

Cornerstone



First Actives

By Kristina Roe

I truly hope you all enjoyed our Winter Break. Although I seem to have noticed a drastic increase in the number of students with crutches or a broken arm/ collarbone from last semester... hope you all are doing well.

It's that time of year when you realize many things about this coming semester. For example, that class you already hate after 3 lectures? Yeah, you can't drop that one. Or your resolution to study more/work out more/eat healthier? Hmmm it can wait 'til next year right? Just kidding, I'm sure Tau Bates have strong resolution when it comes to personal goals.

Speaking of goals, are you going to be a Distinguished Active this semester? (Perhaps for the 2³²nd time for some of you.) You know you want to wear your TBP stole at graduation. Don't forget (as if you could possibly do so while reading this newsletter) that you can write an article for the Cornerstone for an hour of service! Sometimes you don't get many opportunities to be as creative as you'd like in engineering, but all math/science and no liberal arts makes TBP a dull... gender-neutral person.

So write a poem, review your favorite band's new album or tell us about what you did last summer at an internship. We're not too specific, so get involved!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

MindSET Meeting 1

Jan. 20

6pm

1006 Dow

First Comity

Jan. 26

7pm

Johnson Rooms

New Initiatives Meeting 1

Jan. 28

6pm

1006 Dow

Happy New Year

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Write for the Cornerstone this semester!

- Busy with senior design?
- Got senior-itis?
- Are you just plain lazy?

Distinguished Active status is closer than you think!

Write an article or compose a poem for the Cornerstone and get a service hour!

Meet your Winter 2010 semester officers and advisors!

- President:** Jill Schlechtweg
Vice President: Rob Guglielmo
Secretary: Rob Warren
Treasurer: Frances Walocko
Career Fair/Honors Brunch Chairs: Alex Golec and Michele Mastria
Website Chair: Yi Li
New Initiatives Chair: Jessica Wang
Corporate Relations Chair: Dan Yoon
Projects Coordinator: Ian Sebastian
Tutoring Chair: Vicki Choe
Activities Chair: Andy Boucher
Intersociety Chair: Kevin Lance
Diversity & Leadership Chair: Michelle Noronha
Grad Coordinator: Chloe Funkhouser
Publicity Chairs: Michael Lee and Kristina Roe



Advisors:

Professor Gary Herrin
Elson Liu
Rob Rhein
Pritpaul Mahal
Curt Gomulinski



Actives are entirely welcome to come to office hours and talk with the TBP officers. Check the website for this semester's office hour schedule.



MICHAEL LEE

It's come to my attention,
That there's been no retention,
Of all of our rants and raves.

But when it comes down to it,
Inside you're all poets,
So please write, type up, and save.

I'm not made of rhymes,
And it's about time,
To unleash Haiku from its cave.

Please submit poems to
TBPcornerstone@umich.edu

Word of the Day

Word
Pallid

How to say it
PAL-id

Definition
Having an abnormally pale or wan complexion; lacking in vitality or interest

Can I have that in a sentence?
Between them the ground was bare and the naked chalk showed a pallid, dirty white under the cream-colored elder bloom.

-Richard Adams, [Watership Down](#)



MICHAEL LEE

Gone are the days of OMG HKN - at least for until the officer corps is back from their meeting. Until then, I have decided to commandeer this section to write whatever I want.

Nothing in recent times has been quite as mind boggling as some of the discussion in my philosophy class. It's possibly the only place where I could propose that you are talking to an elephant that is telling you you're hallucinating, yet you don't believe it.

Last week, the discussion was centered around the idea that we as people know very little. The argument was based around the use of descriptive words (ie adjectives) in their relative or absolute terms. For example, it was argued "dry" is an absolute in the sense that if something is very dry, it is in fact not dry. Contrast this with something that is very "wet" is actually more wet than what your original baseline may be.

Now, the author goes on to argue that to know something, one must be certain of it. And to be certain, is to require an absolute state. If you're very certain that you know a fact, do you in fact know it at all? The argument states that it's not likely.

Continuing this argument, you may be able to conclude that one cannot be certain of very much, and one cannot know unless certain. Therefore, you must agree that you know that you know very little. But you may now cry folly - how can I know that I know little if I do not know much at all. Is it reasonable to state that you know, you know very little when you really don't know what you know?

I think I've made my point, but please let the people speak - do we want OMG HKN back? If so, please send in your stories to tbpCornerstone@umich.edu.

Sudoku + YouTube = Phun

Sudoku of the Week:

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

Answer to the end of last semester's sudoku:

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

YouTube Video of the Week

An anthropological introduction to YouTube



9232 hours/day

385 always-on TV channels

200,000 3 minute videos
(not "mass media")

88% new & original content



I doubt that any of you will have the time to watch this 55 minute video, but it really is quite interesting! It is a recording of a presentation given by Dr. Michael Wesch from Kansas State University at the Library of Congress.

Yes, it is a Youtube video about Youtube. It covers many anthropological topics of interest, such as the anonymity, sense of community and self-awareness that Youtube creates. Quite informative!

