

Alpha Pi Is DOIN' BIG THINGS!



Alpha Pi receives Pyramid of Excellence at their Homecoming event.

Nearly 90 years ago, the Alpha Pi Chapter at Michigan State University received their charter—it was January 13, 1923. Next month, Alpha Pi alumni will gather to celebrate the longevity of their chapter, the brotherhood they hold dear and the chapter's most recent honor—the Pyramid of Excellence—Delta Sigma Phi's highest award for an undergraduate chapter.

"Alpha Pi is DOIN' BIG THINGS!" That's the motto they live by these days. While the alumni are spread all across the nation, they hope quite a few will return to East Lansing for the 90th Anniversary celebration. An Alumni Formal will be held on **Saturday, January 12**, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Alumni brothers and senior members of the chapter will gather with wives and girlfriends for a buffet dinner, drinks, and dancing.

ACB President Cody Dawson, *Michigan State '02*, says the chapter's Pyramid of Excellence award makes this a great time to celebrate Alpha Pi's anniversary. "The Pyramid is definitely something we've been working toward for the last 10 years," he says. He attributes the chapter's success to highly effective recruiting practices, managing their finances well, strong academics, and a great Alumni Board who really care about the young men in the chapter.

The undergraduate chapter is a diverse group of young men from all over the country, with a mix of socio-economic backgrounds. They are involved in athletics, the

East Lansing community, and in leadership positions both inside and outside the Greek system. "As alumni, we've been very proud to see such a diverse group of young leaders with a great attitude," Dawson says.

Effective recruitment is at the core of their recent success. They've added 15 to 20 guys each semester, which is significant considering that less than 10 percent of undergraduates at Michigan State are Greek. Dawson says they've been able to accomplish this because the brothers are leaders on campus, and they are willing to do the hard work to meet and recruit new members. "There is great energy and momentum around the chapter right now. The undergraduates have shown they are willing to do the work that leads to this type of success," says Dawson.

That hard work is paying off in academic performance as well; they've seen the chapter's GPA increase steadily semester after semester. "These guys want to do well, get a great education, and make their parents proud," he says. They also have the incentive of the Alpha Pi 21st Century Scholarship program—set up through the Delta Sig Foundation—as a reward for their success. Members with a 3.5 GPA or better for the semester receive up to a \$500 scholarship; those with a GPA between 3.25 and 3.49 receive up to \$250 each.

With more and more brothers earning those scholarships now, the alumni have set out to refill their scholarship coffers during the upcoming anniversary celebration. "It's a great problem to have, quite frankly. We look forward to raising more scholarship funds through alumni donations, so we can keep pace with the speed at which the scholarships are being earned," he says.

The strength of Alpha Pi today has everything to do with the 90 years that came before. "Alpha Pi alumni are willing to give back; they genuinely care about each other; and they genuinely care about the future of our chapter at Michigan State. Our alumni believe in Alpha Pi, and they want to support the organization that cultivated their lifelong friendships. Their experience as an undergrad still means something—even all of these years later. We aren't just a bunch of friends who met at college; we have become truly great brothers. And that's something we can all be proud of," says Dawson.

With brotherhood as their foundation, a dedicated alumni network, and an undergraduate chapter leading on and off campus, one thing's for certain: Alpha Pi is definitely DOIN' BIG THINGS . . . TELL YOUR FRIENDS! ■