



The Fall 2014 *Peninsular*



Meet the Newest Members of the Peninsular Chapter!

On December 6, the Peninsular chapter initiated 19 new members — the largest initiation for the chapter in over two decades. Pictured above is the new class, as well as Pledgemaister John Lopus P'15 (center). From left to right:

Steven Spens is from Livonia, Michigan and intends to major in Physics.

Casey McKinley is from Frankfort, Michigan, and intends to major in Public Policy.

Andrew Bull is from, Salt Lake City, Utah and intends to major in Business.

Jared Feldman is from Weston, Florida and intends to major in Business.

Nick Kim is from Fairfax, Virginia and intends to major in Theater and Economy.

Charlie Reinerston is from Seattle, Washington and intends to major in Business.

Bo Mahjour is from Souderton, Pennsylvania and intends to major in Engineering.

Jacob Barsen is from Alpena, Michigan and intends to major in Political Science.

Evan McKae O'Leary is from Louisville, Kentucky and intends to major in International Studies.

Shawn Farshchi is a Sophomore from Chicago, Illinois and intends to major in Economics and minor in Statistics.

Michael Sprinkel is from Chester Springs, Pennsylvania and intends to major in Economics and Statistics.

Jay Thomas Dutcher is from Alpena, Michigan and intends to major in the Philosophy, Politics and Economics program.

Zane A. Phillips is from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and intends to major in Engineering.

Marshall Gordon is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and intends to major in Engineering.

Alex Rakestraw is from Bucks County, Pennsylvania and intends to major in Business.

NOT PICTURED:

Alec Wishnie is from Bridgewater, New Jersey, and intends to major in Cellular Biology.

Blake Toth is a Sophomore from Ann Arbor, Michigan and intends to major in Political Science.

Rece Visnaw is a Sophomore from Flint, Michigan and intends to major in Sports Management.

Jack Ferszt is from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and and intends to major in Business.



THE PENINSULAR

Undergraduate Executive
Board Fall 2014

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*Special thanks to Undergraduate Publishing Chair
Clayton Beyers P'16.*

Reminder:

We thank the many Peninsular Alpha Delts who paid their 2014 alumni dues. If you have not already, please send in your alumni dues of \$75 to:

Peninsular Society of Alpha Delta Phi
P.O. Box 312
Evanston, Illinois 60204

Checks are payable to: Peninsular Society of Alpha Delta Phi.



Colin Finley P'16 with kids at Camp Kesem

Fighting Cancer with Summer Camp

By Colin Finley P'16

Camp Kesem is a national, non-profit organization that offers a free week of summer camp, along with yearlong emotional support, to children affected by a parent's cancer. It is the only organization in the country that supports this underrepresented population of children. I knew I had to get involved after I learned about camp's ability to create a community for children who are facing an extremely difficult situation and how this experience is life-changing for both the families and the counselors.

After joining my freshman year, I spent my sophomore year fundraising in anticipation of the summer camp in August. When I was finally able to spend a week as a counselor, I finally saw the magic that is Camp Kesem. Camp is the one week of the year where these kids are able to escape constant stress and actually be children. It gives them an opportunity to form lasting bonds, to

come out of their shell, and to gain an astounding level of confidence that they otherwise would never attain. Since that first camp, I have become increasingly more involved in the program. I now serve as the Outreach Coordinator on Camp Kesem Michigan's Coordinator Board, which allows me to spend my entire year actively engaging with camp families. Additionally, I plan bi-annual camp reunions and recruit new campers, mental health professionals, and nurses for the week of camp.

Camp Kesem is an amazing philanthropic organization that has changed my entire perspective on life. The support I have had from my Brothers here on campus has been unbelievably helpful. I am continuously grateful to have such a great group of Brothers support me with a cause I am so passionate about. The families I work with inspire me on a daily basis, and it has been amazing to have this opportunity.



Moving to the Other Side of the World

By Jeet Singh P'15

It's not unusual for Alpha Delts to travel around the world, and move all over the USA after graduation. Earlier this year, Lucas Stein P'08, left the United States and made Taiwan his home. Jeet Singh caught up with Lucas about his new home, the lifelong experience of Alpha Delta Phi, and what it's like to move halfway around the world.

Singh: *So why did you decide to move to Taiwan?*

Stein: I came to Taiwan mostly for my fiancée. Also to learn Chinese, which I think will be a very valuable skill in today's global economy, etc. Many people who come to Taiwan learn Mandarin Chinese with the traditional characters. This is unlike Hong Kong which speaks Cantonese but writes traditional characters. This is also unlike mainland China which speaks Mandarin but uses simplified characters. Taiwan is democratic so that makes me more comfortable than living in China. It also has a relatively high economic freedom and is one of the fastest growing economies in Asia, so many people are attracted for business purposes. Taiwan also has a reputation for some of the friendliest people, which I believe they live up to. My fiancée and I have discussed moving to Singapore. I would also like to learn Japanese and

live there (the traditional Chinese characters would come in handy in Japan).

Singh: *What were some of the biggest challenges you faced upon moving there?*

Stein: One of the major obstacles is overcoming the fear of the unknown and letting go of what you can't control. The only thing I knew about my future was that I am going to Taiwan and I'm going to learn Mandarin. To commit many months of my life to staying in a place with which I am utterly unfamiliar was rather intimidating. When it comes to new experiences, I'm getting better at just buying the ticket and then figuring out how to make it work. For instance, I knew I wanted to visit Hong Kong. I had a few days off

"Fear of the unknown shouldn't stop you from new experiences."

-Lucas Stein

so I bought my ticket for an afternoon flight. Then I figured out where I needed to stay and what I was going to do. Fear of the unknown shouldn't stop you from new experiences. You will find a way to make things work once you get there.

One of the major challenges in Taiwan was the heat. Having grown up in Michigan, I wasn't accustomed to months of near



Lucas Stein P'08 at Longshan Temple, Taipei

100 degree weather. The typhoons and earthquakes have been a minor issue. Knowing zero Chinese was also a challenge. But it is surprising how little language you need to communicate and survive.

Singh: *What was the biggest culture shock you had to overcome?*

Stein: From birth, people learn differently here. The language structure is different. The religion is different. I'm not sure how much this affects the way people think in the big picture but it has its effects. I think it does have an effect on what an individual perceives as "self". Personal space is smaller here. Touching or bumping someone is not something people would usually apologize for. Sometimes people seem to behave in a manner I would consider "absent-minded" or "unobservant". Yet, people are very polite, almost to an annoying de-

gree. People say thank you for everything.

Singh: *Has living in Taiwan changed your perspective of the world? Has it made you think differently of America?*

Stein: It is amazing to me how people can be so different in so many ways and so alike at the same time (Americans vs. Taiwanese). I've also realized that although our cultures influence each other (especially west to east), it is rather superficial. It takes a lot more effort to understand a culture more deeply. When we think about a country or it's people we have to think on a more individual basis. The question came up, "How do Americans celebrate their birthday?" I realized that this is no single answer to this question that could encompass a majority of American families. I think cake and presents would come the closest. There are lots of questions like that.



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A Message from the Alumni Board

Brothers,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. Thank you to those who attended this year's Homecoming – we had brothers from every era stopping by the house. I'd like to give a special thanks to Sam DeBruin (P'11) for his time and energy in helping plan the day's festivities.

I'm also pleased to report that the chapter has initiated a pledge class of 19 guys – truly a testament to the extensive efforts put in by the actives. We had the pleasure of meeting the pledge class at Homecoming and can attest that they are a solid group of gentlemen who will represent the house well.

With the actives working to build the brotherhood,

we now turn to alumni support for the chapter. In August, we formed a renovation and capital campaign committee to complete some important first steps toward our long-term vision of renovating the house.

I'm pleased to report that after a two-month RFP process, we selected a joint-bid from the Ann Arbor-based architectural firms of Quinn Evans and Cornerstone Design, who will be assisting us with a first phase of designs, floorplans and cost estimates for a large-scale renovation.

On the capital campaign front, we're in the final stages of our RFP with fundraising firms. The selected firm will serve as a



The Peninsular Chapter House in 1940

critical partner in helping regularly communicate with alumni on the capital campaign. The committee is currently expecting a spring rollout for the capital campaign and we'll continue to share details as we have them.

Lastly, I wanted to thank Ed McPhee (P'12) for his leadership in redesign-

ing the look and format of our Peninsular newsletter. If you have any ideas or questions for the newsletter, please reach out to him directly at edwardmcphee11@gmail.com.

Xaipe,
The Alumni Board of the Peninsular Society

Greetings from President Roelant



By John Roelant P'16
President

As my yearlong term comes to an end this fall, I am proud of our chapter's development both internally and in campus reputation. We have rushed an admirable group of 19 new brothers that all are looking to bring our chapter back into the forefront of Greek Life in Ann Arbor.

The most valuable part of my presidency to me as a person was the relationships I was able

to cultivate with Alumni and other Alpha Delta Phi International members that provided invaluable advice and input based on their own experiences. Through this, I have gained a fuller understanding of the international presence of Alpha Delta Phi has.

I am both excited and hopeful to see where the next president of this great peninsular chapter will take us, and who fu-

ture years will bring into our brotherhood. In my remaining years as an active, I am going to continue to build these relationships I have made with alumni to further strengthen the connection between the actives and our celebrated alumni.

Xaipe,
John Roelant P'16