



Delta Dispatch

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

Delta Chapter • University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois • Spring 2019

MORE THAN \$700,000 RAISED TOWARD \$1 MILLION GOAL *Emphasis on Increasing Alumni Participation to Secure Remaining Funds*

For Delta Chapter, *The Castle Renovation: Engineering the Future of Sigma Phi Delta* is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the alumni of Delta Chapter to preserve the heritage of the house and the brotherhood of Sigma Phi Delta at the University of Illinois for future generations. While other fraternities are struggling with membership and local property taxes, our chapter is thriving with more than 70 members and a top 10 GPA. This is with the house in its current shape. Imagine what these motivated, young men can do regarding recruiting with a top-notch house to sell.

As of March, we have crossed the \$700,000 threshold with 89 donors. If you have not already done so, I urge you to add your name alongside mine and your Delta brothers to our growing list of donors. While 89 is great, there are more than 500 living Delta alumni who have benefitted from their time in Sigma Phi Delta. The average participation among Greek campaigns is 25%, and to date, 17% of our membership has made a commitment. If you are one of the more than 400 we have not heard from yet, we strongly encourage you to give what you can, because this is our one shot to

do this renovation right. Pledges can be spread over five years, and gifts of more than \$2,500 will receive permanent recognition in the chapter house.

If you have already been contacted by a fellow brother about the campaign and have been putting it off, I encourage you to reach out to them and make your pledge today. If you have not been contacted and would like more information, please reach out to me, **Don Buckner '89** at don@donbuckner.com, or any alumni officer, and we will make sure you get the information you need. We are in the process of designing, and before long, will be bidding the construction work. The time is now to make your impact on Delta.

If you have already donated, thank you for your commitment to the future of Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta. If you have not yet, remember the great memories you made in that house on 302 E. Gregory, or wherever the brotherhood happened to be at the time, and help future students share in those same positive experiences.

Fraternally,
Mike Rohan '93, Era Campaign Chairman
mprohan@comcast.net / (708) 420-8972

Onwards and Upwards

Delta Alumni Vote to Move Forward with Castle Renovation

We held our Delta alumni winter meeting at Emmett's in Downers Grove on January 26, which was an important milestone in Delta Chapter's history. The Delta Executive Board, the Castle Renovation Capital Campaign Committee, the Relocation Exploration subcommittee, and four members from the active chapter met and agreed on the recommended course of action for a chapter house renovation. This proposal was then communicated to all Delta alumni via email and mail and voted upon in the month of February.

First a little background—the chapter house at 302 E. Gregory is in poor condition with a leaking roof, drafty windows and doors, failing heating and plumb-

ing, antiquated electrical, and outdated bathrooms and common areas. To our knowledge, the chapter house has not had a major renovation, other than for fire safety, since the house was purchased in the early 1960s. In the fall of 2015, a group of alumni from the 1980s spearheaded what turned out to be the start of a multi-year project, which led to where we are today.

At the winter meeting, we agreed to pursue the planning and cost estimating of a total renovation to the chapter house. This includes converting what is left of the house into more rooms and building a house extension to the west. This would potentially add a total of four additional rooms and increase the size of the living room/chapter room by 15 feet. If we find the renovation and the west wing addition more expensive than estimated, we have discussed scaling back the project to renovation-only without affecting the project timeline for a groundbreaking target date of May of 2020.

I am proud to announce that the result of the membership-wide vote on this proposal was 80 ayes and three nays, which amounts to 96% approval for renovation! Thank you one and all for taking the time to review materials, vote, and provide your feedback. And as always, we welcome ongoing feedback as we continue to seek out pledges and donations to make this dream a reality. If you have not already done so, we ask you to please consider making a pledge or donation.

We invite you to join us at our upcoming events on page 4. These are great opportunities to reconnect with your brothers and the brotherhood. We also welcome you to share your ideas on future events.

Fraternally,
Rick Woods '86
President, Delta Alumni of Sigma Phi Delta, Inc.
rwoods613@gmail.com
(815) 262-1602

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN DELTA'S FUTURE

Help Us Reach Our \$1 Million Goal by Donating Today!

We are deeply grateful to the 89 donors listed below for committing \$716,108 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 plaques 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.

Russell C. Smith Founders Circle

(\$75,000 and above)
Donald R. Buckner '89

Dr. Robert Beals Leader's Circle

(\$50,000 to \$74,999)
Eric P. Messerschmidt '86
Joseph "Sam" Cox '00

Rev. Dave Vosecky Investor's Club

(\$25,000 to \$49,999)
The Active Members of Delta Chapter
Joseph F. Kennell '58
James McMahan '85
Michael P. Rohan '93

Castle Contributor

(\$15,000 to \$24,999)
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
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
Derek A. Price '03

Delta Chapter Associate

(\$5,000 to \$9,999)
Anonymous
John W. Kistenbroker '57
Gary Hunt '65
Thomas F. Hintz '67
Thomas E. Kusnierz '82
Christopher L. Rudolphi '83
Ron Carmichael '84
Jack L. Howard '88
Douglas Knapp '88
Randall J. Hein '90
Douglas S. Stirrett '92
Tom Dagenais '99
Erik N. Schultz '01
Michael G. Golden '02
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

Pawel Fudala '17
In honor of the
Fall '14 Pledge Class

Black Level

(\$2,500 to \$4,999)
Ernest C. Karras '60
Benjamin L. McCash '70
Randolph M. Freeman '72
Thomas Durkin '75
Mark B. Snyder '79
William J. Broersma '82
Timothy Staber '87
Andrew J. Cich '90
Carlos Jimenez '93
Dino E. Tsoukatos '96
Brett D. Durbin '99
Kyle Ives '07
Michael T. Coe '10
Ryan Johnson '10
Brody Schofield '17

Red Level

(\$1,000 to \$2,499)
James T. Ephgrave '52
Raymond Mueller '54
Raymond F. Siewert '54
Robert N. Deem '57
Hubert C. Edfors '57
Theodore W. Johnson '62
J. Bradley Hull '69
William A. Birtcher '70
Richard R. Parry '70

CAMPAIGN STATUS

AT-A-GLANCE
As of March 27, 2019

CAMPAIGN GOAL
\$1 MILLION

TOTAL COMMITMENTS
\$716,108

TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS
89

MAILABLE ALUMNI
505

PARTICIPATION
17%

Terrence R. Phelan '72
Matthew W. Schlichter '80
Marc Van Dyke '82
David L. Hulsman '88
Matt Braun '94
Justin D. Durfee '98
Homer Carter '04
Matt Hewitt '09
Erik V. Lynch '10
Dean D. Santarinala '12

ALUMNI CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Alumni President
Rick Woods '86
rwoods613@gmail.com

Alumni Vice President
Patrick Cox '07
W18001@email.mot.com

Alumni Treasurer
Jeff Schneider '78
spdillinitreasurer@gmail.com

Alumni Secretary
Matt Braun '94
landscience@comcast.net

Alumni Relations Chairman
Brendan Joyce '13
brendanjoyce6@gmail.com

Active Relations Chairman
Danny McGovern '15
dmcgovern88@gmail.com

Castle Renovation Capital Campaign Chairman
Don Buckner '89
don@donbuckner.com

Era Captain Chairman
Mike Rohan '93
mprohan@comcast.net

Building Renovation Chairman
Jeff Leesman '03
jeffleesman@gmail.com

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Chief Engineer
Jacob Anderson '20
jea2@illinois.edu
(815) 814-3315

Vice Chief Engineer
Brandon Chiodini '20

Secretary
Zachary Fishman '19

Business Manager
Joseph Zabinski '19

Head Recruitment Chairman
Robert Ernst '21
rbe2@illinois.edu
(847) 989-0719

Choosing to Make a Difference

ERIC MESSERSCHMIDT '86 SHARES HIS MOTIVATION TO SUPPORT DELTA

From a special road trip to the Rose Bowl to a summer spent at the chapter house along with countless other memories, **Eric Messerschmidt '86** experienced all the joys that Sigma Phi Delta had to offer during his time as an undergraduate. He served as recruitment and social chairman for Delta Chapter, but held several other leadership positions throughout various on-campus organizations, such as president of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a member of Engineering Council. "All of these opportunities to serve others were extremely important in my development as a leader and helped shape who I am today," Eric said. "They taught me valuable lessons about accountability, collaboration, being action-oriented, having a positive attitude, communicating clearly, and influencing others."

STRONG LEADERSHIP

Like many of his brothers, Eric was fortunate to have a few strong leaders in the chapter house, including **Bill Tai '84** and **Gregg Bardel '84**, throughout his tenure. "These brothers, along with many of other upperclassmen, set the example for my peer group and had a positive influence on me during my college years," Eric said. "Sigma Phi Delta represents a brotherhood that supports one another on our respective academic, social, and professional journeys."



Eric Messerschmidt '86 and his wife, Becky.

INVEST IN A BETTER TOMORROW

Because of his positive experience, Eric was motivated to support *The Castle Renovation: Engineering the Future of Sigma Phi Delta*. "I wouldn't be who I am today without the experiences I had during my campus years—many of which were enabled by the fraternity," Eric said. "I made my contribution because I felt a sense of duty to offer future generations the same opportunities that $\Sigma\Phi\Delta$ offered me." Although, Eric does not view his donation as payback, but rather an investment in the future of others that can hopefully bring positive change to the world.

THE TIME IS NOW

In recent years, Eric visited the chapter house and was pleasantly surprised by the large number of members in the chapter, but was also shocked at how little had changed to the physical infrastructure of the chapter house. "The house is in desperate need of a full renovation," Eric said. "The current living conditions are not conducive to a strong future for the chapter. We can do so much better for the students there now and for generations to come. $\Sigma\Phi\Delta$ needs us right now, and it is our time to step up."

LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1986, Eric went on to receive his MBA from the University of Chicago. He works as senior vice president of marketing strategy, loyalty, and customer relationship management for Ulta Beauty in Bolingbrook, Illinois, but lives in Glen Ellyn with his wife, Becky. They have three children and expect to visit the Champaign area more often in the next few years as their son will be attending the University of Illinois for computer engineering in the fall. Eric invites his brothers, especially those from 1982-86 era, to reach out to him at emesser123@hotmail.com to reconnect.

STRENGTHENING OUR $\Sigma\Phi\Delta$ LEGACY

Undergraduates Make New Strides in Academics, Philanthropy, and Recruitment



Samuel Atac '21 and Thomas Ng '21 after volunteering as judges at FIRST Lego League in December.



Jacob Anderson '20 after accepting the second-place award for outstanding risk management for Delta Chapter at the Greek Oscars last semester.

During the past few semesters, Delta Chapter has participated in philanthropic events, intramurals, and events with other fraternities, all while achieving academic excellence. We have also continued our trend of recruiting the best that the University of Illinois has to offer and have enjoyed our interactions and relationships with alumni and parents.

Committed to Education

In the fall, our chapter earned a 3.24 GPA, moving us from our previous rank of eighth to seventh out of 40 IFC fraternities. **Evan Kay '18**, **Jonathon Wexler '19**, **Jason Drews '22**, and **Joseph Zabinski '19** also achieved 4.0s. To ensure we stay on top academically, we created a document that brothers can update with information from the courses they've taken so others can gain useful knowledge that will help them excel.

Helping Hands

During the past semester, Delta Chapter supported the community through various philanthropic events. In the fall, brothers volunteered at Habitat for Humanity and at a local FIRST Lego League. We also hosted a float bash to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and this semester, we are planning multiple events to raise money for the Honeybee Conservancy.

On the Rise

With 72 active members, our chapter is larger than ever thanks to our recruitment efforts during the last few years. We had 16 new members join last semester, and we welcomed six pledges in the spring. We are excited to see what these members can accomplish during their time in Sigma Phi Delta and at University of Illinois.

(Continued on page 4)

Join Us at These Upcoming Events

ILLINI NIGHT WHITE SOX GAME

Guaranteed Rate Field
Thursday, May 2
First pitch 7:10 p.m.

We will be hosting a tailgate starting at 4:30 p.m., and each attendee will receive an Illini-themed White Sox jersey. The tailgate will be in the same area as the last two years, which is Lot E along the sidewalk and fence facing Princeton Street near the 37th Street intersection. As always, look for the $\Sigma\Phi\Delta$ flag! Tickets will be \$35 each, and seats will be in low box section 146, down the third base line. To sign up, please use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/SPDSoxIlliniNight>.

ILLINI NIGHT CUBS GAME

Wrigley Field
Wednesday, May 22
First pitch 7:05 p.m.

Please join us for Illini Night at the Cubs game where each attendee will receive an Illini-themed Cubs baseball hat. We will meet at a local restaurant prior to game. Sign up and prepayment is required for this event by Tuesday, April 30. To sign up, please use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/SPDCubsIlliniNight>.

DELTA ALUMNI SUMMER MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Chicago Northwest Suburbs
Saturday, June 22
TBA

If you have a suggestion for a location to host our annual summer meeting, please contact **Brendan Joyce '13** at brendanjoyce6@gmail.com.

BIG TEN CUBS GAME

Wrigley Field
Wednesday, August 21
First pitch 7:05 p.m.

Please join us at the Cubs game. Each attendee will receive an Illini-themed Cubs baseball hat. The group will meet at a local restaurant prior to game. To sign up, please use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/SPDBigTenNight>.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Delta Chapter House
October 18-20
Events TBD

We have reserved a block of rooms for Homecoming weekend at Baymont Inn & Suites (302 West Anthony Dr., Champaign, IL 61822). The rate is \$112 per night plus tax. Please contact General Manager Bobby Parikh at (217) 356-8900 or gmbaymont1@gmail.com and ask for the Sigma Phi Delta block. We have five kings and 10 doubles reserved. Any unclaimed rooms will be released on Thursday, September 19.

Sigma Phi Delta
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Lawrence, KS 66044-2100
Address Service Requested

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Delta Online

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Strengthening Our $\Sigma\Phi\Delta$ Legacy

(Continued from page 3)



Brothers celebrate a win after an intramural broomball game in December.



Members of the fall 2018 pledge class after initiation last September.

Keeping Connected

Last semester, we worked with our sister sorority, Alpha Omega Epsilon, to construct our Homecoming float and have enjoyed their company at multiple social and recruitment events. In addition, we had brothers from Rho and Beta Omicron chapters visit, and during the summer, we had several brothers connect with other chapters at the Central Province Retreat at Ozark Outdoors in Missouri.

Thankful for Alumni Support

Delta Chapter continues to excel in both aca-

demics and recruitment, and we have enjoyed activities with our alumni as well as on-campus fraternities and sororities, and other Sigma Phi Delta chapters. We thank our loyal alumni for their continued support and extend an open invitation to stop by the chapter house to meet the young men following in your footsteps.



Fraternally,
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Chief Engineer
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