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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Brothers,

Following in Brother Schofield's footsteps from last semester, I will be publishing the Delta Dispatch to inform alumni, friends, and family of the happenings of Delta Chapter. I hope you all enjoy the first issue of Fall 2017.

Fraternally,

Mason Metzkes (Fall 2016)



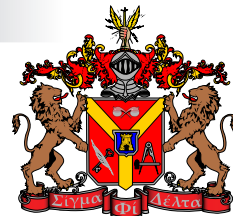
Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

November 2017

Delta Dispatch

www.spdillini.org

University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois



HOMECOMING 2017

Homecoming and Float Success

Delta Chapter and alumni hosted homecoming weekend for brothers, alumni, and family on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of October.

Homecoming began with a happy hour and dinner at Papa Del's on Friday, courtesy of the alumni. Friday night marked the homecoming parade, where we showcased our impressive float, managed and designed by Brothers Yang and Eicken. Build days began a month and a half before the parade and every pledge worked alongside candidates



from AOE to complete the float. Saturday morning began with a tailgate. French toast, sausage, and some brisk weather kicked off game day. Though

the Illini lost, a dinner provided by the alumni helped lift spirits. Bright and early on Sunday, a handful of alumni and actives woke up to play touch football. The alumni squad barely edged the actives in overtime. Finally, the homecoming weekend was capped off with an alumni meeting involving the entire house.

MEETING OUR BROTHERS

Chapter Visits with Rho and Eta



Delta Chapter had a visit from Rho Chapter at Bradley University early in the semester. Actives from Rho arrived after Delta Chapter's formal pledging and stayed for the weekend. On Saturday, the two chapters played a friendly game of football,

with Delta Chapter coming out on top in overtime. Later in the semester, the pledges and some of the actives drove up to Eta Chapter at Marquette University for a weekend escape. The pledges came back on Sunday, having bonded closely on the trip.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Sig Phis Swarm Europe

9 Brothers, 3 Countries, 1 Van.....What Could Go Wrong?!

By Kyle Sheehan '14

This past September, 9 brothers went on a trip Europe for what originally started as an Oktoberfest trip to Munich but ended up as 9-day European tour! Brothers **Christopher DeFlumeri '12**, **Steven Jastrzebski '12**, **Pat Jemmi '12**, **Brendan Joyce '13**, **John Leighton '13**, **Kyle Sheehan '14**, **Jason Stolicny '12**, **Christian Walsh '12**, and **Vince Williamson '14** started our trip off in Bruges, Belgium and after spending an afternoon, we carried on to Brussels.

In Brussels, we naturally visited the Museum of Beer and learned of Belgium's rich beer culture and history. Of course the ticket comes with a complimentary pint! The museum is situated just off of the Grand Place, which is a beautiful town square surrounded by guild halls and is simply stunning. We were also able to meet up with Brother Hanssens and spent part of our afternoon catching up and sharing beers at one of the many cafés that line the streets. Most of us ended our Sunday at the world renowned Delirium Café getting delirious on some delicious Belgian beers.

The trip then carried us into Germany



Left to Right: Stolicny, Jemmi, Joyce, Walsh, Jastrzebski, Williamson, Leighton, Sheehan



From left to right, Brothers Sheehan, DeFlumeri, Joyce, Walsh, Leighton, Williamson, Stolicny, Jemmi, Jastrzebski, and Hanssens



Left to Right: Jastrzebski, Stolicny, DeFlumeri, Joyce, Jemmi, Leighton, Sheehan, Williamson. Not pictured: Walsh



Left to Right: Stolicny, Jastrzebski, Williamson, Joyce, Jemmi, Leighton, Walsh, Sheehan. Not pictured: DeFlumeri (taking photo)

where we visited the towns of Aachen, Cologne, Bamberg. Each town had its own character and I don't know that any one town outshined the others, but the quaint quiet town of Bamberg stole my heart. Along the way we were able to take in plenty of German countryside, cathedrals/churches, and handful of castles. The highlight of which was Neuschwanstein Castle which is just at the base of the Alps and had stunning views of Bavaria. Afterwards, we made our way to Munich for the main event: Oktoberfest!

of Pilsen and toured the Pilsner Urquell brewery which took us into the bowels of their cellars where they still store their beer. We then went on to Prague and finished the last of our 9 days taking in the architecture and history of the city. Where else could we say we drank in pub that been running since 1375?

At the end of the day, it was a once in lifetime trip with men that I am lucky to call my brothers and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat. SPDTID

Once some of us had our breakfast at Munich's Hofbrau Haus, we made our way to the fest grounds to begin our Oktoberfest experience! Drinking liters upon liters of delicious Oktoberfest beer from many of the brewery tents, eating varieties of sausages and whole chickens, and making friends from all over the world, we certainly made the most of the day! We were like kids with the keys to the candy store.

But all good things must come to an end, so once we loaded up the van for the last leg we made our way to the Czech Republic. Our final destination was Prague, but on the way we visited the town

ACADEMICS AND INTERNSHIPS

Continued Growth at 302 E. Gregory

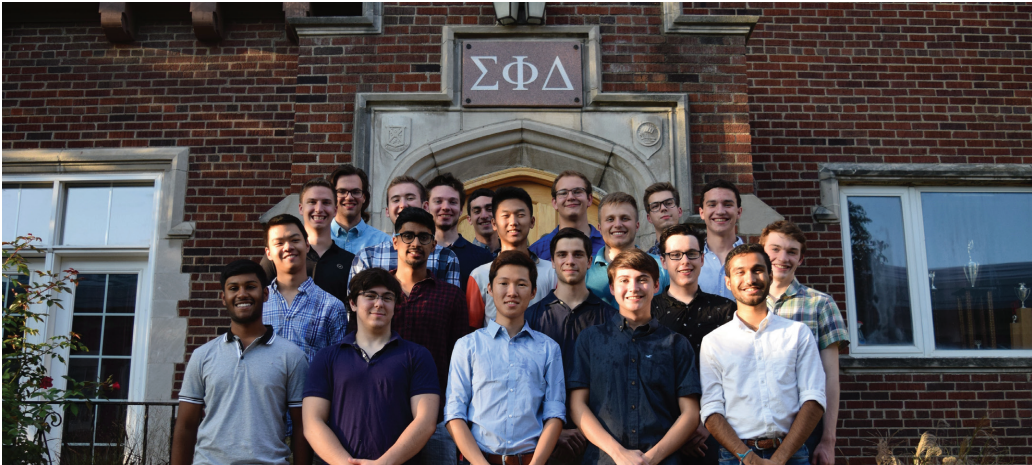
Our house has seen continued growth in academic strength over the past year. After Fall of 2016, Delta Chapter held an average GPA of 3.2915 and was 5th out of 44 active fraternities on campus. Now we sit at 3rd out of 42 with a GPA of 3.3501, beating the undergraduate average by nearly .2 points.

The academic success of the brothers has led to many internships and co-ops through the first half of the semester. Brothers Lake, Yang, Kay, Waldecker, Zabinski, and Wexler have already secured internships with GoDaddy, ViaSat, Stripe, ExxonMobil, Facebook, and Jump Trading respectively. Brothers Reimann, Castro, Thompson, and Capua have co-ops with

Lyondell Basell, DuPont, Fire and Risk Alliance in Chicago, and Fresenius Kabi respectively. Other brothers have received offers but are waiting to accept or are still deciding between companies. We hope to continue the academic success we had last semester and imbue it on the new pledge class as they finish the pledge process.

CHAPTER NEWS

Record-Setting Pledge Class of 19



Thanks to the hard work of Brothers Giglio, Morrow, Castro, and Budzik, 19 young men have pledged to join Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta.

Events for recruitment included sand volleyball, poker night, and game night. The house continues to grow in size and see many engineering students come to

embrace the ideals of Sigma Phi Delta. Led by their Pledgemaster, Brother Panella, the pledges have shown strong dedication to becoming future brothers.

One of the aspects of the pledging process is the pledge class project. This year, the pledge class has taken up the task of designing and building a new rip-off

trophy under the rules recently passed at this summer's general convention. Due to the recently changed rules, our keg filled with concrete is too large and too heavy so we needed to retire our old one in favor of a new design. The new trophy is not finished yet, but will be 3D- printed and will resemble a castle.

ALUMNI Q&A

Chris DeFlumeri '12

Why did you join Sigma Phi Delta?

I rushed Delta Chapter of SPD in Spring '09 because I had friends in the house, and they asked me to come rush. My dad was in a (different) fraternity at WPI, so I'd heard growing up about how great joining one could be. Once I'd been to a few rush events, I was more or less convinced it would be a good time, and it turns out I wasn't disappointed.

What was your fraternity experience like? Any favorite moments/memories?

It was pretty good! I'm from (and still live in) Massachusetts, and the house and the brothers there really made Illinois feel like home. I lived in the house my sophomore and Junior years, and I think I served in just about every elected position I could, from Rush Chair, to Guide, to Business Manager, to Chief. My favorite moments in the house were honestly just coming home from class and sitting in the living room, doing homework and chatting with people as they came in and out of the house. I'd sit in the same chair, and gradually over the course of the afternoon the room would fill up with



my friends. Sometimes we'd end up bringing the couches and chairs out on the porch, and have porch parties, drinking a beer or eight. I loved that, and still miss it.

What did you do after graduating (career, family, etc.)?

After graduation, I more or less immediately put my degree to work for TripAdvisor in Newton, MA, as an engineer

in their Core/Hotels engineering group. I helped build out their Hotels and eventually Booking product verticals. After three years I left and worked for a company called Hudl based out of Lincoln, NE, where I worked on sports visualization and analysis software. After a couple years there, I decided to return to TripAdvisor, where I'm now leading a team on Hotels as well as coordinating some companywide efforts to improve our operations and monitoring.

I also made some progress on the whole "starting a family" thing. I've been with my fiancé, Katie, for 2.5 years now. She's a User Experience Designer for Pegasystems, a software company in Cambridge, MA. Despite Katie originally hailing from New Jersey and Bermuda, we now live together in a (spacious) 510 sq ft condo in Somerville, MA, about 2 miles outside downtown Boston. The third member of our household is our cat, Zelda, a 9 year old Maine Coon mix. Follow her on Instagram @thatzeldacat.

Do you still keep in touch with any brothers? If so, who and how?

(Continued on next page)



Sigma Phi Delta at Illinois

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ALUMNI Q&A (continued)

Chris DeFlumeri '12

I do! I keep in touch with a lot of the guys who were in the house when I was, via various social media channels, as well as the occasional text. I manage to make it to a few weddings a year, where I get to see people in person, and I occasionally persuade a brother or two to come visit me in Boston. I'm the only one from my era who lives here, so it's difficult sometimes, but worth it. I make something of an effort to stay engaged with the Alumni chapter too. Hoping to maybe make it out to Alumni Work Weekend at Delta Chapter in the spring, the only other visits I've made to campus have been for career fairs and such.

How do you feel your fraternity experience still impacts your life today?

Well, as I said before, I still have a lot of close friends I made in the house that I keep in touch with today. I also gained a lot of valuable organizational experience through managing the house and its finances during my time at Illinois, and that's directly applicable to the people and project management responsibilities I have now. I don't know that I would have made it through college without the friendship and support of the guys in Delta Chapter, so I'll always be grateful to them for my great career and the opportunities it's providing me now

Is there anything new and exciting going on in your life, that your brothers may be interested in learning?

Well, Katie and I are getting married next September, so that's pretty cool. I developed an interest in cars, and I just recently completed the major parts of a project to modify and tune my Ford Focus ST into something resembling a rally car, which was a lot of fun. Other than that, I'm a distance runner, and assuming some persistent injury issues clear up I hope to run my second (and possibly third) marathon next year. Maybe in Chicago, we'll see.

Send Us Your Success Stories!

Have you experienced success in your career due to your membership in Sigma Phi Delta? Tell us about it! You can send alumni updates to alumninews@affinityconnection.com and see your story in the next edition of *Delta Dispatch!*

