



# BETA UPSILON BOOSTER

143 YEARS • ONE BROTHERHOOD • DELTA TAU DELTA FRATERNITY • UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Share your story with your brothers

There are good stories out there...stories of how your Greek experience helped you, taught you an important lesson, made you the man you are today, allowed you to meet the love of your life, gave you a connection which led you to your first job and professional journey...and more. Please don't let these stories die without sharing them with those who really need to hear them. Send your news and photos to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com!](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com)

## HISTORY

Delta Tau Delta was born of the knowledge that integrity is essential. The founding principles of Truth, Courage, Faith and Power have provided a guide for both the Fraternity and its membership.

Since 1858 the Fraternity has spread to nearly 200 campuses with over 120 active chapters and colonies comprised of about 6,500 undergraduate members.

## LOST

### Help Us Find Lost Brothers

We are working to collect up-to-date contact information for as many brothers as possible to keep our alumni informed about all things Beta Pi (re-unions, events, achievements, alumni updates, and more!)

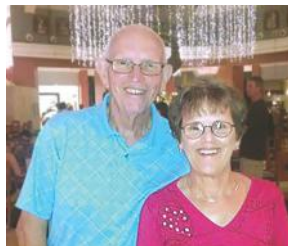
**Please take a minute to skim through our lost email list and lost mailing list at [www.illinidelts-alumni.com](http://www.illinidelts-alumni.com) to see if you recognize any names.**

If you know a brother's contact information, right click his name and select "Open link in new tab," which opens an email window. Just type your message and submit it to us so we can update our records!

## A LIFELONG COMMITMENT

### Jack Kamerer '63 Will Always Consider Himself a Delt

When your good friend is an All Big-Ten Conference football player for the University of Illinois and recruits you to join his fraternity, you tend to listen. That's exactly what happened to **Jack Kamerer '63** when he was sophomore commuter student.



"My good friend, **Joe Wendryhoski**, class of 1961, and first captain of the New Orleans Saints, encouraged me to become a Delt," he recalls.

As a member of the fraternity, Jack quickly became as involved as he could, even though he wasn't living in the house.

"I was a town boy and lived at home during college so I didn't spend much time at the Delt house," he admits. "I worked at my parent's restaurant every weekday, but I did enjoy dinner at the house on Mondays and attended all Chapter meetings."

Looking back, if he could change anything, it would be that.

"I would recommend all brothers live in the house," he says. "I think it builds a stronger bond."

But Jack didn't let his living situation get in the way of making the most of his Delt experience. He fondly recalls the many antics and fun that was had during those years.

"Some of my best memories are parties hosted by **John Schrader '61** and **Bill Reno '62**, parties at my house, and playing basketball with Joe Wendryhoski, **Bruce Quayle '60** and Bill Reno—we would sing the Saints song on our march back to the Shelter," he recalls. "And of course, the time when I mentored **Bob Pfeifer '63**, our campus Valedictorian, in how to take a Commerce course exam. He got an A and I received a B!"

As an Accounting major, Jack could be found hitting the books often. Using the Delt course files to assist him in non-commerce courses, Jack did well in school, leading him to a career with

the Sponsored Research Business Office at the University of Illinois. He started as an accountant before becoming Director of the Office until his retirement in 2004.

In December 1963, Jack married his sweetheart, Carol, and even then, his loyalty to his alma

mater was a factor.

"We spent our honeymoon at the Rose Bowl when Dick Butkus, **Lynn Stewart '65**, and the Fighting Illini defeated the Washington Huskies," he recalls.

Together, Jack and Carol have three children and four grandsons and currently spend the winter months in Bonita Springs, Florida.

"I was Chapter Advisor from 1968 until **Matt Wilson** took over in 1996 or 1997," he says. "I had a good relationship with the members and kept the Chapter solvent with no debt."

Jack remained involved in Delta Tau Delta long after graduation and his contributions are still evident today.

Maintaining relationships with his brothers is important to Jack, as the bonds of brotherhood are still strong after so many years.

"I was very close with Joe Wendryhoski until he passed away," he says. "Bill Reno organizes a luncheon in Florida that is attended by Bob Pfeifer, **Jim Downey '63**, **Paul Pappas '65**, **Bill Smith '65**, Lynn Stewart, and **Joe Weyhrich '65**."

Jack is looking forward to catching up with them again soon in September at a reunion being organized by Bob Pfeifer to take place at the Illinois football game in Tampa, FL.

Although he isn't directly involved anymore, Jack continues to support the chapter financially, seeing it as his duty to maintain the reputation of the fraternity that he helped build over so many years.

"I donate to the Delts annually to support Beta Upsilon chapter," he says. "I believe it is the top fraternity on the Urbana campus."

## DID YOU KNOW?

### An Illini Delt Designed One of MLB's Most Popular Bats

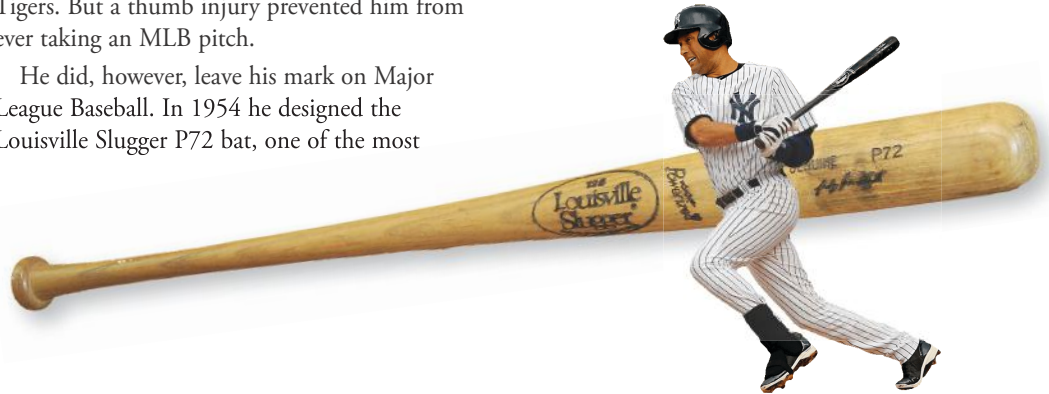


With thoughts of spring and baseball swirling in our winter-weary heads, we wanted to share a story of an Illini Delt's ties to the Major Leagues.

**Leslie Wayne Pinkham '53** had a fantastic collegiate baseball career at Illinois and signed a professional baseball contract with the Detroit Tigers. But a thumb injury prevented him from ever taking an MLB pitch.

He did, however, leave his mark on Major League Baseball. In 1954 he designed the Louisville Slugger P72 bat, one of the most

famous models the brand has ever produced. And, according to a 2013 article from the New York Post, Derek Jeter had used that bat for every single one of his 3,316 (at the time) hits—a rarity among baseball players who like to experiment with different bats.



## PHILANTHROPY

### Deltona 2018



Philanthropy is something in which, the Beta Upsilon chapter of Delta Tau Delta, takes a lot of pride and we are currently trying to build upon the success we have had in the past. As one of the largest Delt chapters in the country, and one of the largest fraternities at Illinois, we have the resources and leaders to give back to our community in a significant

way. With this goal in mind, on April 5-7 we will be hosting our annual Spring philanthropy Deltona. An event that brings together various groups of Greek life, to raise money for the JDRF Diabetes Foundation. Last year Deltona was a major success, that lead to \$8,200 being raised and donated to JDRF. In addition to Deltona, Beta Upsilon,

is also participating in the Gotthiel Cup; a philanthropy hockey game hosted by Sig Ep. The tournament will feature a national anthem performed by Chicago Blackhawks Jim Cornelison and will bring together four of the strongest houses on our campus to raise money for Lymphoma research.



ON THE WEB



You can make your annual fund contribution by:

1. Logging on to [www.illinidelts-alumni.com](http://www.illinidelts-alumni.com).
2. Calling 800-975-6699.
3. Mailing a check to the return address on this newsletter.

## Why Strong Graduate Connections are Good for Your Health

***As men grow older, they tend to let their friendships lapse. But there's still time to do something about it.***

Recently, The Boston Globe published an article with a pretty shocking headline... "The biggest threat facing middle-age men isn't smoking or obesity. It's loneliness."

Work and family take precedence as we age, and maintaining friendships becomes more of an option than a necessity. The weekend trips, grabbing a beer after work, and football tailgates fade away just gradually enough that we don't realize it.

Without strong friendships, men's health suffers.

According to the article, loneliness has been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke and the progression of Alzheimer's. One study found that it can be as much of a long-term risk factor as smoking.

It's not too late to turn it around... we're here for each other.

Thanks to Beta Upsilon Chapter, you have many friends—brothers,



in fact—with whom you already share common bonds. Being a member of Delta Tau Delta is a lifelong privilege, so take advantage of your membership. Reconnect with brothers, revitalize your friendships. Come to an event, check out headquarters events in your area, or use our online directory to look up that brother you haven't talked to in years. Get. In. Touch. Don't wait. Do it now. Thanks to the generosity of our graduate network, the tools you need are all right here.

And remember, our graduate network can only survive if we have loyal support from our graduates. Your annual gift helps fund our communications programs and networking tools available to you, like our website. If you haven't made your gift yet this year, please donate today to ensure our program lives on to serve you and your fellow brothers!

## UNDERGRAD PROFILE

### Freshman Brother Billy O'Donnell Spends Spent Gap Year Working In New York and Los Angeles

My name is Billy O'Donnell and I am a Freshman here at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, studying business. In addition to being a Business student, I am a proud member of the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Delta Tau Delta. After graduating high school, I made the decision to attend U of I, but before heading to Campus, I elected to take a gap year. For those who are unfamiliar, a gap year is a year off of traditional schooling (typically between high school and college), where students have the freedom to do whatever they deem relevant to their studies. Over my gap year, I lived in both Los Angeles and New York, and worked for a variety of companies throughout my time.

The first half of my year was positioned in Los Angeles, where I worked for a clothing company called johnnie-O. I was put in charge of their campus ambassador program, and was tasked with managing 70+ different ambassadors across 60+ different campuses. Not only was I learning a lot about the business world by working for johnnie-O, I was also able to learn a lot about myself by living on my own. From cooking my



own meals, to dragging myself out of bed to get to work, I could practically feel myself becoming a more disciplined person. Indeed, I still found time for myself and was able to experience what LA had to offer, but my main passion was my job.

Following Los Angeles, the second half of my gap year took me to New York City where I worked as an administrative assistant at ABC Television. My duties were fairly

diverse at this job. My boss was the VP of Daytime Television, so part of my day was spent on the set of a cooking talk show called The Chew. This part of my day was really exciting, because most episodes host some sort of celebrity guest, and part of my job was to provide them with hospitality. I can honestly say I peaked, after getting a cup of water for Neil Patrick Harris. Aside from the set of The Chew, I also learned a lot about show syndication and corporate sponsorships within episodes. Additionally, commuting to and from NYC is something that few people can say that they've done, and it was one of the coolest parts about this portion of the gap year.

Now that I am on campus, the takeaways from my gap year have proved to be advantageous to my studies and my involvement around campus. Beyond Deltas, I am a part of two clubs within the business school, and I am also currently pledging a business fraternity. I attribute almost all of my college success to the year I took off, and can honestly say that it was the best decision I have made in my life.

## CHAPTER GRADE REPORT

### Delts Continue to Excel in the Classroom



Beta Upsilon again achieved top-ten grade point average status among campus fraternities in the Fall of 2017. With overall chapter GPA of 3.24, Delta Tau Delta ranked 9th among 41 fraternities at the University of Illinois. The All-Male grade average for Fall 2017 was 3.15.

Special congratulations to the following members who achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA:

**Jacob Blood**  
**Thomas Brundage**

**Adam Cardone**  
**William Ladas**

With 161 members, Delta Tau Delta has the second largest membership among campus fraternities. The University of Illinois has an enrollment of 33,610 undergraduate students with 3,631 men and 3,994 women belonging to Greek organizations.

Congrats Brothers!

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### Matthew "Hud" Hudson '89

We asked Beta Upsilon alumni to answer a few questions about their time with the Chapter and what it taught them. Brother **Matthew "Hud" Hudson '89** fills us in on his experience and what he is doing now.

#### Which Beta Upsilon tradition is the most meaningful to you?

I really enjoyed doing a Football Block with a sorority. That was back when the Illini had winning records and everyone wanted to go the games. We would have to serenade the various sororities to ask them to do Football Block and then we would have 6-7 parties in the fall with a specific sorority.

#### What did the fraternity teach you about leadership?

My time on campus as a member of Beta Upsilon was a wonderfully fun time, but it was also a time to grow as a person. I was able to see the great example of my older brothers on the right way to interact and collaborate

together to get things done. You look at a guy like BJ Jenkins and see what he has accomplished in life and you realize that he was a natural leader in college that everyone just liked. He was a guy you followed not because he demanded your attention, but because he earned it. I have tried to follow that example in my personal and professional life.

#### What is your funniest fraternity memory?

There are almost too many to mention and attempt to narrow it down to the 'funniest'. The memories that make me smile and laugh to this day involve Maggie our cook from back in the late 1980's. She has just a wonderful person and so much fun to talk to. I can still hear her say 'You boys are just sleazy!!'

#### In what ways have you stayed connected with Beta Upsilon Chapter as an alum?

Having Matt Wilson on campus has been a blessing. He makes it easy to know what is going on at the shelter and is helpful with

tracking down fellow Delt Alums.

#### What's new in your life today? (family news, career highlights, etc.)

I have been lucky enough to have lived and traveled extensively. I have lived all over the US and spent 3+ years living in Sweden. I currently live in Seattle with my wife, Zuzana, and our blended family of two girls (18 and 15) and three boys (12, 12, and 10). I work as the head of Business Unit for my company named FirstOrion. FirstOrion provides call information and protection services for mobile operators. We help identify calls that might be an attempt to scam consumers and keep them protected. He feels good to work in a business that is doing good for society.

*Did Beta Upsilon have a profound impact on your life too? You can honor your experience by visiting [www.illinidelts-alumni.com](http://www.illinidelts-alumni.com), clicking Alumni Corner and then Submit an Update.*

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BETA UPSILON

### Bringing back traditional fraternity values and sharing your stories

Lately, with all of the negative headlines in the news about Greek life, organizations have been looking inward to the example they set, the image that they present to other organizations and what they have done to improve. We are asking members to communicate about the hard questions they are facing and take action to uphold traditional fraternity values and practices. While current undergraduates are working to maintain the trust and respect from their respective college administration, we wanted to make an effort to find out from you, the alumni, your opinions and feelings about the current state of Greek life, the future of the system as well as your motives behind giving or

not giving to Beta Upsilon.

We want to know your thoughts. Even if you just have stories to share about the values that you have learned from your time and experience with Beta Upsilon. The end result of getting you, the alumni to share your thoughts could result in the volunteers better understanding their members to not only shape the future of our communications but also to identify those with a real passion for the group. Are there any changes you would like to see happen to ensure success for the next 100 years? Let us know...