



Delta Dispatch

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

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

Delta Bonds for Life Stay Involved with Our Brotherhood

As we emerge from our winter hibernation, alumni events are picking back up. The quarterly winter meeting was held at Elmhurst Brewing Company with both the usual and unusual suspects in attendance. If you need an excuse to get out of the house on a Saturday afternoon, this is a good one. In April, several brothers, their families, and pets met in the wilderness in an attempt to fully burn out their retinas and commune with nature during the eclipse.



Delta alumni gather to watch the eclipse and enjoy fishing together.



Alumni take to the water during their outdoor gathering.

Continue Supporting Delta Chapter

Now that the renovation capital campaign has ended, we are reviving our regular annual giving campaign and bringing back the Honor Roll of Donors. Alumni financial support allows us to attract, recruit, and retain the best engineering students—men who will uphold Sigma Phi Delta’s strong reputation as the premier fraternity of engineers. Our new site allows you to make a one-time donation, set up a recurring donation, or pledge a fixed amount paid over time. More information is available below.

Alumni Engagement

Our annual meeting and elections for the alumni board of directors will be held on Saturday, June 15.

We are looking for alumni who would like to be more active in continuing the traditions of brotherhood and scholarship for current and future generations of engineering students.

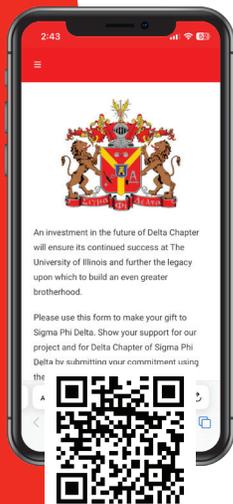
If you have an interest in becoming a board member, have questions about the responsibilities, or wish to nominate someone, my contact information is below. Officer nominations may also be submitted in advance to Secretary **Mike Rohan '93** at mprohan@comcast.net. You do not have to be present at the meeting to nominate someone or to run for a position.

Will We See You at Homecoming?

After the annual meeting, the next big get-together will be for Homecoming from

September 13-15. Our schedule includes watching the Homecoming parade, Saturday morning brunch/tailgate before the game, Saturday dinner, Sunday morning active/alumni flag football game, and the alumni meeting. I’m looking forward to reliving old memories and making new ones with you then.

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



IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO GIVE ONLINE Support Delta Chapter Today

We rely on alumni contributions to support recruitment efforts, cover house maintenance costs, and continue growing Sigma Phi Delta to be a premier fraternity for engineering students. You can donate to our annual giving campaign by scanning the QR code to visit spddeltachapter.causevox.com.

Delta Chapter is excited to bring back our Honor Roll of Donors. Future issues of the Dispatch will recognize donors at the following levels:

- Robert J. Beals Society** (\$50+ monthly/\$600+ annually)
- Russell C. Smith Society** (\$20 monthly/\$240 annually)
- Castle Level** (\$10 monthly/\$120 annually)
- Chapter Room Level** (\$5 monthly/\$60 annually)
- Brotherhood Level** (Up to \$59 annually)



Automatically recurring donations will earn the cog distinction.

Delta Chapter appreciates your support!

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chief Engineer
Hrishi Kini '25

Vice Chief Engineer
Ellis Irwin '26

Assistant House Manager
Peter Brennan '27

Philanthropy
Ray Chen '27

Historian
Will Kelley '27

Business Manager
Josh Loomstein '24

Recruitment, EOH
Sam Royer '27

Recruitment
Hamza Otry '25
Alex Lockett '26
Andy Trujillo '27

Chaplain
Kent Lullo '24

Social
Gavin Metzger '24

Commissar
Cole Proffitt '26

Social and Merchandise
Carter Smith '24

Pledgemaster
Jacob Stocco '25

Risk Manager and Network
Jack Stubenvoll '24

Secretary and Athletic
Christopher Taylor '26

Philanthropy and External
Canyue Wang '26



Lights, Camera, Delta

Victor Schutz '99 on the World of Visual Effects



Since the start of freshman year, **Victor Schutz '99** loved the idea of a brotherhood of engineers. Today, Vick enjoys a remarkable career in visual effects while staying true to his fraternal roots.

Delta Development

“The bonds formed in my time in Sigma Phi Delta are much of what defines me,” Vick said. As an in-house pledge during his first semester, he valued the guidance from older members and local alumni, learning the essence of teamwork.

Vick found fraternal service opportunities as president of his large pledge class and in various roles on the Homecoming float teams. This involvement not only honed his engineering and artistic skills, but also taught him invaluable lessons in organizing team efforts and effective communication.

“My friends from Sigma Phi Delta are friends for life. It could be 20 years since I’ve seen them, and it will be like no time has passed.”

Success in Film

After graduation, Vick found an entry-level position with George Lucas’ visual effects company, Industrial Light & Magic. Vick worked his way to an assistant technical director role, which earned him the chance to do technical and artistic work on *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones*.

“The combination of engineering training for practical problem-solving, the ability to work as part of and eventually lead a team, and a developing artistic eye were the right combination of skills to thrive in this environment.”

Vick’s career portfolio encompasses numerous iconic entertainment franchises, including *Star Wars*,

Harry Potter, *Spider-Man*, *Mission: Impossible*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. An Emmy nomination for *The Mandalorian* is just one highlight from the five *Star Wars* projects Vick has helped bring to life.

Vick has also supervised many development projects, including the creation of a new proprietary hair grooming system, originally developed for the movie *Warcraft*, which recently earned a Sci-Tech Award from the Motion Picture Academy.

Over the years, Vick spearheaded the introduction of new lighting software and renderers at the company. In addition to his contributions to visual effects, Vick has lent his acting skills to motion capture for various films, notably the skeleton pirates in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*.

Though every career has its challenges, Vick always appreciates the chance to put his engineering and teamwork skills to work and creatively overcome any obstacle. He urges today’s undergraduates to get creative in finding a path that inspires them to pursue their own passions.

Personal Life

Vick and his wife, Kristen, met during freshman year of college and will celebrate 27 years of marriage this July. They have three children, one studying acting at Ithaca College and the other two currently in high school. The Schutz family enjoys movies, television, theatre, and board games (including some long-running family Dungeons & Dragons campaigns.)

In his spare time, Vick enjoys sharing culinary creations on Instagram at @vickschutz4 and woodworking, often in the form of set building for local theatre productions. He is also a voice actor and performs in local community theatre. You can connect with Vick at vickschutz@gmail.com.



“I love knowing that I’m a small part of bringing entertainment to people around the world.”





Delta Chapter gathers for our semesterly chapter photo after returning from spring break.



Brothers gather for a bonfire with the lovely mothers who came to visit for Mom's Weekend.



From left: Brothers Lockett '26, Taylor '26, Greene '24, and Shin '23 enjoy rock climbing at the ARC.

Strength in Numbers

CHAPTER GROWTH AND UNDERGRADUATE SUCCESS

Under the supervision of new House Manager **Nate McGough '26**, the semester once again started with a deep clean of the house. The old doors, having seen more than their fair share of wear and tear over the years, are in the process of being repaired/replaced. More pressing matters have arisen, though.

House Maintenance

The kitchen recently fell victim to a nasty trap backup, leaving an unpleasant mess that was promptly remedied. Some uninvited furry guests have also found their way into the house through gaps in the exterior walls, leading to a renewed effort to seal off any potential entry points. Rest assured, the house is being well cared for and will continue serving as a home away from home for years to come.

Recent Events

The house has hosted ΑΩΕ, ΑΞΔ, ΦΜ, and ΣΑ at social events this semester, continuing to develop our relationships with each

sorority. In addition to joint events with other organizations, the house has also hosted the classics: blacklight and room parties. Both went incredibly well thanks to Vice Chief Engineer **Ellis Irwin '26** and Social Chairmen **Gavin Metzger '24** and **Carter Smith '24** planning the events.

Fraternal Progress

The future of our brotherhood is looking bright. We have a chapter GPA of 3.41, which is not only higher than both the IFC and undergraduate male GPAs but also places us in the top 20 among all fraternities on campus. Not bad for the engineering house!

Many brothers have been accepting internships and full-time offers at companies like Eli Lilly, Northrop Grumman, Caterpillar, Klayvio, John Deere, Burns and McDonnell, and The Aerospace Company. We wish our graduating seniors the best of luck in a world without Kam's.

The executive board has focused on preparing for the future. While we have a graduating class of 10 seniors, which represents over 25% of our active chapter, we're thrilled to report a significant milestone: for the first time in three years, we are net positive in membership, having initiated 12 new brothers. This influx of fresh faces offsets the departing seniors and puts us on an excellent track to recover and grow our numbers.

With a reinvigorated chapter comprised of a strong mix of experienced members and enthusiastic newcomers, Delta is poised to uphold its legacy and continue attracting quality individuals who embody our values. The future looks bright as we maintain this positive momentum.

Fraternally,
Hrishi Kimi '25
Chief Engineer



Chapter Goals

1

Expand membership numbers and continue growth.

2

Bring back aspects of the culture that have declined due to less active involvement.

3

Connect with other chapters to arrange more chapter visits and sororities for diverse social events.

CONGRATULATIONS, Graduating Seniors

Evan Coleman | evancc@illinois.edu
Systems Engineering

Evan Drew | eddrew2@illinois.edu
Mechanical Engineering

Lucas Dudit | ldudit2@illinois.edu
Electrical Engineering

Will Greene | willge104@gmail.com
Aerospace Engineering

Kent Lullo | kent2@illinois.edu
Civil Engineering

Gavin Metzger | g.metzger@me.com
Chemical Engineering

Anthony Rihani | arihani2@illinois.edu
Aerospace Engineering

Alexander Romo | aromo20@illinois.edu
Electrical Engineering

Connor Schick | cschick3@illinois.edu
Computer Engineering

Carter Smith | cwsmith5@illinois.edu
Computer Science

Help Us Grow the Brotherhood

Submit a Recruitment Referral

Do you know a young man attending UIUC who would be a great fit for Sigma Phi Delta?

Let us know by submitting a recruitment referral to

Hrishi Kini '25 at hkini2@illinois.edu or **Ellis Irwin '26** at ellisi2@illinois.edu.

Please include the student's full name, contact information, hometown, and any legacy connections.



We appreciate your help in building a bright future for Delta Chapter!

Sigma Phi Delta
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested



Find Us Online!



Chapter Website:
sigphis.org



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



Alumni Website:
spdillini.org



Facebook:
Sigma Phi Delta - Delta Chapter

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Aryan Budhiraja
Delhi, India

Levente Deak
Buffalo Grove, Ill.

Dev Desai
Wheeling, Ill.

Andrew Pressley
Wheaton, Ill.

WHY THEY JOINED

"Being at the house and chilling with brothers makes being an engineer seem less daunting and more exciting."

—Aryan Budhiraja

"It's a place I knew I'd love to spend the rest of college."

—Lev Deak

"I felt like everybody embodied the dynamic of 'work hard, play hard,' and that's something I strive toward. I felt like this would be a great environment for me to grow socially and academically."

—Dev Desai

Exciting Updates Await!

Is Your Contact Information Current?

Update your email today to stay in the know about Delta Chapter's exciting events and updates. From meaningful reunions to memorable events, your involvement means the world to our brotherhood, and we want to keep you in the loop.

Updating your information is easy—just send an email to updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com with the subject line "SPD Illinois Email Update."

Thank you for staying informed and involved!

Rest assured, your data is safe with us. We're all about reconnecting, not selling information.

Alumni News

Bob Ingram '60 lives in Sullivan, Ill., deciding to move back to Illinois after spending three years in California and 55 in Massachusetts. Bob is active in American Legion and often spends his time on house projects. Email: bcingram6@gmail.com

Gary Herridge '64 is retired in Washington, W.V. He still lives on 30 acres but has difficulty keeping up with work on his land. Gary helps edit Bible commentaries and teaches Bible classes for adults and teens. He is recovering from a heart attack in July 2023. Email: glherridge@live.com

What words come to mind when you think about Sigma Phi Delta?

"Fellowship, responsibility."

—Bob Ingram '60

"Cold dorm."

—Gary Herridge '64

"Engineering, friends (Gary Hunt '65), Bertha's good food."

—Roy Johnson '64

"Brotherhood, tradition, family."

—Michael Lynch '13