

The Epsilonian



Chi Psi News

- Re-Founding Class updates
- Campaign surpasses \$2 million goal!
- RSVP for fall alumni events

Letter from the President

What Chi Psi is All About *By Suyash Dixit, President*

Thousands of people walk by the Law Quad on State Street every day, past a quiet and unassuming brick building. I too was merely one of those passersby until two years ago when I made one of the most important decisions of my undergraduate years at Michigan by becoming the fourth member of the Re-Founding Class.

At the time, this seemed like a chance to not only create long-lasting friendships in the wake of the pandemic but also to learn valuable leadership skills through an organization representing something bigger than myself. Over a year since the day I accepted my bid (and now with 20 total members), I can confidently say that the past year's journey has shaped our lives and broadened our perspectives in ways we collectively would not have thought possible. Seemingly overnight, that quaint building, now known affectionately as the Lodge, has begun to hold a lot more meaning.

What we're trying to rebuild here at Epsilon represents a happy medium in every sense of the phrase. A balance between academic focus and good-natured fun, between bettering each other as individuals and serving the community, and between centuries-old tradition and modern campus culture.

At its core, our group can be described in one word as "tight-knit." From the early days, we had a shared vision of the fraternity's future and pledged our time and effort to create something special. New members buying into our enthusiasm and shared optimism for this goal allowed for all of us to become closer as friends and feel more like a fraternity than ever before.

Over the course of the past year, our group has led service and philanthropy events— including local park cleanups and a big bake sale at the end of the year— that have opened our eyes to the tremendous impact a small group can have on a larger community. I'm confident that the lessons learned through these events in planning, delegation, and managing logistics will also serve as a foundation for next fall when we aim to increase our reach on campus.

We already have some exciting events circled on the calendar including a parents' weekend, alumni tailgate, and a retreat up north in addition to our first real recruitment/"rush" period. All in all, we are beyond excited to play our part in what the future holds for Chi Psi at Michigan, and are truly overjoyed to reflect on how far we've come. Go Blue!



Monarch Club Event

Re-Founding Class Connects with Alumni at Detroit Event

By James Wishart, Internal VP

In February, the Re-Founding Class connected with some of our fantastic alumni in an event harkening back to the initiation banquets of the past at the Monarch Club in downtown Detroit. We were able to celebrate our recruitment success throughout the re-founding process, and we also learned about the great work and generosity of the newly recapitalized Epsilon Educational Endowment, which awarded nearly \$20,000 in scholarships last semester.

The Monarch Club is a fantastic venue, special not only because of its unique location but also because it is owned by Epsilon **Br. David Di Rita, E'86** and **Br. James Van Dyke, E'01**. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to them for hosting this event and to all the alumni who supported the re-founding effort by donating their time, talent, and treasure to help bring Epsilon back for the next 171 years, and beyond.

FORMAL DINNERS

Formal Dinners Serve as the Backbone of Re-Founding the Alpha

By Blake Duddles, Treasurer

As a re-founding member, I have learned much about the wide variety of esoteric traditions and histories that define us as Epsilon. Much of this learning took place during and after our weekly formal dinners with alumni. Just like Chi Psis in years past, our formal dinners served as a great way to get everyone together and enjoy a delicious meal.

More often than not, at least one alumnus would attend our formal dinners with us, and through them, we learned the historic dinner rules over time. There have been more than a few spoonings at our dinners, some more entertaining than others depending greatly on singing ability (or lack thereof). Speaking of singing ability, the re-founders have learned many traditional Chi Psi songs, some unique to Epsilon, due to practicing at least one song before entering the dining hall. I would even say we sound pretty good now as a group— a welcome change from where we started!

Additionally, it was always heartening for us when a potential new member would attend their first formal dinner and realize what Chi Psi was actually about. Formal dinners at the Lodge are excellent for producing this inevitable paradigm shift, where potential new members come to view Chi Psi as a fraternity with real purpose behind it rather than just another “party frat.” In this way, formal dinners have been like a microcosm of what we are trying to do at Michigan by re-founding Epsilon in the first place— to go against the grain of current Michigan Greek Life (one could even say “forsake the throng”) and form ourselves into a fraternity of gentlemen that truly honors Chi Psi values and traditions.

It has been a common occurrence for everyone to retire to the fireplace room after formal dinners, where the alumni (most notably **Br. Brian Heil, E'80**) recount to us stories of their time living in the Lodge at Michigan. These stories are always the most important part of weekly formal dinners for me because over time they painted a vivid picture of life at the Lodge in years past. From tales of legendary pranks to descriptions of obscure parts of the Lodge and their original purposes (the dumbwaiter, the telephone booth, etc.). Perhaps most important to us as re-founders were the stories pertaining to the dormancy of our Alpha; what caused it, and namely how to prevent such a thing from ever happening again. To these, we have listened quite carefully.

We will be continuing this tradition of holding formal dinners next year, and we warmly invite any alumni who would like to attend to reach out to us so we can make it happen. See you at the Lodge!



RECRUITMENT

Twenty Re-Founders to be Initiated in Fall 2022

By Saketh Thota, Recruitment Chair



The Epsilon Re-Founding Class is proud to announce the conclusion of our first true spring rush since the beginning of our re-founding efforts. The recruitment committee members and current pledges have worked diligently to gather a promising spring Pledge Class of seven men.

Looking back on our past year, it is extremely rewarding to see how we have grown from the small group we were when I first became involved last spring. With many obstacles throughout this recruitment process and the current climate of Greek Life at the University, we could not have come this far without the support of every member of this group.

Our successful spring rush may be primarily attributed to the shift in our model to incorporate recruitment into every event we hold. The idea that recruitment is always ongoing by definition has helped us not only grow but also maintain that every member of our organization plays some role in the process.

With our new pledge class, we are now able to fill more roles within the organization and have even grown our recruitment committee. This will provide great momentum moving into late summer and the start of fall. Our optimism is at an all-time high, and after our petition for Alpha status at Convention this July, we are hoping to move into the fall by officially returning as Alpha Epsilon. We're looking forward to continued growth for years to come.

The Re-Founding Capital Campaign Surpasses \$2 Million Goal!

Thanks For Your Support

If you would still like to join the historic effort, visit alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/campaign

Brothers in Chi Psi:

The Campaign Committee and the Re-Founding Class would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the Brothers who helped us surpass our \$2 million goal by pledging to the Alpha Epsilon of Chi Psi Re-Founding Capital Campaign!

Because of your loyal support, we have raised \$2,029,353.58 in alumni commitments to ensure our fraternity is perpetuated for future generations (as of June 24, 2022). See a complete list of the donors who made this amazing achievement possible here on our campaign "Honor Roll".

You still have time to contribute to this historic campaign! We will continue to take gifts until our celebration event this October. If you would like to join the campaign or increase your pledge, visit alphaepsilonofchipsi.com/campaign to contribute today!

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

CHI PSI VICTORS - \$250,000+

Verne Istock and Judy Istock 1962
Richard Burns and Elizabeth Murphy Burns 1968

BADGE CLUB - \$100,000

Spike Moore 1983

FOUNDERS CLUB - \$50,000

Steve Crow 1979
Dan Kreider 1982
Matthew Keiser 1984
David Di Rita 1986
Anonymous Donor
Lil' Pear

LODGE CLUB - \$25,000

David Welch and Wendy Welch 1963
Martin Lyons and Nancy Lyons 1964
Patrick Fulford and Barbara Fulford 1969
Marek Lockhart 1985
Drummond Osborn and Sue Osborn 1986
James Fick 1990
James Van Dyke 2001
John Van Straten 2003
Ryan Ahlberg 2003
Fritz Quinn 2004

GOLD CLUB - \$10,000

John Ogden 1963
Kent Strickland 1963
Richard Jackson 1964
John Fischer 1965
William Stocklin 1965
John Fields 1967
John Winkelhaus 1972
Dicran Haidostian 1976

Brian Heil 1980
Alexander Moy 1981
Mike Murray 1981
Bob Anderson 1984
Dave Savage and Lisa Savage 1984
Eric Meade 1984
Dwight Herdrich 1985
Chris Bigelow 1985
Thomas Reynolds 1985
David Decker 1986
Marty Harper 1986
Andrew Wong 1988
Ted Whittlesey 1988
Joe Radabaugh 1990
Bill Lewis 1992
Warren Shu 1999
Steve Starnes 2001
Gilberto Wong 2002

PURPLE CLUB - \$5,000

J. Newton 1950
John Edleman 1957
Frank Westover 1960
Roger Kallock 1960
Robert Peterson 1962
Charles Peltz 1963
Thomas Sweeney 1965
Thomas Jackson 1967
Stephen Staelin 1967
Jon Holt 1968
Peter Stynes 1978
William Benedict 1982
Schuyler Lance 1983
Dennis Miriani 1987
Mark Hansen 1989
Brad Plymale 1990
Francis Markey 1992
Adam Wellman 1993
Matt Hart 1996
John Decker 1997
Brent DeLaBarre 1998
Andrew McQuarrie 2006

ACTIVE CLUB - \$1,000

Dean Carlson 1954
John Boyles 1956
Richard Loyer 1960
Joseph Baylis 1960
James Dodge 1962
Jay Hall 1963
William Burns 1965
Richard Simmers 1972
Laurence Gelstein 1977
James Wujkowski 1978
John Grabow 1978
David Sheppard 1980
Stephen Cagliostro 1980
Steven Lucas 1980
Daniel Lehman 1981
Frank Oakes 1981
Kevin Hallenbeck 1982
James Horste 1983
Scott Cook 1983
Scott Butler 1984
David Martin 1984
Scott Nyboer 1985
Gino Golia 1985
Jeffrey Williams 1985
John Nyboer 1985
Thomas Gallagher 1985
Wally DiGiulio 1985
David Babicz 1987
Steven Parks 1987
Chris Yurko 1988
James Cordes 1988
Steven Frenette 1988
Steve Istock 1989
Don Stellin 1989
Carl Buccellato 1991
George Deeb 1991
Scott Woelfel 1991
Marc D'Annunzio 1993
Matt Shellenbarger 1993
Marc Scanio 1996
Matthew Bejin 1996
Jason Shane 2001
Anonymous Donor

SUPPORTERS - OTHER AMOUNT

Robert Brown 1956
William Raisch 1959
Hoke Martin 1960
Kenneth MacDonald 1960
John Jeffries 1962
Robert Rorke 1969
William Klumpp 1970
Richard Winegarden 1971
Bruce Grimes 1971
Randall Nelson 1973
Richard Navin 1977
Gary Graser 1977
William Burlingame 1978
Gernot Joachim 1979
Tim Knight 1980
Arthur Zemon 1980
Richard Entenmann 1981
Marc Baumgarten 1983
William Miles 1983
Gerald Stevens 1985
Michael Pohlod 1985
Richard McGill 1986
Christopher Rennie 1988
William French 1990
Steven Tengler 1991
Kevin Plymale 1992
Colin Scantlebury 1993
James Mello 1994
Daniel Lefebvre 1995
Elliot Favus 1996
Jeff Jones 2001
Michael Donovan 2001
Jonathon Baugh 2003
Brian Niedzwiecki 2006
Kevin Ondyak 2012
Wil Hattendorf
Anonymous Donor
Anonymous Donor

*as of June 24, 2022

ALUMNI EVENTS

Save the Date!

Annual Alumni Banquet & Re-Founding Celebration Oct 14-15, 2022

Submit your RSVP today at bit.ly/re-founding!

Join us at the Lodge on October 14, 2022, for a very special dinner. That evening, we are celebrating 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 \$1,000 or more 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.

1980s Reunion Weekend Sept 24-25, 2022

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, **Br. Dwight Herdrich, E'85's** 1980s cover band. All alumni are welcome to attend this Homecoming Event.



INSIDE:

- *Re-Founding Capital Campaign Surpasses \$2 Million Goal!*
- *Updates from the Re-Founding Class*
- *RSVP for Fall Alumni Events*

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

Dwight Herdrich E'85
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

PHILANTHROPY & VOLUNTEERING

Re-Founding Class Volunteers with Natural Area Preservation Service

By Ethan Larson, Sergeant at Arms

As you might have guessed, not living in the Lodge this past year made it difficult to gather the entire Re-Founding Class and build the connections that we all aspire to have. The City of Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation (NAP) program has provided an unlikely source of bonding for the Re-Founding Class. Walking through the woods and eliminating invasive plants like buckthorn and honeysuckle has not only improved the ecosystems around our city, it has also allowed us to come together and forge a stronger Re-Founding Class.

The NAP program has been truly mutually beneficial for both our Re-Founding Class and our city. The City of Ann Arbor has been a fantastic partner, and we're exploring options to have work days specifically for Chi Psi as we have been able to fill their normal volunteer spots easily! We're proud of the work we've done and we're looking forward to continuing our work with the NAP program in the years ahead.



Epsilon Supports Ann Arbor's Homeless and Animal Shelters

By Thejas Rengaswamy, External VP

Our goal this semester at Epsilon was to gather resources for local organizations in our community, specifically Ann Arbor-based homeless and animal shelters. We hosted our first philanthropic event to that end on social media, where we created bingo boards with different donation amounts to help raise money for local homeless shelters. Everyone posted these boards on their respective social media accounts and we were able to raise over \$500 for charity, with everyone participating by contributing \$20 or more. We used the money to purchase many items on their Amazon Wishlist to help ensure they have the resources they need to operate.

For our second event, we hosted a bake sale with homemade cookies and brownies, plus Passover cupcakes provided by Michigan Hillel. We were able to raise over \$400 for the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor, which supports animal shelters and veterinary care.

It's wonderful to see others begin to recognize that Epsilon is making a positive impact in our community. We're very excited for the future and we have a motivated group of guys ready to make the effort to ensure we continue to be a positive force at UofM.