



Special  
Edition

THE • PI • KAPPA • PHI • FRATERNITY

# Omegalite

95th  
Year

MAY 2017

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

## Help chapter celebrate 95th anniversary

Omega's 95th anniversary celebration is just around the corner.

The main event will be a 6:30 p.m. June 10 informal banquet in the Purdue Memorial Union. That's where alumni can re-live their past and help celebrate the chapter's 95 years of success.

The June 10, 2017, events include:

- **10 a.m.**, house open for tours and hanging out
- **11 a.m.**, golf outing for those so inclined
- **11 a.m.**, house project for those interested
- **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, informal lunch at the house
- **5 p.m.**, reception at local watering hole to be determined
- **6 p.m.**, doors open to banquet facility
- **6:30 p.m.**, food served
- **7 p.m.**, short program begins
- **7:30 p.m.**, pass the microphone

Cost for the banquet is \$35 per person. Optional lunch at the house will be complimentary. The golf charge and location are not yet determined.

Reservations can be made by sending a check for \$35 per person to: Omega of Pi Kappa Phi, PO Box 2700, West Lafayette, IN 47996.

For more information, contact chapter advisor Pat Kuhnle at [pkuhnle@gmail.com](mailto:pkuhnle@gmail.com) or call 765/743-1256.



Photos from the 85th and 90th chapter anniversary celebration banquets.

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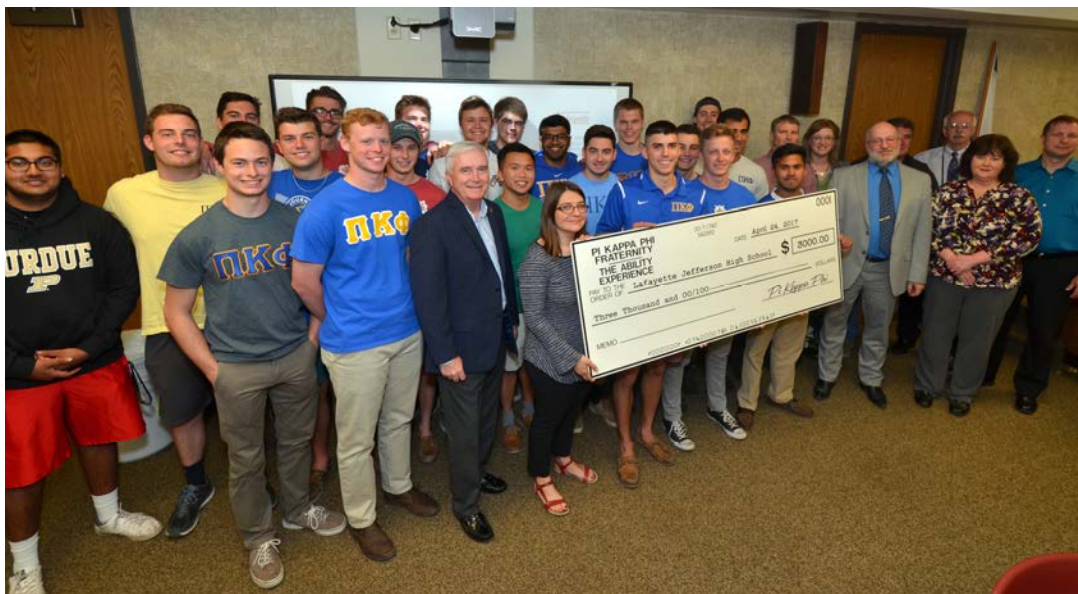
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Chapter members pose with school board members after a \$3,000 check presentation on April 24.

## School board accepts special needs donation

Pi Kappa Phi members presented a \$3,000 check to the Lafayette School Board on April 24 to assist in special needs classes at Jefferson High School.

More than 20 chapter members attended the school board's monthly workshop. There, the Lafayette Jefferson High School special needs teacher praised the chapter members for assisting in classes for nearly a decade.

"It's been nine wonderful years that Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity has included my class as a recipient of The Ability Experience (programming) to serve those with disabilities," said **Alyssa Montgomery**, special needs classroom teacher.

"Most of my students have moderate cognitive intelligence that requires one-on-one assistance with basic skills such as simple communication, reading and math or even telling time," she said. "Today there are so many demands and working with limited funds and staff that it's challenging. However, the presence of the Pi Kappa Phi brothers has been, and continues to be, a blessing."

The \$3,000 donation represents one-quarter of the chapter's 2016 fund-raising for The Ability Experience. The money will be used by the students with various physical and cognitive disabilities for community outings, food, basic toiletries

and supplies. Since 2009, the chapter has donated \$28,189 to the school board.

"On behalf of myself and students at Jefferson High School, I would like to say 'Thank you Purdue Guys' from the bottom of our hearts," Montgomery said. "Thank you for your sincere kindness and overwhelming generosity."

Archon **Chad Hellan** spoke on behalf of the chapter members.

"The assistance that my brothers provide is very immeasurable in terms of numbers and how we affect the children, but it's not immeasurable in the experience that we take away," he said. "The life skills, the value of our friendships and knowing what it means to have the relationships we have is all made greater with our interactions with the students in the life skills classroom at Lafayette Jefferson High School."

Nearly every school day, the chapter sends two or more brothers to assist the special education classes.

The school board members were very appreciative of the chapter's service and donation. In fact, **Robert Stwalley**, who has served on the elected board since 2003, went out of his way to talk to various chapter members after the presentation. He congratulated them and their predecessors for so many years of continuous volunteer service.

## International students help expand fraternity reach

Adapting to college and joining a fraternity is a change enough, but doing both when adapting to a new country and culture is something completely different.

While many international students mix with others from similar cultures, others integrate themselves – albeit cautiously – with a limited number of American friends. In the past, the Omega (Purdue) chapter has had its share of students from other countries, including Greece and Switzerland over the years.

The current group of Pi Kapp undergraduates has members from four different continents among its ranks. Of the 150+ chapter members, five are from other countries. And, to a man, they have been surprised at how easy it was to integrate into an entirely different cultural experience.

“It may seem ‘cringy’ (a British term meaning describing something cringe-worthy) telling people that I am part of a brotherhood” (as Greek traditions are almost non-existent in the UK), said **Jacob Keeling**, “but the closest I can relate it to is a sports team that lives, studies, socializes and volunteers together.”

Keeling is an exchange student from a small town in England majoring in geology. He will be on the Purdue campus for only one academic year.

He’s the second British exchange student in the chapter in the last three years.

“The Pi Kappa Phi experience has given me the opportunity to participate in many philanthropic/volunteer events that I never anticipated I’d be doing as part of a fraternity, especially in such a short amount of time,” Keeling said.

Halfway through his second semester on campus, he has participated in the Purdue University Dance Marathon, a campus winter-

ization project, the chapter’s David Feltner Memorial Bike-a-Thon and Arctoberfest.

“I think that I have made lifelong friendships being part of this brotherhood, something that I would not have thought possible upon my arrival in America,” he said.

His British predecessor to the chapter, **Reece Kenney**, rushed Pi Kappa Phi out of boredom in Fall 2013.

“I didn’t even know what a fraternity was before I got here, really,” he said. “I had heard about ‘frats’ on TV and in movies, but it kind of went over my head since they don’t exist in the UK. I certainly didn’t know what rushing was at the time, and the only reason I joined a fraternity was because I had a roommate who was really into the whole Greek life thing and he explained it all to me.”

In the end, though, it was a decision he’s thrilled about.

“Little did I know, joining a fraternity was the best decision I made during my time abroad,” he said. “That decision still impacts my life now and is the reason I’m where I am today.”

He’s now a software engineering position with Microsoft in Prague of the Czech Republic. He majored in computer science in his two years of college in the UK interrupted by his one year overseas. It was a pledge brother, Sam Sharkey, who referred him to Microsoft.

Two chapter members are from India – **Mahir Prasad** and **Pranit Das**.

Prasad is a biochemistry major and Das is an industrial engineering major.

Prasad waited until his sophomore year to join a fraternity. Some of his other countrymen attended colleges in the southern United States, and they encouraged him to try fraternity life.

“Having lived in two different countries, I had mixed reviews about the Greek system, so I wanted to check it out for myself,” he said. “I came here and loved it because the guys in the chapter are genuine and care about you. They wanted to know what you do and what you could bring to the chapter and improve upon it.”

As his hesitations subsided, he knew persuading his parents was another thing altogether. Both his parents attended graduate school in the U.S., but “they had a skewed opinion” of Greek life.

“Obviously, my parents are Indian and they watched movies,” he said. “Just being able to convince them was the challenge.”

“I told them about Journey of Hope, the Pi Kapp 100 and what we do in service. That eased them a little bit.”

His mother attended the 2016 Moms Day events at the fraternity.

“When my mom came to Moms Day she was like, ‘Well, I believe you, I really like it and I want to come back again.’”

The final member of the chapter is **David Osma**, an electrical engineering major from Bogota, Columbia.

Of the 2,990 men in Interfraternity Council’s membership, 3.3 percent identify themselves as international, according to Purdue statistics. However, that number includes members in fraternities that identify themselves as multicultural, too.

“It is very common for international students to seek experiences that are very ‘American,’” said **Brandon Cutler**, Purdue associate dean of students of fraternity, sorority and cooperative life. “That includes cars, dothes, pastime, etc. Thus, we are seeing more students from international backgrounds that are joining fraternities and sororities.”



Jacob Keeling, Mahir Prasad and Pranit Das point to their native countries on a globe outside the fraternity house (above left), and David Osma poses in front of the flags in the Purdue Memorial Union that represent all the international students (right).



## Pi Kapp 100 includes mom for second straight year

With a myriad of events, Pi Kappa Phi members celebrated Moms Day on April 8, 2017, amid picture perfect weather.

The event started with the 12:30 p.m. arrival of the Pi Kapp 100, a 100-kilometer fund-raising cycling ride from Zionsville to the chapter's front steps. The ride included **Amy Fisher**, mother of undergraduate **Mark Fisher**. It was her second consecutive Pi Kapp 100, and she and her son led the group's arrival at the house on April 8.

More than 20 riders and crew raised more than \$2,000 for The Ability Experience. Thus far in 2017, the chapter has raised more than \$15,000 for people with disabilities.

After the arrival and lunch for the riders and crew, moms (and their guests) were able to visit with their sons and attend any of the variety of on-campus events related to Purdue's Springfest.

At 4 p.m., moms gathered for a reception where they could view items displayed for a silent auction in the basement of the house. Multiple items were up for bid including baked goods, potted plants, sports apparel and home-made items.

From 5 to 6 p.m., there was a public auction of larger items including a food cart, picnic baskets and gift cards.

The chapter raised more than \$8,000 through the two auction formats that covered the cost of the Moms Day events along with funding a house improvement project or assisting in the chapter's annual Ability Experience fund-raising.

In the evening, the chapter traveled to The Trails for a Moms Day banquet and program.

Archon **Chad Hellan** gave a state of the chapter address and told moms that the chapter had a 3.11 average GPA in the fall and a 3.15 last spring. Furthermore, moms learned that the chapter raised \$69,689 for philanthropic purposes by the end of last fall, ranking it No. 1 on campus. At the fraternity's national awards presentations in January, the chapter won the executive, champion master chapter, outstanding service and recruitment & retention awards.

Hellan was followed by Mark Fisher, who explained the various chapter Ability Experience events during the school year – the David Feltner Memorial Bike-a-Thon, Arctoberfest, War of Roses,

Lafayette Jefferson High School's special needs class assistance and the Pi Kapp 100.

He also spoke passionately about the Journey of Hope – how he and his older brother, Thomas, both participated in different years. He lauded his mother, **Amy**, who did a ridealong on JOH and was a two-time rider in the Pi Kapp 100.

Mrs. Fisher talked of her Greek experience and how proud she was of her two sons.

The keynote speaker was former Kappa Kappa Gamma national president **Pris Gerde**, who spoke about her Greek experience and how she admires the programming done by Pi Kappa Phi at Purdue.

In all, more than 250 people participated in the 2017 Pi Kappa Phi Moms Day.



2017 Pi Kapp 100 team photo

# 14 sororities compete in War of Roses

More than 400 people watched Delta Zeta's Mallory Hackett be named the 2017 Rose Queen of Pi Kappa Phi on March 3.

She and her Delta Zeta sisters were one of the 14 Purdue sororities who participated in the chapter's annual War of Roses event raising money and awareness for The Ability Experience and people with disabilities. Activities were spread out over five weeks that included an empathy dinner, flag football tournament, sheet sign competition, t-shirt and ticket sales. The War of Roses capstone event was the talent show in Purdue's Loeb Playhouse.

The top three Rose Queen contestants and their related organizations included: Ana Coello, Kappa Delta, third place; Mary Tremaine, Phi Mu, second place, and Hackett, Delta Zeta, first place.

Chi Omega also won the sheet sign competition. Delta Zeta sold the most t-shirts raising the most funds for The Ability Experience. Sigma Kappa sold the most tickets to the talent show.

Zeta Tau Alpha won the flag football competition, The Rose Bowl.

The War of Roses programming raised nearly \$6,300 toward the chapter's annual Ability Experience fundraising. From the proceeds, the chapter will also be donating \$250 to The Starkey Hearing Foundation, Delta Zeta's philanthropy.



The brothers pose with the 2017 Rose Queen and her court at the conclusion of the War of Roses talent show.

"We received an amazing response in terms of participation from both brothers and the participating sororities," said **Pranit Das**, the chapter's Ability Experience chairman.

"The thing that stands out the most to me about the Ability Experience is its focus on service. Our chapter does numerous programming events that give us an opportunity to interact with people with disabilities on a more personal level day in and day out."

The War of Roses is one of five events of the school year that benefit people with disabilities.

In the fall, the chapter hosts the David Feltner Memorial Bike-a-Thon. That's followed by a Halloween-themed costume party for clients of

the Arc of Tippecanoe, Arctoberfest. In the spring, there's the Pi Kapp 100, a 100-kilometer cycling event whereby riders and crew commit to a fund-raising goal. And each school day, chapter members volunteer in special needs classes at Lafayette Jefferson High School.

And dozens of members – including 11 in 2017 – ride in the Journey of Hope, a cross-country, summer-long bicycle trek from the West Coast to Washington, D.C., each summer, too.

In each of the last seven years – and nine of the last 11 years – the chapter has raised more than \$10,000 for The Ability Experience ([www.abilityexperience.org](http://www.abilityexperience.org)). Since it first started fund-raising in 1980, the chapter has raised nearly \$215,000.

## 'Pie a Pi Kapp' raises funds for dance marathon

More than a dozen Pi Kappa Phi members participated in a March 30, 2017, "Pie a Pi Kapp" fund-raising event for the Purdue University Dance Marathon

(PUDM) in Purdue's Stewart Center.

By donating \$1 to \$10 – depending on the concoction of their self-made "pie" – folks could smash, smear or throw a pie in the face of chapter members. The event raised \$249 for PUDM and its benefactor, the Riley Hospital for

Children in Indianapolis.

PUDM is dedicated each year to two students who died during their undergraduate days at Purdue. One of them was Pi Kappa Phi's **David Feltner**, who died in 2011. A poster stood behind chapter members as they took "pies" to the face during the fund-raiser.

"Pie" concoctions could be made of ketchup, chocolate syrup, barbecue sauce, whipped cream and/or mayo.



## Memorial Bike-a-Thon highly successful



### Fraternity members gather around Candy and Steve Feltner at the conclusion of the sixth annual 72-Hour Bike-a-Thon.

Despite experiencing multiple seasons in a three-day period, the sixth annual David Feltner Memorial Bike-a-Thon went off relatively well.

On Oct. 12, 2016, the Purdue Pi Kappa Phi chapter embarked in a 72-hour Bike-a-Thon. Two or three stationary bikes were ridden near the belltower in the middle of campus for 72 hours straight.

Chapter members were joined by alumni, friends, sorority members and Feltner family members throughout the event.

The first five hours saw steady rain, but temperatures in the upper 60s. Then as the days went on, lows

dropped into the 40s. By the time of the 6 p.m. Saturday end, it was sunny and in the 70s.

The annual event that concludes after the Homecoming football game is in memory of Feltner, who died from cancer in 2011 as an undergraduate member. Feltner was very involved in the chapter's Ability Experience programming during his days at the fraternity, which is the national fraternity's outreach to benefit people with disabilities.

As they have done each year since 2011, **Candy and Steve Feltner** of Noblesville, IN, David's parents rode the last five minutes of the event honoring their son.

Riders commit to raise at least \$10 per hour of riding. Cyclists and guys who man a donation table also hand out flyers explaining the chapter's efforts.

It raised more than \$2,500 for The Ability Experience, including \$826.35 in cash at the cycling site.

"The Bike-a-Thon is something we look forward to doing every year," said archon **Ambrose Haas**.

"Having the Feltner family continue to come and show their support is an honor.

"The Bike-a-Thon has become very important to us, because it connects our fraternity as a whole; from alumni to our youngest members, we all feel the importance of the event while honoring the memory of David Feltner."



## Homecoming '17

Tickets are available for the noon, Sept. 23 homecoming game vs. Michigan, in Ross-Ade Stadium.

The housing corporation will take ticket orders until Sept. 15. Tickets are \$65 each (Purdue charges \$55 per ticket plus \$10 "legacy" fee for preferred ticket location).

Once you send in your payment, tickets will be held for pickup at the house the day of the game. No tickets will be mailed out to you.

The Sept. 23 homecoming schedule includes:

- **9 to 11:30 a.m.**, open house and ticket distribution, 330 N. Grant St.
- **10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**, pregame lunch in chapter house basement.
- **Noon**, Purdue vs. Michigan game in Ross-Ade Stadium.
- **4 to 6 p.m.**, open house at the fraternity.
- **5 p.m.**, completion of the Seventh Annual David Feltner Memorial Bike-a-Thon near the Purdue belltower. At 5:30 p.m., gather in the Great Hall for a slideshow and comments.

Football ticket payment can be made to: Pi Kappa Phi, PO Box 2700, West Lafayette, IN 47996.

## Almanac

### DIED

**William P. Pihos** (Omega 734), Oct. 15, 2016

### MARRIED

**Marcos Cunha** (Omega 1562) and **Andrea Rigali**, Oct. 8, 2016

**Andy Rupp** (Omega 1608) and **Lindy West**, Feb. 4, 2017

**Brian Creighton** (Omega 1612) and **Sheana**, July 23, 2016

**Matt Lange** (Omega 1628) and **Laura Campbell**, Aug. 27, 2016

**Ryan Kilboy** (Omega 1758) and **Matthew Lawson**, Jan. 20, 2017

**Mitch Sangalis** (Omega 1779) and **Kim Schepp**, Feb. 18, 2017

**Marshall Drew** (Omega 1832) and **Margaret Boldebuck**, May 6, 2017

### CHILDREN:

**Caleb Jeremiah Lauer**, son of **Erik** (Omega 1451) and **Iam Analo**, Oct. 16, 2016

**Huck Douglas Lombardi**, son of **Nancy** and **Nick** (Omega 1709), Dec. 5, 2016