

UPCOMING EVENT

January 24, 2009

Lunch at 12:00 noon with meeting to follow

Hooter's
1100 Perimeter Drive,
Schaumburg, IL
(Just outside Woodfield Mall,
near the corner of Golf Rd. and
Meacham Rd.)

ILLINI BASKETBALL

12/10: Chicago State (7 p.m.)
12/20: Detroit (7 p.m.)
12/28: Eastern Michigan (1 p.m.)
1/10: Indiana (2 p.m.)
1/14: Michigan (7:30 p.m.)
1/20: Ohio State (6 p.m.)
1/24: Wisconsin (3 p.m.)
2/1: Iowa (1 p.m.)
2/8: Purdue (12 p.m.)
2/18: Penn State (6 p.m.)
2/26: Minnesota (6 p.m.)
2/28 (or 3/1): Michigan State
3/3 (or 3/4 or 3/5): Penn State

All times are Central time. Visit www.spdillini.org for a link to the full team schedule and to use the online directory to make plans to attend a game with brothers from your era.

ON THE WEB

Haven't Yet Been to our Alumni Web Site?

Don't miss out on the latest news, event details, photos, updates and more! Register on the site today to get your username and password.

It's easy:

1. Go to www.spdillini.org.
2. Click on "First Time Login."
3. Enter your last name.
4. Select your record.
5. Enter your Member ID (found above your username and password on this newsletter).

Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

December 2008

Delta Dispatch

www.spdillini.org

University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Building Codes Require Sprinkler Installation in House by Fall 2009

Delta Chapter Refinances Mortgage to Raise Funds for Necessary Installation throughout Living Areas of House

By Tom Dagenais '99, Delta Alumni President

Happy Holidays! I hope that this holiday season is treating everyone well. This has certainly been a busy year for Delta Chapter. The Delta alumni refinanced the mortgage on the chapter house to raise the funds to install a sprinkler system throughout all living areas. Recent changes to the building codes in Champaign required this installation before the fall of 2009, and with the recent financial market troubles we're breathing a sigh of relief that we were able to refinance the mortgage before the credit markets dried up! The installation was completed earlier this fall.

Over the summer, long-time alumni treasurer **Andy Hill '88** stepped down from his post and was replaced by **Rick Woods '84**. I'd like to take a moment to thank Andy for his years of service to the fraternity and let him know that we appreciate the countless hours he put in at an often stressful and thankless position.

This fall the actives and alumni got together in Champaign for Homecoming 2008. Once

again, **Pat Cox '01** organized pre-game tailgating in the parking lot. He provided orange juice and cooked up hot French toast and sausage. After the game, Chef Jim Callahan prepared a lunch cookout at the chapter house where alumni could get together to reminisce and meet some of the current actives and their current 13-member pledge class.

"We encourage all alumni in the area to join us at our January alumni meeting. The meeting will be held in the Schaumburg area the weekend before the Super Bowl (January 24-25)."

As we prepare to enter 2009, things are looking up. The active chapter has its finances under control and will push to carry the success of this semester's rush program into the future. The alumni officers are continuing to make

efforts to communicate with one another and with our entire membership regularly. We encourage all alumni in the area to join us at our January alumni meeting. The meeting will be held in the Schaumburg area the weekend before the Super Bowl (January 24-25). Check out our website at www.spdillini.org or stay tuned to our monthly e-letters for the meeting details.

Here's wishing you all the best in 2009!



A sprinkler system was installed in the chapter house over the summer, thanks to a recent refinancing of our mortgage. Champaign building codes required the installation to be complete by fall 2009.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Delta Alumni Boasts "Excellent" Level of Cash Assets Compared to Annual Obligations

By Rick Woods '86, Incoming Treasurer

At the halfway point of the fall semester, I would give a "B" grade the state of our alumni finances. The good news is that we have more cash on hand than usual due to the recent refinance of the house and a spike in donations in August/September during the final push to our 2008-09 giving year. The bad news is that we still have some outstanding bills from the project still coming due, and we recently loaned the chapter

house \$5,175 to pay off outstanding debts to National.

Our September month-end cash balance is \$44,101 (\$13,000 remaining sprinkler expenses). Our September month-end building fund balance is \$24,081. For perspective, our annual operating expense budget typically runs around \$48,000, so we have an excellent level of cash assets in comparison to our annual obligations.

As the house repays Delta Alumni and shows that they can get on top of their finances, I will be leading discussions regarding increased funding for house improvements. Having met and worked with the new leadership in the house, I am very optimistic that the house is experiencing a renaissance as can be evidenced by the 13 new pledges this semester!

Stay tuned...

CHAPTER REPORT

Large Pledge Class Improves Chapter Strength in Spirit and Numbers

Delta Chapter Members Get Involved in Campus and Community Service Events

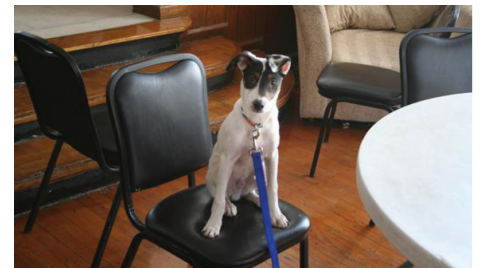
This semester we made an investment in the house and spent a little bit more money on rush, and as a result we now have a 13-man pledge class. We had more engaging rush events, and there was a bigger effort to inform the rushees by calling them before each event. A handful of them have expressed interest in moving into the house next semester. These pledges will bring a lot to the house and prove to be a step towards a stronger fraternity, both in spirit and in numbers.

Delta Chapter has participated in many philanthropic events this semester, including a candlelight vigil to raise awareness about domes-

tic abuse; and participating in Mud Olympics, sponsored by Alpha Omega Pi, to raise money for Autism Speaks. The biggest event was I-Help, where over half of our members helped Salt and Light, a local charity which functions as a food and clothing donation center for the less fortunate living in Champaign.

Overall this has been a semester of improvement for the house. Our fire suppression system has been fully installed. We have been replacing our old couches with better or newer ones that we can find. We've had events such as Brotherhood Bowling and a James Bond theme party, and we also passed

the hat and bought a home theater system for the chapter room. On top of all of this we've welcomed our new house dog, Tesla, a pitbull/collie mix.



Our new house dog, Tesla.

2008-09 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank you to the following alumni who have contributed \$3,672 to kick off the 2008-09 giving year, which began September 1. Add your name to the list by making a donation online at www.spdillini.org.

Robert J. Beals Society (\$600+)

Joseph C. Cox Jr. 2000

Russel C. Smith Society (\$400-\$599.99)

E. Dale Marston 1941

Castle Level (\$250 - \$399.99)

John C. Mutka 1988

Cog Level (\$100-\$249.99)

Clifford N. Mitchell 1943

Donald L. Renick 1943

Robert L. Hyde 1949

Jerald B. Conroy 1953

Kenneth C. Kopp 1953

Joseph F. Kennell 1958

John S. Perry III 1959

Gary G. Hunt 1965

Fred D. MacMurdo 1968

Gary G. Klein 1969

William J. Broersma 1982

Scott M. Morrison 1982

Mark R. Oldenburg 1985

Mark W. Weidinger 1985

Brett L. Douglas 1988

Shawn Thomas 1993

Daniel J. Brian 1999

Chapter Room Level (\$50-\$99.99)

William F. Herdrich 1951

Homer R. Hoving 1952

Glenn A. Ziemann 1955

Rick Woods 1986

Timothy A. Staber 1987

Andrew S. Hill 1988

Christopher M. Newman 1995

Delta Brotherhood Level (Up to \$49.99)

Fred A. Wilson 1943

Edwin A. Witort 1949

Duane W. Pick 1957

Mark C. Janke 1972

Terrence R. Phelan 1972

Reflects gifts received as of December 1, 2008.

A Glimpse into the United States Air Force *Erik Schultz '01 Tells of his Experiences as a Military Captain*

Special thanks to Erik Schultz '01 for submitting this testimonial of his first-hand experience as a captain in the United States Air Force. Currently stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, he was also deployed to Baghdad this past summer.

"Greetings brothers! I am a captain in the United States Air Force. I'm a space and missile operations officer, currently stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, assigned to the 30th Space Wing. Vandenberg is the nation's primary west coast space launch location (like Cape Canaveral is on the east coast), meaning that we launch rockets to put satellites into orbit. We also conduct several ballistic missile tests and aeronautical flight tests for the Department of Defense and several other government agencies. I belong to the 30th Operations Group, a subordinate unit of the 30th Space Wing, and our job specifically is to operate the Western Range in support of these missions.

"Throughout my career as a space and missile officer, the experiences I gained in Sigma Phi Delta have always been very much to my advantage."

The Western Range is a vast array of radars, telemetry dishes, optical sites, and command transmitters located along the coast of California, as well as in Hawaii and at the western end of the Pacific Ocean. We use these instrumentation sites to track the launch vehicle during flyout, in support of two primary functions: 1) gathering flight performance data on the vehicle (i.e. making sure the rocket is gonna go where it needs to go); and 2) ensuring public safety (in case it doesn't!).

For each mission, we have both military and civilian personnel assigned to various launch crew positions, each responsible for one or more of the tasks I talked about above. Each launch crew also has an officer assigned as the Range Operations Commander (ROC). The job of the Range Operations Commander is to lead the range team, to ensure all these functions come together as a cohesive effort so that the range is properly configured to provide

the necessary support for the day's launch. In my two years there so far, I've had the opportunity to work three launches as a Range Operations Commander. During the weeks (or sometimes months) leading up to each launch, I worked closely with engineers, technicians, and program managers, both from the military and the civilian sector, to determine what capabilities the range will need to provide for that particular launch, so we could start configuring our range assets to provide those capabilities. No two launches are quite the same, so it's important that everyone works together and understands each others' jobs and what they bring to the table.

While I've worked three missions so far, my primary job is an instructor to new folks coming into the unit. It's my job to teach them how the range works, and how their role on console during a launch contributes to the overall mission.

Throughout my career as a space and missile officer, the experiences I gained in Sigma Phi Delta have always been very much to my advantage. I saw it from the very beginning, while I was going through the baseline training for

space and missile officers. As some of you know, I did not end up graduating with an engineering degree, but with a geology degree. However, having still come from a technical background, I was able to understand the technical aspects of space and missile operations more easily and more completely than some of my fellow officers who did not have a technical education. And in my job now, I work with engineers on a regular basis. The shared experiences in Sigma Phi Delta of enduring the sometimes arduous math, science, and engineering classes, as well as working together as brothers towards a common goal, prepared me for the challenges of being a space and missile officer.

I deployed to Baghdad for four months over the summer. While there, I had the opportunity to apply GPS-based tracking capabilities to my unit's mission of securing, tracking, and monitoring the convoy movements of the top Iraqi government officials (i.e., the Prime Minister, the President, VPs, etc.) So while on the Range I am a provider of space-based capabilities; in the desert, I became a user!"

- Erik Schultz '01



Erik in front of Al Faw Palace during his deployment to Iraq.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Robert L. Hyde '49

(12404 Cassady Dr., Austin, TX 78727-5349; hyderobert@sbcglobal.net) After graduation, I took Shell Oil Co. training at the Deer Park, TX refinery. I was transferred to their research facility at Emeryville, CA. While there, I enrolled at UC Berkeley in the graduate Physics program. Finding the courses a little over my head, I transferred to the EE dept., where I learned about Transistors and Solid State Physics. After getting my MSEE in 1961 and not finding suitable employment in Shell Oil, I took a job with a power supply company in Connecticut where I designed high power DC to AC inverters which are still being used today as an industry standard.

Next, I took several positions in the industry in New York and New Jersey, ending up as president of three power supply and inverter firms. My next sojourn was into system engineering with first nuclear naval propulsion systems, and then down hole oil field measurement equipment design. At the end of my career, I took a job running the electronic shop for the UT Austin physics department, doing design for experimental

physics professors' experiments where I retired at the ripe old age of 68 in 1994. I did some consulting for some of the semiconductor manufacturers for several more years before retiring for good in 1998.

I have five children, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and the oldest is now in college. I walk three to six miles every day, sing in the church choir, carry Meals-on-Wheels once a week, visit prisoners in the county jail every other week and work out at UT gym twice a week.

Duane Pick '57

(2856 W. 232 St., Torrance, CA 90505-2855; pickdw@earthlink.net) I am now retired.

Richard Thompson '63

(1869 N 940 W, Parker City, IN 47368-9128; riston1@comcast.net) For 36 years I worked as a manufacturing engineer for Westinghouse/ABB and then did some private consulting for a few years. I am retired now and enjoy spending time with my wife, children and grandchildren. I seem to spend a lot of time on home improvements when not working out at the gym. I continue to be

interested in cars and have enjoyed driving a red Corvette for 25 years. I recently sold a 1979 Lincoln I was updating.

Robert Malinowski '64

(7802 Squirrel Hollow Dr., George Town, TX 78628-3712; skiroots@aol.com) I worked at GE until 1994. I retired and started a new job playing golf in Myrtle Beach, SC for 12 years. We moved to Georgetown, TX in 2006, where I enjoy playing golf and woodworking in my garage. My wife, Pat, is into genealogy and golf. Our son and daughter live in Texas, and they each have two children, which we enjoy.

Erik Schultz '01

My wife Silvia just gave birth to our second daughter, Sophia Elizabeth, on July 21, 2008. She weighed in at 7 lbs, 9 ounces, and is doing well. I was unfortunately still deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, at the time of the birth, but I was able to witness the birth by video teleconference through a wonderful organization called FreedomCalls.org. Silvia and I miss our time at U of I and at the house, and we hope to make it back for Homecoming '09.

This alumni brother is currently serving as a Captain in the United States Air Force. Who is he? See page 3 to find out.



Delta Chapter Successfully Refinances Mortgage to Fund Required Sprinkler System... Read Inside for Details!

281-048 FN

Address Service Requested

Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

P.O. Box 7007

Alumni Relations Processing Center

**SIGMA PHI DELTA FRATERNITY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
State College, Pa.
Permit No. 2