



Phi Alpha Kappa News Reel

Spring 2007 Edition

A tradition of Phi Alpha Kappa Christian Fraternity since 1934

Presidential Greetings

Dear Alumni and Friends of Phi Alpha Kappa,

Greetings from the active members and pledges of Phi Alpha Kappa Fraternity! The 2006-2007 school year is just wrapping up, and it has been a very good year. Writing this News Reel is my last action as president, and I do it with pride but also a twinge of sadness to see my years in the house come to a close. One of the highlights of this year was that our initiation week went very well. We have six new actives of whom I am personally proud to call my brothers, and I am sure that you all will be, too.

On April 13th the Alumni Board held the 78th Anniversary Dinner (formerly known as "The Smoker") to honor our alumnus Edgar Prince, with Dick DeVos as our guest speaker. Mr. Prince was inducted as the first member into the Phi Alpha Kappa Hall of Fame. Approximately 120 alumni, wives and actives were in attendance at the dinner, which was held at the University Club in the Fifth/Third Bank Building in downtown Grand Rapids. Dick is married to the daughter of Edgar Prince, Betsy, who joined us at the dinner. Also joining us were Elsa Prince Broekhuizen, the widow of Edgar Prince, her husband the Rev. Ren Broekhuizen, and Betsy DeVos. We are very glad that they were all able to come as we honored Mr. Prince. We hope that you will join us for next year's dinner!

This summer will see significant trim carpentry work in the second and third floor hallways and the front stairway. The chipping-paint eyesore trim will be gone, finally allowing all areas of the house to express the dedication and love we have for it.

At the April house meeting we elected new officers for next school year. They are as follows: President, Eric Falstad; Vice President, Ben Dykstra; Business Manager, Kayle Hinkle; Sergeant-At-Arms, John Prins; Kitchen Steward, Mike VanderRoest; Secretary, Daniel Armstrong; Social Chair, Dave Denyer; Pledge Chairs, Karl Kappler and Jung-Ho Kim; Athletic Chair: Jung-Ho Kim; House Chaplain, Daniel Armstrong. They are a great group of guys, and the house is blessed to have them as its leadership next year.

Have a great summer, and God bless!

Mark Eadie, President

Officer Reports

Vice President Report

This year has been a time of ups and downs for the recruiting effort, but with pledge week behind us, we are blessed with six new members who are excited about being sworn in as members. Though we had hopes of a greater number, and though we miss a few who de-pledged through the year, we are extremely happy with the fine group that stayed on. Almost every one has found a firm place in the fellowship of the house. We are

excited about their contributions to the house and even elected two to be our Steward and Sergeant-At-Arms for 2007-08 schoolyear. We have great confidence that these six will work hard to preserve the strong Christian culture that currently makes the house such a special home on campus.

As this year was better than last, next year is promising to be better again than this year. Of the sons of alumni, so desirable for their contribution to house history, continuity and stature, we currently have two. We also have two more prospective pledges who were interested in pledging this year and chose to defer until next. In addition, we have a couple of incoming freshmen and two graduate students interested in the house. Four of these men attended the 78th Anniversary Dinner, and we are glad that they did. Finally, we have four more dubious contacts made this year which may yet yield fruit.

For the remainder of the summer, we wish to meet more incoming freshmen through school counselors and family. We will also be conducting high school visits to a few Christian schools to meet students. If you know of any relatives, friends of relatives or relatives of friends who will be attending UM next fall, please contact the VP at vp@phialphakappa.com.

Please keep the house in your prayers as we work to find even more members for this coming fall and future years.

Benjamin Dykstra
Vice President
vp@phialphakappa.com

In This Issue:

Presidential Greeting	1
Officer Reports	2, 5-7
Announcements	3
Letter from Don Sikkema, Alumni Board Member	4
Meet the Actives	8-12

Announcements

Events

Alumni Day

What: Held on the day of the UM Football Homecoming game against Purdue, this annual event is a time when alumni can gather, meet the actives and visit their old house. Friends and family are warmly welcomed! Food will be provided, and camaraderie will be in large supply.

Where: Phi Alpha Kappa, Ann Arbor.

When: October 13, 2007.

Other

www.phialphakappa.com

Visit our website. This is a great way to stay up to date on the current happenings and fraternity activities. The pictures are updated regularly.

If you would like to receive the News Reel and other PhiAK mailings by e-mail, please contact:

Dave Slopsema

Alumni Board President

dslopsema@comcast.net

The Dutch House Preservation thanks you for your support

A special thanks to the alumni and friends who have contributed generously to the Dutch House Preservation Foundation. The Dutch House Preservation Foundation is a nonprofit organization (donations are tax exempt) that has been created to preserve the physical structure and building of Phi Alpha Kappa. The Dutch House Preservation Foundation is partially responsible, along with the Alumni Board, for funding major projects like the reconstruction of the third floor dormer and the repair of the roof. For more information about the Dutch House Preservation Foundation or the Alumni Board, please contact the president at the address above.

Observations of Phi Alpha Kappa by a Freshman Member of the Alumni Board

Over the recent Holidays my wife & I were seated at a table with two other couples we hardly knew. Conversations went from the usual small talk to the "House." We were nostalgic about our stay and recalled the friendships made there of those in other professions, homecoming weekends, going to the mail table at noon for the letter from our significant other, the meals and on & on. What memories, so good that one had a son who followed him. We were happy that those before us had established the fraternity that so well served us at that stage in our career.

There have been changes, in fact two large changes at different times. One I found out about from a friend whose son I had recommended as a pledge. He told me the environment was not as healthy as when we were there. However, the second is more recent & now the "Frat" has a definite Christian emphasis.

The survival of the "House" is due to a lot of volunteer activity. Work days are still scheduled by the "actives" and one is being planned for the board.

What can we do to help? Money of course is always important which can be done tax exempt via "The Dutch House Preservation Society," a mechanism in itself an achievement. Also, however is the need to be alert for potential pledges, the life blood for the future, and direct them to the actives. The third is to look on the "Smoker" as a reunion opportunity rather than just meeting potential pledges. Think of the good times at the 75th Anniversary Dinner.

Sincerely,
Don Sikkema
Med '57

Sergeant-at-Arm's Report

We had another very successful workday this semester. After having focused on a lot of bigger projects last semester, the focus this time was on smaller things inside the house that often get overlooked. The main focus was on the walls. Every wall in the house was cleaned, and a number that needed painting or patching were repaired. It was suggested, partly in jest, to put a fish tank in one particularly bad section of wall in the stairway. That idea was shot down by the Executive Committee because it would not make the alumni happy and was a generally bad idea. In addition to the work on the walls, all of the chairs in the dining room were inspected and repaired as necessary, and the house itself was given a very thorough cleaning among other things. There is always a lot to do but we have managed to improve the house quite a bit this school year.

Improving the 2nd and 3rd Floor hallways: This summer the doors and trim in the 2nd and 3rd floor hallways will finally be replaced. The light brown paint on the 2nd and 3rd floor doors and trim has been peeling, and a fair amount of the woodwork is worn or damaged, so the active chapter and the Dutch House Preservation Foundation are returning these all to a beautiful wood finish. The Actives are taking care of the doors, and the Dutch House Preservation Foundation board is in the final stages of selecting a contractor to replace all the trim, stain and varnish it, and replace the carpeting throughout the hallways and stairs. If you would like to help the Preservation Foundation with this project financially, my contact info is below.

Couches: Most of the Great Room and the first floor are in fantastic shape, but there is a great need for new couches in both TV rooms. Several recent graduates donated three nice but used couches for the TV area in the Great Room. With the heavy wear they get, the couches will last for a few years, so we would like to buy high quality leather couches that will last much longer and will match the couches in the rest of the Great Room. If you would like to contribute to our couch fund, my contact info is below.

With the building being about 80 years old, there are always repair and improvement projects to do, but with the Preservation Foundation's help, the house is in great shape. We hope that you will come visit it next time you're in town!

God Bless,
Karl Kappler
Sergeant-at-Arms
sergeant@phialphakappa.com

Business Manager Report

As the house finds itself nearing the end of another year, we are actively looking for new members to fill the vacancies being created. Due to several residents moving out after December, we currently have only 21 guys living in the house, with six of them graduating this year. That leaves us with 16 openings to fill for the coming year. Again, please get in touch with the house if you know of any upcoming UM students who might be interested in living at the house.

Major financial expenses for the year included a new motor for the Hobart dishwasher, Boiler repairs, and keeping up with various other smaller repairs. That being said, we have lots of new stuff that should last well into the future. In my past three years at the house, we've done significant work on or replaced the water heaters, boiler, refrigerator, washing machine, dishwasher, pop machine, pool table, dumpster, piano, and computer. We have also completed significant work on the roof, back dormer, "Smoker" TV lounge (nonsmoking, despite the name), rooms, and bathrooms. This summer, we look forward to reworking the hallways. These investments are paying off as the house continues to become a better home to live in each year.

We are grateful for your continued support to the house. If you are ever in the area, we would be glad for you to visit to see how things are going. Again, the best thing you can do for the house is to keep us in your prayers and to let us know if there are any incoming UM students who might live at the house.

God Bless,
Kayle Hinkle
business@phialphakappa.com

Kitchen Steward Report

So far this school year has been going well for the Phi Alpha Kappa kitchen. As one might have guessed, Amy Caldwell is still our cook. She continues to make delicious food for us. With the limited number of guys who are living here, she has kept the food tasty and plentiful.

Winter work day went well once again. Our troops cleaned the kitchen and made it sparkle. We also fixed things around the kitchen and dining room, including putting up cabinet shelves that had fallen down.

We have run into a few problems, however. First, our Hobart dishwashing machine broke. The motor had to be replaced when it shot sparks out at our cook, Amy. The reason it broke was from water dripping on it, so some pipes had to be fixed. Next, the garbage disposal broke, which was easily fixed by the Steward and the help of a handy pledge.

Essentially, the kitchen is running smoothly, and we are all caught up on our taxes. Once we get more pledges in the house, we can afford more steak and salmon dinners.

Eric Falstad, Steward
steward@phialphakappa.com



2007 Awards Banquet

Pledge Chairmen Report

This semester went very well with our six pledges who are all now active members. As initiation week approached this March, we were all very excited about what was to come, and we were not disappointed. The new actives were really cool guys to hang around this year and we have gotten to know them much better as the year has progressed and especially during initiation week. They have been really good at helping out around the house, whether it be working on house improvement projects or bringing females around the house. We expect the house to be really awesome in the future if this continues!

Each of our new actives has distinct qualities and, when put together, these guys made for an awesome pledge class. Better yet, they are all freshman, so they will have the opportunity to grow along with the house over the next few years. We are all looking forward to continuing getting to know these guys as they mature and further integrate into the house.

Craig VandeVusse and Jordan Fennema,
Pledge Chairmen

craigerv@umich.edu, jordafen@umich.edu



PhiAK Christmas Party

Meet the Actives

These articles are written by this year's pledge class about their Big brothers.



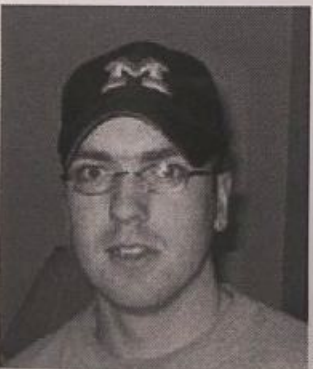
Eric Falstad
By John Prins

Eric Falstad graduated from Holland High School in 2004. Currently he is a third year student studying in Political Science and Economics. He has served the house well this year as steward. In previous years he served as pledge chair and social chair. Eric is also a key player on our intramural teams, and helped lead our IM football team deep into the playoff bracket.



Josh Welch
By Anthony Abruzzo

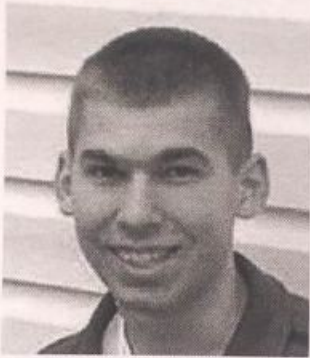
Josh Welch grew up in Kalamazoo Michigan and attended Kalamazoo Christian Schools. He is currently a twenty one year old junior studying engineering. When is he not studying he is probably practicing guitar for his band, Ahab, or for his church's praise band. Josh has two little brothers who live at home with his parents in Portage. Josh's dream is to one day become a rock star.



Karl Kappler
By Dave Denyer

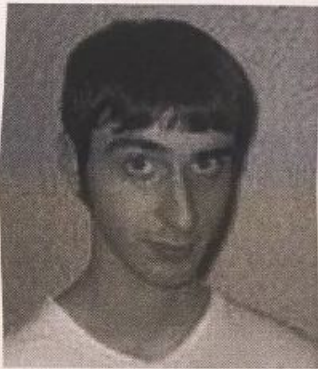
Karl is a senior double-majoring in econ and environmental studies. He is the Air Force ROTC freshman flight commander and is hoping to hear about his future job in the Air Force in the near future. He enjoys waiting for construction trucks to unlock the gates into the big house so he can play football under the lights and get schooled by his incredibly athletic little brother. Somehow He currently has a separated shoulder. However he notes that he has not been to the ER "in like 3 years." Karl is quoted with saying that this fraternity "To get technical about it, persists to be an asylum that fosters cohorts genuinely and pugnaciously, yet not dissolutely, converging to be in school cause there really really smart...aint no crackerjack box." Karl is also considering majoring in English. Karl is really excited for "SPRING BREAK 08!!" and hopes to find a cruise line that can bring along his thirty cats, sheep, dogs, and sheep dogs. Karl persists to be a leader as a big brother through his exemplary Christian lifestyle.

Kayle Hinkle
By Kalev P. Maricq



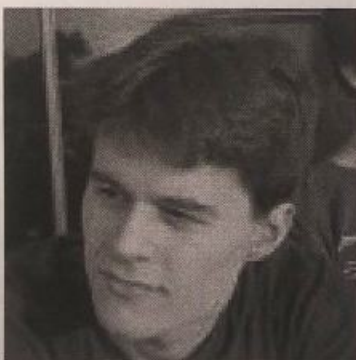
Kayle hails from Caledonia, Michigan, and is a junior in Computer Science. Kayle has served us very well as business manager this year, and has been elected to do so again next year. Kayle is very frugal, proudly owning his Dutch heritage. Kayle's biggest news this year is that he got engaged to his long-time girlfriend, Angie. Congratulations to them both! When Kayle's not at class or in his room, he usually sits in the Great Room with his laptop writing computer programs, talking to Angie via an internet phone program, and participating in all the discussions and goings on in the Great Room. Kayle will graduate in April 2008 with his Bachelors degree, and his plans after that point are yet to be decided.

Dane Watts
By Michael John Vander Roest



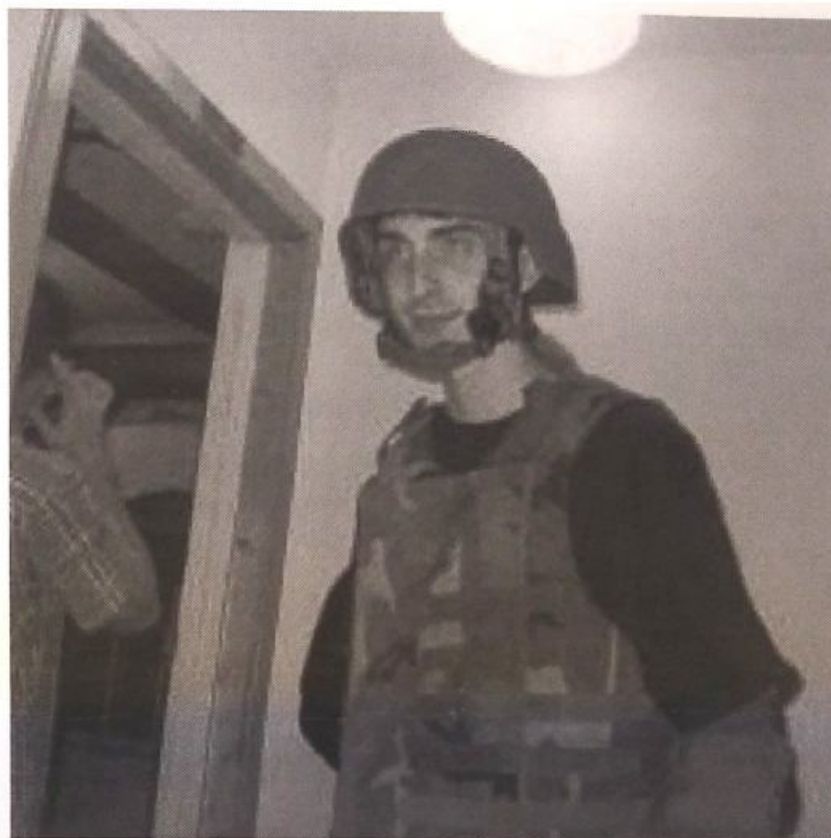
Dane "I'm Electric" Watts hails from Westland, MI (At least that's what Immigration believes. Some members of the house claim that Dane maintains close ties with Mexico). After being fired and crashing his car (both on his 18th birthday), Dane turned to computer engineering for comfort. Most nights he can be found in the great room with his computer and his sidekick *Ben Panning*. They're currently attempting to re-program the refrigerator so that it only accepts pizza, brownies and water, the staples of Dane's diet. I had the opportunity to go bowling with Dane earlier this year and I discovered that he is quite the alley cat. Unfortunately this athletic, industrious young man will be leaving us after the Fall 2007 semester, although his destination is still uncertain.

Daniel Armstrong
By Jung-Ho Kim



Dan Armstrong is currently serving his second year in the dental school. With special discounts, Dan buys boxes of toothpastes and toothbrushes and distributes them generously among his friends, including the members of Phi Alpha Kappa. He took the path of dentistry because he likes working with his hands and people. The concept of instant fixes in dentistry, rather than long time treatments in other medical fields, also attracted him. Most importantly, Dan is interested in serving God through short term medical missions in the future. Dan is contemplating on becoming an oral surgeon through another six years of school upon graduation.

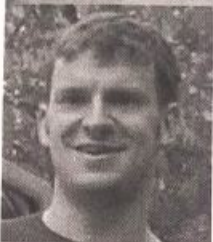
Dan spent most of his childhood in Grand Rapids in a Christian



Active Summary



Karl Kappler
Sergeant-At-Arms
Senior
Economics and
Natural Resources



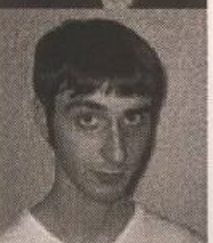
Mark Eadie
President
Senior
Mechanical Engineering



Kayle Hinkle
Business Manager
Junior
Computer Science



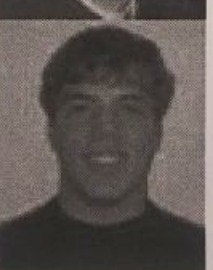
Craig VandeVusse
Secretary and
Pledge Co-Chairman
5th-year Senior
Mechanical Engineering



Dane Watts
Senior
Electrical Engineering



Anthony Smith
Grad. Student
Aerospace Engineering



Dave Denyer



Benjamin Dykstra
Vice President
Junior
Physics



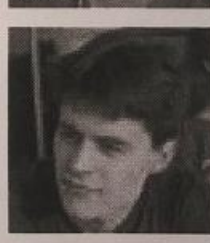
Eric Falstad
Kitchen Steward
Junior
Political Science



Jordan Fennema
Pledge Co-Chairman
Senior
Pre-Med



Benjamin Panning
Senior
Electrical Engineering



Daniel Armstrong
2nd Year
Dental Student



Joshua Welch
Social Chairman &
Athletic Chairman
Junior
Electrical Engineering



Kalev Maricq



Jung-Ho Kim



Mike Vander Roest



John Prins



Anthony Abruzzo



Taz Maraz Atang

6th Year





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