



# Delta Dispatch

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

Delta Chapter • University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois • Spring 2021

## CONSTRUCTING THE NEW NORMAL

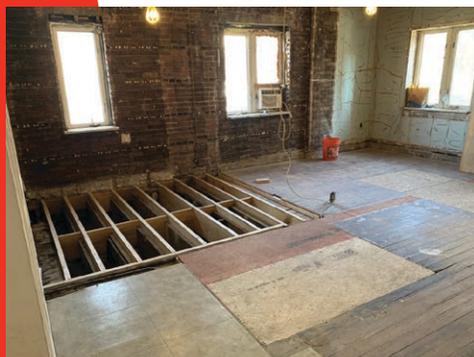
### *House Renovation Project Remains on Schedule*



*An unexpected foundation leak in the kitchen.*



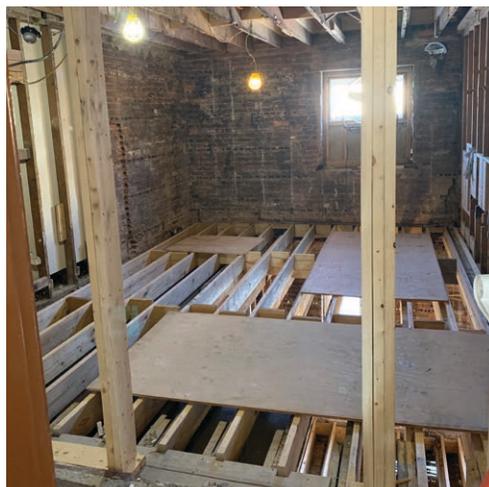
*Support issue under the entryway.*



*The first floor.*

The house renovation project is still on schedule and we are on track for an August move-in. By the time you read this, the remaining interior demolition work and asbestos abatement will be complete. With the cold weather behind us, we've begun removing the boiler, heating pipes, and radiators. With their departure, we also say goodbye to portable A/C units, flexible ducting, and makeshift window vents. The new central air-conditioning system will provide each room with an individually controlled heating and cooling unit. I'm sure the actives will agree that this upgrade alone is worth the 16-month absence from the house.

As you can see from the pictures on the left, we've uncovered areas in the kitchen and entryway where unexpected repairs are required. Under-budget bids from several subcontractors, generous new capital campaign contributions, and accelerated payments on previous pledges have all offset the cost of the work and enabled substantial progress toward eliminating our projected cash shortfall. However, we still need your help to close the gap. Details for making, increasing, or accelerating your gift can be found on page 2.

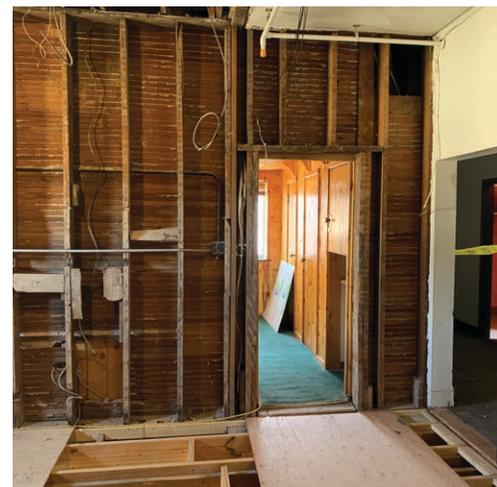


*The second-floor bathroom.*

We couldn't have reached this stage without several brothers who have volunteered their time and professional expertise. **Keith Brandau '83** is providing key engineering support, analyzing emergent issues, and designing solutions. **Rick Woods '86** led the design of the new kitchen. The new layout includes a walk-through serving line, which will improve traffic flow and provide more dining room space. **Don Nelson '82** and **Steve Denny '72** have provided invaluable assistance with the financial planning to take this project from proposal to reality. Last but not least, **Jeff Leesman '03** has kept us on schedule and under budget while serving as the project manager.

I am excited to see the progress of the work and look forward to the finished product. I hope you can join us for a long-overdue alumni work weekend in early August to put the finishing touches on the renovation and for a special Homecoming in October.

Fraternally,  
**Matthew Braun '94**  
President, Delta Alumni of Sigma Phi Delta  
(757) 288-6320 | [landscience@comcast.net](mailto:landscience@comcast.net)



*The third-floor bathroom.*

## Campaign Status At-a-Glance

*As of April 1, 2021*

While the bulk of our campaign ended in 2020, your support to reach our goal is still much needed and certainly welcome. We are just under \$30,000 from reaching the \$1 million mark. Thank you to the following donors who have made new gifts to the campaign since the start of the new year.

Ross Talbot

In memory of

Jim Callahan

Hubert C. Edfors '57

James N. Blecker '66

Gary J. Gross '68

Kenneth L. Jerina '68

Fred D. MacMurdo '68

William J. Broersma '82

John C. LaDue '85

Eric P. Messerschmidt '86

Andrew S. Hill, P.E. '88

Burt Andrew Wagner III '93

In memory of

David L. Oitker

Christopher M. Newman '95

Aaron J. Brown '98

Brian J. Cleereman '01

Paulo Llanes '12

Jacob Anderson '20

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](https://tinyurl.com/DeltaChapterCampaign). You may also contact Mike Rohan '93 ([mprohan@comcast.net](mailto:mprohan@comcast.net)) or Don Buckner '89 ([don@donbuckner.com](mailto:don@donbuckner.com)) directly about making a contribution.*

**CAMPAIGN GOAL \$1 MILLION**

**TOTAL COMMITMENTS \$971,250**

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS 135**

**MAILABLE ALUMNI 526**

**PARTICIPATION 26%**

## THE DESIRE TO GIVE BACK TO DELTA CHAPTER

*Danny McGovern '15 Shares*

*How He's Benefitted from His ΣΦΔ Experience*



*Danny McGovern '15, Anthony Valente '16, Kit Schofield '18, Brody Schofield '17, and Louis Pukelis '15 enjoy a beautiful day of baseball at Wrigley Field.*



*Brady Hill '15, Danny McGovern '15, and Louis Pukelis '15 cheer on the Illini.*

As the alumni active relations chairman on Delta Chapter's alumni board, **Danny McGovern '15** has developed a deep appreciation for everything that the chapter's alumni have done to help Sigma Phi Delta shine at the University of Illinois. Danny is thankful for the leadership skills and friendships that he gained as a Delta Chapter undergraduate and is passionate about young men having the same opportunities to reap the rewards of the ΣΦΔ experience at U of I for years to come. That all made it an easy decision for Danny to give to The Castle Renovation: Engineering the Future of Sigma Phi Delta capital campaign.

"I really enjoyed being at the house and the camaraderie that came with being there," Danny said. "Now that I'm out of law school and into a legal position and have the means to give back, I felt like it was something that I wanted to give to, especially being on the alumni board and seeing all the work that was put into getting us to where we are. I wanted to contribute to that and say that I had a part in it."

Getting to know brothers who have gone into the engineering profession and patent law profession has had a significant impact on Danny. Along with passing the Illinois and Missouri bar exams, Danny has enjoyed his first year of working in patent prosecution as an associate attorney at Stinson LLP in St. Louis. He hasn't had any problems settling into St. Louis thanks to the support he's received from his Delta Chapter brothers.

"The people that I've met within Sigma Phi Delta have become some of my closest friends," Danny said. "I recently moved into a building right next to **Brady Hill '15**. Without even asking him, he volunteered to help move me in when I got into town."

Many of Danny's favorite ΣΦΔ memories involve trips that he's been on with his brothers. He's attended two General Conventions—one as an undergraduate and one as an alumnus. Some of his other favorite trips have been to other ΣΦΔ colonies or chapters to celebrate their colonization or chartering. Danny remains committed to helping Delta Chapter be a premier example for other ΣΦΔ chapters and other fraternities to follow as a member of the alumni board.

"Helping develop the interplay between the alumni and the active chapter after having just experienced the active side of things and seeing what the alumni side of things [is like] is really fun," Danny said. "I definitely enjoy my position right now on the advisory board. I've had aspirations to move higher up on the Delta alumni board or possibly move on to a position with the International Fraternity Supreme Council at some point."

Danny is hopeful that other Delta Chapter alumni will realize how much their ΣΦΔ experience has shaped their lives. He believes that giving to the capital campaign is the perfect way to ensure that the chapter house can be a place where Delta Chapter collegians can thrive in their many endeavors.

"To see the chapter house revitalized and to go from what we all can agree was a rundown state into something that can be really special is something that's worthwhile," Danny said. "It's also something that we as alumni should want to go back to and be proud of going forward."

You can connect with Danny at [dmcgovern88@gmail.com](mailto:dmcgovern88@gmail.com).

# DELTA CHAPTER COLLEGIANS SUCCESSFULLY ADAPT TO UNIQUE CHALLENGES

*Recruitment Numbers, Academics, and  
Philanthropic Endeavors Remain Steady*

**W**e have gone through a lot at Delta Chapter over the past year between all the changes with the Chapter House renovation and the pandemic. The expectation of transitioning out of the house was present and the active chapter was prepared for that, but moving all our non-essential activities online due to the pandemic was a challenge. Despite this, we still had a strong year in terms of our new member program and active member experience.

Our main priority has been the health and safety of all our members. We prioritized this from the very beginning of the fall semester with a virtual recruitment that was led by **Dan Spatz '22** and the rest of the recruitment chairmen. Their proper planning, managing, and willingness to try new things led to Delta Chapter welcoming 16 new members last fall. **Andrew Beusse '23** followed their lead this spring and recruited 14 more new members to our brotherhood.

All our meetings and events were shifted to virtual due to the pandemic, including weekly chapter meetings and social events with other organizations. Members have adjusted to this and the lack of an in-person social life while remaining close-knit as a brotherhood. Despite an unfortunate lack in social activities, we improved in several other areas. For professional development, former

Vice Chief Engineer **Rohan Suresh '22** started a series of alumni career talks where Delta alumni met with actives to give advice and talk about their industry experience. Current Vice Chief Engineer **Brett Lofendo '22** started information sessions with different companies for members to network with recruiters.

Brothers have still achieved a lot despite the restricted environment on campus. Academically, we had a 3.55 cumulative GPA last fall, which put us higher than the average for UIUC undergraduate students. What's more, brothers have internships and full-time offers at Google, Amazon, Exelon, and BP, while others are going on to graduate school. We've participated in engineering research, held teaching assistant positions, and served as leaders in many campus organizations, such as Formula Electric, CUBE consulting, and Engineering Council. Our philanthropic efforts have also remained steady, as we had fundraisers for the Equal Justice Initiative and the Mercy Corps.

We're thankful for all the alumni support we've received, especially over the past year, and look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally,  
**Shyam Upadhyay '22**  
Chief Engineer



*Nick Bingenheimer '23, Dino Keserovic '23, Grant Brown '23, and Matt Lotarski '23 at the Grand Geneva Ski Resort during winter break. While Grant and Dino were experienced in this winter activity, snowboarding was new to Matt and Nick. Through numerous wipeouts, the pair managed to get their bearings and properly shred snow, making it quite an enjoyable experience.*



*Shar Alamgir '21 and Dillan Kenney '21 have a snowball fight on the quad.*



*Dan Hamill '23, Ishaan Murarka '24, Cam Cagas '23, Kent Lullo '24, and John Goodpaster '23 take advantage of the good weather early this spring. They grilled some burgers and relaxed at Ishaan's apartment.*



*James Ruth '22, MJ McGinnis '22, Carter Pobloske '22, Jason Drews '22, and Shyam Upadhyay '22 visit Jonathan Wexler '19 at his lake house in Union Pier for a weekend. Although the weather was cold, they made the best of it and enjoyed reminiscing.*

## Chapter Officers

Chief Engineer  
**Shyam Upadhyay '22**

Network Chairman  
**Aditya Mansharmani '22**

Head Recruitment Chairman  
**Andrew Beusse '23**  
abeusse2@illinois.edu

Vice Chief Engineer  
**Brett Lofendo '22**

Recruitment Chairmen  
**Cam Cagas '23**  
ccagas2@illinois.edu

**Connor Schick '24**  
cschick3@illinois.edu

**Jack Stubenvoll '24**  
jacks2@illinois.edu

House Manager  
**Carter Pobloske '22**

Athletic Chairman  
**Connor Schick '24**

Secretary  
**Dan Spatz '22**

Business Manager  
**Dino Keserovic '23**

Merchandise Chairman  
**Ishaan Murarka '23**

Risk Reduction Chairman  
**James Ruth '22**

Historian  
**Jason Drews '22**

Assistant House  
Manager and Commissar  
**Jonathan Bernstein '22**

Scholastic Chairman  
**Lucas Zaczek '23**

Philanthropy Chairman  
**Matt Lotarski '23**

Expansion Chairman  
**MJ McGinnis '22**

Philanthropy and External  
Relations Chairman  
**Nick Bingenheimer '23**

Chaplain  
**Owen Shin '23**

Pledgemaster  
**Robbie Ernst '21**

Social Chairmen  
**Shar Alamgir '21**  
**Thomas Ng '21**

# Save the Dates!

## 2021 Homecoming Weekend and Grand Reopening

Please mark your calendars for the weekend of October 8-10, 2021, as we plan to gather together again (COVID-permitting) after a long time apart to celebrate Homecoming Weekend at the University of Illinois and the grand reopening of the renovated chapter house. You can expect many of the traditional Homecoming weekend events running from Friday through Sunday, including:

- **Friday (10/8)** afternoon/evening gathering
- **Saturday (10/9)** tailgating, Illini football vs. Wisconsin (we know, but we did win last time!), post-game gathering at the house, and an evening event
- **Sunday (10/10)** traditional active-alumni football game and alumni meeting

You can look forward to all these events, plus perhaps a few special surprises to mark this momentous occasion in the history of Delta Chapter. If you haven't made it back in a long time, this is the year! Come join us, reunite with old friends, meet our current thriving chapter of actives and pledges, and see the future of Delta Chapter.

Stay tuned for more details.

## Welcome, Spring New Members

**Daniel Chun '24** | Burnaby, British Columbia

**Steven Dimov '23** | Carol Stream, Ill.

**Nairen Fu '24** | Singapore

**John Goodpaster '23** | Hartford, Wis.

**Will Greene '24** | Lake Zurich, Ill.

**Ryan Gregory '23** | Hoffman Estates, Ill.

**Sanjiv Iyer '24** | Bettendorf, Iowa

**Isiah Lashley '24** | Willowbrook, Ill.

**Kent Lullo '24** | Naperville, Ill.

**Chuck Mandavilli '24** | Fort Collins, Colo.

**Param Mehta '24** | San Jose, Calif.

**Nikil Nambiar '24** | San Jose, Calif.

**Steven Rumbaugh '24** | Rapid City, S.D.

**Jeff Shin '24** | Seoul, Korea

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Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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**Chapter Website**  
[sigphis.org](http://sigphis.org)



**Alumni Website**  
[spdllini.org](http://spdllini.org)



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

## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATING SENIORS!



*The brothers of fall 2017 new member class.*

**Shar Alamgir '21**  
Computer Engineering

**Sam Atac '21**  
Computer Engineering

**Filip Cakulev '21**  
Computer Engineering

**Andy Christensen '21**  
Nuclear, Plasma, and  
Radiological Engineering

**Robbie Ernst '21**  
Computer Engineering

**Mikhail Glikin '21**  
Aerospace Engineering

**Alex Krysl '21**  
Computer Engineering

**Ricky Machado '21**  
Computer Engineering

**Matt Mujumdar '21**  
Computer Engineering

**Thomas Ng '21**  
Computer Engineering

**Will Popp '21**  
Civil Engineering

**Robert Raszewski '21**  
Civil Engineering

**Evan Sacks '21**  
Civil Engineering

**Ben Schonken '21**  
Mechanical Engineering

**Nick Weger '21**  
Mechanical Engineering