

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Alumni Meeting/
Officer Elections
June 19**

**Homecoming
October 10**
vs. Michigan State

Alumni Officers

Alumni President
Tom Dagenais '99
tom.dagenais@gmail.com

Alumni Vice President
Patrick Cox '01

Alumni Treasurer
Rick Woods '86

Alumni Secretary/Alumni
Relations Chair
Jeff Leesman '03

Active Relations Chair
Kyle Ives '07

Building Fund Custodian
Ian Santarinala '02

Graduating Seniors

Neal Sullivan
(General Engineering)

Anthony Mackey
(Electrical and Computer
Engineering)

ON THE WEB

What's My Member ID?

Find your Member ID for first
time login at www.spdillini.org
above your name and address
on this newsletter.

Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

May 2009

Delta Dispatch

www.spdillini.org

University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois



ALUMNI REPORT

Sigma Phi Delta Installs Required Sprinklers Ahead of Schedule and Under Budget

Project Completed in Advance of Skyrocketing Prices and Credit Market Decline

It's finished! Our contractors have completed the punchlist and the new sprinkler system is operational at the Chapter House. As we have previously mentioned, the project was the result of a mandate from the City of Champaign. All Greek houses are required to install sprinkler systems before the 2009-2010 school year in order to keep occupancy. We are very lucky to have completed this project well before the deadline. We understand prices from local installers are skyrocketing as many fraternities rush to meet the deadline for this fall. We are also lucky to have locked our financing in place last summer



– before the credit markets plunged! We sincerely thank all of our brothers who donated their money and/or time to help complete this project ahead of schedule and within our budget!

The next alumni meeting will be held the evening of Friday, June 19. The evening will include dinner followed by the business meeting. Officer elections for 2009-2010 will be held. The meeting time and location are not yet determined, but will be emailed to all members (who have registered their email addresses) and posted to the Delta alumni website at www.spdillini.org.

Alumni Work Weekend a Success

Numerous House Renovations Completed Thanks to Brothers' Hard Work...and a Boom Lift!

The weekend began with a meet-and-greet for alumni and actives at Brothers Bar & Grill (a fitting name for this event!) on Green Street. On Saturday, a number of projects at the Chapter House were completed with the help of the actives and pledges including:

- ✓ Painting of all of the new sprinkler piping
- ✓ Basement bathroom upgrades
- ✓ Misc. plumbing and electrical work throughout the house
- ✓ Installation of brick pavers near the basketball court
- ✓ Gutter cleaning, exterior painting and window caulking

The exterior work went especially well

since we know the best way to motivate guys to work...give them a boom lift! Sig Phi wives, please take note.

On Saturday night, the alumni ordered a bunch of Papa Del's deep dish pizzas for all the guys who helped out, and finished out the night by hitting Murphy's Pub.

The spring alumni meeting was held on Sunday morning. Meeting minutes will be posted soon to www.spdillini.org.

The alumni and active officers then met to go over financials while some of the other guys finished up the various projects around the house.

Thanks to **Pat Cox '01** for organizing this event. We look forward to seeing you back next April.

CHAPTER REPORT

Delta Chapter Boasts 36 Members and Strong Social Calendar

By Wally Petrovic, Historian
Senior, Aerospace Engineering

Spring 2009 marked something of a return to glory for the Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta. We initiated 12 new members, and all eight of our current pledges successfully completed their pledging requirements. The chapter currently boasts 36 members, 21 of whom live in the Chapter House. With that number going up to 27 in the fall, we look forward to running a healthy and financially viable operation for years to come.

We will be sad to see Brothers **Anthony Mackey** (EE) and **Neal Sullivan** (GE) go, as they graduate and enter the real world, but we know that they won't forget about us. Neal is working in the Chicago area, so he won't be far away, while Anthony is keeping his fingers crossed as he looks for a job in this tough economic market. If any alumni have any connections in the double-e world, please give Anthony a call.

Chief Engineer **Jeff Rothamer** (Junior, CEE) has been a good leader for us this

semester, and every office was done with a more serious and determined attitude compared to semesters past.

The house was involved in many exciting endeavors, of the academic, social, and athletic kinds. We even finally obtained a faculty advisor, as orchestrated by Brother **Ryan Pecora** (Freshman, EE). We look forward to having a long relationship with Dr. Eric Pop, a professor in the ECE department.

Our social calendar was full as well. Perhaps our biggest event was our Street Dance-like party, Spring Bash, organized by Vice-Chief **John Voll** (Sophomore, ChemE). Entertainment was provided by Dammit, a Blink-182 cover band, and DJ Party. A good time was had by all who attended. We also had a couple of exchanges, as we hosted a Casino Night with sister sorority AOE, and also went to a happy hour with the ladies of Delta Delta Delta. Our biggest brotherhood event was our camping trip May 6-7 to Lake Shelbyville.

Athletically, we continued the long-standing SPD tradition of mediocrity mixed with occasional success. We participated in the basketball and broomball intramurals competitions. We also played in the HKN (An ECE honor society) broomball tournament, coming away with the first-place trophy. Our involvement in the Tri-Deltas Greeks-at-Bat softball tournament was

less glorious, as we may or may not have been blown out in the first round.

Our attempt at having a house dog did not work out as well as planned. Tesla, the mutt from Kankakee, was a beloved pet, but proved to be too energetic for the fraternity house setting. He is currently seeking a loving home while staying at Brother **Trevor SchAAF's** (Junior, CEE) house in the St. Louis area.

Our alumni relations remain strong. Alumni Work Weekend was held April 24-26, and we appreciate your help in taking care of our aging, yet still beautiful house. We eagerly await next year's Homecoming celebration, and we'll make you proud with a 1st place float.

Next semester, we look to continue our improvements, led by new Chief Engineer **Adam Borhart** (Junior, CEE).

On a sad note, on Sunday, May 10, our Brother **Trent Silver**, sophomore in NPRE (Nuclear Engineering), passed away after a truly courageous and inspiring year-and-a-half long battle with Lymphblastic Leukemia. We're deeply saddened to have lost Trent, but we'll forever cherish his memory. If there's one thing to take from all this it's that life is a mystery, and sometimes the most well-laid plans are destroyed in the blink of an eye. Take nothing for granted, especially the relationships you build, both within Sigma Phi Delta and in your everyday life.



ON THE WEB

Are You Receiving our Monthly e-Letter?

If Not, Update Your Email Address!

We are missing email addresses for 54.3% of our alumni brothers. If you haven't been receiving our e-Letter, distributed on the fourth Tuesday of each month, then please update your email address! You can do so by logging in to www.spdillini.org and clicking on the Edit Info button.

By increasing our email database we can increase the frequency of our electronic communications, saving money on paper, printing and postage. Check the Lost Email List on our web site to update the email of other brothers for whom you may be in contact with too.



Brett Douglas '88 Applies Signal Processing Theory to Stock Selection

Alum Tells of His Experience in Sigma Phi Delta and How It Impacted His Career

After graduating in 1988, **Brett Douglas** joined the Imaging Systems Research Group at the University of Illinois. Sonatech sponsored his Ph.D work developing a synthetic aperture imaging sonar that was deployed on the USS Dolphin, then the world's deepest diving submarine. Brett joined Sonatech after graduate school and led the development of an obstacle avoidance sonar for the US Navy SEALS' Mark 8 submarines.

"Brett's experience at Sigma Phi Delta has benefited him in many ways. He made many good friends at Sigma Phi Delta, and he still keeps in contact with many of them... The most valuable experience came from the chapter meetings themselves, where actives had to develop the skill to quickly and clearly make a persuasive point to influence the decisions of the chapter."

Brett left the sonar industry in 1996 to participate in Silicon Valley's telecommunications and networking boom.

He developed signal interception technology for two years, then joined Cisco's Wireless Access Business Unit. His first project, a precursor to WIMAX, was ready for market just as the tech bubble burst, so he switched his focus to 802.11 wireless networks. He managed the digital processing team that developed 802.11a/b/g chips for Cisco's access points. He developed the radio planning and location algorithms for Cisco's Wireless LAN Solution Engine, a product that made it easy for customers to deploy, monitor, and secure wireless networks with over 1000 access points. From 2003 through 2007, Brett led Cisco's standards and development effort for 802.11N technology, which improved the speed of wireless networks from 54 Mbps to 300 Mbps.

Brett's investment management career started as an experiment in 1996. He read several books describing stock selection methods that had outperformed the stock market indices. Brett spent his weekends crunching data looking for fundamental and technical factors that were correlated with stock returns. He then used those factors to predict future stock performance. By October 2006, his stock predictor was using 25 different factors, he was managing seven accounts, and he had documented an

eight-year track record of outperforming the Russell 3000 index. He took a leave of absence from Cisco Systems to start Douglas Capital Management, LLC. He focuses his investments in small cap, micro cap, and foreign stocks where the markets are least efficient, and therefore provide the most opportunity for superior performance. His firm now has over 100 clients, including several Sigma Phi Delta alums. He is very grateful for the confidence they have placed in him to manage a portion of their investments.

Brett's experience at Sigma Phi Delta has benefited him in many ways. He made many good friends at Sigma Phi Delta, and he still keeps in contact with many of them. He met his first wife at a Sigma Phi Delta party. They were happily married for 13 years before she died. There were many excellent role models at Sigma Phi Delta who went on to achieve academic and career success. The most valuable experience came from the chapter meetings themselves, where actives had to develop the skill to quickly and clearly make a persuasive point to influence the decisions of the chapter.

You can contact Brett at brettdouglas@dcm-llc.com

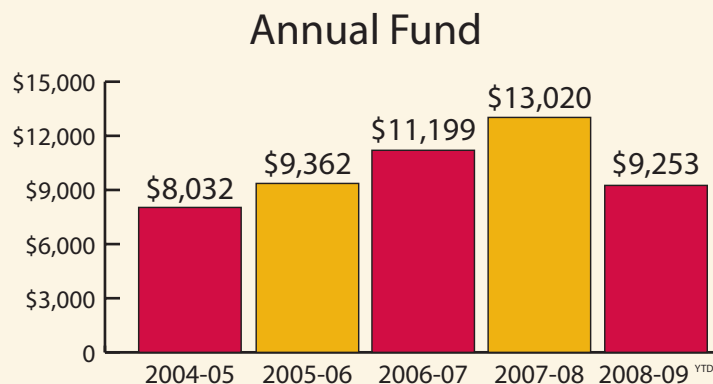
ANNUAL FUND

On Pace for a Record Giving Year!

Show Your Support Before August 31

Thanks to our alumni donors, listed on the Honor Roll at www.spdillini.org, we have raised \$9,253 so far toward the 2008-09 annual fund. This puts us on pace to surpass last year's record annual fund total of \$13,020! Help us to exceed last year's record by making your annual fund gift today. You can make a gift online at www.spdillini.org or by calling 800-975-6699.

The annual fund supports our efforts to keep you connected with Sigma Phi Delta and your alumni brothers through our web site, newsletter and other publications. Please show your support of our annual fund before the giving year ends August 31.



ALUMNI UPDATES

'70s

Wayne Hood '77

(1152 SEMOR DR, Decatur, IL 62521-3936; hood_wg@msn.com) I didn't see many pictures from the mid 1970s in the online photo album. I may have to provide some from my collection. I often attend the Annual Structural Engineering Conference at U of I if anyone plans on attending next April let's get together.

'80s

Richard "Slick" Lenzen '85

(1078 Lake Lane Drive, White Lake, 48386-1711; RAL15@Chrysler.com) Had an awesome time when Illinois football came to Detroit in November to play Western Michigan at Ford Field. **Rick Woods** did an awesome job of setting up a mini-reunion of SPD Detroit alumni including **Gary**

Hermanson, Chuck Worner, Vic Poco and **Bruce Pervis**. Even though our team lost, the pain was gone after our last stop of the evening playing pool at the Shark's Club - I think the beers may have had an influence as well. Thanks again to Rick for sharing with us his ultimate collection of Cuban cigars.

'90s

Burt "Flounder" Wagner '93

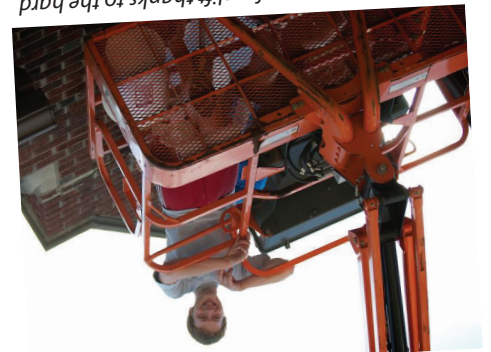
(7218 Stover Dr., Alexandria, VA 22306-3514; bwagner3@gmail.com) B. Andrew Wagner IV was born March 11, 2009 at 3:45 a.m. He weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. Everybody is doing well. I've worked for SAIC as a government contractor for five years, doing systems engineering and design for software programs. It pays the bills and keeps me in scuba gear. I'm happy to reconnect with anyone passing through the DC area.

David "Gumby" Kintz '90

(424 Essex Ct., Sugar Grove, IL 60554-9446; dkintz@stcharlesil.gov) After a department reorganization, I am now a Deputy Chief, one away from the hot seat. I am still a ref for high school soccer. I am also using my engineering skills for crash reconstruction. I am teaching at Northwestern University Center for Public Safety in its accident investigation division as well as management classes. No, I do not own anything purple. Heidi and I still live in Sugar Grove, IL.

We want to know what's new with you too! Share your updates and photos at www.spdillini.org.

Delta Chapter gets a facelift thanks to the hard work of alumni and actives...and the help of a boom lift! Read more about our recent work weekend on page 1.



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House Sprinklers Installed Ahead of Schedule and Under Budget...Read Inside for Details!

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