

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

Alumni President  
**Aaron Leppin '00**

Alumni Vice President  
**Patrick Cox '01**

Alumni Treasurer  
**Andrew Hill '88**

Alumni Secretary  
**Rick Woods '86**

Active/Alumni Relations Chair  
**Kyle Ives '07**

House Improvement Committee  
**Brian Dagenais '81**  
**John Larkin '81**  
**Paul Lindner '88**  
**Rick Woods '86**

Building Fund Custodian  
**Ian Santarinala '02**

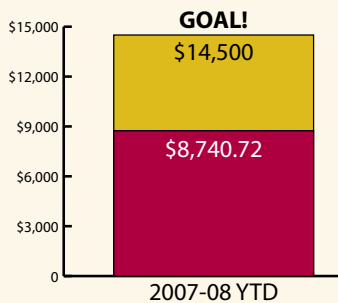
Alumni Relations Chair  
**Jeff Leesman '03**  
**Thomas Dagenais '99**

## ANNUAL FUND

**Get Your Name on the  
2007-2008 Honor Roll!  
Time is Running Out to  
Donate to the 2007-2008  
Annual Fund**

Since September 1, 2007 we have raised \$8,740.72 from 64 gifts. We need your support to meet our goal of \$14,500. Donate today by:

1. Visiting our website  
[www.spdillini.org](http://www.spdillini.org)
2. Calling our toll-free hotline at 800-975-6699
3. Sending your check to:  
Sigma Phi Delta at Illinois  
Alumni Relations Processing  
Center  
P.O. Box 7007  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007



Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

June 2008

*Delta Dispatch*



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

University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois

## Alumni and Actives Join Together to Make Work Weekend a Huge Success

### *Long List of Repairs, Cleaning and Upgrades Accomplished Between Good Food and Fun Times*

25 years of Delta Alums reunited in Champaign on April 18<sup>th</sup> for the annual Sigma Phi Delta Alumni Work Weekend.

A meet and greet event was held Friday evening at It's Brother's Bar & Grill on Green Street. The food and drink specials were a hit and our section in the loft area provided a great vantage point to enjoy a Friday night in Campustown.

Work began early Saturday morning with actives and pledges working alongside alumni to complete several projects including:

1. Cleaning out the attic and locking it out per fire codes
2. Locating and fixing a broken drain line from the third floor shower
3. Repairing third floor bathroom toilets and floor drains
4. Repairing windows throughout the house
5. Replacing several faulty electrical outlets and light fixtures

Chef Jim Callahan provided a great lunch (as usual) and work continued throughout the afternoon. After the work for the day was finished, the Alumni Association hosted a wrap-up dinner at Hooters of Champaign. Our

men took over about a third of the restaurant and feasted on several hundred wings, shrimp, sandwiches, and fries.

An alumni meeting was held Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Topics of interest included plans for the installation of a sprinkler system for the Chapter House this summer and active and alumni finances. Full minutes are available on the website.

After the meeting the remainder of the projects were wrapped up. Several Brothers headed back home while some lingered around for the afternoon checking out the changes on campus and remembering the good times as an undergrad.



**Tom Dagenais replaced wood on the third floor dormer windows.**

## Annual Alumni Meeting to be Held Again at Ram Restaurant in Schaumburg

### *Agenda Includes Alumni Officer Elections, Sprinkler Project, Plans for House, and Operation*

Delta Alumni's Annual Meeting will be held Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the Ram Restaurant, in Schaumburg, Illinois. After a great response last year, we have once again reserved The Woodfield Room for a private dinner and business meeting to follow.

The cost is \$25 per person which includes dinner and non-alcoholic drinks. The Ram

is located at 1901 McConnor Parkway, Schaumburg, IL. It is just north of Woodfield Mall off of highways I-90 and I-290. Visit [www.theram.com](http://www.theram.com) for additional information.

This meeting will feature elections of alumni officers for 2008-2009. In addition we will discuss the chapter house sprinkler

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## The Delta Chapter House – Past, Present, and Future *After Many Moves the Delta Chapter Settled at 302 East Gregory*

For 45 years, 302 East Gregory Drive has been the home of Delta Chapter. The construction date of the house is not known, but it is estimated to have been built in the late 1920's, coinciding with a fraternity boom at Illinois and across the nation.



**An undated photo shows little has changed on the outside of the house**

The house was originally built for the Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi. The Alpha Epsilon Pi crest can still be seen in the stone work near the front door. A couple of notable Alpha Epsilon Pi alums include inventor/salesman Ron Popeil (“Mr. Set It and Forget It”) and political commentator Robert Novak, who most likely lived in the house during the late 1950's.

### Annual Alumni Meeting...

*Continued from Page 1.*

installation project which is slated for this summer. We will also talk about the long-term plans for the chapter house and operations of the alumni and active chapters.

We welcome you to bring any ideas or concerns you may have to the meeting as well. We are also looking for volunteers to fill all alumni officer roles. If you can't make it to the meeting but would like to run for an office, please contact **Tom Dagenais '99** at [tjdag99@yahoo.com](mailto:tjdag99@yahoo.com) or **Jeff Leesman '03** at [jleesman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jleesman@sbcglobal.net).

See you there!

Delta's home from 1931-1933 was at 1009 W. Green Street in Urbana. This site is now the main entrance to campus, a stunning plaza area known as the Hallene Gateway.

The state of the chapter was in flux for much of the 1930's with a brief period of inactivity. In 1940, the Chapter was active again.

Meetings were initially held in Room 215 of the Electrical Engineering Building, until the fall of 1940, when the Chapter moved into a house at 508 West Green Street in Urbana. A local pizza restaurant currently sits on this site.

After another period of inactivity from 1944-1946, the Chapter was active again and promptly moved into a frame structure located at 1103 West Illinois Street in Urbana. The Chapter eventually bought the property, making it the first house owned by Delta. However, the University acquired the property in 1962 for construction of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

This led Delta to its sixth house located at 905 South Fifth Street in Champaign, which is now also University property. Delta resided at this address for a year while it purchased and renovated the current house at 302 East Gregory Drive.

Today, the exterior of the house appears much as it did 45 years ago. A few changes have been made, including an enclosed fire escape on the east side, but the original brick and stone facade still stands strong.

However, if you look closely you'll see the wood fascia is starting to rot and some of the lintels are beginning to degrade. Inside, the first floor of the house is largely unchanged. The wood floor, fireplace and exposed beams in the living room have stood the test of time.

Meeting basic building and fire codes and dealing with outdated mechanical systems have become our biggest challenges in maintaining the house. Codes continue to become more stringent and have historically been the driving force behind major projects at the house.

This summer, the house will be retrofitted with an automatic sprinkler system

to comply with city regulations. This is a major undertaking which will require a new water service to the house and the installation of piping throughout all occupied areas. Care will be taken to conceal the piping to preserve the architecture of the house, but it will be nearly impossible – and expensive – to conceal in all areas.

The dates of the last major upgrades to the house's mechanical systems are unknown. However, we do know the systems are nearing the end of their service lives, as evidenced by more frequent calls to plumbers and electricians.

Luxury apartments with high-end finishes and amenities (and low rents) have been popping up all over campus. Several fraternities, including our neighbors Pi Kappa Phi, have recognized this shift and have constructed new houses with apartment style features such as private bathrooms, central air conditioning and covered parking.

We rely on a constant influx of new members to help cover the operational costs of the house. At the same time, the physical state of the house is one of the biggest factors affecting a potential member's decision to join the Fraternity.

As the condition of the house degrades, recruitment becomes more difficult. Currently, the majority of our funds go to fix code violations or basic repairs, which has left us struggling to provide the updates needed to keep up with other campus housing options. Despite these challenges, our outlook remains strong. Just as we have kept the brotherhood of Delta Chapter strong for 80 years, we are committed to keeping our Chapter House strong. With your help, Third and Gregory will long be known as the home of Illinois' finest engineers.



**The Delta Chapter House Today**

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Derek “Mickey G” McGrath ’02

(2618 Quarry Lake Drive, Columbus, OH 43204) Jess and I welcomed Lydia Bethany to our family on October 21st. She was a big one (8 lbs 8 oz and 22 inches long). She is (with apologies to anyone else who’s ever had a baby) the most beautiful baby in the history of human-kind. Sleepless nights have followed, but she’s been very good. She’s not crying or fussing much, but squirming like a champ. She’s also very alert for a baby her age

and we see this as an indication that she will soon be ready to undertake Jedi training.

### Derek Price ’03

(1318 Dianne Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704) Just wanted to say Happy Holidays to the Sig Phi nation and let everyone who doesn’t already know that I have just taken a new job as a Production/Process Engineer with Lonza, Inc. in Mapleton, IL. This is just south of Peoria and I work in their Sorbitol production unit making sugar free sweetener syrups. I will be moving to Bloomington, IL with my wife Lesley and we will be looking to buy a house once our house in the suburbs

sells. If anyone is in the area or wants to get together for a drink, please look me up. My cell is 618-541-6151. I plan on making a lot more of the alumni meetings in the Chicagoland area and will look forward to only being 45 minutes from campus for sporting events.

### Hugo Guitard ’04

(hguitard@gmail.com) Some news from overseas! I moved to Germany to work for MAN Ferrostaal (construction of energy facilities in North Africa). I am living near Frankfurt, so if you are traveling around let me know!

## GRADUATING SENIORS

**Name:** Erich Hauptmann (Fall ’03 Pledge Class)

**Major:** Computer Science

**Future Plans:** I’m still looking for a good job, I had been hoping to do something with my Graphics specialization.

I was part of the Fall 2003 pledge class, and along with Fred I probably have way too many memories of the house to pick a favorite memory. If I had to pick something I’d say I have the best (and worst) memories came from the camping trip. So many things happened that night. Also, the time we celebrated a power outage by telling ghost stories in the boiler room was pretty cool.

I held the positions of Network Chair, Philanthropy Chair and Vice Chief. I was also the best Commissar ever until I ran out of menu ideas.

**Address:** 497 Lavell Ct., Marina, CA 93933

**Email:** goldfinger7400@mac.com

**Phone:** 630-624-1044

**Name:** Aras Buntinas

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**Future Plans:** Still Looking for a job.

**Favorite Memory:** Erich Hauptmann bringing a pitcher as his glass to fill up with my homebrew.

**Positions Held:** Assistant Float Chair

**Address:** 384 Sumac Rd Highland Park, IL 60035

**Email:** aras@wcvps.com

**Phone:** (847) 514-5000

**Name:** Jeff Rizzo (Fall 2004 Pledge Class)

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**Future Plans:** Working for ConocoPhillips Gasifying Power Plant in Terre Haute, IN

**Favorite Memory:** Staying up all night to fin-

ish float every homecoming and finally winning first place this past year.

**Positions Held:** Assistant House Manager (twice), House Manager, Philanthropy Chair (twice), Risk Reduction Chair, Recruitment Chair, Vice Chief, Chief

**Address:** 13157 Cinnamon Cir, Plainfield, IL 60585

**Email:** jrizzo2@gmail.com

**Phone:** 815-545-5125

**Name:** Fred Engstrom

**Major:** Electrical Engineering

**Future Plans:** Working for Motorola

**Email:** fengsto@uiuc.edu

**Name:** Kevin Sharp

**Major:** GE

**Email:** Ksharp2@uiuc.edu

## ON THE WEB

### What You Need to Know about [www.spdillini.org](http://www.spdillini.org)

#### A How To on the most commonly used aspects of the website

##### Member Directory

- Search on a variety of criteria for brothers. Make sure to change the drop down box next to the search criteria to match your particular search.

##### Alumni Updates

- To add an alumni update click on “Submit” below the alumni updates listed in the right column.
- Choose your era, add your text and upload a photo if you would like.
- Click “Preview” and then “Submit Alumni Update”

##### Photo Albums

- To have your photos included in the “Group Photo Albums” email them to our alumni relations firm, Affinity Connection, at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com).
- Make sure to include a photo caption, list of brothers in the photo and that it is for Sigma Phi Delta at Illinois.

##### Download Center

- Access archived newsletters, meeting minutes and other important Sigma Phi Delta documents by clicking on the particular folder that interests you, and then the file link that you would like to view.

##### Donations

- Access the donations page by the “Donations” link on the left, the “Support the Annual Fund” link at the top right or the “Sigma Phi Delta Illinois Annual Fund” link in the right column
- Make sure to fill out all required fields (those with a red star).

##### Message Boards

- Respond to existing topics by clicking on the “Reply” button in that message.
- Start your own message board topic by choosing a category, then click “New Topic” and enter the desired text.

## CHAPTER UPDATE

### Undergrads Busy With Fundraising, Events, Sports and More!

#### *Undergrads Offer Special Thank You to Alumni for Work Weekend*

*By Jeff Rizzo*

We have been very busy this semester with events. We participated in University of Illinois Colleges Against Cancer Relay for Life and also held a "Spring Bash" after hours with a live band and DJ.

***"We would like to offer a special thanks to the alumni who worked hard with us to complete most projects during Alumni Work Weekend."***

Our broomball team won the EC Broomball tournament and we made the intramural playoffs. We also got to third round of the Phi Mu tourney.

We have a few updates on some of the guys. **Ryan Johnson** (CS, Spring 2005)

recently married before leaving for active duty in Ohio, and eventually Kosovo. Active **Trent Silver** (Nuclear, Fall 2007) was diagnosed with Leukemia. Thankfully he is doing okay health-wise and is responding well to therapy. We are hopeful he will return to us soon.

The view from our house has changed dramatically. The Illini Orange building across the street from the house has been demolished to make way for renovation of the "Six Pack" residence halls. It is currently a big hole.

We would like to offer a special thanks to the alumni who worked hard with us to complete most projects during Alumni Work Weekend.



***Ongoing construction continues to change the view from the house.***

***Open for details on the upcoming officer elections and annual meeting, plus a recap of the recent Alumni Work Weekend!***

281-040 SN

Address Service Requested

Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007  
P.O. Box 7007

Alumni Relations Processing Center

**SIGMA PHI DELTA FRATERNITY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

