramural leagues over the course of the fall. Our IM flag football team performed especially well, securing a top 4 finish in the fraternity league.

With the next calendar year quickly approaching, the winds of change will descend upon the Lodge, resulting in many firsts and lasts. We are currently in the process of nominating and voting on our next executive board. This passing of the torch is equally

exciting and significant, as the next year is crucial to securing the long-term success of the Alpha. The Lodge will also see its first graduating seniors in several years, which will be a milestone to celebrate. On a more personal note, as my term as the #1 comes to a close this January, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my experiences. Joining the re-founding effort was truly the best decision I made as an undergraduate, and I'm so grateful to have played a part in restoring the Alpha to what it once was. I've met some of my best friends while making timeless memories over the past two years. I especially wanted to take a moment to thank **Br. Aidin Montefisher PA '20, E'22** for his valuable mentorship, as well as **Br. Heil E'80** and **Br. Di Rita E'86** for helping us understand the history and traditions of this wonderful place. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for Alpha Epsilon. Go Blue!

YITB,

**Br. Suyash Dixit E'23**

#1 | Alpha Epsilon of Chi Psi

# Petitioning for Alpha Status at Chi Psi National Convention

By Blake Duddles E'23, #4

## Reflecting on Epsilon's "Moment of Triumph"

The 181st National Convention of Chi Psi in Lubbock, Texas last July was an event that the Epsilon Re-Founding Class had been building up to for a long time. At that point I had been a re-founder for nearly two years: having gone to two prior conventions, several leadership and regional conferences, and visited several Alphas (even living at Alpha Xi's lodge for a summer), I felt as much a part of the national fraternity as the many actual Brothers I had met. In technicality, the other re-founders and I were still only pledges, as none of us could be initiated until we attained Alpha status. After two years of working towards that goal, at the 181st Convention we finally had our chance to restore one of the most historic Alphas of Chi Psi.

*While waiting in the lobby outside, the anticipation amongst the re-founders was palpable; we all knew that the future of our Alpha was riding on only a few minutes of talking.*

As a new organization petitioning for Alpha status, the majority of our time at the convention was spent rehearsing the presentation that we would give to the fraternity at large during its business session. While waiting in the lobby outside, the anticipation amongst the re-founders was palpable; we all knew that the future of our Alpha was riding on only a few minutes of talking. The presentation and following Q&A session went perfectly, then we were ushered back into the

lobby where we anxiously awaited the fraternity's decision. Finally, we were called back inside and awarded our Alpha status to tremendous applause – it was one of the best moments of my life.

The cumulative effort of all the re-founders, as well as the immensely generous support we received from alumni along the way which made this venture possible, culminated in that one moment of



triumph. Even better, it was only the beginning of what I hope to be a legacy that outlasts all of us.

Read our petition: [bit.ly/alpha-petition](https://bit.ly/alpha-petition)

More photos from the 181st National Convention:  
[alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/gallery/convention-2022](https://alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/gallery/convention-2022)



# Alumni Engagement

By Logan Patterson E'24

**“After two years, we finally celebrated Alpha Epsilon’s Re-Founding with the men who made it possible.”**



To celebrate our first year back in the Lodge, the Brothers of Alpha Epsilon were very happy to host our alumni at two successful events this fall.

The first of the two was the '80s reunion weekend where many familiar faces returned to the Lodge to reminisce on some of their favorite memories from their undergraduate years. The active Brothers enjoyed hearing about some Epsilon traditions and had a great time listening to **Br. Dwight M. Herdrich E'86's** band The Atomic Cafe. We look forward to implementing what we learned from our older Brothers over the '80s weekend and can't wait to enjoy this event again next year.

The second event, the Re-Founding Celebration, was also very special to our active Brothers. After a long two-year process, we were finally able to celebrate the re-founding of Alpha Epsilon with the men who made it possible. This event provided a great experience for actives to meet the very generous alumni who have given us the opportunity to restore this great Alpha to its former glory. We were very thankful to have the Lodge full of our Brothers and their loved ones all gathered to celebrate such a special thing in such a special place.

Both of these events were a great time for all involved and it was incredibly special for us younger men to see such strong alumni engagement. It always makes us feel good to see that our older Brothers feel just as strongly about this Brotherhood as they did when they were in our shoes.

More photos from the Re-Founding Celebration:  
[alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/gallery/refounding-celebration](http://alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/gallery/refounding-celebration)

## SPOONING

### Hail! Hail! to Michigan

**Br. Steve Starnes E'01** received a spooning after **Br. James Van Dyke E'01** called him out for violating formal dinner rules. His offense was calling out across the table to be heard. Br. Starnes proceeded to lead the room in a rousing rendition of “*The Victors*” from atop the radiator.

If you would like to see a video of this spooning, visit [bit.ly/spooning-2022](https://bit.ly/spooning-2022).

# Thank You, Donors!

## \$2.2 Million Raised for the Alpha Epsilon of Chi Psi Re-Founding Capital Campaign

Thank you to the Brothers who attended our Re-Founding Celebration and Football Saturday events at the Lodge on October 14-15, 2022. Epsilonians who graduated in the 1950s through today’s Actives were present for the happy occasion.

We would like to extend a special thanks to all the Brothers who contributed to the Alpha Epsilon of Chi Psi Re-Founding Capital Campaign. Because of your incredible generosity, we have secured \$2.2 million in alumni gifts and pledge commitments (surpassing our original goal by 110%). Donors who made contributions of \$1,000 or more are listed on the commemorative plaque which was unveiled at the event by two out of three campaign co-chairmen: **Br. Verne Istock E'62** and **Br. Richard Burns E'68**. The plaque will ultimately be hung in the fireplace room. All of our generous campaign donors are listed on our website at [alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/campaign/campaign-honor-roll](http://alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/campaign/campaign-honor-roll).

**Thank you for pledging to the Re-Founding Campaign.** Visit [alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/campaign](http://alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/campaign) to learn how to fulfill your pledge payments.



# Introducing the Fall 2022 Pledges

By Saketh Thota, Recruitment Chair



**George Roberts**

**Sophomore**

Hometown: **Wilmette, Illinois**

Major: **Industrial Operations Engineering**

Involvement/Interests: **Rowing, Hiking, Travel**

*"I joined Chi Psi for the community. Everyone I've met has been an amazing person and someone I want to cultivate a lasting friendship with."*



**Miles Anderson**

**Freshman**

Hometown: **Kalamazoo, Michigan**

Major: **English**

Involvement/Interests: **Running, writing for the Michigan Daily, Music**

*"I joined Chi Psi to be a part of a community that cares about the well being of those around it."*



**Ian Campbell**

**Sophomore**

Hometown: **Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan**

Major: **Undecided**

Involvement/Interests: **Swimming, Chess, Fitness**

*"I joined Chi Psi because I met a great group of guys and enjoyed the atmosphere at the Lodge."*



**Dominic Lucido**

**Sophomore**

Hometown: **Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan**

Major: **Business**

Involvement/Interests: **Fitness & Nutrition, Golfing, BBA Marketing Club Member**

*"I wanted to join a group in which I knew I could cultivate lasting friendships. The Chi Psi brothers have welcomed me with open arms and have provided me with a fun and rewarding experience thus far."*

## Introducing the Fall 2022 Pledges *continued*



**Eric Tuckey**  
**Freshman**  
Hometown: **Marysville, Michigan**  
Major: **Aerospace Engineering**  
Involvement/Interests: **Soccer, Aviation**

*"After meeting every member of Chi Psi I can confidently say they are some of the most personable and friendly people. Everyone has their priorities straight, but still can have fun."*



**Daniel Smith**  
**Freshman**  
Hometown: **Gaylord, Michigan**  
Major: **Undecided but interested in business**  
Involvement/Interests: **Triathlon Club, Catholic Faith, Sports**

*"I found out about Chi Psi from Aidan after joining the triathlon club, and after an explanation from him and hearing why he joined, it inspired me to find out more. After hanging around and meeting everyone I realized it was a good fit and that they were truly good guys. I like the way of Chi Psi, and the morals. I experienced a tight community at Chi Psi and I like that we can have fun while still being gentlemen."*



## ALUMNI EVENTS



## STAY IN TOUCH

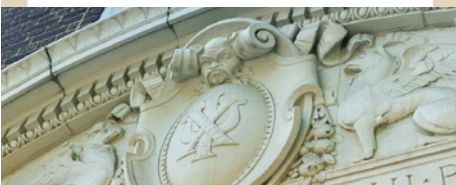
### **Are you getting our texts and emails?**

Each month, we send out informative email newsletters like this one that was released in August announcing Alpha's reinstatement: [bit.ly/epsilon-emails](https://bit.ly/epsilon-emails). We also send out occasional text messages for special events and important news. Are you getting our communications?

If not, please email us your updated contact information at [connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com](mailto:connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com) and add us to your email "safe senders" list.

### **Help us Reconnect with Lost Brothers!**

Visit [alphaepsilonofchipsi.com](https://alphaepsilonofchipsi.com) to find links to our lost alumni mailing address and email lists. Send in any information you have to [connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com](mailto:connect@alphaepsilonofchipsi.com)



## Save the Date for Homecoming: SEPT. 22-23, 2023

Dear Brothers:

### **FOOTBALL SATURDAY, Sat., Sept. 23, The Lodge**

Michigan has announced that the Fall 2023 Homecoming game is scheduled for Saturday, September 23 against Rutgers. Before the game, Epsilon will host traditional Football Saturday festivities at the Lodge.

### **ANNUAL REUNION BANQUET, Fri., Sept. 22, The Lodge**

Alpha Epsilon alumni and guests are invited to attend the annual cocktail reception and formal dinner at the Lodge.

**NOTE:** There will be NO hotel block reserved for Epsilon alumni, as our prior hotel (the Holiday Inn on Boardwalk) is already sold out. The Hyatt Place (734-995-1234) currently has rooms available if you book a 3-night stay at the minimum. Please organize your accommodations now if you plan to attend. If enough Brothers book accommodations near the Holiday Inn or Hyatt, we may arrange a shuttle bus to the Lodge for Friday evening.

Event registration will open closer to the date of the events.

YITB,

**Br. John Edleman E'57**  
[jnedleman@msn.com](mailto:jnedleman@msn.com)  
616-644-3227

**Br. Richard Burns E'68**  
[rrb@hanftlaw.com](mailto:rrb@hanftlaw.com)  
218-590-6369

## Philanthropy

by Aidan Szuch E'25

### **"The Haunted Lodge" Raises Funds to Support Local Youth Safety Programs**

On October 27, Alpha Epsilon hosted its inaugural Haunted Lodge to raise money for the Washtenaw Council for Children. In one night, we raised over \$1000 to support their efforts to directly counteract neglect and child abuse across the county. We are thrilled to have had such a successful first philanthropy event since refounding and greatly appreciate the generosity of everyone who donated time, decorations, and money towards the evening.

When planning this event, we had two primary goals in mind. Firstly, we wanted to raise a significant donation for an organization doing important work in the Ann Arbor or Washtenaw County area. Secondly, we sought to design an event that brought in our fellow students and showed them what Chi Psi is really about. So, when someone mentioned the prospect of hosting a haunted house targeting students out for Halloween festivities, the brothers immediately rallied behind the idea.

Throughout the course of the evening, we welcomed friends, classmates, and other Michigan students through the front doors for a festive start to their Halloween and received overwhelmingly positive reviews. It was an incredible experience to see that we could make a positive impact on our fellow students while simultaneously raising awareness and funds for the safety of children in our broader community, and we plan to continue the event for years to come!

