



Delta Dispatch

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

Delta Chapter • University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois • Spring 2022

MAKING THE MOST OF IT Delta Chapter Remains at the Forefront of Excellence

With the dust settled and the pandemic easing, active members and alumni are getting back into their regular routines. Alumni Work Weekend was held at the house on Saturday, April 9. Since the recent renovation obviated the need for the customary repair projects accomplished during these gatherings, it would be more correct to call it a “workless” weekend. Regardless, brothers had a great time as we carried on with the quarterly alumni meeting and lunch with hammers and screwdrivers holstered. Our lungs and nostrils were grateful for the respite from the usual combination of plaster dust and stale beer that accompanies these undertakings.

In other news, Delta Chapter continues its reputation for scholarship with a house GPA higher than the all-male GPA, the all-fraternity GPA, and (most importantly) significantly

higher than a certain fraternity named after a basic geometric shape. I was proud to present the High GPA awards for the four most recent semesters, the Most Improved GPA Award for the 2020-21 school year, and the Callahan Scholarship for the two most recent semesters. The Callahan Scholarship, selected by the Chapter, is presented to the Active who best exemplifies the brotherhood and comradeship of the late Brother Jim Callahan, the house chef for over 30 years.

If you would like to be more active in making the house a place of scholarship and brotherhood for current and future generations of engineering students, please consider running for a position on the Alumni Executive Board. Any current board member can provide details about what the positions entail. The Annual Meeting and election of officers will be held Saturday, June 18.

Fraternally,

Matthew Braun '94

President, Delta Alumni of Sigma Phi Delta
(757) 288-6320 | landscience@comcast.net



Matthew Braun '94 presents Dillan Kenney '22 (left) and Matt Lotarski '23 (right) awards for scholarship and brotherhood.

Welcome to the Brotherhood!

INTRODUCING SPRING'S NEW INITIATES

Kishan Challagulla '25
Streamwood, Ill.

Evan Drew '24
Clarendon Hills, Ill.

Jay Kwon '25
Incheon, South Korea

Anthony Rihani '24
Orland Park, Ill.

Alexander Romo '23
Chicago, Ill.

Carter Smith '24
Hinsdale, Ill.



Brothers enjoying some leisure time by watching The Batman at a local theater.

OUR COMEBACK IS STRONGER THAN OUR SETBACK

Delta Chapter Seeks Alumni Involvement to Expediate House Renovations

The spring 2022 semester started with challenges that seemed worrisome for the active chapter. To name a few: a snowstorm, a spike in coronavirus cases, and special elections for recruitment chairmen made for a grim beginning this semester. However, the brothers of Delta Chapter persevered, and we welcomed six new pledges. Now that things are looking brighter, we are diligently working to make this semester one of the best, socially and professionally.

Delta Chapter's house manager, **Nick Bingenheimer '23**, did a deep clean of the house for a fresh start to the new year. The chapter house also underwent small improvements, including an updated lock on the kitchen door, curtain selections for the new windows around the house, and a new mural in the basement, courtesy of our historian, **Andrew Beusse '23**. We are thrilled to report that, as the new house has returned as the center of our operations, our brotherhood has strengthened as a result.



Steven Dimov '23, Jacob Stocco '25, and Nicholas Krowicki '23 watch in anticipation as John Goodpaster '23, competing on the red team, and Andrew Beusse '23, competing on the black team, battle for the title of Foosball Champion. "Daniel Spatz '22, pictured sitting on the couch, is probably losing in Super Smash Bros," Dino Keserovic '23 jokes.

Prioritizing Connections

In addition to starting off the spring in a spruced-up home, brothers kicked off the semester with a short brotherhood Work Weekend, which was an uplifting endeavor considering the previously mentioned weather setbacks and COVID-19 cases. As we saw a glimpse of what the social aspect of the semester would hold at Work Weekend, we greatly anticipated successful turnouts at events, and just as we had hoped, they were a hit.

At the house, we hosted AOE, PSR, and Phi Mu at various themed events. In addition to small mixers with other organizations, we also had successful blacklight and room parties. **Matthew Lotarski '23**, our vice chief engineer, also hosted a reverse career fair at the house and several events to improve brothers' professional development. Philanthropy Chairmen **Alex Galik '23** and **Will Greene '24** coordinated a waffle brunch the morning after our semiformal, raising \$980 for Crisis Nursery. These opportunities build our bonds with not only each other, but the university and community as well. We look forward to what the next academic year holds!

Demonstrating Excellence

Brothers have several accomplishments to be proud of; whether they are making their mark on campus or showing exemplary progress in their academics, members are continually prioritizing their aspirations.

We have several brothers involved in leadership positions on campus, including **Akarsh Vankayalapati '22** (wrapping up his engineering council term as EXPO co-director), **Ravyu Sivakumaran '24** (leading as president of the UIUC Singapore Students Association), and **Riley Loveday '23** (serving as arena chairman and ESPL coordinator of Illinois Robotics). Also, Matthew Lotarski was recently named the assistant VP of recruitment for Interfraternity Council. As the active chapter has grown its network with members, we are seeing record high student organization involvement this semester.

On top of their campus involvement, brothers are looking toward a bright future based on their scholarly achievements. Delta Chapter accomplished a GPA of 3.34, which is higher than the IFC GPA and the undergraduate GPA. Many brothers also secured internships over the summer and jobs after graduation. Brothers will be working at various companies, including Amazon, Facebook, Northrop Grumman, Ford, Enercon, BP, Exxon-Mobil, Space-X, and Psyonix.



Nick Bingenheimer '23 leads the way on a trip to Matteson State Park. Kishan Challagulla '24, Grant Brown '23, Daniel Spatz '22, and Carter Smith '24 follow behind him as they navigate difficult terrain.

Seeking Alumni Involvement

Overall, the spring semester reminded us of our ability to remain resilient, patient, and strong, and we have shown undeniable improvements since readjusting to in-person learning last fall. Although things are looking bright, Delta Chapter is struggling to stabilize the unforeseen effects of online operations, as they are still creating strain, especially with the new house and brotherhood that emerged last August.

While the active chapter is working hard to address and solve these issues, we request that the alumni assist in this endeavor by continuing to contribute to the renovation. Plans and fixes were delayed indefinitely due to the lack of cash flow from pledged amounts, which puts financial pressure on the active chapter as we continue to work on projects without the necessary funding for them.

Everyone involved has been working on measures to strengthen the brotherhood, both culturally and financially, now and in the future. Support from brothers everywhere will be needed in the coming years to fully recover from the pandemic and continue operating as the premier engineering fraternity at the University of Illinois. Hail Sig Phis!

Fraternally,
Dino Keserovic '23
Chief Engineer

SUPPORTING DELTA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Jonathan Wexler '19 Shares His Lessons from the Brotherhood

When you're a young professional, good grades help you get in the door. But **Jonathan Wexler '19** also learned that, especially in engineering, it's not the smartest people who rise to the top, but the ones who are best at working with other people.

Jonathan never pictured himself as a fraternity man when he came to campus, but a friend from high school told him to check out Sigma Phi Delta. Those early conversations in the chapter house showed him that the members shared his values and priorities. "I liked being in a house with people who knew how to have fun, but also understood when to prioritize academics." Jonathan served as president his junior year, but his proudest undergraduate role was as pledge master, in which he guided young men who were new to the fraternity and university and welcomed them as brothers.

"I was incredibly proud to see those younger brothers rise to top leadership positions after I graduated," he said. "It lets me know I helped instill a sense of responsibility toward something bigger than themselves and prepared them to take it on directly."



Jonathan works at Hudson River Trading, a proprietary trading firm in New York City, where he was recently promoted from an individual contributor to a software engineering lead. In this role, he manages a development team across NYC and London on building the database that tracks their financial products and securities. They also design and maintain the infrastructure to access that data from their trading machines around the world.

"Nothing could have better prepared me for solving tough professional problems like

the things we worked on together in Delta Chapter," Jonathan said. "It teaches you how to work together respectfully, even on contentious issues where people disagree strongly."

For all these reasons and more, Jonathan was happy to be a part of Delta Chapter's successful capital campaign to keep our fraternity strong. He pushed for the active chapter to contribute during his presidency, and once he graduated, it only felt appropriate to give as an individual too. "I love going back to see everyone for Homecoming each year, and I felt that donating was the best way to make sure that the house will be there for future generations to do the same."

Jonathan recently bought a house in Hoboken, New Jersey, so he's spending lots of time learning the ins and outs of various home repairs. In addition to Homecoming, he has hosted brotherhood get-togethers at his summer house in Michigan and given them a place to crash when visiting NYC. "If you're ever in town and need a place to stay, let me know!"

You can reach Jonathan at jwexy78@gmail.com.

CHAPTER OFFICERS



The new executive board is thrilled to kick off the semester with formal pledging and guide the chapter through the new year. From left: Matt Lotarski '23, Jack Stubenvoll '22, Grant Brown '23, Nick Bingenheimer '23, and Dino Keserovic '23.

Chief Engineer
Dino Keserovic '23

Vice Chief Engineer
Matt Lotarski '23

Secretary
Jack Stubenvoll '24

Business Manager
Grant Brown '23

House Manager
Nick Bingenheimer '23

Assistant House Manager
Riley Loveday '23

Historian
Andrew Beusse '23

Chaplain
Will Greene '24

Commissar
Carson Jess '23

Pledge Master
Daniel Spatz '22

Risk Reduction Chairman
Shyam Uphadyay '22

Philanthropy Chairmen
Alex Galik '23
Will Greene '24

Expansion Chairman
Sanjiv Iyer '24

External Chairman
Kent Lullo '24

Scholastic Chairman
Lucas Zazcek '23

Merchandise Chairman
Lucas Duduit '23

Athletic Chairman
Ishaan Murarka '23

Network Chairman
Sanjiv Iyer '24

EOH Chairman
Steven Dimov '23

Social Chairmen
Jason Drews '22
Shyam Uphadyay '22

Recruitment Chairmen
John Goodpastor '23
Ishaan Murarka '23
Evan Coleman '24
Jacob Stocco '25

ALUMNI UPDATE

Castle Eternal

Raymond L. Kraley '57 – April 6, 2021

John J. Fata '70 – September 26, 2021

Alumni News

Thomas W. Brierley '74 is newly retired after 25 years of owning a construction company. Residing in Park Forest, Ill., Thomas stays involved in horticulture and owns a 1966 XKE Jaguar Roadster as well as a custom 1996 FXDWG Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He wishes the best to all his Delta Chapter brothers!

Email: tombrierley189@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, May 25
White Sox Illini Night

Saturday, June 18
Annual Meeting and Elections

Oct 14-16
Homecoming Weekend

Sigma Phi Delta
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

P.O. Box 442100

Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
66044
PERMIT #570



Chapter Website
sigphis.org



Alumni Website
spdillini.org



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

HELP US FIND LOST ALUMNI!

KEEP DELTA BROTHERS CONNECTED

If you can help us identify any contact information for the lost alumni listed below, it would be greatly appreciated. Please email updates to our database assistant at dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com.

Clifford N. Mitchell '43
Clark A. Marsh '47
Hugh H. Connolly '48
Kermit L. Knetsch '48
Robert A. Kroening '48
George L. Reiter '48
George J. Zanotti '48
John Podmajersky '49
Karl E. Rennels '49
Erwin H. Beneke '50
James P. Henneberry '50
Steve Krc '50
William E. Shaffer '50
Wilford Shurtleff '50
Joseph E. Gross '52
Raymond K. Reusch '52
Richard A. Winsauer '52
Donald C. Kaiser '53
William H. Krebs '53

William J. Pichon '53
Waldemar Rawicki '54
Donald E. Carr '55
Anthony Vilona '55
Ronald J. Swallow '56
Perry A. Tanner '56
Robert K. Waddick '56
Richard W. Yates '56
John C. Holmquest '58
Lester W. Newberry '58
Eugene W. Parry '59
James J. Spachman '60
Kourosh Zaimi '62
Thomas R. Screen '63
Dennis L. Anderson '64
Jafar Kassaian '64
Dennis R. Michael '65
James L. Bailey '66
Eugene Chesson '66

Khosrow T. Kassaian '67
John P. Stapleton '67
Lawrence J. Oresky '68
Dennis D. Roscoe '69
James R. Long '70
Donald O. Nemecek '71
Henry S. Gmiterek '72
William J. Greenlee '74
Thomas S. Sandelski '74
Anthony R. Zander '76
Scott B. Gough '77
Alan K. Dippel '79
Donald S. Lotz '79
Thomas E. Johnson '81
Bradley E. Dewey '84
Gary S. Davis '85
G. B. Davis '86
Carlos F. Bermudez '87
Gregory A. Hedlin '87
John L. Isaacs '87
Jeffrey H. Masters '87
John H. Nicewick '87
Christopher B. Ashby '89
William C. Vogel '89
Douglas E. Zavodny '91
Michael G. Olsen '92
Peter Popovich '92
Christopher B. Svec '92
Brian E. Burdzilauskas '94
Timothy A. Nathan '94
Todd W. Glade '96

Kevin M. Miller '96
Robin W. Dillaway '97
David R. Braun '98
Patrick J. Maroon '98
Jeffrey W. Young '98
Martin Neumann '99
Josiah J. Keske '00
Michael P. Bastin '01
Michael E. Shawgo '01
Ian P. Santarinala '02
Joshua T. Stone '02
Hugo Guitard '04
Aurelien Descamps '05
Kevin M. Talbot '05
Eric P. Westfall '05
Eric E. Hoffman '06
James F. Schramm '07
Joseph Edelstein '08
Frederick L. Engstrom '08
Nick M. Boltuc '09
Matthew J. Fries '09
Phillip Heil '09
Rick E. Rechenmacher '09
Jason Kidd '11
Joshua Kolakowski '11
Jordan Feller '12
Armando Hermosillo '12
Jacob Joslin '12
Apurve Kumar '12
Kevin Liu '12
Faraaz Rab '12

Christopher Volk '12
Aashish Chuttani '13
Michael Kim '13
Taha Naseem '13
Pete Srisuk '13
Adrian Dobles '14
Sean Hui '14
Ruaraidh McFarlane '14
John Y. Zhao '14
Dillon Cunningham '15
HyunSuk Kim '15
Nathan Schweitzer '15
Ricardo Bastan '16
Nicholas C. Foti '16
Cory K. Gibson '16
John William Harley '16
Christopher T. Horbacz '16
Alejandro Keller '16
Anthony Valente '16
Harrison Vince '16
Douglas C. Capuder '17
David Gu '17
Guangting Lee '17
Toby Ma '17
Benjamin J. Pedretti '17
Carl Remler '17
Broderick A. Schofield '17
Nathan Pitchaikani '18
Kaustubh Vongole '20
Patrick Yang '20