

HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Third Floor Shower Renovation Completed

This summer we completed the third floor shower renovation that was started at Alumni Work Weekend last spring. Alumnus **Raymond (Diesel) Fagan '95** was hired to complete the renovation which included a complete tear out of the old shower and replacing it with new plumbing, sub flooring, shower pan, walls, and lighting. The new shower looks great. A big thanks to Diesel for all of his hard work!



Fire Sprinkler System Requirement

In other renovation news, as many of you know, the City of Champaign is requiring that all Fraternity houses have a NFPA 13R compliant fire suppression sprinkler system installed throughout the entire building. We are in the process of getting an updated set of estimates to have this work done for our house.

At our next alumni meeting this winter, will be voting on having this work performed during the summer of 2008. There are a number of different cosmetic installation options, so if you have any input, or have any experience with this type of a project, please let **Pat Cox '01** know (w18001@email.mot.com) and plan on attending the next alumni meeting.

Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

November 2007

Delta Dispatch

www.spdillini.org

University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois



Goals for Year Include Maintaining Strong Communications Program and Continuing to Increase Alumni Involvement

Andy Hill, 10-Year Alumni Treasurer, Announces Resignation and Alumni Association Seeks Nominations for his Replacement in June

By Aaron Leppin '00

Happy Holidays to all Delta brothers!

As we enter a new year our goal as an alumni organization is to maintain our strong communications program and increase alumni involvement. We had a great turnout of alumni at Homecoming this year and everyone had a good time. We hope to have a large turnout for Alumni Work Weekend in the spring as well. We will set a date for AWW at our winter meeting. Stay tuned for future communication regarding date, time and location of that meeting. We hope you will make every effort to attend AWW and look forward to seeing you.

At the Homecoming meeting, our Alumni Treasurer **Andy Hill '88** announced his pending resignation of the position. Andy has done a great job as our treasurer for over 10 years. We wish him well and hope that he will continue to stay involved in the alumni organization. The position of Treasurer is one

that benefits from longevity in the office, so if you can make a longer-term (5-10 years) commitment to being the Alumni Treasurer, please let the Alumni Board know before elections this June. If you are not sure and would like more information please contact me (aaronleppin@gmail.com) or Andy (HillA@ci.beloit.wi.us).



2007-2008 Annual Fund Seeks Alumni Support

Help us celebrate the 2007-2008 giving year that started on September 1, 2007 by making a donation to the annual fund. You can donate by calling our toll-free hotline (800-975-6699) or by visiting our website at www.spdillini.org. The annual fund supports:

1. Our newsletter, *Delta Dispatch*.

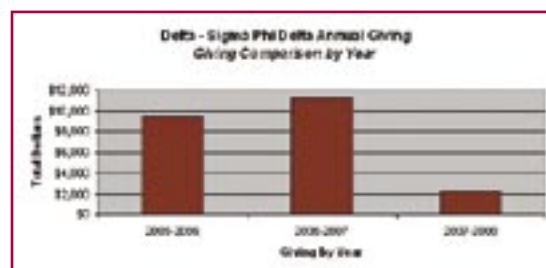
2. Our alumni website, www.spdillini.org, which keeps us up-to-date on Sigma Phi Delta news and enables us to interact with each other online through message boards, alumni updates, a searchable directory and more.

3. Other letters, postcards, and print and web communications.

4. Alumni events, such as homecoming.

5. Management of our alumni database, which provides accurate contact information for all of our brothers so that we can stay in touch and reconnect with each other.

6. The physical plant of the chapter house and the active chapter (such as scholarships).



Chapter Focuses on Academics, Brotherhood, Personal Development and Community Service

Declining University Greek Numbers Pose Challenge to Chapter Recruitment Efforts

By Dean Santarinala

The fall semester is passing us by quickly, and while the Chapter has seen some struggles, we are seeing some positive changes.

Of particular frustration is our difficulty with recruitment. Numbers are down throughout the Greek System and we are struggling to cope with our slowly declining numbers. Spring rush brought in one new active, **Trevor Schaaf**. Fall Rush brought us four new pledges whom are helping around the house and are very high-spirited in learning about our history. We are saddened by the departure of spring graduates **Phillip Gonski**, **Kyle Ives**, **James Schramm**, and **Timothy**

O'Shea, and wish them luck in their careers.

Academically, we have been very diligent in our studies and are improving dramatically. We are always looking for opportunities to host professional events, and recently contacted companies interested in providing resume building workshops and internship opportunities.

The consequences of last semester's violation of the Fraternity's Risk Reduction policy have taken full effect. The active chapter has been abiding by our punishment and has been a dry house since late last semester. We have not hosted any social events, and

aside from extra time on schoolwork, we have been active in the community. Many of us are volunteering monthly and we have had two events where the entire house has volunteered: the Special Olympics in September and a Homecoming volunteer opportunity called iHelp. We will also attend an Alcohol Awareness seminar this semester.

The house has had its share of ups and downs, but our Chief **Jeffrey Rizzo** has provided good leadership. With over twenty actives – most of whom live in house – Delta chapter hopes for a bright future in our social, academic and brotherly endeavors.

MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Supreme Council Grows Fraternity and Serves as Stewards of Our Legacy

For Decades Past and Decades to Come Delta Chapter Forms the Backbone of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

By Ian Santarinala '02, Communications Director

I've been tasked to write an article describing what the Supreme Council is up to. This begs the eternal question, "What has Nationals, or better yet, the International Office (thanks to our Canuck brethren), ever done for us?"...a very good question and one I've often asked since I was but a wee pledge in the wilds of Champaign.

Here are a couple noteworthy things the International Office has done lately. First, in 2006 Sigma Phi Delta officially became a member of the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). This trade association, which consists of 69 fraternities, with 5500 chapters on 800 campuses, allows us to leverage their expertise and knowledge in all matters fraternal. This has already paid dividends operationally. For instance, the online store is one fruit of our relationship. Second, the International Office maintains the Liability Insurance Policy for the Fraternity. To function in today's litigious society fraternal organizations are required to be insured. To hold an event like "Streetdance", the City of Champaign and the University require proof of insurance.

Currently, the International Office pays the premium of this policy in its entirety out of the General Fund which mostly consists of Chapter Dues and your donations. Third, the International Office provides support, guidance, and counsel to our chapters. SPD has not been immune to the issues facing fraternal life. The Supreme Council has been called on more than once by our campuses' university administration to deal with issues at our chapters. Fourth, we are actively expanding the Fraternity. In recent years we have added strong and thriving chapters at Virginia Tech and Lamar University. We are seeking campuses where we can fulfill the Object of our Fraternity and promote the advancement of the Engineering Profession. Finally, we are stewards of SPD's legacy. Primarily this role is fulfilled by acting as leaders and administrators, just as **Russell C. Smith '67** and **Robert J. Beals '47** before us. We process Form 100's to record our newest pledges. If you thought collecting money as BM was hard, try doing that with people scattered across the country. Every summer we hold a convention where

engineering students from various campuses can gather in the spirit of fellowship.

So how can one support the International Office in all these endeavors? You guessed it: time and money! We always are in need of volunteers who have unique talents in arenas outside of engineering. Financially, I understand there's only so much money to go around. However, I ask that when you open your checkbooks to donate to the Delta Alumni Chapter, consider throwing a couple dollars in the direction of the International Office of SPD. Since undertaking its improved communications plan, donations to Sigma Phi Delta's General Fund have decreased significantly amongst Delta Alumni. As a Delta Alumnus (and also the Building Fund Manager), I understand the need to have some money in the bank just in case the boiler explodes at 302 E. Gregory. However, I also understand that without a Liability Insurance Policy Delta Chapter cannot exist. We shouldn't be so greedy as to withhold the gifts we've earned from undergraduates at other chapters throughout the country. Delta

(Continued on Page 4.)

Alumni and Actives Spend Homecoming Weekend Tailgating and Supporting Illini Sports

Alumni Knee Injuries Force Cancellation of Active-Alumni Football Game – Does that Count as Forfeiture?

By Tom Dagenais '99

This year's Homecoming has come and gone and was successful for the brotherhood of the Delta Chapter. Due to poor weather conditions, Friday's parade and pep rally were cancelled but we later found out that the Delta Active Chapter has returned to its rightful place atop the float-building world with a first-place finish. All that work on float must explain the mess on the first floor of the house...

Tailgating on Saturday was a huge success. Before the 11 a.m. game, **Pat Cox '01** cooked up french toast and sausage links on his portable propane griddle and actives

and alumni alike got into game spirit. The Illini won their match up against Ball State, making the football team eligible for a bowl game for the first time since 2001. After the game, more than a dozen alumni went back to the tailgate location for burgers, brats, and cold beer. Another large group of actives and alumni spent the afternoon at the local bars. On Saturday evening a large contingent of Delta brothers went to the Illini Hockey game while another group went to Legend's Bar for some fun on the town.

On Sunday morning, new Alumni

President **Aaron Leppin '00** ran an efficient and effective meeting. Active-alumni football was cancelled due to a lack of alumni without knee injuries (I guess we're getting old) and most alumni instead decided to watch the Bears and grab some lunch before heading home.

Thanks go to **Rick Woods '86** for securing hotel rooms for Alumni use and to **Rick Cannon '77** for buying a block of tickets to the football game to allow alumni to sit together. Thanks guys!

Group of Delta Alumni Work for on the Next Generation of Mobile Phones

SPD Experiences Helped Prepare them with Skills to Solve Everyday Issues

As part of the Motorola Global New Product Operations, **Nick McDonnell '00**, **Michael Golden '02**, **Patrick Cox '01**, **Jason Smith '98**, and **Michael Nolan '95** team together to make the newest concepts in mobile phone technology a reality. Located in Libertyville, Illinois, this group of alumni works in the Test Engineering group and have a two-fold responsibility of both designing and implementing the proto type and high volume



manufacturing test solutions for all of Motorola's mobile phone designs.

As part of their design responsibility,

the Test Engineering team collaborates with the individual Product Design teams to ensure that the product will become a success from not only a manufacturing standpoint, but also in the eyes of the customer. As new and improved features are constantly being added to mobile phones, this team of engineers design test solutions for new and emerging cellular technologies, such as EVDO and HSDPA, which are already breaking 3 Mbps data rates. In addition, they also work on the test solutions for all of the extra features that today's mobile phones include such as WLAN (802.11 b/g), Bluetooth, high resolution cameras, touch screen displays, and high quality audio.

"Being the first to work on a new technology is always exciting", says Pat. "Knowing that the end customer hasn't even heard of the technology you are currently working on makes it so important that we drive to ensure that the feature truly 'WOW's' the customer when he first sees it." The team works throughout the design stages implementing the necessary prototype testing which can highlight any product issues early on so that they can be quickly resolved and also proves when the design is ready for launch.

Additionally, the team works with high volume manufacturing facilities around the world to prepare for the product ramp. They create a manufacturing test plan that achieves a balance of detecting defects while keeping the manufacturing facility efficient. The engineers often travel to Singapore, China, Germany, Brazil, and Japan to provide on-site support to the factory during product ramp. The team has recently

worked on products such as the RAZR2, MOTO Q and KRZR.

This past summer, two Delta Chapter actives, **Dean Santarinala** (Junior EE) and **Fred Engstrom** (Senior EE), held Summer Internships with the Test Engineering team and worked on a number of projects. Not only did they advance their own professional skills, but also completed necessary projects for the group.

As a group, the camaraderie they use to solve everyday issues stems from their experiences they shared as part of the Sigma Phi Delta brotherhood.



ALUMNI UPDATES

'50s

C. Rick Schwerdtfeger '85

(9523 Sandy Run Dr, Waynesville, OH 45068-8384; ricksphd@gotsky.com) I have spent the last 18 months doing solar, wind, and fuel cell project management for a private non-profit in Dayton, Ohio. However, I left there to join a start-up company in Nashua, NH.

I am the first employee and part owner with my partner (original founder and former CEO of GT Solar). The company is called ARC Energy, which is short for Advance Renewable Energy Company, LLC. We will be designing and building high temperature crystal growth furnaces for multiple applications, including sapphire crystal growth (used as substrates for blue LEDs, etc).

Our oldest son, Dylan, is a freshman at the University of Kentucky, and my youngest son, Luke, is a junior in high school. My wife, Gretchen, is teaching tennis full time and asking when she can retire.

I will be traveling to NH quite a bit, but will wait to relocate, hopefully after Luke graduates. If anyone is in the Cincinnati-Dayton-Columbus area, please give me a call.

'90s

Chuck Davis '95

(Charlottesville, VA; civman1995@yahoo.com) Hi all! Katie, the kids and I have decided to leave the Air Force after nine years and start a new life in Charlottesville, VA. I'll be working at the University of Virginia, as a Senior Project Manager for the Capital Construction Division. Love the mountains and the fact that I won't have to spend anymore time in the Middle East.

David "Spappy" Pekala '99

(1414 Arbor Green Trail, O'Fallon, IL 62269; david.pekala@gmail.com) After being in the Air Force for 9 1/2 years and deploying to the Middle East in 2006 (I was Mr. Mom for 5 months), Amy decided to get out of the military. We decided to build a new house (call if you're in the area!) and she found a job as a civil service employee. Jacob is now 2 1/2 and is doing well. Check out some pictures I uploaded in my photo albums.

To read more updates, or to submit one of your own, visit www.spdillini.org

Supreme Council Grows Fraternity... *Continued from Page 2*

Chapter has always formed the backbone of our Fraternity. For nearly 50 of our 80+ years of existence, somebody from Delta Chapter has had his hand on the wheel. As Delta Chapter goes, the whole organization follows. A strong Delta Chapter makes for a strong Sigma Phi Delta, *The Premier International Fraternity of Engineers*. I humbly ask that you help maintain Delta Chapter's legacy of excellence in supporting the International Office.

Please visit www.spdillini.org for complete article.

New sprinkler system required, looking for new Alumni Treasurer and what does the National Office do? Get details inside...

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