

The Epsilonian

ALUMNI PROFILE: MATT BEJIN E'96



“We are building for future Chi Psi leaders and industry leaders”

Matt Bejin E'96 (mtbejin@gmail.com) says that Chi Psi was a big part of his life at UM — one that was filled with the Men's Glee Club, Friars, engineering, and friends outside the Lodge. As the years have gone by, Chi Psi's influence in his life has grown.

“I didn't fully appreciate Chi Psi when I was there,” he said. Looking back, Bejin says that his Chi Psi experience made him part of something. “It shrunk the University and made a big place smaller. It allowed me to find like-minded people to go through the college experience with. It was pretty special.”

“The Lodge had a good sense of self,” he said. “I felt like the Brotherhood at Chi Psi had values that aligned with my values. They were there to learn but also to have fun and make the most of the college experience at Michigan. I appreciate traditions, and I was really drawn to the history and rich traditions at the Lodge.”

He says that when he pledged in the fall of 1993, the building wasn't like it is now, but he was drawn to its beautiful bones in the entrance and the living and dining areas on the first floor. “**Ken McDonald E'60** was the dad of one of my best friends growing up. He was a big reason that I decided to pledge. I remember as a neophyte, he pulled me aside at the initiation banquet and he ordered me a beer in the taproom of the Detroit Athletic Club. The two of us sat at the bar and he told me about his Chi Psi experience. That moment was just so impactful for me. I was 20-years-old and I realized that I liked what I saw. I knew that I was on the right path with Chi Psi.”

He says that moment was a catalyst for him. He not only joined Chi Psi — which has had a lasting influence over the decades — but also became part of the Detroit Athletic Club. That meeting stands out for another reason.

“The interest that our alumni take in the active Brotherhood is pretty special.”

He says that his best Alpha Epsilon memories are the simple, everyday moments that were shared at the Lodge. “I remember the really mundane things — shooting the breeze with **Jerry Rachey** who was the cook (and later fellow Chi Psi). I remember Jerry would make up a menu for the week, and Brothers would change the names of the food to make them sound really strange or gross, and then Jerry would call the dishes by the new name the next time he made them. The Brothers then had to ‘decode’ the menu for the week. A meal of chili and cornbread turned into ‘children of the cornbread.’ That's one of the simpler ones. Others were more creative, and maybe not fit for print”

“I also remember larger parties and events. Preparing for those, enjoying them, and cleaning up afterward. There was so much joy in the fellowship found in those activities, and doing the work and the fun together as a team of friends.”

He says that Chi Psi has continued to impact his life long after graduation. “I came to appreciate the polity — how we conducted meetings, rush and advocating for young men who would be a good choice for the Brotherhood. At the time, I didn't stop to think about the process, but looking back, it was such a helpful experience. We learned to work together, make decisions as a group, spend budget dollars, and have answers ready for people who have different opinions. My time at Alpha Epsilon really helped me to mature.”

In addition to the life skills he gained at the Lodge, the bonds of Brotherhood have continued to deepen in his years since graduation. Many of the men in his church are Michigan Chi Psis. When the church's

Chi Psi News

- Campaign Report
- Alumni Updates
- Re-Founding Class Update
- 1980s Reunion

new pastor, Jeff Lincicome, moved with his family from their home near Seattle, **Brother Jon Gandelot E'66** recognized his service ring (from Alpha Theta Delta at the University of Washington), and was “over the moon,” that yet another Chi Psi was joining their ranks.

Bejin says that giving back to Alpha Epsilon is important to him. “I want to support this experience,” he said. “I am not on the board, but I've been able to watch what they've done over time, and I think it's incredible. Their dedication, commitment, and hard work have been incredibly meaningful. The leadership is making good decisions, and I think that they are on the right path.”

“I love the concept of Chi Psi helping to subsidize room and board, so a great group of young people can have the experience to learn and develop as we did.”

And if more Brothers got involved? “Tuition is daunting,” Bejin said. “I love the concept of Chi Psi helping to subsidize room and board, so a great group of young people can have the experience to learn and develop as we did. We can attract them with a great living experience and an impactful fellowship experience. Long term, we are not just creating a building that is beautiful, but an experience that's unique and life-changing. We are building this for future Chi Psi leaders and industry leaders.”

The Alpha Epsilon of Chi Psi Re-Founding Campaign Reaches \$1.8 Million in Alumni Commitments

SAVE THE DATE

RE-FOUNDING CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION BANQUET OCT 14

We hope you save the date and join us at the Lodge on October 14, 2022, for a very special dinner at the Lodge. That evening, We are planning to celebrate the re-founding of Alpha Epsilon of Chi Psi at the University of Michigan and the successful conclusion of our Re-Founding Capital Campaign. In addition to an opportunity to dine with both Active and Alumni Epsilonians for the first time in over 6 years, we will be installing a permanent plaque in the Lodge to commemorate the re-founding, listing the names of all those Brothers who contributed to this historic effort. The next day, October 15, we'll enjoy traditional Football Saturday pre-game festivities at the Lodge ahead of the Michigan-Penn State game.

GIVING WITH FRIENDS

Do you and a group of Brothers have a certain Lodge feature, room, or group activity that means something special to you? Organize a gift around it. Whether it's refurbishing the Pretzel Bell Bar, re-dedicating Grand Central in someone's memory, restoring one of the fireplaces, or even memorializing a cherished event like the last Bottle-Rocket War, shoot us an email at dDIRITA@roxburygroup.com to let us know what you're interested in.

HELP US REACH OUR \$2 MILLION GOAL

While we are close to reaching our fundraising goal, our work is not done. Help us get there:

- Visit bitly.com/epsilon-pledge to make a pledge to be paid over 3-5 years.
- Visit bit.ly/Lodge-Fund to make a one-time gift or set up automatic recurring credit card payments online for the Lodge Fund.
- Visit bit.ly/Epsilon-Endowment to make a one-time gift or set up automatic recurring credit card payments online for the Epsilon Educational Endowment.
- Visit affinity.pgmsites.com to learn more about our options for planned and major giving, including estate planning and gifts of stock.

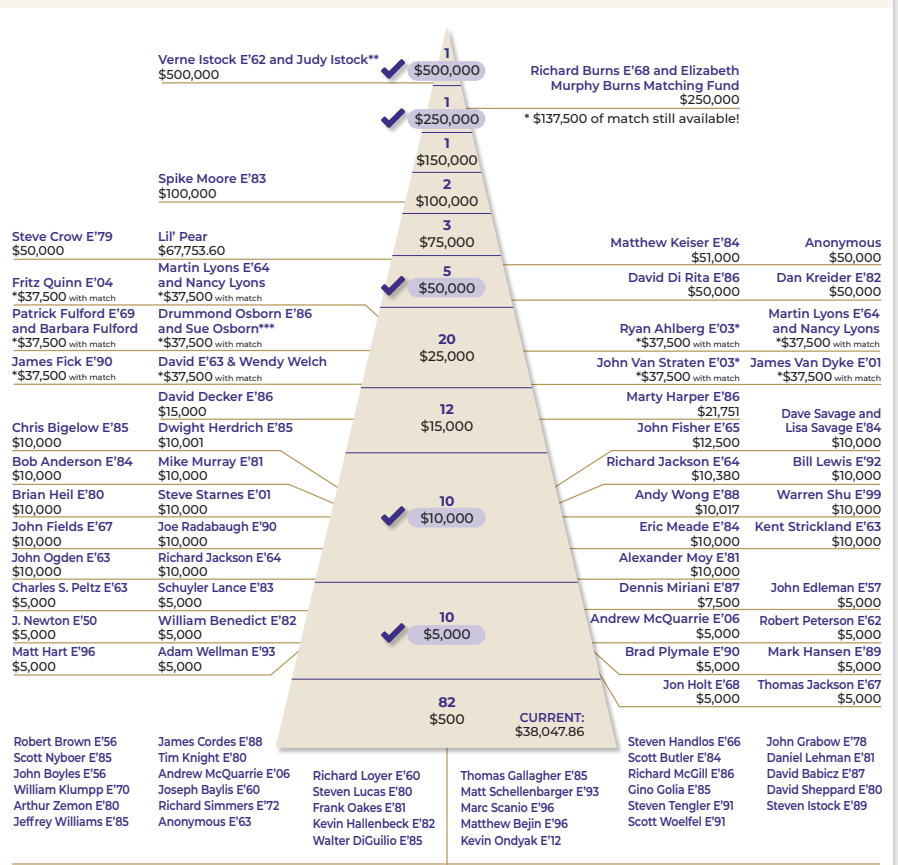
Your Donations At Work: Re-Founding Class Receive Scholarships & Work On The Lodge Continues

We are happy to report that the Epsilon Trustee Corporation and the Epsilon Educational Endowment have been hard at work putting your donations to good use:

- The Endowment awarded \$19,700 in scholarships to the undergraduates for Fall 2022.
- Much needed repairs to the current heating system were undertaken this past Fall as well.
- Lodge renovations for summer 2022 will include work to fully modernize the Lodge's mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems as well as initial demolition and structural preparations for the total renovation of the lower level into modern study and social space as shown in the plans previously shared (<https://alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/news/lodge-renovations/>).

ALPHA EPSILON OF CHI PSI

GIVING PYRAMID: Commitments Secured



Campaign totals as of 3/24/2022

See the full Honor Roll of Donors at bit.ly/epsilon-honor-roll

Lodge to Officially Become Home to Epsilon Once More in Fall '22

Our Alpha Epsilon Re-Founding Class is preparing for a big semester in Fall 2022 when we have every confidence that the Alpha will be officially restored at the Lodge. With roughly one Brother living in each room and no outside renters, the Lodge will become Chi Psi's home at Michigan once more.

To lay the groundwork for this advancement, the Re-Founding Class has focused heavily on recruitment this semester and was rewarded with 6 new men accepting bids in January. The group sits at 19 men currently, but with several prospective members still on the horizon, we hope to end the school year with at least 20 men.

Beyond recruitment, the attention now shifts towards preparing to petition for Alpha status at the 181st Convention this July at Texas Tech University. While much of the criteria is complete, things such as philanthropy, community service, positional responsibilities, and internal structure projects are all underway. Recently, the 13 original Re-Founders who joined prior to the semester all successfully completed our New Member Education Program, and 9 men were able

to attend the Chi Psi Midwest Regional Rowe Conference. Weekly events such as our Re-Founding Class Meeting, Brotherhood movie nights, and formal dinners with alumni guests are all enthusiastically attended, and the future is most certainly bright once again.

We hope to continue this momentum over the last few weeks of the semester and appreciate all the support and encouragement that Epsilon alumni have provided – from casual conversations and sharing past experiences, to contributing incredibly generous scholarships through the Educational Endowment, the Re-Founding Class would truly not be where we are without your help. The men are extremely motivated to prove that Epsilon is fully back and standing strong in the values that Chi Psi is built upon. It is a pleasure and honor to work with these outstanding young men.

YITB,

Aidin Montefisher PA'20

Chi Psi Extension Specialist – Epsilon Re-Founding Class



Undergraduates and alumni mixing at a February Re-Founding Class event at the Monarch Club in Detroit.

EPSILON SEEKS LODGE DIRECTOR

Do you know anyone who would be a good fit?

An integral component of our plan for success in a reinstated Alpha Epsilon is the role of the Lodge Director. This individual is a non-student representative of the Fraternity who will live in the Lodge with the Brothers and act as a modern-day version of a "House Father." His (or her) role will be to assist the undergraduates in ensuring that our standards and traditions are upheld, as well as being a daily interface with the Epsilon Trustee Corporation on issues of property management, as well as a point of contact to our alumni when they visit the Lodge. This is an increasingly common and important facet of modern fraternity life.

Over 50% of our Chi Psi Lodges nationally have someone acting in this role. Further, as our Alpha History chronicles bit.ly/Epsilon-History, the Lodge had a long tradition of informal House Fathers during the mid-20th century, including Holger "Doc" Rasmussen from the 1930s until the late 1960s, and more recently Jerry Rachey from the late 1980s until his death in 2009.

The ideal candidate for this position would be someone with experience working with undergraduates (or young men in general), and who has the ability to live in the Lodge during the academic year. Age is no barrier, but ideally, this would be someone who could potentially commit to a long-term relationship with the Alpha. Room and board as well as an appropriate stipend will be provided.

If you know of someone who you believe would be a good fit for this position, please contact Epsilon Trustee Corporation #1 **Brian Heil E'80** at bthlodger@aol.com. All communications will be confidential.



INSIDE:

- *Alpha Epsilon is Officially Coming Home to Michigan in Fall 2022*
- *SAVE THE DATE! 2022 Alumni Reunion Weekends*

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SAVE THE DATE

1980s Reunion Homecoming Weekend

Join us at the Lodge for the '80s reunion festivities on the weekend of September 24-25, 2022. We'll enjoy fine refreshments, each other's company, and spectacular entertainment provided by Atomic Cafe, **Brother Dwight Herdrich, E'85's** 1980s cover band. All alumni are welcome.



Why I Give <https://alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/campaign/>

"Some of the people I love the most are those I met through the lodge."
- **Thomas Ryan E'01**

"Epsilon helped shape me into who I am today personally. It helped me learn life lessons. I think it is a great experience for future generations." - **James Crew Gary E'04**

"Chi Psi introduced me to some of my best friends that I still have today. It made freshman year a bit easier meeting like-minded people. It gave me a chance to have leadership positions (Social Chair, #4) to develop skills that I use professionally. I opened up ways to volunteer and get involved in the community. I learned a ton from my undergrad Brotherhood, but also connect with alumni." - **Brian Niedzwiecki E'06**

"I'd say it's absolutely important to future students - and to the university. I had so many experiences that primed me for being

successful in the real world. Young men at Chi Psi cut their teeth in an enriching environment for working together, finding meaning in relationships, pursuing leadership opportunities, and forging their sense of morality. I failed more times than I care to admit, but I think having a diverse group of young men to share the journey with was irreplaceable." - **Nathan DeKett E'11**

"The friendships I made have continued, to this day, to positively impact my quality of life. Strong friendships are an essential component of a full and happy life, and I have an abundance of them thanks to Alpha Epsilon." - **Adam Wellman E'93**

"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**