

December 06

chi alpha campus ministries - university of michigan

Jason Kohler, Sophomore in Political Science

"Last year, as a freshman at the University of Michigan, I was struggling with finding my place in such a large institution. As the year progressed I continued to struggle with this concept of discovering my role in Ann Arbor. My feeling was that whatever my path, I wanted to do something that would make me happy, while making me a well-rounded, young man. Last fall I joined Chi Psi fraternity with these aspirations in mind. Through Chi Psi I met Nino and he introduced me to the Journey program. After meeting with Nino, I decided to give the Journey a try.



I have always been a believer, and attended church regularly growing up. But the Journey opened my heart to the word of God, and I think it was an essential element in my growth and maturity. Nino and I would meet weekly and we would discuss the lesson of the day. As the program progressed I really began to see that God was an integral part of my life: I became more accepting of my role in life, and God's role in my life. Since last year I have begun to attend H2O Campus Church and the weekly fusion cell group sessions, where I feel that I have grown in my personal development. Fusion has helped me to develop close relationships with fellow Christians where we can foster great dialogue and discussion of God and his word. I believe that I have developed positive relationships with the members of H2O and that it has been an accepting and open place where we can all worship together.

I know that I have made progress, but I still have a long way to go in my development. But with God pushing me forward, I'm on the right path!"

The Guarisco's Report



Animal House, or Future World Leaders?

When most people hear the word "fraternity", the first image that comes to mind is Jim Belushi holding a bottle of liquor, in the infamous movie, Animal House, 1978. It's true. Many fraternity men drink a lot of beer and booze. But it's also true that fraternity men are major influencers on their campus, and many will become world influencers in the future.

Fraternity men make up only 2% of the U.S. population. Yet consider these statistics ...

Approximately 80% of the top executives in Fortune 500 companies are fraternity men.

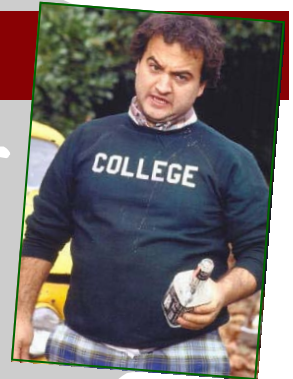
71% of men listed in Who's Who in America are fraternity men

Approximately 75% of the current United States Senators and Congressmen are fraternity men

40 of the 47 Supreme Court Justices since 1910 have been fraternity men

100 of the 158 cabinet members since 1900 have been fraternity men

All but 3 United States Presidents since 1825 have been fraternity men.



We have 22 fraternities at the University of Michigan. The young men in these organizations are what I call "Influencers". They have vast social networks, great leadership potential and powerful influence among their peers. They shape the current fabric of campus in a way that few other groups can do. Many have called this segment of our university "the heart of campus", and I have been praying and laboring to reach "the heart" for 3 years.

Two years ago, the assistant director of Greek Life at UM, and I launched a program called "The Secret to Leadership" in Chi Psi fraternity. This four week program offers the young men an opportunity to meet and hear from world class leaders in the area of athletics, business and academics. I facilitate each session, which provides me with an opportunity to build trust, credibility and friendship with the freshmen "pledges" in the fraternity. We have just completed our third year of the program, which has grown from one to three fraternities, in just a short time.

Through this program I've been able to help these influencers begin to grow as leaders, and most importantly, share the good news of Jesus Christ with spiritual seekers. Jason Kohler (see testimony) showed an interest in the things of God during our November 2005 program, and I subsequently took him through our 8 week evangelistic Bible study called "The Journey". God is touching his life in an amazing way! At the close of our program this fall, two new men indicated an interest in The Journey next semester. I'm praying that each of them will study the Bible with an open heart, meet Christ, and become an influencer for Jesus at the University of Michigan, and beyond!

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