



Delta Dispatch

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

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

CELEBRATING AND SUPPORTING BROTHERHOOD

NIGHT AT THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS GAME

On the eve of the 97th anniversary of Delta Chapter's founding, alumni and family gathered at the United Center to cheer on the Blackhawks as they faced the Tampa Bay Lightning. The Hawks took an early lead, but the Lightning rallied to tie the game with seconds to go, eventually winning in overtime. The game was a rollercoaster of emotions, showcasing the resilience and competitive spirit of both teams. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the memorable experience.

ALUMNI/ACTIVE WORK DAY: IMPROVING OUR CHAPTER HOUSE

The spring quarterly meeting and annual Active/Alumni Work Day were held at the chapter house on March 29. This year's efforts focused on preparing the house for Mom's Day and ensuring a welcoming and well-maintained environment for all. The main project of the day was enhancing our front yard landscaping. Undeterred by rain (and unhindered by shirts), we weeded the beds, trimmed bushes, planted flowers, and added a fresh layer of mulch.

Inside the house, much-needed repairs and upgrades were completed. We installed new curtain rods in the living room and repaired sections of the living room flooring. In the dining room, we replaced damaged ceiling tiles, restoring the room's appearance, and ensuring a pleasant atmosphere for shared meals and gatherings. We extend our deepest gratitude to all the brothers who participated—your efforts truly made a difference!



Hanging around

Looking ahead, we are excited for future events and continued collaboration between alumni and actives. The summer meeting and officer elections will be held on **June 21**. Alumni Relations Chairman **Dino Tsoukatos '96** is also coordinating group ticket purchases for the Cubs and White Sox Illini nights. Stay tuned for updates on upcoming activities and, as always, thank you for your ongoing support of Sigma Phi Delta!



Fraternally,
Matthew Braun '94

President, Delta Alumni of Sigma Phi Delta
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Where did I put those bratwurst?



Wet work

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Thank You for Your Support

We appreciate the alumni listed below who have contributed to Delta Chapter since our last issue of *Delta Dispatch*. Your contributions are helping us prepare for a bright future on campus, and we are extremely grateful for your support.

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

Robert J. Beals Society

(\$50+ monthly/
\$600+ annually)
Brett Patterson *
Steven K. Denny '72 *
Jeffrey C. Schneider '78 *
Donald R. Buckner '89 *
Jennifer and Scott Doelling
In memory of
Jon Espenes

Russell C. Smith Society

(\$20 monthly/\$240 annually)
Matthew J. Braun '94 *
Christopher M. Newman '95
Erik N. Schultz '01 *
Jeffrey M. Leesman '03

Castle Level

(\$10 monthly/\$120 annually)
Jacqueline Edfors
In memory of
Jon Espenes

Chapter Room Level

(\$5 monthly/\$60 annually)
Duane W. Pick '57

Brotherhood Level

(Up to \$59 annually)

* Recurring
automatic donations

KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFO CURRENT WITH DELTA CHAPTER!

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

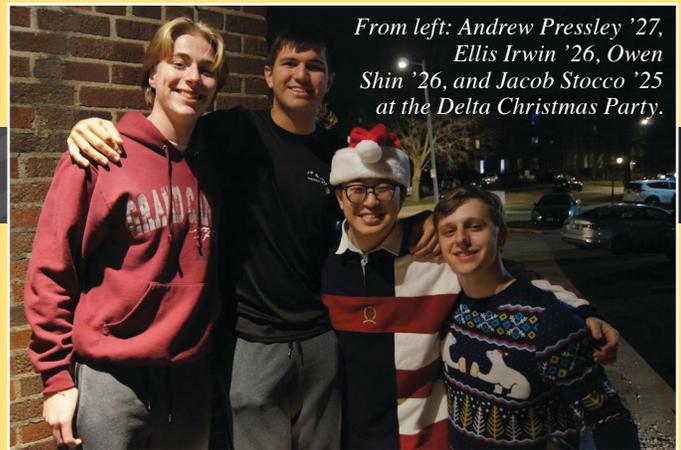


Send your address and email to updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com with "SPD Illinois Update" in the subject line.

Genuine Growth

DELTA BUILDS LASTING CONNECTIONS

Under the leadership of our recruitment chairmen—**Mitchell Wetherill '27**, **Nicholas Adam '28**, **Andrew Pressley '27**, and **Zach Perkins '26**—we kicked off the semester with a great recruitment season. Utilizing strategies recommended by Phired Up, a recruitment tool provided by Nationals, we focused on building meaningful connections not only at designated recruitment events but also in informal settings. With a large graduating class next year, we are excited to continue implementing these strategies in the fall.



From left: Andrew Pressley '27, Ellis Irwin '26, Owen Shin '26, and Jacob Stocco '25 at the Delta Christmas Party.



Lunch at Buffalo Wild Wings during Brotherhood Work Weekend.

The chapter house has been well maintained thanks to the expertise of our new house manager, **Peter Brennan '27**. Damaged ceiling tiles and lights in the basement have recently been replaced, giving the building a refreshed look. Additionally, the front of the house looks lovely after a spring cleanup, including a newly planted garden and fresh mulch. Our home's live-in membership has increased, fostering a stronger sense of community and enriching the house culture.

Our campus engagement and involvement has also been on the rise thanks to the leadership of Social Chairmen **Hrishi Kini '25** and **Jacob Stocco '25**. We have hosted numerous events with sororities, including AOE, PSR, and AXID, building connections with the wider Illinois Greek community. As I write this, we are excited for several spring philanthropy events as the weather warms up, such as a grill-out and volleyball tournament.

Our chapter's GPA is 3.32, higher than the all-male undergraduate GPA. Brothers have been accepting internship and full-time offers to companies such as John Deere, Apple, Nvidia, Amazon, AMD, and Millenium. With membership numbers on the rise, Delta is extremely motivated to continue our momentum, engagement, and success on campus!

Fraternally,

Josh Loomstein '26, Chief Engineer



Suited up for formal pledging. From left: Nathaniel McGough '26, Brent Alonzo '26, Corey Yu '26, David Adam '26, and Josh Loomstein '26.

Congrats, Graduates!

Hrishi Kini

Software Engineering at John Deere
hrishi.kini3006@gmail.com

Jacob Stocco

Rotational Engineering at IMI PLC
stocco.sfc.42@gmail.com

On the Right Track

Jacob Rajlich '21 Shares How SPD Shaped His Story

FINDING A HOME

When I started my freshman spring semester, I was looking to make more friends and get more involved with campus organizations. One day, I received an email from Sigma Phi Delta about their recruitment events. At first, I didn't take any action, but after suffering through a particularly bad dorm meal, I remembered that SPD was hosting a wing night. That was all the motivation I needed—I decided to stop by the house for their traditional "Game Night." The moment I walked in, I immediately connected with the guys and felt right at home.

SPD labels itself as a "social-professional fraternity," and that description couldn't be more accurate. The social aspect made my time in the fraternity unforgettable—I had an absolute blast living in the house with the guys for two years. But beyond that, SPD provided an incredible professional network. Collaborating with other undergraduates as engineers helped me grow academically and professionally. The exposure to alumni, who offered invaluable experience and advice, significantly influenced my career trajectory.

There are countless great memories from my time at SPD, but one of my favorite traditions was our chapter meetings. Getting everyone together weekly for dinner and then handling fraternity business was always a highlight. It was a perfect way to catch up, stay connected and, of course, round up friends for our regular Monday night trip to KAMS afterward.

CAREER AND GOALS

My decision to pursue civil engineering was heavily influenced by my grandfather, who was a civil engineer at Illinois and one of my biggest role models. I've also been fascinated by trains for as long as I can remember, so once I realized that railroads hired civil engineers, my mind was made up.

For the past four years, I have worked as a project engineer at Brightline, a high-speed railroad startup in Florida. I helped develop



the organization responsible for maintaining the railroad and supported maintenance operations to ensure our track and structures stayed in top condition. In May, I'll be starting a new role as an asset system analyst for Metra, Chicagoland's commuter railroad.

LIFELONG IMPACT

When I first joined SPD, I was a quiet and relatively uninvolved freshman. By the time I graduated, I had become much more outgoing, and I credit a lot of that to the fraternity. The daily social interactions and the leadership opportunities within the house pushed me out of my shell and forced me to engage more actively. That personal growth has paid off immensely, especially as I moved far away from friends and family to start my career.

I'll always have a special bond with my fellow pledge brothers from spring 2017: **David Budzik '21**, **Matt Mujumdar '19**, **Div Nagpaul '19**, and **Mason Rosenberg '20**. We were a small but mighty group, and growing up together was an amazing experience.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

I relocated from Orlando to Chicago in April. Outside of work, I'm a huge Illini fan and try to watch any and every game I can, across all sports. In my free time, I love playing in adult kickball leagues and dabbling in tournament poker. If you'd like to catch up, send me an email at jacob.rajlich@gmail.com.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chief Engineer
Josh Loomstein '26

Recruitment Chairmen
Zach Perkins '26
Andrew Pressley '27
Mitchell Wetherill '27
Nicholas Adam '28

Social Chairman
Hrishi Kini '25

Vice Chief Engineer
David Adam '26

Pledgemaster
Dev Desai '26

Assistant House Manager
and Network Chairman
Levente Deák '26

Chaplain
Cole Profitt '26

Risk Manager
Christopher Taylor '26

Philanthropy and
External Chairman
Hama Otry '25

Social Chairman
and Commissar
Jacob Stocco '25

Merchandise Chairman
Nathaniel McGough '26

Historian
Alex Luckett '27

EOH
Canyue Wang '26

Athletic Chairman
James Douglas '28

Business Manager
Andy Trujillo '27

Secretary and EOH
Sam Royer '27

Philanthropy Chairman
Owen Shin '26

Alumni News

John S. Perry '59 was pleased to visit the chapter house twice in the last year. First, during Founders Week, and later on, with his grandsons Aidan and James, his daughter, and his son-in-law, Mike, an Illinois graduate in civil engineering. "The brothers were most hospitable and encouraging, both toward Illinois engineering and SPD." John lives in La Grange, Ill. Email: johnperry3@mac.com

Glen A. Zumwalt '63 owned and operated three businesses: Big Pine Sports, Good Time Rentals, and Sand Cars. He sold them in 2013 and has since volunteered. Glen's organizations include the Silver Reef Foundation, Lions Club, and Tri State ATV Club. He's also a Trail Steward, overseeing public trails and cultural and historic sites. Glen lives in Leeds, Utah. Email: glenzum@gmail.com

Welcome
HOME

**WE'RE PUTTING OUT
THE WELCOME SIGN!**

**Know Someone Who
Should Be Here?**

We're always looking for promising young men to bring into Delta Chapter and would appreciate recommendations of men you know who would be a good fit.

Send their info to **David Adam '26** at dadam7@illinois.edu or **Josh Loomstein '26** at joshua48@illinois.edu.

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Find Us Online!



Chapter Website:
sigphis.org



Alumni Website:
spdillini.org



Facebook:
Sigma Phi Delta - Delta Chapter

*Welcome,
New Members*

Jack Lonigro-Carver '28
Wauconda, Ill.

Geoff Rechamp '28
Gilberts, Ill.

Adrian Vargas '28
Oak Park, Ill.

Chapter Goals



Continue expanding recruitment efforts to reach a larger audience.

Improve our connection with sororities and other organizations on campus to diversify our social events.

Organize innovative philanthropy events that give back to our community while fostering a strong sense of culture and service within our chapter.



Top: Spring break trip 2025 to the Great Smoky Mountains. From top left: Canyue Wang '26, Alex Luckett '27, Jacob Stocco '25, James Douglas '28, and Eric Liu '28. Bottom: From left: Jacob Stocco '25, Hrishini Kini '25, Andrew Pressley '27, and Geoff Rechamp '28 are the first four in line for Orange Krush!



**Your Gifts
Make a
Difference**

If you haven't already, please join our annual fund by scanning the QR code to visit spddeltachapter.causevox.com. Your support funds recruitment efforts, house maintenance, and more, guiding Sigma Phi Delta through highs and lows. Illinois Greek membership is improving, but inflation continues to present challenges.

We appreciate one-time donations, but recurring contributions are the most effective way to maintain your ongoing devotion to Sigma Phi Delta at the University of Illinois. You'll even be recognized with a cog distinction to further celebrate your consistent giving!

