



# the Phi Owl

The University of Michigan Chapter of Psi Upsilon



## Archon's message



Hi, I'm Ashton Clark, and I have the honor of serving as the current Archon for our chapter. I'm incredibly proud to say that this past year has been one of the most successful in recent memory for the Phi. Through the collective effort and commitment of our brotherhood, we raised over \$7,000 for philanthropy and welcomed 25 outstanding new members. This brings our chapter to its largest size since our refounding. The energy and enthusiasm this growth has brought to the house is palpable, and it's been inspiring to witness the continued momentum we've built.

This past semester, I had the privilege of attending the Archon's Academy in Washington, D.C., an experience that I found not only enriching but transformative. The leadership training and perspective I gained have been instrumental in helping me fulfill my responsibilities as president. More importantly, it has shaped the way I approach challenges, build community, and lead with purpose both inside and outside the fraternity.

As we look ahead to the upcoming school year, I could not be more excited. We have set some ambitious goals for ourselves, including recruiting another class of 25 new members, raising over \$10,000 for philanthropy, and making a strong push in the newly reintroduced Greek sports league. These are no small tasks, but we are entering the year with confidence. Our recent recruitment nearly filled the house, with 29 brothers living in and fully committed to the vision of what we can accomplish together.

With the strength of our brotherhood, the dedication of our leadership, and the continued support of our alumni, I truly believe we are on the verge of another incredible year for the Phi. I am excited to see what we achieve together.

YITB,  
**Ashton Clark '27**



## **Rush Report**

### **Liam Cross '26**

The Phi's momentum continued this year with two strong rush cycles that brought in passionate new members and helped grow our brotherhood in meaningful ways. Fall 2024 rush was led by **James Hines '27** and **Liam Cross '26**, whose leadership and dedication resulted in our largest pledge class since re-founding, bringing in 21 new members. Their efforts laid a strong foundation and set the tone for what was to come.

Building on that success, **Ty Loo '28**, **Trevor Chacon '28**, and **James Hines '27** led the charge for Winter 2025 rush, securing a quality pledge class of four. While smaller in size, this winter class was just as impactful, adding depth and energy to the house during a typically slower rush season.

We're proud of the work our brothers put into planning, executing, and supporting these efforts, from late nights organizing events to the authentic conversations that made each new member feel welcomed. As we look ahead, we aim to continue refining our rush process and building on this momentum. With each new class, we strengthen the bonds of our brotherhood and move closer to the vision we have set for Psi Upsilon at Michigan.



## **Philanthropy Chair**

**Dylan Babitch '28**

This past year was an outstanding year for philanthropy for the Phi Chapter. Between the generous donations of active brothers, alumni, and family members we were able to raise over \$5,500 towards the annual Winterfest charity tournament. We absolutely smashed our goal of \$3,000 and wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of our brothers, past and present. The money raised was split evenly between The Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan, the Autism Alliance, and the Fisher House.

We hosted many philanthropy events, both external and internal, this year. We started with a hot chocolate sale during sorority recruitment that raised over \$500 towards our goal. Not slowing down, we held our annual Pie Upsilon charity event and were able to raise close to \$1,000 while having a great time. The philanthropy ice bin was a success with nearly two dozen brothers plunging into the freezing water in the name of philanthropy. We hope to continue the tradition of hosting Pie Upsilon and potentially making it a fall event in the future. We then hosted an internal poker tournament and Super Bowl squares event that combined raised over \$1,000 in less than a week. We finished our Winterfest fundraising strong with many direct donations to the event, many of which exceeded \$100.

We appreciate the support of everyone who contributed to philanthropy this past year, no matter how small. Without the support of the brotherhood, none of our success would have been possible. We hope to continue this momentum and break even more records for the chapter this upcoming year. We will try to keep alumni updated on opportunities to support our philanthropy efforts and on our progress towards our charity goals.

### **This year's Phi Officers**

**Archon: Ashton Clark '27**

**1st Angelos: Dylan Mosler '27**

**2nd Angelos: Daniel Espinoza '27**

**Treasurer: Ian Ward '27**

**Secretary: James Hines '27**







## Special Events Chair

**Matthew Wu '27**

The Phi Chapter's annual formal was in Toronto from March 28 - 30. As the special event chair, I helped with the promotion of the formal, arranging transportation for the brothers and their guests, and planning the itinerary. **Flynn Goel '26** and **Daniel Espinoza '27** played a huge role in arranging accommodation, as they secured the rooms at Westin Harbour Castle, working to ensure the best experience at best rate. Throughout the weekend, brothers explored downtown Toronto, visiting landmarks like the Distillery District, Chinatown, CN Tower, and Ripley's Aquarium. The moments of shared adventure turned sightseeing into a great bonding activity between the brothers. We concluded the trip with individual pledge class dinners on Saturday night that allowed pledge classmates to reconnect and celebrate after a long and demanding school year. This formal was more than just a getaway -- it was a celebration of the success of the brotherhood.

On April 5th, the Phi Chapter spent the morning with the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council to volunteer at Blight Busters, Detroit. We were joined by over 100 volunteers from other chapters on campus, in which we helped clean up an affordable housing area, including some simple demolition works and cutting down trees. The aim was to help eliminate sources of crime from blighted houses, to restore them and surrounding areas, while connecting with other chapters on campus. This also gave us a perfect opportunity to bond and connect outside our regular chapter activities. Thanks to Archon Clark's support in the promotion of the event, we had a total of 15 brothers volunteering that morning.

## Housing Manager

**Patrick Wallace '27**

While volunteering as housing manager, I oversaw the maintenance and cleanliness of the house. I saved the brotherhood thousands of dollars by performing repairs and keeping the house in order. My first project as housing manager was to repaint the second floor hallway to restore a pristine and clean living space. I patched up walls, repaired doors, and

transformed the house to be much nicer than how it was when I started. I also communicated with our fraternity management organization and advocated for the brothers when it came to disputes over housing concerns.



# Welcome Brothers!

## New brothers from the Fall '24 and Spring '25 pledge class:

When asked what drew them to Psi Upsilon out of all the other fraternities at Michigan, some of the answers were.. welcoming brothers, great social events, academically focused and a good sense of brotherhood



**Ty Loo '28**  
New York, NY  
Economics

**Ryan Brenner '28**  
Fairfield, CT  
Economics and Data Science



**Dylan Babitch '28**  
Birmingham, MI  
Math and Computer Science



**Luis Briones '28**  
Weston, FL  
Business



**Louis Goldberg '28**  
New York, NY  
Biomedical Engineering



**Jack Welsh '28**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Economics

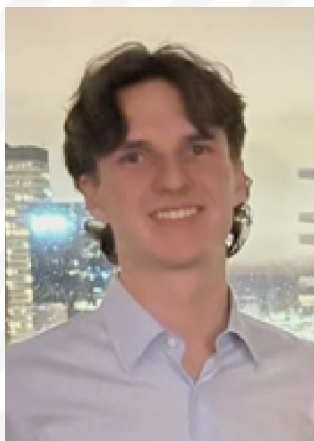




**Archie Reynolds '28**  
Birmingham, MI  
Political Science



**Lucan Louwsma '28**  
Beulah, MI  
Earth and Environmental  
Science



**Charlie Thompson '28**  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Sports Management



**Leland Lammers '28**  
Bozeman, MT  
Business



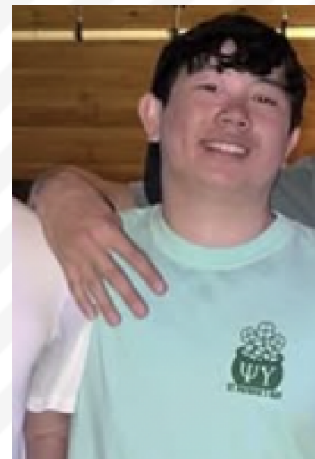
**Eric Yin '28**  
Berkeley, CA  
Economics



**Trevor Chacon '28**  
San Ramon, CA  
History



**Arthur Fok '28**  
Summit, NJ  
Industrial Engineering

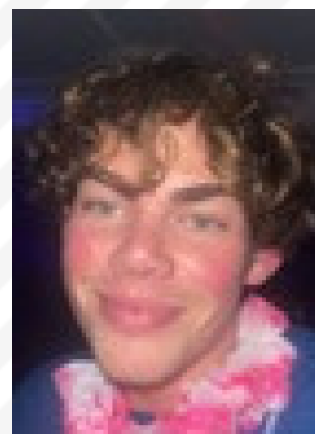


**Nikou Nourbakhsh '28**  
Pittsburg, PA  
Mechanical Engineering





**Henry Mulder '28**  
Holland, MI  
Ecology, Evolution &  
Biodiversity



**Summit Shaw '28**  
Syracuse, IN  
Public Policy



**KJ Raiszadeh '28**  
San Diego, CA  
Movement Science

**Tony Carson '28**  
Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Business



**Matthew Wu '27**  
London, England  
Aerospace Engineering

**Park Briones '28**  
Orinda, CA  
Statistics





**Leland Branco '28**  
Traverse City, MI  
Movement Science



**Eric Vaughn '28**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Economics



**Luca Pino '28**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Art & Design

**Brian Foote '28**  
Grosse Pointe, MI  
Mechanical Engineering



**Oscar Wood '28**  
Grand Haven, MI  
Pre- Med



The 181st Psi Upsilon Convention took place at Syracuse University this past July and was hosted by the Pi Chapter. Archon **Ashton Clark '27**, **Kevin Runtz '26** and **Joey Cobau '21** represented the Phi and came away with many new connections and a lot of pointers for leading a chapter and alumni involvement.





Archon **Ashton Clark '27** and **Kevin Rutz '26** (top left) with other Psi Upsilon chapter leaders



**Murray Eskenazi, Lambda '56**, author of many Psi U songs and **Joey Cobau '21**





# 182nd Psi Upsilon Convention

**The Phi has been selected as the location for Psi Upsilon's 182nd Convention next July.**

**It's been 70 years since the convention has been held in Ann Arbor. This gathering of brothers will mark the 10 years since we recolonized the Phi in 2016 and, perhaps most importantly, we will celebrate the centennial of our amazing Chapter House.**

**Please make note on your calendars for what is sure to be a very special event in the Phi's long history at the University of Michigan.**





# Phi Alumni Corporation

## President's Report

Joey Cobau '21



I'd like to begin by expressing our deepest gratitude to **Greg Rupp '81**. Greg has been an exceptional leader and mentor, to me personally and to this fraternity as a whole. Were it not for his pivotal role in the chapter's recolonization efforts and his continuing support of the undergraduates, the Phi would not be where it is today. On behalf of the entire PAC Board, I offer a sincere thanks for his past service as our intrepid leader and look forward to working with him as the Chairman of the Board.

The undergraduates had a stellar year with the best recruitment since the pandemic. The House will be full this coming year with 27 members, ensuring a dynamic and vibrant environment. This fall, they will look to grow further under the leadership of Achron **Ashton Clark '27** and Rush Chairs **James Hines '27** and **Ty Loo '28**. The PAC Board will continue to support them in recruitment through a productive dialogue, which has continued from last summer.

This past March we held the first Great Lakes Founders' Day since Covid and it was a hit. The new venue was the Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods. With the assistance of our brothers at the Epsilon Nu chapter, this was one the largest assembly of Psi Upsilon brothers in recent years. Next year's Great Lakes Founders Day will be on March 20th at Lochmoor Club. Please join us for what is always a fun night.



At the 181st Convention, hosted this past July by the Pi Chapter at Syracuse University, we were proud to accept the opportunity to host the 182nd Convention in Ann Arbor. This upcoming gathering will mark several important milestones for our chapter: 161 years on campus, 100 years of our Chapter House, 70 years since we last hosted a convention, and 10 years since our recolonization. The convention will take place from July 24–26, 2026 and promises to be a memorable occasion for alumni, undergraduates, and friends of the Phi to reconnect and celebrate our lasting brotherhood. Please join us in Ann Arbor for this historic event. Look out for more information in the coming months.

Despite our recent successes, many challenges remain. At the top of the list is our aging Chapter House. 2026 marks the House's centennial. To bring the house to its former glory will require substantial commitments from our Alumni. The board has formed a Capital Improvement Committee to determine what projects are the highest priority. We have also established a Fundraising Committee to raise the funds necessary to complete these projects. Beyond your financial support, we need more alumni involvement on the PAC Board and subcommittees. Given the breadth and depth of experience in our alumni ranks I know we have more than enough expertise to accomplish our goals.

I welcome any and all ideas and suggestions on how we can best move the House into its next 100 years.

Yours in the Bonds,

Joey Cobau '21

Email: [jwcobau@umich.edu](mailto:jwcobau@umich.edu)

Phone: (313) 909-1057



## Director's Report

Greg Rupp '81



Greetings Brothers,

I hope everyone has had a good summer.

I would like to update everyone on our Meeting of the Members which took place at the House this past May. After 13 years as President of the Phi Alumni Corporation. I have stepped down and taken the position of Director of the Board. I will serve as an advisor to **Joey Cobau '21** who was unanimously elected to replace me as President. Joey was initially recruited to join our fraternity by Vice President **Kevin Brophy '83** and is part of group

of men from Grosse Pointe men who were recruited in 2017. Joey has been very involved with the Phi from the start. He was Archon in 2019 and during that year's National Convention was elected as the Undergraduate Representative to Psi Upsilon International's Executive Council. Joey lives in Grosse Pointe but still has many contacts in the Ann Arbor area. It is important to have a Board presence in Ann Arbor as our previous Board member, **Earl Raynal Jr. '81**, has retired. Earl and his wife, Nancy have purchased a big, beautiful catamaran are currently sailing through the Aegean Sea. Lucky guy!

Other notable items from the Meeting of the Members:

- Undergraduate recruitment. In years past our results have been variable at best. This past year with the help of alumni participation and counsel, namely **Joey Cobau '21** and **Kevin Brophy '83**, we had a record recruitment of undergraduates. Rush is ongoing, so for members of the Phi who live in the Ann Arbor area, we could always use your participation and help.
- Believe it or not, our Chapter house will soon be a century old. As with any 100-year-old structure, the House needs refurbishments and that will cost money. The board is proposing a major Capital Campaign to raise the needed funds. I have recommended **Don Cline '84** to head up this committee along with the participation of **Tim Whims '80**, **Joey Cobau '21** and **Mark Majoris '85**. We will need help from other members who are not on the Board of Directors. Anyone with fundraising experience - we need your help.



- The Board intends to go back to following our Bylaws, specifically the requirement to have contributed \$100 in order to have voting rights within the Phi Alumni Corp. This provision has not really been enforced over the years, but the Board feels it's important to return to the practice in order to better financially support our efforts at 1000 Hill Street. We hope you will seriously consider making this important contribution.
- We will continue to have our Homecoming Tailgate. This year it will be October 4th for the Wisconsin game. Historically the game is at noon which makes it difficult to pull off a fully catered event – however we have had great turnout in recent years with many alumni and their families. Please join us this year if you can.
- This year there will be a '70's reunion group for the September 15th game against Central Michigan. I have participated in reunions with this group; they are a blast and very well connected.
- We continue to try regularly putting out the Phi Owl, our email newsletter. In order to communicate more than the mundane financial report, we really need content from our actives and alumni alike. If you are getting together with brothers, snap a picture and get it to me or **Kevin Lum '79** along with names, class years and a couple of lines about what you've been up to and we'll pass it along to the rest of our brethren to continue strengthen our bonds.

I will say with all the ups and downs of our fraternity, we have been able to continue our tradition of being the top fraternity on the University of Michigan campus. I will continue to be involved, in an advisory capacity as my focus and role is now caregiver for my wife, Debbie, who has been afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. I have a whole new perspective now when I get letters from alumni brother's wives telling me of the loss of there husband to this cruel disease. I am so very grateful to all who have supported and trusted me these many years. I am so very fortunate to have been selected as a pledge 47 years ago to this remarkable group of brothers. It has done so much for me then and even today. Thank You!!

YITB,

**Greg Rupp '81**

# Treasurer's Report

Dan Smale '81

- **2024 - '25 No major unplanned repairs**

The Phi Alumni Corporation should have a \$25,000 surplus this year mostly because there have been no surprise breakdowns with our physical structure that we have been seeing in recent years. We have funds available for upgrades to the rooms or other uses as determined by the Board.



- **Mortgage Status & Reserves**

The mortgage balance is \$270,000 at 7.41% through July, 2028. At the renewal, the rate will be reset and we will renew for another 5 years at the prevailing rate. Our cash reserves are slightly above historical levels. We have property taxes and other expenses due during the summer when there is no revenue.

- **Active Chapter Support**

We are expecting the house to be near capacity for the 2025-'26 school year. Our actives have worked very hard to keep the standards of Psi U high, while also recruiting as many men as are willing to step up





## **Michigan vs. Wisconsin October 4, 2025**

While game time hasn't officially been set yet, traditionally kick-off has been at 12:00 \*. As of now, we're planning to host all Alumni and their families at the House for food, drink and fun starting at 9:30am

Come back to the House and meet up with brothers old and new!

\* Keep an eye out for an email from us once the kick-off time has been set.



# Alumni News

The following are messages and updates from some of our Phi Alumni brothers. Please drop us a line to let us know what you're up to. New job, new city, family news, retirement, graduate school? We'd really like to expand the number of brothers we're hearing from so please get in touch!

Back in November '24, after the devastating floods in Asheville, NC, Brother **Joe Gneiser '86** contacted classmate **Don Cline '86** with an update on his volunteer in North Carolina after the hurricane. Joe and his wife Dawn delivered a trailer of mailboxes to Project Skyline. Additionally Dawn also volunteered with Manna a local food bank. Joe reported the devastation was greater than imagined and beyond words - however the kindness of so many volunteers was immense.





**John Upton, Bill Sutton, Jim Dunford, Greg McPherson, Lee Terry, John Boccaccio, Tim Black & Norb Madison**

Ever since they graduated in 1975, a group of 10 brothers have stayed in close contact over the years. The group includes Tim Back, Jim Dunford, John Boccaccio, Lee Terry, John Upton, Tom Zimmer (now deceased), Keith Gornick '76, Bill Sutton, Greg MacPherson and Norb Madison.

They have met as a group every 10 years.

1985 - Huron City, Michigan

1995 - Gaylord, Michigan (Otsego Cub)

2005 - Ann Arbor

2015 - Ann Arbor

This year they'll be getting together in Ann Arbor on Saturday, September 13th, meeting up at the House at 10:00, lunch, off to the CMU football game, followed by cocktails and dinner. They'll also be getting together on an ad hoc basis on Friday and Sunday.





Brother **Tim Whims '80** sponsored an Alumni Get Together at the Detroit Athletic Club in April of last year, and this distinguished group of characters answered the call!



# In Memoriam

**John Farrell '65**



<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/washington-dc/john-farrell-12024065>

**Dick Joseph '79**



<https://www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/richard-dick-joseph-2024>



## Phi Alumni Board of Directors

Joseph Cobau '21  
 Kevin Brophy '83  
 Craig Reiff '80  
 Dan Smale '81  
 Greg Rupp '81

President  
 Vice President  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer  
 Director of the Board

Mike Bignell '65  
 Kevin Lum '79  
 Greg French '80  
 Tim Whims '80  
 Earl Raynal Jr. '81  
 Tom Schwartz '84

Kevin Parker '85  
 Mark Majoros '85  
 Don Cline '86  
 John Supernaw '90  
 Riston Escher '21  
 Alex Thayer '22

