

THE SOONER DELT

Delta Alpha Chapter | Delta Tau Delta Fraternity | University of Oklahoma | Fall 2018

THE FORMATION OF A MORE PROSPEROUS DELTA ALPHA

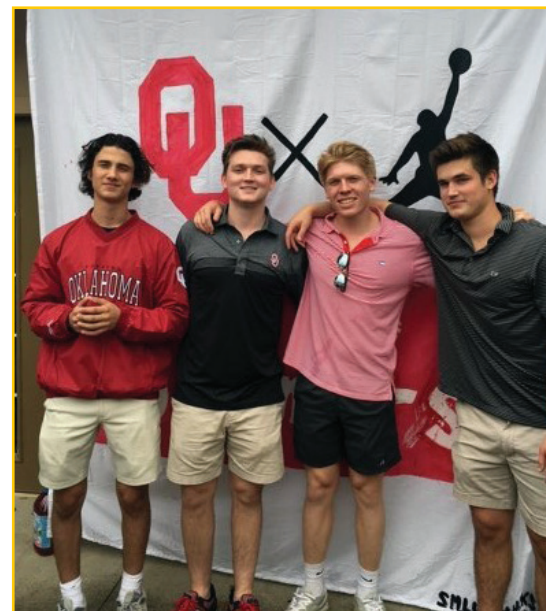
Where Can You Serve?

Full marks the beginning of another exciting year for the Deltas at OU. Delta Alpha is thriving, and it is well-positioned to be a leader of the OU Greek community. The chapter is already welcoming the new pledge class of 61 excellent young men. This is one of the largest pledge classes on campus, and is clear evidence that the chapter is growing, and doing it the right way. Under the guidance of Alumni Supervisory Committee member **Ross Stuart '08** and the leadership of the chapter recruitment chairman, **Cole Stalcup '20**, the entire summer recruitment team recruited an outstanding group. The large class includes Merit Scholars, members of the President's Leadership Class, and several Delt legacies. It took a lot of hard work and dedication, and it would not have been possible without the generous donations of several Delt alumni. I know the House Corporation and all Delt alumni are very grateful to everyone who contributed to this great pledge class. Just as Deltas have done for over 96 years, these freshmen will build relationships and share memories that truly will last a lifetime.

Continuing a new, exciting Delt tradition, the House Corporation sponsored our annual tailgate party at the Shelter before the OU v. UCLA game on September 8. It was great to see the young members, pledges, and parents interacting with alumni and learning that we all are Deltas for life. This event is one we want to continue to grow and improve. If you missed it, please join us next year. I know you will enjoy it. We will be hosting more events this year, including another Alumni Golf Tournament, so please keep an eye on your email inbox for further announcements.

As we discussed in previous newsletters, the House Corporation and other alumni leaders created an Alumni Supervisory Committee (ASC) in 2017 to provide more direct alumni supervision of the chapter. The ASC, headed by **Matt Akins '13**, (more from Matt in this newsletter) was organized into several subcommittees in the areas of administration, ritual, recruitment, finance, risk management, and philanthropy, with objectives designed to oversee members' contribution in each of these core areas. This view has provided the necessary foundation and resources to allow our undergraduates to properly self-govern themselves in the very near future. As many of you have heard, the ASC did a fantastic job! They did so well that the members of the ASC will be transitioning into the more customary chapter advisor roles. The ASC believes that the undergraduate executive committee is now capable of resuming normal operations over the next several months, with the ongoing assistance and guidance of a team of alumni advisors. This is a very important step in the growth of the chapter and its leaders. Let us all congratulate Matt and all of the ASC members for a job well done!

Although the chapter will be led this year by an outstanding group of bright and talented officers, they would greatly benefit from ongoing assistance of a team of alumni advisors. There truly is no substitute for the guidance of an experienced alumni mentor, and we believe that the best way to provide this is through the formation of a team of alumni advisors. This organizational model has been used successfully in many award-winning chapters across the country. It allows more



The new members of Delta Alpha during the OU vs. UCLA tailgate at the Shelter. From left to right: **Adam Maestas '22**, **Braden Pruett '22**, **Braedan Hudson '22**, and **Andrew Schovanec '22**.

members to be involved, and it avoids the "burn-out" often experienced when too many burdens are placed on the shoulders of a single advisor. Some of the members of the ASC will be transitioning into these advisory roles, but we need more volunteers immediately. Please contact me by email at mjohnston@gobaker.com as soon as possible so I can find a place for you to serve on the team.

On a more personal note, I want my Delt brothers to know that I have found my time on the House Corporation board to be very rewarding, and a great way to give back to Delta Tau Delta. I know many of you would enjoy it too, so please contact me and we will find a great way for you to serve. Remember, More Delt, Less Self.

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

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WEBSITE - SOONERDELTA.COM

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BUILDING A WORLD-VIEW PERSPECTIVE

Richard “Rick” McNabb ’78, “Living in a Big Backyard”

Rick McNabb ’78 shares his biggest take-away from college was the brotherhood that was built over the four years at OU. “Our connection was stronger than any geographical or time limitation that was put between us,” he said. “I loved all the guys I met and grew personally through those relationships.”

After he moved out of the state to begin his professional career he reflects, “There are many relationships that come and go in life, but the lifelong bond is a sense of belonging that lingers on after college.” Rick earned a degree in finance, as well as his MBA from the University of Oklahoma, all in one swoop. “I assessed the job market at the time and decided to finish two degrees. I felt if I left, there was a high risk of not returning to school once life and family began,” Rick said.

“When I left OU, I was hungry, motivated to find relevance and purpose in life.” Rick set out on his own ready to take on new challenges. “I ignored predefined boundaries, which freed me to excel—I don’t live in a box.” Living by this motto and staying focused on his goal to be relevant and purposeful in life led Rick down the path of success.

Rick has been able to travel the world extensively and focuses on a world perspective. “I want to build a world best practice view that is not just a siloed U.S. perspective.” All of his businesses span three continents, with six business in the U.S., Europe, and he is currently establishing a business in Saudi Arabia helping them rebuild their health care systems. They all have a digital transformation and problem-solving theme, and are focused on rebuilding health care, consumer goods, media and



entertainment, finance, and insurance industries. Rick’s view is “in the digital era, in order to solve the world’s biggest problems, you need multiple platforms.” His platform world includes Optimity Advisors, a digital consultancy; SaltFlats Labs, an innovation house incubator; Jumpgate Solutions, a technology platform developer; Fire Monkey Investments, a private equity company; and several real estate holding companies.

Rick is also building a media company to create documentaries to tell world stories. He has dedicated film crews focused on subjects like solving the ocean’s plastic situation. He wants to utilize his technology platform with crowdsourcing and social media capabilities to create a collective intelligence network to help solve these big problems. Rick’s companies also donate a portion of their funds to the

United Nations list of sustainability goals.

When asked what satisfies him about his current status in life, Rick’s answer is simple: “I am thankful. I have been happily married for 40 years. I have a large family. I’ve built several successful businesses. In the last 10 years, I discovered I really enjoyed being an entrepreneur. I learned when to pull the trigger and when not to in business and in life. I am grateful for my family, my businesses, and the experiences both have given me.”

In the future, Rick has plans to become an explorer, while teaching and sailing around the world with his grandchildren along for the ride. In case you hadn’t noticed, Rick loves to learn, evolve, and is constantly on the go. Rick resides in Naples, Fla., Minneapolis, Minn., New York City, N.Y., and Washington, D.C. He can be reached via email at rickmcnabb@comcast.net.

Alumni Supervisory Committee (ASC) Restructuring Focus *New Advisors Concentrated on Undergraduates*

The fall 2018 semester has arrived and has brought us a new pledge class of 61 and new goals for the 2018-19 academic year. Our Delt brothers are looking forward to this semester and adding to the accomplishments they have made over the past year. Highlights from the 2017-18 academic year include: raising over \$16,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), signing a fall 2017 pledge class of 42, and hosting several social and philanthropic events at the Shelter.

This year poses to be bigger and better than the last. The guys have high aspirations for the new members and for the membership as a whole. Stay tuned for impressive notes from the leadership further along in the semester. With seven home football games this year, we hope that many more alumni will have the opportunity to come by the Shelter and meet some of our outstanding brothers.

This year we will transition from the Alumni Supervisory Committee (ASC) to a more general

group of alumni advisors to assist the members in academics, recruitment, philanthropy, and brotherhood. On behalf of the ASC and its members, I would like to thank all of our alumni for resting their trust in us to lend a helping hand to our active brothers. Their leadership made our job easy and enjoyable. Hope to see everyone at a game soon!

Fraternally,

Matthew Akins ’13

Alumni Supervisory Committee
akinsmr@gmail.com

DELTA ALPHA WELCOMES LARGEST PLEDGE CLASS AT OU

UNDERGRADUATES CHARGED UP FOR DAD'S WEEKEND

It is my pleasure to announce that this fall our chapter of Delta Alpha had the largest pledge class on campus amongst fraternities, signing 61 new men into Delta Alpha. We plan to host multiple sorority mixers with Gamma Phi Beta, our University Sing competition partners, and Pi Beta Phi, our Homecoming partners. We are also preparing to host many tailgates, which **Mike Johnston '88** has been facilitating. The first tailgate of the year was the weekend of September 8 for the OU vs. UCLA game and was a hit. Our chapter is planning many events for the fall and we are generating a newfound and superior culture within the chapter and across campus.

Last fall, our chapter had 13 members earn 4.0 GPA, helping the overall chapter GPA be a 3.175. This GPA is up from a 3.04 last semester and moved our chapter up to seventh out of 17 fraternities on campus. In addition to grades, we will attend our second annual fall philanthropy, the JDRF OneWalk in Oklahoma City, Okla., on September 30.

Additional important events include hosting our Dad's Weekend Tailgate Day, which will be held on the weekend of November 16 of this year. On Friday night, members and their families will



The recruitment team celebrating a great summer of recruitment. From left: Fox Pever '21, Blake Harris '21, Cole Stalcup '20, Cayde Edwards '21, Paul Kelley '20, Logan Holtmeyer '21, Evan Goodearle '20, PJ Novak '21, and Delta Alpha Chapter President Kevin Helm '19.

be invited to a rented out bar at Sooner Legends on Lindsey Street. On Saturday, November 17, we will host a tailgate at the Shelter for families, and of course, any alumni who want to come, before the OU vs. Kansas game. We want to extend a special thanks to Scott and Wendy Thompson for stepping up as the new heads of the Delta Parent's Association. They have been great to work with, and continuously show their love and support for our chapter.



Internal Vice President Kyle Summerville '20, James Thompson '21, and Drew Heinen '20 (not pictured) attended the Karnea Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in August. The Oklahoma Delts were awarded a Leadership Award for raising over \$14,000 for JDRF, our fraternity's philanthropy!

Each day, the men of Delta Alpha are growing stronger on campus and as brothers. Between alumni tailgates, career days with local alumni, and golf tournaments, our chapter is continuing to move in a great and confident direction. We are continually grateful for alumni support and are always looking forward to meeting new alumni. We hope to see you at the Shelter in the near future.



Fraternally,
Kevin Helm '19
Chapter President
(210) 542-5663
kevin.r.helm-1@ou.edu

NEW MEMBERS AND FALL 2018 INITIATES

Douglas Adair '22 | Edmond, Okla.
Cliff Alshara '22 | McKinney, Texas
Noah Andes '22 | Moore, Okla.
Jared Ashcraft '22* | Oklahoma City, Okla.
(Father **Thad Ashcraft '85**)
Zach Bearden '22 | Norman, Okla.
Ty Bergerson '21 | Edmond, Okla.
Carson Blevins '22 | Oklahoma City, Okla.
JT Bray '22 | Edmond, Okla.
Patrick Brockwell '21* | Vienna, Va.
(Father **Matt Brockwell '83**)
Park Cameron '22 | Oklahoma City, Okla.
Jack Childress '22 | Oklahoma City, Okla.
Colton Conley '21* | Yukon, Okla.
(Brother **Caleb Conley '20**)
Jason Copeland '22 | McKinney, Texas
Dom Couture '22 | Edmond, Okla.
Christopher Craig '22 | McKinney, Texas
Trevor Dare '22* | Austin, Texas
(Father **Brian Dare, University of Texas '93** and Brother **Tyler Dare, Arizona State University '18**)
Zach Dillon '22 | Edmond, Okla.
Ryan Finnegan '22 | Houston, Texas
Brandon Frisby '22 | Edmond, Okla.
Chris Geiger '22 | Oklahoma City, Okla.
Hunter Griffin '21 | Fort Worth, Texas

Sam Gwinn '22 | Houston, Texas
Luke Hawthorne '22 | Fort Worth, Texas
Connor Heller '21 | Mooreville, N.C.
Ryan Hernandez '21 | Edmond, Okla.
Braedan Hudson '22 | Grapevine, Texas
Liam Hunt '22 | Norman, Okla.
Jaylen Johnson '22 | Moore, Okla.
Travis Kelly '22 | Yukon, Okla.
Colin Kiesling '22 | Lewisville, Texas
Caleb Killebrew '22* | Oklahoma City, Okla.
(Brother **Steve Killebrew '91**)
Logan Kring '22 | McKinney, Texas
Tyler Lach '22 | Colleyville, Texas
Sam Lee '22 | Oklahoma City, Okla.
Seth Lincoln '20 | Fort Worth, Texas
Adam Maestas '22 | McKinney, Texas
Lucas Martin '22 | Edmond, Okla.
Christian Martinez '22 | San Antonio, Texas
Deshon Maycumber '22 | Norman, Okla.
Drew McConnell '22 | Houston, Texas
Salvador Moreno '22 | Keller, Texas
Liam Nixon '22 | Piedmont, Okla.
Reid Pippin '22* | Edmond, Okla.
(Father **Louis Pippin '91**)
Austin Prince '22 | McKinney, Texas



The Delta Alpha recruitment team with the fall 2018 pledge class.

Braden Pruett '22* | Argyle, Texas
(Brother **Trey Pruett '19**)
Parker Reed '22 | Edmond, Okla.
Nicholas Roberts '22 | Boerne, Texas
Draven Rodriguez '22 | Hampshire, Ill.
Jace Rosser '22 | Edmond, Okla.
Andrew Schovanec '21 | Norman, Okla.
Josh Smittle '22 | Norman, Okla.
Connor Stein '22 | Houston, Texas
Jackson Stuart '22 | Edmond, Okla.
Bret Vanice '22 | Kansas City, Mo.
Landon Wat '21 | Tulsa, Okla.
Garrett Weeks '22 | Oklahoma City, Okla.
Nicholas White '22 | Deer Creek, Okla.
Greyson Williams '22 | Norman, Okla.
Griffin Williams '22* | Norman, Okla.
(Cousin **James Thompson '21**)

*Legacy, relative in parenthesis

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Charles Moon '48 a remarkable pianist entered Chapter Eternal at the age of 95. In 1940, he started a music degree at OU but was sent to basic training in 1942 and served his country on the front lines. He returned to school in 1947 and graduated with degrees in piano performance and music theory. He retired from teaching music in 1989. "Charles life will be an endless coda as he lives through the many students he touched."

Jack Wilson '50 entered Chapter Eternal on July 1, 2017. Jack passed on as a result of the West Nile virus and encephalitis. His wife, Pat, shares, "Jack spoke so fondly of his fraternity." He will be missed.

Dr. William Robert Denison '61, of Fort Worth, Texas, entered Chapter Eternal on January 16, 2018. Bill was a lifelong Sooner fan. After dental school, he joined the Navy. In 1967, Bill and his wife, Linda, moved to Houston, where Bill started his own private practice. Bill enjoyed coaching his daughters' softball teams, gardening, wood carving, and traveling. He was civically active and volunteered in his community for over 20 years.

Mark B. Mindeman '78 entered Chapter Eternal August 24, 2018, after a courageous battle with cancer. Throughout his life Mark stayed close to his Delta Alpha brothers, continued to be an avid OU football fan, and inveterate tailgate host. His company Thunderbird Historical Miniatures, specialized in military figurines. He loved to sing, play the ukulele player, and had a great sense of humor.

ALUMNI NEWS

Ernest "Harry" Gilbert Jr. '40 was recently widowed when his wife of 72 years, Betty, passed away on January 14, 2018. Harry celebrated his 100th birthday on March 17. He lives in Oklahoma City, Okla.

John R. Anderson '51 has lived on Muleshoe Ranch in Gail, Texas, since 1952. The ranch has been in his family since 1913. John was raised on a ranch and has never lived in town except in Norman from 1946-51. His son runs the ranch; John serves as an advisor. John's wife, Barbara, passed away in 2014. They were married for 63 years and had four children, 10 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. John is now 89 years old. E-mail: muleshoeranch@snydertex.com

James R. Vaughan '57 has a grandson at OU. He will be a junior this fall and marches in the Pride of Oklahoma band. James lives in Broken Arrow, Okla. E-mail: jrvaughan35@aol.com

Kent W. Miller '62 is happily married to Judy Sierer, a Pi Beta Phi at OU. "Our family of six expanded to a family of 28 1/2 with three married grandchildren and a great-grandson in the oven." After Kent's retirement from IBM in 1992, he and his son, Mike, built a family business of buying, developing, and building real estate, and managing office and residential properties under Arrow Investments, Inc. Kent is proud of his family, which includes business owners and managers; a national champion and three-time world champion contender for cheerleading; a recognized first responder and firefighter; four college graduates; and seven remaining grandchildren in school and college. "I cherish the experience and lessons learned at Delta Alpha, and the outstanding men who came through the house from 1958 to 1962 at the University of Okla-



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Delta Alpha Chapter of Delta Tau Delta
University of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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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 Shelter. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

SHELTER UPDATE

The House Corporation has 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 \$50,000 this summer for routine repairs and maintenance. We even replaced the roof, and not a moment too soon! 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. As we mentioned in the last newsletter, our board believes that we need a new Shelter to remain competitive at OU. We have retained a very good engineering firm to evaluate the project and they have created initial drawings of a new house that are very exciting! Several of our brothers have expressed their willingness to support this much-needed effort to build a Shelter for the next 100 years of Delta Alpha. We will have more to share with you in the very near future.

homa." Kent and Judy live in Roswell, Ga. E-mail: kent_mil@bellsouth.net

Richard E. Diller '63 is the author of *Firefly: A Sky-raider's Story about America's Secret War Over Laos*. Richard's story is about his years of flying combat missions out of Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai AFB. It is the only book written about the night mission over Laos, filling a niche in literature about the war. Dick flew 203 missions, mostly at night, and earned a Distinguished Flying Cross and 10 air medals. Dick is a retired Delta Airlines pilot and lives in Belvidere, Ill. E-mail: dick@thedillers.net

Ted Dubie '65 is the owner of Dubie Inspection Services, LLC. His business focuses on construction progress inspections for more than 24 financial

institutes in Tulsa and the surrounding area on a part-time basis. Ted retired from the banking industry in 1992 where he specialized in construction and development lending. Ted was also a licensed commercial real estate broker from 1992-2011. He resides in Tulsa, Okla., with his wife, Cary. E-mail: tpdubie@gmail.com

William A. Strong '65 and his wife, Sally, are enjoying retirement. They do lots of reading, gardening, and watching TV. They live in Santa Fe, N.M. E-mail: wasjstrong@hotmail.com

Sam "Hank" Hodges '73 is semi-retired from real estate in the Washington, D.C., area and is now building homes in Hilton Head, S.C. He also plays lots of golf. E-mail: shodges@klnb.com