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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

SPD Has Been Busy!

Enter the links as they appear below for all the latest on Delta Chapter- from the winter meeting, to renovation updates!

SPD Shirt Sale

www.spdillini.org/spdshirtsale

Castle Renovation

www.spdillini.org/CastleRenovation

Delta Journey

www.spdillini.org/DeltaJourney

Winter Meeting Recap

www.spdillini.org/wintermeetingrecap

If you would like to be featured in an alumni profile yourself, contact our editor at alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

SPONSOR A WORK WEEKEND PROJECT!

During our upcoming work weekend, we've got some very important projects to accomplish. Two of those include ceiling drywall repair of the second floor bathroom as a result of a frozen pipe leak and also replacing the rotting railroad ties around the house, with more visually appealing landscaping block. If you would like to financially sponsor one, or both of these projects in any way, please contact **Rick Woods** at spdillinipresident@gmail.com or by phone at 815-262-1602.

Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

March 2017

Delta Dispatch

www.spdillini.org

University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois



A LETTER FROM THE ACTIVE CHAPTER

Brothers,

Our Chapter has seen tremendous growth in the past three years, and I hope to bring back and re-establish some of our traditions. *The Delta Dispatch* is, of course, one of the many traditions that I aim to revive. After many semesters of the newsletter being unwritten, we will incorporate some new vigor to make it last. Because I have never personally seen a *Delta Dispatch*, I will, in a way, be reinventing the wheel. The goal is for the newsletter to be sent once a semester, about halfway through. In sending this newsletter out, I hope to encourage Delta alumni who have not been involved with either the Active or Alumni Chapter to reach out and re-engage with us, as well as encourage other Chapters to update everyone with what has been going on at their colleges and universities. I hope to engage all our readers with the activities of Delta as you read through the first edition of the revitalized *Delta Dispatch*.

Fraternally,

Brody Schofield

(Fall 2013)



ALUMNI WORK WEEKEND

See You There!

Join your brothers for Alumni Work Weekend **March 31st through April 2nd**. We are looking forward to a full weekend kicking off with a meetup starting at 8pm at Murphy's Pub on Green St. The projects start early Saturday morning with Brother **Pat Cox '01** organizing. Later Saturday night, there will be a group dinner as projects finish up for the night. To close off the weekend, the annual AWW Delta Alumni meeting will take place at 10 AM Sunday morning with project finalizing after. Actives, pledges, and Alumni welcome.

Delta Alumni have reserved a block of rooms for the weekend at the **Ramada Inn at 902 W Killarney St, Urbana, IL 61801**. A single King room is \$60 and a double Queen room is \$70 plus tax. This hotel is a quick Uber to/from campus. To reserve your room,

please contact the Ramada Inn directly at (217) 328-4400 and ask for a room in the **Sigma Phi Delta block**.

The Itinerary is as follows:

Friday, March 31

8PM: Murphy's Pub meetup

Saturday, April 1

8AM: Projects start at the Chapter House

Noon: Lunch

6PM: Dinner provided by SPD Delta Alumni at the Chapter House

Sunday, April 2

8AM: Continuation and closing of projects at the Chapter House

10AM: Quarterly Alumni Meeting at the Chapter House

WHIRLWIND MONTHS RESULT IN BIG GAINS

By Rick Woods '86, Alumni President

It's been a whirlwind past few months for the Delta Alumni Executive Board since our last newsletter. On the House Renovation planning front, **Don Buckner '89**, has been leading the research and selection of a partner to help us understand the capacity and willingness of our alumni base to donate to a large renovation capital campaign. Meanwhile, **Jeff Leesman '03, General Engineering**, has been leading a subcommittee to research house renovation specifications, both with the active Chapter and with select architects and general contractors. For these stories and more, visit us at www.spdillini.org and click the "news," tab, or simply type the links from page one of this Newsletter into your web browser.

Meanwhile, both Delta Alumni and Delta Chapter have been making a stronger effort to embrace our past and improve how we communicate. At the Winter Meeting, the Executive Board made personal phone calls to Delta Alumni from the 1950's to 2010's to invite and encourage alumni of all ages of Chicago-area alumni to attend our Winter Meeting. The result was the largest quarterly



meeting attendance in memory, with many older alumni present.

We are in full planning mode for Alumni Work Weekend the weekend of March 31-April 2. In case this newsletter comes to you before that weekend, please see the sidebar of this newsletter for AWW plans and hotel information from our March e-blast. Hats off to Active Chapter Historian **Brody Schofield '17, Aerospace Engineering**, who has proposed a year-long program (which has been approved and funded by Delta Alumni) to replace all missing paddles and mount them more securely; work which will take place at Alumni Work Weekend. In addition to the paddle replacement

and mounting, Delta Chapter House Manager **Luke Winkelmann '18, Aerospace Engineering**, has been doing an outstanding job of identifying and leading maintenance projects which has helped keep the house in good shape - for example, at AWW we will be saying goodbye to the railroad ties around the front of the house to be replaced by more attractive and longer lasting landscaping block.

Finally, it's been quite a while since Delta Chapter put out a *Delta Dispatch* newsletter. As a matter fact, it's been so long, that most of us (including myself) forgot that the chapter used to do this every semester! With the help of the chapter, **Brody Schofield '17** has written and submitted many of the articles for the Spring Semester which you will find published within this newsletter. Please give it a read and let us know what you think! We hope to include this feature in all future printed newsletters.

Fraternally,

Rick Woods (CerE, 1986)
President, Delta Alumni

Bowling with AOE Kicks Off Great Weekend

Actives Host Brotherhood Event

On Friday February 24th, members of AOE and SPD came together to bowl at the Illini Union as part of a joint Brotherhood/Sisterhood event. The event started a weekend full of events for the Delta brothers, visiting Brothers from Beta-Omicron, and assistant CPD Jordan Arneson. After bowling, many of the Delta Brothers returned to the Chapter House to meet and hang out with the visiting Brothers. On Saturday afternoon, Delta Chapter met with **Brother Arneson** as an official Chapter visit to evaluate its health, reflect on the chapter, and set goals for the future. Following the meeting, the Brothers started preparing for one of the most anticipated parties of the semester, Room Parties. The party consists of every room of the upstairs providing personalized refreshments for Brothers to enjoy. As always the party was fun for all who came by to visit and went off without a hitch. Special thanks to the Brothers visiting the Chapter that weekend!



Members of AOE and ΣΦΔ at the bowling Alley in the Illini Union

DELTA ON THE RISE!

Recruitment Brings in 9 Pledges

The Recruitment Committee, comprised of Brothers **Capua, Fudala, Morrow**, and **Reimann**, has once again successfully brought in worthy new members to pledge the fraternity. Using a combination of new, interesting events – a mini case competition called *Shark Tank* for one – and old favorites like *Steak and Shakes* or *Game Night*, the rush chairs secured nine accepted bids for the Chapter. After several weeks of formal rush, the nine men were formally pledged and are pictured in this article with their pledge master, **Brother Schwartz**, and this semester's Delta House Sweetheart, **Rosie Peck**. A congratulatory party was thrown following the pledging ceremony.



Left To Right: Jordan Meyer, Cameron Palte, Jacob Rajlich, Matt Mujundar, Divij Nagpaul, Rosie Peck, Danny Schwartz, Neel Naiknavare, David Budzik, Himmat Mann. Not Pictured is Mason Rosenburg.

BROTHERHOOD WORK WEEK ONCE AGAIN A SUCCESS

Solidifying Delta Pride!

For the past several semesters, Delta has been having a work week at the start of each semester to perform renovations and do a thorough cleaning. Led by House Manager, Brother Winkelmann, the active chapter was able to work on many projects to prepare the house for the semester. Some of the projects included fixing and painting the second

floor bathroom ceiling, deep cleaning of all areas in the house, patching and repainting holes in the basement wall, replacing one of the kitchen grease traps, as well as several others. The week was very productive and continued to solidify Delta's pride in its Chapter House.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chapter Hosts Alcohol Safety Meeting for its Members



Brothers and pledges at the beginning of the GLASS presentation

Before a Monday house meeting, in anticipation of the upcoming unofficial St. Patrick's Day, the fraternity invited Jessica Campiol from the Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Office to put on the "Greeks Learning Alcohol Safety and Skills," (GLASS) presentation. During the presentation, the Chapter began by discussing the drinking culture at the University of Illinois and specifically within Greek life at the university. The Chapter further discussed how alcohol can create risky situations, how to recognize symptoms of alcohol poisoning, how to properly deal with the situation, and how to foster a better atmosphere within the Chapter regarding alcohol consumption. The Chapter intends to impress these lessons on its new members and hopes to host the GLASS program more regularly in the future.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Social Committee Experiments with New Events in Warm Winter

As the size of the Chapter has been rapidly growing, so has its social budget. This has given the social committee more opportunities to try new events for the Chapter without jeopardizing the older events. When the weather began to look up in the middle of February (mid 60's and sunny), the social chairs decided to move the 90's themed party start time up in the day as well as buy a kiddie pool to setup on the porch of the house.

Throughout the day, people enjoyed games of bags, pong, and hanging out in the freaky February weather. Peak attendance throughout the day reached about 80 people as people came and went. After bumping the top 90's songs of every genre (yes there was Disney), several of the Brothers cooked up burgers for the people in attendance. The party began to dwindle out over the hours after the sun had set and people started finding their ways to bars, other parties, or even bed. With a lot of positive feedback from the Active Chapter, the social chairs hope to host another party during the day (affectionately called a

"darty") later in the semester once Spring has actually arrived. Until then, they will continue to try some new events like

paintball, brotherhood movie nights, and a semi-formal.



Brothers and friends enjoying the warm weather on the front lawn of the Chapter House

CONTRIBUTION LEADS TO CATCHING UP

By Rick Woods '86, President, Delta Alumni

On New Year's Day, I received notification that a large monetary donation was made to Delta Alumni by **Mike Burke (Delta, GenE '85)**. I reached out to Mike to thank him, and was able to catch up with both Mike and Katie on what they have been doing since their days at Illinois.

First a little background, Mike grew up in Chicago, and after acceptance to Illinois, he picked SPD because "I liked the people and was comfortable with house. It was one of the best decisions I ever made." Mike started in the Ceramic Engineering program at Illinois, but switched to General Engineering, graduating in December of 1985.

Katie and Mike were a steady couple during college, with Katie involved in Delta Chapter in the Little Sister program. They were married in June, 1985.

After graduation, Mike knew he wanted to work in Tech Sales, and started his career with a Chicagoland sales rep firm called Delta Technical Sales. Katie was in the Air Force ROTC program at Illinois, but after marriage, transferred to UI-Chicago and finished up her Computer Engineering degree there, graduating in the spring of 1986. At that point, Mike and Katie moved to Lompoc, California, with Katie working in project management with rocket launch vehicles for the U.S. Air Force and Mike going to work for National Semiconductor in Tech Sales. Later, Mike decided to start his own business, but his try in direct mail advertising didn't work out, so he went to work in Sales for a National Semiconductor spin-off – Fairchild Scientific which specialized in electronic components. Fast forward to year 2000, and many manufacturing firms who used electronic components were moving offshore for their component sourcing.

At the time Mike was one of 8 sales managers in North America, but he and the other managers could see writing on the wall that this company probably

Mike also coaches soccer – although he stepped down as a coach at Lompoc H.S. in 2016, he still coaches in recreation leagues.



Mike and Katie Burke.

would not survive. Nobody wanted to be let go, so it was a struggle among the managers to fight for turf and survive (a couple of years later Fairchild was a shell of a company and down to 1 sales director).

It was at this time that Mike attended a job fair at the Lompoc school district and was inspired to change careers and try his hand at teaching. Mike commented, "I really like teaching. I discovered I could take 20 years of business experience and apply it to a classroom. It turns out my sales skills were applicable to teaching math" But even with all the on-the-job experience and an MBA, Mike had some work to do in order to pursue a career in teaching. Mike could start teaching immediately, but had taken night classes for a little over a year to obtain the necessary certifications. Mike has now been teaching for 10 years, and currently has taught or is currently teaching classes in business, computing, web design and app design. For those who might consider changing careers to teaching, Mike commented, "We are always looking for math teachers!"

After Katie's time with the Air Force, she went to work for Elon Musk's space technology start-up, SpaceX. There she is a project engineer for rocket launches at Vandenberg AFB. Katie commented, "I love it! SpaceX is turning rocket launching on its head. It's just a matter of time when we successfully go to Mars."

Mike and Katie have one son, Matthew, who recently graduated UCLA with a Civil Engineering degree.

He will be starting his career in April with a large, nationwide design/contracting/build firm called Whiting & Turner in their Los Angeles office. Mike and Katie currently share the house with two big and lovable mutts, Rusty and Princess.

When asked what motivated Mike to make the donation, "I'm motivated to giving back in general; we are trying to give back 10% to church and good charities. As you get older, you begin to realize that there are things that come into your life that makes a difference. The fraternity was a tremendous influence in our lives, why shouldn't we give back?" Mike keeps up with what's happening with brothers from his era using Facebook – guys like **Brad Adams '81, Chuck Worner '83, Keith Brandau '81, Bill Broersma '82 and Rick Schwerdtfeger '86**. Mike adds, "The house was magic. It's a really interesting situation having a bunch of really smart guys living and socializing together, having a lot in common. It was easy to have conversations with the guys and get involved."