

CHI TETARTON NEWS

PHI SIGMA KAPPA

CHAPTER UPDATE

Chi Tetarton Phi Sigma Kappa Alumni,

Well, another semester has come and gone. The brothers had a great semester, although it was a little less than easy. For the past several years we had slowly chipped away at the houses overall debt and this past semester we have nearly erased it entirely. We had a total of six great pledges make it through to become active brothers. Our intramural football team did well this year, we were undefeated going into the playoffs but due to some freezing cold temperatures and a pond of a field, we had lost by one point.



The brother's playing flag football

Also, this year our philanthropy for Special Olympics sold suckers outside of local markets, and at the flag poles on campus. We had also sold our Wounded Warrior Project bracelets at these events as well.

The Brothers would also like to thank all of the alum who came out for Homecoming this year. We had a great time and look forward to the next gathering we have, and hopefully with even larger attendance. Also in big news for the fraternity, we have secured a house on Fraternity Village Drive for next year. It has been the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity house for the past several years. The house is large enough to accommodate 18 brothers and has a big social room and backyard.

We look forward to another exciting and productive semester this winter and the many great opportunities for our fraternity.

Damn Proud! Brothers of Phi Sigma Kappa - Chi Tetarton Chapter

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ALUMNI POKER NIGHT—02/22/2014

Winter is upon us once again and that of course means that another Alumni Poker Night is right around the corner!

The Chi Tetarton Alumni Association will be hosting the event at the chapter house on

Saturday February 22nd. Things will kick-off around 5 pm on Saturday.

Alumni Association donations will be used to provide the snacks, tables, chairs, and poker supplies for the event.

During the day on Saturday, the chapter will also be holding a 3rd Degree Ritual for some graduating members around noon. The ritual will be open to all alumni members who would like to attend.

PHI SIGMA KAPPA CHI TETARTON

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DAMN PROUD!



Phi Sig Gentlemen and their Sweetheart



A handful of alumni during Homecoming weekend

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Chi Tetarton Alum,

Another Homecoming is behind us at it was indeed a success. There was a large turnout of alumni members spanning multiple generations and a lot of catching up was done. Member donations were higher than previous years and because of this, we were able to host a bigger and better event. We thank everyone who donated and helped make the annual event a success. All in all, we were able to break even on the event and we continue to maintain a positive balance in our account.

We are all busy in our daily lives with our careers and families. Adding fraternity events and obligations to that further burdens an already hectic schedule. However, the time you spend involved in fraternity events can be very rewarding and pays dividends not only to you, but to the active chapter as well. Reliving our glory days is the primary reason why each of us attends these events, but it also gives us an opportunity to pass that legacy down to other's so that the fraternity may continue to

prosper and provide younger generations with the same benefits we reaped as undergraduates. As you go about your daily lives, we ask that you continue to support the Alumni Association and the Chapter. Provide support when possible and you find a spare moment in the day. Stop by the fraternity house when you are passing through town or give someone on the Executive Board a call and offer your advice.

As greek organizations are increasingly portrayed in a negative way, it is important to ensure that our active brother's are not alone in continuing the long tradition of fraternal brotherhood. Maintaining a larger support network and knowledge base is the only way we will see our chapter continue to succeed.

With that said, we thank you for your continual support and look forward to seeing everyone again at the annual Alumni Poker Night!

DAMN PROUD - Matt Parowski

BROTHERHOOD IS MORE THAN A LOCATION

Sohrab Foroozesh

A few decades ago, a college education was looked at differently. A degree was not made available to anyone who wanted it, and the college process was far less forgiving. In a time when young men were being drafted to fight for this country in foreign wars, American college students were pardoned from this task because of a commitment to higher education. That was the value of college education just a few decades ago. Today, that has changed for better, and for worse. Now a college degree is available to anyone willing to work hard enough to get it regardless of race, religion, or financial background. And sadly, it is commonly taken for granted among others.

I'm proud to say I worked hard to get my degree, and I look fondly on my years at Western Michigan University. And when I look back on these, the greatest years of my life, 446 Stanwood is the cornerstone to those fond memories. That house is how I was introduced to the brothers of Phi Sigma Kappa. It is where I studied for some of my hardest finals. It is where I nervously paced back and forth before open mics in my early days of stand-up comedy. I called it a sanctuary, a club house, a library, and a church. The most important thing about that house is the men who gave us the opportunity to call it home. The men that protected it and saw to its maintenance both physically and financially. Every few years 446 Stanwood saw a new group of residents. A new group of young men entrusted with the task of protecting something so important to so many people.

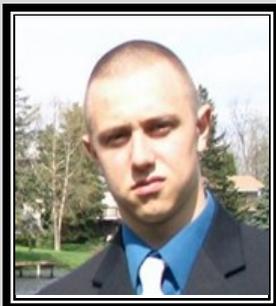
Most of the distinguished brothers reading this already know that the current Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity house is located at 2927 West Michigan Avenue. I, as well as most of the brothers I know intimately, were involved in the transition between the two houses. Every member of Phi Sigma Kappa was greatly affected by the move, some more immediately than others. Failure was never an option to those actively involved in the process. Keeping Phi Sigma Kappa alive and healthy was the number one concern, and in fact was the motivation behind any and all action. It was an exciting time to be a brother. The first house we attempted to move to was in fact two buildings. They were located at the end of the Fraternity Village cul de sac. They were in less than great condition, and it was an uphill battle with the city of Kalamazoo just to get them recognized as a fraternity house, but they were ours. At that time, the brothers of Phi Sigma Kappa were building that house themselves. Gutting it, cleaning it, and making any basic repair in our meager ability. It was a long and memorable summer. That school year was the same. When it was all said and done, we had one of the two buildings. I lived in that building with the closest friends I have, and I thank that house for bringing us that close. We did our best to make that house as accommodating and welcoming to potential brothers, just as I remembered my first experiences with Phi Sigma Kappa at 446 Stanwood. Throughout the process I learned something very important; it's not the condition of the house that is important to maintaining the fraternity; it's the condition of the brothers.

My little brother was recruited over this period, as were a few other members who have proven themselves to be anchors in brotherhood. That house was temporary. When we discovered 2927 West Michigan, we knew we had an opportunity to do something great; to maintain an outstanding trait of Phi Sigma Kappa, to distance ourselves from the mundane and impersonal greek structure plaguing some universities. By this time I was older, and the light at the end of the tunnel was barreling towards me. I put my trust into another group of residents, another group of young men who wanted to keep the valuable and strong traditions of Phi Sigma Kappa alive. I am proud of these young men, who transitioned Phi Sigma Kappa into a new day. A day where a college degree means something entirely different, and the traditional college process is a thing of the past. I maintain the opinion that these changes are for both the better and the worse, but wherever the men of Phi Sigma Kappa call home will be a refuge and a sanctuary to anybody willing to take advantage of the opportunities it has to offer.

Fraternally,

Sohrab Foroozesh

MEET THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



President—Parker Woods

My first Executive Board position was as Vice President and now after recent elections, I hold the position of President. I have held several chair positions and have helped out with almost all other positions since I have pledged. I am from Fenton Michigan and graduated Lake Fenton High School in 2009. I had transferred from Mott Community College in Flint Michigan in the fall of 2011, with an Associate's Degree in Electronics and Electrical Technology with emphasis in robotics. I am now working towards a degree in Electrical Engineering, with hopes to graduate spring 2015. I had then rushed in fall 2011. My hopes are to keep pushing this house and our fraternity in the right direction and keep us around for years to come.

Damn Proud - 676



Vice President—Dionysian (Dio) Josts

I came to WMU fall 2010 and rushed the same semester. After pledging for 8 weeks I found out my mother had been battling cancer and I moved back home to work and take care of her and my younger brothers since my father had already passed away my freshman year of high school. I returned in Fall 2011 and quickly re-rushed after my mother had beaten cancer. I am going for a Master's in Nursing and Bachelor in Psychology. I plan to be a RN until I am bored with that and want to teach at a college.

Damn Proud - 675



Sentinel—Justin Johnson

I came to Western Michigan University looking to earn a degree in Nursing, better myself as person, and have a positive impact on society. Shortly after meeting the brothers of Phi Sigma Kappa, I learned my personal goals were synchronous with the Cardinal Principles of Phi Sigma Kappa. Immediately rushed in the spring of 2012. I currently hold the executive board position of Inductor. Becoming inductor of Phi Sigma Kappa Chi Tetarton was the first goal I set for myself as a new member. In my eyes, it was the best way for me to maximize my contributions to this chapter based upon my personal attributes. Joining this Fraternity has fulfilled all of my expectations and then some. The bonds and memories of brotherhood that my brothers and I share will forever remain with me. As A beneficiary of being a member insures me that every that every new member we gain potentially results in a young man bettering himself and optimizing his potential impact on our society. I couldn't ask for anything more.

Fraternally yours -Justin Leander Johnson -681

Inductor, Treasurer, and Secretary profiles included in the next issue.

MESSAGE FROM A NEW BROTHER

Caleb Conrad

I had never imagined myself going Greek; the thought just never crossed my mind. When I was a freshman at Western Michigan I would go out to the fraternity parties, meet new people, and have a lot of fun, but it just never seemed like it was for me. When my best friend and roommate in the dorms met some brothers of Phi Sig, and decided to pledge, I figured I'd try it out too. I became an active brother of Phi Sigma Kappa in the fall of 2012, and it was the best decision I've ever made.

During my ten weeks of pledging I learned much about Phi Sigma Kappa; its history, my future brothers, my pledge brothers, but most importantly, I learned a lot about myself. I was taught lessons and created friendships that I will remember and cherish the rest of my life. I learned about the importance of self-reliance, leadership, responsibility, and of course our core principles that I hold dear: The Promotion of Brotherhood, The Stimulation of Scholarship, and The Development of Character.

Now as an active brother too, the fraternity continues to shape me into a better man. Working with my brothers I see the strength and beauty of true fraternity, and the importance of camaraderie to this chapter. Since my initiation I've learned more of the value of responsibility, and the obligations I have to school and myself. Currently, I'm hoping for a position on the Executive Board as Inductor, to take my next step up and to teach future associates the life lessons and values that I've described.

After my undergraduate and I am a 3rd degree member of Phi Sigma Kappa, I would love to take part in the National Chapter and to keep giving back to the fraternity that's given me so much. It's just crazy to think of the difference between myself before joining and now. For the rest of my life, I will never forget the bonds I've created, the great times I've had, and what brotherhood really means.

Damn Proud.

MESSAGE FROM AN ASSOCIATE

Kevin Salerno

Pledging a fraternity can be a great experience that most people may not ever get anywhere else, this holds very true for myself. I'm a first year sophomore at WMU, and the majority of my experience so far here has been spent at the fraternity house. It takes me a long time to warm up to people, making me come off as more quiet and reserved than I actually am. The first thing I can say about pledging, is that coming out of my shell is something that happened very quickly.

Ever since I heard of fraternities when visiting other friends of mine at different universities they have always interested me. The idea of being a part of a brotherhood and having your own house seemed really awesome to me. I had heard the rumors about fraternities, and had some ill remarks from close friends of mine about how I would change and never see them again, so I was hesitant at first. I had realized that being a transfer commuter student wasn't the most social experience I was expecting out of my first year at a university. Sitting at home, watching tv, waiting for roommates to come home – it just wasn't what I wanted.

When I heard of formal recruitment it sparked an interest in me enough to start thinking about it very seriously, I saw it as a social window - eventually coming down to a night where I had called my best friend Chris and older brother Steven and asked them their thoughts about joining one. Both of them gave me some cons, but for the most part said go for it. And that night I signed up for formal recruitment.

My pledge brothers make fun of me for being the only formally recruited pledge, but in all honesty, I am glad that I had the privilege to check out all of the other fraternities and choose the best one for me. I feel without formal, my decision would be biased due to me not meeting every fraternity. Out of the 11-12 fraternities on campus, the first and only house I came back to was Phi Sigma Kappa.

The brothers at Phi Sig remind me of the many different types of people I associated myself with while growing up in middle school and high school. The house itself reminded me of when I would spend weeks with my brother at one of our friend's house. Nobody is really going to be judgmental about who you are here and everything ends up just being a good laugh.

Pledging has also made me realize that we are really working towards something bigger. The day I can wear letters on my chest is already one of my proudest days in my mind. We have our tough days where we have to get things done, but after we finish our tasks I always get that feeling of accomplishment when I go home, kind of like when you leave the gym after a great workout.

Pledging has been an odd experience, but a very important one too. When you really want something, you have to fight for it and prove that you deserve it. Needless to say about everything, so far – so good.