



Phi Alpha Kappa

Newsreel

Fall 2020 Issue

A tradition of Phi Alpha Kappa Christian Fraternity since 1934

Presidential Greetings

Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the brothers of Phi Alpha Kappa. As we continually maneuver through new health risks and regulations seemingly every week, I can't help but feel as though we are blessed. In a time where sickness, fear, and isolation are afflicting countless people around us, we have the gifts of health, faith, and brotherhood to encourage us forward through the year.

The men of the house are getting along quite well, as I believe that the increased time we have been forced to spend together in the house has fostered a stronger community. Our numbers have dropped slightly this year due to a large graduating class and members deciding to attend online classes from home, though we expect some members to return for the second semester. Recruiting has become more difficult than ever, however, and we ask that if you know of anyone who is looking for a place to live among Christian men at the University of Michigan, tell them about the community here at Phi Alpha Kappa. We hope that through our extensive alumni breadth and outreach on campus we can attract even more Christian men to carry on the traditions of the Dutch House and be a light to the University.

Though we were unable to hold an alumni event at the house this semester, we appreciate your continued support and we hope to continue the annual tradition next year. All things considered, we have been blessed with a strong first semester despite difficult circumstances. For now we are content to grow in brotherhood and do what we can to keep ourselves and our community as healthy as possible. As we strive to be a light to Ann Arbor however possible, we ask for your continued prayers for our house, our campus, and our world.

God bless,

Levi Winkle

Active Chapter President

pres@phialphakappa.com

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Announcements

A Word about our Website

Please, visit our website! This is a great way to stay up to date on the current happenings and fraternity activities. It's also a great tool for recruiting new members. Updates are coming soon.

If you know of any young men who might be interested in Phi Alpha Kappa, please share our website with them!

www.phialphakappa.com

Phi Alpha Kappa's Annual Spring Event: "The Smoker"

It is currently undetermined whether we will be able to hold the spring smoker event at Founder's this year. Stay tuned for updates from the Alumni Board on when and if the event will take place.

Officer Reports

Vice President Report

Given the pandemic circumstances, I am happy to report that we have been blessed with a fairly large pledge class this year! The pledge class consists of 5 new pledges that joined at that start of this fall as well as 1 lame duck from last year. All in all, the class is made up of 3 Freshmen, 2 Juniors, and 1 Graduate Student. All of them are from the west side of the state and are a testament to the positive influence we have there. Due to the pandemic, recruiting efforts thus far have been limited. However, we have amended the bylaws to include a pledge recruiting bonus for members. We are very low on membership this year (16 total), so if you know anyone attending or interested in attending U of M, please let them know about the house, and refer them to our website phialphakappa.com.

Owen Langejans, Vice President
vp@phialphakappa.com

Business Manager Report

This is my second year as Business Manager for the house. The house is still up and running amidst the coronavirus world pandemic. Although we have been able to keep the virus from entering the house for the past 7 months, the virus has affected house occupancy and finances. With many classes being remote, it has been very difficult to find boarders this year. Thankfully, most of the members returned, and we have a strong pledge class of 6. Still, house occupancy is only at 21 out of 28, so the house is low on money this year. We ask for prayers for house finances and for restoring the house to full occupancy next semester.

Owen Langejans, Business Manager
business@phialphakappa.com

Social Chairman Report

We welcomed the pledges and returning members of Phi Alpha Kappa with a few different events to begin the year. We had “Welcome Weekend” where we ordered food for the house and had a movie night, a bonfire, cornhole, flag football, and spikeball games going on. We also had more than half of the members and pledges go mini golfing this past month and enjoy some food and good company at Applebee’s afterwards. We had a poker night this past month with two tables of poker along with pizza, ice cream, and snacks. Everyone enjoyed the event and the opportunity to bond over a game of poker. We are going to continue looking for ways to socialize as a fraternity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrew DeBruin, Social Chairman
social@phialphakappa.com

Steward Report

The kitchen has been a wonderful space for Phi Alpha Kappa again this year. We have been able to bond as members of the house over mealtimes in the dining room and we are blessed with the great food that Amy continues to prepare for us. Members of the house are expected to clean up after themselves and the new signs in the kitchen which read “If you got no time to clean... then you got no time to cook”. Members have also been asked to take some initiative in the kitchen and clean up after others whenever possible. The people in the house this year have been extremely helpful and diligent in the kitchen and dining area which has resulted in a very clean space for all to use. I am thankful for the opportunity to help out and oversee the work that takes place in the kitchen.

Andrew DeBruin, Steward
steward@phialphakappa.com

Athletic Chairman Report

Keeping active as a house has proven to be quite difficult as intramural sports have been cancelled and University gyms and fields have been closed for much of the semester. However, we have found time to play spikeball, sand volleyball, and flag football as a house. This competition has helped brothers of the house to grow closer to each other and has provided an escape from the house which we seldom leave. We are praying for a cure to the virus, and hoping to return to competition next semester with the goal of adding new banners to our rafters.

Levi Winkle, Athletic Chairman

Sergeant-At-Arms Report

This semester, the brothers have kept the house clean and in excellent condition. Since classes are mostly online, our WiFi speed was increased to 1,000 mbps to account for the extra internet traffic. Earlier this year, we cleaned the gutters with a blower, a long piece of door trim, an extension cord used as a rope, and some RAID when we were attacked by wasps on the West Turret. If you check out the kitchen, you will see that the walls are now yellow! We painted the kitchen during our fall workday with a color that Amy picked out herself. One part of the house that took a hit due to COVID-19 was the outdoor crew. Normally 6-8 members, we are currently down to 3. Despite that, we hope to keep up with the leaves and snow. We plan to keep the house clean, organized, and a comfortable place for all.

Caleb Riddering, Sergeant-at-Arms
sergeant@phialphakappa.com

Pledge Chairmen Report

This year we have 6 pledges, 5 new pledges and 1 lame-duck. 3 of the 5 new pledges are younger brothers of current or former actives. We also have 3 pledges named Matthew and with a current active also named Matthew, it's easy to see which apostle is liked best by their parents. The pledgeship process hasn't changed too much due to COVID-19 since most of the activities can be done safely. We are thankful for such a great group of guys this year and we are honored to guide them through the pledge process this year.

Jackson Danner & Caleb Riddering
Pledge Chairmen

Chaplain Report

Lifegroup and Sunday morning church from the great room have been the main chaplain functions this fall. A few guys get together and watch the New Life Church livestream on Sundays. Our voices may be scratchy, but our praises still ring throughout the sky. On Thursday mornings, a group of five or six guys meet as a lifegroup. The space is being used to share about weekly experiences, both highs and lows. Those who participate have agreed to come up with weekly topics of discussion regarding faith as a college guy. Some of our first talks surrounded hypocrisy and prayer. In the coming weeks, we're planning to talk about comfort, earthly father relationships, and apologetics.

Jackson Danner,
Chaplain

Historian Report

This has been quite a historic semester for the PAK house. The pandemic has changed a lot of our fraternity's plans for social gatherings as well as kept a few members from being able to live on campus this semester. However, we have faith that God will continue to bless Phi Alpha Kappa and keep us safe even through these tough times. As historian, I have written up a report containing both an overview of the pandemic and the house's response to it from March through the present, and I will continue to update this report until the situation passes. Please keep the members of the house in your prayers.

Matthew Shannon,
Historian

Meet the Pledges

Big brothers write these articles about their little brothers.

Caleb Velzen by Bob Daniels

Caleb Velzen hails from Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is on track to have a dual engineering degree in aerospace engineering and mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan in 2022. When Caleb is not working or spending at the Wilson center on North Campus as part of MRacing Staff he can often be found in conversation with members of the house. Caleb also has a fascination with munitions and firearms which curtails into target shooting which is one of his hobbies. Caleb is an outstanding brother in Christ and is an important part of Phi Alpha Kappa.



Jonah Winkle by Andrew DeBruin



Jonah Winkle is currently a freshman at the University of Michigan in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and he attended Holland Christian High School in Holland, MI before coming to U of M this year. He was an active student at Holland Christian, performing well in his studies as well as being a member of the Holland Christian Swim team. Jonah has already gotten involved here at Phi Alpha Kappa in a variety of ways. Jonah can be found playing a game of pool in the evening and after meals or in the Great Room watching a movie with the other members, possibly over some traditional wings or Lucky Charms. He is also in the Phi Alpha Kappa Life Group which meets on Thursday mornings to discuss living our lives as Christians while being a student. Jonah is an important player in our flag football games and has already caught multiple touchdown passes as a true deep threat with some of the best speed in the house. At this point, Jonah is planning to study Biology in some form and he definitely has a bright future ahead of him. It is very evident that Jonah has already made an impact in the house and we are blessed to have him in the fraternity.

Matthew Dykstra by Owen Langejans

Matthew (Matt) Dykstra is a Freshman majoring in Actuarial Science (another Actuary!). He comes from the well-known Holland, Michigan where he attended Holland Christian High School. Matthew is currently studying for an actuary exam in his free time. He also enjoys playing the trombone, and reading, a lost hobby among our generation. Matt loves to hang out with guys around the house, and can be found playing pool, attending a discipleship group, or juking people during flag football.



Jack Langejans by James Gunnoe



Jack Langejans is a freshman studying actuarial math and data science. He just recently graduated from Portage northern and he also took some advanced at KAMSC. After graduating he decided to follow his brother's footsteps to the PAK house. In Jack's glory days, he was a great arm wrestler and long-distance grape catcher. In fact, he was close to breaking the world record for the "longest distance self thrown grape caught in his mouth." Jack describes himself as someone who loves to play sports, and he is someone you can't leave open in flag football! Jack has a quiet confidence and maturity which we admire about him, and he has been a great person to chill with at the house. He has even helped me out with some Microsoft Excel problems this year, which was very clutch for me. On most Sundays, we watch NFL games together. Jack is very frequently a part of this Sunday NFL brotherhood which we share. Give him a lot of credit for supporting the Falcons every week, especially this season! Jack's kindness, coolheadedness, and friendship have been very valuable for the PAK house this year.

Matthew Weyhmiller by Levi Winkle

Matt Weyhmiller is a graduate student in the architectural program here at Michigan. He studied at Lawrence Tech for his undergraduate degree where he and his friends often went dumpster diving for boxes of donuts at krispy kreme. With a never satisfied sense of adventure, Matt is always driving across the state in search of new experiences to have and places to explore. This year he is challenging himself to constantly be trying something new, which has led to his first time playing football, eating at shake shack, driving a Tesla, and more. Matt is an energetic and fun-loving individual who has already made his mark on the house, and we are very blessed to have him.



Matthew Anderson by Nick Youngs

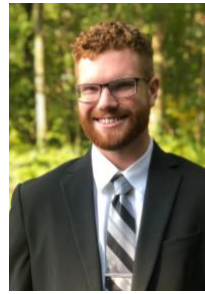


Matthew Anderson descends from the same great family line as the legendary Chris Anderson. He is a natural resource management major and loves the outdoors. A transfer from Grand Valley, he is already fitting into this great University. He likes sugary candy and binge watching TV shows. He showed great promise in trying to help others in their charitable works. We are excited to have Matt as a pledge this year.

The Active Members



Andrew DeBruin
Steward & Social Chair
Sophomore
Data Science &
Computer Science



Levi Winkle
President & Athletic Chair
Junior
Computer Science



Christian Rodenhouse
Senior
Nursing



Jackson Danner
Chaplain, Pledge Chair
Junior
Civil & Environmental
Engineering



Owen Langejans
Vice President &
Business Manager
Junior
Actuarial Math &
Data Science



James Gunnoe
Grad Student
Social Work



Caleb Riddering
Sergeant, Pledge Chair
Sophomore
MCD Biology



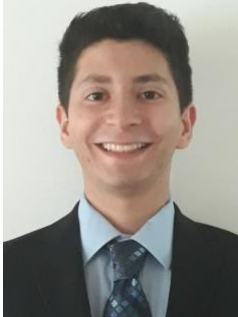
Joseph Wang
Senior
Psychology



Bob Daniels
Junior
MCD Biology



Nick Youngs
Secretary
Senior
Mechanical Engineering



Matthew Shannon
Historian, Webmaster
Senior
Computer Engineering



Phil Polkowski
Senior
Economics

The Pledges



Jonah Winkle
Freshman
Biology



Caleb Velzen
Junior
Mechanical & Aerospace
Engineering



Jack Langejans
Freshman
Data Science &
Actuarial Math



Matthew Dykstra
Freshman
Actuarial Math



Matthew Anderson
Junior
Natural Resource
Management



Matthew Weyhmiller
Grad Student
Architecture