



The DUCK CALL

A Publication of Delta Upsilon at the University of Missouri • Spring 2022

Fraternity Impact on College Life

How About Some Good News?

It's easy to find negative news about fraternities. There are certainly legitimate criticisms and challenges to overcome, but all too often, the positive impacts are ignored. To address that concern, you should be aware of a recently published report from the North American Interfraternity Conference. I encourage you to read the entire report on their website, <https://nicfraternity.org>, but wanted to share some highlights in this newsletter.

Fraternity members experience stronger mental health and wellness.

While more than half of today's college men say they've experienced loneliness in the last month as rates of depression are increasing, fraternities empower students and provide a strong support system. This "family" offers help and guidance when a member needs it most. Research shows these connections can create a strong sense of belonging, leading members to have better mental health and less anxiety and depression than other students. When members seek help, they look to their brothers twice as often as anyone else.

Fraternities are an accelerator for success—in college and beyond.

Students spend 90% of their time outside the classroom. Fraternities capitalize on those hours by preparing men for success in college and in their futures, far beyond what their peers experience. This holds true regardless of an individual's background or socioeconomic status. Because of higher expectations as well as the support and network fraternities provide, members experience greater gains in learning and graduate at higher rates than their peers. Nearly 75% of chapters offer focused leadership development programming at least monthly, and 83% of members say their confidence in leadership skills increased because of their membership. It is not surprising that fraternity alumni are twice as likely to believe their college experience prepared them well for life after graduation.

Fraternities create a lifelong connection to one's campus, community, and peers.

Fraternity membership connects men to their university in a way that nonmembers simply don't experience. Brothers are more engaged inside and outside of the classroom than their peers, they report feeling more supported by their faculty, and nearly half serve in leadership roles across campus. They're also more connected to their local communities, with research showing they spend significantly more time volunteering than nonaffiliated students.

So, thank you for giving your time and resources to Delta Upsilon and our chapter. You are making a difference in the lives of our members and are a big reason this experience is so impactful.

Fraternally,
E. Bruce McKinney '74
President, Missouri Alumni of Delta Upsilon
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What Delta Upsilon Means to New Members

"I joined DU because I want to be part of a brotherhood. Academic success and non-secrecy are important to me. I've hung out with groups of guys from different fraternities, and I like spending time with the DU guys the most."
—**Alder Hinz-Harding '25**

"I chose DU because, after spending my first semester at Arkansas where I didn't have many friends, I realized I needed to stop taking friendships for granted. When I came to Mizzou, DU seemed like a Fraternity where everyone was close with one another and really cared about each other, which was something I was missing from back home as I never experienced that at Arkansas. In the short time I've been at Mizzou, DU has taught me to cherish the friendships I've made so far and the ones I'll make in the future." —**Charlie Barnidge '25**



Our initiation ceremony at the chapter house on December 5.



Team members celebrate their fraternity intramural championship in volleyball.

Missouri Chapter Focuses on Leadership, Philanthropy, and Service

We are proud to share some highlights since our last update in the fall. Officer elections were held in late November, and we initiated 38 new brothers on December 5. **J.C. Emerson '62** served as chaplain and **Bruce McKinney '74** delivered the charge. We also added 10 new associate members for the spring semester.

Advisory Board Chairman **Jeff Kreutz '99** organized a new officer retreat in Kansas City immediately following the close of the first semester in December. I was a participant in the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity (DUIF) President's Academy, which was organized via a virtual format in early January. In February, the entire chapter executive board and other interested members (10 in total) participated in DUIF's virtual Regional Leadership Academy. This program is designed to help new officers understand their roles and expectations.

We hosted a chapter-wide cornhole tournament to kick off the semester. Over 40 teams competed, and the top four teams received the honor of representing our chapter in the RAMS philanthropy cornhole tournament. We ordered

about 500 wings and put the Super Bowl up on a projector in our cafeteria so we could all watch the game as a brotherhood.

Rockin' Against Multiple Sclerosis (RAMS) is a philanthropic organization at Mizzou whose purpose is to raise money and provide service for the MS Institute of Mid-Missouri. Since its beginning in 1993, RAMS has raised over \$1 million for the MS Institute. We participated in various events throughout February, including sports, trivia night, and service days, to help raise money for the cause.

Just recently, our football and volleyball teams both placed first in fraternity intramurals.

Looking ahead, we will be participating with Alpha Delta Pi in this year's Greek Week, which takes place in April. Mom's Weekend is scheduled for April 29 to May 1. We look forward to a great rest of the semester at DU!

Fraternally,
Eric Peasel '24
Chapter President



Chapter brothers attend the DUIF Regional Leadership Academy in Kansas City.

Spring 2022 Associate Members Average GPA: 3.32



Charlie Barnidge '25

St. Louis, Mo.
University of Arkansas/SLUH

Brendan Erickson '25

Grafton, N.D.
Grafton High School

Alder Hinz-Harding '25

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

Anthony Ostrowski '25

Frankfort, Ill.
Lincoln-Way East High School

Nolan Radecky '25

Tinley Park, Ill.
Lincoln-Way East High School

Kye Ried '25

Lee's Summit, Mo.
Blue Springs South High School

Cade Scobey '25

Poplar Bluff, Mo.
Notre Dame Regional High School

William Slapshak '25

St. Louis, Mo.
CBC High School

Sean Walsh '25

Tinley Park, Ill.
Lincoln-Way East High School

Cody Wilson '25

St. Louis, Mo.
Chaminade College Preparatory School

Alumni Update

Chapter Eternal

John Dunshee '52 – September 3, 2021
Howard Bradley '54 – March 10, 2021
David Lawson '54 – December 3, 2020
Stan Hubbard '55 – July 17, 2021
Dick McBride '57 – April 19, 2021
Bill Howard '58 – June 26, 2020
Thom Bear '74 – October 5, 2021
Rich Randolph '75 – May 29, 2021
Douglas Bibens '78 – February 7, 2022
David Weis '85 – March 8, 2022
Daniel Habiger '99 – December 22, 2021

Alumni News

Ron Ross '68 retired from Wells Fargo Advisors, and his wife, Susan, is a retired teacher. He shares his time between homes in Carthage, Mo., and Frisco, Texas, where he visits his four grown daughters and 10 grandchildren. Ron and Susan enjoy international travel and look forward to traveling again when it becomes possible. Email: ronross4@me.com

Bob Hiatt '73 works with Northland Festivals and runs events such as the annual Snake Saturday Parade. They have donated over a million dollars to local charities over the last 25 years. Bob lives in Kansas City, Mo., and enjoys traveling with his wife, Susan, and keeping up with their three very active grandchildren. Email: nkcbob69@yahoo.com

Mike Conway '76 moved back to Missouri after 42 years and now enjoys country living on 190 acres south of St. Joseph, Mo. Email: mconway0614@gmail.com

Gene Graham Jr. '80 was chosen by a panel of judges and lawyers as one of the Power 30 employment lawyers, recognizing him as one of the top employment lawyers in the entire state of Missouri. He resides in Independence, Mo. Email: ggraham@wagblaw.com

What words come to mind when you think about Delta Upsilon?

“Brotherhood, solidarity, and development.”

–**Scott Robirds '77**

“Justice, non-secrecy, and diversity.”

–**Scott Kampmeyer '95**

What are your favorite memories from your time as an active member of Missouri Chapter?

“The camaraderie of my pledge class and working together.” –**Scott Robirds '77**

“Homecoming and Greek Week activities, intramural sports, pledge class retreats, and collaborations with other groups.”

–**Scott Kampmeyer '95**

What keeps you connected to Delta Upsilon as an alumnus?

“The DU magazine.” –**Scott Robirds '77**

“I get back to Columbia approximately once a year and drive by the house. I'd love to drive by the new one.” –**Scott Kampmeyer '95**

Chapter Officers



President
Eric Peasel '24

Vice President of Administration
Matthew Austell '24

Vice President of Member Education
Jake Greer '24

Vice President of Recruitment
Jacob Craig '24
 missouridu.recruitment@gmail.com

Vice President of Finance
Will Mason '24

Vice President of External Relations
Austin Tinsley '24

Vice President of Loss Prevention
Andrew Hylton '24

Vice President of Academics
John Gregory '24

Do You Host Reunions with Your Pledge Brothers?

We'd Love to Hear About Them!

If you have an alumni reunion story like the Ozarks group (see page 4), we encourage you to share it with your Delta Upsilon brothers. Send any submissions and photos to our consultant at alehr@penningtonco.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

Right: Boat day in the Ozarks.



Officer Goals for 2022

1. Raise \$5,000 for our philanthropy, Global Service Initiative, through various events.
2. Complete 100% of required Chapter Excellence Plan (CEP) and 70% of optional CEP.
3. Develop a stronger brotherhood through an increased amount of brotherhood events, with an emphasis on bonding between members of different grade levels.

The Gift of Friendship

Eleven Men from Three Pledge Classes Reunite Annually



Alumni are well aware of the benefits of Greek life: making connections, building confidence, balancing academics with social activities, learning new skills, and creating bonds for life. All these aspects of Greek life ring true to countless alumni, but especially to the Ozarks group of Missouri Chapter.

The Ozarks group consists of 11 men from three different pledge classes: **Bob Becker '87**, **Craig Ham '87**, **Wade Hylton '87**, **Chris Thomas '87**, **John Vachalek '87**, **Tim Charow '88**, **John Steins '88**, **Andy Watt '88**, **Chris Stecher '89**, **Scott Keiter '90**, and **Dave Williams '90**.

"We all have a close friendship that's lasted for more than 30 years," **Andy Watt '88** shared. "After graduating from Mizzou, many of us moved around the country, so we wanted to find a long weekend where we could all get together—and we've been doing it ever since!"

Each man joined Delta Upsilon for different reasons; some were aware of the Fraternity's impressive reputation, some wanted to develop stronger interpersonal skills, and some were looking for a fun group to be associated with. While these 11 men found just what they were looking for in Delta Upsilon, they ended up finding so much more: friendship that would last a lifetime.

The nickname "Ozarks group" stems from their go-to location for weekend trips—Lake of the Ozarks. Stepbrothers **Chris Thomas '87** and **Dave Williams '90** had a family-owned condo on the lake, so a few brothers would join here-and-there to reconnect, go golfing, or spend the day on the water.

"We always make the most of the weekend," Dave mentioned. "Chasing ducks on the golf course, comparing notes about our lives, jumping off aluminum docks, playing tunes on Chris Stecher's boat—the laughs we have are unrestrainable, and the respect we have for each other is unconditional."



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Even when the brothers get busy with work, relocating, family, or other life occasions, their loyalty to each other never wavers. From attending each other's weddings to simply showing up for the weekend trip to the Ozarks, maintaining these bonds is one of the easiest things these men have ever done.

"The shared experiences we had in Delta Upsilon brought us together to create that initial bond, but our weekend trips after college really solidified our friendships," **Chris Stecher '89** enthused.

Although Lake of the Ozarks is where their journey began to flourish, the men have had opportunities to celebrate their friendship at other locations, including Bob Becker's vacation home on Table Rock Lake. "No matter the location or the lake, the highlight for me is the conversations we have while sitting on a noodle and drinking a few cold ones," **Chris Stecher '89** added.

When they're not enjoying a weekend on the lake together, the Ozarks group stays connected virtually to share family photos, tell stories, discuss sports, or crack some jokes. While life tends to move fast, these men are fortunate to have witnessed it together.

"Take time to appreciate those around you each day," **Craig Ham '87** advised. "Meeting these men from Delta Upsilon was a gift, one that we never take for granted."

Curious how 11 men's friendship can seamlessly stand the test of time? Connect with **Andy Watt '88** at andrewwatt@aol.com.



As unusual as 2020 was, the Ozarks group still managed to get out on the water to enjoy a cold beverage and share some laughs.

"Because of Delta Upsilon, I've been blessed with brothers for life."

—**Craig Ham '87**

"I can't stress the importance of getting to know your brothers. Creating authentic bonds and sharing the highs and lows of life is something I cherish."

—**Chris Stecher '89**

"From standing up in my wedding or traveling across the country to attend my father's funeral, these men have witnessed it all with me."

—**Andy Watt '88**

"If one thing's for certain, we will be getting together for long weekends until we drop. Friends for life!"

—**Dave Williams '90**