



Welcome to new electronic newsletter

In an effort to communicate more regularly with Pi Kappa Phi-Omega alumni, you will receive updates like this typically on a quarterly basis. If you know of any other Omega alumnus who does receive email blasts from us, provide their email address to: pkuhnle@gmail.com.

Also, alumni can keep up with current happenings on the chapter's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pikapps.omega/>
the chapter website:

www.purduepikapps.com

and the chapter's Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/purduepikapps/>



Omega alumnus and The Ability Experience staff member presents a \$5,000 grant check to the special needs classes at Lafayette Jefferson High School in November 2017.

Alumni help push fund-raising total to more than \$20,000 in 2017

For only the second time in the chapter's history, Omega raised more than \$20,000 for the Ability Experience (formerly known as Push America). In 2017, the chapter raised \$20,091 – fourth most among the nearly 200 chapters nation-wide.

Thanks to an end-of-the-year push for alumni donations, the chapter was able to cross the \$20,000 mark. Alumni donated \$800 to the cause. We'd like to thank the following alumni brothers for helping the chapter raise funds and awareness for people with disabilities in 2017: Bill Hokanson, Rikard Hill, Mark Higgins, Doug Davis, John Cimino, Jim Taller, Kevin Johnson and Phil Leslie.

Since its first donation in 1980, the chapter has



Chapter members pose with Purdue President Mitch Daniels during the Sept. 20-23, 2017, Seventh Annual David Feltner 72-Hour Memorial Bike a Thon next to the belltower. The event raised more than \$4,000 toward the chapter's 2017 Ability Experience fund-raising total.

raised \$234,680 for the Ability Experience through the end of 2017. And since 2009, one-quarter of the annual fund-raising comes right back to our community through grants benefitting the special needs classes at Lafayette Jefferson High School where chapter members volunteer each week. Furthermore, because of its commitment to assist the high school classes, the Ability Experience gave a one-time additional grant of \$5,000 in November 2017.

Thus, to date, we have been able to donate \$33,189 to Lafayette Jeff for students in the special needs classes. The money is used to purchase classroom materials, fund outings and various programs.

Chapter has double-digit JOH riders for record-breaking 5th year in a row

In 2018, for the fifth consecutive year the chapter will send 10 or more on the national Ability Experience Journey of Hope cross-county cycling trip raising money and awareness for people with disabilities. No other chapter nationally has ever sent double-digit representatives in more than two consecutive years, no less five.

Alumni can financially support the Omega riders at: <http://abilityexperience.org/JOH2017roster/>

Do a search for Purdue riders or support them by name (or by college): Tyler Baumgartner, Andrew

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Beering, Hunter Day, Gus Dunbar, Jonathon Gianakos, Chad Hellan, Jack Kellison, Ryan Patout, Mahir Prasad, Sam Ragsdale and Andrew Sickman.

Alumni encouraged to ride in April 14 Pi Kapp 100

The 19th annual Pi Kapp 100 – a 100-kilometer cycling ride from Zionsville to campus – will occur on Saturday, April 14. Various alumni – and one Pi Kapp mom – have participated in the past. It's \$250 for alumni to ride along with undergraduate members. Chapter members have a dinner in Zionsville on Friday, April 13 and then spend the night at the Zionsville Boys and Girls Club. Alumni who are interested in riding should contact Livan Arteaga at push@purduepikapps.com, 219/221-3427.

This year's ride will also include regional Journey of Hope training and a visit from Ability Experience CEO Basil Lyberg. Alumni who ride will be given snacks and drinks along the way as well as lunch at the house upon arrival (approximately 12:30 p.m.). Alumni are welcome to stay through the Moms Day events throughout the day and the 6:30 p.m. banquet at the Purdue Memorial Union's North Ballroom.

Alumni can also provide general support for the ride by sending checks payable to: The Ability Experience and mail them to: Pi Kappa Phi, PO Box 2700, West Lafayette, IN 47996-2700.

Omega noted for academic, philanthropy achievements

Rankings from the Fall 2017 show that the Purdue chapter of Pi Kappa Phi is perhaps the most achieved fraternity at Purdue. Consider the following:

- No. 2 in grades among 40 fraternities with a semester average GPA of 3.27 from 145 men. It was second to a chapter that had 26 members (Phi Kappa Theta) when Pi Kappa Phi had 145.
- No. 1 in philanthropy dollars with \$112,354 raised since the spring report. The fund-raising includes money raised by chapter members participating in the 2017 Journey of Hope, PUDM (Purdue University Dance Marathon) along with what chapter members raised for The



The 2017 Pi Kapp 100 team included a mom for the second time ever. Alumni are encouraged to participate in the April 14, 2018 ride.

Ability Experience. Pi Kappa Phi was No. 1 by a factor of nearly 2x. The closest competitor raised \$61,639.

- No. 1 in service hours 5,040, by a factor of nearly 2x. The closest competitor was 2,548 service hours.
- No. 6 in fraternity membership with 145 men on the roster in the fall. The largest chapter had 175 members.
- No. 3 in new member GPA with 3.20 from 31 men. The highest new member average of any chapter was 3.23 with 10 new members.

The average IFC membership was 86, while Pi Kappa Phi had 145 at the end of the fall. IFC chapters averaged 2.95 GPA and the all-male average was 2.99.

Of the 31,006 undergraduate students at Purdue in the fall, 20.6 percent are Greek. The fraternity, sorority and cooperative organizations contributed 29,991 service hours and \$810,679, of which \$475,357 was part of PUDM fund-raising.

In the fall report, 40 were IFC (Interfraternity Council), 21 were



Christmas decorations adorn the fraternity house at 330 N. Grant St. in December 2017.

Panhellenic, 12 were cooperatives, 11 were Multicultural Greeks and 9 were National Pan-Hellenic Council members.

Of the 145 total chapter members on the list, 74.0 percent of them earned at least a 3.0 in the fall semester and 7.3 percent of them had a perfect 4.0.

The breakdown of grades of active members vs. new members was about the same. New members accounted for 31 of the chapter's 150 men on the grade list and 74.2 percent of them had a 3.0 percent or higher and 6.5 percent had a 4.0.

Spring recruitment class includes 13 new guys

After having a 30-man fall pledge class, the chapter has added another 14 in the spring.

The group was inducted the weekend of Feb. 2 and started the process of being indoctrinated with an off-campus retreat. They learned of the national fraternity values, local traditions and membership expectations.

The group includes all freshmen (name, major, hometown):

- Dan Burkhard, athletic training, Carmel, Indiana
- Seth Cantrell, engineering, Bloomington, Indiana
- Craig Centa, engineering, Cleveland, Ohio
- Zach Crescenzo, exploratory studies, Chicago, Illinois
- Jordan Cousins, mechanical engineering technology, Portage, Indiana
- Tommy Mayor, economics, Naperville, Illinois
- David Miller, engineering, Portage, Indiana
- Wesley Oliver, engineering, Bloomington, Indiana
- Luke Oldford, construction management, Clarkston, Michigan
- Jalen Pitts, construction management, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Andrew Peritore, engineering, New Providence, New Jersey

- Reed St. Vincent, professional flight, Orlando, Florida

- Alex Tunney, engineering, Weston, Connecticut

- Rollie Van Tassel, finance, Chicago, Illinois

Chapter given awards from national fraternity

In January, new officers attended national fraternity's Pi Kapp College for Emerging Leaders conference held on a regional basis. During that event, the chapter was awarded the following (for 2017):

- Master Chapter Award in four of the 7 Objectives of Chapter Excellence.

- Executive Award winner, for initiating the most new members in the region.

- Outstanding Branding and Communication Award in the region.

- Star of Hope, recognizing the most outstanding and comprehensive use for The Ability Experience programming on their campus with a balanced approach on disability awareness, fund-raising and volunteer efforts.

Fraternity supports Purdue Dance Marathon

Unlike most of the 2,000 dancers in the 2017 Purdue University Dance Marathon, the large contingent of Pi Kappa Phi members had alternatives to keep their minds off the 18 hours of the annual event.

Pi Kapps made up 53 of the 2,000+ registered dancers and raised \$18,069 for Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. Instead of being mindful that they could not sit down for three quarters of a day they kept busy.

The 18 hours of the marathon started at 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18 and concluded at noon Sunday, Nov. 19.

For the second year in a row, fraternity members managed the three stationary bikes set up to give marathon participants "a



Chapter dancers pose with their championship basketball team during the Nov. 18-19, 2017, Purdue Dance Maathon.

break." For a PUDM donation, dancers could "sit" on a stationary bike seats while pedaling for an hour. Otherwise, Pi Kapps manned the bikes in memory of David Feltner, a "Riley Kid himself" who died in 2011 from cancer as an undergraduate chapter member.

Furthermore, members could participate/watch Pi Kapps compete in various intramural activities, including corn hole (runners up), tug of war, volleyball, knockout dodgeball and basketball.

The chapter's hoops squad made it to the 1 a.m. finals. The seven-man team overcame an 8-point deficit to tie the game in the second half. The Pi Kapp team took the lead for good in an overtime session, winning 44-41. The gym was full of Pi Kapps and their supporters – whether dancers or just fans.

Over the years, Pi Kappa Phi's has maintained a commitment to the dance marathon. Nearly every year since the event started at Purdue in 2005, a Pi Kapp has been among the leadership of PUDM, The 2017 version is no different.

Nate Grabner was on exec this year, which raised a record of more than \$1.1 million for Riley's research and support services.

He's been on the morale committee and worked with outreach this time around.