



# The DUCK CALL

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## Reflections on the Past 10 Years... ...and Excitement for What Lies Ahead!

**I**t seems impossible that our “new” chapter house is now 10 years old! Thanks to many of you, we moved into a brand-new facility in fall 2015 and held our official dedication ceremony a few months later.

Often, campaigns conclude and those involved are left wondering, **“Was it worth it?”**

I believe the answer to that question for our brotherhood, which I expand on below, is a resounding **YES.**

One concern was the need to appropriately maintain the property—historically, chapter houses don’t age well. **I am pleased to report that the facility looks as good today as it did the day we opened.** There are many reasons for that, but the key was our alumni board’s commitment to professional property management, including proactive preventive maintenance programs and summer repairs.

Another concern was taking on a substantial new debt load, but

**our debt has been reduced by roughly \$1.5 million over the last 10 years.** That is even more impressive when you consider we had to endure a two-year suspension and a nationwide pandemic.

Beyond the facility itself, our donors wanted the Fraternity experience to be relevant with value added through the campaign. We have some great data to support that goal:

- We are the **third-largest Fraternity on campus** at 175 members.
- Last year, we were recognized as a **top seven chapter at the international level and a top five chapter at the university.**

Obtaining recognition of that caliber requires excellence in academics, service, leadership, and beyond.

What lies ahead? It is, of course, impossible to know. But what we do know is that we need to ensure the relevancy and value of the Fraternity experience must be preserved.

That will require time (leadership) and treasure (funding).

- On the leadership side, we recently added three board members (**Rick Montgomery '90, Bryan Livingston '13, and Peter Birk '14**) and have committed to adding 1-2 new board members each year going forward.
- On the funding side, we will be rolling out a new program that will allow tax-deductible donations on an annual basis to fund various needs. This will allow alumni like you to make donations in a regular, manageable way without the need for never-ending special campaigns. *Look for that opportunity soon!*

Thank you for your support. It is making an incredible difference in the lives of our youngest brothers and the strength of our enduring brotherhood!

Fraternally,  
**Bruce McKinney '74**  
President, Missouri Alumni of Delta Upsilon  
ebmckin@gmail.com



*DU's volleyball team celebrates their RAMS competition victory.*



*Brothers attend our service event with Big Brothers Big Sisters.*



*For nearly 20 years, the Randal J. Farmer '79 Award has been presented to freshmen with the highest semester GPAs. Thanks to an effort led by many brothers close to Randal, a \$10,000 endowment was created to provide a \$500 scholarship to each year's winners. This year, three new associate members, (from left) Thomas Hutzler '29, Carter Griffin-Horst '29, and Samuel Reyna '29, were presented with plaques by chapter advisors Chuck Hatley '80 and Rick Montgomery '90.*

## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

### BROTHERS STRIVE FOR SUCCESS AT MIZZOU

#### RECRUITMENT

Building on the strong fall recruitment class, we initiated 47 brothers. The ceremony was held on November 2 at Memorial Union. Chapter Advisory Board Member **Mike Gilliland 'YR** delivered the charge. We then added seven associate members for the spring and officially welcomed them to the brotherhood at our pinning ceremony on February 15.

#### ACADEMICS

Completing the fall with a chapter GPA of 3.13, DU had 47 members (27% of our membership!) recognized on various dean's lists.

#### OFFICER ELECTIONS AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING

New officer elections were held in November. I participated in the International Fraternity President's Academy in Indianapolis and was able to meet with fellow DU chapter presidents across North America to embrace opportunities for leadership development and networking.

On February 13-15, our executive board and other interested members participated in

DUIF's Regional Leadership Academy held in Kansas City. This program is designed to help new officers understand roles and expectations.

Four executive board members later participated in the Fraternity and Sorority Life retreat in Columbia. The event's focus was on "chapter accountability" and was facilitated by Dr. Mike McKree, a former staff member with DUIF.

#### SERVICE ACTIVITIES

On February 28, we organized a service event at a local bowling alley with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri, an organization that creates and supports relationships with local youth so they may achieve their full potential.

We also had the pleasure of participating again in Rocking Against Multiple Sclerosis. RAMS is a philanthropic organization that raises money and provides services for the Multiple Sclerosis Institute of Mid-Missouri by hosting events throughout the month of February. Our chapter took first place in the volleyball and basketball tournaments. This year, we were paired with Delta Delta Delta and Kappa Sigma. Activities included sporting events,

service events, and a blood drive. More than 1,000 cans of food were donated to a local food pantry.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Fraternity and Sorority Life Honors Ceremony is scheduled for April 9. We hope to repeat our success from last year, where we were recognized as one of the top five Fraternity chapters on campus. We also look forward to our annual Building Better Men event on April 11, initiation on April 12, and the popular Mom's Weekend on April 17-19.

If you ever find yourself back in Columbia, we encourage you to stop by the house. We would love to connect and share the continued success of our brotherhood.

Fraternally,  
**Rhett Pierce '29**  
Chapter President  
missouridu.president@gmail.com

## Who Will Carry the Torch?

### Send Us Your Member Recommendations

From one generation to the next, our brotherhood endures through those willing to continue our Missouri traditions. Who do you know with the resilience, leadership, and honor to carry our brotherhood's torch into the next generation?

Help us find the young men who will honor our past and shape what comes next. Send their info, including how we should contact them, their hometown and year in school, and why you think they'll fit right in with Delta Upsilon, to **Matthew Comesana '28** at email@email.com.





## WELCOME, SPRING NEW MEMBERS

**Jackson Allen '29**  
St. Louis, Mo.  
Lindbergh

**Larry Cascone '29**  
Kansas City, Mo.  
St. Pius

**Dillon DiBernardo '29**  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Park Hill South

**Jackson Fifer '29**  
St. Charles, Mo.  
Francis Howell North

**Joe Moonan '29**  
Chicago, Ill.  
Brother Rice

**Sam Reece '29**  
St. Louis, Mo.  
Bayless

**Rick Sandford '29**  
Naperville, Ill.  
Naperville North



## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
**Rhett Pierce '28**

VP Member Education  
**Logan Gabel '28**

VP Loss Prevention  
**Trey Hanneke '28**

VP Administration  
**Drew Hauser '28**

VP External Relations  
**Conor Lueck '28**

VP Academics  
**Eli Fassler '28**

VP Finance  
**Drew Pusa '28**

VP Recruitment  
**Matthew Comesana '28**

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Col. John A. Seitz III '59** lives in Junction City, Kan. He retired from the Chamber of Commerce as director of military affairs, and he is now active on Rotary Club and YMCA boards. John also participates in U.S. Army events at Fort Riley and was selected as a Distinguished Trooper in 2014. Email: [jseitz32017@outlook.com](mailto:jseitz32017@outlook.com)

**Charles W. Clark '65** lives in Columbia, Mo., where he enjoys spoiling his grandchildren and spending time with his great granddaughter. Email: [cwsjclark@yahoo.com](mailto:cwsjclark@yahoo.com)

**Ernie Wasmer '68** is glad to hear good news about Delta Upsilon at Mizzou. He lives in Lee's Summit, Mo., and keeps up with several alumni from his generation. "Those were special times and special people, and the memories are unbeatable." Email: [wazzou@yahoo.com](mailto:wazzou@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Rob Weagley '74** returned to Liberty, Mo., during COVID and is currently a volunteer board member for Clay Countians for Inclusion. Email: [rweagley@gmail.com](mailto:rweagley@gmail.com)

**Paul Mullen '81** and his wife, Brenda, love being grandparents to their two young granddaughters. Their daughter is also expecting her first child. Paul lives in Manchester, Mo., and cherishes his DU days and connections. He also enjoyed serving as the alumni president. Email: [pauljmullen1@gmail.com](mailto:pauljmullen1@gmail.com)



*The executive board hoists their trophies after a victory over the spring associate member class on St. Patrick's Day, hosted by our housemom Mary Stice.*

**Ron Duggan '82** resides in Sunrise Beach, Mo. He shares that his youngest daughter recently started at Mizzou after earning her associate's degree in high school. Email: [duggan@usmo.com](mailto:duggan@usmo.com)

**Andy Watt '88** lives in Chicago, Ill., where he is enjoying early retirement at 53. He and his wife, Diane, travel internationally for three months every winter, and they often visit their daughter living in London. Andy helped recolonize the DU chapter at Purdue and keeps up with several Mizzou alumni. Email: [andrewwatt@aol.com](mailto:andrewwatt@aol.com)



# The DUCK CALL

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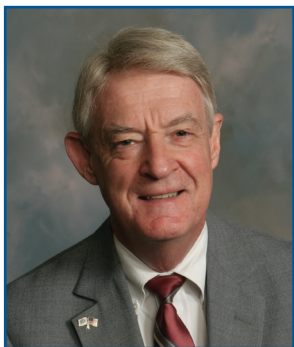
*Brothers gather for fall initiation at Memorial Union.*

## ANOTHER PROMISING YEAR AHEAD

This issue highlights alumni leadership updates and Delta Upsilon's latest accomplishments at Mizzou, including reflecting on 10 years of our "new" chapter house. Stay engaged with DU this year and consider submitting a recruitment referral to help us grow the brotherhood!

# THE INVESTMENT OF A LIFETIME

## Dr. Forest Tennant '62 Cherishes His DU Years



**"A**s one ages, you realize that living and closely knowing top-notch men can only occur in a Fraternity," shared **Forest Tennant '62**. "Even today, I think

about the positive, serving attitude I learned in Delta Upsilon. For reasons I can't fully explain, the Fraternity embeds an 'I can do it' attitude and belief that stays with you. For lack of a better term, it's a 'spiritual foundation' that you build at DU, and it never leaves."

Forest transferred to Missouri from a junior college and was introduced to Delta Upsilon by a fellow member of the Mizzou track team. The attitude, character, and personalities of the brotherhood were all traits he wanted to emulate.

Fraternity life was always busy in Forest's years, as DU participated in seemingly every possible academic or social activity on campus. Even so, his most memorable times came from one-on-one interactions with his brothers. Every DU man wanted to grow in character and impact the world in their future professional and family lives.

After graduating, Forest attended the University of Kansas School of Medicine and joined the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. His service helped spark an interest in the development of urine testing and drug addiction, and he joined the U.S. Public Health Service as a research fellow assigned to UCLA. Through the 1970s and '80s, Forest was deeply involved in drug addiction research. He later became a team doctor for the L.A. Dodgers as well as a medical director and drug advisor for the NFL.

On the side, Forest began investing in real estate in California and Kansas. He served as a city council member and mayor of West Covina, California, where he still lives today. Forest is retired from clinical practice

but continues to support research into arachnoiditis, a rare spinal canal disease. He also continues to run his real estate investment company in Wichita, Kansas, and he operates the family foundation alongside his wife.

Although Forest regrets not keeping in touch more closely, he makes a point to donate to DU at Missouri when possible; he hopes to help top-notch men develop and enjoy the same lessons he once received. "I have and continue to cherish the news bulletins. It's a thrill to see all the current members in a picture."

Forest has had a wonderful marriage, financial and professional success, and a variety of accomplishments to be proud of. "I'm convinced that my time at DU gave me a foundation and inspiration to achieve. It is not well appreciated that Fraternity time is short, so valuable, and is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

You can connect with Forest at [tennantfoundation92@gmail.com](mailto:tennantfoundation92@gmail.com).