



THE SOONER DELT

Delta Alpha Chapter | Delta Tau Delta Fraternity | University of Oklahoma | Fall 2017



Matt Akins '13, Rob Grim '90, Randy McKinney '89, Chris Leap '90, Mike Johnston '88, Jim Gregory '69, Dan Vann '71, Rick Knight '90, Chad Bleakley, TCU '88, and Ralph Burnett '93 join Delta Alpha for member initiation.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Undergraduates Making Positive Strides, Alumni Support Needed to Keep Momentum

As the fall semester started, the men of Delta Alpha Chapter settled into their rooms in our Delta Shelter and began another exciting school year at the University of Oklahoma. Believe it or not, young Deltas have been embarking on this journey at OU for over 95 years! I know that all of us have many special memories of being proud Deltas on the OU campus and living in the Shelter.

I am very pleased to tell you that the chapter pledged 43 excellent young men during recruitment. The chapter also initiated 10 new members last spring. The chapter is growing and doing it the right way. It is our hope that this year's class will appreciate the honor and privilege of becoming Deltas and living in the Shelter with their Delt brothers. These men will build relationships and share memories that will truly last a lifetime.

Delta Alpha's membership remains very strong with more than 135 members who are committed to upholding our values and traditions. We sponsored a tailgate party at the Shelter before the OU vs. UTEP game on September 2 and everyone had a wonderful time. It was great to see the young members and pledges interacting with alumni and learning that we all are Deltas for a lifetime. Many parents attended as well, and I believe they were pleased to see that their sons were part of a strong brotherhood based on good values and principles.

As we discussed in the last newsletter, the House Corporation and other alumni leaders cooperated with the national office to create an Alumni Supervisory Committee (ASC). The ASC, headed by **Matt Akins '13**, was formed last spring and has provided direct, continuous alumni supervision of the chapter. The ASC is organized into several subcommittees in the areas of administration, ritual, recruitment, finance, risk management, and philanthropy, with objectives designed to oversee member contributions in each of these core areas. This oversight has provided the necessary foundation and resources to allow our undergraduates to properly self-govern themselves in the very near future. We are confident that the undergraduate executive committee is capable of working with the ASC and keeping the chapter on track.

House Corporation members **Mike Johnston '88**, **Justin Manning**, **Westminster College '04**, **Dan Vann '71**, and **Fred Gist '73** have worked

very hard during the last year to maintain the Shelter and to provide the undergraduates with a safe and comfortable college home. The House Corporation spent approximately \$70,000 this summer to repair/renovate all the rooms in south hall, repair the roof, replace the back doors, repair and replace room doors, and replace the washing machines. Due to the advancing age of the Shelter, these repairs and other expensive maintenance items were absolutely necessary just to maintain the status quo.

However, we are quickly approaching the point in time where these stop-gap actions will not be sufficient. I took a walk around South Greek and I saw several brand-new fraternity houses: ATΩ, Sigma Nu, Kappa Sig, and Fiji. (Two of these new houses are right next door!) In addition, the Betas completely rebuilt and expanded their house and the Lambda Chis, DUs, KAs, and Phi Deltas have completed multimillion-dollar renovations. The reality of our situation quickly became clear to me.

Despite all of the hard work of the House Corporation, the undergraduates, and many dedicated alumni volunteers, Delta Alpha is not keeping up in this building war. As we mentioned in last semester's alumni newsletter, the House Corporation has retained the services of a national consulting company and a prominent architect to develop a plan for completely transforming the Shelter and making it a clean, safe, comfortable, and technologically advanced home for OU Deltas for another 50 years. We have a plan and it will work!

Completely transforming and updating the Shelter is necessary and, quite frankly, unavoidable. The time for action is NOW. We will need alumni support as we form a building committee and get things started. We need your time and your financial support. Please contact me and get involved. If we want Delta Tau Delta to compete in recruitment, academics, intramurals, and remain a top OU fraternity, we no longer can just talk. We must act. I hope you will help. Remember, *More Delt, Less Self*.

Fraternally,
Mike Johnston '88
House Corporation President
mjohnston@gobaker.com

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

James McLaughlin '49 entered Chapter Eternal on January 2 as a resident of Midland, Texas. Prior to attending OU he served as a naval aviator during World War II. After graduating, Jim perused a career in engineering and worked for the Cardinal Companies for many years. He leaves behind his wife, Anne, of 65 years, three sons, and many grandchildren.

Joe L. Norton Jr. '52 entered Chapter Eternal after a long battle with cancer. As an undergraduate, Joe was an intramural wrestling champion and participated in several other intramural sports. He was the owner of Norton's Luggage.

William "Frank" Boucher '53 entered Chapter Eternal in June from Alzheimer's. Frank was an oil and gas investor. While an undergraduate, Frank was a multiyear intramural wrestling champion.

Zack D. Pryse III '59 entered Chapter Eternal on December 7, 2016, as a resident of Ponca City, Okla. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot, earning a Purple Heart. Zach had a 30-year career with Delta Airlines, retiring in 1997. He was at his best when outdoors, and especially around the water and anything involving boating. His true passion and love was his family. He will be missed.

ALUMNI NEWS

Patrick D. Sullivan '49, a retired trial attorney, celebrated his 90th birthday in September. "Due to my age, I am living a very quiet life."

John A. Brock '53 lost his wife in September 2016. He is starting a business with **Alva T. Stair Jr. '52** called Tropical Weather Analytics Inc. He has been given the "Brock Prize for Education" (BrockPrize.org) for 16 years and has written a book, *Rules for Leadership, Life, and Career*, for young people. Printed copies total 30,000. He is willing to give anyone who is interested a copy for one dollar to be sent to him for postage. Several schools have purchased for their graduates. His son, **J. Vaughn Brock '80**, has a commercial real estate firm in Austin, Texas, and has moved back from London. E-mail: jbrock@sptulsa.com

Jerry T. Parker '56 and his wife, Cindy, live in Hot Springs Village, Ark., and are enjoying retirement. E-mail: cinjerparker@sbcglobal.net

Kent W. Miller '62 lives in Roswell, Ga., with his wife, Judy. They have 14 grandchildren in school working on their careers. He and Judy are both still active in business, golf, community activities, and local charities. "We are blessed with family accomplishments, recognitions, sports successes, scholarships, leadership, and normal challenges. It's always good to

(Continued on page 4)

Continued Chapter Success under ASC Guidance

On behalf of the Alumni Supervisory Committee and all alumni involved with Delta Alpha, we are impressed and elated with the effort put forth by the undergraduate membership and leadership over the past 10 months. The executive committee stepped up to the plate with programming and risk management improvements. The undergraduates held to their promise to improve the chapter through involvement on campus, philanthropic endeavors, and respecting the Delta Shelter.

After a successful recruitment, the chapter signed a new pledge of class of 43 outstanding men. We are proud to report the chapter successfully hosted their first social event since their probationary period and have led the state in fundraising for our national philanthropy, JDRF. This last accomplishment is by far the most impressive. Delta Tau Delta is partnered with JDRF nationally and is supported by all chapters.

Delta Alpha leads the state in fundraising with over \$8,800 benefitting juvenile Type 1 diabetes research. We are so proud of our brothers for the hard work they have put in to support a good cause and uphold the values our beloved fraternity was founded on.

We are all very excited for what Delta Alpha is accomplishing and the direction the leadership has taken the chapter. We look forward to a strong future with many more accolades. Thank you to all the alumni who have given their time for the betterment of the chapter. Lastly, we invite and encourage all alumni to come and see what great things Delta Alpha is doing. It's a great time to be a Delt.

Fraternally,
Matthew Akins '13
Alumni Supervisory Committee
akinsmr@gmail.com

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Luke Adams

Oscar Anyabolu

Alexander Bleakley*
(Father **Chad Bleakley**,
TCU '88)

Tanner Brooks

Nelson Burnett*
(Father
Ralph D. Burnett '93)

Edward Cohn

Caleb Conley

Philip Crowley

Daniel Dye

Cayde Edwards

Daniel Fenton*
(Brother **Ross Fenton '18**)

Chase Freeman

Bryant Frihart

Jackson Goetzinger

Bennett Hall

Blake Harris



Delta Alpha welcomes 43 new members this fall.

Sam Hill

Samuel Hilliard

Logan Holtmyer

Alec Hopper

Mitchell Kepner

Will Knight*
(Father
Richard "Rick" Knight '90)

Alexander Lazar

Ryan Leap*
(Uncle **Chris Leap '90**)

Matt Leonard

Conor Maguire

Tristan Miller

Trevor Morris

Rob Nayfa

PJ Novak

Fox Pever

Tanner Profice

Parker Rogers

Eric Schoolcraft

Jackson Schultz

Joe Stanke

Matt Thomas

James Thompson

Clint Ullrich*
(Brother **Troy Ullrich '18**)

Walker Ward

Ben Wharton

Travis White

Brett Willard

*Legacy,
relative in parenthesis



Delta Alpha members help set up during OKC JDRF One Walk.



Cutting the ribbon to start the OKC JDRF One Walk.



OKC JDRF One Walk begins.

RISING ABOVE

Undergraduates See Successful Recruitment Numbers and Work to Break Fundraising Records for JDRF

I am thrilled to report that Delta Alpha Chapter brought 43 new members into our fraternity during recruitment. These men are doing an outstanding job and we are proud to call them brothers. We are also working closely with student organizations such as Student Mobilization (STUMO), an interdenominational student organization committed to the growth of OU students in their leadership, character, and spiritual development.

As a chapter, we are helping Delta Tau Delta break its regional fundraising record. We raised more than \$16,000 for JDRF. We also had about 60 members drive to Oklahoma City to participate in the OKC JDRF One Walk. Our members were rewarded for their efforts with the opportunity to cut the ribbon before the walk. Multiple members made the VIP short list by individually raising more \$1,000.

In addition to Delta Alpha's support for the JDRF Walk, money was raised for the foundation by selling tickets to the Delt Dive volleyball tournament held at the Shelter. All of this work earned **Austin Palisch '18** Greek Member of the Week by OU IFC.

We are making an effort to improve our brotherhood activities in order to create a closer bond amongst our rapidly expanding membership. The members have created a fund to support brotherhood in the budget to help pay for things like golf tournaments amongst the men and basketball tournaments at the house.

The men of Delta Alpha participated in the Homecoming dance and parade paired with Alpha Phi. New members were initiated on October 22; thank you to those alumni who attended and fully welcomed our newest brothers to Delta Tau Delta. Parents and alumni are welcome to join us November 11 for a Dad's Day tailgate prior to the OU vs. TCU football game.

Fraternally,
Jacob Oliphant '18
 Chapter President
 (405) 630-5721
 jacob.j.oliphant-1@ou.edu



Delta Alpha is involved on campus.



Undergraduates support campus activities.



Brothers bond on the golf course.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Jacob Oliphant '18
 (405) 630-5721
 jacob.j.oliphant-1@ou.edu

Vice President
Kevin Helm '19

Second Vice President
Christian Bevil '18

Treasurer
Jack Blumenthal '18

Secretary
Kyle Summerville '20

Scholarship Chairman
Christian Hill '18

Recruitment/Membership
 Chairman
Paul Kelley '20
 (405) 474-9701

Philanthropy/Community
 Service Chairman
Austin Palisch '18

Alumni Relations Chairman
Grant Haggard '19

Meet Our Legacies

This fall's new member class had several legacies. See what some have to say below about coming to the University of Oklahoma and joining Delta Alpha.

Alexander Bleakley '21

(Father **Chad Bleakley, TCU '88**)
Oklahoma City, Okla.

I wanted to go to OU since I was little kid. Go Sooners! I joined Delta Tau Delta because I loved the group of guys I met. I thought they were way more normal than anywhere else I had visited over the summer. My goal as a member is to always have a positive attitude and participate in as many events as possible. My dad loved his experience. He talks about it all the time, even when I was little. He keeps up with his brothers and they are still his best friends to this day.

Nelson Burnett '21

(Father **Ralph D. Burnett '93**)
Edmond, Okla.

I grew up going to football games at OU. I really liked the guys at Delta Alpha and knew it was the place for me. I wasn't pressured by my dad to join, but he thoroughly enjoyed his experience with Delta Tau Delta.



Outside of the chapter, I'm part of the campus group Sooners Helping Sooners. As a member of Delta Alpha, I plan to compete in intramural sports, participate in philanthropic activities, and take advantage of career connections I make with alumni when I graduate with my pre-med degree.

Daniel Fenton '21

(Brother **Ross Fenton '18**)
Houston, Texas

I wanted to come to OU because of the amazing campus atmosphere, it was out of state, and I have family in Oklahoma. I chose Delta Tau Delta because I love the guys in the fraternity. My brother, Ross, did have a major role in this because I was able to visit him and stay in the Shelter on multiple occasions. Each time was a great experience and made me realize it was the place I wanted to be. I plan to take advantage of every opportunity Delta Tau Delta can offer; whether it be making friends, holding leadership positions, participating in philanthropy events, or getting involved on campus. Ross has made lifelong friends and connections that will continue to pay dividends years later, and I know he would trade nothing for the brotherhood he has found within the fraternity and I'm so glad I now get to share that with him.

Will Knight '21

(Father **Richard "Rick" Knight '90**)
Fort Worth, Texas

The University of Oklahoma has a great business school, which attracted me, and I wanted to follow in my dad's legacy as a Sooner. I joined Delta Alpha because I loved the people I met here. My dad didn't influence me to join but rather I wanted to follow in his footsteps and experience the same fraternity as he did. My dad loves being a

Delt and he was very involved as a student, even holding several leadership positions. I want to create a relationship with all my brothers that will last me throughout a lifetime.



Ryan Leap '21

(Uncle **Chris Leap '90**)
Enid, Okla.

I was attracted to OU for the all it had to offer—Greek life, family, and a great medical program. I chose Delta Alpha because of the many friendships and bonds I made with the members. My uncle was an influence on my decision and was ultimately how I got in contact with Delta Alpha. My uncle had some of his most fun years as a member of Delta Alpha. He made many lifelong friends. As an alumnus, he still keeps in contact with the chapter and supports it anyway he can. I'm looking forward to all the activities for the years to come, whether it's a community service project or a round of golf. I'm excited to build many lasting friendships. I want to be a doctor one day, so I plan to go to medical school after undergraduate and use the connections I make as a member help me in the career field.



ALUMNI UPDATE

(Continued from page 2)

hear from the brothers. Best to all." E-mail: kent_mil@bellsouth.net

Chris Burleson '71 reside in Norman, Okla., with spouse, Holly. In memory of **Jim Atkinson '70**, a group of brothers including **James K. Larimore '71**, **Billy H. McLaughlin '72**, **Dennis Pool '72**, **Jim H. Ferris '72**, **Hank Kraft III '72**, **Steve K. Cagle '71**, **Mike Longley '69**, **James P. Brinkley '71**, **Virgil L. Onan '71**, **Bob W. Wightman '72**, and **John S. Schug '72** met at the Show-Me Birds Resort in Southeast, Kan., to pheasant hunt in January. "We enjoyed telling many good but old Delta Alpha stories." E-mail: thebur101@gmail.com

Timothy R. Jones '80 has returned to Oklahoma City, Okla., and opened a medical practice at Crossway Medical Clinic. E-mail: timothyj0910@att.net

Scott Carruthers '93 lives in Johnson City, Tenn., with his wife, Glynnna. He has changed offices of chiropractic care and is working at Jones Chiropractic Clinic. Scott is a first year NCAA football official. E-mail: tscottcarruthers@gmail.com

Justin R. Willett '05 began his business JRG Payments in 2011. His company works to lower credit card processing costs for businesses. He and his wife, Misty, welcomed their fourth child in September in Edmond, Okla. E-mail: jwillett@jrgpayments.com



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