



Delta Dispatch

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

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It's Never Too Late to Get Involved

A Thank-You to Alumni Who Have Contributed to Capital Campaign So Far

There was a whirlwind of activity around the house as we pressed to complete Phase 1 of the renovation project prior to the start of the school year. While the contractor was rushing to get roofing, flooring, and painting done, we held a single-day, modified Alumni Work Weekend event on August 14 to get all the new furniture into the house.

Shortly after, we received our temporary Certificate of Occupancy (CO) and the reinstatement of our Private Certified Housing status, just in time for 25 active members to move in and start classes. The final CO was received in September, just a few weeks prior to Homecoming. With most of the interior renovation complete, we were able to resume several traditions, including our tailgate, in-person alumni meetings, and of course, the Alumni Dynasty of Dominance with a 31-6 victory in the annual active-alumni football game. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported these events—mark your calendar for October 7-9 of next year!



The Marching Illini making their way past the house during the 2021 Homecoming parade.

With only various items left for the contractor to fix, we're turning our focus to Phase 2, which involves correcting a few remaining internal items and some long-standing exterior issues. We plan to accomplish these next summer while the house is empty, and we need your help to do it. Our alumni have generously pledged almost \$1 million to the renovation already, but we've also taken on a sizeable mortgage and depleted the majority of our reserves to get to this point. With alumni's continued support, we can ensure the outside of the house is commensurate with the inside work.

It's never too late to donate, but if you want to be immortalized on the plaques to be installed at the house, we need your pledge by December 31, 2021. Details for making, increasing, or accelerating your gift can be found on page 2.

Our next alumni meeting will be on Saturday, February 5, 2022. We plan to have this meeting in person near Chicago with Zoom as a backup. Details will be provided in January. Until then, best wishes to you and your family during the holiday season.

Fraternally,

Matthew Braun '94

Delta Alumni President

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There's still some work to do on the outside of our chapter house. Keep reading for details about our plans and how you can contribute!



Brothers from the 1990s gather at Homecoming. From left: Curt Taras '94, Matthew Braun '94, Dino Tsoukatos '96, Michael Lee '94, Colin Duffield '94, Carlos Jimenez '93, and Mike Rohan '93.

Campaign Status at a Glance

As of November 3, 2021

While the bulk of our campaigning ended in 2020, your support to reach our goal is still very much needed and certainly welcome. We are just under \$2,400 from reaching the \$1 million mark.

CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$1 MILLION
TOTAL COMMITMENTS: \$997,609
TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS: 147
MAILABLE ALUMNI: 523
PARTICIPATION: 28%

We have such an amazing group of brothers, and there is no reason we cannot hit the \$1 million goal. You could be the brother that gets us over the edge! To do so, contribute online at tinyurl.com/DeltaChapterCampaign.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT DELTA CHAPTER

Our campaign is nearing the \$1 million mark in contributions, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for your continued generosity!

While the major interior work is completed and the house looks better than ever on the inside, we still have work to do. Your additional support will help us refurbish the exterior, specifically by replacing the front and back porches, revitalizing the landscaping, and reimagining the west side for use as a gathering space. Donations will help the alumni chapter reduce the debt incurred during this project and help put us on a stronger financial footing.

If you have already donated, thank you. Please be sure to send in your pledged contributions when they are due if you have not already. If you haven't joined this effort yet, now is the time! We still need you. You can contribute at tinyurl.com/DeltaChapterCampaign or contact **Mike Rohan '93** at mprohan@comcast.net or **Don Buckner '89** at don@donbuckner.com for more information.

Permanent recognition in the house on a commemorative plaque and room naming rights are still available, though the deadline to get on the first run of the plaques is fast approaching on December 31, 2021. A donation of \$5,000 or more will ensure your place in Delta Chapter history.

Thank you for helping us to create the best environment possible for a strong, vibrant chapter for generations of young engineers to come.

LIFTING UP OUR BROTHERS

Alumni Relations Chairman Dino Tsoukatos '96 Looks Forward to Working with Delta Chapter

After retiring from the Air Force and returning to the Chicagoland area, **Dino Tsoukatos '96** wanted to reconnect with friends from the past, including Sigma Phi Delta brothers. He attended meetings and events until the pandemic put them on hold, then he joined a biweekly Zoom meeting, started by **Burt Wagner '93**, to hang out and stay involved.

"It was a great way to stay connected, and as a result, I stayed in contact with many of the board members," Dino recalled. "Then **Matt Braun '94** asked if I would be interested in the role [of alumni relations chairman], and I was happy to accept."

As an undergraduate, Dino received a letter from the Delta Chapter recruitment chairman inviting him to the chapter house, "and I remember just having a feeling that I should go." He thoroughly enjoyed the house tour and meeting its members, and brothers like Pledge Master **Ted Hampson '95** convinced him to join.

"I remember having instant connections with so many good people. I really value the brotherhood we share," he said. "Knowing there are always people you can rely on was very important during those formative college years." Dino has wonderful memories of classes and weekends spent together, building Homecoming floats, and serving as Chief Engineer.



Dino Tsoukatos '96 with his family.

Dino has loved aviation all his life. When poor eyesight ended his dream of flying and the UI aerospace engineering track was full, he went into theoretical and applied mechanics. Fast-forwarding to now, Dino has had a fulfilling 20-year career in the Air Force, which he says had many parallels to life at Sigma Phi Delta. "The people and relationships are the highlights of my career. Being a part of something bigger than yourself is both a humbling and rewarding experience." He spent nine years of his career living in foreign countries and visiting countless others.

As alumni relations chairman, Dino will coordinate the board's quarterly meetings, especially Homecoming and Alumni Work Weekend. He looks forward to reconnecting with even more brothers and meeting new ones. His advice to undergraduates: "Remember that people matter, and treat others like you want to be treated."

Dino and his family live in Frankfort, Illinois, and he and his wife spend most of their free time with their kids. He enjoys tennis and tae kwon do with his sons as well as woodworking, which allows him to build sets for his daughter's theater productions.

Connect with Dino at dino.tsoukatos@outlook.com.

A New Year Calls for New Opportunity

COVID-19 Taught Us That Tough Times Never Last, But Brotherhood Does

From adapting to the changing environment on campus and adjusting to fraternity operations without a house, this past year has been a difficult one for our Delta brothers. I'm happy to say that this semester is going great; our members are enjoying the brand-new house with a refreshed sense of brotherhood.

The semester kicked off with a productive brotherhood Work Weekend. House Manager **Carter Pobloske '22** organized a busy three days of setting up furniture, supplies, and equipment as well as decorating common areas with important memorabilia. The hard work paid off, as actives of all classes are experiencing the benefits of the renovated house together.

Head Recruitment Chairman **Rohan Suresh '22** organized an effective recruitment effort. Along with the rest of the recruitment chairmen and the support of the chapter, the first four weeks of the semester drew a large number of interests in the fraternity. We attended the annual Quad Day, which was a massive success, and hosted a variety of events in the brand-new house, which helped us recruit 16 new members. This interest has continued past recruitment, and we hope to grow and develop our membership for years to come.

This semester has been exciting with the return of in-person activities. Brothers and friends of the castle are enjoying events and the improved quality of amenities at the new house. After a year of social distancing, we are fortunate to participate in events together again as they have been great for the brotherhood as well as mixing with sororities and other organizations.

One highlight of the semester was an eventful Homecoming. Thank you to all the alumni who visited the house for the weekend; it was great to connect with brothers of all generations and spend time in the new house. Delta Chapter wouldn't be what it is today without your efforts and contributions to the fraternal experience.

As far as philanthropic efforts, Delta Chapter has been taking part in any way we can. We organized a canned food drive and bake sale to donate to organizations such as the Eastern Illinois Food Bank. We are optimistic that we will be able to get even more involved with the community now that COVID-19 regulations are subsiding.

Delta Chapter was represented by six brothers at Sigma Phi Delta's 44th General Convention in Denver, Colorado, this past summer. We met brothers from other chapters, worked to improve fraternity operations, and reconnected with Delta alumnus **Jack Panella '19**, who organized the convention and serves on the Supreme Council.

Our accomplishments don't stop here; Delta Chapter was also recognized for having the highest GPA of all chapters this past year. In spring 2021, our GPA was a 3.61, with 14 brothers receiving a 4.0. Despite the setbacks from the ongoing pandemic, our members never back down from a challenge—they face it head-on and come out stronger!

For career development, some brothers secured internships and full-time offers with Amazon, Facebook, Tesla, and Ford, while some are continuing with graduate school. Our active members play a huge role on campus, holding engineering research positions, teaching assistant positions, and securing memberships in engineering student organizations, including Formula Electric, Illinois Space Society, and Engineering Council.

Brothers are always looking for opportunities to improve professionally, as we have a strong culture of helping one another find opportunities, such as preparing for the career fair. This semester, Vice Chief Engineer **Brett Lofendo '22** met and networked with several companies on behalf of the chapter prior to the career fair. Then, we held resume review and career fair preparation sessions to ensure brothers stood out among the applicants.

Thank you to all the actives and alumni who have continued to support Delta Chapter over the past two years of facing many challenges. I'm excited to see Delta Chapter continue to grow and prosper into the future. Hail, Sig Phis!

Fraternally,
Shyam Upadhyay '22
Chief Engineer
smu2@illinois.edu



Rohan Suresh '22 is likely completing some computer science assignments before our first chapter meeting of the semester. Take a look at our new furniture, floors, and walls that make up our living room!



The bonfire recruitment event with Alpha Omega Epsilon saw a great turnout to bring in a large number of new members this semester.



Homecoming was a success! Alumni and actives of all generations came together to experience a major loss against Wisconsin, but we had a good time doing it.



Brothers are thrilled to participate in a variety of philanthropy events this fall, including a softball fundraiser with Delta Delta Delta.



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Chapter Officers

Chief Engineer Shyam Upadhyay '22 smu2@illinois.edu	Expansion Chairman MJ McGinnis '22
Vice Chief Engineer Brett Lofendo '22	Chaplain Spencer Sullivan-Hayes '21
Secretary Dan Spatz '22	Commissar Matt Lotarski '23
House Manager Carter Pobloske '22	External Relations Chairman Matt Lotarski '23
Assistant House Manager Nick Bingenheimer '23	Scholastic Chairman Jack Stubenvoll '24
Business Manager Dino Keserovic '23	Merchandise Chairman Jeff Shin '24
Assistant Business Manager Grant Brown '23	Historian Dino Keserovic '23
Pledge Master Jason Drews '22	Float Chairmen James Ruth '22 Steven Dimov '23
Risk Management Chairman MJ McGinnis '22	Social Chairmen Cam Cagas '23 Connor Schick '24
Philanthropy Chairmen Lucas Zaczek '23 Sanjiv Iyer '24	Recruitment Chairmen Rohan Suresh '22 Andrew Beusse '23 John Goodpaster '23 Kent Lullo '24



Chapter Website
sigphis.org



Alumni Website
spdillini.org



Instagram
[sigmaphideltauiuc](https://www.instagram.com/sigmaphideltauiuc)

CASTLE ETERNAL

Raymond L. Kraley '57 entered Castle Eternal on April 6, 2021, after a brief illness. Ray was a caring husband, father extraordinaire, and admirer of adventure. He enjoyed and respected the outdoors—from the rolling hills of upstate New York to the desert of the Santa Cruz Valley—and passed that love on to his children. Hiking, backpacking, RVing, fishing, skiing, canoeing, and gardening were just a few activities that filled his years with enjoyment.



Ray is survived by his wife, Jean; children, Beth Wallace and Todd Kraley; son-in-law, Dean Wallace; and grandchildren, Kevin and Melissa Kraley.

Welcome, New Members!

Mike Ahn '24 Singapore	Lucas Duduit '23 Pana, Ill.	Ritvik Manda '25 Edison, N.J.	Rohan Saha '25 Queens Village, N.Y.
Ron Basak '23 Greenvale, N.Y.	Kyle Gray '23 Colonia, N.J.	Gavin Metzger '24 Naperville, Ill.	Areet Sheth '25 Piscataway, N.J.
Dean Christou '25 Arlington Heights, Ill.	Hrishi Kini '25 Naperville, Ill.	Corey Michaels '23 Plainfield, Ill.	Jacob Stocco '25 Naperville, Ill.
Evan Coleman '24 Mahomet, Ill.	Darwin Mah '25 Fairview Heights, Ill.	Logan Price '24 Chicago, Ill.	Tommy Tsiftilis '25 Arlington Heights, Ill.