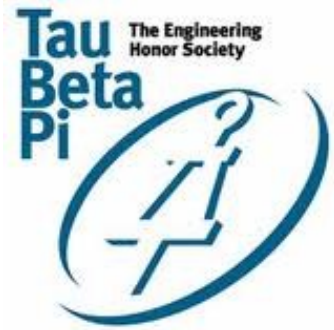


# The Cornerstone



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MI-Gamma

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## E/A III (ELECTEES & ACTIVES 3)

**Dear Fellow Tau Bates,** as the semester winds to a close, autumn leaves shrivel and die, and exam anxiety ramps up to a fever pitch, I too must wrap up my (pitifully short) final edition of the Cornerstone. To prevent the cold wind from blowing through our hearts we must think about all the things we love about this time of year to hold us off from the craziness like a toasty fireplace holding off the snow. Here's what I love about the holiday season.

- Long shopping lines at every single store
- Santa-clad churchgoers asking for your spare change
- Dirty muddy snow-slush in my boots
- Living continuously at the Dude for a week straight

While I hope your coming weeks are as truly glamorous as mine, I wouldn't count on it—all you can ask for is a loving reunion with your family. That is—if you make it at all! We all know an estimated confidence interval of 47% of college students don't make it through their Statistics finals, so here are some exam tips from yours truly.

- Brush your teeth the morning of the exam
- Right before it starts, have a nervous breakdown
- Learn from the Tortoise and the Hare: take a quick 5 or 10 minute nap about halfway through—the hare always wins!
- If it's a scantron, remember the golden pattern: A-B-A-C-D
- And always...keep your stick on the ice!



As you know, Tau Beta Pi is all about service, and that means service projects! We have a multitude of great projects to offer the community and since you will be signing up to lead some of these projects during E/A III they are included here for your convenience!

## PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

**Adopt-A-Highway:** MDOT created Adopt-A-Highway in 1990 to improve the beauty of our highway road-sides with community help. With the help of 6-12 TBP members, we clean a stretch of Fuller Road near North Campus.

**Arb Restoration:** If you like the outdoors, this project is for you! We help to keep the Nichols Arboretum the beautiful place it is by clearing out dead trees, picking up litter, and performing assorted grounds keeping tasks. Previous projects have included maintenance and re-routing of the stream that runs through it, planting, and various other types of light outdoor work.

**Be the Match Registry:** The "Be the Match" registry is a program administered by the National Marrow Donor Program with the goal of matching marrow-requiring patients with potential donors. For most of these patients, a marrow transplant is their last shot at surviving their disease. For this service project, we solicited for people to join the marrow registry by having them provide a DNA sample (cheek swab) and their contact information.

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters:** Big Brothers/Big Sisters pairs mentors and children to develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of young people. Volunteer to help out with a fun activity with their organization! Previous projects include helping out with a Rec Night; volunteers were needed to help with crafts, games in their gym, general supervising, and clean-up.

**Blood Drive:** The American Red Cross runs a number of blood donation opportunities throughout the year on campus. Volunteer opportunities include helping out at the Bursley and Pierpont Commons donation sites or posting flyers on North Campus.

**Book Swap:** TBP organizes this COE-wide event to help students buy and sell used books. First, students can bring in their used books and set their asking price. Next, other students stop by to peruse our selection and purchase used books. Project leaders should ideally be in Ann Arbor a week or two before school starts to set this up.

**Botanical Gardens:** The University of Michigan has its very own Matthaei Botanical Gardens that houses exotic plants from around the world. Volunteer opportunities range from planting/maintaining the gardens to administrative work.

**Cancer Center:** The U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center provides its patients diagnostic, treatment, and support services in a collaborative environment. Past projects include putting together patient information packets for clinics and preparing Valentine bags of homemade cards and candy for patients.

**Cub Scouts Day:** Cub Scouts Engineering Day is a TBP organized event for local Cub Scouts troops to receive their engineering badges. Activities include bridge building, egg drop, circuits, and floor plan. Volunteers are needed to help run these stations and to lead groups of Cub Scouts through the stations.

**Detroit Partnership Pen Pals:** TBP is pairing up with the Detroit Partnership and the Society of Physics Students to provide pen pal mentors for 80 second through eighth grade students at Michigan Technical Academy in Detroit. The project entails writing one detailed letter each month and attending a brief orientation to make a meaningful impact on the life of a Detroit student. Young people need mentors, and even though you're sometimes nerdy and awkward, you might be exactly the sort of person who can inspire them.

**Diag Clean-up:** Work with fellow TBP members to help clean the North or Central campus diag and its surrounding areas. (typically Winter semester)

**Ele's Place:** Ele's Place is a nonprofit, community-based organization whose mission is to help children to cope with the death or life-threatening illness of a parent, sibling or other close family member or friend. Volunteers are needed to assist Ele's Place staff and the support group facilitators by greeting families as they arrive at Ele's Place for their group sessions, assisting with monitoring the children's Activity Rooms, helping in the Ele's Place Library, and/or helping with various set-up and clean-up duties.

**Food Gatherers Soup Kitchen:** Food Gatherers help prepare a warm meal, serve it, and clean up afterwards at the Delonis Center in Ann Arbor, which temporarily houses approximately 90 homeless people and serves regular meals to the community that have trouble making ends meet. This project directly benefits certain members of the Ann Arbor community that need food. As this is a popular project, project leaders should aim to set up four events a semester (monthly).

**Food Gatherers Warehouse:** Food Gatherers collects surplus food from businesses around the community to alleviate hunger. Volunteers are needed to help out at Food Gatherers' warehouse with activities including cleaning the warehouse and sorting and packaging food.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Habitat for Humanity seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness and has built more than 300,000 houses around the world. This is a great hands-on activity where we help build a local house for a family in need. NO experience is necessary. Experienced builders will help you and tell you exactly what to do.

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**Hands-On Museum:** The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum aims to inspire people to discover the wonder of science, math and technology. Have fun with kids while learning cool science facts! Past events include helping children make their own microbes, exploring unique musical instruments, and celebrating DNA day.

**KnitWits:** KnitWits helps the less fortunate during the cold winters by creating warm clothes from donated material. We sew together scraps of fleece to make mittens, hats, and scarves for the homeless here in Ann Arbor. No experience is necessary; instructions and materials all provided!

**Leslie Science Center:** The Leslie Science and Nature Center, situated on 50 acres of fields, woods and prairie in the heart of Ann Arbor, focuses on the public education of science and conservation. It has nature trails, a Critter House, and a solar-powered Nature House. Help them prepare for one of their biggest activities Animal Haunts! Volunteers are need for clearing trails, creating a maze in the prairie, carving pumpkins, etc.

**MathCounts Tutoring:** MathCounts is a national math enrichment & competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement throughout the U.S. We will help coach students at a local middle school in preparation for their competitions. This is a weekly after-school event.

**Meals on Wheels:** Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels reduces hunger and food insecurity by delivering meals to those who are unable to shop and cook for themselves. Volunteers are needed to drive around to various locations in Ann Arbor and deliver meals to the elderly in their homes or apartments.

**Neutral Zone:** This local teen center is a hangout place for high-school-aged youth in Ann Arbor that offers ongoing programs such as Volume Youth Poetry, Break Dancin' Basics, Youth Owned Records, Rebel Girls Music Project, The Mentor Program, and Drop-in Tutoring. Previous projects include preparing a full dinner for the teens and helping with a mailout for a musical event.

**Project SEED:** This project encourages science and engineering among elementary school students by running a hands-on activity in a local classroom. Previous projects include making slime, building potato batteries, and making pencil windmills.

**Recycle Ann Arbor:** Recycle Ann Arbor's ReUse takes donations of reusable material such as furniture, housewares, and lumber, and then resells them to the public or donates to other non-profit organizations. Volunteers are needed to maintain the center; tasks include sorting materials, making displays, cleaning, and some outdoor work.

**Ronald McDonald House:** The Ronald McDonald House is a place for parents who have children receiving medical treatment at the UM Hospital to live and take care of their children during a difficult time. We prepare a dinner for the families.

**SAFE House:** SAFE House is a place that supports survivors of domestic violence and their children. Previous projects include making dinner for them and helping organize and clean the children's play area.

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**Sequoia Place:** TBP has paired up with HKN go to a local retirement home (Sequoia Place) on alternating weeks to help the residents with technical support for 2 hours (MS Word, Gmail, stereos, etc).

**Tech Day:** Assist the College of Engineering recruit bright high school students. Help set up the event, lead a group of high school students, or help in various positions for the events.

**Towsley Children's House:** U of M Towsley Children's House (formerly Pound House) is a U of M affiliated child care center which watches over 45 children each week. This is a great opportunity to do something worthwhile for the children in the Ann Arbor community; past projects include organizing the library, preparing for a field trip, and doing general maintenance of the center.

**U of M Environmental Health Department (Invasive Species Removal):** This department is dedicated to managing the local environment at U of M. This project typically consists of clearing invasive plant species from the North Campus woods.

**VA Bingo Night:** The Community Living Center at the local VA hold a Bingo Night every weeknight for veteran patients. We assist by getting drinks for the vets, helping them play, and handing out prizes. The veterans enjoy spending time with young students!

**Washtenaw Literacy:** Washtenaw Literacy helps adults improve their reading, writing, and English as a second language skills. Volunteer opportunities range from tutoring in their library to helping out with their events, mailouts, and fundraisers.

**Washtenaw Science Fair:** The 53rd Annual Southeast Michigan Science Fair is sponsored by the University of Michigan and Washtenaw Community College in cooperation with public and private schools in the five county regions. Projects are submitted by students from grades 6 through 12. Volunteers will judge a set number of science fair projects. Dinner is provided! Transportation will be arranged for those who need it. (Winter semester only)

**World Medical Relief:** World Medical Relief distributes donated medical equipment and supplies to areas in need on a local, national, and international basis. Volunteers work with M-HEAL, another U of M student society, to repair and sort medical equipment at a warehouse facility in Detroit.

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Thanks for reading! It's been a pleasure editing the Cornerstone for y'all! Next semester's Publicity Chairs Gina Calco & Josh Kempfer are bound to put me to shame so watch out for them! :)

Til next time TBP,  
~Nick

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To Be Honest: Normally I find my puzzles & riddles for the last page of the Cornerstone on the Internet! What surprise right? This time, however, I have a custom-made word search for you guys thanks to the efforts of the electee group "Team Rainbow Giraffes" who are as multichromatic and foliage-loving as their mascot.

### Animal Word Search

- ANTELOPE
- KANGAROO
- OTTER
- SEAL
  
- GIRAFFE
- LION
- PENGUIN
  
- HIPPOPOTAMUS
- LLAMA
- RHINOCEROS

S Z Z O L K V R B T C A Y U I  
 P O O T C A Y H B B G F B B F  
 N S R T L G E B M H K R O R U  
 E G D E D L X S H T Q S Y O E  
 V F F R C S Y Q X X Q T I P Q  
 S U M A T O P O P P I H O T V  
 F B V Y W K N C M R V L O G X  
 N O I L X P C I C T E J R T Y  
 Y Z Q L G Y E K H T S C A N J  
 R O D W Q Q H N N R K B G S J  
 G I R A F F E A G L K Q N M A  
 D S S H U T T T L U W H A X A  
 X X H L F P T A Y E I H K E L  
 O T B C D S M E B R B N Q N Y  
 L E W E G A R C S L W L X B K



Source: XKCD