



Delta Dispatch

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

Delta Chapter • University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois • Fall 2024

DELTA ALUMNI ARE STAYING CONNECTED

Will We See You at Our Next Events?

On an early September Saturday, the campus came alive with the sound of laughter, camaraderie, and a deep sense of pride as alumni returned to celebrate the storied traditions of our beloved fraternity and alma mater. Alumni from far and wide flocked to join the ranks of current members, filling the air with laughter and memories that span decades. The Saturday morning brunch was a splendid affair as usual, with Brother **Patrick Cox '01** summoning his inner Callahan to provide a delicious spread, complete with Mimosas, various Belgian brews, and Malort.

As the sun climbed higher, anticipation built for the Homecoming game, where the Fighting Illini faced off against Central Michigan. In a thrilling display of teamwork and spirit, the Illini emerged victorious, holding CMU to a mere three field goals enroute to a 30-9 victory. As the sun set, the festivities continued with dinner at Papa Del's, where the famous Chicago deep-dish pizza was the star of the evening. Undergraduates and alumni gathered around, sharing laughter and lively debates about the game, old stories, and dreams for the future. It was a heartfelt reminder of the ties that bind us no matter the distance or the years between.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Winter Alumni Meeting on Saturday, January 25. A time for reflection, discussion, and planning, this meeting is vital for shaping the future of our fraternity. We encourage all alumni to attend—your voices and insights are the lifeblood of Sigma Phi Delta.

And what could be more exhilarating than an outing to a Chicago Blackhawks game? That's right! Join us for an electrifying evening of hockey, where alumni can reconnect over a thrilling match. Details on dates and tickets will be shared soon, so keep your eyes peeled.

Finally, we are pleased to announce resumption of the Active/Alumni Work Weekend in the spring. This is a golden opportunity to roll up your sleeves and freshen up the fraternity house and grounds. Alumni participation is crucial for this event, as it strengthens the ties between current brothers and those who have come before them. Together, we can ensure Sigma Phi Delta continues to flourish!

Fraternally,
Matthew Braun '94
President, Delta Alumni of Sigma Phi Delta
(757) 288-6320 | spddeltaalumni@gmail.com

Another Busy School Year Begins



Delta Chapter members operate our booth for Quad Day.

Delta Chapter's Latest Developments

Under the supervision of our new house manager, **Nate McGough '26**, the semester started, as always, with Brotherhood Work Weekend. The standard deep clean of the house was completed, and we overhauled the exterior by uprooting every weed in sight and planting various perennial wildflowers native to Illinois. American Beauty roses were, unfortunately, not on the planting agenda.

Fall Focus Areas

The house has hosted AΩE, AΞΔ, ΦM and ΣA at social events this semester, continuing to develop our relationships with each group of sisters.

Many brothers have accepted internships and full-time offers at companies such as Northrop Grumman, John Deere, Julian Electric, State Farm, ComEd, and Texas Instruments. We wish them the best of luck!

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Another Busy School Year Begins

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From left: Christopher Taylor '26, Josh Loomstein '26, Jack Stubenvoll '24, and Hrishi Kini '25 at Joe's during our semi-formal with our sister sorority, AOE.

Chapter Growth - Long Term

Active chapter membership is slowly recovering from the lingering negative effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. The active chapter has 30 members, with four graduating this semester. The executive board's primary focus has been reversing the decline of the last few years, with the goal of increasing and maintaining the overall chapter size. We're looking forward to significant but sustainable growth that will lead the chapter back to pre-COVID membership levels.

In the short term, we will implement several strategies to serve as stopgap measures until we can rebuild our reserves.

Chapter Growth - Short Term

1 The first strategy is to implement annual increases in dues and rent that align with inflation rates. This will ensure our financial resources keep pace with rising costs and maintain the chapter's financial stability over time.

2 The second strategy is to continue soliciting donations from alumni. If you can assist us with a contribution, please see information about how to donate on page 4.

3 The third strategy is to encourage members to live in the chapter house for extended periods. Since we no longer have pledges living in-house, getting older members to live in-house longer is more important. To encourage this, we now allow members who agree to live in-house for multiple years to lock in their rent at the first year's price. This not only helps maintain occupancy but also fosters a stronger sense of community within the chapter.

We look forward to finishing the semester strong and wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season!

Fraternally,

Hrishi Kini '25

Chief Engineer



All-in for the Poker Night rush event.

Chapter Goals

- **Expand active numbers** and continue growth.
- **Bring back aspects of the culture that have declined** due to less active involvement.
- **Connect with other chapters** to arrange more chapter visits and more sororities for diverse social events.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chief Engineer
Hrishi Kini '25

Vice Chief Engineer
Ellis Irwin '26

Assistant House Manager and Merch
Peter Brennan '27

Philanthropy and External
Andrew Pressley '27

Historian and Commissar
Jacob Stocco '25

Business Manager
Josh Loomstein '26

House Manager and Chaplain
Nate McGough '26

Social and Risk
Jack Stubenvoll '24

Recruitment and Network
Levente Deak '26

Recruitment and Social
Hamza Otry '25

Recruitment
Sam Royer '27
Mitchell Wetherill '27

Pledgemaster
David Adam '26

Secretary
Christopher Taylor '26

Philanthropy
Cole Proffitt '25

Athletic
Dev Desai '26

Assistant Business Manager
Andy Trujillo '27

Scholastic
Brent Alonso '26

SIGMA PHI DELTA FOR LIFE

Burt Wagner '93 on Fraternity Relationships and Involvement

A recruitment letter **Burt Wagner '93** received is what initially piqued his interest in Sigma Phi Delta. The letter, which discussed the low retention rate in an engineering program at the University of Illinois, stated that 85% of Delta Chapter members graduate with an engineering degree. Knowing he would be academically challenged in his program, Burt knew Sigma Phi Delta could help him.

Burt fondly looks back on his initiation as one of the happiest moments of his life. “There was a moment during our initiation when we were really tired and didn’t know if we could go any further,” he recalled. “That’s the moment when everybody says, ‘That’s it; you’re done. Congratulations.’ When they call you brother for the first time.”



“THE MORE YOU LOVE THE HOUSE, THE MORE THAT HOUSE LOVES YOU BACK.”

You can connect with Burt at bwagner3@gmail.com.

Coming from a small family, Burt found 30 “siblings” at Sigma Phi Delta and bonded with many of his brothers. The academic support he received during his membership was crucial to him getting through his program. Because of the brothers and all that Sigma Phi Delta has done for him, Burt has remained a big supporter of the fraternity. He was the Delta Chapter alumni president for a few years and served two terms as a national officer. He loved both experiences.

“Alumni have always been incredibly supportive of the guys who are currently in school, and you learn to pay that forward.”

Burt remains grateful for his Sigma Phi Delta friendships. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and recently traveled to Chicago for business. While there, he reached out asking if anyone wanted to meet up; 10 alumni immediately replied, and an otherwise unremarkable rainy Tuesday turned into a night of tiki drinks and memories. “Everybody’s willingness to reconnect and continue the relationship is what keeps you in the fraternity for the rest of your life.”



Though Burt graduated with a civil engineering degree, it was during a job recession, and he began his career in IT in 1999. He remains in the field today, 25 years later. The interpersonal skills he learned in the house have helped him get his career to where it is today. As a data solutions architect at Broadcom Software, he works in the national security space supporting the federal government, especially in counterterrorism efforts.

Burt’s passion is being a scuba instructor, which he has done for over 30 years. He also enjoys cooking and archery, which he did in college. He has a 15-year-old son who loves playing the trombone.

Congratulations, December 2024 Graduating Seniors

Nicholas Krowicki

krowickin@gmail.com
Systems Engineering

Riley Loveday

riley.loveday@gmail.com
Civil Engineering

Carlos Paredes

charlsgee53@gmail.com
Computer Engineering

Jack Stubenvoll

jacktstubenvoll@gmail.com
*Computer Science/
Molecular and Cellular Biology*

Welcome, **NEW** Members

Nicholas Adam

Carpentersville, Ill.

Robert Childs

Plainfield, Ill.

James Douglas

Bloomington, Ill.

Conor Finn

Chicago, Ill.

Liam Hood

Wake Forest, N.C.

Eric Liu

Xiamen, China

Desar Mulla

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Zach Perkins

Arlington Heights, Ill.

Andrew Tao

China



WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW DELTA MEN

Help Us Grow Delta Chapter with a Recruitment Referral

Do you know a young man attending the University of Illinois who would be a great fit for Sigma Phi Delta? *Let us know!*

Send a recruitment referral to recruitment@sigphis.org.

Please include:

- The student's full name
- Contact information
- Hometown
- Any legacy connections

Sigma Phi Delta
 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
 P.O. Box 442100
 Lawrence, KS 66044-2100
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PAID
 MAILED FROM
 ZIP CODE 66044
 PERMIT #570

Find Us Online!



Chapter Website:
sigphis.org



Alumni Website:
spdillini.org



Facebook:
Sigma Phi Delta - Delta Chapter

It's Easier than Ever to Support the Future of Delta Chapter!

You can contribute to our annual fund by scanning the QR code or by visiting spddeltachapter.causevox.com. We rely on alumni contributions to support recruitment efforts, fund scholarships, cover unplanned repairs, make property improvements, and continue growing as the premier U of I fraternity for engineering students, especially during this time of stabilizing membership numbers and combating inflation.

We appreciate one-time donations, but recurring contributions are the most effective way to maintain your ongoing devotion to Sigma Phi Delta at the University of Illinois.

You'll even be recognized with a cog distinction to further celebrate your consistent giving!



Thank You for Your Support

We are extremely grateful for the support of the alumni listed below who have contributed to the Delta Alumni Annual Campaign. This year's campaign goals include making repairs to the back stairs and adding a supplemental heating system, with longer-term goals of replacing stairwell and basement windows, and upgrading the front porch. Your contributions are helping us prepare for a bright future on campus.

Robert J. Beals Society
 (\$50+ monthly/\$600+ annually)
 Brett Patterson *
 Steven K. Denny '72 *
 Jeffrey C. Schneider '78 *
 Donald R. Buckner '89 *



Russell C. Smith Society
 (\$20 monthly/\$240 annually)
 David E. Chamness '77
 In memory of
 Ray Lulewicz '76
 Matthew J. Braun '94 *
 Erik N. Schultz '01 *

Castle Level
 (\$10 monthly/\$120 annually)
 Fred D. MacMurdo '68

Chapter Room Level
 (\$5 monthly/\$60 annually)

Brotherhood Level
 (Up to \$59 annually)
 Matthew D. Hewitt '09

* Recurring automatic donations

Please contact our communications coordinator at dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com to correct any errors or omissions.