



The DUCK CALL

A Publication of Delta Upsilon at the University of Missouri • Fall 2021

Missouri Chapter
welcomes 40 new
members to the
brotherhood.



FROM ZERO TO 160

Missouri Chapter Regains Its Spot among Top Greek Organizations at Mizzou

Three years ago, Missouri Chapter began its efforts to rebuild the organization. We had exactly zero members. Today, the chapter is 160 members strong and has regained its place as a top Greek organization at Mizzou. This accomplishment is even more impressive given the changes to the university's oversight of Greek organizations and the first pandemic in over 100 years.

The biggest change to the Greek system was the move to freshmen living in the residence halls. The idea was to allow freshmen to transition to university life before moving into a chapter house as sophomores. It was hoped that this would create a more mature culture within the chapter houses. This fall, only five of our 74 members living in the house are freshmen. As it turns out, another benefit was that it allowed us to be more selective in our recruitment, as we didn't have

to recruit men just to "fill the beds." This year, for example, we recruited 27 new members during the summer, added another 13 in formal recruitment at the start of school, and will have another recruitment opportunity this spring.

With growth, however, comes many challenges. Our chapter house has 18 upperclassmen, 51 sophomores, and five freshmen. Due to the pandemic, none of the freshmen or sophomores have experienced a full year of programming, so the need to provide oversight is critical. This role falls on the shoulders of our chapter advisory board (CAB), led by Chairman **Jeff Kreutz '99** and Chapter Advisor **Chuck Hatley '80**. Along with the other board members, these men help provide guidance on recruitment, move-in, parent orientation, member education, initiation, event management, and many other tasks. In addition to Jeff and Chuck, we all owe a debt of gratitude to **Sam Baker '16**, **Peter Birk**

'14, **Grant Elliott '00**, **Kevin Gandara**, **Iona '97**, **Brian Hinck '16**, **Deacon Sears '20**, and **Tracie Gramkow**. We also want to thank **Caleb Alexander**, **Wichita State '13**, who recently stepped aside after two years. If you are interested in filling this spot, please reach out to **Jeff Kreutz** at jeffkreutz@yahoo.com.

With the world hopefully returning to a closer version of normal, we plan to reengage with many of you in person, starting with our official "naming rights" celebration now that the capital campaign is complete. Look for news on that soon—most likely in a special email blast.

Fraternally,
E. Bruce McKinney '74
President, Missouri Alumni of Delta Upsilon
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Missouri Chapter Looks Forward to an Exciting Fall Semester

Be Sure to Join Us at Our Upcoming Events

The fall semester is underway, and we couldn't be more excited to have our brothers back on campus. We are proud of the chapter's accomplishments and look forward to what's in store for this year.

DUIF Leadership Programming

Three undergraduate members, **Carson Bair '23**, **Jake Greer '24**, and **Connor Hurley '23**, attended the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity (DUIF) Leadership Institute July 30 through August 1 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Missouri Chapter was recognized for recruiting more new members in 2019-20 than any other chapter. We were also recognized for raising the third-highest amount of money for Global Service Initiative, our international philanthropy. Another undergraduate member, **Stevie Gerecke '24**, attended the DU Emerging Leaders (DUEL) program held in New Orleans that same week.

Move-in Day/Parent Orientation

We were thrilled to welcome members back to the chapter house on Sunday, August 15. Several members of the alumni board were there to assist and address the collegians and their parents.

Recruitment

Our summer and formal recruitment program resulted in 40 new associate members, who were pinned on August 29. Special recognition goes to Vice President of Recruitment **Kyle Dismukes '23**, **Matt Austell '24**, **Jacob Craig '24**, **Evan Delepaz '24**, **Jake Greer '24**, and **Tony Sirna '24** for all their hard work during recruitment.

New Member Academics

Our new member GPA and ACT scores were above the university averages. Ten of our members had an ACT score of 30 or greater. We prioritize academics at Delta Upsilon and are always working to improve.

Upcoming Events

This fall will be packed with activities, so make sure to save these dates! Here's a sneak peak of what's to come:

- Homecoming (October 9) We are partnered with Zeta Tau Alpha.
- Dad's Weekend (October 16) Mizzou plays Texas A&M in football.
- Initiation (October 31- tentative).

Please drop by the house if you are in Columbia. We would love to see you!

Fraternally,

Carson Bair '23

President, Missouri Chapter of Delta Upsilon
cjbzy7@missouri.edu / (314) 920-7735



From left to right: Carson Bair '23, Connor Hurley '23, and Jake Greer '24 at the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Leadership Institute in New Orleans, La.



Brothers and friends at a baseball outing.



Share Your House Photos!

We're looking for pictures of DU houses throughout our history! If you have any, please contact **Ted Murray '71** at (913) 526-3330 or ted.murray@colliers.com.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Johnny Barr '25

St. Louis, Mo.
St. Louis University High School

Gavin Bartlett '25

St. Louis, Mo.
Lafayette High School

Noah Bernstein '25

Ballwin, Mo.
Lafayette High School

Jack Bircher '25

Maryville, Ill.
Collinsville High School

Owen Blevins '25

Lake St. Louis, Mo.
Timberland High School

Kirk Briden '25

St. Louis, Mo.
Westminster Christian Academy

Mason Chapman '25

Warrensburg, Mo.
Warrensburg High School

Ian Dubois '25

St. Charles, Mo.
Francis Howell High School

Timothy Fish '24

Oak Grove, Mo.
Oak Grove High School

Sam Floyd '25*

Cape Girardeau, Mo.
Notre Dame Regional High School
(Brother **Jack Floyd '24**)

Alex Gerhart '25

Lee's Summit, Mo.
Lee's Summit West High School

Grant Hagmeier '25

St. Peters, Mo.
Fort Zumwalt South High School

Carson Heisserer '25

St. Louis, Mo.
Rockwood Summit High School

Will Hoffman '25

Town & Country, Mo.
St. John Vianney High School

Cole Houk '25

Lee's Summit, Mo.
Lee's Summit North High School

Dakota "Cody" Houlihan '25

Naperville, Ill.
Neuqua Valley High School

Trevor Hug '25

O'Fallon, Mo.
Francis Howell High School

Luke Jenkins '25

O'Fallon, Ill.
O'Fallon Township High School

Sam Kenyon '25

South Elgin, Ill.
St. Charles North High School

Josh Ketchmark '25*

Kansas City, Mo.
Park Hill South High School
(Uncle **Mike Ketchmark, Iowa '86**)

Matthew Kortcamp '25

Chesterfield, Mo.
Christian Brothers College High School

Jack Koster '25

Geneva, Ill.
Geneva Community High School

Dax Kugelman '25

Naperville, Ill.
Benet Academy

Max Kraemer '25

Creve Coeur, Mo.
Westminster Christian Academy

Ben Leary '25

St. Louis, Mo.
St. Louis University High School

Jack Lewer '25

Kansas City, Mo.
Rockhurst High School

Chase Logel '25*

Cape Girardeau, Mo.
Notre Dame Regional High School
(Brother **Tanner Logel '23**)

Drake Murphy '25

Lee's Summit, Mo.
Lee's Summit West High School

Sam Myers '25

Centennial, Colo.
Arapahoe High School

Jamie Ney '25

Defiance, Mo.
Francis Howell High School

James Pauluzzi '25

Ballwin, Mo.
St. Louis University High School

Peter Quinn '25

Chesterfield, Mo.
St. Louis University High School

Mark Scott '25

St. Louis, Mo.
Chaminade High School

Sam Siler '25

Lone Jack, Mo.
Lee's Summit North High School

Patrick Sullivan '25

St. Charles, Mo.
St. Dominic High School

Kyle Timm '25

Fenton, Mo.
Rockwood Summit High School

Brendan Wall '25

Downers Grove, Ill.
Benet Academy

Will Wanashko '25*

Lee's Summit, Mo.
Lee's Summit North High School
(Father **Doug Wanashko '95**)

Evan Welker '25

St. Louis, Mo.
St. John Vianney High School

Parker Young '25

Wentzville, Mo.
Wentzville-Liberty High School

*Legacy; relative in parentheses



STAYING SHARP

Tom Laco '51 Shares How Lessons from Delta Upsilon Led to Career Success

Tom Laco '51 was born in Czechoslovakia and grew up on a farm in Upstate New York. With the help of an NROTC scholarship, Tom had the opportunity to attend the University of Missouri.



Tom Laco '51 retired from Procter and Gamble in July 1989.

As a farm boy far from home, he knew the importance of finding and joining a good group of like-minded guys. When he met some of the brothers at the Missouri Chapter of Delta Upsilon, he knew he had found his friends. The Fraternity was filled with World War II veterans on the GI Bill, ROTC cadets, and an array of other men from all over the country with different backgrounds and skills.

The best memories that Tom has from the Delta Upsilon house were the bonds he made, including two lifelong friends. He, **Bob Lusk '51**, and **Gene Feldhausen '51** enjoyed traveling to visit each other for more than 50 years until Bob passed on to Chapter Eternal.

“The ideal thing to happen to you as a fraternity member is to have friendships so strong that you keep them on for 56 years after the fact,” Tom said. “That’s real commentary on the kind of relationship you can build in the right fraternity.”

Besides his studies and cadet duties, Tom was involved with extracurricular activities, including being elected student body president his senior year. His positions in student government and the Fraternity helped him develop his leadership skills, which grew dramatically in his years in the Navy in the Korean conflict.

Although academics were important, he learned as much or more about people and life by sitting around and talking to his Fraternity brothers at all hours of the day and night.



Tom Laco '51 celebrates his 92nd birthday.



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From left to right: Tom Laco '51, student body president; Phil Klein, captain of the Mizzou football team; and Forrest Smith, former governor of Missouri, in 1951.

Through Delta Upsilon, he learned the importance of hard work, leadership skills, salesmanship, and how to multitask and delegate. These skills served Tom in the Navy and in the business world.

He spent his entire career at Procter & Gamble, advancing from copy supervisor to vice chairman of the board over the span of 35 years.

“When you are in any organization, from a fraternity to a navy destroyer to a multinational corporation, it’s all about the people,” Tom said. “You need strong leadership, talented people, good ethics, and a system to allow the people to work effectively together and to the best of their abilities.”

“The ideal thing to happen to you as a fraternity member is to have friendships so strong that you keep them on for 56 years after the fact,” Tom said. “That’s real commentary on the kind of relationship you can build in the right fraternity.”

His time at Delta Upsilon wasn’t the only aspect of Tom’s life that shaped him for his career. His high school sweetheart and wife, Barbara, also played a key role.

“She turned out to be just the best human being, the best mother, and the best wife that I could have,” Tom said. “She was an integral part of my success.”

Tom has four children, Susan, Thomas, Randy, and Greg, who all live in different parts of the country. Over the years, Tom has had a variety of hobbies, from training bird dogs and breeding racehorses to playing golf. Now at 92, he’s investing in the stock market to keep his mind sharp.

Connect with Tom at ricegate@me.com.