

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 15, 2007

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held at 6pm in the Woodfield Room of The Ram Restaurant in Schaumburg.

August 2-5, 2007

36th General Convention

We're looking for volunteers to represent Delta Chapter at the 36th General Convention. The convention will be held in New Brunswick, NJ, with Omega Chapter as host. Visit www.sigphi.org for more details. Contact **Tom Dagenais '99** (tjdag99@yahoo.com or 608-271-2071) if you are interested in attending.

October 27-28, 2007

Homecoming 2007

Save the date for Homecoming 2007! On October 27, the Illini football team will take on Ball State. Brother **Rick Woods '86** has reserved a block of hotel rooms for Delta Alumni. Contact him at woodsclan4@verizon.net for details.

ON THE WEB

Are you registered on www.spdillini.org?

If not, here's how:

Go to www.spdillini.org and click on the First Time Login link in the upper left corner, and type in your last name when prompted. Once you select your record, you'll be asked to enter your Member ID, which can be found above your name and address on this mailing, or in our monthly eLetters. Your username will be your email address—one less username to remember and you can set the site to remember your password for next time. If you any trouble with the registration process, click the Tech Support button.

Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

May 2007

Delta Dispatch

www.spdillini.org

University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois



Alumni and Brothers Unite in the Face of Chapter Violations

Brothers Agree to Take Action and Enforce New Rules to Improve House Environment

By Thomas Dagenais '99

This past semester brought some new challenges and opportunities to the fraternity. Recently, the active chapter was found in violation of the Sigma Phi Delta Risk Reduction policy and also in violation of University of Illinois Inter-fraternity Council (IFC) regulations for providing alcohol to a person under 21 years of age. The alumni and active chapters have worked together to address this issue and have done so to the satisfaction of the Sigma Phi Delta Supreme Council.

"With the cooperation of the actives and the alumni, this experience can be used to change the culture of the active chapter."

The actives and alumni present at the April alumni meeting agreed that the chapter should commit to a probationary period. The full meeting minutes of the April meeting are posted on our website (www.spdillini.org), but here is a summary of the probationary period requirements:

- 1) Effective immediately, there is absolutely no alcohol allowed at the chapter house until the end of the Fall 2007 semester.
- 2) The active chapter will hold no social events during the Fall 2007 semester. An exception has been made for dry (non-alcoholic) philanthropic events.
- 3) Every active member and pledge will perform 15 hours of community service during the Fall 2007 semester. At least 10 of these hours must be completed in groups of four or more.

- 4) Every active member and pledge will attend an alcohol awareness presentation during the Fall 2007 semester.

We also discussed several permanent requirements of the active chapter and made a formal recommendation that the chapter no longer hold social events at the chapter house. With the cooperation of the actives and the alumni, this experience can be used to change the culture of the active chapter to provide a safe and fun collegiate environment.

It is my hope that we will have many eager candidates accept nominations for office at the annual meeting on June 15. Our goal for the Alumni Board should be to carry over significant experience while infusing new ideas to the leadership team. Creating a new Alumni Board from current officers willing to continue their service and new volunteers that are eager to help should accomplish that goal.

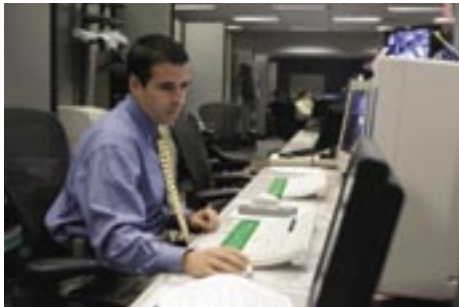
"Our goal for the Alumni Board should be to carry over significant experience while infusing new ideas to the leadership team."

At the annual meeting, in addition to officer elections we will discuss the future of the active chapter as well as improvements to the chapter house. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on June 15th in the Woodfield Room at The Ram Restaurant and Brewery in Schaumburg. This private room should allow us to enjoy dinner and conduct our business without interference from outside noise. I hope to see many of you there.

Aaron Brown '98 Paving the Way Towards the Mission to Mars

Aaron Is Working on the Mathematical Algorithms to Bring the Trajectories to Fruition

Aaron has worked for the past six and a half years as an Aerospace Engineer at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. For the first six years, Aaron worked in the Trajectory Operations Group for the International Space Station (ISS) program, and was ultimately certified as an ISS Trajectory Operations Officer (call sign "TOPO") in Mission Control. Aaron's responsibilities as a TOPO included monitoring and maintaining the real-time orbit of the Space Station, planning and



Aaron working in Mission Control during the STS-115 mission in September 2006.

supporting ISS reboosts with his Russian counterparts and coordinating debris avoidance maneuvers in the event of potential collisions with orbital debris. "Working in Mission Control is extremely demanding, and at the same time extremely fun," Aaron says. "I am very fortunate to have worked with such an amazing team of people."

In December, Aaron decided to hang up his headset and transfer to a new group. This group is heading up orbit operations within his division for NASA's new Constellation Program. This program is designing the Orion spacecraft, which will replace the Space Shuttle when it is retired. Orion will ferry people to and from the ISS, will take the first human crew back to the moon and will eventually take us on to Mars. Aaron's role in this new group is to determine the mathematical algorithms that will be used in the ground software for plotting out the trajectories of the Orion vehicle. "At NASA, it's a once-in-a-career opportunity to work on a brand new space vehicle," Aaron says. "So far, it has been very exciting and I'm

looking forward to seeing this new vehicle come to life."



Concept photo of the Orion vehicle as it orbits around the moon.

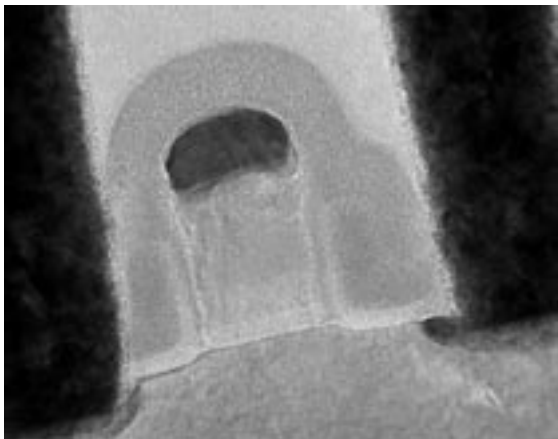
Even though Aaron doesn't get to come up to the Delta house as often as he'd like, he cherishes the time he spent in the fraternity, the friends he made, and social and professional skills he learned.

Aaron can be reached at aaron.j.brown@nasa.gov.

Thad Briggs '90 Works on the Edge of Technology with Nokia Cell Phone Chip

Thad Says He Developed His Teamworking Skills in Sigma Phi Delta

For the past six years, **Thad Briggs '90** has worked in the silicon technology development group at Texas Instruments. His current project is the 45 nanometer technology node. The "45nm" refers to the effective transistor gate length. To put things in perspective, a typical virus ranges from 20 to 300nm in size.



A picture of a 45nm transistor.

In the semiconductor industry, each new technology node is 70% physically smaller than the previous one, with a new node being introduced about every two years (the famous "Moore's Law"). Scaling the chip size serves two cost-driven purposes: it increases the number of chips per wafer, and it allows more features to be included in the same size footprint. The 45nm driver product at T.I. will be a cell phone chip for Nokia whose functions today are performed by two chips. The first 45nm products will be available in 2008, and will replace the 65nm node currently in production.

As a process integration engineer, Thad has exposure to the design, manufacturing, testing and reliability sides of chip production. His work involves the chip interconnect using 70nm copper leads separated by a porous low-k dielectric film. He admits that being a team leader

on a fast-paced development schedule is a challenge, but the journey to completion is always fun and rewarding.

Thad says that his experience as a member of Sigma Phi Delta has benefited him in many ways. "One is the ability to come to a solution with groups who sometimes have conflicting ideas and goals."

Thad says that his experience as a member of Sigma Phi Delta has benefited him in many ways. "One is the ability to come to a solution with groups who sometimes have conflicting ideas and goals," Thad says. "Another is the concept of 'pro bono professionis' – helping other engineers because it's the right thing to do, regardless of whether you personally benefit."

You can contact Thad at rockhopper_tadpole@yahoo.com.

Alumni Work Weekend 2007 Kept the Brothers Working Hard, But They Enjoyed the Chance to Spend Time Together

Actives and Alumni Accomplished Projects Such As Repairing Floors and Windows

Another successful Alumni Work Weekend was held April 27-29 at the Delta Chapter house in Champaign. The weekend started with a Meet and Greet at It's Brothers bar, where many alumni and actives enjoyed a few rounds. On Saturday, both the alumni and actives completed a number of different projects around the house, including leveling off a section of floor in the kitchen, cleaning up the outside appearance of the house and property, repairing the floor tiles in the dining room, repairing windows in the kitchen and dining room and starting the third floor shower renovation. A Saturday lunch was served by Chef **Jim Callahan**, and that night everyone headed over to Hooters for dinner hosted by the Delta Chapter Alumni as a reward for a long but enjoyable day of work around the house. On Sunday morning, we

had our Spring Alumni meeting and finished off a few of the projects before heading home. A big thank you to all of the alumni who came down for the weekend and to the actives for helping us complete the projects.



Alumni and actives compete in a poker tournament on Saturday night of AWW.

ALUMNI UPDATES

'50s

Raymond Siewert '54

(2512 Peach Grove Rd., Louisa, VA 23093; siewertr@aol.com) Living on beautiful Lake Anna in central Virginia with Maureen, my wonderful wife of 52 years. Enjoying the lake and our 23 grandchildren.

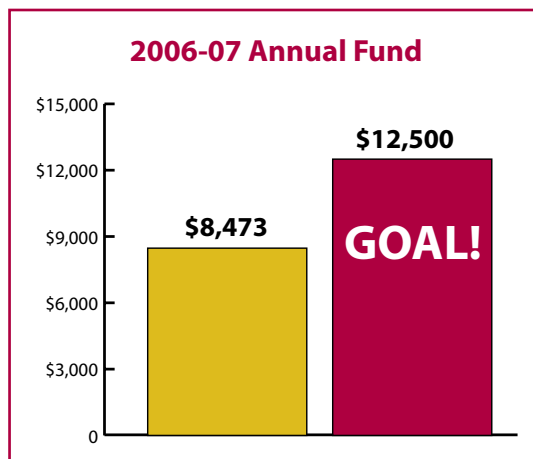
'70s

Thomas Durkin '75

(4523 Oakwood, Downers Grove, IL 60515; mbp50@aol.com) One of my sons graduated from the University of Illinois and is now a fireman in Hinsdale. My second son is spending his year abroad in Cairo, Egypt, and will graduate from the University of Illinois this spring. My third son is a sophomore at Bradley, and my daughter is a junior in high school.

Get Your Name on the 2006-2007 Honor Roll!

Since September 1, 2006, we have raised \$8,473 from 67 gifts. We need your support to reach our goal of \$12,500. Donate today by calling our toll-free hotline at 800-975-6699 or donating online at www.spdillini.org. Remember, the reason that you are reading this newsletter is the same reason that you should give today: to keep up with your relationships from fraternity days and help provide the same experience for future Sigma Phi Deltas.



ALUMNI OFFICERS

Thomas Dagenais '99
Alumni President

Patrick Cox '01
Alumni Vice President

Andrew Hill '88
Alumni Treasurer

Nick McDonnell '00
Alumni Secretary

Aaron Leppin '00
Active/Alumni Relations Chair

Brian Dagenais '98
House Improvement Committee

Ian Santarinala '02
Building Fund Custodian

Rick Woods '86
House Improvement Committee

Jeff Leesman '03
Alumni Relations Chair

John Larkin '77
House Improvement Committee

Martin Neumann '99
Alumni Relations Committee

Paul Lindner '84
House Improvement Committee

FALL 2007 UNDERGRAD OFFICERS

Jeff Rizzo
President

Kevin Sharp
Vice President

Christian Miller
Secretary

Anthony Mackey
Business Manager

Joe Vivoli
Pledgemaster

Jon Zotz
House Manager

After 3 Years as President, Brother Tom Dagenais Decides Not to Run for Re-Election

Other Are Encouraged to Lead Delta Chapter

By Tom Dagenais '99

At our recent alumni meeting in Champaign, I announced that I will not be running for re-election as president of the Delta Alumni Chapter. Starting this Fall, I will begin taking evening classes to earn my MBA at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I feel that the time commitments of this endeavor will not allow me to properly focus my attention on the needs of the fraternity.

It's been three years since I first took over as president of the Delta Alumni, and in that time the work of many alumni has helped keep Delta Chapter going strong. The individual contributors are too numerous to name here, but I'd like to thank all of the alumni who have donated their efforts, time, advice and funds to Delta of Sigma Phi Delta.

Sigma Phi Delta Achieves a GPA Above Both All-Men's and All-Fraternity Averages and Devotes Time to Relay for Life

Brothers Already Looking Forward to Streetdance Philanthropy Next Year

The last weekend in April at Sigma Phi Delta marked "Alumni Work Weekend." The alumni came back to their past home and spent some time with the active undergrads. They used this time to rehash old memories, share stories from the good old days and make repairs and improvements to the chapter house. It was a weekend of accomplished projects and fun for all.

The chapter's new member GPA this past semester was a 3.12, which is above both the all-men's and all-fraternity averages. Sigma Phi Delta participated in the Phi Mu Broomball tournament, and Delta Delta's Greeks at Bat softball tournament. The brothers also dedicated their time to the community this semester by participating in Relay for Life. During this event, money is raised for the American Cancer Society to help those who have or had cancer in the past. This 24-hour event includes music, activities and food for all. The returning undergrads are looking forward to the fall semester when they will meet up with alumni again at Homecoming and hold their annual Streetdance philanthropy event.

281-028 SN

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**



*What Did the Brothers Accomplish During Alumni
Work Weekends? Details on Page 3!*

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