

THE SOONER DELT

Delta Alpha Chapter | Delta Tau Delta Fraternity | University of Oklahoma | Spring 2019

DELTA ALPHA CELEBRATES 97 YEARS OF BROTHERHOOD AT OU

SHELTER AT 1320 COLLEGE STREET REACHES 50-YEAR MILESTONE!

Can you believe our Delta Alpha Shelter first opened its doors 50 years ago? I am sure the pledge class of 1969 certainly remembers it well! Hundreds of Deltas have lived and learned in our Shelter, and they all formed friendships that will last a lifetime. I am very pleased to report that these traditions are still alive and well at 1320 College Street!

Undergraduate Successes

Last fall's large pledge class produced a strong group of new initiates, and these quality young men are doing lots of great things at OU. They organized another very successful fundraising campaign for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, raising thousands of dollars for this very worthy cause and receiving several awards from National Fraternity. The undergraduates are working hard to maintain an excellent academic ranking and are involved in numerous campus activities. They have a great group of leaders and are headed toward a full house next fall. The chapter is also on a solid financial footing. We are excited about the next 50 years!

Alumni and Brotherhood Events

Continuing what has become another Delt tradition, the House Corporation sponsored some great events during the spring semester. We hosted another Founders' Day banquet (Happy 97th, Delta Alpha!) that was attended by the undergraduates and several Delt alumni. It is always great to see the alumni sharing their memories with the younger Deltas. The House Corporation also organized a Delt Alumni Golf Tournament in April at the Golf Club of Oklahoma in Edmond, Oklahoma. As usual, we had some pretty ugly golf but lots of great stories! Please join us next year for these annual events—you will enjoy the brotherhood!

House Corporation and ASC Update

The House Corporation is expanding its board of directors to get more alumni involved in supporting the chapter. We are very pleased to announce that **Chris Burleson '71** has joined our board. Chris has been a dedicated supporter of Delta Alpha for many years, serving as chapter advisor and as a past president of the House Corporation Board. All the members are looking forward to adding Chris's experience and talent to our board.

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**, assumed responsibility for virtually all of the chapter's operations. Matt, **Jim Gregory '69**, **Tyler Crowe '14**, and all the members of the ASC have done a fantastic job!

Alumni Advisors Needed

Although the chapter is being led this year by an outstanding group of bright and talented officers, they still need the ongoing assistance 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. We are forming a new Alumni Advisory Committee for the next academic year. This group of volunteers will work as a team under the direction of the chapter advisor. The members will serve for limited terms, spreading the workload among the committee while building a closer relationship with the undergraduate officers. This organizational model has been used successfully in many award-winning chapters

across the country. **We need more volunteers immediately.** Please contact me by email as soon as possible and we will put you on the team. Mentoring these great young men is an extremely rewarding way to give back to the fraternity.

Seeking Recruitment Recommendations

Summer recruitment will be beginning soon, and we all know that recruiting well-rounded young men with strong academic backgrounds is of vital importance to the chapter. The undergraduate recruitment team will emphasize the recruitment of Delt legacies, so please help us by sending me emails with the names and contact information of any legacy you know.

Looking Forward

Brothers, the undergraduates and many dedicated alumni are working hard to make sure Delta Alpha continues a strong presence on the OU campus. However, it is time we face the fact that our 50-year-old Shelter is no longer competitive with our fellow fraternities on campus. All one needs to do is look down the road or around the corner to see the impressive work done at Beta, Alpha Tau, FIJI, Kappa Sig, Phi Delt, SigEp, and Lambda Chi. Each of these fraternities has done major renovations or new builds within the last decade. Plans are in motion to position ourselves for a prosperous future, and we will keep you informed as they develop.

Now, more than ever, More Delt, Less Self!

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



Delt Experience Prepared Brad Henry '85 to Serve as Oklahoma Governor

From 2003-2011, **Brad Henry '85** felt that he had the best job in the world as the governor of Oklahoma. Despite being faced with several difficult daily decisions that impacted the people of his home state, the Delta Tau Delta pillars of truth, courage, faith, and power kept him level-headed during his time in office.

"I learned several important lessons during my term as president of Delta Alpha Chapter that have assisted me throughout my life. First, I learned the very simple, but powerful, lesson that you can't win if you don't run," Brad said. "In other words, you won't succeed if you don't try. While thoughtful consideration is important, too often, I believe, we get bogged down in over-analyzing our fears or the chances of success and we miss the opportunity entirely."

Joining the Delta Alpha Chapter was an opportunity that Brad nearly missed entirely. Brad wasn't interested in Greek life when he arrived at the University of Oklahoma, but begrudgingly went through recruitment after some urging from his roommate. He still wasn't impressed with what the fraternity lifestyle had to offer until he stopped by the Delt house.

"The men of Delta Alpha gave me far more than I gave them. They taught me the value of camaraderie, teamwork, and leadership, as well as the worth of discipline and hard work," Brad said. "I think it's safe to say that if not for my experiences at Delta Alpha, I likely would not have had the self-confidence to attempt—let alone accomplish—many of the things I've done throughout my life, including run for governor."

Brad was honored to be a part of the first Delta Alpha Chapter that won a Hugh Shields Award, but his best memories of his Delt experience aren't

limited to his undergraduate years. He returned to the Shelter to speak to the undergraduates when he was the governor of Oklahoma and considered it to be a very moving experience.

When Brad was sworn into office, he inherited the largest budget shortfall—as a percentage of the overall budget—in the state's history. While the spotlight was squarely on Brad as he worked toward better financial times, he always deflected the credit to those who helped him through the process.

"I had a great team, and we went to work poring over the details of every agency budget," Brad said. "Rather than make arbitrary across-the-board cuts to every agency—the easy thing to do—we made strategic, surgical cuts that made the most sense and caused the least amount of pain to the citizens of Oklahoma. In the end, we made cuts, but we also shielded education and the health agencies from the brunt of the cuts."

As a lifelong Oklahoman, Brad also received his law degree from the OU College of Law. He has spent the past three years as a lawyer at Spencer Fane, LLP.

Outside of work, Brad enjoys fishing, reading, traveling abroad, wine collecting, yard work, and spending time with his family. Brad has been happily married to his wife, Kim, for nearly 33 years. Kim and Brad have three daughters, Leah, Laynie, and Baylee, and have loved the experience of being grandparents for the first time.

"Without question, Kim and the girls have been at the center of all of my successes in life. I would never have been elected governor without them," Brad said. "My father used to always tell me, 'We should never forget that friends come and go, but family is forever.' He was absolutely right."



Alumni News

Roger Parkins '65 is retired and living happily on Grand Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan. Email: rlparkins@gmail.com

Larry Burmeier '66 is enjoying retirement by playing golf and traveling. Email: larryburmeier@gmail.com

Stephen Vargo '67 reports he is a Shidler Distinguished Professor and professor of marketing at the University of Hawaii. He has held or holds visiting positions at the Judge Business School at the University of Cambridge, the University of Warwick, the University of Maryland, the University of Auckland, Karls-

tad University, Sweden, College Park, as well as VTT Technical Research Center of Finland. Stephen has had articles published in the *Journal of Marketing*, the *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, and the *Journal of Service Research*. Clarivate Analytics, formerly Thomson-Reuters, has identified him as one of the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds/Highly Cites Researchers, top 1 percent, in economics and business for four consecutive years (2014-2017). Email: svargo001@gmail.com

M. David Kraker '75 retired in 2014 after 39 years of working in sales for Bekins Moving Storage. David and Debbie, his wife of 38 years, live in a condo overlooking Lake Mission Viejo in Orange County, Calif. They have two grand-

daughters, Kaylee and Teagan, and enjoy spending time with them. David was also blessed to coach freshman high school football off and on for 20 years. David currently volunteers with their church recycling ministry. He writes, "It's dirty work, but it raises a lot of money to help send bibles to the world."

John Langston '76 works for a company that will disrupt the oil and gas space with a product that can provide optimization recommendations to existing oil and gas production in addition to providing leading indicators to well failure days out with an 85-90 percent accuracy rate. No one else in the industry has a product in the marketplace that does this. Email: zzx375@cox.net

(Continued on page 4)

DELTA ALPHA RAISES MORE THAN \$25,000 FOR JDRF ONE WALK

Undergraduates Look to Build Upon Recruitment Success

Our chapter officers traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, for the annual Western Plains Division Conference this spring. We received an award for outstanding support for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, as we raised more than \$25,000 for the JDRF One Walk in Oklahoma City, which was a new division conference record.

On March 2, we had almost 90 brothers sign up to participate in OU's annual philanthropy, Soonerthon. We raised more than \$1,200 for the Children's Miracle Hospital.

Delta Alpha also participated in the Big Event and Relay for Life in April. Philanthropy is a cornerstone of our fraternity and we always look forward to giving back to our community.

We participated in spring recruitment by signing three men who will join the fall 2018 pledge class. That will bring the new member total to 62 men. If someone you know is rushing this fall, please contact Recruitment Chairman **Philip Novak '21** at pjnovak21@gmail.com or (405) 416-0901 and he will give you all information on upcoming events.

On February 22, undergraduates and alumni came together at the Shelter to celebrate 97 years of our historic chapter. Special thanks to **Mike Johnston '88** and Mama Lou for putting on the event.

Delta Alpha had its Spring Formal on March 9 at the Cirro Energy Tower, a brand new building in Uptown, and stayed at the Hyatt Regency Downtown in Dallas.

Moms Weekend took place April 5-7. Thank you to Wendy and Scott Thompson for organizing the itinerary.

Each day, the men of Delta Alpha are growing stronger on campus and as brothers. Our freshmen have been involved on campus and are looking forward to making a bigger impact over the next few years. The future of Delta Alpha is bright, and it is always a good day to be a Delt.



Fraternally,
Kyle Summerville '20
Chapter President
(817) 226-0965
kville430@yahoo.com



Ryan Finnegan '22 raised more \$6,000 for the JDRF One Walk and was honored by cutting the ribbon at the start of the walk.

**WELCOME, SPRING
2019 PLEDGES**

Jackson McCormack '22

Bryson Munroe '22

Jacob Primo '22*
(Brother Austin Primo '16)

*Legacy



Joe Stanke '21 and Simeon Salazar '21 are members of OUs Crimson Wishes, which raises money for Make-A-Wish Oklahoma.



Undergraduates raised more than \$1,200 at Soonerthon.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter President
Kyle Summerville '20
Keller, Texas

External Vice President
Matthew Leonard '21
Plano, Texas

Sergeant-at-Arms
Colton Conley '21
Yukon, Okla.

Recruitment Chairman
Philip Novak '21
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Internal Vice President
Joseph Stanke '21
Flower Mound, Texas

Treasurer
Caleb Conley '20
Yukon, Okla.

Recording Secretary
Salvador Moreno '22
Keller, Texas

Risk Manager
Griffin Williams '22
Norman, Okla.



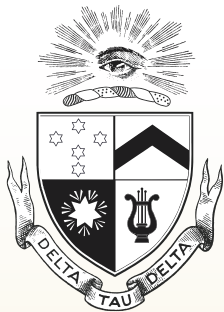
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ATTENTION: This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Oklahoma, he will receive a copy at the Shelter. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our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



Alumni, We Want to Hear from You!

Share your personal, professional, and family news with us and we'll print it in the alumni news section of *Sooner Delt*! Have you moved or changed email addresses? Make sure your contact information is up to date, you don't want to miss any upcoming Delta Alpha news. Submit your news and/or contact information updates at soonerdelt.com/contact-us. We hope to hear from you soon!

Alumni News

(Continued from page 2)

Timothy Jones '80 practices medicine in Oklahoma City. In his professional career, Timothy has split time between his private practice, Jones ENT and Facial Plastic Surgery, and as a consultant and surgeon for Sono Bello, a group of 140 plastic surgeons around the nation doing office-based body contouring. Timothy lives with his significant other, Greta Meschke, in Edmond. She works as a nurse in the OR at Mercy Hospital in OKC. His daughters live in New York City; one is a professional visual artist and the other is a professional in the performing arts (modern dance). Email: timothyj0910@att.net

Jeffery Pike '85 graduated from the Francis Tuttle IT department in Oklahoma City, Okla., with a certificate in web development. Jeff will begin a new career in web development and content management. Email: jtpsooner@msn.com

Bradley J. Rowe '85 and his wife, Jane, founded Logo Concepts, LLC, in 2015. They deboss and laser etch apparel and promotional products, dealing in custom corporate apparel as well as fan gear from youth teams, high school and college teams, and MLB gear. Bradley and Jane live in Leawood, Kan., but they have customers coast-to-coast.

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