

Phi Alpha Kappa Newsreel Spring 2002



Inside:

- Officer Reports**
- Active and Pledge Updates**
- Smoker info**

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The Annual Smoker is Friday, March 22

The dinner will be held at 6:30pm at the Airport Hilton in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Attendance is free for all alumni, members and prospectives.

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President's Report:

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Him who was and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty! In the two thousand and second year of our Lord, the members of Phi Alpha Kappa are proud to be a part of the Lord's work in the world. Our pride comes from the active Spirit of the Lord moving in the lives of the members of Phi Alpha Kappa. Each member reflects the image of God in many ways through the differing gifts He has given us. All members show how the grace of God affects their lives in academics and personal relationships, because Phi Alpha Kappa contains undergraduate and graduate students in high academic standing, who also find time to socialize. Members socialize in various ways, including athletic participation and listening to music, and most importantly by engaging in meaningful dialogue.

Phi Alpha Kappa is proud to graduate six members this year. The long wait is nearly over and the final fulfillment is close at hand as Josh Hansen is scheduled to graduate this year! After a long and memorable career, the 6th year Senior is taking his 200+ credits to the dean and receiving his diploma in Chemistry, although he probably has the credits for many other degrees. Other seniors planning to graduate this April are Eric Carlson in Electrical Engineering, David Umulis in Chemical Engineering, Mike DeLorean in Music, Chris DeVries in Anthropology, and I am graduating in History.

Although graduation is coming, there is good news for the pledges. We haven't graduated yet, and there are plans to make sure the pledges inherit a house worthy of occupancy. Many actives have worked hard and have just recently hammered out a new, revamped Initiation for the pledges. There is great excitement to see how it will work in practice. The success of the Initiation will lie largely on the attitude of the Actives, and I pray that this Initiation will set a high standard for years to come.

Other proud moments for the house are the commitments and actions that back up the talk of Christian growth in the house. For example, Phi Alpha Kappa will be at the beginning of next year, a house that does not tolerate underage drinking. There is also in the works, a code of conduct for the members to unite behind.

Unfortunately, I will not be a part of these new movements at Phi Alpha Kappa, for I am feeling the privilege and the call to go to Seminary. I truly am grateful to God and to the members I have lived my life with during my years at the house, and I hope that the house will continue to be a blessing to the members that come to our house in the future. Even so Come Lord Jesus! Amen.

David Ordorica
President of Phi Alpha Kappa

Vice President's Report:

Greetings fellow brothers,

I hope this letter finds you well, as it is written in the warm embraces of our beloved house at 1010 East Ann. This is most likely my final term in the house, as I will be graduating this April with a BS in chemistry from our esteemed University. It has been six years since I first stepped foot in this house, and though I'm excited about the prospects of a future career and life outside of Ann Arbor, my thoughts have often of late been drifting to the many memories I will take with me from Phi Alpha Kappa. This house has been for me a calling, a blessing, and an adventure so I look to the future of the house with great excitement for the lives this house will touch in our new membership and in our old.

With the addition of two lame duck pledges this semester, our current pledge class is eight, which continues the trend of increase that has been going over the past four years. I am confident that this trend will continue as long as motivated guys continue to come up with new recruitment methods to find prospectives for the house.

Recruitment has become much more exciting in the past three years, as we've established many new contacts in the West Michigan school area, as well as reestablishing some old contacts. I'm happy to talk with anyone who is interested in knowing more about Pledgeship and recruitment here at the house, and my contact info is below.

On a similar note, our yearly **smoker is this year on Friday, March 22**. I would like to invite any and all alumni who are interested in attending. It's a great opportunity to get to know some of the new men in the house, meet prospectives, and catch up with those people who you may not have seen in a while. The dinner will be held at 6:30pm at the Airport Hilton in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Attendance is free for all alumni, members and prospectives. I really want to encourage each of you as alumni to consider attending, because this house best passes on its traditions through the communication of members new and old.

If you are interested in any information on Phi Alpha Kappa or U of M in general, or if you would like to attend the smoker, please do not hesitate to contact me at vp@phialphakappa.com or jdhanen@umich.edu. As well, the house can be reached at 734-761-5491 and my personal number is 734-623-8265. As always, our mailing address is 1010 E. Ann St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

May God bless each and every one of you, and may His love embrace your families and friends.

In Christ,
Joshua Hansen

Business Manager's Report:

The finances are looking good this year. A few extra residents and low costs have helped tremendously. Much of the profit will go to cover our summer losses, but hopefully we will be able to put some money into fixing up the house.

I would like to encourage all alumni to continue giving generously to the preservation fund. The Dutch House is getting old, and there is always something to fix. The new boiler bought this past year has been working well, and we are thankful for the warmth it has provided. Over the past few months new concerns have arisen about the condition of the roof. Work will be done soon, but it is not expected to be cheap.

This spring we will be losing six fine members to graduation. They have all done a great job, and will be missed. Their graduation also represents a major loss of membership. Therefore, I encourage you all to get word out about the house and send any inquiring minds our way. I have two years left at this great University and would like to see a house overflowing with members.

In closing I would like to encourage all alumni to continue to support us both financially and spiritually. Please keep the house in your prayers, that ΦAK may continue to be a beacon here at the University of Michigan.

Paul DeKraker
Business Manager

Sergeant's report:

A new year has sprung upon us and with it a new added responsibility for the duties of the House Sergeant. This new duty includes the act of going to any and all lengths to ensure that jobs of the house will be done. It is no longer acceptable for the Sergeant to simply fine all offenders, now the Sergeant will be expected to go door to door at around 10:00pm every night and respectfully remind others not to forget to do their job. For those who refuse to do their job, the Sergeant is now expected to do, or find someone else to do, their job for them. Although this new, and significant, addition to the duties of the Sergeant will not carry with it any additional benefits or perks for the Sergeant, and was not specified as an expected duty prior to the roll being assigned, the Sergeant is not altogether bitter. No, he sees this as an opportunity to increase the amount of awareness that the house has for the iron fisted ruler and enforcer of cleanliness.

Although this new duty at first brought a dark cloud into the life of the Sergeant, a piercing ray of bright light found its way through the darkness of tedium. That ray is known as Jeff "the machine" Brink. But don't let the name fool you. He is anything but on the brink. With a raw and genuine enthusiasm, Brink has helped make the task of being Sergeant more of a pleasure than a chore. Cheerfully volunteering to vacuum and scrub our house to perfection, he picks up the slack of our less reliable members, and makes the House a better place for everyone. On the home improvement front, we look forward to promised repairs to our roof. Now making room 304 unlivable, and several other rooms hazardous at best, the roof is well on its way to getting an overhaul from the company which last replaced it. We hope that this time perhaps they will not leave any parts prone to leakage, and, from tales of recent alumni, we look forward

to the occasional man falling down to our lawn in the months to come. So it appears that our days of sleeping in ponchos and holding umbrellas indoors will soon be coming to an end, and the seemingly perfect house which we inhabit, will be becoming even more habitable.

Mike DeLorean

Steward's Report:

Hello, it's time for a report from the most powerful position in the house- two words is all it takes to get just about anything, "Ice Cream." We have recently given our cook Amy a raise of \$30/week. This makes her the highest paid employee working for a Dutchman according to the Guinness book of World Records. David Ordorica's father recently repaired the meat-slicer and it has been used frequently since it's re-commissioning in December. We have been working at changing the menu in order to provide more healthy alternatives for some of the meals served throughout the week. Patty-melts anyone? We have been ordering more yogurt than ever before and the OSEH inspector recently commented that we not only have the cleanest kitchen among the fraternities he's visited, but also the healthiest flora for a group on campus. Thank you Lactobacillus and Acidophilus! After a problematic fall, the major appliances have been behaving properly. The freezer has been working much better since placing it outside although I expect the performance to drop significantly come May. On a serious note, Paul has commented that despite some repair bills, the kitchen has still been operating under budget.

David Umulis

Pledge Chair Report:

This semester, the House has six pledges from last semester and two new pledges, Kevin Koorstra and Doug Douma. There are also a number of prospective pledges who will likely pledge next year. This year has been especially busy for the Pledge Chairs, Andy Craig and Ian Murray. Our duties have doubled due to initiation being run in the spring and fall, as opposed to the fall only. This caused us to run two Pledge weeks, one in each semester, to make sure all the pledges were accounted for and properly initiated into active membership. But with these changes behind us, we are excited for the future here at the Phi Alpha Kappa House.

Andy Craig and Ian Murray
Pledge co-chairs

Social Chair Report:

With the mid-year departure of our former Social Chair (and my big brother), Ray Zondervan, I have been happy to carry on his good work this semester, helping plan a series of social events. I am pleased to report that the level of interest and participation in the events thus far have been quite remarkable, with a fair majority of members attending most planned social activities.

At the end of last semester, I sent a "social survey" to members and pledges to gather input as to which events they most enjoyed from the past and at the same time tried to float some new ideas and suggestions, like a house "cultural event" or even a ski trip. When all the chips were in, a ski trip, a sporting event, and a semi-formal dance were the three most desired activities (while the cultural event made an abysmal showing towards the bottom of the list). With these suggestions in mind, I set to work over the Christmas break organizing, planning, calculating, and scheming my way towards a social calendar for the winter term. And in the end, we were successful in organizing a ski trip, co-sponsoring another dance party at the house (with the help of Campus Crusade for Christ), and buying tickets for a hockey game between Michigan and the Michigan Agricultural College (that pile of scorched couches and pillar of smoke rising just east of Lansing).

The ski trip to Searchmont, Ontario last month was an unrivalled success. The weather was cooperative, the slopes had plenty of snow, and with the favorable monetary exchange rate, the trip fit well within our social budget for the term. One excellent aspect of the trip was our lodging facility. Due to a special discount arrangement between the ski resort and a local "chalet", the fraternity was able to sleep all nine members under the same roof in a cozy little cabin, complete with a kitchen, wood-burning stove, and sauna. Far and away, the best aspect of the trip was having an entire weekend apart from the stresses of school and work to simply enjoy the fellowship of the fraternity. Most of us left our books at home, and although we may have had a huge stack of assignments on our return, the trip helped solidify some strong fraternal bonds for years to come.

In addition to the ski trip, our other events have met with equal enthusiasm and enjoyment. This weekend, a group of 24 (including 14 members, pledges, or prospectives) will be heading to Joe Louis Arena to watch the Wolverines and Sparties face off in ice hockey. Last month, our dance party with Campus Crusade brought approximately 100 people to the house, many of whom had very positive things to say about the event, expressing their thanks for our holding it. A spur of the moment day-trip to Kennsington Park for sledding and cross-country skiing proved a fun and healthy way to spend a Sunday afternoon this January. The Super Bowl party earlier this month was extremely well attended, with enough snacks and sport to keep everyone happy. Finally, in the weeks to come we shall be participating in Whirly Ball (a perennial house favorite), have our Pledge Week, the "Boy's Night Out" dinner, the end of the year Banquet, and of course, the Smoker. We look forward to more opportunities to come together and do things as a house. It is my great pleasure as Social Chair to think about, plan, and participate in these many fraternity-building activities. And with the feedback I've received to date, I am sure my brothers do, as well.

Brad Sprecher
Social Chair: Winter, 2002

Athletic Chair Report:

The Phi Alpha Kappa men started out the intramural season with another successful flag football performance. As the team developed and matured during the regular season, they accumulated an impressive 2-1 regular season record. With confidence in hand they began their trek toward a playoff championship. In second round action they overcame a three touchdown deficit to claim victory with just seconds left on the clock. Unfortunately, their third round match-up proved to be too much for them to handle and their playoff run was brought to an end.

The classic Phi Alpha Kappa pool tournament also took place this fall. As exciting and draining as always, this event continued for several months. However, when all the chalk dust settled there was only one soon to be married man worthy of this title. His name: Raymond "the shark" Zondervan.

Following flag football competition, the Dutch Men grabbed their sneakers and headed to the courts for the IM basketball season. Continuing in their winning ways, they rapidly disposed of their regular season competition and achieved a 3-0 record for the second consecutive year. However, as fate would have it, the men were once again defeated in the first round of playoff competition by a taller and stronger team.

The annual Pledge-Active tackle football game was also in full effect this year. Sadly the actives were outnumbered and undersized. As the pledge team delivered bone crushing blow after bone crushing blow, they rushed up and down the field for touchdown after touchdown. There was only one thing that could save the actives: wisdom. The game was ended, and the score was fabricated to reflect another active victory.

The Phi Alpha Kappa men look forward to participation in more athletic events this winter, including Broomball and our House Ping-Pong and Dart Tournaments. We will update you with these results next year.

Jeff Brink

Big Brother/Little Brother Reports:

Actives

Andy Craig

My big brother is Andy Craig. For those unfamiliar with the name, he is the individual whom the Hindu contingent at the house believes to be a reincarnated Nazi prison guard. I agreed at first, but was swayed otherwise by Andy's amicable character and refusal to participate in pledge brutalization. As far as biographical info on this character (which he certainly is), here is a brief description. Andy is a fellow Grand Rapidian like myself, and attended Northview High School. He was a University of Michigan student. However, he graduated in the spring of 2001 with a bachelor's degree in Biology. Currently, he is working at the Mental Health Research Institute at the University. His job entails research and running the laboratory of a research professor. Andy anguished over his future this year. He enjoyed his job, youth, and life without school, however, he felt as though he God was calling him to do mission work. Just recently, Andy decided to pursue this

calling, and will be ending his current job and tenure at Φ AK in August. He plans to return to Grand Rapids and do some missionary training before being sent to the Middle East with the aid of the Christian community at Calvary Church. We are going to miss this brother. Most of all, we will miss his enduring work ethic. But also, reaching into the secondary and token aspects of brotherhood, we will miss Andy's congeniality, benevolence, character, and desire to be a meaningful brother here at Φ AK.

Joe Vander Jagt

Ray Zondervan

Well, my big brother has up and left me for greener pastures and marital bliss. Yes, Ray Zondervan graduated in December of last year, bequeathing an empty Social Chair and memories, sweet memories. But we are happy for Ray, who will be marrying his long-time sweetheart, Robin Oppenhuizen, on June 22nd of this year (while at the same time we are pleased to learn that Phi Alpha Kappa alumni are still considered marriage material). Since leaving college Ray has moved back to the west Michigan fatherland, reacquainting himself with everything that is pure and Dutch.

In all seriousness, Ray is surely missed in Ann Arbor. He did a wonderful job as Social Chair last year, going beyond the call of duty by, among other things, opting to supply the House with snacks and other goodies at the Christmas party with money from his own pocket. He also led our annual camping trip last September at Hell Creek Ranch. And although that weekend Mr. Zondervan brought the unsuspecting fraternity closer to Hell than it could have ever imagined, the weekend (which was capped off by a thrilling canoe ride down the river Styx... I mean Hell Creek) was a grand success.

On the career front, Ray is looking to put his Mechanical Engineering degree to work at firms in the West Michigan area. He is currently investigating Product and Design Development positions in Grand Rapids, but he has informed me that he would also be interested in hearing from alumni in that area regarding any other job ideas he might pursue or if they know of any other related positions available (Ray's email address, for those interested, is rayzondervan@hotmail.com).

Ray's fiancée Robin currently works at Arthur Andersen and is extremely excited to have recently passed her C.P.A. exam...on the first try, nonetheless. Robin and Ray have been very busy planning their wedding, and Ray says he is very thankful for the time he's had between graduation and their wedding to prepare for the exciting and life-altering changes that are soon approaching.

Since Ray has now moved on from Phi Alpha Kappa, it is the hope of the Active Chapter that he equals the success he found while at the University. We also want to wish him the happiest marriage, with joy and God's blessings. All the best to you Ray.

Brad Sprecher

Paul DeKraker

Paul DeKraker is one of the executives in the executive double. Paul is an electrical engineer and like all engineering students he is comforted by numbers. When he isn't crunching numbers or doing house business, he is dominating fellow brothers on the PlayStation II. But don't think that Paul's time at the university is all fun and games. Oh no, this brain recently was accepted into Eta Kappa Nu the electrical engineering honors society. Also, if something around the house is broken

and needs fixin', Paul is usually on the case. If something around the house isn't broken, but Paul thinks it needs fixin', then he is on that too. Paul says when he finally tears himself off of the couch; his next favorite thing to do is go running, while stopping to ask those who pass-by which way the weight room is.

Chad Goldstein

Jeff Brink

Jeff Brink has the ultimate combination of wisdom and boyish charm. Jeff hopes to put these qualities to good use soon on his ongoing journey to find a wife. In his second year as a University Dental student Jeff has just over 2 years to find this woman. If you have any information as to her whereabouts you are asked to please call the house. Jeff describes this year as all school saying, "I don't have too huge of a social life – unfortunately." Jeff claims to love sports; however he was only able to name basketball as one such example. Jeff looks forward to next year when he will be done with most of his classroom work and get a chance to clean the mouths of unsuspecting volunteers.

Chad Goldstein

Ian Murray

Ian Murray is one of the pledge chairs that we as pledges are lucky to have. He is majoring in microbiology and is hoping to be able to put all of his good knowledge to use doing research for a Biotech firm. He loves playing the drums and does so in the Campus Crusade band Thursday nights for the students that gather for worship. Ian likes to spend time with his girlfriend when he is not spending time with his fellow brothers. We have been able to get to know him better through the aid of Playstation II and other various activities, such as traveling to Pizza Hut for lunch every once in awhile for the great lunch buffet that they have. I hope I can get a chance to know him better through the rest of this year and the next.

Josh Moll

Eric Carlson

Eric is a fourth year Electrical Engineering student from Livonia. A first year Active, Eric is the designer and system administrator of our house computer network. And he does a great job! In addition to the servers and cables running through our house, Eric's computer skills extend to the area of microprocessors. For the past two years, he designed the microcontroller computer systems for the University of Michigan solar car, running the digital cruise control, and other integral systems of the car. His work on the four-wheel steering system won our team the "Innovation Award" at a competition in May. His work also significantly contributed to the U of M's Solar Car team winning the National title in July and their third place performance in the World Solar Challenge. The World Solar Car Challenge is held in Australia every few years and is considered to be the "World Championship" of solar car racing. In addition to being third overall at this competition, the team placed first among collegiate teams, and first among all American teams, collegiate and professional.

For Spring Break this year Eric went on a small mission trip with the University Reformed Church youth group to volunteer with the Appalachian Service Project. He tells us that it was great for him to see God working in other parts of the world, and was glad that he could be a part of the work going on down there. Now that he is done with the Solar Car project, Eric will graduate this April, and plans to go to graduate school this fall. His top choices for programs are Duke, Johns Hopkins, University of California San Diego for Biomedical Engineering, and the University of Michigan for Biomedical Engineering.

Mark Eadie

Pledges

Doug Douma

Hailing from Grandville, MI is Doug Douma, a second year mechanical engineering major, and newly declared pledge. Doug has recently decided to pledge at Φ AK, and we believe he is destined to be a great member in the years to come. Doug comes from a great family. His sister joins him at the U of M, and his brother attends Hope College. Doug enjoys competitive football and has taken martial arts for a number of years, gaining a black belt at the age of 14. He has competed in many Tae-Kwan-Do tournaments, and he also learned the Japanese wrestling marital arts Jiu-jitsu. Recently Doug went to Daytona Beach, FL, with Campus Crusade for Christ over spring break. It was a great trip for him to bond with other Christians, in addition to being a time to share Christ with many unbelievers. This summer Doug is looking to obtain a summer internship with an engineering company, so if any Alumni engineers need a hard working individual for the summer, Doug is your man.

Daniel Lanning and Brad Sprecher

Kevin Koorstra

A midyear pledge from the bustling metropolis of Zeeland, Michigan, the members of Phi Alpha Kappa are pleased to welcome Kevin Koorstra. Surprisingly, Kevin came to the house without active recruitment, and his reasons for joining were very similar to my own – the Christian community. We both feel it is important to be surrounded by Christian brothers who will help us in our walk and encourage us in our day to day struggles. I look forward to being a part of that community for Kevin and also to form a strong friendship based on our mutual faith. Kevin also won the favor of many of the computer geeks in this house after denouncing the evils of AOL. The active chapter is pleased to welcome Kevin to Pledgeship and we look forward to getting to know him better.

Chris Steenwyk and Joel Triemstra

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