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Omegalite

SUMMER 2018 PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Fraternity inspires Peace Corps volunteers

Servant leadership is not necessarily engrained in students about to enter university life.

Eighteen-year-olds are usually more focused on pondering how to make big bucks after graduation.

Greg Bandy is an exception. Faith and fraternity experiences changed Bandy, who graduated in May. In fact, he's committed to serving others for the next two years plus.

Bandy graduated in 2014 from Brownsburg High School outside Indianapolis, the youngest of three boys. He entered Purdue in pre-med with an interest of eventually earning a doctorate degree to do research on the cellular level in order to leave an impact on the world.

His father, Steve, is a chemist at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis and a Rose-Hulman graduate. His mother, Maria, is a physician's assistant at IU-Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis and a Yale graduate.

His two older brothers are self-proclaimed atheistic and agnostic.

When it came to a college selection, he considered Notre Dame due to his deep Catholic faith tradition, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Rose Hulman, Michigan and Illinois.

But Purdue's biological engineering program won out.

When he participated in fraternity recruitment his first semester on campus, he did not expect what he found at Pi Kappa Phi. The

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Greg Bandy with a child on a mission trip to Haiti.

Watson, Bandy follow same paths

Decades removed from each other, two Omega alumni find serving others through the Peace Corps to be their calling.

Matt Watson (Omega 1234), a 1990 Purdue alumnus, and **Greg Bandy** (Omega 1965), who graduated in 2018, have forged similar paths to serving others.

Watson majored in biology and wanted to be a physician. Bandy majored in biological engineering and planned to be a doctor, too. Both committed two years to the Peace Corps and they have, or will have, served in the African country of Guinea.

Their fraternity experiences with Push America in Watson's era and The Ability Experience for Bandy helped forged that need to do outreach work.

These are their stories.

A trip to Europe with a fraternity brother changed the course of Matt Watson's life the summer before his junior year of college.

Watson and Kurt Takara (Omega 1154) went backpacking in six countries over three weeks in 1989, and Watson's life plan changed. He wanted to be a physician to help people. Oh, he's helped people since graduation, but not the way he had planned.

"It made me realize there is a big world out there and lots of nooks and crannies to explore," Watson said recently. "I knew I wanted to help people and make the world a better place. I was also working at a biology lab on campus that was full of students from around the world."

Enter his new plan – the Peace Corps for a temporary respite. Or so it seemed at the time.

"I was ready for adventure and to take the plunge to join the Peace Corps," he said.

That philanthropic effort became a passion and a profession.

After graduating in biology in 1990, he "got on that plane and never looked back," he said. That plane took him as a volunteer to the Republic of

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Matt Watson with a group of children in one of his many roles with Save the Children from 2001-17.

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The Omegalite is published at least once a year by the Omega of Pi Kappa Phi Housing Corporation for its alumni. Address corrections should be mailed to us at the contact information listed at the top of this box.

Annual alumni donations top $10,000

Annual donations to the Omega of Pi Kappa Phi Housing Corporation and chapter topped $10,000 in 2017.

The corporation and chapter received 49 donations for $10,160 last year. The majority of that money – $5,225 – was non-designated, while the second highest category of giving was to the Chapter Investment Fund (CIF) with $3,050. The CIF donations are tax-deductible and help support the educational needs of the chapter such as conference and tutor fees. That fund is held by the Pi Kappa Phi Foundation and are collected by the local housing corporation.

Other donations have been earmarked to the award-winning Omegalite publication ($275), building fund ($775) and the chapter's annual Ability Experience fund-raising efforts ($1,100).

In 2017, the chapter raised $20,092 from its various efforts. It has raised more than $20,000 for the Ability Experience in two of the last three years. Thus far in 2018, $10,812 has been donated.

The housing corporation receives funds in two ways – through rent charged to the undergraduate chapter and alumni donations. Those funds are used to pay for chapter house maintenance, summer improvements, alumni communication and liability insurance (now at more than $200 per member). Donations completely fund the Omegalite, which cost $1,985.16 to print and mail.

A total of 42 ballots were received in favor of the housing corporation officer slate for 2017-18 of **Jay Seeger** for president, **Brandt Hershman** for vice president, **Steve Bohner** for treasurer and **Pat Kuhnle** for secretary. In the spring semester, Hershman resigned as vice president as he left his Indiana State Senate seat to accept a staff attorney job for Barnes and Thornburg in Washington, DC. The corporation officers appointed **Matt Clark** to complete Hershman's term.

A ballot for officers for the 2018-19 year is included in this mailing.

At the end of 2017, the building fund stood at $158,384 with another $50,027 in a certificate of deposit that matures in August 2018. The certificate represents a 2013 bequest from Charles Lowe's estate for a building fund. The building fund receives its money from alumni donations as well as half of what used to be mortgage payments. The other half of the mortgage payments is available for summer improvement projects.

Alumni interested in learning more about establishing bequests or major gifts to the chapter, should contact corporation president Seeger.

The 2017 donations included:

$10,000 or more
None

$2,500 to $9,999
1506 Phil Leslie

$1,000-$2,499
835 David Lane

$500 to $999
722 Jack Berlien
1307 Steve Hatke
1366 Jeff Tang

$250 to $499
448 W Kelley Carr
506 James Jackson
1080 Don Porth
1090 Jeff Egilsrud
1197 Pat Kuhnle
1457 Peter Todd
1461 Kevin Johnson

$100 to $249
360 John Gumpper
399 Edon Knuth
528 Larry Hines
540 William Hounshell
552 David Griffiths
572 Bill Hokanson
492 David Johnson
672 Ron Lema
706 Gerard Buente
740 John McDonald
789 James Forcum
819 Jim Berlien
863 Rikard Hill
919 Richard Price
1030 Lars Kneller
1031 Mark Higgins
1119 Rick Bonar
1405 Jim Taller
1659 Brian Heiwig

$50 to $99
449 Jack Powers
604 Tony Terlep
636 Fred Lyijynen
727 David R Davis
862 R Michael Little
769 Jay Hackleman
882 Sonny O'Drobinak
956 Larry Metzler
1091 Gary Mitzner
1176 Doug Davis
1379 John Cimino

$25 to $49
613 Donald Katter
738 Neil Jay

Bandy to work on sustainable food solutions in Guinea

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chapter has a recruitment event at which it highlights what members do to assist people with disabilities through The Ability Experience.

"It showed how much more Pi Kapps were than just a fraternity," he said at the time.

Bandy's goal of serving others was in his DNA when he came to campus.

"I dreamed of one day becoming a doctor because of a desire to work for Doctors Without Borders," he said after graduating from Purdue. "I realized that as a medical doctor only a fraction of my professional life would revolve around mission work and volunteering."

He figured that out for himself along the way, but there were a lot of things he did his first three years at Purdue that developed meaning in his life.

"I realized I could pivot on my major and focus on engineering sustainable food security solutions in Third World countries," he said.

Now, medical school has been put on hold – perhaps temporarily, perhaps permanently. He's taking his sense of mission, of service and of changing the world in the Peace Corps for at least two years.

Life experience and personal growth changed him.

"The Ability Experience has a selling point of offering men of Pi Kappa Phi unique experiences and the Journey of Hope was the most unique thing I have ever accomplished," Bandy said. "So, I had to go one up on JOH by joining the Peace Corps."

The Journey of Hope is a summer national fraternity cross-country cycling event raising money and awareness of the plights of people with disabilities.

"JOH gave me desire and taste for more unique and unusual experiences that other people would find uncomfortable or difficult, but I love that. Challenging myself through getting out of my comfort zone for the benefit of others along with my four mission trips the year after pushed me to join the Peace Corps."

The interaction of people with disabilities while a chapter member, and, more specifically, during Friendship Visits on Journey of Hope, can be life-changing. Friendship Visits assist various agencies working with people with disabilities. They are often the highlight for the hosting groups for the entire year. Clients eagerly await the biker arrivals and interactions.

But Bandy did more than that – he participated in four faith-based mission trips.

As a parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, the Catholic parish serving the Purdue community, he did three – to Haiti, Cuba and New Orleans. His fourth such trip was with his hometown parish that featured another visit to Haiti, perhaps the poorest country in the world that has Catholicism as the predominant faith tradition. Many also practice voodoo.

In Haiti, he saw the poor in need economically and spiritually. He made an impact.

"Greg is an exceptional young man," said the Rev. Patrick Baikauskas, pastor of St. Tom's. "It's like I could see him growing before my eyes. It was immediately apparent that these mission trips – I was with him in Cuba and Haiti – were not another notch in the student activity belt. He cared about the people he was serving and his fellow missionaries.

Bandy poses with the Rev. Patrick Baikauskas after a graduation Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

"His insights when we shared with the student missionaries each evening spoke to a deep sense of what we are called to do as Christians."

Since graduation, Bandy has traveled Europe with five fraternity brothers: Will Nigh, Mark Fisher, Noah Cerviello, Doug Kaskie, and Brian Rice.

Will Nigh, Greg Bandy, Mark Fisher, Noah Cerviello, Doug Kaskie and Brian Rice in Europe in 2018.

Fisher knows first-hand about Bandy's empathy. The two were pledge brothers, roommates at the fraternity house and teammates on the 2016 Journey of Hope North team.

"After spending nearly every waking moment with a person for over two months, their true character is revealed through their daily actions," Fisher said. "Among the many things I learned that summer was that Greg is one of the most compassionate and selfless people that I've known in my life. His dedication for service to others has enabled him to take on unique challenges and opportunities that few get the chance to experience."

Fisher marvels at Bandy's selflessness.

Continued on next page

Mark Fisher and Greg Bandy share a light moment on the Journey of Hope in 2016.

"I admire Greg because of his burning passion to do what he knows is going to help other people, rather than focusing his efforts on helping himself," Fisher said. "I'm proud to call him a brother and a friend and I can't wait to see the great things he accomplishes in the coming years."

Bandy is committed to 27 months with the Peace Corps, specializing in agroforestry starting this fall in the West African country of Guinea. The first three months with the Corps will focus on training, including language dialects and expectations, then two years on the ground.

His job will be to increase agricultural productivity, promote agribusiness and improve natural resource management.

"The living conditions vary greatly, depending on the region of the country you work," he said. "You may live in a village of 300 people or small-sized towns of 2,000 to 10,000 or medium-sized ones of 10,000 or more population."

Those conditions stand in contrast to everyday U.S. norms.

"Your house may have concrete walls or mud bricks and a tin roof," Bandy said. "Some volunteers have running water and/or electricity while others do not. In rural areas, you will be more likely to use kerosene lamps for light, collect your water from rain barrels or a nearby well and use outdoor latrines. You must be flexible in your housing expectations and be ready to work in areas with no electricity or where electricity is irregular."

His diet will include maize, rice, plantains, beans, cassava and okra. Meat or smoked fish are sometimes available as are seasonal fruits.

His undergraduate degree is focused on food processing, not agricultural management.

"I think the critical thinking and problem-solving skills of my degree will come in great use," he said. "I believe the rigor of Purdue engineering will have more than prepared me for the difficulties and challenges that await me."

His fraternity experience has helped prepare him, too.

"I think living and experiencing life of being a man of Pi Kappa Phi introduced me to so many different perspectives," he said. "Joining Pi Kappa Phi opened me up from the narrow-sighted, maybe even judgmental person I was in high school, to the more understanding and compassionate person I am now. I want to see and experience people's attitudes and beliefs across the world.

"If I had not joined Pi Kappa Phi, I am pretty sure I would be heading off to medical school this fall and not pursuing the life of adventure and service that I am now dreaming about."

The idealistic dreams of an 18-year-old can still be lived after earning an engineering degree at Purdue.

At least for Bandy, that's the case.

Greg Bandy works with his mother, Maria, who is a physician's assistant. This photo was taken in June 2017 near the village of Cap Haitie in Haiti as the two were were assisting patients.

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Guinea in West Africa for two years and another one in Cameroon.

"I taught math and science to high school kids and did youth projects over the summer," he said. "I was in schools where, if I was not posted there, those kids would never had had a chance at getting to college."

Watson inspired them and they inspired him.

"I learned to have confidence in myself that I can adapt in some pretty tough physical and cultural environments," Watson said. "I learned that I can thrive in other cultures and I'm resilient and adaptable.

"I learned what it was like to be the only person of my race in a room, a community or a town, which can be both wonderful and intimidating. I learned that people are more alike than different. It was truly a life-changing experience."

After the two years with the Peace Corps, Watson worked short-term contracts for various donors and organizations assisting in the continent.

"It took me across Africa and I visited 40 countries there (for five years)," he said.

Later, he tried to secure various jobs, but was unqualified with just a bachelor's degree. Watson came back to the U.S. and in 2000, he earned master's degrees in public health and African studies at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Afterward, he embarked on a 17-year stint with Save the Children, an international organization based in England that promotes children's rights worldwide through education and healthcare and also helps in crisis situations due to war, poverty and natural disasters.

"This is front-line work in war zones, working with vulnerable children," Watson said. "This took me to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone to work on the response for the civil wars, where I mainly worked demobilizing and reintegration of former child combatants."

It was then off to Darfur for three years and to South Sudan "to help with the post-peace building process."

He worked in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Senegal, and as Watson describes, "lots of other interesting spots around the globe."

In 2014, he was back stateside in an administrative role with Save the Children.

Watson made a career change from philanthropic non-profits to a domestic governmental agency – USAID, the United States Agency for International Development – as a senior technical advisor for children in adversity in January 2018.

"I have built my entire career off the foundation I built with the Peace Corps," he said. "It was instrumental to my work and experiences today."

Not only did his European pre-junior year at Purdue experience shape him, but the early years of the Ability Experience – then known as Push America – while a chapter member did as well.

"The philanthropic part of our fraternity experience certainly led my desire to help others," Watson said.

His fraternity bond helped, too, in those early days on another continent.

"It was the support of my brothers, both as I was making my decision as well as my first few tough years overseas" that impacted him. "Letters, care packages and support were critical and it really kept me going on bad days."

His European backpack partner, Takara, marvels at what Watson has done since graduation.

"Matt's work with Save the Children is both impressive and inspiring," Takara said. "He has made an amazing impact on the Save the Children organization as well as multiple African countries and their people."

Nearly three decades have passed since their undergraduate fraternity

experience at Omega.

"From Matt's achievements, we can see that the fraternity experience helps develop young men beyond academically and socially," said Takara, now a verification technologist at Mentor Graphics in San Francisco. "The leadership experience and philanthropic spirit has inspired Matt to achieve great things and has impacted the lives of so many people."

Takara earned a BS in electrical engineering at Purdue and an MBA at Santa Clara. He's been a consultant and manager for Ikos Systems and Synopsys before joining O-In Design Automation in 2002. O-In Design was acquired by Mentor, where he now works in technical and product marketing.

Interestingly, Takara has done his fair share of volunteer work with children for more and a decade and counting. He's been a youth soccer coach. He also has assisted with the Boy Scouts of America where his son, Cole, earned his Eagle rank in April.

"It's rewarding to make an impact on these boys' lives and see them develop into young men," Takara said. "Hopefully, it will encourage these young men to do the same in the future."

That 1989 European backpacking trip over three weeks gave them a new perspective on the world and what impact they might have on others.

"The trip expanded the horizons of two naïve young men," he said. "It inspired Matt to think and make an impact beyond our prior, limited perspective of the world."

7th annual Feltner Bike a Thon sets fund-raising record

More than $4,000 was raised for The Ability Experience during the seventh annual David Feltner 72-Hour Memorial Bike a Thon that led up to the Sept. 23 Purdue homecoming football game vs. Michigan.

The three-day riding event that started at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 20, concluded near the Purdue belltower as undergraduates, alumni, parents and guests watched **Candy** and **Steve Feltner** (Omega 1748) complete the last five minutes on two stationary bikes. There were activities that preceded the bike a thon and others that were held in conjunction with it during what was termed "Abilities Week" at Purdue.

The events started on Monday, Sept. 18, with "Pie a Pi Kapp" that allowed friends and passers-by to "pie" selected fraternity members for $1 to $4 in donations dependent on the concoction of the "pie." Ingredients could include whipped cream, various syrups or even ketchup. The "pie" portion of the week had 20 brothers participating and raised $365.

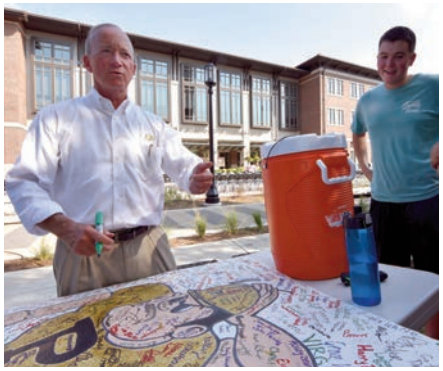
The ride was subject to sometimes 90+ degree temperatures and 100-degree heat indexes from Sept. 20 to 23. Accordingly, two afternoons of snow cone sales in various flavors for $1 each were popular with 190 sold at the bike a thon site.

Spread over the three days of cycling, 16 sorority teams competed for distance during 25 minutes riding time. Most teams featured five riders for five minutes each, but the winning team only had four.

Zeta Tau Alpha won the competition with 9.6 miles measured in 25 minutes. The team also had the highest recorded speed of all participants once reaching 46 mph. **Alpha Chi Omega** took second place with 9.07 miles while achieving one stretch of 38 mph.

The sorority competition raised $650 in entrance fees and additional contributions.

The biking site took cash donations around the clock, too, and raised $1,045. Brothers who rode committed to raising at least $10 per hour and the 115 brothers and associate members raised $1,330 that way.



Purdue President Mitch Daniels talks with chapter members after he signed the pledge to not use the "R" word (retarded).

Ability Experience CEO **Basil Lyberg** and chapter alumnus **Mike McBride** (Omega 1904) did a virtual hour-long ride in Charlotte on Facebook Live. They raised funds in a telethon format. During their hour the two personally raised $300, and another $300 in donations were made online to the Purdue chapter's annual fund-raising page.

Brandon Cutler, associate dean of students for fraternity, sorority and cooperative life at Purdue, was one of the riders. Even **Purdue President Mitch Daniels** stopped by to sign the pledge board and pose for photos with riders.

"I'm so proud of what we achieved during our Abilities Week – raising more money than I had expected for people with disabilities," chapter Ability Experience chairman **Adam Kunovski** (Omega 2022) said. "What impressed me the most about the whole week was all the support that I received from people and that's what really made our Abilities Week so successful."

As at least two riders participated around the clock, the chapter also had someone sit at a donation table explaining what they were doing – raising money and awareness for Ability Experience, the philanthropic outreach program of the national fraternity. Money raised assists people with disabilities locally and nationally.

"The brothers and associate members were such a huge help in setting up and participating in all the events throughout the week and the sorority members were very competitive."

In the end, the fraternity raised $4,200 for The Ability Experience through the event.

The bike a thon drew to a close at the fraternity house. Kunovski thanked the participants, as did the Feltner family. Lyberg also recorded a video message praising the achievements of the chapter through this event as well as others throughout the year.

"We just want to thank you for all your hard work and everything you've done during the Abilities Week," Lyberg said in his video presentation. "It's been so awesome to follow along with social media with how you've involved the community, folks from the university, the sorority competitions, the snow cones – which looked fantastic. Just what you put together to raise funds for The Ability Experience to be able to watch that really means the world (to us)."

• The Bike a Thon is named in memory of **David Feltner** (Omega 1738), who died of cancer as an undergraduate in 2011.

• Alumni are encouraged to ride in the eighth annual Feltner Bike a Thon, from Sept. 19 to 22, 2018, near the Purdue belltower at the center of campus. Contact archon **Nate Longo** (Omega 2042), 614/886-2131, archon@purduepikapps.com, or Ability Experience chairman **Matt Zelinksi** (Omega 2098), 937/475-2300, push@purduepikapps.com.

Homecoming '18 information

Tickets are available for the noon Sept. 22, homecoming game vs. Boston College in Ross-Ade Stadium.

The housing corporation will take ticket orders until Sept. 14. Tickets range from $30-75 each depending on location.

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

The Sept. 22 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. Boston College game in Ross-Ade Stadium.

• **4 to 6 p.m.**, open house at the fraternity.

• **5 p.m.**, completion of the eighth 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 may be made to: Pi Kappa Phi, PO Box 2700, West Lafayette, IN 47996.

Chapter member wins national award

A senior chapter member from Fort Wayne has been named one of Distinguished Leadership Award winners nationally for the organization that manages campus dance marathons.

Nathan Grabner (Omega 1978) was one of 20 seniors honored with the award on May 2. The Miracle Network Dance Marathon leadership award is given to someone who makes "an exceptional impact within their dance marathon program."

Grabner has been a participant five times, starting in 2014. He started as a dancer; moved to morale committee member; fraternity outreach chair; fraternity, sorority and cooperative life outreach exec member; and in 2018 is vice president of external relations. He's raised more than $6,500 along the way.

The Miracle Network supports research and treatment of patients diagnosed with childhood diseases at one of the 170 children hospitals nationally.

Nathan Grabner (center) talks with a representative from a bone marrow registration group at the 2017 Purdue University Dance Marathon as Jack Kellison looks on.

The Purdue University Dance Marathon is held for 18 straight hours each fall and involves nearly 2,000 dancers raising money and awareness of the needs of the Miracle Network. It directly benefits Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis and has raised more than $1 million in each of the last five years.

Within the fraternity, Grabner has been historian, social director and recruitment chairman. He also rode in the 2016 Journey of Hope, a 3,600-mile cross-country cycling trip raising money and awareness for people with disabilities in conjunction with the Ability Experience.

Grabner is a management major who will graduate in December. He hopes to work in consulting.

Spring Greek rank

Pi Kappa Phi is among the Purdue leaders in each of the statistical categories from the spring 2018 semester.

The chapter was in the Top 10 in three of the four categories among the 40 Purdue fraternities, including:

• No. 2 in membership with 159 (Zeta Beta Tau was largest with 182)

• No. 5 in grades with a 3.13 GPA (No. 1 Farmhouse had 3.20)

• No. 3 in philanthropy dollars with $10,813

• No. 11 in service hours with 829

Individual chapter members exceled in many academic areas as well. They include:

• 107 members were at a 3.0 or higher in the spring semester, or 68.2 percent.

• 59 members earned dean's list and/or semester honors, 37.6 percent.

• 17 members had a 4.0 GPA, 10.8 percent.

And during the summer, nine members are on the Journey of Hope cross-country cycling trip raising funds for the Ability Experience and awareness for people with disabilities.

Fall Greek rank

In the fall 2017, Pi Kappa Phi was the first in two Greek rankings and was second in another.

It was:

• No. 1 in fraternity philanthropy dollars raised in Summer/Fall 2017 with $112,354

• No. 1 in fraternity service hours with nearly 5,400

• No. 2 in average fraternity grades with 3.26

• No. 6 in chapter size at 145, when the fraternity average was 86

Of the 145 total members on the fall 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, 74.2 percent of them had a 3.0 percent or higher, and 6.5 percent had a 4.0.

Quarterly Omegalite

We have started producing a quarterly e-Omegalite, a digital product emailed to alumni.

The first e-Omegalite was emailed in March to alumni on our list. These quarterly editions provide you more up-to-date news about the chapter's activities.

This summer Omegalite will act as the second such edition of the year. Should you wish to be added to our email list, contact Omega of Pi Kappa Phi secretary Pat Kuhnle (Page 2 has contact info).

We will continue to produce the print award-winning Omegalite and mail it to more than 1,500 Omega alumni at least annually.

Purdue names Pi Kappa Phi its top fraternity

Pi Kappa Phi was named Purdue's top fraternity for 2017-18 on April 9 at the annual Greek Awards Gala.

The fraternity was chosen among six finalists that qualified in each of the judging categories. Then the IFC finalists were evaluated statistically to determine the winner.

"Winning the RB Stewart Award means so much to me and to every man in this chapter," said 2018 archon **Nate Longo** (Omega 2042). "It represents what we all do, day-in and day-out, to live true to the values we preach."

The 2017 president echoed the sentiment.

"It really is a great reflection of our achievements and it is rewarding to see all the hard work every single brother put into making this goal a reality," said **Chad Hellan** (Omega 2023). "I'm proud of all my brothers for the ongoing drive to be the absolute best fraternity we can be."

It was the second time in the last three years that Pi Kappa Phi has won the Stewart Award and eighth of the last 11 years.

The associate dean of students for fraternity, sorority and cooperative life, **Brandon Cutler**, made the announcement at the awards event. Right before he announced the winner, he quipped that it might be time to rename the award since Pi Kappa Phi has won it so much.

Throughout his career at Purdue, Cutler has emphasized that Greek organizations need to prove their value to the educational mission of the university. Furthermore, they need to be better than the average student.

"Pi Kappa Phi has consistently recruited members and elected leaders that believe they can make the world a better place," he said. "They work hard and expect their members to give generously of their time, talent and treasure. Their humble approach, commitment to their mission and continuity throughout fraternity leadership has allowed them to sustain a progressive and transformational organizational culture."

Also at the awards ceremony, Pi Kapp **Pranit Das** (Omega 2021) was named the IFC Philanthropist of the Year.

"Not only does Pranit live what our philanthropy stands for day in and day out, he has a lot of accomplishments as a leader to showcase his efforts," the chapter's nomination for Das said.

2018 and 2017 archons Nate Longo and Chad Hellan pose with the RB Stewart Award.

"This is the first award that I've ever won so it's very special," Das, an international student from India, said. "I'm pleased we could raise as much money as we did for a great cause and I'm glad that I was able to do justice to the position of Ability Experience chairman."

Das was Ability Experience chairman in the spring and continued assist his successor with various outreach programs for people with disabilities.

It also marked the second year out of the last three that Pi Kappa Phi has had IFC's top philanthropist.

Almanac

DEATHS

Charles E. Atwell (Omega 406),10/3/17

John Gaydos (omega 462), 11/6/17

Richard A. Smith (Omega 478), 7/4/17

Edwin D. Gruwell (Omega 629), 2/19/18

Chuck Smith (Omega 1241), 7/27/18

MARRIAGES

Jae Sparks (Omega 1279) and Mary Anne Scully, 5/20/17

Reid Bruner (Omega 1615) and Kelly Hickney, 4/21/18

Ryan Nugent (Omega 1717) and Paul Schultz, 9/2/17

Eric Allen (Omega 1724) and Allison Barr, 7/7/18

Alex Prichodko ()mega 1752) and Kaylie Waltz, 11/25/17

Chris Mascaro (Omega 1797) and Bethany Moore, 11/11/17

Nathan Plag (Omega 1799) and Alex Guerra, 4/4/18

Keegan Dunville (Omega 1829) and Shelly, 8/5/17

Jake Foster (Omega 1840) and Jessica, 6/3/17

Dustin Zachary (Omega 1842) and Samantha, 6/23/18

Zach Peterson (Omega 1880), and Kirsten, 6/10/17

Will Hockema (Omega 1944) and Emily Seymour, 8/27/17

CHILDREN

Meyer River Wiggins, son of Thomas Wiggins (Omega 1285), 6/8/17

Adelynn Beatrice, daughter of Austin Carr (Omega 1377), 7/30/18William Isaac Johnson, son of Kevin Johnson (Omega 1461), 12/8/17

Hazel Kathleen Lenhart, daughter of Tony Lenhart (Omega 1468), 1/13/18

Emerson Rose and Seaton William twin daughter and son of Rob Woods (Omega 1469), 12/26/17

Oliver David, son of Brent Wunderlich (Omega 1488), 5/10/18

Grffin William, son of Phil Leslie (Omega 1506), 4/3/18

Harper Lynn, daughter of Brian Shea (Omega 1526), 1/23/18

Scarlett Helen, daughter of Justin Hubbert (Omega 1554), 1/29/18

Aapporah Camila, daughter of Pat Conner (Omega 1560), 1/18/18

Easton Thomas, son of Rob Waskom (Omega 1581), 11/30/17

Miles Joseph, son of Jason Bowen (Omega 1589), 1/19/18

Luke Andrew, son of Andy Rupp (Omega 1608), 9/7/17

Audrey Mae Purcell, daughter of Bob Purcell (Omega 1626), 6/8/17

Nathan Karl, son of Matt Anderson (Omega 1632), 10/29/17

Harrison Soeka, son of Joe Soeka (Omega 1665), 7/23/17

Claire, daughter of Ben Ross (Omega 1729), 2/15/18

Margaret Claire, daughter of David Hanover (Omega 1760), 11/25/17

Special needs students thank chapter members

The students with special needs at Lafayette Jefferson High School express their appreciation to Purdue's Pi Kappa Phi members in various ways – through hugs, high fives and smiles.

As they often do at the end of each term, those students who can write sent thank-you notes to the fraternity in May.

"Hello Purdue Guys! Thank you for great time coming into help. Have a great summer! Your friend," one student wrote among the nearly a dozen cards sent to the chapter house in late May.

Cece wrote, "Dear Pi Kappa Phi. Thanks so much for your herple [sic]."

Fraternity members assist students with life skills during Purdue's academic year. That might include learning to make change, grocery shopping or developing interpersonal skills. Brothers may work with students with geography, math or reading, too.

The high school students may have cognitive, physical or developmental disabilities.

"Hi Purdue guys," another special needs student wrote. "Thank you for your great donation and coming to help us with our work. Your friend, Logan Robbins."

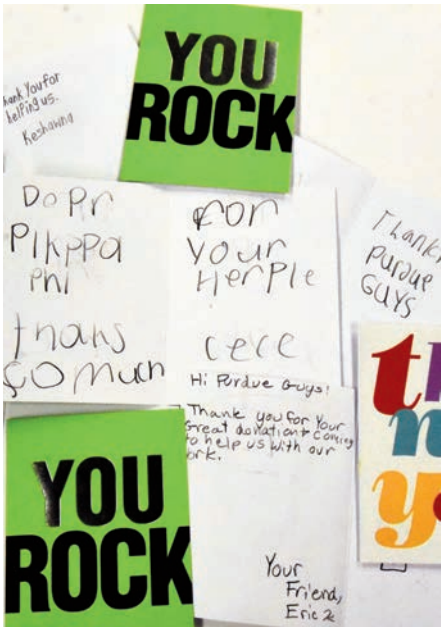
The Ability Experience Circle of Giving Grant donates at least 25 percent of the chapter's annual philanthropic fund-raising to local agencies.

At the April 2018 Moms Day celebration, Ability Experience CEO **Basil Lyberg** presented the chapter a $6,500 check for Lafayette Jeff's special needs classes. Lyberg was the keynote speaker at Moms Day.

Since 2009, the Ability Experience/Omega chapter have given the school $39,689. That money goes toward classroom outings such as zoo visits and weekly bowling. It also assists in purchasing classroom supplies and iPads, some of which enable non-verbal students a way to communicate.

Perhaps, special needs student Noah Skiles put it best when his thank you note simply read, "Thanks Purdue Guys."

With volunteer assistance and grants, Pi Kappa Phi is making a difference in the community.



This is a collage photo of some of the thank you notes sent from students with special needs classes at Lafayette Jefferson High School in May.

53 participate in PUDM

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 registered dancers raising money for Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, but instead of being mindful that they could not sit down for three quarters of a day, they kept busy.

The marathon started at 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, and concluded at noon Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017.

For the second year in a row, fraternity members managed the three stationary bikes set up to give marathon participates "a break." For a PUDM donation, dancers could "sit" on 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 cornhole (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.

With its participation and successes, Pi Kappa Phi won the overall PUDM intramural championship.

"PUDM was a whole new experience for me," said freshman Tom Hirschfeld, the fall pledge class president. "It is very hard to prepare someone for 18 hours of dancing, games, and non-stop enthusiasm, but when it's 3 a.m. and you've been awake for nearly 20 hours it's funny to look over at your friends, see the bags under their eyes and know that they are just as sleep deprived as you!"

Hirschfeld was valedictorian at a private parochial school in Indianapolis.

Over the years, Pi Kappa Phi's have 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 was no different.

Chapter raises $10,000 for Ability Experience in spring semester

Through various fund-raising efforts, the chapter raised $10,812 for people with disabilities supporting The Ability Experience.

The total ranks the Purdue chapter as No. 4 among the nearly 200 Pi Kappa Phi chapters nationwide. The Ability Experience chapter fund-raising runs the calendar year, so money raised during the summer and fall will assist in the final annual rankings.

The chapter has raised $10,000 or more for nine consecutive years and in 11 of the last 13. It is on pace to reach the $20,000 plateau for the second consecutive year and for only the third time since 1980-81 – the first year of the outreach effort.

Since the 1980-81 academic year, the chapter has raised $245,493 for people with disabilities.

Alumni, parents and friends may support the chapter's efforts through online donations at: https://www.classy.org/team/149705

In addition to its ongoing commitment to assist special needs classes at a local high school, the chapter had various fund-raising and service events in the spring. They included:

• **War of Roses**, a two-week event established in 2007, highlights the challenges faced by people with disabilities. The event culminates with a talent show in a campus theater. This year's event included 14 sororities competing in empathy training, flag football, sheet sign, t-shirt and ticket sales and a talent show that raised more than $5,000. More than 500 people attended the March 3 show in Purdue's Loeb Playhouse.

Tyler Baumgartner poses with the Second Chance Prom participant on Feb. 17.

• **Pi Kapp/Best Buddies-Purdue Second Chance Prom**, which is a service event. It features clients with special needs from the Arc of Tippecanoe who did not get a chance to participate in their high school proms. Eleven of the sororities competing in the War of Roses sent members to assist with the event that drew nearly 200 people.

• **Pi Kapp 100**, a 100-kilomter cycling trip from Zionsville to the Purdue campus established in 1999. The ride had 28 riders and crew members. The 2018 team included six men on regional training for the Journey of Hope and Gear Up Florida as well as Ability Experience CEO **Basil Lyberg**. The Pi Kapp 100 arrives during Moms Day at the fraternity each spring.

Fall events include the David Feltner Memorial Bike a Thon and Arctoberfest, a Halloween-themed costume party. This fall will mark the eighth year the chapter has co-hosted the event with the Arc of Tippecanoe, a local chapter of a national organization assisting people with disabilities, and Best Buddies-Purdue.

Because of its commitment to serve people with disabilities and its annual events, the chapter received the 2017 and 2018 Star of Hope Award from the national fraternity. The award recognizes the most outstanding and comprehensive use for The Ability Experience programming with a balanced approach to disability awareness, fund-raising and volunteer efforts.

The fraternity also has nine riders in the 2018 Journey of Hope, a fraternity-wide, cross-country cycling trip. The nine chapter members raised $55,911 for the summer ride.

Tyler Baumgartner, **Andrew Beering**, **Gus Dunbar**, **Jonathon Gianakos**, **Chad Hellan**, **Jack Kellison**, **Ryan Patout**, **Sam Ragsdale** and **Drew Sickman** are the 2018 riders, bringing the chapter's all-time total to 76 men.

• Alumni may support the chapter's Ability Experience annual fundraising. Included in this mailing is a donation slip. You may write your check to The Ability Experience and mail it to the Omega of Pi Kappa Phi Housing Corporation using the envelope in this mailing.

The 2018 Pi Kapp 100 arrival