

# The Cornerstone

Volume 15, Issue 2

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## Important Dates:

*All meetings start at 6:30pm in 1013 DOW (unless otherwise noted)*

- 2nd Actives — Tuesday, Feb. 10
- 3rd General — Tuesday, Feb. 17

## A Letter From the Editor

Hello Fellow Tau Bates!

I hope everyone enjoyed taking part in a piece of University of Michigan history yesterday! Before the cold day last winter, Michigan had not cancelled classes due to severe weather since a snowstorm in 1978! I certainly enjoyed having a day off to relax and get some extra work done.

It's hard to believe that it is already February, although we have been promised six more weeks of winter thanks to Punxsutawney Phil (yes I had to Google how to spell that). Hopefully everyone is getting used to the snow! This new semester is sure to bring many milestones besides a record snowday: new classes, new friends (TBPals), new electees, Andrew Dakich seeing actual playing time, President Schlissel's first graduation speech in the Big House, and many more!

As this is the first regular issue of the Cornerstone this semester and I'm new to this, I'd like to ask for any input you may have on things you would like to see in the Cornerstone! I'm open to all kinds of suggestions and submissions: articles, puzzles, cartoons, pictures, memes, funny quotes from professors, TBPuns, the list is endless. If you have any feedback or ideas you'd like to see implemented, please come talk to me or send them my way! My office hours are in the Bullpen on Mondays from 12:30-1:30. Added bonus: I'll be giving out Insomnia cookies in exchange for Cornerstone submissions.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Kleinau

## From the Desk of the President

Welcome Tau Bates! I hope you are as excited for this semester as I am. We have many fun events planned, and I hope you will take full advantage of the opportunities available through Tau Beta Pi.

One of the pillars of our chapter of Tau Beta Pi is to provide meaningful service to the campus and wider community. Our MindSET program, where we invite elementary school children to campus on a Saturday morning to teach them science, is expanding as we begin to invite more students than ever to participate this semester. The rest of this academic year looks especially exciting for K-12 Outreach, as we are currently looking into expanding into new territory. We are looking into creating a program to foster science learning in middle school students this semester and think it will be a huge success!

A fun way Michigan Gamma gives back to the college is through Tuesday Breakfast Parties. During Tuesday Breakfast Parties, TBP members give out free bagels, coffee, and smiles to people walking through the Duderstadt Connector on Tuesday mornings. In addition, our tutoring program is also expanding to encompass more courses than ever through collaboration with other organizations such as PTS and HKN. Members can also be involved in the development of our chapter by attending and participating in New Initiatives meetings. These meetings are an excellent outlet for electees and actives alike to share ideas and brainstorm new ways to improve Michigan Gamma, and I encourage you to attend.

Beyond service, TBP strives to help members and their fellow students to develop professionally. Our Corporate Relations program continues to grow and will host a variety of events with corporate partners, as well as professional development activities this semester. You can attend an Engineering Futures session, where you will develop “soft skills” such as conflict management, teamwork, planning meetings, or problem solving. In addition, TBP will host three luncheons throughout the semester in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., where social issues on campus will be discussed.

Of course, social events are also an important part of our chapter, and this semester we will have everything from Buffalo Wild Wings events to intramural sports and movie afternoons. There truly is something for every interest, but if your favorite pastime is missing you can create your own social event. There also is always a lot of free food at many of our events. I hope each one of you finds ways to be as active as you can be in Tau Beta Pi this semester.

Wishing you a fantastic semester,

Cameron McBride  
President, TBP MI-Γ

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## Alumni Spotlight: Mud, Sweat, and Gears

On an unusual (for us Michiganders) hot windy summer day, as we were stripping down a 1988 7.3 L diesel Ford F-350 dually, we asked ourselves how we ended up on the sets of Django Unchained. Actually, we were shooting for BBC's new automotive show: America's Mud, Sweat, and Gears!

It started with an innocent Skype audition. We remember back in February 2014, during one of the most extreme snow seasons in Michigan, we were racing back from work to have the Skype interview. One of the questions that stuck with us was when the interviewer asked about our opinion of Top Gear UK. Our joking answers were, "Top Gear UK is our Bible," and "We might forget our girlfriend's name, but we do not forget to watch new episodes of Top Gear." We feel the interviewer saw that we were smart, huge gear heads, and were game for challenging new endeavors. After months of waiting we were finally given conformation that we were selected to be in a Mud, Sweat, and Gears episode and would be going to Hollywood!

At the time, both of us were working as engineers at world renowned engineering companies, Roush and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA). We informed our employers about this incredible opportunity; they were fully on board and very excited for us! We landed in Los Angeles in the first week of May. We were picked up from the airport and introduced to our opponents, PJ Burchett and Brett Melancon, from Knoxville, TN (as big of, if not bigger, motor junkies as us). The southern boys started with some friendly jibes, which made us realize it was going to be one hell of a time. Later that evening we were introduced to our team captains, Tom 'Wookie' Ford and Jonny Smith, and also given a rough idea about our mission. We were advised to have a calm night and get ready for next day. But of course, "boys will be boys," and we decided to spend the night out in a Jaguar F-Type Convertible, visiting Beverly Hills and Hollywood!

With little sleep, we started the next day in Simi Valley. Wookie introduced us to our new mate the 1988 Ford F-350 dually. We were tasked to make the ultimate truck of war! After breaking in the truck with a few donuts in the valley, we noted that this truck had potential but her transmission had shifting issues. Since we only had 24 hours to transform the vehicle, we disregarded her shortcomings and focused on creating a plan of action. We needed weapons, armor, and an aggressive styling. We started with our trusty plasma cutters and hammers and immediately took her on a Weight Watcher's diet.

To weaponize her we added armor and an isolated chamber with a short reach 120-degree pneumatic gun, which was attached to the rear of the truck in place of the truck bed. We also attached a high-power long reach gunpowder cannon to the hood. We then added rugged off-road tires, welded steel armor around the truck to make it impenetrable, ensured safety by adding a steel mesh on the windscreen, mounted a bullet-proof fuel cell on the bed so there were negligible chances of fuel leaks, and finally, added safety harnesses and racing seats for the drivers and passengers. Cutting it very close to the 24 hour time limit, we were determined to finish our objectives - even though Mother Nature was against us!

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Abhinav and Sujeesh's truck of war is prepared for battle!

*Photograph by Michael Klein, © 2014 BBC America Ltd.*

The following day we were eager to see Team Jonny's vehicle and the challenges! We were stunned to see that our opponent's truck of war was a modified ice cream truck! Strategically, they were well armored but low on power and maneuverability. In our minds power was the key to this competition, which they lacked. They of course argued that defense was more important than offense. One of us was right; we were ready to find out who that would be.

The challenges started with a long range weapon shoot out with our high-power gunpowder cannons. The second challenge tested our maneuverability skills, short range weapon accuracy, and vehicle durability. Finally, the third challenge was an iconic demolition derby. Our truck of war was heavily bruised from the previous challenges, but we had to perform. After the challenges there was a clear winner! The winning team celebrated in true Mud, Sweat and Gears fashion by annihilating the opponent's vehicle with grenades! To witness our incredible adventure and find out who won, you can watch the episode on February 16 at 10PM EST on BBC America!

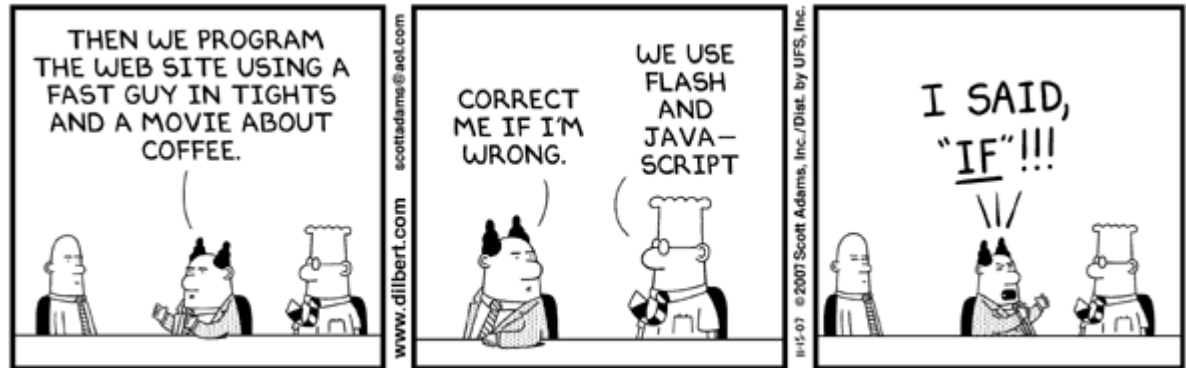
***Abhinav Jain, MI-Γ Alumnus***



Sujeesh Kurup and Abhinav Jain (TBP MI-Γ), both recent UM alumni, were cast in an episode of a new BBC show: America's Mud, Sweat, and Gears this summer.



## Have a Laugh!



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## Free Insomnia!

Need a break from studying? Want to get your creative juices flowing? Craving Insomnia?

Wait.... INSOMNIA?

HOW DO I GET FREE INSOMNIA?

***Submit an article or other submission of at least half a page in length to me (Michelle) by **midnight** the night before a **General Body meeting**!***

Ps: If you need ideas on what to write about, check out all the old Cornerstones here:

<https://tbp.engin.umich.edu/publications/cornerstone/>

Articles, puzzles, comics, art, poetry, prose, etc. are all welcome.



# Sudoku Puzzles

	8				9			
3	5		1					
	6	1		4	2	7		3
		9		6	1			2
7			9	3		4		
4		6	8	1		5	9	
					7		6	8
			6				2	



3	1				9	8		
8		6						5
		2	6	4			3	
				9	4			
		7	8		1	2		
			3	6				
	3			1	5	6		
2						5		1
		5	7				8	9

# Sudoku Solutions

2	8	4	3	7	9	6	1	5
3	5	7	1	8	6	2	4	9
9	6	1	5	4	2	7	8	3
5	4	9	7	6	1	8	3	2
6	3	8	2	5	4	9	7	1
7	1	2	9	3	8	4	5	6
4	2	6	8	1	3	5	9	7
1	9	5	4	2	7	3	6	8
8	7	3	6	9	5	1	2	4



3	1	4	5	7	9	8	6	2
8	7	6	1	3	2	4	9	5
9	5	2	6	4	8	1	3	7
5	8	3	2	9	4	7	1	6
6	9	7	8	5	1	2	4	3
4	2	1	3	6	7	9	5	8
7	3	8	9	1	5	6	2	4
2	6	9	4	8	3	5	7	1
1	4	5	7	2	6	3	8	9

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