



Delta Dispatch

A PUBLICATION OF THE DELTA ALUMNI OF SIGMA PHI DELTA, INC.

Delta Chapter • University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois • Fall 2020

DELTA CHAPTER NAVIGATES THE PANDEMIC, RENOVATION PROJECT

Calling All Alumni to Give to the Capital Campaign



Removing some well-engineered hangers.



Standing around looking busy.



End of a long day.

The active chapter dealt with quite a bit of uncertainty during the fall semester with COVID-19 prevention requirements changing almost weekly. However, closing the chapter house for this academic year has serendipitously provided social distancing and eliminated the need to implement numerous University Certified Housing COVID-19 requirements. Despite all the additional obstacles, alumni and actives removed anything that wasn't attached to the house in preparation for the renovation in September.

Under the direction of **Jeff Leesman '03**, the renovation project team is diligently working to strike a balance between maintaining the historic character of our building, upgrading to modern amenities, and providing reasonable-cost housing for our members, all while remaining within our means. We are happy to announce that the initial steps are underway. The second and third floor bathrooms have been taken down to the studs, and structural issues discovered during the demolition have been addressed. Follow-up asbestos

testing has come back negative, obviating the time and expense of a widespread removal. Once the plans and paperwork are finalized, we expect more extensive work to begin in earnest in December. As you would expect, the house is off limits to visitors since it is a construction site.

The project team has also operated in the midst of uncertainty while waiting for a property appraisal and project bids. Alumni Treasurer **Jeff Schneider '79** has been meticulously examining the project costs, financing, and cash flow to ensure we don't overextend ourselves. While the appraisal came in lower than we would have liked, we now know the limits on our construction loan and future mortgage, and can press ahead. The capital campaign has received sufficient pledges to cover the current scope of work, but due to the timing of the gifts, we foresee a temporary cash shortfall of approximately \$125,000 at the end of the project. Here's how you can help Delta Chapter alleviate future financial constraints.

1. Donate! If you haven't already made a donation or a pledge, now is the time. Any amount will help us deliver

a better final product, eliminate cash flow issues, and reduce our post-renovation mortgage obligation. We need your help now—don't wait any longer!

- 2. Donate again!** If you have made a gift in the past, please consider making an additional gift or increasing your pledge.
- 3. Accelerate your contribution!** If you have already made a pledge, please consider completing your payments earlier. You can increase your monthly contributions or even pay off the remaining pledge amount in full.

To make or increase a pledge, please see the form inserted in this newsletter. All gifts toward this chapter-altering project are greatly appreciated. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, and I hope you have a fun and safe holiday season.

Fraternally,
Matthew Braun '94
Delta Alumni President
(757) 288-6320 | landscience@comcast.net

A Tribute to Rick Woods '86



We would like to recognize and thank **Rick Woods '86** for 14 consecutive years of contributions as a member of the Delta Alumni executive board. Brother Woods was first appointed to the position of capital campaign study researcher in June 2006 by then Delta Alumni President **Tom Dagenais '99**...OK, it took us a bit to get that project kicked off!

In June of 2007, he was elected as the Delta Alumni secretary. In the spring of 2008, Brother Woods expressed an interest in running for treasurer, following in the footsteps of **Andy Hill '88**, who had been in that position since the inception of paper money. Rick was formally elected as treasurer in June of 2008 and held the position for the next eight years.

At the annual meeting in June of 2015, Rick again replaced Andy, this time as Delta Alumni president. Brother Woods served as the president until June of 2020 after declining to run for re-election. He has recently purchased a new house and is working on setting up his home brewery, humidior, and model railroad. During his time on the executive board, Rick spent countless hours driving projects large and small. To say he has been instrumental in making the house renovation project a reality is an understatement to say the least.

Rick has remained incredibly active with the Alumni Chapter, spearheading projects related to the renovation such as the new kitchen design. It is unfortunate that we couldn't thank him for his contributions in person at the annual meeting by purchasing an endless number of tasty ales for him. However, we hope that each of you will thank him the next time you see him and buy him a pint.

Fraternally,
YFN Delta Alumni Executive Board



BALANCING PRIORITIES

*Mike Kuhn '93 Reflects on His Time as an
Active Brother of Delta Chapter*

Michael R. Kuhn '93 came to the University of Illinois knowing that he wanted to be part of Greek life, understanding that doing so while earning an engineering degree would be a challenge. "Going all in on both the fraternity experience and focusing on rigorous academic work would require balancing priorities," Mike said. "Sigma Phi Delta provided the best environment in which to do so." He pledged Delta Chapter during his freshman year and lived in the chapter house throughout his undergraduate career. "It was an amazing experience that I still miss to this day," Mike said.

During his time as an active member, Mike made many good memories with his brothers. Some of the best memories come from Table Wars, Barn Dances, Anchor Splash, Rooms Party, and other Greek events. "I am really glad that I got a lot of pictures," Mike said. "Occasionally, I pull them out and get full-on laughs. I'll always remember living with Lindenberg in the cave, lifting with D-Dog, study breaks with stogies on the entry roof, taking Bob's Blazer to Key West, and seeing Metallica and Anthrax at Assembly Hall." On top of all the fun he had, Mike took his membership in Sigma Phi Delta seriously. He served terms as social chairman and little sister chairman, and was elected chapter president during his senior year.

Outside of his involvement with Delta Chapter, Mike held summer internships during each year of his undergraduate career with the Illinois Department of Transportation. This gave him valuable, real-world experience to put on his resume. Mike graduated from the University of Illinois in 1993 with a degree in civil and environmental engineering. After graduation, he moved to Tampa, Florida, to escape the cold weather. "Winter walks to Loomis Lab put me over the edge," Mike joked. In Tampa, Mike's first full-time job was with a large environmental firm conducting field work involving contaminated water and soils. Much of his job involved travel and staying in hotels for months at a time. After that, he worked for a few different consulting firms before beginning his career with Veolia, where he is today.

Mike serves as vice president of operations at Veolia in the North American zone. Veolia is the global leader in optimized resource management with around 178,780 employees worldwide. The company designs and provides water, waste, and energy management solutions that contribute to the sustainable development of communities and industries. Mike has been with Veolia for nearly 15 years and has held his current position for 10. "I oversee a mix of water, wastewater, and composting facilities in six states," Mike said. "My routine duties involve client management, sales activities, financial activities, technical assessments, and a fair amount of travel." While at Veolia, Mike earned his master's in technology and innovation management from the University of Tampa. He is a licensed professional engineer in Florida, a board-certified environmental engineer, an ABC Class IV professional operator (water), an ABC Class IV water operator (national water operator certification), and an Alabama Class IV water operator.

Mike believes that the work hard, play hard mentality he learned while living in the chapter house was key to establishing a valuable mindset that he has carried into his adult life. "We learned to effectively balance social activities, house duties, and challenging academic situations," Mike said. "That required discipline that applies to real-life situations, such as balancing a challenging job and travel while being an involved spouse and parent." Mike hasn't been back to campus since the late 1990s, but hopes to change that in the near future. "The time I spent at Sigma Phi Delta was amazing," Mike said. "I would do it again if I could."

Mike and his wife, Christina, have been married since 1998 and have two daughters, Kaitlyn and Kylie. Kaitlyn is a junior at the University of South Florida, and Kylie is a freshman at the University of Central Florida. Mike resides in Valrico, Florida, and can be reached at btls2020@gmail.com.

THANK YOU, GENEROUS DELTA CHAPTER DONORS!

We are deeply grateful to the 127 donors listed below for committing \$921,950 to *The Castle Renovation: Engineering the Future of Sigma Phi Delta*. These brothers recognize the importance of ensuring Delta's future and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. Commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni to achieve our goal and complete this major project.

All donors with gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized in campaign mailings, and donors with gifts above \$2,500 will have their names placed on a plaque in a prominent area of the chapter house. (Text to be engraved on the plaque at conclusion of capital campaign subject to board approval.) Additionally, gifts of \$25,000 and above are considered leadership-level contributions and qualify for special room-naming opportunities.

Russel C. Smith Founders Circle (\$75,000 and above)

Donald R. Buckner '89

Dr. Robert Beals Leaders Circle (\$50,000 to \$74,999)

Eric P. Messerschmidt '86

Joseph "Sam" Cox '00

Rev. Dave Vosecky Investors Club (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Active Members of Delta Chapter

Joseph F. Kennell '58

James McMahon '85

Scott A. Steele '90

Michael P. Rohan '93

Eric S. Daugherty '98

Castle Contributor (\$15,000 to \$24,999)

John W. Kistenbroker '57

Jeffrey Schneider '78

Scott M. Morrison '82

Donald J. Nelson '82

Michael Burke '83

Mark S. Fier '85

Rick Woods '86

Paul A. Lindner '88

Eric Anderson '90

David Kintz '90

David L. Sohl '94

Robert E. Stanley '94

Pat Cox '01

Jeffrey M. Leesman '03

Cog Supporter (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

John S. Perry '59

Ronald D. Davis '69

Robert S. Giurato '71

Steve Denny '72

Bruce D. Purvis '88

Shawn G. Thomas '93

Michael G. Golden '02

Derek A. Price '03

Daniel C. McGovern '15

Joseph A. Barton '17

Jonathan I. Wexler '19

Delta Chapter Associate (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Anonymous

Ross Talbot

In memory of

Aaron Phelps '02

F. A. George '58

David Bunting '88

Earnest C. Karras '60

Gary Hunt '65

Thomas F. Hintz '67

Fred P. Baker '77

Mark B. Snyder '79

Thomas E. Kusnierz '82

Keith E. Brandau '83

Christopher L. Rudolphi '83

Ron Carmichael '84

Raymond Prill '85

Jack L. Howard '88

Douglas Knapp '88

Randall J. Hein '90

Douglas S. Stirrett '92

Carlos Jimenez '93

Matt Braun '94

Tom Dagenais '99

Erik N. Schultz '01

Ian P. Santarinala '02

In memory of

Aaron Phelps '02

Christopher R. Garner '11

Christopher A. DeFlumeri '12

In honor of

Rogue Nation, *New Mexico*

Christian Walsh '12

Brady Hill '15

In memory of

Jim Callahan

Pawel Fudala '17

In honor of the

Fall '14 Pledge Class

Alexander James '17

Black Level (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Glen A. Zumwalt '63

Gary G. Klein '69

Benjamin L. McCash '70

Duane P. Larson '71

Carter H. Wright '71

Randolph M. Freeman '72

Michael M. Perz '73

Thomas Durkin '75

Arnold A. Taube '75

John C. Brach '79

A. Lee Walsh '79

William J. Broersma '82

Daniel L. Deyoung '82

Timothy Staber '87

CAMPAIGN STATUS AT-A-GLANCE

As of November 10, 2020

CAMPAIGN GOAL
\$1 MILLION

TOTAL COMMITMENTS
\$921,950

TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS
127

MAILABLE ALUMNI
534

PARTICIPATION
24%

Andrew J. Cich '90

Dino E. Tsoukatos '96

Brett D. Durbin '99

Morgan R. Coates '03

Kyle Ives '07

Michael T. Coe '10

Ryan Johnson '10

Steven Jastrzebski '12

Brody Schofield '17

Red Level (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

James T. Ephgrave '52

Raymond Mueller '54

Raymond F. Siewert '54

Robert K. Waddick '56

Robert N. Deem '57

Hubert C. Edfors '57

Theodore W. Johnson '62

Roy R. Johnson '64

J. Bradley Hull '69

William A. Birtcher '70

Richard R. Parry '70

Terrence R. Phelan '72

Mark A. Ray '79

Matthew W. Schlichter '80

Marc Van Dyke '82

David L. Hulsman '88

Eduardo C. Depaz '95

Christopher M. Newman '95

Justin D. Durfee '98

Bryan M. Stolze '02

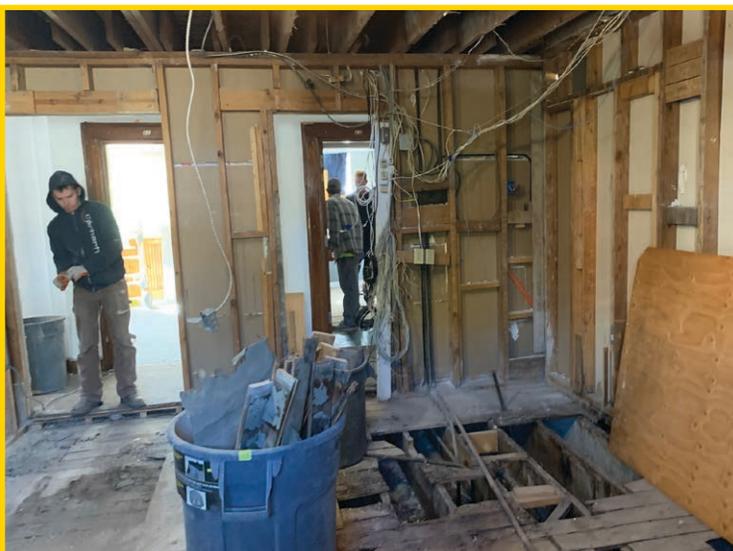
Homer Carter '04

Matt Hewitt '09

Erik V. Lynch '10

Dean D. Santarinala '12

Sean J. Kelly '15



Renovations begin on the second floor bathroom.

Active Chapter Draws Rave Reviews During Virtual Recruitment

*Undergraduate Brothers
Find Success by Sticking to
Sigma Phi Delta Ideals*



Robert Raszewski '19, Michael Ruscito '22, and Carter Pobloske '21 go through the file room materials to prepare for the upcoming house renovation.

This academic year has certainly been out of the ordinary between not having a chapter house and trying to find safe ways to maintain brotherhood during the pandemic, but the active chapter is making the most of these challenging times. Our membership stands at 62 active members, and we're excited about the potential of our new member class.

Since the university canceled all in-person classes this fall due to COVID-19 concerns, brothers have tried to stay involved with virtual activities. Between excelling in online classes and having a stellar virtual recruitment that was hosted on a Discord server, we have adapted well to these new normals. While it is much easier to get to know potential new members in person, we enjoyed bonding with prospective brothers through online games and other virtual settings. We were proud of the recruitment team's efforts to adapt to these changes and bring in 18 new members. Our recruitment was so successful that other Sigma Phi Delta chapters have reached out to Expansion Chairman **Shyam Upadhyay '22** for virtual recruiting tips.

Delta Chapter has also made strides in many other areas thanks to our dedication to philanthropy, academics, and athletics. Philanthropy Chairmen **Jason Drews '22** and **Dino Keserovic '22** have organized events sponsored by restaurants that are ensuring the health and safety of their customers. Athletic Chairman **Andrew Beusse '23** signed brothers up for numerous esports events, such as Super Smash Bros. and Rocket League tournaments. Andrew also serves as our scholastic chairman and has hosted several online study sessions to bring brothers together.

We are all excited and hopeful for a return to the chapter house for the fall 2021 semester. House Manager **James Ruth '22** has been hard at work with alumni and the contractors to ensure the house is in good condition for renovations to begin. Despite COVID-19 drastically changing the campus environment and awaiting the completion of the renovation, we are committed to Sigma Phi Delta's ideals so we can do great things at Delta Chapter.

Fraternally,
Michael McGinnis '22, Chief Engineer
mlm6@illinois.edu

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Lawrence, KS 66044-2100
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66044
PERMIT #570

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Jackson Bouque • Genoa, Ill.
Aerospace Engineering

Cameron Cagas • Swansea, Ill.
Bioengineering

Daniel Hamill • Glenview, Ill.
Materials Science and Engineering

Ethan Hung • Maryville, Mo.
Systems Engineering and Design

Carson Jess • Schaumburg, Ill.
Civil Engineering

Riley Loveday • Clifton, Va.
Civil Engineering

Ishaan Murarka • Guwahati, India
Mechanical Engineering

Carlos Paredes • Goodlettsville, Tenn.
Computer Engineering

Brett Patterson • Des Plaines, Ill.
Computer Science

Connor Schick • Naperville, Ill.
Computer Engineering

Ghassan Shahatit • Oak Brook, Ill.
Computer Science

Ravyu Sivakumaran • Singapore, Singapore
Computer Science

Jack Stubenvoll • Deer Park, Ill.
Computer Science

Eshrit Saroop Tiwary • Mumbai, India
Computer Engineering

Akarsh Vankayalapati • Naperville, Ill.
Computer Science

Tong Wei • Plano, Texas
Computer Science

James Williams • Woodstock, Md.
Computer Science

Lucas Zaczek • Lemont, Ill.
Materials Science and Engineering

Chapter Officers

Chief Engineer
Michael McGinnis '22
mlm6@illinois.edu

Vice Chief Engineer
Rohan Suresh '22

Secretary
Jason Drews '22

House Manager
James Ruth '22

Business Manager
Shyam Upadhyay '22

Assistant Business Manager
Dino Keserovic '23

Pledge Master
Spencer Sullivan-Hayes '22

Risk Reduction Chairman
Brett Lofendo '22

Assistant House Manager
Daniel Spatz '22

Philanthropy Chairmen
Jason Drews '22
Dino Keserovic '23

Expansion Chairman
Shyam Upadhyay '22

Chaplain
John Armgardt '22

Commissar
Aditya Mansharamani '21

External Relations Chairman
Matthew Lotarski '23

Scholastic Chairman
Andrew Beusse '23

Merchandise Chairman
Nicholas Krowicki '23

Historian
Adam Chung '21

Athletic Chairman
Andrew Beusse '23

Social Chairmen
Shar Alamgir '21
Thomas Ng '21

Recruitment Chairmen
Nicholas Bingeheimer '23
Nicholas Krowicki '23
Matthew Lotarski '23
Daniel Spatz '22