



# News Reel

Fall Edition  
**2003**

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## Happenings and Sightings

### *Summer Party*

A yearly event for Phi Alpha Kappa has been the Summer Party. This past summer, Joshua Honig, our current Social Chair, arranged for the PAK boys to meet at Sandy Pines Resort. Twelve active members found themselves eating delicious pork and chicken marinated for hours and playing basketball and football in the sand. This was also a great time of fellowship and reconnection as many of the men had not seen each other since April. Below is a picture of "Speedy" (Nathan Falstad), attempting to juke past a few PAK lineman.



### *Engineering Pool Party*

Summer heat tends to affect the mental faculties and give certain Phi Alpha Kappa members the urge to frolic in water come school time. Recently

some PAK engineering students found themselves in the Lurie Engineering Building Fountain. Below is a picture of two unknown PAK members doing a little dance.



### *Re-modelling of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor dormers*

The Alumni Board met during the summer and decided to spend a great deal of money to redo the third-floor dormers. After estimates were taken, we have recently been informed that the Ann Arbor City council has rejected our plan. Please pray that God would provide an alternative solution to this problem.

## President's Welcome

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Phi Alpha Kappa and your friendly Sri Lankan. The one connection I have with Dutch people is that Sri Lanka, my home country, was a Dutch colony for some time. Also, I am a Christian today because of the faithfulness of a few Dutch and American missionaries who shared the truth about Jesus Christ with both sides of my family, five generations ago. So, I like Dutch people. It appears that the Dutch house is slowly becoming more diverse, though still maintaining its Western Michigan roots.

Fall is upon us again, and Phi Alpha Kappa members are back in the academic saddle. This last month has been full at the House, with catching up with members, adjusting to new house roles, getting to know new pledges, and maintaining order with the affairs of the house. I sense great blessings from God, this year, as we continue to pursue Him and the things He has called us to.

Under the leadership of Jeff Brink, our Vice President, our pledge class has grown to seven pledges. Four of these pledges are in-house, while three are out-of-house pledges. One of our pledges is Anthony Smith, recently returning from the war in the Middle East where he served as a Marine engineer. Another of our pledges, Patrick, is the younger Maltese brother of Byron Scerri, a member here at the house. Recruitment continues, as we trust God to bring men who love Him to our house.

The year began with a Pig-roast party that we hosted with University Reformed Church and University Christian Outreach. This fall, Josh Honig, our social chair, has planned a plethora of activities, such as our annual camping trip. Other activities include Movie nights, and special football game-day parties. Of course, the Dutch house has always been a popular place to host informal gatherings—our leather couches draw many. Fellowship between the brothers is growing and we hope God will continue to use the community at Phi Alpha Kappa to spur us on towards love and good deeds.

Another aspect of the house, which is not separate but intrinsic to our fraternity, is our personal relationships with Jesus Christ. This year we have a weekly Bible study with some members of the house attending consistently. During our Bible study, we spend time praying together, sharing our struggles, and reading and studying God's Word. I hope that growing in our faith and living for Christ will become more of a focus at Phi Alpha Kappa this year.

I'd like to invite all of you to our Alumni Day, October 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have food and drink before the game, and our members will be present to meet and greet you. We look forward to seeing you and catching up! Enjoy the Newsreel.

Warmly,

Godwin Sathianathan  
Chapter President

# Announcements

## **Members return from Middle East**

Current Pledge Anthony Smith returned to the United States in August after spending 7 months in Kuwait and Iraq as a Marine Engineer. Anthony began his pledgeship last January after transferring to the University of Michigan to complete an Aerospace engineering degree. A few week after moving to Ann Arbor, the United States called our friend overseas. We are excited to have Anthony back as a pledge.

LCPL Joshua Moll, a Phi Alpha Kappa member, was also called to active duty during the winter semester last year, to serve as with the United States Marines in Iraq. Josh has kept in

contact with us through email and letters these last few months. We have recently heard that Josh will be returning home by Thanksgiving, and we are excited to reunite with our brother.

## **October 18<sup>th</sup>, Alumni Day!**

We would like to invite all of you to Alumni Day, Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The current members will be here to greet you; there will be food and of course the game will be shown on the bigscreen for those who do not have tickets. We look forward to seeing you all and your families.

# Fall '03 Officer Reports

## **Vice President's Report**

Salutations my friends,

Another school year is upon us and Phi Alpha Kappa has been actively involved on campus seeking to enrich the lives of students and capture interest in pledgeship. We opened up our recruitment efforts this year by combining with two other Christian organizations on campus to sponsor a "Post-Game Bash" following the first home football game. The turnout was great and the night's festivities included volleyball, and a pig-roast followed by root-beer floats. We had an excellent time and were able to make a connection with several incoming students including Brian Samuel who has since entered pledgeship.

On Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> we co-sponsored a Barn Dance in the University Reformed Church parking lot across the street from the House. While the barn may have been missing, the dancing was going on in full effect! The atmosphere was so tempting that even the ballerina-like qualities of our beloved Chris Steenwyk were on display. A good time was had by all, and the owner of Jimmy John's provided free hot dogs and chips to all in attendance. Ben Panning was present and after learning more about the fraternity and its members has decided to join the House. He is also quite a gifted soccer player which has come in handy at our recent intramural games.

Festifall 2003 was on the Diag again this year, and provided the House

with an opportunity to advertise to the campus at large. Our display table was beautifully arranged with information about the fraternity and pictures from past House events. We were also blessed to proudly display a new House banner created by Chad Goldstein's grandfather. We spoke with several interested freshmen and also bonded as fellow brothers as we reflected on what a great experience living at Phi Alpha Kappa has been.

Our current pledge class is four with at least one more to be added at our next House meeting. We are hopeful that more of the young men we have been connecting with this year will come forward and make a decision to begin pledging, but we are grateful to God for the outstanding character of our current pledges who have been extremely active in the life of the fraternity.

Well brothers, this is my final year at Phi Alpha Kappa as I will be graduating from the dental school in April and marrying the woman of my dreams, Amy Birk, on May 22. I am looking to start working within the Ann Arbor area and hopefully purchase a condo. As I reflect on my years at the House I stand in amazement at how faithful God has been to me. The friendships I have shared at Phi Alpha Kappa have helped mold me into the man I am today. The spiritual growth and maturation my soul yearned for found sustenance in the environment this fraternity fostered. It is my prayer that this House would continue to offer this life-changing experience to all its members.

God Bless,  
Jeffrey Brink

PS. The tentative date for the Smoker is Friday, March 12 and it will be catered at the House in Ann Arbor.

We would love to see all our alumni back at the fraternity to share memories and rekindle the fraternal spirit.

### **Business Manager's Report**

Another school year has begun at Phi Alpha Kappa and based on the current membership I feel that this year holds a lot of promise. All of the guys are very upbeat about the house and the year ahead. The finances of the active chapter on the other hand could be better.

Part of our trouble is that residency is a little low. This problem limits our standard cash flow, and as such we have been running a very tight budget. The logical solution to this problem is to find more people. Boarders make up some of the difference, but we currently have unoccupied rooms. Filling the house is also very important considering the number of actives that will be graduating this year. I therefore urge all alumni to tell any gentlemen that may be coming to the University of Michigan about Phi Alpha Kappa. Our current membership is stable, but everyone in the active chapter dreams of having a full house with no non-member boarders.

High expenses have also caused some financial woes. I know I have said it before, but the house is old and she needs some work. The city inspection at the end of last summer cited many areas in need of repair, most were minor, but the costs did add up. Over the summer a few actives also remodeled the main floor bathroom, the results look great, but as expected they weren't cheap. We also were forced to buy a new freezer for the beginning of the school year after it was decided that one of the old ones could be repaired no more. I do think our recent expenditures

have greatly benefited the house, but we do need to be prepared for future expenses.

Just as we have spent money the Alumni Board and Preservation Foundation are also involved in a major project. The city of Ann Arbor in their inspection said that the fascia on the back of the house needed to be repaired, this project will likely use most of their available funds. I therefore urge you to donate to the foundation, it is a great way to help both the house and Phi Alpha Kappa last forever.

I would also like to invite you all to visit the house on alumni day Oct. 18 (Homecoming) Then you can get a chance to see the house and meet many of the guys both past and present. Phi Alpha Kappa is a great place, and with your support and prayers we can make it even better.

### **Sergeant's Report**

The fall semester has started off well, with large thanks due to the Summer Sergeant Kevin Koorstra's work. Kevin, along with the help of Joel Triemstra and Paul DeKraker, completely redid the Women's Bathroom on the first floor, and did a beautiful job. The wall with the mirror was made straight, which was a monumental task as many of you may remember. In addition to the refurbished Women's bathroom, the house was perfectly clean when move-in occurred, thanks to Kevin's work.

This year we will be having some major work on the third-floor rear dormers, which have been rotting and no longer pass city codes. Along with woodwork, the windows will be replaced. The project will involve two to three weeks of work that will occupy half our parking lot. Many thanks to the

Alumni Board for taking care of this whole project!

Our Fall Work-Day is soon approaching at the time of writing, and will occur on October 4<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to getting the house in shape for Alumni Day on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and we hope that you all can make it. Please feel free to stop by anytime and visit us, as well as check out the house.

In Christ,  
Mark Eadie  
Sergeant-At-Arms  
eadiem@umich.edu

### **Steward's Report**

Often times people refer to the business manager as the most powerful person in the house because he controls the flow of money through our great fraternity. However, his so called power pales in comparison to the almighty force that can be conjured up by the simple offering of "Ice Cream". That's right, I, Christopher Steenwyk, control the hearts and minds of the active chapter through their stomach. Ok, so I'm being a little out there, but I gotta try. All in all the year is looking well. Amy Caldwell has returned for yet another year of cooking for the house. However, in a twist of events Amy is now present at the house at both the lunch and dinner hours. Because of this, our meals have been fresher and much better than in previous years. Many of the older members have commented that this "is the best food we've had since I moved in!" Amy was also able to procure a juice machine that allows us to keep the house juice cold which has dramatically reduced spending through the decreased consumption of Orange Juice. The year started out a bit programmatically as we finally replaced

the stainless steel freezer (may it rest in peace) with a new Frigidaire. The refrigerator also went on the fritz, but after a cleaning and Freon recharge it's working better than ever. All in all the kitchen looks good for the year. Should anybody have an extra few dinner tables about their homes, they could be used here. Our dinner tables are getting quite unstable and need to be replaced soon. God Bless!

Chris Steenwyk, Steward  
Senior, Electrical Engineering

### **Social Chair's Report**

The Kaizer has quickly established rule over the social activities of Phi Alpha Kappa, extending at the same time tendrils of influence into the culinary realm. The dozen or so members who attended the summer party in early August tasted a foreshadowing of his rapidly developing social and victual program, as they partook of some hearty and well received Dutch-Indonesian fare on the sunny if artificial shores of Sandy Pines in Dorr, Michigan, amidst an afternoon of football and fellowship. The more organized house events of the semester's first month included a well-attended movie night (note that audience, who joyously consumed large amounts of milk, cider, and homemade cookies, was at least 60% female), a football party for the away Oregon game (featuring homemade salsa ranging from mild to diabolical), and an evening out to Pizza House. I, er, the Kaizer scheduled a kick-butt canoe trip for the third weekend of September, but the plan was scuttled just a few days before launch due to a 30-year low in the Huron river's water level. Looking ahead, the biggest thing coming is the

returning smash-hit fall party, this time with a professional DJ adding to the costumed hype.

### **Pledge Chair's Report**

We swore in 4 new pledges at the September meeting: Ben Panning, Brian Samuel, Patrick Scerri, and Anthony Smith. We are expecting at least one swore pledge, Jordan Fennema, to be sworn in at the October meeting. We also have two lame duck pledges from last year: Grant Morgan and Ryan Kamphuis. To further the bonding among the pledges, we have decided to have a semester pledge task of painting the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bathroom. The pledges have also signed up for walking Taz twice weekly. Most pledges are quite willing to walk Taz since it is a great opportunity to pick up chicks. The out-of-house pledges have made a good effort to get to know the actives and other pledges by spending a lot of time at the house. Overall, it looks like this is going to be a great pledge class which is encouraging to see since they are the future of our fraternity.



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[www.phialphakappa.com](http://www.phialphakappa.com)

# Fall '03 Big and Little Brother Reports

## **Mark Robert Eadie**

Mark Eadie was born on December 2, 1981. This is his 3rd year in the house. At around Spring break of last year, Mark changed his major from computer science to History and hopes to go to seminary and eventually ministry. He is the sergeant at the House this year and is doing an excellent job. When not working around the house, Mark enjoys volunteering his time at the URC as a student leader, he also takes study notes for a deaf student at the university, and of course, spends lots of time hanging out with the brothers.

-Grant Morgan (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Pledge)

## **Doug Douma**

Doug John Douma was born on April 29, 1982 in Grandville Michigan. After spending his early years confined within the small city of Grandville, Doug set out to Ann Arbor in search of a Mechanical Engineering Degree. This is Doug's 4th semester with PAK, . From his healthy obsession with homestarrunner.com to his cult like viewership of FOX's The O' Riley Factor, Doug has brought much flavor to the house. This year he is one of the house's Pledge Chairmen and doing a great job, I might add. His many years of TaeKwon-Do experience has proven useful in keeping us pledges in line.

-Grant Morgan (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Pledge)

## **Kevin Koorstra**

A lot has changed since I was first introduced to my big brother. For

instance: he used to be called Steve and concentrate on his pre-med schedule...now he is called by his real name, Kevin Koorstra, and he has decided to major in Political Science. Aside from these changes our big brother/little brother relationship has also changed, and it has been great to get to know him. It is becoming more and more obvious to me how devoted Kevin is to both the house and to his faith.

Formerly a chick, (as in the Zeeland High "Chix") this is Kev's forth semester in the house, and he is currently attempting to fill the large shoes of former house secretary Joel Triemstra, successfully so far I might add. When he's not doing schoolwork, Kevin enjoys holding political conversations while watching The O'Reilly Factor or playing pool in the basement. As this, my first year living in house, continues I look forward to getting to know Kev even better.

-Ryan Kamphuis (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Pledge)

## **Brian Samuel**

This semester is Brian Samuel's first as a pledge at Phi Alpha Kappa, but he's not unfamiliar with the house. He lived in Cousin's last year, and visited the house frequently. He is living there again this year, making him an out of houser. Brian hails from Clarkston, Michigan, and is majoring in Electrical Engineering. He has two sisters, both of whom are much older than himself (being but a tender 19 years old). He enjoys computers, which is certainly a plus considering his major, bicycling, and a good root beer. He's also been

enjoying Amy's cooking on a fairly regular basis, which is a beautiful thing. We're looking forward to getting to know Brian more and encouraging him as he follows the Lord and seeks to join our fraternity.

-Brian Cooper

### **Patrick Scerri**

One of the new in house pledges, Patrick hails from Harper Woods, Michigan. Brought to U of M by it's cost to education ratio, Patrick was recruited to the house by his brother, Byron, who became an active last year. Patrick is a Freshman majoring in Engineering because it is a major that he not only enjoys but has applications in the business world. Currently he is looking into declaring in the field of Industrial Operations Engineering. Patrick decided to live at Phi Alpha Kappa not only because of our wonderful facilities, but also because of the true brotherhood we share. He enjoys the option of having people to hang out with and build relationships with as well as having quiet time in his room. We're also certain his love to make movies will come in handy for various pledge tasks. In his time at Phi Alpha Kappa Patrick hopes to make lasting friendships with the other members and add his morals and character to that of the house. We look forward to having him around for years to come and getting to know him better.

-Chris Steenwyk

### **Anthony Eugene Smith**

Anthony returns to pledgeship at Phi Alpha Kappa after serving with the Marines in Iraq for 6 months during this

past year. As one of the few, and the proud, Anthony earned his nickname "Gunny," which doesn't seem to be sticking very well here at the house. His new, preferred (by active members) nickname is "Tony Danza." Tony wears a military boot size 11 regular. When asked what he likes to do in his free time, he replied "sky-diving." Anthony has completed zero jumps to date claims "car trouble," "plane trouble," and "weather trouble" as his excuse. Although knowing what to do with his *free time* (or lack thereof) really shouldn't be too much of an issue now that he has become a University of Michigan Aerospace engineering student. Anthony likes to wrastle Taz in the great room and is currently looking for new competitors to challenge him in the ring, but beware, Anthony is not afraid to bite back.

-Chad Goldstein

### **Ben Panning**

Benjamin James Panning, who pledged in September, comes from the town of Brighton, MI. Ben attended Fr. Gabriel Richard High School. In high school he played linebacker on the football team and ran the 110 m hurdles in track. Ben is a freshman this year and plans on majoring in Electrical Engineering. His least favorite subject is physics.

Ben brings a great sense of humor to the house as well as his athletic ability. He also plays on the intramural soccer team where his athletic skills shine. Ben enjoys being with friends and family, playing Dance Dance Revolution, and reading Tom Clancy.





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