



News Reel

A Tradition of the Phi Alpha Kappa Christian
Fraternity Since 1934

Winter Edition
2003

Dear Phi Alpha Kappa Alumnus,

The actives and pledges of Phi Alpha Kappa are happy to send you the Winter 2003 Edition of the News Reel. Beginning with this issue, we will be offering electronic copies of the News Reel to alumni with valid e-mail addresses. If you are interested in receiving future editions and other announcements by email, please send a message to Alumni Board Vice President Dave Slopsema, at dslopsema@comcast.net.

Thanks for reading and enjoy the Winter 2003 News Reel.

Sincerely,
The Members of ΦAK

Upcoming Alumni Vote

On January 25th, the fraternity's Alumni Board convened at the Dutch House to discuss fraternity business in a regularly scheduled board meeting. During the discussion, the board decided to take up the issue of pledge voting rights during Active Chapter meetings. Although the fraternity's Constitution prohibits pledges from voting in Chapter meetings, pledges have been allowed to vote during these meetings for a number of years. To resolve this discrepancy between what is written and what is practiced, the Alumni Board will solicit a vote of the alumni as to whether the Constitution shall be amended to reflect

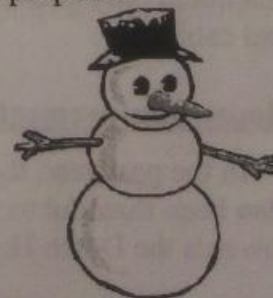
current voting practice. A vote on the amendment will take place at the annual fraternity Smoker in Grand Rapids, on Friday, March 14th (details in the "Announcements" page 2). The proposed amendment would change the following portion of the Constitution (Article III, Part D, Section 3):

"All members of the Fraternity other than active shall be entitled to attend all meetings and to discuss all Fraternity business and shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Active Chapters, but shall not be allowed to vote on the latter."

The amended portion of the Constitution, as proposed, is as follows:

"All members of the Fraternity other than active shall be entitled to attend all meetings and to discuss all Fraternity business and shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Active Chapters. Members other than active shall be allowed to vote at meetings of the Active Chapter only at the discretion of the Active Chapter president."

All alumni who are interested in casting a vote on the proposed amendment are encouraged to attend the annual Smoker. Any alumnus who wishes to vote but is not able to attend the Smoker should mail his "yea" or "nay" to Brad Sprecher, Chapter president, at 1010 E. Ann, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.



Announcements

Fraternity Loses Special Alum

On Monday, February 3rd, 2003, Phi Alpha Kappa lost a special friend and alumnus with the passing of Paul Newhof. Mr. Newhof was a member of Phi Alpha Kappa in the mid to late 1950s, and was an active member of the Alumni Board for several years, contributing his time and efforts as chairman of the building and grounds committee from the early 1980s through the late 1990s. After retiring from the Alumni Board, Mr. Newhof became a driving force behind the formation of the alumni Advisory Board, on which he also served. Family, friends, fraternity alumni, as well as 2 current members all gathered for a memorial service in Paul's honor at Shawnee Park Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. As noted in the Grand Rapids Press, memorial gifts in Paul's name may be sent to the Calvin College Development Office, 3201 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Gifts will support an engineering scholarship.

Great Room Gains Great Stereo

This past December the fraternity became the grateful recipient of a thundering stereo system as a gift from our esteemed Alumnus, Bill De Young. The system has been linked to the Great Room's equally capacious television (also a gift of Mr. De Young), where it provides members with the lush sounds that could only emanate from network and cable T.V.

House Improvements Wish List

In the past year, the fraternity has also been thankful to receive many gifts towards the Dutch House Preservation

Foundation. Tax-exempt gifts to the Foundation help preserve external features of the house that are subject to Ann Arbors historic structure codes. As the Preservation fund begins to grow, the aging fraternity house continues to need repair. Vice President Chris Steenwyk, with the help of Sergeant Josh Moll, has come up with a list of items particularly needed. Future gifts to Preservation fund will be used to fund projects to fix, repair, or replace the following:

Rear, third floor dormer replacement
Back door repair/replacement
Porch replacement

Additionally, alumni who may have the following and are interested in making a donation are encouraged to help with these additional items:

Dining room tables
Living room bookshelf
Wood finish for doors and trim
Vacuums
Computer
Couches for the Smoker's TV lounge

Annual Fraternity Smoker

The Active Chapter of will be hosting the annual fraternity Smoker for alumni and prospective members at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport on Friday, March 14th. Alumni are encouraged to come early to vote on the amendment to the fraternity Constitution (described on page 1). We would also ask that alumni invite prospective members to join us for dinner and fellowship. Voting and dinner times are listed in the box below.

Annual Phi Alpha Kappa Fraternity Smoker

Friday, March 14, 2003

Hilton Grand Rapids Airport
4747 28th Street NW, Grand Rapids

Vote: 5:45 p.m., Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Officer Reports

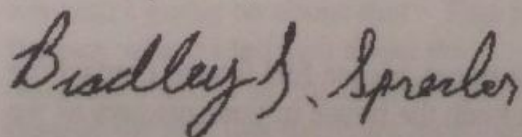
President's Report

During the weekend of February 1st, fellow members and I headed to Caberfae Peaks near Cadillac, MI for the second of what many hope to become Phi Alpha Kappa's annual ski-trip. Although we came away with some bruises and plenty of sore muscles, everyone returned to Ann Arbor in relative safety. The group was joined by a very recent and very dear alumnus who shared with me some of the things he misses most about life at the Dutch House. The conversation very clearly identified those features that make Phi Alpha Kappa a unique and special place on campus: namely, a house where supportive, Christian brothers help each other define personal values, establish relationships, and complete educational goals, to the glory of God.

This year at Phi Alpha Kappa, we continue in the experience of this alumnus and many others before him, living and growing together. As a fraternity, we have renewed our commitment to service, be it raking leaves and shoveling the walk at the University Reformed Church or manning a booth at the University's annual Kid's Fair. This year, brotherhood has grown along with our membership, which, at 26, is the largest the fraternity has seen in a decade. Having united behind a common vision of mature, supportive Christian living, the fraternity expects to attract several excellent pledges well into the future. But in the midst of such optimism, we have also had to face some challenging realities. In January, after only a week of pledging, Anthony Smith was called into active duty with the U.S. Marines. Meanwhile, house Sergeant and Marine reservist, Josh Moll, awaits orders that may call him to active service, as well. We ask for your prayers for these service members and for recent graduates seeking jobs during this especially uncertain time. Moving ahead to the last few months of the school year, we will continue look to the Lord for strength in accomplishing our mission and goals: serving our brothers while serving the Lord.

In the past year, I have been thrilled and honored to be president of the Active Chapter. I have been both blessed and challenged to point the fraternity toward a mission that is true to the ideals of our founders, our alumni, and of the needs of current members. In terms of friendship and faith, the Phi Alpha Kappa Christian fraternity is as strong as it's ever been. As we approach the fraternity's 75th anniversary, I hope that all alumni and current members would turn their thoughts to the Dutch House and find ways to give back to a brotherhood that has meant so much to so many. Please join the Active Chapter and our pledges in prayer for God's continued blessings, for unity of purpose, for spirits of service, and hearts inclined to His will.

God bless you all,



Bradley S. Sprecher
Active Chapter President

Vice President's Report

I would again like to extend my warmest greetings to you all. This past semester has seen two pledges come into active membership, a successful party, and the gaining of three lame duck pledges. It is truly amazing to again see how God is blessing this fraternity and its members through it. I look forward to finishing this year and am already planning events for next year.

One event that was very successful was our Fall Party. We estimate we had nearly 600 people pass through the doors of the house with 250 here at any given time. Events of the evening included a costume contest, pumpkin carving, apple bobbing, dancing, and more. People are still talking about this event and ask when the house is going to throw another party. This helped to spread the word about the fraternity on campus.

Recruitment is also going well. In the next few weeks I hope to send out letters to western Michigan contacts informing students and schools of the fraternity and inviting people to the Smoker. If you know of any prospective members or of an organization we should make contact with, please let me know at the addresses below.

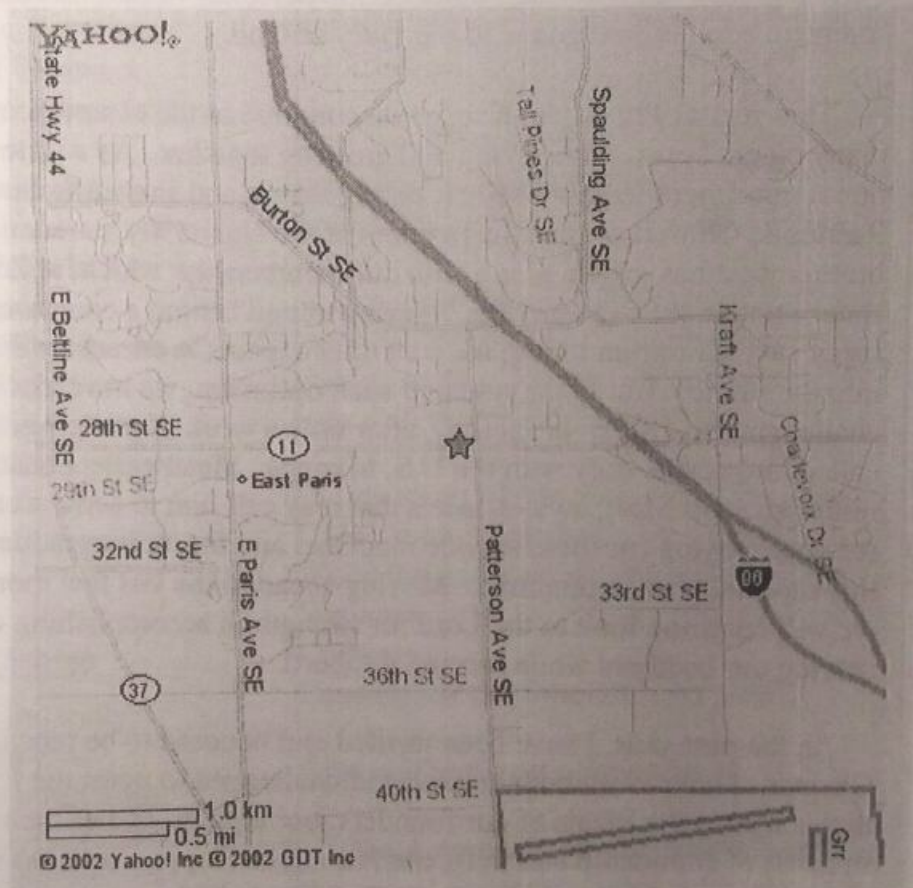
The annual spring Smoker has been set. It will be held on Friday, March 14, from 6:30 – 10:30 at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport located at 4747 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan (see the map, at right). I would like to personally encourage all

alumni, if available, to attend both the Smoker and the Alumni Board meeting that will be held at the same location but at 5:45pm. We will be personally calling many of the Alumni in the Michigan area to invite them. If you do not receive a call and would like to come, please let us know! We need to provide the hotel with an approximate number of attendees, so please RSVP to vp@phialphakappa.com if possible (if you don't you can still show up, however). Please also feel free to invite any prospective members you may have.

If you have any questions or suggestions for recruitment, please feel free to contact me at vp@phialphakappa.com or 734-845-6038. Please keep the house in your prayers as we continue to change and grow.

God Bless!

Chris Steenwyk



Business Manager's Report

Phi Alpha Kappa finished the fall term fiscally in relatively good shape. Everyone has been great about turning lights off to save on energy costs, and the boiler is running more efficiently than ever. Repairs to the house during the fall term were small and relatively inexpensive. In contrast the term ahead poses some major expenses. One of the freezers in the kitchen has given us trouble for some time, and we are planning on its replacement in the near future. The pop machine in the pool room finally became dysfunctional this past month, and we are looking at its replacement.

I would also encourage you all to donate to the Dutch House Preservation Fund. Our recent city housing inspection necessitates the replacement of the fascia on the rear of the third floor. This is expected to be a major expense, and any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

I am confident the year ahead will be prosperous for Phi Alpha Kappa. We have an excellent group of men, who have a genuine desire to make the house a great place. I thank all of you who have kept the house in your prayers and continue to encourage you to tell anyone who may be coming to Michigan about the house.

Paul DeKraker

Sergeants Report

This year is progressing well. The members seem to be better and better people the more I get the chance to know them. Especially them pledges. But why am I going on about that? This is the part where I tell you about the Sergeant stuff. The house looks good, despite the fact that there are increasing problems with some various things. We had a fire inspection late last semester, and have found defects that need to be taken care of. Like the rotting wood on

the back side of the house. Also some doors need to be fixed, or replaced. The inspector also told us that we are required to have room numbers on the doors. Why this is a fire hazard, I don't know. I would think the pieces of numbered paper would tend to start on fire quicker. Oh well. Anyway, we are still waiting to receive the results of the inspection, and when we finally do, we will dedicate all of workday, March 22, to taking care of the things that don't require the assistance of the Alumni Board.

-LCPL Josh Moll

Social Chairs Report

After finishing last semesters social calendar with a few parties, this winter term got off to a bang. The first social night out was to Whirlyball, which is always a house favorite. With our U of M men's basketball team playing fabulous at the moment, we had a 2 party day in which we began with the UM/MSU basketball game, in which our boys in blue won! And a few hours later we hosted a Super Bowl Party, without lacking for food. A week later we were ready to go on the annual ski/snowboard trip. Eleven house members and pledges made the 3-hour hike to Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac, MI to a weekend full of fun. Many slopes were tried, many falls were taken, much food was eaten, and no one was hurt.

Upcoming events include a Valentines weekend house dance party on Feb. 15, another date with the Spartans, but this time at the Joe Louis Arena with dinner in Detroit before, some pledge-active football, a bowling night, and many more fun-filled weekends. It truly is a good time to be a member of Phi Alpha Kappa for multiple enjoyable social events.

-Dan Lanning

Big and Little Brother Reports

Little Brothers

Nate Falstad

Freshman Nathan Falstad is a second semester out of house pledge at Phi Alpha Kappa. Nathan is from Holland, Michigan (home to the oh-so-famous Tulip Time and the 241 year old DeZwaan windmill) but in fact is not Dutch. He is currently undeclared in the College of Engineering, but is pondering the ideas of mechanical and aerospace engineering. Nathan has been a great asset to the house when speaking of Intramural Sports. He played tremendous defense for us in soccer, and came through with the same intense effort in flag football and basketball. Nathan is quite involved with the University Reformed Church just 40 feet from the house, and he plans on joining the URC on a missions trip to Honduras for part of the summer, while either working for the City of Holland again or seeking an engineering internship for the rest of the summer.

-Dan Lanning

Kory Gernhofer

Kory is one of the few and proud graduate students to be involved with Phi Alpha Kappa. A first-year student in the Dental School, Kory graduated from Eastern Michigan University in the spring of 2002 with a degree in Biochemistry. Kory was on scholarship as a varsity tennis player at Eastern for two years before the men's tennis program was eliminated to satisfy Title IX gender equity mandates. Much like this year's Social Chair, Dan Lanning, Kory calls northwest Michigan his home. His family has lived in

Traverse City since he was the tender age of 2. Kory was introduced to the fraternity by third-year Dental student and tennis all-star Jeff Brink, one of the fraternity's elder Active Members. Kory's interest in the House centers on camaraderie, friendship, and a trusted Christian environment where he can advance his faith. In the years ahead, Kory hopes to return those same gifts to his brothers at Phi Alpha Kappa.

-Brad Sprecher

Josh Huyser-Honig

Josh Huyser-Honig is a freshmen second semester pledge that hails from Grand Rapids Michigan. He is an ambitious young man who is studying both Mechanical Engineering and Architecture. When Josh has some free time he enjoys running or hanging out at the house. He claims to be an excellent chef, and hopefully we will all get a taste of this skill. Josh currently attends Campus Chapel, and is fairly involved in their services. Over the year many of our pledges have developed nicknames, some are embraced and some are just a little too far out there. Josh's nickname of Kaizer Söze has been rather successful, and I fully support its use. Josh is also a rather artistic young man who enjoys both writing and drawing, and says its a pity that he isn't able to spend more time on it. Well, I'll tell you that is just part of being an engineering student at Michigan. Next fall Josh will be spending the semester abroad in the Netherlands. I am sure he will enjoy the experience and we wish him the best of luck.

-Paul DeKraker

Ryan Kamphuis

Ryan Kamphuis is one of our three lame duck pledges and my little brother. He was born on June 10, 1983. Ryan is originally from Hudsonville, Michigan, but don't get too excited, Hudsonville Ice Cream is actually made in Burnips, MI. He currently can be found up on Michigan's North Campus, specifically the Bursley residence hall, and Ryan is a sophomore majoring in naval architecture and marine engineering. When Ryan is not studying naval architecture and when the weather gets warmer, he enjoys to sail, jet-ski, and water ski. I have only known Travis for a month or so, but I can already tell that he really cares for the house and the people in the house. I look forward to getting to know him and watching him fall in love with our house more and more each day.

-Kevin Koorstra

John Olson

John joined the house in October of last fall. However, since he joined after the newsreel was sent out, nothing was said about him in that issue. John comes to Phi Alpha Kappa from Auburn, Michigan. Originally a Physics major, John has since switched to statistics after realizing he liked research from his Undergraduate Research project. John hopes to one day use his skills to aid in psychological research. Similar to many of the current members, John joined the house to find community. At a campus which doesn't smile on diversity, especially religion, John wanted a Christian safe environment and community that extended beyond the weekly meetings of his church. So far, John has enjoyed his interactions with the members of Phi Alpha Kappa and we have enjoyed getting to know him.

-Chris Steenwyk

Grant Morgan

Grant Evan Morgan was born on April 25, 1984 in Racine, Wisconsin. Fearing that Grant would gain loyalties to the Badgers, the Morgan family soon moved to the far superior state of Michigan. Grant grew up in Grand Haven, MI, the home of the world's largest musical fountain. This is Grant's first year at the University of Michigan where he is studying History and has aspirations of becoming a medical student. With Chris Smith and Doug Douma, Grant is the third person at ΦAK to be a student of the Korean Martial Art, TaeKwon-Do. Grant also enjoys playing soccer and ultimate frisbee, as well as nerding it up in Science Olympiad competitions. I am very glad to have Grant as one of our new pledges here at Phi Alpha Kappa.

-Doug Douma

Big Brothers

Jeff Brink

Jeff Brink continues to enjoy being one of the more senior members at ΦAK. Jeff, who spent his undergraduate career at Western Michigan University, is finding his third year of Dental School to be very fulfilling. After two academically strenuous years, his studies have now turned to be clinically oriented. He actually gets to work on two real patients per day, honing his dental skills for the future. He plans on applying for the Orthodontic program at U of M, which he would enter following his fourth year of Dental School in the Fall of 2004. This year, Jeff has really benefited from being actively involved at Northridge Church, about 20 minutes from Ann Arbor, where he has taken part in great fellowship in their college and singles group. He enjoys our ΦAK house bible studies as well, and has, in fact, arranged for the college/singles

pastor from Northridge to come lead the group in an excellent discussion and study on two occasions. Jeff also enjoys sports, and really loves being active with all of our house teams, and even informal athletic events. He can often be found playing informal pick-up basketball with other guys from the house at the Central Campus Rec. Building, and he has been an integral part of our house basketball team.

-Kurt Heinold

Paul DeKraker - Take One

Paul DeKraker is the illustrious business manager of Phi Alpha Kappa this year. Originating from Kalamazoo, Paul is a man of three sisters and 26 brothers, fraternity brothers that is. His family has a legacy at the house from two members, Arnie Morren and Andrew DeKraker. Interestingly enough, a relative of Paul's founded the town of Munster, Indiana. Consequently, it is rumored that he craves the French cheese.

Don't let the EECS major fool you because this Φ AK member wants to work for the CIA and convict house Vice President Chris Steenwyk of being a Communist and House Secretary Joel Triemstra of embezzling all the windmill cookies (that's why there are never any at dinner). This said, he is looking for an internship this summer.

Paul enjoys Basketball, and Running, and he is indeed a very much respected and looked up to Big Brother.

-Byron Scerri

Paul DeKraker - Take Two

At the February 2003 house meeting, Paul DeKraker announces the current financial outlook with a nod and two thumbs up and a succinct declaration: "Money's good." Paul is Phi Alpha

Kappa's business manager in this, his third year in the house. He grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he got a head start on his applied science career by attending a high school there with a special focus on math and science. He didn't dally in his occupational quest, but went straight to the best, the University of Michigan College of Engineering. He is now in his third year of an undergraduate electrical engineering degree, and is in the process of enrolling in a program that allows students to simultaneously earn an undergraduate and a graduate degree in a total of five years. He has tentative plans to foray into the broadcasting field.

When DeKraker (fondly known also as "Krakhead") is not occupied with his studies, he can be found developing his relationships with the electronics he hopes eventually to design. He is a sophisticated connoisseur of the digital side of life, with a particular penchant for the house's Playstation video game system. One might also find him leafing through such inviting tomes as "Signal Processing," "Signal Processing 2," or "Advanced Signal Processing." When he feels the need to get back in touch with his inner pre-information-age man, he heads for the woods with rifle and camouflage, bearing with him his Playstation-honed marksmanship.

-Joshua "The Kaizer" Honig

Chad Goldstein

If I had to choose one person to take with me to a desert island where we'd live for the rest of our lives, Chad Goldstein would definitely be on my Top 100 List. Seriously though, Chad is a fun, interesting, and faithful big brother and friend. Chad is a mechanical engineer here at UM. Excelling at school and in faith, he is a devoted Christian and scholar, and in some respects - a Christian scholar.

At our God-loving fraternity, Chad also unselfishly devotes himself to working as Kitchen Steward. Through tireless work, he always ensures, at both lunch and dinner, that there are enough cups for everyone to drink from. Chad is also a strong proponent of not neglecting ones weekly kitchen duties.

Chad enjoys praising, worshiping, and discussing God, sports, and University life when away from the books. Chad is also heavily involved in UM's Campus Crusade for Christ. Lastly, he is a great person to just listen to and laugh with but never at. I am supremely confident that Chad has big things laying ahead for him in life, and I am excited to be his friend and see what those big things may be.

-Chris Smith

Dan Lanning

Dan Lanning is the man behind the dance parties. This is Dans third year in the house, and he is the social chair. Dan is originally from Manton, Michigan. He is an architecture student and will graduate in April. He is looking for an architecture related internship for this summer. This could be Dans last year in the house, depending on if he returns in the fall to pursue his Master in Architecture.

In his spare time Dan enjoys playing IM sports, weightlifting, hanging out with the guys, and snowboarding. When Dan is not playing on the Phi Alpha Kappa IM basketball team, he can frequently be found improving his basketball skills by practicing with the U of M varsity basketball team that is the girls basketball team.

-Nate Falstad

Josh Moll

Joshua Martin Moll, the Sergeant of the house this year, is my Big Brother,

despite the fact that he's younger than me. Figure that one out. Nevertheless I hold him in great respect. He's a United States Marine, in the reserves right now, and he could get called up any day. Despite that possibility he continues to work hard at school and in the house, serving Christ and his brothers with the best he's got. I've been impressed by his heart for relationships with the men of the house. Josh is dating Jackie Kooistera, a pretty young woman from his hometown of Grand Rapids. I recently learned that he wears a size twelve tennis shoe, but if it's his new Marine Boots he strapping on, its a size ten and a half. He thoroughly enjoyed our recent ski trip at Caberfae (he was learning how to snowboard) despite repeated derogatory comments by Caberfae employees about the amount of snow he would collect on the way down the hills.

-Brian Cooper

Brad Sprecher

Brad Sprecher is the old man of the house, being the oldest current member of Φ AK. He once hailed from the city of Canton, but has spent his last eight years in Ann Arbor. After graduating with English and General Biology degrees, he pursued the Pharm.D. (Doctor of Pharmacy) degree. Realizing that a career in Public Health Policy would not necessarily require a Pharm.D., Brad recently decided to complete a Bachelors in Pharmacy before getting his Master's in Health Policy. Though Brad is an old man, he still is quite active. Brad enjoys perusing the annals of history, engaging in political conversation, and listening to an eclectic mix of music including U2 and Bach. He is a diligent student; a caring and thoughtful friend; a leader, a brother, and our Phi Alpha Kappa President. He leads our house with zeal for Jesus our Lord, passion for men's

hearts, and sensitivity towards the community and world. Before lower back pain and arthritis set in, Brad hopes to embark on a career with the State of Michigan or with the Department of Health and Human Services. Brad is also fond of a certain lady-friend named Linda, who he has been dating for 2 years. When I asked him to comment on Linda, he said, "It's time to take it up a notch." Oh yes; It's go time. I have enjoyed my growing friendship with Brad. I came to ΦAK a boarder, restless and troubled, wanting little involvement with ΦAK or its members. Soon I became a pledge and Brad became a friend. God has used Brad to encourage and challenge me in my time of need. What an unexpected gift from God! Behind a frowning providence, God hides a smiling face.

-Godwin Sathianathan

Chris Steenwyk

My name is John Olson and I am currently a pledge at Phi Alpha Kappa. I chose to become a pledge at this fraternity because I was impressed by the fellowship and devotion to God between active members and my fellow pledges alike. I recently had an opportunity to interview one of the active members, Chris Steenwyk, who is also currently Vice President of the house and my Big Brother, about his motivations for joining as well as his favorite aspects of being a member of the house. He came to the University of Michigan seeking not only educational challenge, but also an opportunity to test the strength of his faith. He also wanted to find places in Ann Arbor that could edify his faith during his studies and one of those places is at Phi Alpha Kappa. His favorite aspect of being Vice President is getting to recruit potential pledges into the house. His favorite house activity is anything that involves

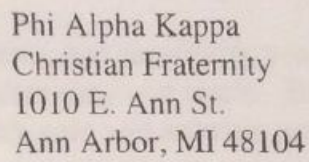
only the active members and pledges, such as the pledge-active football game.

-John Olson

Joe VanderJagt

This year I've been given the privilege of having Joe VanderJagt as my big brother. Joe is a senior in the School of Education and will graduate this spring. He is twenty-two years old, but his boyish good looks have made many a bartender question the validity of his driver's license. He is obtaining a degree in Education, with which he plans on teaching History in a predominately Dutch high school. He is currently doing his student teaching at Southfield High School. Joe was born and raised in Rockford, Michigan, went to high school at Rockford High School, and (like his little brother) attended Grand Rapids Community College before coming to the University of Michigan. This is Joe's second year of being a ΦAK member and living at the house. His hobbies include basketball, football, and pretty much every other sport you can think of, but most importantly: golf. For this reason, he is the house's Athletic Chair for the school year. Joe attends the University Reformed Church where he helps lead the youth group. Joe's "tell it like it is" attitude towards government and society as a whole has made him one of the favorite conversationalists at our nightly dinners. He has a passion for teaching and will be a valuable asset to the educational community, but most importantly he has a passion for the Lord. Joe is a great guy, and I am proud to call him my Big Brother.

-Chris Rosema



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