



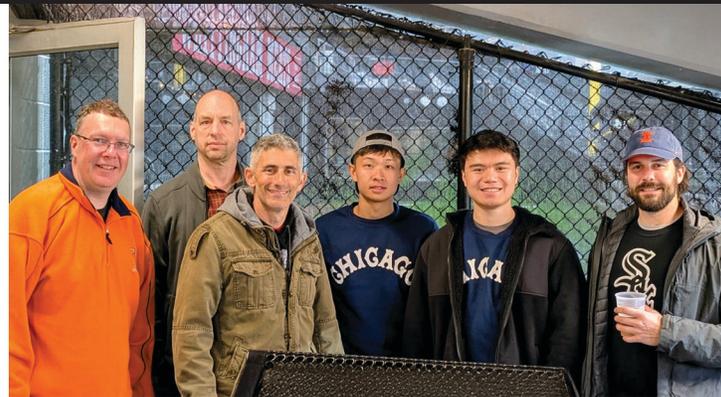
Delta Dispatch

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

Delta Chapter • University of Illinois • Champaign, Illinois • Fall 2025



Sports fans.



Perpetual Friendship

DELTA ALUMNI CONNECT YEAR-ROUND

Alumni activities over the past several months have been marked by team spirit and good food. Alumni Relations Chairman **Dino Tsoukatos '96** spearheaded Illini Nights at both Chicago ballparks, offering two options for Delta alumni to gather and cheer on their teams. In May, Illini Night with the Chicago White Sox provided a casual, low-key evening where alumni converged to trade stories under the lights. After a rain delay made tolerable by a decent spread and bottomless beers in the outfield club, the White Sox upset the visiting Mariners with a narrow 1-0 victory. A few weeks later, we gathered at Wrigley Field for the north side version, where the home team once again secured the win, defeating the Brewers 5-3.

The Annual Meeting was held June 21 at **Lou Malnati's in Oakbrook**. Between mouthfuls of deep dish, five current officers were reelected, and **Jack Stubenvoll '25** was elected as Active Relations Chairman. Brother Stubenvoll succeeds **Shyam Upadhyay '21**, who we thank for his years of service and wish well in his continuing endeavors.

The traditional events of Homecoming Weekend in Champaign-Urbana were enhanced with several unusual occurrences. On Friday evening, the Homecoming Parade took its customary route down Third Street. This year's Grand Marshals, REO Speedwagon—two of them former U. of I. Engineers—called out and applauded the “Engineers” sign in front of the chapter house as they made their way past.

Saturday morning brought the now-legendary brunch spread of **French toast, sausage, a range of rare and exotic beers from the Cox collection, and an unclaimed Taco Bell order from the previous evening**. The unbridled debauchery was only curtailed by the 11 a.m. start to the Homecoming game, a matchup in which the Illini prevailed over previously unbeaten USC in a tight 34-32 game decided by a field goal as time expired. Following the game, the deep-dish tour of Illinois continued as undergraduates and alumni reconvened for dinner at **Papa Del's**

on Neil Street, which featured a surprise reunion of the **Beef Brothers**.

Sunday morning held the promise of good-natured competition in the form of the **active-alumni football game**. The alumni dug into the playbook, wielding years of experience and older but surprisingly spry legs. They were carried to what seemed like their 57th win in a row by the heroics of **Joe Barton '17**, although some might say the actives failing to field a team was more decisive. After the aborted pickup game, the chapter hosted the quarterly alumni meeting, fueled by Dunkin'.

Across the season—at major league parks, restaurants, and on the front steps of the chapter house—Delta Chapter alumni reaffirmed what keeps them returning: a mix of tradition, shared purpose, and the kind of friendship that survives careers, families, and time. 2025's slate of events was equal parts celebration and stewardship, and it left the chapter poised to build on both the goodwill and practical plans forged over pizza, pints, and pennant nights.

Fraternally,
Matthew Braun '94
President, Delta Alumni of Sigma Phi Delta
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Where's the beef?



Pizza fans.



Barn Dance! From left: Sam Royer '27, Alex Lockett '27, Josh Loomstein '26, Ellis Irwin '26, Chris Taylor '26, Dev Desai '26, and David Adam '26.



Brothers partnering with members of AΩE to work on the annual Homecoming float.

Our Castle Holds Strong

ANOTHER GRAND DELTA SEMESTER

Under the leadership of House Manager **Peter Brennan '27**, we kicked off the semester with our semesterly Brotherhood Work Weekend. Throughout the weekend, brothers deep cleaned the chapter house, refreshed the exterior, and performed essential repairs to the laminate flooring. The weekend concluded with the university's annual Quad Day, coordinated by Recruitment Chairmen **Nicky Adan '28**, **Jack Lonigro-Carver '28**, **Geoff Reckamp '28**, and **Adrian Vargas '28**, where brothers engaged with prospective members and shared insights about chapter life, ultimately setting a positive tone for the semester's ongoing activities.

Our chapter enjoyed a full calendar of events. Philanthropy Chairmen **Eric Liu '28** and **Will Kelly '27** organized many, including a Dad's Weekend brunch, campus-wide bake sale, and our annual breakfast with AΩE. This semester, under the coordination of Athletic Chairman **Sam Royer '27**, brothers enthusiastically joined a variety of intramurals including soccer, volleyball, and floor hockey, fostering teamwork and brotherly competition.

Social Chairmen **Dev Desai '26** and **Aryan Budhiraja '26** ensured other engaging and well-coordinated events with AΩE and ΦΣP. As the semester continued, brothers suited up for semi-formal, barn dances, and Greek Olympics. With a large graduating class for spring 2026, each event was designed to further our presence on campus.

Delta Chapter has proudly maintained a 3.43 GPA, which is higher than the all-male score. Scholastic Chairman **Andrew Tao '28** has organized study sessions to ensure brothers have all the support they need to succeed. In the meantime, brothers continue to accept internships and full-time offers including John Deere, Milwaukee Tools, Amazon, Caterpillar, and DRW. Our brothers are extremely motivated to continue the momentum we built over the last semester and further our presence on campus!



Fraternally,
Josh Loomstein '26
Chief Engineer

Additional Chapter Officers

Vice Chief
Engineer
David Adam '26

Business Manager
Andy Trujillo '27

Risk Manager
Dev Desai '26

Chaplain
Owen Shin '25

Secretary
Sam Royer '27

Network
Chairman
Ellis Irwin '26

Historian
Cole Proffitt '26

Commissar
Chris Taylor '26

WELCOME, New Members

Lin Haoxiang '27 | Guangzhou, China

Logan Hennick '28 | Ottawa, Ill.

Manvir Kamdar '29 | Mumbai, India

The Kind of Man You'd Stand Beside

Think of the men you'd trust in your corner—the ones who...

-  **SHOW UP**
-  **LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
-  **MAKE OTHERS BETTER**

**That's the kind of man we're
looking for to join Delta Chapter.**

If you know a young man who fits
that description, we want to meet him!

Please send his info to **David Adam '26** at dadam7@illinois.edu or **Josh Loomstein '26** at joshua48@illinois.edu so we can get in touch and show him what our brotherhood is all about.

Not Your Typical Fraternity

Jeff Leesman '03 on Sigma Phi Delta Leadership, Professional Experiences



Jeff with his family. Photo credit: Stacy Golden/ Golden Photography (wife of Michael Golden '02)

As an engineering fraternity, Sigma Phi Delta offered **Jeff Leesman '03** something unique that he simply couldn't find elsewhere at the University of Illinois. Delta Chapter membership presented Jeff with several leadership opportunities that prepared him well for a successful life beyond college.

PERSONAL GROWTH

"I really liked the social and professional aspect of Sigma Phi Delta," Jeff said. He valued the chance to grow alongside fellow engineers in college, and he made great memories going to various sporting events with his brothers. "The Chicago Bears played one season in Champaign, so we went to a lot of those games. We also did road trips to other chapters and spring break in Panama City Beach."

Jeff's Delta Chapter involvement spanned numerous roles from recruitment chairman

and business manager to vice president and eventually chapter president. He embraced opportunities to develop his skills as a leader, even having to learn how to hire and fire people for the house's staff.

"For undergraduates, I think it's important to get involved with something. Fraternities are a great way to meet people and exercise leadership. No matter what it is—whether it's athletics, music, arts—get involved with something you're passionate about so you can have an academic outlet and meet people along the way."

LIFE BEYOND COLLEGE

Jeff began his career with an electrical contractor for his first couple years out of college. He then moved on to work with IMEG, a design engineering firm. He has climbed the ladder through the company for the past 20 years. "I

now lead our team focused on the design of education and science/technology facilities."

Sigma Phi Delta remains an important part of Jeff's life beyond his undergraduate years. He volunteered his time during the chapter house's renovation a few years back, as a project manager and owner's representative. Jeff also continues to cherish his longstanding alumni connections. "I actually work now with **Josh Dyer '00**—we were in Delta Chapter at the same time, and it's interesting how things like that can come around."

In his personal life, Jeff and his wife have two daughters, ages 10 and 14. After growing up in Central Illinois, he put down roots in Downers Grove and built a home in 2017. You can connect with Jeff at jeffleesman@gmail.com. "I

*Congrats,
Fall Graduates!*

Zach Perkins

zjperkins30@gmail.com

Owen Shin

owentotherescue@gmail.com

Hamza Otry

otry.hamza@gmail.com

ALUMNI NEWS

Dean W. Pulliam '73 has dealt with challenging family tragedies in recent years. His daughter Hillary passed away from a heart attack in July 2023, which was influenced by her birthmother's substance abuse during pregnancy. Sadly, this had a negative impact on his wife, Chris's, health, and she passed away from cancer just seven months later. "Hug and kiss your loved ones each day like it will be the last time—it might be." Dean lives in Beaver creek, Ohio. Email: deanpulliam@gmail.com

KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFO CURRENT WITH DELTA!

Make sure you're receiving all things Sigma Phi Delta at Illinois in your mailbox and inbox.



Fill out the enclosed bio update and mail it in with any changes. *More instructions are on the form!*

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FIND US ONLINE!

 **Chapter Website:** sigphis.org  **Alumni Website:** spdillini.org  **Facebook:** Sigma Phi Delta - Delta Chapter

Thank You for Your Support

We appreciate the alumni listed below who have contributed to this year's Delta Alumni Annual Campaign. Your contributions are helping us prepare for a bright future on campus, and we are extremely grateful for your support.

Join our annual fund today at spddeltachapter.causevox.com! You can make a one-time or recurring donation, and gifts can be anonymous if preferred. *Most donations are from our older alumni—we ask our more recent graduates to contribute whatever you can!*

If there is an error in your listing or your name has been mistakenly omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our communications coordinator at sgrow@penningtonco.com to submit a correction.

Robert J. Beals Society

\$50+ monthly/
\$600+ annually
Brett Patterson '88 *
Steven K. Denny '72 *
Jeffrey C. Schneider '78 *
Donald R. Buckner '89 *
Kevin T. Serafin '92 *

Russell C. Smith Society

\$20 monthly/
\$240 annually
Matthew Braun '94 *
Eric Schultz '01 *

Castle Level

\$10 monthly/
\$120 annually
You can be the first!

Chapter Room Level

\$5 monthly/\$60 annually
You can be the first!

Brotherhood Level

Up to \$59 annually
Michael P. Rohan '93
Joseph A. Barton '17

* Recurring automatic donations



SCAN
HERE!



SAVE
THE
DATE

WINTER MEETING AND BLACKHAWKS GAME

Email dino.tsoukatos@outlook.com for more information | January 17, 2026