

THE SKULL

SPRING 2016



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Sanjin Ibrahimovic (Upsilon)
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Brandon Sit (Phi)
Gianna Carvajal (Kappa)
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Thomas Wolff
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From the Alpha

Brothers,

This spring semester, the Alpha Epsilon chapter has been very busy in terms of activities. During the start of this academic school year, the chapter has begun to place more focus on fundraising for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society. In the fall, we hosted a benefit concert for LLS where musicians from our house and neighboring fraternities played together to raise money. The event, Skullstock, was a success and was our first major chapter organized philanthropic event to raise money from fundraising in many years. Not allowing us to rest on our laurels, our Phi, Brandon Sit, and the philanthropy committee scheduled an event for the spring known as "Shave a Skull". During this event, which was held in the Bog, a group of brothers volunteered up their luscious locks to be shaved as the audience bid on getting designs shaved into said brothers' heads. The event pulled together about seventy five people from the Illinois Tech community, and raised a grand total of over \$2500 for LLS.

On the brotherhood side, it has been the focus of the chapter to increase positivity and morale around the house. Everyone has been more conscious of their actions and how they affect others, and in turn everyone has been more cheerful. A lot of this also stemmed from our retreat, which was held in mid-January. We went hiking in the woods at Waterfall Glenn and had a scavenger hunt for tubes containing discussion points. Everyone took time to discuss and goal plan and set forth our plan for brotherly positivity.

The brotherhood also decided to lavalier Elizabeth Pierce into the chapter. She was ecstatic about the honor and we are very happy to provide her with this opportunity.

Though the semester has been a whirlwind and is almost complete, we keep striving for better. It is the goal of every brother to win the Founders Cup at Grand Chapter, which takes place in Chicago this July. I could not ask for a better group of men to lead our brotherhood to further excellence.

Stellis Aequus Durando



Alexander Mitchell - Alpha





A New Brother Perspective

By: Alvah Bickner IV



Fraternity is a word synonymous with brotherhood for some, and wild college parties for others. When

the average person thinks about a fraternity, they picture parties, alcohol, and hazing. And while those fraternities do exist in this world, I was lucky enough to stumble upon one of the fraternities that still holds true to what brotherhood and values mean.

When I first came to the Illinois Institute of Technology, I quickly dismissed the speech that the welcome staff gives you about how wonderful the Greek Life is on campus, and never gave it a second thought. That stood until I met a very special person who, in just 2 weeks, would become my pledge father. He introduced me to the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Phi Kappa Sigma, and from that moment on, my life changed.

These men weren't anything like the stereotypical fraternities that had been portrayed to me. Instead, they were kind, loyal, intelligent, and men of honor.

My experience in the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Phi Kappa Sigma as both a new member and a recently initiated member has been an overwhelming and amazing experience. From the very beginning, I grew extremely close to my new member class, and the chapter as a whole. Instead of being treated as merely new members, we were treated as respected equals. We were taught the meaning of the Fraternity's Objects and the Core Values. We were taught how to be leaders. We were taught the meaning of brotherhood.

After being initiated, many new opportunities opened up to me. Officer positions in the Fraternity,

such as Assistant Treasurer and Philanthropy Chair, were opened up to my pledge class. I was honored to be elected to the position of the assistant Tau, with hopes of rising into higher officer positions during my active time at Alpha Epsilon.

I am unbelievably thankful for the opportunities and memories that the Fraternity has already provided to me. I look forward to the bright future with the chapter and I hope to help continue our legacy of excellence.



Greetings from the Upsilon

By: Sanjin Ibrahimovic



Greetings!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Alpha Epsilon of Phi Kappa Sigma Annual Alumni Smoker. We are very fortunate to be celebrating this beloved event. Smoker is the second oldest event on campus, second only to commencement. Without the efforts of the House Corporation for planning and Alumni for their donations, we would not be gathered here today to celebrate this cherished event.

We would like to take a moment to thank the Alumni for their collective efforts over the past year, which have provided us with a new oven, range, and laundry equipment. The

alumni of our chapter have provided us with these great amenities through their kind donations and for this we are eternally grateful. These new additions will surely help us recruit and to run the daily functions of the chapter as a whole.

Additionally, we thank the members of the House Corporation, our Chapter Advisor Leo Bassett, Assistant Chapter Advisor Gary Doman, Resident Advisor David Biedrzycki, and Faculty Advisor Dr. John Twombly for their continued efforts in guiding our chapter to a path of excellence.

I hope you enjoy this honorable event with us today. I am sure I speak for all the brothers from Phi Kappa Sigma here today when I say: welcome and enjoy yourself!

Sincerely,

Sanjin Ibrahimovic

Upsilon

House Improvements



Richard Stevenson

This spring semester has brought many exciting projects and purchases to the chapter home. We started the semester off by finally ridding ourselves of the CoinMach Laundry contract. Do not be afraid, as everyone still washes their clothes, but in our brand new washing machines. Since installing these machines, we have seen far fewer problems with our laundry room. The market for quarters in the house also plummeted.

In preparation for Grand Chapter this July, the active chapter proposed to the House Corporation for the house interior to be painted. This project took place over spring break and included painting of the Dining room, Stairwell, Hallways, Biegler Lounge, East Room, Foyer and Library. The new paint really brightened up the chapter house. Investments such as this not only protect the appearance of the building but also help us during recruitment.

The last major purchase that has been completed this semester is the purchase of a new stove. The old Vulcan Range had outlived its usable life and was costing the chapter hundreds of dollars a year to maintain. The ovens had stopped cooking evenly, which resulted in food coming out either burnt or still cold. This caused a nightmare for our chef. Once again, the House Corporation was generous enough to purchase our new range. The new range consists of six burners, a griddle, and two convection ovens. The new range has shortened cooking time and provided better consistency for our chef.

We are fortunate enough to have very supportive Alumni who have generously funded these projects. The consistent financial support that the House Corporation gives the chapter is something that we are very proud of and ensures that the organization that we are today will continue to prosper for years to come.



Laundry Machines



Brand New Range



Enjoying Skullstock out on the Quad

Philanthropy: A Year in Review

By: Dakota Betts



Throughout my five years in the Fraternity I have seen many changes in the way we look at Philanthropy. To begin

with, the Brothers mainly did community service projects and never really raised much money through our own events. This changed with the addition of the Community Service Chair (Kappa) though. With the responsibilities of the Philanthropy Chair divvied up between two offices, we can now focus very strongly on raising money for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

And this year, that is exactly what we did. The Philanthropy Chair (Phi) Brandon Sit, and the rest of the Philanthropy Committee (Brothers Dakota Betts, Cedric Elam, Marcello Gomes, Ben Grimmer, and Kaushik Suryanarayanan) have been

brainstorming, planning, and executing multiple fundraising events this past year. This is a huge step in creating a foundation for future Phi's to base their events on and hopefully increase the amount of money we can give to charities every year.

The first event we held was called Skullstock; an evening filled with musical performances from Illinois Tech students held at the Chapter House on October 25, 2015. There were four bands/artists that performed, two of which had Brothers in them. At the event we also sold snacks and t-shirts. Skullstock raised around \$400 which was donated directly to LLS.

The large fundraiser for the spring semester was Shave-a-Skull. At this event six Brothers put their hair on the line to raise money for LLS. Individual Brothers fundraised for multiple weeks

prior to the event, then got up on stage in The Bog and had their heads shaved. The barber was also able to make designs, so if the audience could gather enough money at the time of shaving, they were allowed to make suggestions as to what to design on the Brother's head. The Brothers were also required to leave the design in their hair for 24 hours. That shows dedication! Shave-a-Skull was a huge success and raised around \$800 for LLS!

Philanthropy in the Chapter is definitely making its way up. We have raised more than \$1200 for LLS so far, and hopefully more to come towards the end of the academic year. The efforts of Brother Brandon Sit and the rest of the Philanthropy Committee have made an intense impact on the Chapter as a whole and will hopefully provide a strong foundation for years to come.

moker
FALL 2016

Keep An Eye Out For Fall Smoker

RSVP Information Coming Soon



The Brothers of
the Alpha Epsilon
Chapter of
Phi Kappa Sigma
cordially invite all of
our alumni to join us
in our annual
Fall Smoker

If you have any questions, feel free
to email our alumni relations chair,
Upsilon at upsilon@aepks.com





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