



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,

Goodbye 2020 and Hello 2021! There is a lot of work to do and now that COVID-19 cases are trending downwards with the distribution of at least three vaccines, the students will be able to return to some sort of normalcy. In-person classes, sold-out football games, Mom and Dad's Days, tailgates, etc.

DELTA ALPHA FOUNDER'S DAY 100TH CELEBRATION

February 22, 2022 is our 100th anniversary. We are planning a big celebration in Norman at the Embassy Suites on February 19. It is early in the process but the plan will be to have some activities on Saturday afternoon followed by a dinner celebration that night. If you want to help plan this event please contact me sooner than later; my wife would love the help.

DELTA ALPHA CHAPTER

The fire marshal told me on the morning of the fire that at least one good thing came out of COVID-19 – there wasn't anyone in that house when the lightning struck. We avoided a huge disaster and I thank God every day for that! Then I saw the grade report for spring 2020 and we posted a university leading 3.55%. They followed that up with a solid 3.25% this last fall. Great job by these young men!

DELTA ALPHA FUTURE

One of the biggest benefits of having a new house is rush. We will be signing the first class that will live in the new house this fall. We are going to take this opportunity and put more resources (alumni) to work to make sure we do this right. If you know any good candidates attending OU this fall, get us their contact information as soon as possible so we can get a jump start on recruiting them.

Right now is a great time to get involved. We have so many positive things going on and we need to make the most of it. We need better alumni communication, new Housing Corporation members, more alumni advisors and volunteers, more donors, etc. The list is endless. In my humble opinion, this chapter has the potential to be what we all remember it being when we were there.

To get there, we have to get more of you involved. So, accept this challenge and step up—volunteer, donate some money, call some pledge brothers you haven't talked to in a while, but most importantly: **DO SOMETHING!**

I look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Mike Johnston '88
President, Housing Corporation

Shelter Update: Groundbreaking Event



The remaining shelter has been torn down and dirt work began on February 22 after a slight weather delay (Thanks 2021!). We have finalized the plans and budget and expect to be finished in about 14 months. The members will move in August 2022 in time for formal rush and the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester. We will be updating our website, www.soonerdelts.org, on a regular basis, so be sure to register and stay up to date. We held a groundbreaking celebration on Saturday, March 27, at noon. Around 40 brothers, representing eras from 1962 to 2015, were in attendance.



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Alumni Spotlight: Rob Berry & the Pledge Class of 1974



Taken in the Dining Room, Fall 1974. We were all so young and naïve! Only three in this picture did not make it – the rest of us survived to tell the tale!

Editor's Note: Representing the Pledge Class of 1974 as a spotlight is brother Robert O. Berry '78. From the hometown of Tulsa, OK, Rob graduated with a BS in petroleum engineering. Having been an active chapter member while at OU, he held the pledge class president position, and has led the communication and reunions for his class to this day. As the owner and president of G.R.B. Resources, Inc., he is specialized in oil and gas engineering consulting and production. Rob is an Elder and Deacon at the 1st Presbyterian Church of Tulsa and also serves Rotary Club of Tulsa as the chair of the Above and Beyond Awards. Rob and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 42 years and they have one child, Lara Barragan (Dallas, TX) and two grandchildren, Blakely (age 8) and Caroline (age 6).

What did you enjoy most as an active chapter member?

When we entered our year of pledgship in fall of 1974, none of us had any real idea of what was in store. We were so naïve! Pledging in those days was much more rigorous and time-consuming than today. Throughout the fall and into early March 1975 (initiation), our class created a bond that has not been severed to this day.

What was the most pivotal moment in your adult life?

I would say there are two moments. First and foremost, my marriage to my bride of 42 years. Lisa was a member of Pi Beta Phi, so she was basically across the street. We dated through most of our college years so most of her sorority sisters became good friends and are friends to this day. Second, in 1992, I was asked to join a consulting group to Western Siberia, Russia for a look at potential oil and gas opportunities. This was six months after the breakup of the Soviet Union and it was wild and wooly! This pivotal moment turned into years of fascinating travel and business throughout the former Soviet Union and grew into many years of work in Azerbaijan, where I still have friends to this day. The incredible experiences at that time of my life cannot be enumerated.

Why are you passionate about keeping everyone in your pledge class so connected?

I became active on my high school's reunion committee starting with our ten-year reunion. It was so enjoyable that I thought it would be a good idea to get our pledge class together. With most of us graduating and leaving OU in 1978, we organized what we called a "10-Year Pledge Class Reunion" in 1988. With no cell phones, no internet, no e-mail, and no Facebook, tracking everyone down took some effort but laid the groundwork for future reunions. Our next one was in 2006 and it proved to be highly successful with a large turnout. Unfortunately, a pledge brother passed away in 2016 and perhaps, feeling our own mortality, several suggested it was definitely time again. The 2017 reunion that stemmed from that was so successful we felt it was important to have these reunions every two to three years. This led to our most recent one in the fall of 2019.

How do you all stay in touch today?

Predominantly e-mail. We painstakingly found active e-mail addresses for every living pledge brother (save one). When a broadcast goes out, invariably, someone will make a funny reminiscing comment, the dam breaks, and we are back in college again and here come all the great retorts! Facebook has also been helpful to keep up with each other's lives in more recent years.

What is a typical reunion like?

Obviously, another love we all share is Sooner football; therefore, we choose an away game weekend in the fall so Norman is not as crowded. We book a block of rooms for those out-of-town and



Spring 1975 Formal Party: Taken shortly after we were initiated – obviously in a celebratory mood!



2006 Reunion: Friday night group

arrive on Friday morning. Weather permitting, we get a group together for golf on Friday and then everyone meets up that night. We meet at local brothers' homes and also Campus Corner hotspots. Saturday morning we try to have arrangements made to drop by the Shelter to see it for those that have not been back to Norman for quite a while. After game watch time at a local brother's home it's back on the town for Saturday night. Over the years we have done some events with spouses included but have found we really want to just visit with each other so that has gone by the wayside (the women understand). Our goal is for 20-25 brothers at each reunion (we still have 35 living). We will continue to organize these every two to three years as we are not getting any younger and feel this is particularly important in our lives.

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2017 Reunion: Game Day Group

Class of 1974 (Continued from Previous Page)



2019 Reunion: Friday night group – the "graying" of Class!

Looking back, which was the most memorable reunion?

They are all memorable! This last one (2019) we had a few guys that had not been able to make any of the prior events, so it was outstanding to see them after all these years. That very first reunion in 1988 was much like a high school 10-year reunion with everyone sharing their about busy lives and new families. Today, we are just glad to be healthy and alive! We have an accomplished and diverse group of guys and, more importantly, everyone has something interesting to contribute to our shared experiences.

Why do you think we all need to support rebuilding the shelter?

Our shelter had served us well for almost 50 years! However, in recent years, many in our class have been stunned at the "arms race" of houses

on South Greek. We reviewed some of the prior renovation plans but were concerned that was putting a band aid on the issue. The tragic fire of May 2020 created the opportunity to do what we had known for a long time needed to be done. It was time for a new Shelter! Since we already had our own network, it was simple to get the word out. We looked at the naming opportunities and thought there was probably something we could do collectively as a class. What surfaced was the brilliant idea to name the new moms' apartment in honor of our house mom Missy Hargon, who died in a tragic house fire with her daughter and her granddaughter in early 1983. She was house mom for just eight years, but the church was full to overflow capacity at her funeral as a testament to how beloved she truly was. You see, when our class pledged in the fall of 1974, we had no house mom. Let us just say that formal meals were somewhat hell on wheels without the oversight of a house mom! When Missy came to us for the spring semester, we were so grateful and showed our appreciation to her. We were her "babies" and her first

class of new members. There was a special bond that developed with her. When we put out the word within our class that this was our goal, it was an easy ask. To date, our class has contributed approximately \$120,000 to the capital campaign.

THE PLEDGE CLASS OF 1974 IS CHALLENGING YOU AND YOUR CLASS!

C'MON MAN – IT'S THE DELTA! If our class can have this kind of commitment, then yours can too! We already have other pledge classes rallying together. For details of how to step up to the challenge, please contact our campaign project manager, Haley Chrismon, at hchrismon@elevateims.com.



Wedding pic with Missy: A Pledge Buddy's wedding with many of our brothers along with Mom Missy. She was invited to many a wedding.

A Message from Undergraduate President, Sal Moreno



This last semester has proven to be challenging for our members, as expected, due to it being our first couple of months on campus without a house in addition to dealing with COVID-19. Nevertheless, our members are doing their absolute best with the cards we've been dealt, especially knowing that the Delta Alpha chapter has a bright future with the incredible new house. First, we signed 23 promising new members during fall rush. They have been recently initiated into brotherhood after being guided through an eight-week new member program by brothers **Kyle Walker '19** and **Will McCoey '19**, who now serve as executive officers. Additionally, one of many bright new members is **Henry Genez '20**, who was recently elected as the new assistant treasurer and will be working alongside our new treasurer Christopher Craig '18.

Due to the University of Oklahoma's policy on social events for Greek organizations during CO-

VID-19, we were unable to host an official social this last semester. Regardless, most of our members travelled to Dallas, Texas independently to watch our beloved Sooners beat the University of Texas in one of the best Red River Showdowns of all time. Our social team has been hard at work during the last few months planning various social events for the semester when the ban on social events is eventually uplifted by the university.

Lastly, as everyone knows, JDRF has been a massive priority for our chapter. We're very lucky to be able to make a great impact on such an incredible organization. To say our members are proud would be an understatement. The main goal of our philanthropy team this year is to host a variety of successful fundraising events throughout the spring semester and surpass our previous year's fundraising



Delta Alpha's 23 New Members.

total of over \$15,000. We truly appreciate all the support and encouragement we have been receiving over the past six months during these uncertain times. With your guidance, we are being taken in the right direction and I cannot wait to see the things our chapter will accomplish in the next two semesters.

Fraternally,
Sal Moreno (PC '18)
Delta Tau Delta, President

Chapter Spotlight: Bennett S. Hall

Editor's Note: Representing the chapter as a spotlight is brother Bennett S. Hall. From the hometown of Sugar Land, TX, Bennett is a senior, part of the class of 2021 and is working towards his B.S. in petroleum engineering. Having served the chapter as House Manager and Sergeant at Arms, he was also the New Student Liaison for SPE (Society of Petroleum Engineers). Bennett interned with Chaparral Energy in OKC, OK and also with XTO Energy (ExxonMobil) in Williston, ND.



What led you to join the chapter?

After meeting all the guys during formal rush, I joined the chapter my freshman year. From the beginning, they were very inviting, and they seemed like a group I would genuinely enjoy being around.

Looking back, what is your favorite memory in the chapter so far?

Definitely going to the 2018 Big 12 Championship! We were so excited for the game. The fun didn't end. We returned to Norman even more excited to celebrate after winning.

Favorite memory at the shelter?

Home football game tailgates. Alumni,

parents, members, etc. would all be in the house and in the courtyard before kickoff. It was great to have everyone there before games. I can't wait until the new shelter gets built, so we can get together again like that.

What is a chapter memory that you are particularly proud of?

When our chapter raised the most money in the nation for JDRF, I felt really proud. As a member of the chapter I have really enjoyed all the events that we put on. From OU-Texas weekend events to the parents' weekends and alumni golf tournaments, they all are a great time.

Who is your biggest inspiration and how?

I would say that my mom and dad have to be the most inspirational people in my life as they have put so much time and effort into helping me get to where I am.

How would you like to apply your degree after graduation?

After graduation, I'd like to work as an engineer in the oil and gas industry. Considering the difficulty of entering the industry currently, I am considering graduate school, working towards an additional degree in some sort of analytics. A graduate degree in this field would be useful both inside and outside the industry.



Chapter Breakdown

Current Chapter Count - **137** Brothers
Chapter GPA from Fall 2020 - **3.2410**

Call for Volunteers

To succeed with the capital campaign and Shelter rebuild, we need each one of you to get involved. So, accept this challenge and step up – volunteer your time, donate some money, call some pledge brothers you haven't talked to in a while but most importantly: DO SOMETHING!

Please email hchrison@elevateims.com for more information on getting involved. Haley Chrison will be working with each of the volunteers to track their class's participation. The time is now!

Chapter Involvement During COVID-19

by **Will McCoy**, Director of Member Development

Prior to the 2020 fall school year, our chapter's house was destroyed by a fire. However, the new members of Delta Tau Delta's Oklahoma chapter brought a new light to a group of brothers in need. Our fall 2020 new member class brought excellence in and outside of the classroom. Our new member program maximized the potential in our rushees and created men of excellence.

The loss of intramural sports, homecoming, and various events on campus due to

COVID-19 made it tough to get our new members fully involved. Given these circumstances, our men rose above and found ways to get involved on campus through various organizations and groups. Our chapter is excited to see what the future holds for our new members.

Will McCoy (PC '19)

Delta Tau Delta,
Director of Member Development



Philanthropy Corner

By **Charlie Koscinski**, Vice President

The current pandemic has been a huge obstacle for the chapter's current fundraising goals. However, we have come together to find new ways to get around this obstacle. In the following semester, we plan on holding various events. We are going to have "Delt Dogs" at a house next to campus. This event involves an entry fee to the house, where you are surrounded by puppies from a local shelter. We plan on donating the proceeds to JDRF, a nonprofit organization that provides a broad array of services to people that are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. We have worked with JDRF for some time now and

also plan on raising money throughout the next semester.

Although COVID-19 has made in-person meetings difficult, we've met virtually on multiple occasions. This pandemic hasn't stopped the members from getting together and holding a chapter every week through Zoom. We also had the opportunity to initiate new members from last spring and this fall. We are very grateful that our fraternity has had the opportunity to still hold these events through these hard times.

Charlie Koscinski (PC '19)
Delta Tau Delta, Vice President



Left to Right: Douglas Adair (PC '18), Cliff Alshara (PC '18), Christian Martinez (PC '18) and Liam Nixon (PC '18).

Save the Date: Campaign Kick-Off





REBUILDING THE SHELTER FOR OUR FUTURE
CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN • DELTA TAU DELTA
Delta Alpha Chapter at the University of Oklahoma
Alumni Relations Office • P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 • 607-533-9200

Delta Alpha's Rebuilding the Shelter for Our Future: Centennial Campaign

JUNE 19th
in Norman, OK

Mark your calendars for the evening of June 19th for exciting Shelter announcements, class reunions and seeing old friends.

***** More details to come. Keep an eye on SOONERDELTA.ORG for RVSP details *****

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, 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!*



- facebook.com/oklahomadelts
- instagram.com/oklahomadelts/
- twitter.com/OUDeltaTauDelta

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

Ground Breaking Event

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We have settled the insurance claim to the tune of \$5,000,000. Our capital campaign has just begun and we have secured \$1,500,000 in pledges so far. The steering committee meets on a regular basis and we are getting ready to launch the next phase. **If you have interest in helping us raise money, let me know.** The budget for the project is \$10,700,000, which includes all of the construction costs as well as soft costs. Our goal is to raise enough money that we don't have to carry a mortgage going forward.



Leave A Legacy

Consider a lasting gift that will support Delta Tau Delta – Delta Alpha long after you are gone.

By including Delta Alpha in your estate plans, you ensure the long-term health and success of our fraternity. Here's what you and/or your adviser might need to know.

The most common ways to include Delta Alpha are through your will or life insurance.

Sample Language:

"I leave the sum of (\$xxxxxx.xx or xx% of my estate) to Delta Alpha of Delta Tau Delta House Corporation for their general purposes."

This information is not presented as legal or tax advice. Always consult your advisors for questions you may have.

Leadership

2021-2022 Chapter Officers

President

Sal Moreno
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Vice President

Charlie Koscinski
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Director Member Development

Will Mccoy
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Treasurer

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Rush Chairman

Camp Stalcup
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Sgt. at Arms

Ryan Finnegan
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 (281) 660-6035

Secretary

Jake Knight
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Assistant Treasurer

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 (832) 544-0296

Risk Manager

Bryson Munroe
brysonmunroe@gmail.com
 (214) 425-0244

House Corporation Officers

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| President Mike Johnston | Vice President Chris Burluson | Secretary Dan Vann |
| Vice President Fred Gist | Treasurer Paul Jackson | Correspondent Tyler Crowe |

Chapter Advisor Group

Jay Davis Sam Donley