



# THE SOONER DELT

## OF THE DELTA ALPHA CHAPTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Alumni Relations Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 | 607-533-9200

### House Corporation Update

Brothers,

Considering the current pandemic and chapter house fire, the last couple of months have been very eventful. This issue will cover that, once again, our Founders' Day dinner did not disappoint. On February 19, we celebrated the founding and current members of Delta Alpha. Thank you to all that attended and shared stories with our current members. We appreciate your support and are glad to see it increasing as we approach 100 years at the University of Oklahoma!

#### Alumni and Brotherhood Events

Calling all golfers! Prepare your carts accordingly, because on September 11, Delta Alpha will host the annual Alumni Golf Tournament at the Golf Club of Edmond. Come out and enjoy an afternoon with your Delta Alpha brothers while we celebrate another year and begin a new school year. Contact **Mike Johnston '88** (mjohnston@gobaker.com) to sign up.

#### Spring Rush

As the 2019–2020 school year comes to close, the members of Delta Alpha are gearing up for fall recruitment of pledge class of 2020 by gathering information on incoming freshman. If you know of an incoming freshman that fits the mold of an ideal Delt, please contact Mike Johnston '88 at mjohnston@gobaker.com. Additionally, if you would be interested in hosting a summer recruitment party where alumni and current Deltas can gather to meet with prospective pledges, let Mike know.

#### Brothers Still Needed!

The membership of Delta Alpha needs you! We still have several roles for alumni to fill throughout the organization of Delta Alpha. The house corporation is looking for more volunteers for its board of directors. The house corporation is vital to the success of the chapter. Members of the board meet once a month to discuss the ongoing goals of the chapter and any business matters that need to be addressed. If you are looking to help Delta Alpha by serving, please contact Mike Johnston '88 at mjohnston@gobaker.com.

The Alumni Advisory Committee is looking for more volunteers. The AAC was formed in 2017

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### Delta Tau Delta Shelter Fire – Breaking News!



Lightning struck our historic shelter resulting in a fire.

As many of you may know, our legendary shelter of 51 years was struck by lightning in the middle of the night on May 7, 2020, resulting in a fire. Thankfully, no one was inside at the time of the fire. As we examine the structure left behind in the rubble, we are determining our path forward. We will never forget all the great memories that have been made in this shelter since 1969, but we will be planning a strong, new building in which our brotherhood can continue. We are very optimistic for what the future holds. You will find pictures on pages three and four, along with sentiments from fellow brothers.

### Feasibility Study Update for Capital Campaign

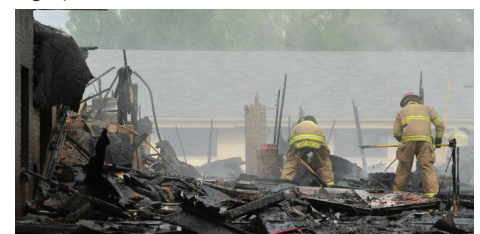
We are so grateful to you and all those who have participated in the recent feasibility study. Thank you so much for your input on the contemplated project to rebuild our historic shelter!

After receiving the results of the study, much discussion, and careful consideration, we are excited to announce that we are in the process of moving forward with a targeted campaign to rebuild our historic shelter. Over the coming months, we will be working closely with our consulting firm, Elevate, to begin a successful capital campaign. Please be on the lookout for more information as the campaign progresses.

If you are contacted by a representative from our campaign committee or Elevate, please try to find time in your schedule to meet with them. In addition, if anyone has questions regarding the campaign or wants to know how to

become a volunteer, please feel free to contact our campaign account manager, Haley Chrismon, at 607-533-9600 ext. 30328 or by email at hchrismon@elevateims.com.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Your input and support of Delta Alpha is very important and ensures that Delta Tau Delta will continue to preserve our legacy at OU!



Firefighters putting out the fire. East part of the shelter in rubble.

## A Message From the Chapter President



Eric Schoolcraft  
Chapter President

This semester has brought much excitement as well as much uncertainty for the members of Delta Alpha due to COVID-19. Our spring recruitment brought five promising new members to the chapter who will join our fall class. We had many mixers throughout the semester, including a mixer in Chi Omega. At the end of the semester, we had a hometown Austin for the week-end for our formal date party, thanks to the great work of our social chairman. Due to COVID-19, our members had to move out of the shelter early, as we were unable to return to campus after spring break. We were also unable to have a physical event for our philanthropy JDRE, and missed out on several planned events around campus, though there was a virtual JDRE One Walk held through social media. We are proud to say that our amount raised totaled \$15,535, which is the most out of all fundraising groups for the Oklahoma City chapter, and the most of all Delt chapters across the country. It was very disap-

pointing for our university, to be unable to be on-campus during the second half of the semester, which caused us to miss out on Mom's Weekend.

At the end of the fall semester, no members graduated but the chapter did see 14 brothers earn a 4.0 GPA, and many received recognition from the university for their academics. Senior **Del Perkins** received a place on the Dean's Honor Roll. This semester, we planned to implement a developmental program where upperclassmen would assist younger members with their resumes and help guide them in their pursuits within the professional world. We are extremely thankful to all of the support our alumni have provided during these unprecedented times. Thanks to you, the members of Delta Alpha continue to mature not only as men but as brothers, and I will be thrilled to see our chapter return to Norman after this pandemic settles down.

Fraternally,

*Eric Schoolcraft*  
Chapter President



President Eric Schoolcraft and sophomore Adam Maestas at the semi-formal in Dallas.

## Chapter Spotlight: James Thompson



James Thompson

***Editor's Note:** Representing the chapter as spotlight is brother **James Thompson**. James was selected for his stellar representation of our chapter on the Interfraternity Council. He is currently serving as the IFC president for the 2019-2020 term. From the hometown of Oklahoma City, he is a senior, part of the class of 2021, and is working towards a degree in criminology, minoring in criminal justice. Having served the chapter as pledge class president, academic chair, and homecoming director, he's also served on the IFC as chief justice from 2018 to 2019 and chief justice associate from 2017 to 2018. Outside of Delt, he was an OU Cousin, served CAC Spark as vice chair of operations for 2019-2020, served as vice chair of outreach for 2020-2021 for the 57th OU Presidents Leadership Class, was a George Lynn Cross Mentor from 2018-2019, and served on the OU CAC Mom's Day Executive Committee. He was also awarded the OU Outstanding Freshman 2017-2018 and the OU Campus Life Award Recipient for 2019-2020. He enjoys hanging with his pup and watching football.*

### What led you to join the chapter?

I was led to join this chapter, thanks to my buddy **Dillon Hyden**. We were good friends growing up and lived in the same neighborhood. He took me under his wing during OU and showed me what Delta Tau Delta was all about.

### Which position with the chapter do you feel you accomplished the most as?

Although it was only my first semester as a brother, I was proud to be the pledge class president. I am most grateful for the friendship and memories I made in this position. This was my first leadership opportunity in the chapter. In this position, I got to know the older members and enjoyed connecting with other members in our brotherhood.

### Who is your inspiration to you and how?

My mom has been an inspiration to me. She has showed me what being a hard worker is all about. I am inspired by the way she cares for me and my sister.

### How would you like to apply your degree after graduation?

After graduation, I would like to pursue an education in legal studies. I am interested in learning about the legal field as a whole, and I'm excited to see where it takes me.



Thompson with brother Tanner Brooks dressed for army themed social.

## House Corporation Update

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to help guide Delta Alpha and its membership as well as influence the incoming pledge classes. I am proud to say that under the leadership of **Matt Akins '13** and **Jim Gregory '69**, the former ASC continues to mentor and provide advice to the membership of the chapter! The AAC is being led by Chapter Advisor **Jay Davis '92**, and they are seeking brothers to join the committee. If you are interested in serving on the AAC, please contact Jay Davis '92 at [jayh.davis@ge.com](mailto:jayh.davis@ge.com) to find out how you can best help Delta Alpha! The term limits are short but the impact you will have on young Delts will be longstanding. More Delt, Less Self!

Fraternally,

Tyler D. Crowe '14

House Corporation Correspondent

[tcrowe@ballmorselowe.com](mailto:tcrowe@ballmorselowe.com)



Brothers Liam Hunt and Jaylen Johnson with brother Thompson.

## Update on Chapter Shelter Fire

Our legendary shelter of 51 years in Norman, Oklahoma, was struck by lightning in the early morning hours of May 8, 2020, resulting in a fire at 2:30 a.m. We are thankful that no one was inside at the time of the fire.

Fire trucks from three companies showed up in a valiant effort to put out the fire. The east part of the shelter is totally gone. The west part, including 38 bedrooms, was not consumed by the fire thanks to the fire walls, but have extensive smoke and water damage. The fire restoration company has secured the perimeter and is beginning the clean-up and water mitigation.

Throughout our discovery, a majority of the chapter memorabilia has been lost, such as chapter portraits, alumni and award plaques, The Friendly Delt, and the John Nichols portrait.

We will be working with the appropriate author-

ities to ensure the best-case scenario and outcome for our shelter. As the property is examined by professionals, we will be discussing our path forward. Coincidentally, the House Corporation Board received the results of our feasibility study completed earlier this year. As you may know, this study considered the option of rebuilding our historic shelter.

After receiving positive results from the study, much discussion, and careful consideration, we are excited to announce that we are in the process of moving forward with a targeted campaign to rebuild our historic shelter. Over the coming months, we will be working closely with our consulting firm, Elevate, to begin a successful capital campaign. Please be on the lookout for more information as the campaign progresses.

We will never forget all the great memories that have been made in this shelter since 1969, but we

will be planning a strong, new building in which our brotherhood can continue. We are very optimistic for what the future holds.

Looking ahead to the fall semester, the board is working on living arrangements for 61 members moving in this fall. Summer recruitment has already been canceled due to COVID-19, and, most likely, all formal recruitment in the fall will be as well.

On a more personal note, the shelter was home to so many great memories. I encourage you to reminisce on the great times and friends that were made in the shelter. It will truly be missed. Thank you to everyone that has reached out! We will inform you when we have an updated plan. Stay safe and healthy.



East part of the shelter has been destroyed by the fire.



Firefighters work to put out the fire.



Fire burning during the early hours of May 8, 2020.

“ Here are some words that can conjure up volumes of memories from my days at the shelter: Sooner Scandals, Pledge Courts, Mom Millie, The Friendly Delt, Delt Dive, North and South Wings, Rush, The Quad, friends and brothers, etc. ”

“ One of my favorite memories of the shelter was the day we found a pile of old keys. I do not recall where we found them or why, but they literally unlocked a mystery and some undiscovered treasure. We had two doors in the dining hall that had not been opened in years and these keys opened those doors. They led to closets filled with composites that were, at that time, 20 or more years old. We also found all kinds of sterling silver Delt serving dishes that dated back to the original shelter at OU. We locked up the sterling quickly but took the old composites to be framed. We then lined the walls of the house with some true history. Sadly, those composites and whatever else might have been in those closets were likely all destroyed when the shelter was lost. ”

-Blake Beeler '98

“ From being volunteered for secretary to becoming president, Delt continually taught me leadership and forever became a home in my life. ”  
 -Kevin Helm '19

“ My year of living in the shelter was by far the best and most memorable that I had in college. The memories and brotherhood will last my lifetime. ”  
 -Zech “Pinto” Snyder PC '12

“ More Delt, Less Self. ”

“ Some of my favorite memories would have to be of me and my brothers working so hard in the library to continue to be first in grades. Also, all of the crazy times in the courtyard, and I'll leave it at that. Everyone will have their own great memories but almost all are in that courtyard. RIP. ”  
 -Chandler Welbourne '18, PC '14

“ God bless Delta Tau Delta. ”



Fire trucks from three companies showed up to put out the fire.



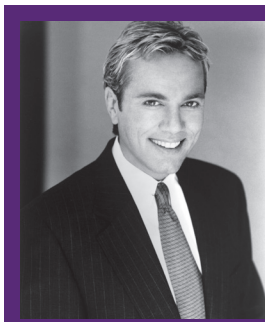
View from the front of house as firefighters put out the fire.

“ My fondest memories of my time spent at OU revolve around my pledge year (1974-75) and the tight bonds made with my pledge brother, which have endured for over 45 years! As one can imagine, we spent a lot of time in the shelter due to all of our pledge requirements (diplomatically put). We all grew to truly love that house. ”  
 -Rob Berry '78

“ The tragic loss of our shelter is heartbreaking to all of us. I lived in the house from 2010-2013. Some of my favorite memories include the infamous Me-kong courtyard pre-party of '09, playing Phi-Delt golf, courtyard boxing, turtle racing, and shooting fireworks from the courtyard when Osama Bin Laden was killed. Delt Dive and the Deltona 500 were also great events at the house. The house may be gone, but our brotherhood will endure forever. SHFBFL ”  
 -Koby Lawson PC '09

“ The shelter at 1320 College Lane may be gone, but the memories made, friendships gained, and lessons learned there will live with me forever. ”  
 -JRM '74

## Alumni Spotlight: Greg Julian '80



**Editor's Note:** Representing the alumni as a spotlight is brother **Greg Julian '80**. From the hometown of Valliant, Oklahoma, Greg graduated with a Bachelor's in business administration, followed by Juris Doctorate. Having been an active chapter member while at OU, he received the Gold Letzeiser Medal after being selected by a committee of students, faculty, and staff on the bases of leadership, scholarship, and service to the community. He represented the chapter as “Big Man On Campus,” and was awarded Top Ten Freshmen Men. He would currently like to shoutout the following charities: Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, Delta Tau Delta Educational Foundation (Order of the C), Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Tower Cancer Research Foundation, University of Oklahoma College of Law, Father Flanagan's Boys' Town, and the Los Angeles Mission.

### What did you enjoy most as an active chapter member?

I enjoyed establishing my first “home away from home” with an outstanding group of men who became brothers, many of whom I remain in regular contact with, notably my roommate, brother Paul St. John, along with brothers Mark Driscoll and Chris McCoy.

### What has been the most pivotal moment in your career?

The pivots came at “jumping off points,” such as jumping into my first law firm (whose partners set the tone for my life as a lawyer), making the leap to Los Angeles, then the leap into the entertainment business.

Every time, I had to take leaps of faith into unfamiliar waters to get myself to the next level of my career.

### How did you get into your current industry?

Through the side-door, since I had no contacts in entertainment when I moved to California, and then worked as hard as possible to get my shot. When opportunity knocked, I was paying attention and I answered. I have worked in the legal division at MGM since 1999. I now am the senior vice president, legal division.

### What is your typical day like?

It starts at 6 a.m. and ends at about midnight in the same way—checking email. Between those hours,

I get to lead a team of super competent, super nice men and women, helping to manage the vast MGM library. This work involves calls with movie producers, their lawyers, executives from the other studios and networks, and drafting and negotiating agreements for the licensing of movies and television programs.

### What advice can you give the brothers about perseverance?

Every challenge brings with it a corresponding opportunity for growth. When you are presented with a challenge, stay focused on what it is that must be done and, most importantly, what you are learning from the difficulty. Learn the lesson and move forward, stronger for the experience. Keep your face to the sunshine and keep the faith.

### Of all the places you have been to, which location did you enjoy most?

I have loved traveling to, or living in, New York City, London, and Paris, all for different but significant reasons. While Los Angeles is where I make my home and do my work, the red clay and people of Oklahoma are always a gravitational pull.

## 2020 Social Update

by Bret Vanice, Social Chairman

The 2019–2020 school year started off in a thrilling fashion. We began the year with a very memorable bid-day welcoming the 2019 pledge class. In September, we saw even more action with Dad's Day and our biggest date party, Delt Recon. We were lucky enough to book musician Waka Flocka Flame to perform, who came through despite a foot injury.

Not long after, we were all in Dallas for the OU versus Texas game. After a couple hiccups, everything was settled at the hotel and everyone enjoyed two great nights and a great game in downtown Dallas. The semi-formal date party was also a big success. It was great seeing everybody, from seniors to freshmen, together.

It was a great semester socially and overall. Our chapter is excited to keep the ball rolling in 2020!



Sophomore Liam Hunt, junior James Thompson, and sophomores Jackson McCormick and Jaylen Johnson at our Delt Recon date party.



Sophomore Bryson Monroe and his dad, Jamey.

## Philanthropy Corner

by Andrew Hoang, Philanthropy Chairman



Some of the members of PC '19 after their initiation.

The fall semester of the 2019–2020 school year was not as eventful as usual, due to our national philanthropy JDRF One Walk being moved to April. We had events planned for the spring that we were unable to host due to COVID-19. This semester featured OU's Soonerton, but we were unable to host Big Event and Relay for Life. While raising money for these, Delt continued to fundraise for JDRF by doing things like selling roses on Valentine's Day around campus, and our philanthropy committee had charity events with Chipotle and other Norman businesses scheduled for April. Member Will Knight raised an incredible \$10,000 for JDRF, and we hope that the chapter can break another fundraising record going forward.



Sophomore PC '18 members Jared Ashcraft, Chance Nixon, Lucas Martin, and Sam Lee enjoying themselves at a tailgate.



Sophomore PC '18 members Bryson Munroe, Travis Kelly, Adam Maestas, Jacob Primo, Logan Krings, Braeden Hudson, and Vice President Sal Moreno after decorating the courtyard

# Have Alumni News?

**We want to hear from you!** Send your personal updates, accomplishments, adventures, and photos to our account manager, Haley Chrismon, at [hchrismon@elevateims.com](mailto:hchrismon@elevateims.com), or simply fill out the back of the enclosed gift form and return it in the mail. We want to share it in the next issue of *The Sooner Delt!*



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**Join Our Facebook Group!**  
 Search for: Delta Alpha – Delta Tau Delta Alums  
 Questions? Contact Mike Johnston at [mjohnston@gobaker.com](mailto:mjohnston@gobaker.com)

## Delta Alpha's New Website

The Delta Alpha Chapter of Delta Tau Delta is pleased to announce its new website:

### SOONERDEL.TORG

We have launched this new website to enable better communication among brothers and to help us all stay in touch. We're excited to invite you to register today!

**Get your login!** The new website requires all users to register as new users, so please register today! During registration, you will be asked to provide current contact information so that we can update our records. Your Delta Alpha Chapter membership will be verified, and you will then receive a password to access the site. Once your registration is completed, we ask that you review and update your profile (see My Profile under the Profile tab). You'll see that you can control the contact/biographical info that others see. You can also access your gift history on the Giving page, submit news, share photos, search for fellow alumni, and so much more!



#### The new website features:

User info management • Personal giving history • Alumni directory • Event registration with attendee lists • Alumni spotlights • News and events • Recruitment info and more!

It's a fantastic website, but we need more great content to make it even better! Got photos? Send them along and we'll build some more galleries! Got news about other brothers or yourself? We want to hear from you! Let's do this!

## Leadership

### Chapter Officers

#### Chapter President

**Eric Schoolcraft '21**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
[john.e.schoolcraft-1@ou.edu](mailto:john.e.schoolcraft-1@ou.edu)  
405-684-5912

#### Vice President

**Sal Moreno '22**  
Keller, Texas

#### Director of Member Development

**JT Bray '22**  
Edmond, Oklahoma

#### Treasurer

**Patrick Brockwell '22**  
Vienna, Virginia

#### Director of Standards

**Ryan Finnegan '22**  
Sugar Land, Texas

#### Secretary

**Zach Dillon '22**  
Edmond, Oklahoma

#### Recruitment Chairman

**Nic White '22**  
Edmond, Oklahoma  
405-388-1422  
[nwhiteokc@gmail.com](mailto:nwhiteokc@gmail.com)

#### Risk Manager

**Charlie Koscinski '23**  
Chicago, Illinois

### House Corporation Officers

President <b>Mike Johnston</b>	Treasurer <b>Paul Jackson</b>
Vice President <b>Fred Gist</b>	Secretary <b>Dan Vann</b>
Vice President <b>Chris Burlison</b>	Correspondent <b>Tyler Crowe</b>

### Chapter Advisor Group

Jay Davis

Sam Donley