

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mark Your Calendars!

**Alumni Meeting**  
January 27 or 28

**Alumni Work Weekend**  
April - TBA

**Homecoming 2007**  
October 27  
vs. Kent State

### Alumni Corporation Officers

*President*

**Tom Dagenais '99**  
Tjdag99@yahoo.com

*Vice President*

**Patrick Cox '01**  
w180081@email.mot.com

*Treasurer*

**Andrew Hill '88**  
HillA@ci.beloit.wi.us

*Secretary*

**Nick McDonnell '00**  
nmcdonnell@yahoo.com

### Alumni Relations

**Howard Altman '00**  
haltman@birinc.com

**Martin Neumann '99**  
mneumann@uiuc.edu

### Fall 2006 Pledges

**Jeff Rothamer**  
**Carl Rytch**  
**Adam Borhart**  
**Michael Coe**  
**ChangLei Zhou**  
**Weixian Lin**  
**Christian Miller**  
**Erik Lynch**  
**Justin Hughes**  
**Trevor Schaaf**

## We Need Your Email Address!

Make sure you're receiving ALL issues of our newsletter (both print and electronic) by updating your email address online at [www.spdillini.org](http://www.spdillini.org)!

Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

November 2006

# Delta Dispatch

[www.spdillini.org](http://www.spdillini.org)



University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois

## Looking to the Future

*Continued Alumni Communication and Participation Sought*

By Tom Dagenais '99

Although the past year posed challenges, such as the building code violations cited by the new city building inspector, it was a very successful year for the Delta Alumni Corporation.

We are looking forward to maintaining the increased communication and participation of Alumni members as we plan for the future of the chapter house. The city is requiring the installation of a fire suppression system by 2009, and the physical structure is showing its age in several areas, so this year's Building Committee has its hands full.

At the annual meeting in June it was decided that a complete tear-down and rebuild of the chapter house was financially unfeasible without selling the property to a developer and leasing the newly built structure for use as a chapter house. This was not acceptable to the group, so other alternatives are being explored. The most popular option involves a cash-out refinance of the mortgage on the house in order to pay off the old mortgage, install the fire sprinkler system, and perform some much

needed renovations. Further discussions on this topic will take place at our January alumni meeting. Stay tuned to our monthly e-letters and our website for meeting details.

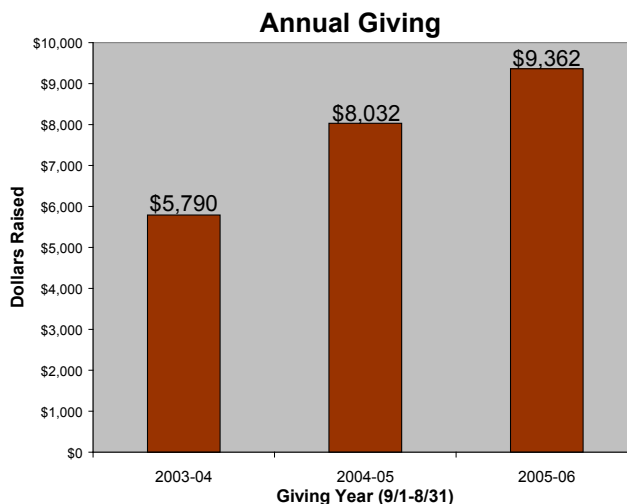


**The Sigma Phi Delta house is in need of renovations, including the required installation of a fire suppression system by 2009.**

## Watch Our Giving Grow!

*Kick Off the Giving Year to Sustain Our Generous Momentum*

Delta Alumni of Sigma Phi Delta, Inc. would like to thank the 90 alumni donors who contributed a collective \$9,362 to our 2005-06 annual fund which ended August 31. This is the highest annual giving total that we have ever seen! Help us kick off the new giving year by making your gift today! We have already brought in more than \$2,750 this year (as of October 16), so continue this momentum by making your donation. It's easy! Just visit [www.spdillini.org](http://www.spdillini.org) or call 800-975-6699.



# CHAPTER REPORT

## Chapter Kicks Off Successful Fall Semester

*With Ten Pledges, a 3.08 Active GPA and Second Place in Homecoming Float Competition, Sigma Phi Delta is On the Way to a Great Year*

By **Ryan Self**, Chapter President

Greetings from the men of Delta Chapter! The Fall 2006 semester is off to a great start, and has been highlighted by another strong performance at the Homecoming Parade. The theme this year was Illini, Now and Forever, and our float featured Memorial Stadium, a football player catching a pass, and the Alma Mater encompassing the scene. We took second place in the contest. Several alumni attended the festivities of the weekend, and a very productive and entertaining meeting was held on Sunday afternoon.

Recruitment was extremely successful again this fall. We have a great class of ten pledges who will be excellent additions to the fraternity, and two of them are living in-house. All of the pledges have been very active thus far, helping a great deal with the Homecoming float and competing in intramural sports with the active chapter. They helped our softball team reach the playoffs, and we have a strong football team as well.

Furthermore, the active chapter recently participated in I-Help the weekend of September 30<sup>th</sup>. I-Help was an all campus volunteering event with approximately 1000 students in attendance. The men of Delta Chapter volunteered at the Champaign Care Center, and it was an excellent experience for all involved.

Scholarship continues to be one of our strong points, and last semester was no different. We posted an active member average of 3.08, which was above the engineering campus average, and there were seven members who achieved GPAs of over 3.5.

---

**“Scholarship continues to be one of our strong points, and last semester was no different. We posted an active member average of 3.08, which was above the engineering campus average, and there were seven members who achieved GPAs of over 3.5.”**

---

Brother **Shae Riechart** completed another room renovation as he took it upon himself to remodel room 29 over the summer. This is in addition to the new room, adjoining the dorms on the third floor, which he and his father helped construct last summer, which adjoins to the dorms on the third floor. We are very grateful for all of their efforts.

The men of Delta are excited to finish the year strong, and are committed to doing so. On a personal note, as I finish my term as Chief Engineer, I would like to thank all of those undergraduates and alumni who helped

make this one of the best experiences in my life. It has been an honor, and it will be difficult to leave upon my graduation in December. Thank you, and if any actives or alumni have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at (618) 322-3930 or at [ryanself@uiuc.edu](mailto:ryanself@uiuc.edu).

## Pledge Master Update

By **Kyle Ives**, Pledge Master

This semester we have a pledge class of 10 great guys including 2 in-house. Even though the semester has just started, the pledges have already been around a lot to help out on the Homecoming Float. They also showed their artistic “ability” when they performed a dance to Michael Jackson’s Thriller in front of the AOE girls to get their pledge pins back. Overall, with Pledge Dance coming up soon (and Walkout at some point or another), it’s shaping up to be an excellent pledge class!

## Thank You to Alumni Who Returned for Homecoming 2006

*Though the Fighting Illini Suffered a Loss, Spirits Were High for Sigma Phi Delta Festivities*

Homecoming 2006 was recently held in Champaign, and the active chapter placed second in the float competition, setting them up to be out to reclaim the top prize next year. Although the Illini football team suffered a last-second loss to Indiana, nearly 30 alumni stopped by the house to enjoy a cookout hosted by **Jim Callahan** after the game. As is usually the case, the actives were unable to come away with a win in Active/Alumni football, and after an efficient alumni meeting the actives showed off their new big-screen HDTV by tuning in to the Bears game for all to enjoy. Homecoming 2007 will be held October 27<sup>th</sup>, and will pit the Illini against Kent State. Hotel rooms fill up early for Homecoming, so why not reserve a room now? See you next year!

## Alumnus Achieves an Alley-Oop With Skateboard Park



*"This skateboard park is about the coolest thing I have designed lately. It has 19,000 square feet of play area, 4 stairs, 7 rails and two ¼ pipes. The permanent concrete features range from beginner to advanced skill level. Notice the different wall heights on either side of the stairs. Modular components will be added next spring. The concept was initiated by a group of kids and pushed along by Jake Davis, who grew up during the course of the 8 years it took to obtain funding and project approval. He even obtained a grant from the Tony Hawk foundation. It is very rewarding for me to watch kids play on the park I helped create."*

– Andy Hill '88

## Sigma Phi Delta Alumnus Revolutionizing Access to Space

Arnold Nowinski '96 works as the Flight Termination Systems Chief Program Engineer for a small start-up company named Space Exploration Technologies in El Segundo, Calif. Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) is determined to lower the cost of space access by a factor of 10 through advancements in reliability, cost, and time to launch. SpaceX is a private, commercial company, started a few years ago by one of the founders of PayPal (Elon Musk). The eventual goal of SpaceX is to enable the routine, manned exploration of space.

SpaceX currently produces the Falcon 1 rocket (next launch in Dec '06), which is capable of lifting 570kg to low-earth orbit, and began work on a larger version (Falcon 9), which will lift nearly 25000kg to orbit. Currently, SpaceX launches Falcon I in the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific and is planning to launch future missions at Vandenberg Air Force Base. In addition, SpaceX was recently chosen by NASA to provide capability to re-supply the International Space Station.

*"Working at SpaceX is a challenge everyday", says Arnold. "There is a lot of work*



*to be done and every individual carries a lot of responsibility in this small company". Arnold also mentions that the time spent at Delta Chapter learning interpersonal relationships has aided him greatly when interfacing with government organizations on range and vehicle safety issues.*

SpaceX is currently hiring talented engineers to contribute to the dream of manned spaceflight. If you have any questions or interests in joining the SpaceX team, Arnold can be reached at [Arnold@SpaceX.com](mailto:Arnold@SpaceX.com).

If you know of an alumnus who would make a good professional spotlight, email **Jeff Leesman '03** at [jleesman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jleesman@sbcglobal.net).

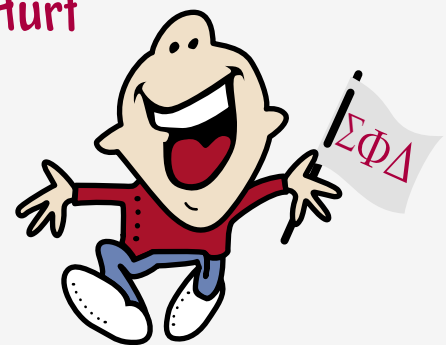


Arnold Nowinski '96

## Laugh So Hard Your Guts Hurt

*"We rented a house on Fifth Street for a year before moving to Gregory Street. That winter was so cold, and the heating in that house was so bad, that I set up a table and a heater in the bathroom to study for final exams."*

– Robert D. Malinowski, '64



To read other hilarious Sigma Phi Delta stories and to submit your own, visit [www.spdillini.org](http://www.spdillini.org).

# Old Photo Album

Why let great fraternity photos collect dust in your attic...



...when you can share them with the brotherhood at [www.spdillini.org](http://www.spdillini.org)?

Upload photos from your era today!

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## '60s

### Roy Johnson '64

(23 Yaupon Way, Oak Island, NC 28465)  
I have 45' NH and will be traveling out West June 2006 through Nov. 2006. Call me for a visit (910-278-9181).

## '90s

### Dennis Duchene '91

(6175 Blaverly Drive, New Albany, OH 43054; djduchene@dominionhomes.com)  
I took the position of Corporate Controller with Dominion Homes, Inc., in Columbus Ohio. Dominion is a regional builder of homes in Columbus, Louisville and Lexington KY. My wife Alison and I have a 3-year-old daughter Madeline and a 5-month-old son Nicholas. Life is great!

### Scott Covey '93

(983 Shady Tree Lane, Wheeling, IL)  
Scott died very suddenly of a heart attack in April 2006. He was a smart, kind man who remembered his Delta days fondly. Regretfully reported by his fiancée, Shelly.

### Burt Wagner '93

(7218 Stover Dr. Alexandria, VA; bwagner3@gmail.com)  
I was married to Michelle Primack in Maui on May 25, 2006. Beautiful beach... at sunset... after a great morning of diving. Brother **John Womeldorff '90** was in attendance at the wedding. Pictures of Bro. Dorf dancing are being held in archive for their potential future value as blackmail. Honeymoon to Tahiti! I am still in the Washington, DC area. Please stop by and visit!

*Check Out the Great Things  
ΣΦΔ Alumni are Doing With  
Their Careers In our Professional  
Spotlight!*



281-027 FN

Address Service Requested

Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

P.O. Box 7007

Alumni Relations Processing Center

**SIGMA PHI DELTA FRATERNITY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**



PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MILWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 3242