



# THE SOONER DELT

Delta Alpha Chapter | Delta Tau Delta Fraternity | University of Oklahoma | Spring 2016

## HOUSE CORPORATION AND ALUMNI LEADERSHIP BRING NEW LIFE TO DELTA ALPHA

### How Will You Get Involved?

**D**elta Alpha Chapter of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity turned 94 years young on February 22! To have a continuous, significant presence on the OU campus for that period of time is a remarkable achievement, and one that we all should celebrate. Our chapter has more than 200 undergraduate members and over 1,500 active alumni. Thanks to the energy of our outstanding undergraduates and the dedicated service of several loyal alumni, Delta Tau Delta remains one of the top fraternities at OU.

I am pleased to report that the new alumni relations program we launched last fall has been very successful. We received numerous positive responses and we now have a much better list of contact information for our many alumni. Many thanks to the brothers who returned the biographical information sheet—we all enjoy finding out what our brothers have been doing since they moved out of the Shelter. Please send me an e-mail if you have any news that you would like to share with your friends and pledge brothers. We will do our best to continue making this newsletter something you look forward to reading.

The other reports in this issue show that our active brothers at OU are doing very well indeed. They continue to recruit new talent, including eight new pledges this spring. This is an unusually high number and is evidence that our traditions

and values continue to attract outstanding young men to Delta Alpha. Our chapter is active in intramurals, philanthropic events, numerous campus activities, and individual Deltas hold several leadership positions on campus. The spirit of Delta Tau Delta that had such a positive impact on all of us is alive and well in our Delta Shelter.

As we all know, the undergraduate chapter needs the support of the house corporation and our dedicated alumni in order to remain successful. Fortunately, two members have agreed to volunteer their time and join the board of directors of our house corporation. **Justin Manning, Delta Omicron '04**, a graduate of Westminster College, is the new treasurer of the house corporation after devoting seven years of service to Delta Alpha as chapter advisor. Justin has an accounting degree and works in the oil and gas industry with his family company, Te-Ray Resources, LLC. He also serves as the division vice president for the Western Plains Division of Delta Tau Delta, and has devoted countless hours to the success of Delta Alpha and several other Delta Tau Delta chapters. We are also excited to have **Mike Johnston '88** volunteer for the board. Mike lives in Oklahoma City and is a vice president with The Baker Group, one of the nation's largest independently owned securities firms that specializes in investment portfolio management

for community financial institutions. Mike held several leadership positions in Delta Alpha and he is looking forward to working with the men in the chapter. Justin and Mike are great additions to our board.

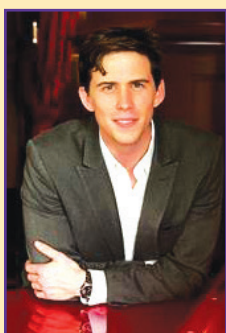
We are extremely pleased to announce that **Christian Pearson '13** is the new chapter advisor for Delta Alpha. We are confident that Christian's energy and enthusiasm will make him an outstanding leader and advisor for our undergraduate brothers.

Christian, Mike, Justin, and all the members of our advisory team and house corporation understand the true meaning of "More Delt, Less Self," and share a common goal: to give back to Delta Tau Delta by serving as mentors and role models for the young men of Delta Alpha Chapter. Many of the members have told me on numerous occasions that they would love to meet alumni and learn about the career choices and personal successes of the men who came before them and built Delta Alpha. I urge you to get involved. Please contact me or any of our advisory team members if you are interested in serving as a mentor.

Fraternally,  
**Fred Gist '73**  
House Corporation President  
fgist@hallestill.com

## Leading by Example

### Chapter Advisor Christian Pearson '13 Encourages Alumni to Reconnect



**W**hy did you decide to join Delta Tau Delta can be a difficult question, but for **Christian Pearson '13**, the answer comes easily. "I was sold on Delta Alpha from the moment I connected with members in the chapter," he says. "These men exemplified everything I hoped to become and more. They gave me some of my most cherished memories and friendships in the fraternity, and I couldn't be more proud to call them my brothers."

The profound experiences Christian had in Delta Alpha inspired him to stay connected to the fraternity by serving as

the chapter advisor. "As chapter advisor, I've come to realize how big of a deal it is to maintain my involvement with Delta Alpha and give back to the place that gave me so much," he says. "Former chapter advisors, such as **Fred Gist '73** and **Justin Manning, Delta Omicron '04**, set the example for true brotherhood and leadership through their dedication to the future of Delta Alpha, and this encouraged me to follow in their footsteps." Christian has high hopes for the chapter and is eager to put plans in motion for Delta Alpha's long-term success at OU. "It is my goal to help prepare undergraduate

(Continued on page 2)

# Carrying on the Delt Legacy

## Dan Evatt '74 Thankful for a Lifetime of Friendship and Support

**B**e flexible. Try new things. Only take appropriate risks. These are just a few of the important life lessons **Dan Evatt '74** gained throughout his experiences in Delta Tau Delta at OU. Being part of a family of Delts, Dan developed the fraternity's values early on and was destined to carry on the family tradition. "I instantly felt wanted and accepted by the men in the chapter. Coming from a small town, Delta Alpha was a silver lining for me and provided various opportunities to excel not only in the fraternity but also throughout the university. I wouldn't trade these experiences for anything."

As recruitment chairman, alumni relations chairman, and president of the Interfraternity



*Patty Evatt, Amanda Evatt Clayton, Katie Evatt, and Dan Evatt '74 attend an OU sporting event.*

Dan stays connected with several Delta Alpha brothers on a regular basis. He cherishes the lunches that he and five of his pledge brothers host in Norman every August, and he enjoys hearing their stories and experiences since graduating. Dan maintains his involvement with the chapter and served as Delta Alpha's alumni recruitment advisor for several years. He encourages alumni to remember their Delta Alpha roots and says, "Alumni support is the reason why Delta Alpha has remained on campus, and the years I served as chapter advisor provided me with invaluable experiences and lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Take time to give back to the chapter. You'll be glad you did."

After a fulfilling career with AT&T, Dan serves as the chief operating officer for Brainerd Chemical Company in Tulsa, which is Oklahoma's largest privately held chemical company. He and his wife, Patty, are active members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Tulsa and volunteer a great deal with local causes. They are also alumni volunteers for OU, and Dan is involved with several boards for the university. Dan and Patty have two daughters, Amanda and Katie, both of whom are fourth-generation OU graduates, and one grandson. "My grandson will be a fifth-generation OU graduate—he doesn't know this yet since he is only 18 months old, but it will happen!" he jokes. You can contact Dan at [devatt@brainerdchemical.com](mailto:devatt@brainerdchemical.com).

*"Alumni support is the reason why Delta Alpha has remained on campus, and the years I served as chapter advisor provided me with invaluable experiences and lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Take time to give back to the chapter. You'll be glad you did."*

Council, Dan was a zealous member from the start. "The unparalleled support and guidance I received from brothers encouraged me to pursue leadership opportunities, go outside of my comfort zone, and grow personally and professionally," Dan says. Aside from the brotherhood aspect of Delta Alpha, however, Dan found the size of the chapter to be the most valuable asset to the fraternity. "Our chapter continues to uphold its commitment to recruiting outstanding young men and, as a result, Delta Alpha has over 200 active members today. Our chapter has come a long way and I couldn't be more proud," he says.

## Leading by Example

*(Continued from page 1)*

brothers for the real world and inspire them to make a difference on campus and in the community. Being a member of Delta Alpha is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I want future generations to be provided the same opportunities I had."

As an alumnus, Christian's Delta Alpha roots remain intact and he maintains connections with **Matt Akins '13**, **Patrick Henning '13**, **Jared Paris '12**, and **Jeff Robertson '12**. Christian encourages alumni to contribute their time and efforts to Delta Alpha and says, "For many of us, our years in Delta Alpha were some of the best years of our life and, as alumni, it is our responsibility to be a driving force in

the continued success of our chapter. Alumni involvement serves as the backbone for Delta Alpha, and to ensure our chapter's prominent standing on campus, your involvement is critical."

Aside from his role as chapter advisor, Christian enjoys working in the financial industry and being a professional musician in Oklahoma City. He began his music career during his freshman year of college and takes pleasure in attending musicals, orchestra concerts, and jazz concerts. When he is not hard at work, you will likely find Christian playing sports, reading, or engaging in outdoor activities. You can contact Christian at [williamchristian.pearson@yahoo.com](mailto:williamchristian.pearson@yahoo.com).

*"For many of us, our years in Delta Alpha were some of the best years of our life and, as alumni, it is our responsibility to be a driving force in the continued success of our chapter. Alumni involvement serves as the backbone for Delta Alpha, and to ensure our chapter's prominent standing on campus, your involvement is critical."*





# DELTA ALPHA MAINTAINS STRONG FOOTING AT OU

## Chapter Boasts More than 1,800 Community Service Hours, 205 Active Members

Delta Alpha at the University of Oklahoma is making tremendous progress and we are solidifying our place on campus as a top fraternity through several different avenues. We placed among the top three for Homecoming, hosted a very successful philanthropic event, recruited two new pledge classes, and continue to excel in intramurals.

After struggling with our chapter GPA the last few semesters, we are back on top. Last fall, we boasted a 3.10 GPA, which placed our chapter sixth in academics. Active member GPA was also a 3.10, ranking fifth on campus. This was a 0.10 increase from last spring. We were proud to have 60 members, nearly one-third of our chapter, secure a spot on the Dean's List.

### Philanthropic Efforts Boost Chapter Morale

We successfully hosted our annual Delt Dogs philanthropic event. Over 100 members participated and we raised more than \$2,000 for our national philanthropy, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), and approximately \$1,500 for Second Chance, a local animal shelter. We plan to extend this tradition and raise even more money this semester. The men of Delta Alpha recorded over 1,800 hours of community service. Whether it was serving at Second Chance, the food bank in OKC, or participating in different community service projects offered by the university, our presence has been felt throughout the community.

### Membership on the Rise

We had the pleasure of signing 45 new members last fall. Our initiation rate was an outstanding 85% as we initiated 38 of the 45 new members. This spring, we signed eight new members and we hope to initiate all of them. There are 205 active members in Delta Alpha, which puts us in the top five largest fraternities at OU.

### Chapter Ranks among Top Three for Homecoming

Last fall, we placed third in Homecoming. A second-place finish for our float and a third-place ranking for our dance team highlighted our success. This is the second year in a row that Delta Alpha has placed among the top three chapters during Homecoming.

### Brothers Take the Court by Storm

Another area we experienced great success



*Delta Tau Delta and Alpha Phi perform at Sooner Scandals on Mom's Weekend.*

in was intramural sports. Our new member team finished second in the freshmen football league, our in-house teams placed third and fourth respectively in the fraternity league, and **John Tonielli '14** won the intramural tennis championship. We are in the middle of basketball season and have several teams in the playoff hunt.

### Dad's Day Golf Tournament Raises More than \$2,500

Along with university-sponsored events, Delta Alpha hosted successful alumni and parent events. Our Dad's Day golf tournament raised more than \$2,500 dollars and was the first golf tournament we've had for Dad's Day. With the success of our Sooner football team, we were able to sponsor our first alumni tailgate in several years. Over 50 alumni came back to the Shelter to spend some quality time with members and cheer on our Sooners.

### Setting Goals for the Future

It is a great time to be a member of Delta Alpha and the last few semesters have been a testament to the quality of men that we are signing. Our members value their grades and reputation on campus and have made being chapter president very rewarding. We have set our goals high for the upcoming semesters to ensure our success. Our chapter has implemented systems in academics, philanthropic efforts, and community service to improve these already successful areas of our fraternity. Thank you for your involvement at Delta Alpha; the support you offer is priceless. Please feel free to stop by the Shelter to visit or serve with our outstanding men. We would love to have you!



Fraternally,  
**Mason Orr '17**  
Chapter President  
masondeanorr@aol.com

## Chapter Officers

President  
**Mason Orr '17**  
Bartlesville, Okla.  
masondeanorr@aol.com

Internal Vice President  
**Jackson Blankenship '18**  
Lubbock, Texas

External Vice President  
**Samuel McDonald '18**  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Sergeant-at-Arms  
**Joshua Stanciu '18**  
Norman, Okla.

Treasurer  
**Patrick Herzberger '17**  
Kingwood, Texas

Assistant Treasurer  
**Rhett Wallis '19**  
Edmond, Okla.

Recording Secretary  
**Luke Snowden '19**  
Coppell, Texas

Corresponding Secretary  
**Kevin Helm '19**  
San Antonio, Texas

## Welcome, New Members

**Jack Caldwell '19**  
Edmond, Okla.

**Jack Cremen '19**  
Colleyville, Texas

**Aidan Habenicht '19\***  
Austin, Texas  
(Cousin **John Habenicht, Zeta Sigma '17**)

**Chase Huckeby '19**  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

**Kevin McKenna '19**  
York, Maine

**Tanner Rowland '19**  
Shawnee, Okla.

**Carter Swanson '19\***  
Ardmore, Okla.  
(Uncle **Trent Swanson, Delta Chi '93**)

**Jake Thornton '19**  
Norman, Okla.

\*Legacy; relative in parentheses

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Charles "Tom" Denner '55** entered Chapter Eternal on August 28, 2015, at the age of 82. He served two years in the Navy as a lieutenant junior grade aboard the Battleship USS Wisconsin and was discharged in 1957. Tom was an active member of the Alva Presbyterian Church and the Alva Rotary Club, and served on many boards and councils. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; son, John; and three grandchildren.

**Richard E. Dixon '58** entered Chapter Eternal on September 16, 2015, after a long illness. He lived most of his life in Duncan, Okla. Richard is survived by his wife, Sheila, two children, and five granddaughters. He is missed dearly by family, friends, and Delta Alpha brothers.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Charles L. Moon '48** retired in Arcata, Calif., after a fulfilling career in Humboldt State University's music department and took up faceting as a hobby. "One of my gemstone faceting designs won the United States Faceters Guild's international faceting competition," he boasts.

**Richard D. Teubner '51** resides in Tulsa, Okla., and is an active member of the local First Presbyterian Church. His first wife, Barbara, passed away in 1985, followed by the passing of his second wife, Marion, in 2009. Richard has two married children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. E-mail: rteubner@rcins.com

**Paul A. Weber Jr. '56** served in the Navy after graduating from OU in 1956. Paul went on to work for Humble Oil and the Sandia Laboratory after finishing graduate school at Georgia Tech University. Paul and his wife, Margaret, who is a Tri Delta alumna from the University of Tennessee, have lived in Atlanta, Albuquerque, and Houston since 1965. Paul was the founder and first president of System Development Inc. in 1989, which specializes in instrumentation and software for the exploration industry. After a fulfilling career with SDI, Paul retired in 2008. Paul and Margaret have two children, Andy and Molly, and four grandchildren. In his spare time, you can find Paul hunting, fishing, and traveling. E-mail: pawebertx34@att.net

**Gerald R. Marshall '57** is 81 years old and serves as treasurer for the city of Nichols Hills in Oklahoma. E-mail: jerry.marshall@hotmail.com

**F. Warren Moore '58** and his wife, Pat, a former chapter president of Pi Beta Phi at OU, celebrated their 51-year wedding anniversary in Williamsburg, Va. "Life has been very good to us and the Delts are part of that reason. Thank you very much for a great life," he says. E-mail: wmoore48@cox.net

**James C. Morgan '59** lives in The Villages, Fla., and welcomed his first grandson in November



# THE SOONER DELT

Delta Alpha Chapter of Delta Tau Delta  
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**ATTENTION:** *This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Oklahoma, he will receive a copy at the house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.*

2015. He enjoys spending winters in Florida and summers in North Carolina, and is proud to be a cancer survivor.

**Gerald F. Barnett '65** happily retired after a fulfilling 47-year career in the banking industry. He travels often and spends quality time with his friends and family. Gerald and his wife, Linda, have five grown children and love attending OU sporting events together. E-mail: ideallinda@cox.net

**Gerald Bednar III '66** still attends OU football games with **Mike Buchanan '64**. Gerald and four of his Delta Alpha brothers have a birthday dinner club to reconnect and stay up to date with each other's personal and professional endeavors. He attends NWCHS class reunions, OKC town hall lectures, and Men's Dinner Club lectures. Gerald takes pleasure in spending holidays in Oklahoma City with family members.

**Charles W. White '72** relocated to Lake Tahoe but spends winters in San Diego. Charles enjoys the Lake Tahoe wildlife, mountain biking, kayaking, golfing, painting, and woodcarving. E-mail: chaswhitemd@gmail.com

**Albert R. Ashwood '81** serves as director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency

Management. He and his wife, Cindy, have two children, Donald and Rachel, and live in Chandler, Okla. E-mail: albert.ashwood@sbcglobal.net

**Kevin G. Mechler '85** cherishes his 17-year career flying with American Airlines and was honored to be awarded the position of captain in the Arbus 320 Series aircraft. Kevin and his wife, Sheryl, live in Allen, Texas, and have four children: Danielle, Jessica, Marshall, and Sheryl. E-mail: k6mechler@gmail.com

**Brian Ray R. Bogard '96** and his wife, Liz, live in Dallas with their two daughters, Lily (4) and Olivia (2). Brian Ray works as a financial advisor with Edward Jones Investments.

**Erik G. Gano '00** enjoyed 12 years of dedicated service at CenturyLink in Denver, Colo. He and his wife, Lily, have one daughter, Elizabeth, and take pleasure in all the Denver community has to offer.

**Colton B. Ray '12** married Kayli, a Kappa alumna, on May 30, 2015, and graduated from OU with a petroleum engineering degree in May 2008. Colton and Kayli were proud to become homeowners in November 2014. His brother, **Tanner Ray '15**, is a senior working toward a degree in graphic design at OU. E-mail: coltonray01@gmail.com