

SCROLL

The Scroll of Phi Delta Theta

WINTER 2021
VOLUME 144, NUMBER 1
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Phi Delta Theta recently introduced myPhiDelt, its new, best-in-class member portal. After a thorough review in early 2020, and before the disruption of COVID-19, Phi Delta Theta developed a new long-term partnership with ChapterSpot and Billhighway | greekbill.

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42 Living to See the Legacy

KELLY DERICKSON

Mickey and Barbara McKenzie's generosity ensures the necessary education for our members will continue.

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President's Letter

I want to thank our undergraduates and volunteers who continue to do the right thing by leading with maturity, clarity, and resolve through the challenges of COVID-19. As we grind out the last several months of the pandemic with a vaccine soon to arrive, I have some great news that I am proud to share.

During this pandemic, our brothers and alumni have not retrenched but have been working hard to reimagine how we serve our undergraduate and alumni members. The market has responded. Phi Delta Theta now has the largest average chapter size of all fraternities in North America! Just a decade ago, we were barely in the top ten.

Having the largest average chapter size of all fraternities is a quantifiable outcome that makes clear Phi Delta Theta Fraternity offers a value proposition that resonates with men on our campuses where we are commanding market share. We suffered only moderate losses in overall membership during the pandemic, consistent with decreased undergraduate enrollment throughout North America; however, the quality of our offerings and member retention continue to rise. We have seen a 55 percent increase in membership since the launch of *Phi Delt 2020*. This is truly remarkable and a testament to your hard work. We have something of tremendous value that men want and need.

We are not taking our foot off the pedal. We are initiating expansions at over twenty campuses in the United States and Canada this spring semester. This builds on our *Phi*

Delt 2020 goal of two-hundred chapters and will launch us into our *Phi Delt 2030* goal of 250 chapters along with another double-digit increase in membership.

We are having impact like never before in our history as we develop men to become better leaders and citizens. We are creating philanthropists that understand and act to serve others. I am totally overwhelmed by the work that our undergraduate and alumni brothers and friends are doing through our new LiveLikeLou Foundation. Phis have adopted and served over one-hundred heroic ALS families since May. Our brothers and friends are raising over \$1 million annually. We are serving children of ALS families at summer camps with our partner, Hope Loves Company. Our Iron Horse Scholarship program is currently funding eight college scholarships for students of ALS families. And, last but not least, we should all be proud of Phi Delta Theta's funding of cutting-edge research and emerging ALS researchers.

Our alumni have responded to our successes with great pride and personal investment of time and money. We surpassed our \$20 million endowment target a few years ago and have added an additional \$4 million over the past two years. We are well on our way to a \$50 million target by 2030.

I am so proud of our leadership society. We have risen to the occasion and have taken adversity head-on to create value in ourselves and our organization, but most importantly, we have added joy in the lives of others. Helping others and putting them ahead of yourself is what a well-lived life is all about.



Congratulations, brothers and friends. We have banded together and pulled through 2020 taking care of ourselves and others. We should all keep driving hard to become the greatest versions of ourselves. Let us make 2021 another banner year by continuing to show our commitment to Friendship, Sound Learning, and Rectitude. We all look forward to doing this without social distancing once we get the "all clear!" As for now, wear your mask, social distance, and hold yourself as a leader on your campus and in your workplace. As always, I am very proud to be a Phi.

Yours in the Bond,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris W. Brussalis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Chris W. Brussalis, *Allegheny '87*
General Council President 2018–2021

SCROLL

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On the final day of 2020, I ceremoniously slammed the door on the most eventful and impactful year of my life. I am technically one of the final Baby Boomers, so my life has seen few significant catastrophes. The pandemic, in addition to racial tensions and social unrest, and the highly contested US presidential election were almost too much.

With the stress and rapid-fire change of day-to-day tasks, I must admit that there was a lot of good that resulted in 2020 that countered some of the negative impacts. The pandemic significantly expedited innovations and efficiencies, and the stories of this issue describe several of these positive outcomes. Noted repeatedly is the expert and agile way that the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and Foundation responded to the drastically changed horizon.

On page 14, you will see the chapter response by all the support teams of a local chapter at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

On page 28, you can read about how the alumni at Auburn University have embraced Zoom reunions, building alumni engagement unlike they could have ever imagined.

The McKenzie Family Presidents Leadership Conference's endowment feature shows the generosity of a family of Phis to ensure the programming excellence given annually to chapter CEOs. This gift is the cornerstone gift to the Foundation's campaign, *A Greater Version for Tomorrow*, which has had a slow, steady start and will be unveiled fully at the 2021 General Convention.

If an effective vaccine brings the pandemic under control in time for the June convention, please allow me to be the first to invite you to attend. We would love this General Convention to be a celebration of Phi Delta Theta like no other.

Celebrating the wins!

Kelly Derickson, Editor

PROUD TO BE A PHI

Staying connected through all forms of communication. Let's talk!

Sound Learning

Through education, listening, and being uncomfortable

BY AUSTIN A. DERAY

As someone who works on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives professionally every day, people ask me more than I ever thought possible about my opinions and thoughts on the recent election and its relation to the racial and gender issues facing the United States. For those who know me well, they would say, "Great, Deray loves to share his opinion." In this particular case, I have a lot to say, not just because of what I do professionally, but because of who I am. I'm a Middle-Eastern/North African descent American, born of an immigrant and a Daughter of the American Revolution and raised in a Christian, Jewish, and Islamic household where these traditions were practiced, expressed, and welcomed. I am a Southerner, brought up in the Low Country of Georgia. All those identities make me who I am and offer personal insight into many of today's diverging viewpoints.

I also find myself, probably for the first time in my life, remembering the words of George Washington. Again, to those who know me, that is an oddity, for when it comes to history, I am a proud medievalist and tend to flee from topics that occurred after the fourteenth century. However, I now realize we are now at the moment in US history where the collective mind should recall Washington's farewell words:

"The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism."

(Washington, Farewell Address, 1796)

Washington spoke then of the dangers of a two-party system, and I fear we did not heed his warning. We are now at a moment where it seems that US citizens are quick to draw their lines. While I stand for knowing, speaking, and fighting for what you believe and being as politically and socially active as any person wants, needs, or is called to be, I am still first and foremost a proponent of educated and informed actions.

As you may know, the foundation of Phi Delta Theta is our Cardinal Principles—Friendship, Sound Learning, and Rectitude. I have realized that for many, sound learning has become a simple statement of academic pursuit for collegiate males in favor of privileging friendship and rectitude. I think it is time we return to sound learning. I believe we make our truest of friendships through sound learning, amalgamate reason, and empathy within our integrity (rectitude).

Many issues face the US at this moment, beyond the fractured nature of our society due to this two-party system. Even more than healthcare or the environment, it seems that conversations around immigration, racism, criminal justice, and LGBTQ+ issues are the more impassioned conversations in the circles I traverse. What I wish for most is that people would educate themselves on these issues, beyond relying on party politics or the dominant media coverage/cycles. Truly study an issue, listen to the people that live or experience the issue, and then have a conversation—really have a discussion—where both sides ponder together not to win an argument or dominate another's thoughts or opinions but have a real dialogue. A conversation where both parties/positions not only speak but genuinely listen to the other.

Let us not fall into the factional society Washington warned against;

let us continue to have conversations together. It is every person's job to educate themselves on the facts and listen to those who have experiential/lived knowledge to inform your opinion or stance on a particular issue.

I know these conversations and topics can often be uncomfortable; however, that's a good thing. Welcome the discomfort; we often grow and learn more about ourselves when we grow from a place of agitation. When you are uncomfortable, the person(s) you are in a conversation with is probably also uneasy. Because you both experience discomfort together, you already have something in common. Hopefully, by working/speaking through the uncomfortable, you will be able to come to a deeper understanding. Though it might not change either side's opinions, you can walk away knowing that you educated yourself on a topic, took the time to listen to someone else's point of view, and talked through both your thoughts and feelings. Whether you agree or disagree, you have respected and honored each other, and you can end the conversation in a good place.

I truly believe if we as a brotherhood return to sound learning by educating ourselves, really listening, and at times live uncomfortably, we will not only see that we can transcend party lines and politics, but that we can have real dialogue and conversations as brothers. Let's not fall into the trap Washington warned us about; let's embrace and exemplify the second Cardinal Principle of Sound Learning as envisioned by the Immortal Six so that we can continue to grow together and push each other to the greatest versions of ourselves. 🦋

Austin is currently the diversity and inclusion commissioner and Delta North Province President

Staying Nimble in a New Role

New Executive Vice President and CEO Sean Wagner's unplanned start

Years in the making, Sean Wagner's first one-hundred days looked a lot different than originally planned due to the presence of COVID-19. Take a look at what was planned and what happened instead.



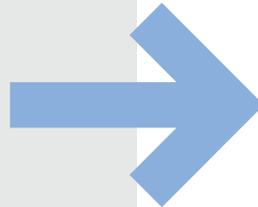
PLAN

Launch new strategic plan *Phi Delt 2030*.

Introduce Phi Delta Theta Foundation capital campaign.

Complete CEO listening tour visiting chapters, alumni clubs, and donors.

Onboard and support new General Council in new biennium, 2020 General Convention, standard budget efforts.



PIVOT

Reorganized all resources and plans to immediately support undergraduates and alumni in need, promote health and safety, and recharge membership value proposition. Rebooted strategic plan to meet the changing higher education landscape and post COVID-19 world.

Revised campaign structure to provide innovation support and inclusive opportunities for all donors, and reset launch.

(1) Launched video series to keep membership informed, (2) participated regularly in province president and chapter advisory board webinars, (3) hosted virtual fireside chats for donors, (4) held regional webinar for Gruver Foundation, and (5) served as chapter support lead for Beta (Upstate New York) Province.

Worked with current General Council to meet all governance obligations in third year of service. Revised plan and effort for 2021 General Convention in Pittsburgh. Recast budget providing relief to undergraduate members and seek alternative revenue.

INTRODUCING THE NEW CEO

Became Bond #216 of the Pennsylvania Mu Chapter at Widener University on September 12, 1999, one day after his nineteenth birthday.

Led the implementation of alcohol-free housing at Pennsylvania Mu as chapter president from 2000–2001.

Why he's passionate to serve Phi Delta Theta as its fifth executive: Becoming a Phi Delt exposes young men to leadership experiences, relationships, and a values-centered life that improves every member's personal trajectory. Our role at GHQ is to enable and sponsor that

transformational experience. In these uncertain times where leaders are needed more than ever, and the world is looking to provide greater opportunities for all, our society has the chance to be more impactful than ever.

To date, Sean has represented Phi Delta Theta at 117 campuses in thirty-six states and two Canadian provinces.

Favorite Phi Delt moment: "I'll never forget my first trip to Oxford for what was then Leadership College. I entered a room jam-packed with hundreds of Phi Delt. All of a sudden my Fraternity was bigger than my chapter and my campus, and my membership in Phi Delta Theta was even more special."

FRIENDSHIP

Truthfulness, mutual connection, fidelity.
United with fellow truth seekers.



FRIENDSHIP

Missouri Beta Alumni Pay All New Member Dues

Creative fundraising leads to the largest new member class at Westminster

BY MICHAEL SCHULTE, WESTMINSTER '14



This summer, our recruitment chairman and our chapter advisory board knew that COVID-19, and the economic fallout it spurred, threatened to diminish the fraternity experience.

We knew that we would need to work harder than ever to incentivize membership in Phi Delta Theta.

When General Headquarters announced its platform to sponsor new members financially, the recruitment team was confident that reduced dues could make a substantial difference for students and families considering our Fraternity. Our chapter advisory board decided that we could best support the chapter by coordinating a targeted fundraising campaign.

We collaborated with the chapter's recruitment team to set a goal to raise \$5,400 to pay for new member and initiation dues for fifteen new members.

Here is how we accomplished our goal:

First, we translated our membership goal, fifteen new members, into a fundraising goal. To pay the \$85 new member and \$225 initiation dues for fifteen new members, we would need to raise \$5,400.

We then set our target audience. Because these donations are relatively small, we decided to target alumni who had graduated in the past ten years.

Next, we reached out to former presidents and other influential

members to ask them if they would be willing to donate and challenge people in their social circles to match their donation. Many of these alumni created group text threads—several of these threads generated over \$1,000.

We also used social media to encourage targeted donors and to find donors we may not have thought to contact. Each social media post communicated our goal, progress towards that goal, and how this fundraiser could impact our chapter. Our chapter president wrote the initial appeal and made a video explaining the context and urging alumni and friends to donate.

Once a post hit social media, several alumni moderated it and tagged brothers who might be interested in donating. Our social media strategy was so successful that we raised more than \$1,500 on the first day.

The last \$1,500 was the hardest to raise. We continued to post our progress on social media, but engagement declined.

At this stage, we moved to direct contact via text messaging or phone calls. We mobilized our house mom and our province president (who was formerly our chapter advisory board chairman) to make appeals on behalf of the chapter.

The direct appeals worked. We exceeded our goal, raising over \$5,400 in less than two weeks.

Recruitment took place August 6–29, 2020 over Zoom, and it appears our fundraising efforts paid off. Westminster College has six fraternities. Three of those fraternities had six or fewer students

accept bids. Our chapter had fourteen people accept bids. We are currently the largest new member class on campus.

One new member commented, “Lower dues was a major factor in my decision.” Another said our fundraising efforts made him feel better about his decision to join Phi Delta Theta.

Our current context demands innovation, but our chapter has proven that you can still grow the Fraternity during a global pandemic. The monies we raised played an invaluable role in communicating another incentive to potential new members—it proved that our brotherhood is more than a four-year college experience. It revealed that our brotherhood includes a network of thousands of people who have your back in the most challenging circumstances. I hope chapters across the country will join us in taking advantage of this tremendous opportunity and platform to sustain growth and help the next generation become the greatest version of themselves. 🦋



\$85 New Member Dues

Cover the new member dues for one Phikeia



\$255 Initiation Dues

Cover the initiation dues of one new Phi Delt

To sponsor a new member, visit phide.it/sponsornewmember



TOP ROW LEFT: Drake
TOP ROW RIGHT: Michigan

SPRING 2021 EXPANSIONS:

SECOND ROW LEFT: East Tennessee State
SECOND ROW RIGHT: North Dakota State

- UMass Amherst
- Ohio Wesleyan
- UNLV
- Western Michigan

THIRD ROW LEFT: Washington State
THIRD ROW RIGHT: Arkansas State



The recently created Diversity Working Group and the Survey Commission recommended for adoption by the General Council new terminology for burgeoning groups. Emerging Chapter replaces Colony and initial members of these new groups are now referred to as Founders. For a full explanation of all initiatives, see <https://phide.lt/2XteJii>

EXPANSION

CHAPTER INSTALLATIONS

Drake University

After an eleven-year hiatus from campus, the Iowa Delta Chapter has returned to Drake University. Originally founded on October 28, 1961,

Iowa Delta has initiated 925 members, many of whom have become business and community leaders in the Des Moines, Iowa area.

On September 18, 2020,

twenty men of the Iowa Delta Emerging Chapter at Drake University were initiated and signed *The Bond* of Phi Delta Theta at the Scottish Rite Consistory in Downtown

Des Moines. The next day, the chapter received its charter from General Council President Chris Brussalis and was officially re-installed as a chapter of Phi Delta Theta.

EMERGING CHAPTERS

University of Michigan

Province President Michael Boulter, *Kettering '12*, General Council Member-at-Large Nat Love, *Michigan '80*, Past President of the General Council, current General Council Member-at-Large Michael Scarlatelli, *Kettering '76*, and CAB Chairman Luke Boulter, *Michigan State '17* formally inducted Michigan Alpha as an emerging chapter on September 25, 2020. Safety was a priority during the ceremony, including limited attendees, two separate induction ceremonies performed, and the events streamed live on the Michigan Alpha Facebook page.

“Our current members have both persevered and excelled throughout the pandemic to create goals for scholarship and recruitment while establishing philanthropy and leadership initiatives,” said Michigan Alpha President Pratik Danu, '22.

East Tennessee State University

On October 7, 2020, Province President Todd Nisbet, *Southern California '87*, and

Chapter Advisory Board Chairman Hunter Carlheim, *Robert Morris '17*, formally inducted the Tennessee Theta Emerging Chapter. Safety was a priority during the ceremony with limited attendees, face coverings, and social distancing.

The initial establishment of Tennessee Theta had just begun in March when COVID-19 forced the General Headquarters team to leave campus. Thankfully, the initial recruitment efforts of Expansion Consultants Cody Flynn and Devin Thornton had resulted in several students expressing interest in becoming Founders.

Working alongside the undergraduate Founders on a mostly remote learning campus, the group grew to twenty-four members.

North Dakota State University

On November 6, 2020, Chapter Advisory Board Chairman Derek Steiner, *North Dakota '12*, inducted North Dakota Beta as an emerging chapter.

“The ambition in this room is endless, and I have

full faith that we will see this chapter thriving decades from now,” said North Dakota Beta President Connor Crago. “We have already started helping the community around us, and we are dedicated to bettering the world with every resource available. We will do these things as we persevere through the challenges we face.”

Long Island University

The Emerging Chapter of New York Mu was inducted on November 20, 2020 at Long Island University (LIU). Driven by the desire to be the new example and positive role models in their community, the Founders, led by Expansion Consultant Greg Rush, are committed to becoming a united force for a common cause.

Through brotherhood events, service opportunities, and educational programming, the New York Mu Emerging Chapter is steadfast to make an impact on not only the Greek community and pursue collaboration with the entire LIU community.

Washington State University

The Washington Gamma Emerging Chapter returned to WSU on December 3, 2020. Expansion Consultant Cody Flynn helped build a core group of men committed to being agents of culture change on campus, with a strong commitment to the Cardinal Principle, Rectitude.

The emerging chapter elected new officers, created a big brother program, and even won a campus award for their public relations efforts. Even though their campus will continue to be virtual in spring 2021, they will continue to build community.

Arkansas State University

On December 4, 2020, Arkansas Beta was formally inducted as an emerging chapter. Dr. Charles Welch, *Arkansas '95*, was able to attend and speak to the crowd during the induction ceremony. The ceremony was also streamed live through Zoom. Executing the induction ceremony was Province President Ryan Frenz, *Southeast Missouri State '06*.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

This fall, we went searching for talented Phi Delta Theta undergraduate photographers and asked them to submit a collection of photos of their chapters and brothers in the life of COVID-19. Below are the biographies of our students photographers and throughout the magazine their photos are featured.



**CHRIS LIKENS,
KENTUCKY '23**

Chris is a brother of the Kentucky Epsilon Chapter at the University of Kentucky. As a sophomore finance major with a minor in photography, he also enjoys playing bass drum in the Wildcat Marching Band, playing golf, and spending

@chrislikens_

time with his brothers. You can see his photos on page 67.

I took up photography during my senior year of high school and love it. I am thankful for Phi Delta Theta and the opportunities it has given me.



**GEOMAR NGWANG,
MERCER '22**

Geomar is a junior majoring in sociology with a minor in biology and chemistry on the pre-med track. You can see his photos on page 68.

@jammar.n

Photography is a self-taught hobby, and I am always trying to improve my skills. Typically I prefer Nikon brands, but I really like Sony's A6000 lineup. Other than photography and school, I love playing video games and hanging out with my brothers.

Phi Delta Theta has shown me that through brotherhood, anything is possible. I am a generally quiet person who prefers behind the scenes work in my chapter.

This opportunity allows me to be the face of something and offers a chance to be creative while also being part of a collaborative network.



**LAKE LEWIS, CARNEGIE
MELLON '23**

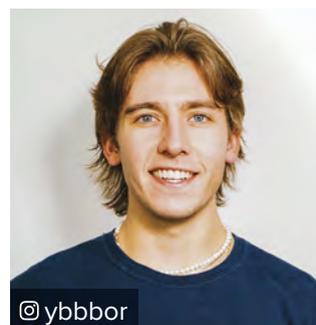
Lake is a third-year architecture student with a minor in photography. See page 49 for his photos.

@lake.lewis

Originally from Seattle, I love to get outside and be active. In my

free time, I do freelance photography, cook recipes I find on the NY Times cooking app, and discover new music (both to listen to and learn to sing).

I joined Phi Delt because I did not have many guy friends in high school and wanted to be part of an organization of people I knew would keep me accountable. Growth and self-awareness are important to me, and I found a home in Phi Delt, where both would be fostered. I could improve as a person, but I would do so alongside dedicated people who have my best interests in mind and who are committed to the same morals and values held by Phi Deltas in the US and Canada.



**ROBBY ZACHARIAS,
HOFSTRA '21**

Robby is a senior majoring in film studies and production at Hofstra University. See page 27 for his photos.

@ybbbor

Growing up, my father always had a camera with him, sparking my early love

for the creative arts. Being raised in a suburban town outside of Philadelphia, I yearned for action and was immediately attracted to the fast-paced lifestyle of Hofstra and New York City. These last four years in New York have exceeded my expectations, improved my photography and videography abilities, and have given me field experience. Upon graduation, I hope to remain in New York and grow as an innovative leader and work on a marketing or creative services team in music, fashion, and entertainment.



**SHANE NOURIE,
MONTCLAIR STATE '21**

Shane is a senior sports marketing major. See page 48 for his photos.

I am proud to serve as president of the New Jersey Epsilon Emerging Chapter. I have always liked taking pictures, but I never really

took it seriously until I got my first camera in 2020. I started photography in February and videography in June.

Since then, it's become a consuming passion. I am entirely self-taught and continuously working to improve my skills, becoming the greatest version of myself. I would have never thought getting that camera would open so many doors for me. So much so that I hope to start my own company and create memories for others.



**ZACH STRINGER,
HANOVER '22**

Zach is a junior studying business management/marketing and communications with a graphic design minor. See page 69 for his photos.

I have been a member of the Indiana Epsilon

Chapter since January of my freshman year in 2019. I have held several positions within the chapter, from risk manager to public relations chairman. I became interested in photography because of my mother, who is a professional photographer in Northern Kentucky.

You can find me cheering on my brothers in athletic events, taking photos, or working on my business plans in my free time. After graduation, I hope to work for a Fortune 500 company in sales and start a brewery on the side.

**ALLEN KANG,
EMBRY-RIDDLE '20**

Allen is a senior majoring in aeronautics at the Daytona Beach campus. He is working on his flight certificates to become the next generation of airline pilots. See page 67 for his photos.



I have been a brother of Phi Delta Theta since the spring of my freshman year (2017). I am originally from New York City, having spent a lot of my time living in China, Oregon, and Washington and enjoy traveling often.

Some of my hobbies include: shooting, skiing, mountain biking, and wrenching on cars. Upon graduation, I hope to complete my flight training then move on to fly for a regional carrier.

CHAPTER NEWS

Friendship, Sound Learning, Rectitude, and COVID-19

Utilizing the Cardinal Principles to manage a pandemic crisis and keep members safe

BY DAN LEVY, NEBRASKA '87

On March 1, 2020, I took the reins as president of our house corporation board from Brian Christensen, Nebraska '89. For nearly two decades, he helped lead the re-founding of the Nebraska Alpha Chapter at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (with vision, passion,

and persistence). His were enormous shoes to fill. I forged ahead, focusing on issues like keeping upperclassman living in the house longer, stemming the loss of income from live-outs enjoying “free” lunch, summer recruitment, and renovation budgets.

Then, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, Nebraska announced its plan for

online-only classes and sent its students home for the rest of the semester. COVID-19 was now pummeling the Heartland. Issues like recruitment and renovations no longer mattered. The problems of the day, or maybe the hour, included:

- What if COVID had already found its way into the chapter? Do we have members spreading the virus now? How can we stop it if so?
- Is sending undergraduates home the safe thing to do? Or, would that spread COVID to their families?
- Are we sending members home to households that might already be infected? Should we keep the house open for them?
- What is our obligation to keep safe our house parent, chef, handyman, delivery people, visitors, and others? Many of them might fall into the high-risk category.
- If we close, we're no longer providing a service. Can we afford to make the over six-figures in refunds that would be expected? How would we even go about that?
- What do parents expect of us? What do they think is the right

thing for their sons?

- As university-approved housing, what was expected of us to keep our status?

And the list went on. The only thing I knew for sure was that I had no idea what the hell I was doing. It turns out that it was the best thing that could have happened.

PUTTING OUR WISDOM TO WORK

I have an ego like everyone else. If I had been our house corporation board president for one, five, or twenty years, I would have felt like I needed to have all the answers, and the weight of the microscopic virus would have crushed me. Instead, I was free to call on an extensive collection of brothers who were willing to take my questions, hear my concerns, and be honest enough to tell me what I needed to hear.

In no time, the CDC, the state of Nebraska, Lancaster County, the university, and General Headquarters were providing the guidelines and data-driven part of the sound learning we needed. Our house director, chapter president, house manager, chapter adviser, and house corporation leadership provided the kind of real-life filter to make the data, rules,



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Chapter President Tanner Skelton, Chapter Adviser Ryan Norman, and House Corporation Board President Dan Levy



Socially distanced meal times

and guidelines into something real, safe, and actionable.

We were also truly blessed with an engaged alumni donor base and the kind of sound fiscal management that meant we didn't have to think twice about doing the right thing. We could immediately increase the amount and manner in which our cleaning service would disinfect the chapter. We could afford to give refunds after closing the house. We could implement the kinds of changes and upgrades we needed to reopen safely. We could limit our number of live-ins to keep safe our brothers who earned the right to move back in—no desperate fundraisers to keep our doors open. No “COVID fees” tacked on to house bills—no discussions of closing.

Instead, the generosity of spirit shown by our alumni combined with the principled

financial management at all levels of the Fraternity allowed the Nebraska Alpha Chapter to explore myriad opportunities and then take what we felt were the best possible steps to protect our members' health and fraternity experience.

MASKS AND SOCIAL-DISTANCING BROUGHT US CLOSER

A funny thing happened as we fought COVID to create a distanced and digital fraternal experience—we got closer. The regular calls, emails, and texts between house corporation, chapter advisory board members, and chapter leadership expanded from COVID-related topics to all corners of the Fraternity.

Our weekly Friday “COVID calls”— which include house corporation, chapter advisory board, and executive

Continued on page 15

FURTHER REFLECTIONS AT NEBRASKA ALPHA

CHAD ENGLE, NEBRASKA '92, HOUSE CORPORATION PROPERTY MANAGER



The hardest part was waiting for the university to finalize its fall plans and inform the house corporation. The following actions were taken to ensure the safety of our undergraduate members:

- Reconfigure most sleeping rooms to two people.
- Meals in two shifts to allow physical distancing while eating, one person per table.
- Masks are worn unless eating or in the student's room.
- Hand sanitizer at multiple locations.

Dan Levy certainly had a baptism by fire after taking over as house corporation president, and he showed incredible leadership. He was laser-focused and did a great job communicating with members, parents, and the HC board. Our maintenance partner, Handy Mark Home Improvements & Remodeling, worked throughout the shutdown and the summer to have the house ready for the fall semester.

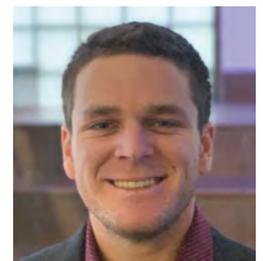
Then we had a positive test. The executives identified members exposed and arranged for them to quarantine per the UNL and CDC guidelines, and contacted the local health department. The chapter has done a fantastic job facing the challenge of fraternity-living during a pandemic. The students involved immediately did contact tracing and identified all of those with whom they had come into contact and notified them. I am very proud of NE Alpha.

“The guys don't love having to live in single rooms or wear masks most of the time, but they KNOW they don't want the alternative—having to evacuate as they did in the spring. They are doing everything they can to maintain as normal an experience as possible.”

TIM SCHATZ, NEBRASKA '22, HOUSE MANAGER

Tim typically works with alumnus and House Property Manager Chad Engle on normal house-related issues. Because the COVID-19 pandemic was such a tremendous force, it required full attention from the entire Nebraska Alpha Chapter.

New protocols were required, and by following UNL mandates, they produced early procedures at the start of the school year. They established a three-officer COVID





Guests must fill out a form before being allowed into the house

response team made up of the chapter president, vice president, and house manager. They were in place to deal with situations that arose and had to quickly put the team into action as one of their members tested positive only two weeks into the semester. It became apparent that even best-laid plans can often require revision in the actual playing out of the outbreak.

The student who tested positive immediately made a list of people he had come into contact with in the recently. He then began the effort of contact tracing from that list of exposed friends. When he contacted the head of IFC and the University Health Center, they applauded the quick-thinking efforts.

The leadership offered those exposed an option to go home to their family's home or self-quarantine in the house. Most stayed and followed strict guidelines, weighing the

reality that they could quarantine in the house just as well as at home, AND NOT expose even more loved ones to COVID (parents, grandparents, siblings who might be immune-compromised).

One bathroom was dedicated to those infected or exposed. Each received a COVID kit that had extra masks, hand sanitizer, latex gloves, disinfectant, paper towels, and toilet paper with specific instructions to make sure the bathroom was left sanitized after use.

Then a second exposure happened. Fortunately, Tim chose not to attend a game night off-campus because he didn't know the game of choice. However, the president and vice president did, and they realized that their COVID response team went from three to one. And six more Phis were exposed and had to self-quarantine.

Chapter leaders asked for volunteers to broaden the COVID Response team



COVID-19 response team

or be COVID buddies to those in quarantine. Ten brothers responded to share the burden to care for and manage the safety of those exposed by delivering meals and COVID kits.

Those Phis who do not live in the Nebraska Alpha house but have an off-campus house (live-outs) are very careful. Those in the house follow the rules of one person per room, masks at almost all times except when eating, one Phi

per dining table at meals, and meals in two shifts. Masks are worn, men are careful, thinking of others as well as themselves.

GERI PACKARD, HOUSE DIRECTOR

Geri Packard is the live-in house director for the Nebraska Alpha Chapter. She shared her thoughts on how the chapter has handled all of the COVID-19 driven changes.

“Because of the virus,

the chapter cannot have philanthropy events, socials, or even attend football games. Sadly, the guys had to forfeit the annual philanthropy and Haunted House this October. Huskers love their football, especially homecoming. Because it was canceled, that meant the annual homecoming display project that's usually a partnership with several other Greek organizations didn't happen.

I want to recognize everyone who moved into the house in August. They were committed to keeping the virus under control. When positive cases happened, the men went into management mode. Lunches and dinners were delivered to the guys in isolation by their COVID buddies. Hours were set up for the isolation guys to use the restrooms. If they needed anything, others came to their assistance.

The house corporation worked hard during the summer to make sure the guys would be safe. Naturally, I think we are the best chapter on the UNL campus. Good leadership comes from the top and filters through the whole organization. Our house corporation board leadership is hands-on, accessible, and always there to guide us. Our chapter advisory board is there mentoring and advising our members and Phikeias through thick and thin. Honestly, there is not a fraternity that has not had a

problem arise. Dealing with this situation is a growing and maturing experience. In the ten years that I have been fortunate enough to be the house director, I have seen our graduates go on into careers in medicine, business, and law, among others. These are fine young men that will continue to contribute throughout their lives."



**JON GAYER, PH.D.,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF FRATERNITY
LIFE UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA-LINCOLN**

"Throughout the summer, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Nebraska Greek chapters worked as a team to prepare for reopening in fall 2020. We disseminated information from the local health department to help chapters build a COVID-19 compliant house operations and procedures manual. At the time, we did not realize the magnitude of how different this semester would be from any other.

The Nebraska Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta rose to the challenge. It was thoughtful, succinct, and unwavering in protecting their members and giving Phis an opportunity for

brotherhood at Nebraska. Neither the university nor the Fraternity could do this without partnership. Fraternities across the country, now more ever, provide a home away from home and give students a sense of normalcy within the college campus. We are proud to work with the Nebraska Alpha members and their vastly important support infrastructure (house corporation boards and alumni advisers) to achieve success during the pandemic."

Continued from page 15 team plus our province president—are transforming from reactive and tactical to forward-thinking and strategic. Where there could have been dissension in the ranks, there was not. We're brothers of different ages and experiences collaborating to solve problems around a set of shared, time-tested values.

It's not that the communications between chapter, chapter advisory board, and house corporation were bad; I would say that ours were likely better than most. COVID-19 showed us room for improvement. It reminded me that the opportunity to become the greatest version of myself could be found anywhere. All I have to do is look for it. 🦋



Nebraska Alpha executive team

HANOVER COLLEGE

Jeremy Parker, a member of Delta Tau Delta, graduate of Franklin College, and assistant football coach at Hanover College, serves as the house director for the Indiana Epsilon Chapter at Hanover. Parker heard of the opportunity from the former house director, who was an athletic trainer. Because nearly 90 percent of Indiana Epsilon Phis are athletes, Jeremy knew many of them.

He remembered the influence the long-serving house mom had when he was a Delt at Franklin, so he understood the opportunity to live in a house, share meals with the guys, and help them navigate college life and fraternity management. He is known as Coach P.

Jeremy has a private suite in the chapter house that he calls home when he isn't coaching tight ends and special teams for Hanover Football (which deferred play until spring 2021 as part of the HCAC).

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the college told the students they had to move out by the following Tuesday. Coach P was at practice when he learned and hurried back to the chapter house to help calm the seniors down. They didn't know if they were coming back or if they could leave their stuff. The out-of-staters had a tough time not knowing when they would

be allowed to return to campus.

Spring recruitment and initiation were over, with twenty-one new members. They were initiated before they left campus, with a shortened new member experience. Every philanthropy event was canceled.

The guys kept in touch via Zoom calls once a week, sometimes every other week. The executive cabinet's primary role was to meet and maintain the chapter's safety. There was open communication between the Hanover administration, the chapter, the chapter advisory board, and the house corporation. There was a lot of clarification of responsibilities with all the new safety-driven regulations.

Indiana Epsilon is unique because its house corporation owns the house and the land, which is not the case for the other Greek groups.

During this time, Jeremy's right-hand man has been chapter President Zack Yetter, '21. He has kept the house clean and sanitary, helped enforce the college's mandates, namely that facemasks are required in- and out-of-house and guests can visit on a one-to-one ratio.

There is a cook Monday through Friday, serving pre-packaged meals, served individually by a server (member). Phis take turns acting as the server, and every member takes a turn.

The house cleaner spends two

days a week, concentrating especially on the common areas in the house.

The members don't want to go home, so they are following the rules. No large group events, and many have taken up golfing as a safe sport.

NOTE: The initial article was written in early October, and in early November, due to increasing COVID-19 numbers, Hanover went to full remote learning. Students were given the option to stay on campus or return home to complete their work. The Indiana Epsilon Chapter has experienced increased positive COVID tests (football and basketball practices started in the last six weeks). Most members are on either the football, basketball, or lacrosse, all being tested frequently by coaches.

In the house, there have been eight positive cases, with another sixteen being contact-traced.

Upon the onset of the increases, guests were no longer admitted in the house. They sanitize common areas each day and wear masks always. Their housekeeper was quarantined because of exposure to the virus, and during her time off, the guys and cook split up the work to keep the house running safely. Most guys who were quarantined have returned to campus.



Photo credit: Digital Pix

COVID-19 AT FRESNO STATE

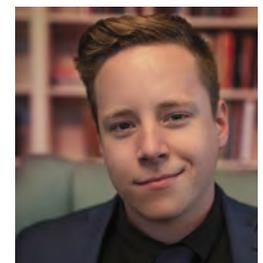
By Austin Dean, *Fresno State '17*

Currently, the California Upsilon Chapter limits how many people are allowed over at the house. Everyone's room is located on the second floor, except for the house director's, which is on the first floor next to the two main entrances.

The former chef's backup room is now the COVID convalescent room. There is a private back door entrance, access to the kitchen, and a private shower/bathroom. This space is ideal for someone who contracts or is exposed to someone with COVID to quarantine for two weeks, or until either the individual he came into contact with has a negative test result or if he tests negative himself.

No one who lives in must wear a facemask since the air is cycled throughout the house (no medical-grade air filter), and we all breathe the same air. However, guests and their hosts are required to wear facemasks.

During the pandemic, activity in the house is very minimal and unusually very quiet.



Austin Dean is the Chapter Upsilon house director

UW Madison—Alumni and Parents to the Rescue



Wisconsin Alpha Chapter President Ellis Becker, '22, said members were already anxious coming back to school, and the Fraternity did their best to follow public health guidelines.

"In all common areas, we require social distancing, and everyone wears a facemask," Becker explained. They also set up sanitizing stations at entrances and limited occupancy in rooms and common areas.

Still, less than two weeks after classes started, the Fraternity had a handful of positive COVID-19 cases. Becker said those members have recovered and are no longer symptomatic, but Phi Delta Theta was one of twenty-two Greek chapters ordered to quarantine.

"It's a bit difficult feeling like you're on house arrest at college," Becker described.

Local parents and alumni stepped in and offered some generous support to the chapter during the quarantine.

"It's tough when there are twenty-four guys stuck in a house, and they can't leave," said Iota North Province President Adam Warriner, *Wisconsin '88*.

Parents and alumni helped deliver meals to the chapter to feed the members over the weekend after finding out meal plans only occurred Monday through Friday.

"We need to keep these guys fed, keep their spirits up, and keep their morale high as they finish out their quarantine," Warriner explained.

Becker is grateful for the support, saying, "It shows us that we're not alone."

"We're just trying to stay as safe as possible, really, and keep morale up while working through it together,"

Becker explained.

"I've been extremely impressed with the way that General Headquarters has handled this entire situation. For the most part, the university response has been disappointing. Still, GHQ's steps were beneficial, and it is compelling to see such a large organization genuinely caring about the people within it. GHQ leadership has done a great job showing us how to conduct ourselves in the most normal and safe way possible," said Becker.

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

A report from chapter President Harley O'Brochta explains, "Typically, recruitment events are more organic, such as spending an evening in the campus game room playing pool, with around six brothers and three potential new members. Brothers also share meals with potential new members one-on-one or in smaller groups on-campus. Our goal is to be less of salespeople and more just friends openly extending our arms to join. We then extend an invitation to those men who we feel will be good members of Phi Delta Theta."

"Most recently, we have held two virtual events: Jackbox Party games and Among Us.

Jackbox Party Games are games where less than ten people can join with a code and interact in the same game. Our personal favorite is called Quiplash, where you secretly are asked a question via phone text message and answer it however you want! All answers compete for the best solution when everyone votes for their favorite! These games allow you to express yourself uniquely and helps connect with brothers' personalities! There were three brothers and five potential new members that played."



"The other game, Among Us, is a social deduction game with up to ten people in a lobby. A few people are imposters while the rest are crewmates; you try to find and vote out the imposters based on evidence and calling meetings. I believe this game builds trust with people, allows for funny moments, and is more personal when recruiting! For this event, we had two lobbies of ten people with and about a 50/50 mix of brothers to potential new members."



Mark Wise (center) with his Creighton chapter brothers

Initiation Goes Virtual

BY TODD SIMMONS

In the face of adversity brought on by COVID-19 restrictions for gathering, the Fraternity found an alternative solution for physically initiating many of its new Phikeias. Phi Delta Theta made history by hosting its first virtual initiation using Zoom technology.

In addition to learning imperative aspects of Fraternity membership through new member education initiatives, newly initiated members were welcomed by General Council Treasurer Moe Stephens. By bringing together Phikeias from all over the US and Canada, members of General Headquarters staff and the General Council helped initiate its newest brothers into the organization. In all, five virtual initiations were held in fall 2020.

Those Phikeias who participated had the opportunity to learn Fraternity history back to its inception in a way that truly pays homage to the origination of Phi Delta Theta. The virtual initiation is merely a primer for the rich ceremony and ritual of the Phi Delt experience.

Chapter leaders will work with newly initiated members after these ceremonies to help them better understand the unwritten secrets of the organization. Along with this, it is expected that all Phikeias who were virtually initiated will experience an in-person ceremony when local/university guidelines allow public gatherings.

Todd is the director of chapter support

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

The whole experience of finally being initiated felt great. It was a much-anticipated day after being a Phikeia for almost a year. Obviously, it was not as personal as being initiated by my fellow brothers at Creighton but knowing that I am a Phi Delt brother is an amazing feeling!!

I chose Creighton University for its pre-med program and its size. It is big enough to have good D1 sports teams but small enough that you can get to know your peers and professors. I did not really know if I would join a fraternity, but I thought I'd at least go through recruitment. I had a friend already in Phi Delta Theta, so I went to their events and I just felt at home with all the guys representing this Fraternity. Throughout recruitment week, it was the little things that Phi Deltas did that made this such an easy choice to join. For example, a guy that I had a class with made a point of introducing himself to me. The friend I already knew made sure that I got to meet guys with similar interests. The current brothers who put in that extra bit of effort really sold me. I joined Phi Delta Theta because of everything it and its members stand for.

I have huge expectations for this Nebraska Gamma Chapter. We have a great group of individuals who can really make a difference now and later in life. Recently we had a strong showing for the LiveLikeLou fundraiser and now have two Iron Phis! With our recently elected executive team, we will find ways to bond and continue helping others during these unprecedented times.

—Mark Wise, *Creighton '23*



Virtual initiation



UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

I chose the University of La Verne because I want to major in business. The reason why I chose Phi Delta Theta is that I love being involved on-campus and, as an international student, I enjoy exploring different cultures. I hope our chapter at La Verne will grow better and more brothers will join in the future from different parts of the world which brings greater cultural diversity.
—MingYi “Mike” Xu, *La Verne* '22



SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

The initiation ceremony was just as great as it would have been in-person. All nine Phikeias in our class participated! I’m happy to be a Phi Delt. Seeing Phis from many different chapters, and even alumni, participate in the initiation, helped me see that it is an international group and a Fraternity for Life.
Southern New Hampshire was near my home and a logical choice for school. I am a first-generation college student, so also the first in my family to be part of a fraternity. I wasn’t seeking to join Greek life, but some friends shared about the Fraternity and I saw their community service impact and decided to participate in recruitment.
During Greek Day of Service, the university partners with local Manchester public schools and we’ve helped revamp cafeterias, portable units used for instruction, and our collective work makes a big difference.
—Christopher Constan, *Southern New Hampshire* '20

ROAD TO GREATNESS

Everyday Phis doing extraordinary things



CHASE CROWE,
WABASH '18

Recently awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) to Germany. Brother Crowe, who majored in German and minored in religion, played four seasons of club rugby, including for the 2018 squad that posted a 16–2–1 record. He took an immersion trip to Tübingen, Germany in 2016 before studying abroad in Marburg, Germany in 2017. Since graduating from Wabash, Crowe participated in a Denver, Colorado-based fellowship—Denver Math Fellows—and provided math instruction at the Denver Center for 21st Century Scholars and Northfield High School.



DR. GEORGE TAMS
CURLIN, CENTRE '61

Dr. George Curlin has been an international leader in the fight against infectious disease. Curlin states, “The current coronavirus pandemic is a grim reminder of the continuing threat of infectious diseases in which dedicated public health officials and healthcare providers depend on the vigilance and cooperation of the public.”

A respected epidemiologist, Curlin is recognized as one of the world’s leading researchers on the relationship between infectious diseases and population growth in the developing world. His work, particularly that focusing on children, has been named Fellow of the Infections Disease Society of America.



PETER BELL, CORNELL '86

As an advocate and father of a young man with autism, Peter Bell has been a highly effective leader and influential voice within the autism community.

Peter’s career includes a White House appointment to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities by President Barack Obama, founding and chairing the Consumer Advisory Committee of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), and serving as the vice-chair of the Autism Research Program for the Department of Defense. In 2014, Peter received the INSAR Advocate Award for his commitment to research, advocacy, and services for people with autism spectrum disorders.



SAMMY T. MAH,
KETTERING '82

Sammy Mah participated in the Fraternity’s Diversity Working Group to address the racial equity issues within our society and any diversity and inclusion concerns within Phi Delta Theta.

Brother Mah currently serves on the Ethics Panel of the Baltimore City Public Schools, which advises interpreting ethics policy, conducts investigations, issues advisory opinions, responds to complaints, and provides public information and educational programs.

After working at General Motors for twenty-seven years, he went on to serve on President Obama’s White House task force on Global Poverty and Development.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you know a brother who is doing extraordinary things, visit phideltatheta.org/road-to-greatness/ to submit his story for feature consideration.

PHI FOOTNOTES



Spencer Bone

Arkansas

S **pencer Bone, '19**, a cum laude graduate from the University of Arkansas Walton College of Business, has been selected as a Schwarzman Finalist. Schwarzman received over 4,700 applications from across the globe and will enroll 145 scholars.

The award provides a year of graduate study at Tsinghua University in Beijing, one of China's premier institutions. If selected, Bone will have the opportunity to pursue a master's in Global Affairs, focused on three main areas: China, global affairs, and leadership. Bone is a native of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Blackstone chairman, CEO, and co-founder Stephen A. Schwarzman founded the Schwarzman program. The program's endowment supports all travel costs and a personal stipend and fully funds the

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Let other brothers know what you are up to. Use the "Submit News" feature on the website, phideltatheta.org to submit news and high resolution photos. Email to editor@phideltatheta.org or mail *The Scroll* Editor, 2 South Campus Avenue, Oxford, OH 45056. Letters may be edited for clarity, content or length. Photos may be edited for reproduction quality.

scholarship for all participants. Scholars will live and study together at Schwarzman College, the dedicated state-of-the-art academic and residential building built exclusively for the program at Tsinghua University.

As a student at the University of Arkansas, Bone received the Center for Retailing Excellence Study Abroad Scholarship and the CIMBA Italy Merit Award Scholarship, both to support summer study in Italy. The Arkansas Alumni Association also recognized Schwarzman as a Senior of Significance and a Razorback Classic.

His community involvement includes work with the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, the Building Community Bridges Boxing Program, and the Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Program as a soccer coach. He served the Arkansas Alpha Chapter as its secretary 2016–17.

Bone has worked with the Missouri Republican Party, first as an intern, then as a mid-state regional field director, and currently as a regional grassroots director. One day he hopes to work for the state's department of education, specializing in vocational education.

Central Florida

Gary Burns, '18, past president of the Florida Iota Chapter, has created a new social platform to serve as an alternative place of focus and social networking.

Atlas-The Winner's Circle is a social productivity app that allows users to build up their social profiles based on their



Gary Burns

actions and achievements instead of their follower count. People have grown far too accustomed to gauging their self-worth based on others' opinions displayed through likes and followers on social media. Atlas allows users to regain control over their minds and their futures by simply shifting focus from what others have and what we don't have to building ourselves into the type of person we likely admire on social media.

All of Atlas' features focus on collaboration, accountability, and winning the day. Features include task and goal setting, vision mapping, social networking, mindset development, and even positive content distribution.

By allowing people to focus on building up themselves first and then being able to build and collaborate in communities of like-minded people, all channeling their focus today to create a better tomorrow, Atlas strives to restore stability and a sense of community within individuals and society.



Marc Mores at the 2020 Presidents Leadership Conference

Eastern Kentucky

Ed Maggard, '69, knows firsthand the opportunity higher education unlocks for each student. Through his study of business administration, Ed paved a path for his future that now includes a successful real estate career in Lexington, Kentucky, and very blessed life.

Now Maggard and Ann, his wife of forty-six years, have established the Ed and Ann Maggard Letcher County Endowed Scholarship fund to benefit youth who just need a “leg up” to succeed as he did and to dream what is possible.

Michael Schulte, '14, is a second-year master of divinity student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, specializing in religion, gender, and sexuality. He also serves as the director of Christian education at First Presbyterian Church in Lebanon, Tennessee, where he coordinates Christian formation opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Being a member of Phi Delta Theta reminds him that he is called “to do what ought to be done” to help make the world a more equitable place.

Iowa State

Marc Mores, '95, executive vice president and Denver branch manager of Favor & Company, is an officer of the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Mores is a graduate in exercise and sport science.

Mores is an underwriter for many large fraternity accounts and a frequent speaker at client and industry leadership events. He played an integral role in

implementing alcohol-free housing when Phi Delta Theta Fraternity employed him. As an ISU student, he was a Cyclone Guide and served as president of the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board and his chapter. Mores has also been involved with ISU’s Cincinnati and Denver alumni clubs. He also serves on the board of directors for HazingPrevention.Org and CAMPUSPEAK.

Kentucky

The Louisville (KY) Historical League’s 2020 Heritage Award, which recognizes important history contributions, was awarded to ninety-three-year-old Phi **John Harralson Jr., '51**, for decades of photographing Louisville history.

New Mexico

Alan Augustson, '99, was commissioned by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a Colonel. Brother Augustson is a public policy analyst with a specialization in emergency management. During the 2005 hurricane season, he served at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, DC providing situation reports and advisories for response and recovery efforts for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma, and others. Most recently, he aids the City of Albuquerque’s Office of Emergency Management, analyzing COVID-19 epidemiology data and offering policy recommendations to the city and the state.

In between disasters, his data analyses were used to evaluate healthcare-coverage legislation,



Alan Augustson

to illustrate increasing Federal reliance on temporary labor, to plot the migration of American jobs, and to judge Federal efforts to help the working poor. He has served with the Government Finance Officers Association, the National Opinion Research Center, the US Census Bureau, and the University of Illinois.

He ran for a seat in the US House of Representatives in 2008 and the presidency in 2020, both times with the Green Party of the US.

Brother Augustson earned a bachelor of arts in anthropology from the University of New Mexico and a master of public policy from the University of Chicago Harris School. He is a US Marine Corps veteran and a former volunteer firefighter. He now lives in Albuquerque with his wife, Kimberly.

Ohio

Achieving a lifelong goal, **Blake Bowers, '98**, works as an assignment/feed room editor at WGN America in Chicago, where he gathers and assigns news

☺☺ Phi Delta Theta, and Ohio Gamma in particular, helped prepare me for life. I learned to manage meetings, to really listen to people, and to deal with a lot of tough life moments with and through my brothers. ☺☺
—Blake Bowers



Photo credit: Western Golf Association

Nick DiGiovanni

stories from across the country. News Nation on WGN America launched its first national newscast in primetime in September 2020.

Bowers has worked at local news stations for the last twenty-one years in Columbus, Ohio, Charlotte, North Carolina, and most recently for ABC/Disney at WTVD-TV in the Raleigh-Durham-Fayetteville, North Carolina television market.

Blake is a legacy Phi, as his father and best friend, Mike Bowers, was one of the original Phis at Eastern Kentucky University, class of 1970.

Bowers attributed his success in journalism to family and friends and said that “Phi Delta Theta, and Ohio Gamma in particular, helped prepare me for life. I learned to manage meetings, to really listen to people, and to deal with a lot of tough life moments with and through my brothers.”

Southern Methodist

Nick DiGiovanni, '77, was co-chairman of the BMW tournament and serves as a

director of the WGA Western Golf Association (WGA), which holds this tournament to benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation. There are currently 1,080 young men and women on full four-year scholarships at major universities in the West and Midwest. The Evans Scholars Foundation and program have transformed the lives of many young men and women caddies who, without those scholarships, would not be able to attend college. Over the past ten years, the BMW Championship has raised over \$35 million for the Evans Scholars Foundation

The BMW Championship hosted the top seventy golfers in the world; two of those golfers, Bryson DeChambeau and Harry Higgs, are SMU alumni.

Brother DiGiovanni announced the players on the first tee and was also be part of the trophy presentation to the champion, John Rahm. It was one of the most exciting finishes in recent memory on the PGA tour.

Nick J. DiGiovanni is the chairman of Locke Lord’s reinsurance and insurance



Seth Sumner (left) and Jordan Curtis

litigation groups, which include more than forty lawyers nationally and internationally. He has experience in commercial litigation, concentrating on reinsurance and insurance-related issues. His practice and expertise involve national and international reinsurance and commercial disputes across all lines of business in litigation, arbitration, insolvency, and rehabilitation proceedings.

Tennessee—Knoxville

Jordan Curtis, '05, and **Seth Sumner, '05**, were re-founders of the Tennessee Gamma Chapter. The two had known each other most of their lives, but their friendship solidified when they became Phis. They were back-to-back chapter presidents, and Seth even served as vice president after his president’s term to serve alongside Jordan during his tenure.

Seth has been a city manager for over a decade and returned four years ago to manage his hometown at Jordan’s urging. The two live within a block of one other, and their families are very close. Jordan recently won the Athens City Council’s election with the highest ever vote count, beating a twenty-year record.

Wisconsin—Madison

Scott Kowalski, '89, executive vice president of marketing and communications at WPS Health Solutions, headquartered in Madison, has been appointed to the American Heart Association’s



Scott Kowalski

Midwest Region Board of Directors for a two-year term. The American Heart Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization devoted to fighting cardiovascular disease.

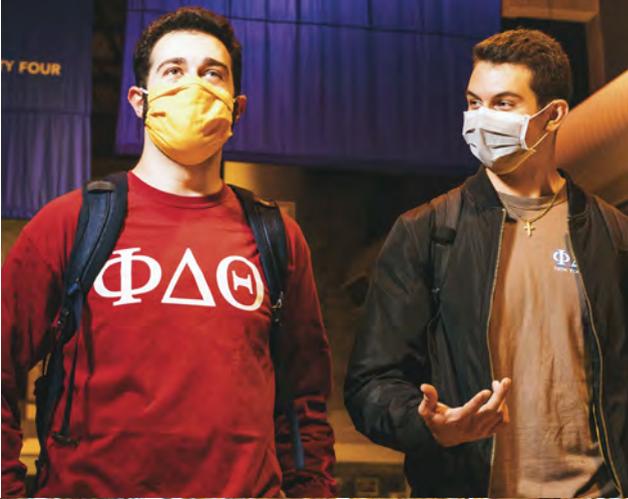
After fully recovering from a stroke in May 2014, Kowalski joined the Madison Board of Directors. In June, he concluded a two-year term as chairman.

Brother Kowalski will serve on the Corporate Operations Committee, which oversees the budget, fundraising, staffing, real estate (AHA offices), and employee engagement. The Midwest Region comprises Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Kowalski served WPS as EVP of health insurance and COO of Arise Health Plan. In 2018, he became EVP

of marketing and communications and is responsible for marketing, corporate communications, public relations, and community affairs. He is also VP of the WPS Charitable Foundation Board of Trustees and a member of the WPS Political Action Committee.

He studied political science at the UW–Madison and earned a juris doctor from UIC John Marshall Law School. While at UW, he served the Wisconsin Alpha Chapter as its president, chapter advisory board chairman, and the Iota North Province as province president (1998–2003). He currently serves on the Wisconsin Alpha House Corporation. He was a general session speaker at the 2020 Presidents Leadership Conference.



PHOTOS BY:
Robbie Zacharias, Hofstra
@ybbbor

ALUMNI & CLUB NEWS



Alabama Beta Alumni Get Creative with Zoom Reunions

BY RAY BRISCUSO, AUBURN '81

The Alabama Beta Chapter at Auburn University prides itself on well-attended, all-age alumni reunion weekends held each fall. But there is a new tool, one we would have never imagined a few years ago, and something else that encourages fellowship and brings brothers together in a new and quite efficient way—Zoom reunions!

Organized by the chapter advisory board (CAB), the new Zoom-style reunions focus on bringing together classmates whether freshmen or seniors. Instead of a Zoom reunion for each graduating class or gathering only those from ten, twenty-five, or fifty years ago, the Auburn Phis organize calls that welcome anyone in school from that year. The 1980 call was for anyone at Auburn in 1980, whether you were a graduate student, a freshman, or anything in between.

Beginning this spring, the CAB replaced its every other week telephone conference call meetings with every-other-week ZOOM meetings. The Alabama Beta CAB is a large and active group—it includes over two dozen members with a dozen regular participants. The CAB quickly saw the benefit of meeting face-to-face via Zoom video and decided to complement their annual on-campus fall reunion with a series of spring Zoom reunions. Recognizing the value of including no more than twenty-five persons on each Zoom call, the CAB decided to organize many rather than few Zoom reunions, and thus the

five-year increments. The results have been extremely well received!

Each Zoom call has two alumni serving as captains (aka Zoom hosts). All the backend work including sending invitations and technical support is done by the CAB secretary. When possible, the captain/hosts are well-remembered past chapter presidents or Phikeia educators, from different graduating classes to ensure each Zoom caller was likely on campus with at least one of their respective Zoom captains.

Recruiting calls were relatively easy and within two months of conceiving the idea, Zoom reunions have been held for brothers that were at Auburn in 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 2000, and 2010. Future Zoom calls are planned for 1960, 1965, 2005, and 2015. We are also considering hosting a Zoom call for any brother who graduated before 1960!

The CAB uses the alumni database to obtain the names and emails for each Zoom. Invitees are also encouraged to share their invitation and spread the word. A second benefit is the cleaning and building of the chapter's alumni database! Each Zoom is scheduled for forty-five minutes (starting at 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. local time), but most go over because of the great connections.

The Zooms have been so successful that Alabama Beta plans to convene Zoom reunions each spring and even bigger annual in-person reunions each fall.

Ray is the Alabama Beta CAB secretary



THE IDEA SNOWBALLED

In early 2019, Peter Bell, *Cornell '86*, was invited by younger Phi Delt classes from Cornell to their reunion held in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The experience was so positive Pete reached out to his Cornell brothers from 1984–1988. What started as a group of about seven snowballed into twenty-three Cornell chapter brothers gathering at Snowmass Mountain in Aspen, Colorado, in early March 2020, just before the first cases of COVID-19 were reported in Aspen.

When asked what lessons were learned from the weekend reunion, Peter says that most people were in bed by midnight! A sign of aging brothers? Also,

guys prefer their own rooms/beds, and fortunately, most could afford the upgrade at this stage in life.

After spending the days on the slopes, some nights the brothers took advantage of the fact that several guys studied in the Cornell Hotel School and are fantastic cooks and so enjoyed a great meal with good conversation in the condo. Other nights, the group split up and ate at multiple restaurants due to the size of their party.

Since the men met in March, the group has kept in touch and are hoping to get together again soon.

See more about Peter Bell in Road to Greatness on page 22.



VALLEY OF THE SUN ALUMNI CLUB

In October 2020, several members of the Valley of the Sun Alumni Club gathered to support Phi Delta Theta's Iron Phi program by hiking Arizona's highest peak, Mount Humphrey's. Seven Phis living in Arizona made the climb, with four making it to the top. Pictured above from left to right, Alec Pegler, *Akron '18*, LiveLikeLou Board Member Greyson Geiler, *Nebraska '93*, Phikeia Jackson Lafferty, *Arizona State '23*, and Arizona Beta CAB Member Vianney Careaga, *Arizona '18*.

The sign reads that the summit has an elevation of 12,633 ft and thanks to clear skies, they were able to see the south rim of the Grand Canyon from the top. The 10.5-mile roundtrip hike took the men about three and a half hours to reach the top, and another two hours to get back down. It was a great weekend of being able to get together outdoors!

The event was also momentous as both Greyson Geiler and Kevin Canterbury, *Minnesota State, Mankato '99*, raised \$1,000 and became Iron Phis.

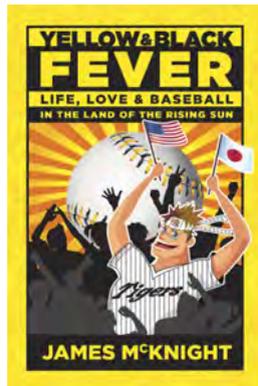
BOOK NOOK



Waiting on the Moon

NATE GOLAN

Golan, *Colorado State '02*, wrote a soon-to-be published young adult dystopian novel. You can watch a trailer for the novel at: <https://phide.lt/3kEDwIz>. In addition to writing, Nate currently lives in Los Angeles and works in the entertainment industry. He has created and produced the Hulu half-hour comedy *Workshop*, the Netflix-licensed short film *Briefcase*, and the online comedy series *My Synthesized Life*. He is also the author two other books, his Amazon best-selling memoir *Journey of Self: Six Months in the Japanese Countryside* and an Amazon collection of original monologues *22 Original Modern Monologues for Actors and Actresses*, which is used in drama school college curriculum around the world. Nate was featured in the 2014 Phi Delta Theta Road to Greatness campaign.

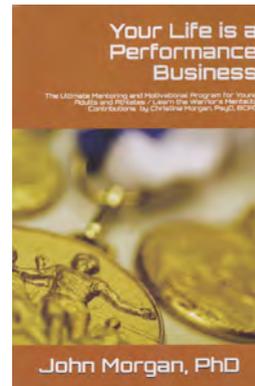


Yellow & Black Fever

Life, Love and Baseball in the Land of the Rising Sun

JAMES MCKNIGHT

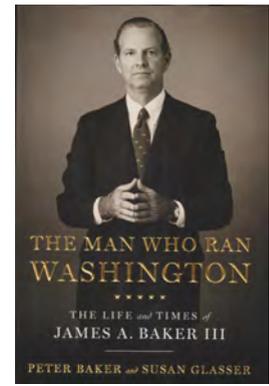
McKnight, *Arizona '90*, tells the story of his year in Japan serving as an English teacher and falling in love with Japanese baseball. The inspiration for the tale began on a week-long vacation to Japan in September 2000, when he meets a baseball-crazed man in a half-empty stadium before a meaningless late-season game. They end up watching a thrilling game together and it stirs something deep inside him. Less than a year later, he moves to Japan, reunites with his new baseball friends which give him a sense of belonging. He retreats to the mecca of Japanese baseball, Koshien, home of the hapless Hanshin Tigers. It is there that he finds solace with his friends, a group of rambunctious, dysfunctional locals who accept him as an equal.



Your Life is a Performance Business

JOHN MORGAN, PHD

Morgan, *Miami '59*, released a book geared toward youth starting college or their careers about a mentoring and motivational program for young people and athletes who desire to win and succeed in life. The purpose of this book is to help young people and athletes improve their performance by learning to attack their goals with enthusiasm and vigor.



The Man Who Ran Washington:

The Life and Times of James A. Baker III

PETER BAKER AND SUSAN GLASSER

Two respected political journalists released the definitive biography of White House chief of staff and secretary of state James A. Baker III: *The Man Who Ran Washington When Washington Ran the World*. James Baker, *UT Austin '57*, served the US when bipartisan solutions were possible, compromise settled disputes and political opponents recognized the humanity and legitimacy of the other side.

For a quarter-century, from the end of Watergate to the aftermath of the Cold War, no Republican won the presidency without his help or ran the White House without his advice. James Addison Baker III was the indispensable man for four presidents because he understood better than anyone how to make Washington work.

NOW LISTENING



So What!

MARK GADSON

Lifelong drummer, percussionist, songwriter Mark Gadson, *DePauw '76*, partnered with world-renowned saxophonist Joe Sublett and other musicians to produce his debut album of high energy, original distinctive fusion, funk, and jazz tracks.

Mark has recorded, performed, and toured with some of the most respected musicians of our time, including Benny Goodman, Bob Hope, Lynn Anderson, Sarah McLachlan, Andrea Corr, and Loreena McKennitt. Mark's rich and experienced background in percussion and songwriting provides solid energy and heartbeat for his distinctive music projects.



That Highway Kind

JOSH ABBOTT

The Josh Abbott Band released *The Highway Kind* in November, an uplifting ten-track album recorded at Sonic Ranch in El Paso and produced by Marshall Altman (Marc Broussard, Frankie Ballard, Aaron Watson). Josh Abbott, *Texas Tech '04*, played at the 2018 San Antonio General Convention.

From their website, Abbott dubs the new album, “the first real, true band album experience. The lyrics, the melodies, the subtle touches represent the very best effort from our group. From love songs to songs about friendship, from ballads to bangers—they’re true-life songs.” A staple in the Texas music scene since forming in 2006 at Lubbock’s Texas Tech University, Josh Abbott Band has weathered many storms together.



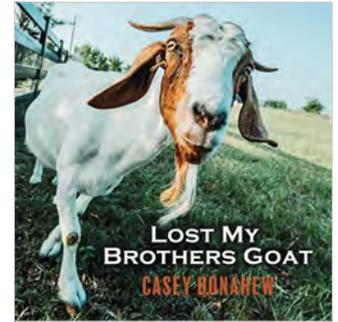
Skeletons

THE BROTHERS OSBORNE

John Osborne, *Belmont '04*, served the Tennessee Zeta Chapter as its scholarship chairman in the early 2000s. He is the lead guitarist for the band and sings background vocals.

Skeletons is a melodic, muscular album that builds upon the hooks of the band’s career-launching debut, *Pawn Shop*, as well as the forward-thinking adventurousness of their sophomore release, *Port Saint Joe*. Recorded with multi-platinum producer Jay Joyce during a time of global turbulence, *Skeletons* is a celebratory album for a world in sore need of uplifting music.

The Osbornes’ list of musical milestones includes six Grammy nominations, four CMA Awards, five ACM trophies, and more than half a dozen hits.



Lost My Brothers Goat

CASEY DONAHEW

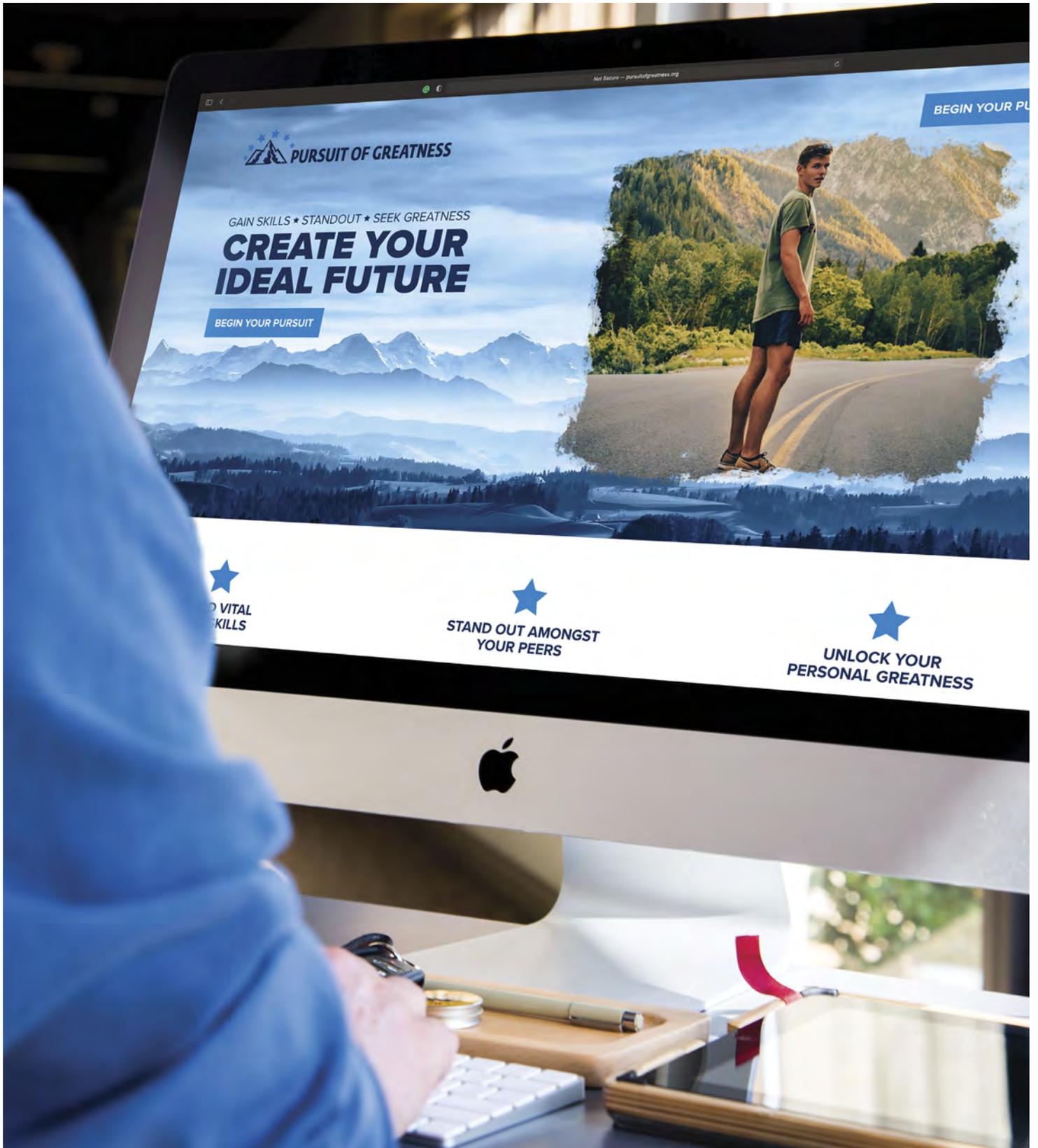
Quarantine live streams and a story from the road collide with the spontaneous release of *Lost My Brothers Goat*, a nine-track live acoustic album from Casey Donahew, *Texas A&M, '00*.

What started as a weekly live stream quickly escalated into a twelve-week Texas variety show. Complete with acoustic versions of Donahew’s favorites, new music, fan-inspired merchandise, real-time commentary, plus backing vocals from Melinda Donahew, goat wrangling reports, and a story that inspired the album title.

Brother Donahew, the Bureson, Texas native, with the help of his wife Melinda, has become part of the country music scene’s fabric over the past seventeen years, attracting a solid base of loyal fans who flock to his legendary live shows.

LEARNING

Intellectual curiosity and search for truth.



NEW FOUR-YEAR MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Pursuit of Greatness

Offering our members real world skills employers seek

BY JESSE MOYER

The year 2020 has provided many challenges, and Phi Delta Theta has had to use innovation and creativity to adapt the services, programs, and support it provides.

The pandemic has not been easy on anybody, but it has been especially hard for our undergraduate members. It has undoubtedly changed the way the Fraternity feels. Zoom replaced weekly in-person chapter meetings. Traditional recruitment events have given way to smaller, more targeted recruitment of new members. A lot has changed very quickly.

One silver lining of the global pandemic is the time it has allowed for expediting educational content creation for Pursuit

of Greatness, Phi Delta Theta's new four-year membership development program. The purpose of Pursuit of Greatness is twofold. First, we want to provide the Fraternity's undergraduate members the opportunity to learn skills that employers value but aren't available through the traditional college classroom experience. Second, the Pursuit of Greatness program offers members the opportunity to earn digital badges that serve as a tangible demonstration of skills they have developed through their Phi Delta Theta experience. These badges can then be added to make their résumés stand out amongst their peers.

In January 2021, Phi Delta Theta launched two new digital badges through

“One silver lining of the global pandemic is the time it has allowed for expediting educational content creation for Pursuit of Greatness, Phi Delta Theta's new four-year membership development program.”

its online learning portal, PDT U. The Professional Development Badge is centered on skills undergraduate members can take into the workplace like conflict management and stakeholder communication. The Personal Development Badge is geared towards the interpersonal skills needed to be successful in post-college life, such as managing personal finances and resiliency. These digital badges complement the content offered through the new Phikeia education program and officer certification modules.

General Headquarters staff will continue to build on these offerings in the future, including an alumni professional mentorship program and additional educational modules.



*Required



Jesse is the senior vice president of membership development and support



GAIN SKILLS ★ STANDOUT ★ SEEK GREATNESS

CREATE YOUR IDEAL FUTURE



MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE COLLEGE WITH THE SKILLS DESIRED BY EMPLOYERS

As a Phi Delta Theta undergraduate, your personal and professional potential will not be reached without developing vital interpersonal skills and career attributes desired by employers. Because the classroom can fall short in developing these skills and attributes, Phi Delta Theta offers the **Pursuit of Greatness**, a self-navigated personal development experience that combines online education, applied learning, and alumni mentorship opportunities.

01

EARN BADGES THROUGH VALUABLE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Stand out amongst your peers with an enhanced résumé that showcases interpersonal skills and career attributes that are vital to a successful life and desired by employers.

02

Coming Soon!

CONNECT WITH YOUR DEDICATED PHI DELT MENTOR

Learn from a dedicated and experienced Phi Delt alumnus who can help you apply what you've learned to your post-graduate life.

03

CREATE YOUR IDEAL FUTURE

Watch yourself grow from a Fraternity leader of today to professional and community leader of tomorrow.



WE WANT YOU TO GRADUATE WITH THE INTERPERSONAL SKILLS AND CAREER ATTRIBUTES NEEDED TO SUCCEED

The **Pursuit of Greatness** builds important life skills including: teamwork, initiative, accountability, responsibility, resiliency, self-awareness, values, group leadership, problem-solving, and communication. Along the way, your mental health and wellness will be a priority as well as preparing you for today's diverse and inclusive workplace.

FRATERNITY NEWS

GHQ UPDATE

Resilient Since 1848

Together we will get through this and be stronger for the effort

BY SEAN WAGNER

The year 2021 is here, and we hold great hope and promise for what lies ahead with a vaccine in reach. We also understand that while a brighter dawn is on the horizon, we will continue to sort through the impact of COVID-19. We are confident that Phi Delta Theta is better equipped than any organization to do just that.

I say that because we know that though post pandemic work will provide a sense of normalcy, it will also have new challenges. Phi Delta Theta is poised to take on those challenges. Since 1848, Phi Delta Theta has been a binding force and community, a model of resiliency, and a beacon of promise for its members.

In fact, since the Fraternity's founding, it has faced countless struggles: war, disease, social unrest, and economic depressions. During those crises, the Fraternity did not quit. Instead, its members used these periods of adversity to grow. They found inspiration in the accomplishments of one-another as they watched their brothers start businesses, rise to be chief executive officers and presidents, create vaccines, and even walk on the moon. Their personal success showed that Phi Delta Theta and its members have the perseverance, strength, and grit to carry on in uncertain times.

Phi Delta Theta chapter leaders of 2020 are the latest pioneers who exemplify this resilient spirit and promise. Whether it be those chapters that quickly adapted their operations to work in the new environment, took their largest new member class in years despite a pandemic, or put others

needs before their own by sponsoring ALS families through the LiveLikeLou Foundation, their trials, tribulations, and experiences will drive us into the future as an organization. They are the future leaders and contributors to society.

To assist them, our commitment to support during the pandemic (see sidebar) is steadfast as we revisit our *Phi Delt 2030* strategic efforts to enhance our value proposition through individual member development programs and a broad base of support and resources for all members. This starts immediately with the Winter Leadership Series and the launch of Pursuit of Greatness, but it will continue forward with a laser focus on new challenges faced by higher education because of future economic fallout.

We thank those like Mickey McKenzie and the thousands of other Phis who are stepping up to support the future of the Fraternity. We will rally our donors and volunteers to ensure our continued place as the premier fraternal leadership society.

The personal success and resiliency of our members show us the path forward. History shows us that when our members have forged ahead in difficult times, the Fraternity realized some of its greatest successes. We acknowledge that hard times lie ahead; but we have prepared for them, and we are moving forward together as strong as ever to face this new day. 🦋



NEW CHAPTER SUPPORT MODEL

Because of COVID-19, Phi Delta Theta GHQ has had to radically shift the way we support our chapters. Gone are the days of leadership consultants driving from chapter to chapter, at least for now.

In anticipation of an increased need from chapters for operational support, as well as managing pandemic impacts, the Fraternity pulled in fifteen other staff members, along with the current four-chapter consultants, to serve in the role of chapter support leads during this unique period. From the current Executive Vice President & CEO Sean Wagner, to the SVP of Finance Tom Shumate, the Fraternity's chapter support model is now a team of nineteen current staff members who are each providing regular contact and oversight for several chapters.

In-person visits have been replaced by monthly Zoom calls and text conversations. While this is certainly a departure from the past, chapter leaders have indicated that they appreciate the more regular contact and support from GHQ.

Sean is executive vice president and CEO for the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and president of the Foundation



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Shaffer Honors College Goes Virtual

Reflections from a co-founder on reaching a milestone

BY DAVID J. KOVACOVICH, ARIZONA STATE '97

Our brotherhood, which thrives on social interaction, faced the extraordinary challenge of sheltering-in-place instead of interacting in our university communities. Where nearly 1,000 Phis have gathered in the past, now Mother Oxford is silent.

Fear not, the Fraternity's partnership with Intellum (Phi Delt's online education platform that powers PDT U) allowed us to pivot with excellent efficiency. Our educational programming has always been one step ahead of the market, and our technical foundation helped us take the spirit of brotherhood virtual.

Our participants in Honors College share a unique prerequisite; each man attends on a scholarship. As such, we felt it necessary to continue this leadership development academy in 2020. The men continued to learn in large group lecture series from virtual classrooms and were then given the ability to debrief in small groups via private room breakouts. The combination of elite presenters and the ability to share insight on the topics presented made this event a home run!

The Honors College has always been a different

experience. A Whole Man is not always a chapter officer but simply a young man who wants to make a difference in the world. Our faculty come from diverse professional backgrounds and areas of influence. As Steve Wozniak once said to Steve Jobs, "I love what we've built here."

On July 30, 2020, we graduated our 500th Phi from this extraordinary leadership development program (albeit virtually)!

I know supporting our brotherhood as alumni has its fits and starts. Life brings us other priorities. The staff of the Shaffer Honors College of Leadership continues to inspire meaningful interaction despite our facilitation format!

The men who have earned scholarship into this elite group have become doctors, lawyers, civic leaders, and much more. Seeing our cardinal principles and the teaching of *The Bond* catapult our membership to professional excellence proves of commitment to education beyond the classroom is paying off.

Here's to putting five-hundred more young men through the program! 🎓



David is a Shaffer Honors College co-founder and lead facilitator

STUDENT OBSERVATIONS

Finding the Familiar in an Ever-Changing Year

Reflections on Shaffer Honors College going virtual

BY DUNCAN SQUILLANTE, OTTERBEIN '21



It was the best of times, it was the worst of times’—apologies to Charles Dickens, but no more apt a description of life under COVID-19—than, in this world of constant uncertainty, it was nice to find an oasis of consistency and familiarity.

Like many of my brothers, the invitation to the Shaffer Honors College came as a surprise in late July 2020. With the cancelation of Kleberg and the General Convention, along with a plethora of other non-fraternal events, I was not expecting a stellar summer.

Of course, a virtual experience is far different from an in-person event. In contrast to the eight-hour, three-day leadership college, this online convocation was executed in two-hour increments spanning four days. Warm handshakes and friendly banter were replaced by a mosaic of on-screen faces wearing ear buds and headsets.

I came into the Honors College thinking about those other experiences I have had, and bonds I had forged at past Kleberg Emerging Leaders Institutes and the Presidents Leadership College (PLC). This unique virtual experience redefined those moments and replayed them in a manner that only Phi Delta Theta could pull off. Similar to the in-person events, they featured large group presentations and speakers, then small breakout groups with live (albeit online) facilitators.

Honors College brings together the best

and brightest of Phi Delta Theta, so of course there are going to be brothers from all around the country that I recognized from past leadership events. Though this did serve as a reunion for some, most of the focus was on self-development. Reflection on presenters’ themes was the focus of small group discussions, but that did include sharing some life experiences which brought us closer together as a group. In terms of brotherhood, it wasn’t the same as the PLC experience, in which our in-house “Xi Chapter” still maintains close connections, but it was a friendly reminder that there are brothers from across the continent who will support each of us no matter what.

The online presenters and discussion leaders included some familiar faces like Sean Wagner, Bob Biggs, and Chris Brussalis, but a new face to me was Jess Gendron-Williams. Jessica Gendron-Williams is the president of The Center for Leadership Excellence, a company that focuses on advancing women and helping numerous organizations become great places for women to work. The “Me Too” movement has spawned important content at our recent Phi gatherings, as we learn and re-learn how to increase our awareness of and protocols around this critical issue.

Shaffer Honors College is designed to help brothers build themselves, and Gendron-Williams’ presentation focused on developing our feelings and

emotions. Several critical takeaways from this discussion: understanding our values, analyzing our feelings, and developing awareness around our strengths, opportunities for growth, and the gaps in our knowledge base. Leaving us with motivation to surround ourselves with other leaders who can fill the areas in which we are not strong.

Phi Delt excels at bringing outside perspectives to the equation. Gendron provided valuable insights for brothers that are can be often overlooked and undervalued.

Those who have attended a Presidents Leadership Conference in the past may have recognized the names Corey Ciocchetti and Vince Fabra. Ciocchetti’s presentations never fail to inspire. The Honors College focuses on self-development, so his presentation was about becoming a leader and the differences between people in power, and actual leaders (designated power vs. personal power). Ciocchetti says that leaders, true role models, share these critical characteristics in common: leaders always self-reflect, they confer with everyone and don’t play favorites, they genuinely care about others, they don’t compromise values, they acknowledge and own their mistakes, and finally, they are professional in all of their dealings. These serve to remind us why we joined Phi Delta Theta and remember who we are as leaders in our own communities.

This development and self-reflection in isolation has been a constant throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I find myself relearning certain skills that I, as a public relations major, held so dearly before our world changed. Public speaking is one of those skills, and interestingly, Vince Fabra's presentation focused on how to become a better presenter.

"It is impossible to teach, reach, or preach to an audience that is not paying attention," says Fabra, who shared how to mix it up in terms of presenting and the "tell them, tell them, tell them" approach. This technique focuses on the repetition of information to the audience. When presenting,

the voice, body, and content are all factors—tools for us to use. Through stories and personal examples, Fabra demonstrated new and creative ways to make presentations memorable.

In these oh-so-abnormal times, self-reflection and discernment around our core beliefs are destined to emerge. The courage to challenge the process was one of the Shaffer Honor College's keynote themes, and I feel that as a Fraternity we continue to do just that. Lead Facilitator David Kovacovich closed the week with this old Mexican proverb, "They thought they could bury us, but they didn't know we were seeds." 🌱



GHQ Staff Changes

Expansion Consultant **Cody Flynn**, *Idaho '19*, earned a bachelor of science in international studies. Cody served Idaho Alpha as the public relations chairman, chaplain, and philanthropy chairman.

Outside of Phi Delta Theta, Cody served as the vice president of membership development and the assistant director of recruitment for the Interfraternity Council, and he served twice as the intern for the Fraternity and Sorority Life office.

Expansion Consultant **Seth Crain**, *Southeast Missouri State '20*, earned a bachelor of science in business administration. As an undergraduate, Seth served as the public relations chairman, Warden, social chairman, and recruitment chairman.

In addition to Phi Delt, Seth also held executive positions on Interfraternity Council (IFC) and was a member of DECA. In his first year of college, Seth also joined the United States Army National Guard.

While in the national guard, he was awarded with the Army Achievement Medal and served as a team leader for five years.

Myra Duritsch named director of volunteer support. Myra leads all alumni placement, retention, support, and educational initiatives to meet the heightened needs of Phi Delta Theta's chapters today. Myra works closely with the Member Development and Support team.

Jim Rosencrans, *IUP '15*, named director of talent acquisition. Jim directs and leads the Fraternity's Growth team and oversees all activities and services involved with the expansion team, undergraduate recruitment support, the acquisition of volunteer and staff talent, and alumni mentorship programs.

Dylan Berg, *North Dakota '15*, was promoted to director of systems and analytics. He is tasked with leading

all technology and analytic products and initiatives deployed by the Fraternity and Foundation. This includes strategic outcomes as outlined in *Phi Delt 2030*. Further, this position will oversee all data collection and analysis efforts for the Fraternity and Foundation and lead high-level oversight of event planning.

FOUNDATION NEWS

PHILANTHROPY

Why We Ask for Your Support

Your donations directly impact undergraduate brothers

BY KATIE SHIPP

On August 4, 2020, the Phi Delta Theta Foundation held its second annual giving day. The day raised just over \$110,000 from over 570 donors and is the most successful single-day fundraising effort of this kind for the Foundation.

Throughout the day, live Facebook interviews featuring staff, volunteers, and students helped spread awareness of what it means to be a member of Phi Delta Theta and how the organization is adapting in the age of COVID-19. While Phi Delta Theta was ahead of the curve in available online education modules, the pandemic called for many new courses to navigate recruitment and chapter operations this fall. The Fraternity was able to fast-track several of the initiatives in the *Phi Delt 2030* strategic plan to ensure the undergraduates could still experience the fraternal experience, even from six feet apart. Speeding up these initiatives while also assisting chapters with dues, implementing new scholarships for students, helping seniors find jobs, and building awareness of alumni with small businesses or restaurants all created a need for additional dollars to ensure a consistently high level of support. The alumni and friends who took the time to share and make contributions on Giving Day provided budgetary relief to ensure that a high level of support continues.

Our members often ask Foundation

staff why the Fraternity needs a Foundation, something which is essential to understand. Of course, the Foundation has its mission, which states that the Foundation exists to strengthen men for life by building on the tradition of our core values: Friendship, Sound Learning, and Rectitude.

When I think of our daily mission, I recall something the Fraternity's new Executive Vice President and CEO Sean Wagner said: "I believe that someone's born situation should not determine their lot in life. Becoming a Phi Delt exposes people to leadership experiences, relationships, and a values-centered life that improves every member's trajectory. Our role at GHQ is to enable and sponsor that transformational experience. In these uncertain times, where leaders are needed more than ever, and the world is looking to provide greater opportunities for all, our society has the chance to be more impactful than ever."

As a member of the General Headquarters staff on the Foundation side, I hope to accomplish two things during my time at Phi Delt. The first is to educate young men. Whether it is on leadership, respect, life-long learning, relationship-building, or philanthropy, I see our GHQ staff as a group of educators who enhance the lives of our 180,000 students and alumni. The second is to make Phi Delta Theta an experience available to all.



If you look at the Phi Delt experience as a pie, chapter dues account for nearly 60–65 percent of that pie each year. The Foundation covers the remaining cost and works consistently with alumni and benefactors to increase our piece of the pie. All of this to say, my answer to the question, "Why does a fraternity need a foundation?" is this: the Fraternity needs a Foundation to ensure that the Phi Delta Theta experience is one that can be accessible to everyone.

Gifts on Giving Day ranged from \$5–\$10,000. Every one of those donors advances the Fraternity's and Foundation's mission. I hope that on Giving Day, you heard the message that your gift's dollar amount is not nearly as significant as the fact that you chose to give back. To each person who decided to place the Phi Delta Theta Foundation in their charitable giving priorities: thank you for ensuring that each young man who wants to become a stronger leader has access to join Phi Delta Theta.

P.S. If you missed Giving Day and still want to support the experience, you can always donate at phideltatheta.org/donate or call the Foundation to find out more.

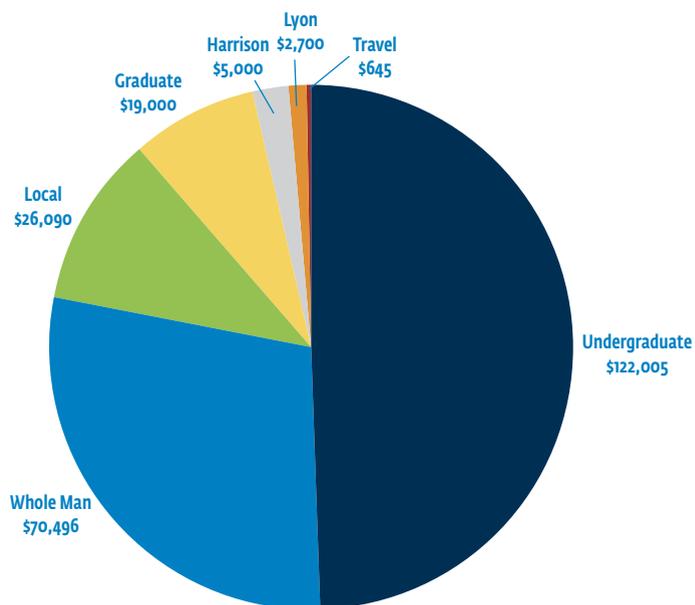
Katie is director of annual giving and advancement communications for the Phi Delta Theta Foundation

Foundation Scholarships

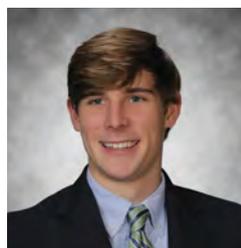
Anually the Phi Delta Theta Foundation awards many scholarships to both its undergraduate members and alumni who are continuing their graduate studies. For the 2020–21 academic year, the Foundation awarded over \$245,000 in scholarships and fellowships to 240 students.

Our members begin their academic journeys to gain an education that will help them build a career. When they join Phi Delta Theta, they open themselves up to a network of alumni who are prepared to help them pursue their career goals and support them financially with scholarships along the way. Every year there are many impressive applications. The recipients chosen showcase Phi Delta Theta's Cardinal Principles: Friendship, Sound Learning, and Rectitude.

It goes without saying that these efforts are only possible thanks to the donations of our very generous donors. Your gifts are impactful beyond measure and are making a difference in the lives of these young men.



Patrick Bisson, McGill '21
 Major: Economics
 Minor: International Studies
 Award: Whole Man Scholarship
 “Participating in the Shaffer Honors College gave me and everyone else the chance to connect with fellow Phis during a period of isolation and uncertainty. The reason I am so proud to be a Phi is because of these opportunities that I would not have imagined possible if I did not join the organization. This scholarship will be put to good use while I continue my studies at McGill.”



Watson Jackson, SMU '21
 Major: Finance, Sports Management
 Minor: International Studies, History
 Award: Arthur R. Priest Scholarship and the Hoyt Jolley Scholarship
 “I believe there is no organization in this world like Phi Delt, and I am eternally grateful for everything this organization has given me. These scholarships mean the world to me and are such a massive help to funding my education my senior year.”



Duncan Squillante, Otterbein '21
 Major: Communications, Public Relations
 Award: Whole Man Scholarship
 “I am proud to be a Phi because I truly believe in our mission to become the greatest version of yourself, whether that's through different events Phi Delt holds or the different mentors I have met. Shaffer Honors College was one of the greatest experiences that I will never forget.”



Isaac Mena, UCI '22
 Major: Criminal Justice
 Award: Whole Man Scholarship
 “I am thankful for this scholarship as I was able to purchase a new laptop, which is a huge help since we are currently learning online.”



Ryan Jones, Case Western Reserve '21
 Major: Biochemistry
 Minor: Chemistry, Sports Medicine
 Award: Whole Man Scholarship
 “This award will help relieve my financial burden and will allow me to continue to pursue my dreams of becoming a physician. Thank you!”



British Columbia Gamma Emerging Chapter

Canadian Foundation Grants a Record \$23,500 with 2019 Awards

In just a few weeks, the Canadian Foundation will be selecting its 2020 Leadership and Scholarship Award winners from chapters across Canada. Rewarding our emerging leaders and scholars is what the Foundation is all about and made possible through the financial support we receive from Canadian Fraternity alumni.

Recent Fraternity highlights in Canada include:

- Ontario Delta (York) won the Housser Trophy as the most outstanding Canadian chapter for the first time.
- Quebec Alpha (McGill) was re-installed as a chapter in November 2019.
- Ontario Alpha (Toronto) was inducted as an emerging chapter in November 2019.
- British Columbia Gamma (UBC Okanagan) in Kelowna was inducted as an emerging chapter in February 2020.
- Ontario Eta interest group (Queen's) is currently working toward emerging chapter status.

CANADIAN FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Phi Delta Theta Canadian Foundation is a CRA-registered charity mandated to promote scholarship and leadership among emerging university leaders in Canada. Primary revenues are from Canadian alumni, and donations are 100 percent tax-deductible.

Since 1974, the Canadian Foundation has awarded over \$330,000 to 298 undergraduates at campuses where Phi Delta Theta has a Canadian chapter.

In 2019, a record \$28,000 was dispersed to twenty-eight Canadian undergraduates at ten campuses (including nine leadership awards).

The Canadian Foundation has worked with alumni at the University of Manitoba to establish the Manitoba Alpha Leadership Award—the goal of raising \$300,000 for a dedicated fund is almost complete. We awarded our first Manitoba Alpha Leadership Award this year.

OUR APPEAL TO YOU

In 2019, the Canadian Foundation saw a record number of donations from alumni and a record number of awards granted. Given the high cost of university tuition and housing—and in this age of COVID-19—the financial strain on undergraduates is bigger than ever. We need to be a part of the solution facing our emerging leaders. We can only do so with the financial support of our Canadian Fraternity alumni.

Our all-volunteer board has succeeded in keeping the Canadian Foundation's annual administrative expenses extremely low (under \$1,500), which allows us to direct almost all of our annual donations directly to leadership development initiatives and awards.

To those who contributed in 2019—thank you! Now is the time to help the Canadian Foundation so that we can continue to strengthen our Fraternity across Canada. Please make a tax-deductible contribution today (and receive a tax receipt instantly) via CanadaHelps at www.PhiDeltaTheta.ca.

Rob McInnes, *Dalhousie '85*, Chairman
Phi Delta Theta Canadian Foundation



LIVING TO SEE THE LEGACY

McKenzie Family Presidents Leadership Conference

The McKenzie family business' success comes from a spirit of community and a model of servant leadership. Now, Mickey and Barbara McKenzie have ensured that the Phi Delta Theta family's young leaders receive the best-in-class preparation through the McKenzie Family's \$1 million endowment of the Presidents Leadership Conference—the premier annual membership development experience.





In August 2019, Barbara and Michael McKenzie, *Texas Tech '69*, joined the Phi Delta Theta history books when they became the second living donors to make a \$1 million gift to the Foundation.

Barbara and Mickey made their gift to support member development, namely the Presidents Leadership Conference, which takes place annually in St. Louis and is attended by all chapter and emerging chapter presidents.

Mickey was initiated into the Texas Epsilon Chapter of Phi Delta Theta at Texas Tech in 1965 and was elated when thirty years later, his son Ryan was initiated into the brotherhood that had influenced his life. When presented with the chance to give back to Phi Delta, Mickey says he felt privileged to

support an organization that provided Ryan, '98, and him with wonderful opportunities and life-long friends. Having never seen a Brinks truck going to a cemetery, he and Barbara wanted to make their contribution now so that in their lifetime, they can witness the impact on chapters and build solid young leaders who will make a difference for those who come after them.

Mickey is the chairman of the board of Grocery Supply Company (GSC), founded in 1947 by brothers Curtis and Kenneth (Mickey's father) McKenzie, and Woodrow Brittain. GSC is rooted in a mantra of "families serving families." While the company has grown and evolved since its founding, they stay true to the family culture. Both the McKenzies and Phi Delta Theta value servant leadership as a key to building strong organizations, attributing stewardship, humility, service, gratitude, and self-awareness as the crucial elements when dealing with internal and external constituents.



Texas Epsilon retreat



Ryan and Mickey McKenzie at Grocery Supply Company

Ryan McKenzie, COO, notes the staff's longevity at GSC by stating, "I've known many of our employees since I was a kid working in the warehouse during the summers. Of our six-hundred employees, one-third of them have been with our company for over twenty years. We see this as a true blessing. Our business continues to grow, but GSC remains committed to our family culture." GSC has numerous stories of co-workers helping one another in times of need. Employees of GSC have created several charities for those most in need in the community. One example was a truck driver who desired to help military veterans and started a charity called Operation Victor Echo Tango (VET). GSC sponsors an annual barbecue cookout with all proceeds going to local vets and their families for emergency financial needs.

The family business comes in second only to the business of the family. In addition to Ryan (and his wife, KK), Barbara and Mickey also have a daughter, Mariah; they have also been blessed with eight grandchildren: four future Phi Deltas and four lovely granddaughters. Barbara and Mickey enjoy traveling the world in their free time, having visited six continents! Scotland is a favorite return to their ancestral roots, and Mickey

often wears the original McKenzie clan tartan kilt at formal events.

Mickey is also quite close with several of his Texas Epsilon brothers and makes an annual trek to the group's New Mexico gathering. The Fraternity has certainly been a lifelong experience for Mickey, and one that he hopes to pass on to future generations. Phi Delta Theta is thankful to Barbara and Mickey for their monumental support of this brotherhood leadership learning experience. We are proud to cement their legacy in the newly named McKenzie Family Presidents Leadership Conference.

RYAN MCKENZIE

I have great memories of visiting Texas Tech with my family. I was always amazed at the close friendships with my dad's Fraternity brothers and how happy they were to get together over college football weekends in Lubbock.

To this day, he is still close with many of his Texas Epsilon brothers. Years later, when I became a member, I cultivated many similar friendships and couldn't be more appreciative. Many of us were the sons of older Phi Deltas, which made it even more special for both generations.

My dad has always fostered and nurtured friendships, and I certainly think I learned that from him. The men I've met through the Fraternity have shaped who I am today, that's for sure.

Without a doubt, my Dad and I both have lifelong friendships through Phi Delta Theta, and I am extremely grateful for that.



PRESIDENTS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Twenty Years of Preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow

BY JESSE MOYER

B*efore the turn of the century*, Phi Delta Theta did not offer education for the most prominent, if not most important, undergraduate officer—the chapter president. Because serving as president of a Phi Delta Theta chapter can be compared to leading a small business, it became apparent that executive leadership education was missing from the Fraternity’s educational offerings. This changed in January 2000 when over one-hundred-fifty chapter-presidents gathered in a hotel

in St. Louis, Missouri, for a weekend of officer education, leadership development, and brotherhood at what has become one of Phi Delta Theta’s cornerstone educational conferences, the Presidents Leadership Conference (PLC). Since that first PLC, 4,571 chapter presidents have attended the event.

Providing access to world-class speakers, the highest caliber volunteer support the Fraternity has to offer, and a network of fellow CEOs to lean on during the inevitably challenging, and sometimes lonely times as president, the event now

serves as a springboard for Phi Delta’s best and brightest leaders as they embark on one of the most exciting and rewarding leadership experiences of their life.

From the first event in 2000, the experience has been best-in-class. That does not mean it has been without improvement during its twenty-year history. For instance, the Leadership Forum was added to expose attendees to alumni who have realized professional success in business, government, or sports. Through the years, additional officers have made the trek to St. Louis to join the



presidents as they acquired the information and skills to support the Fraternity’s priorities. Most notably, recruitment chairmen and Phikeia educators have been a part of the event in an effort to recruit and retain the best and brightest

“Coming from a small campus where Greek life was not necessarily embraced, recruitment was always a major challenge for our chapter. The working sessions at PLC where I exchanged recruitment struggles with other leaders at similar-sized campuses helped put perspective around how challenging the recruitment process can be. With the help of our mentor and workshop leaders, we were able to identify innovative changes we could make in our approach to finding quality men on our campuses to help grow our chapters. I brought these concepts back to my recruitment chairman, and we completely refreshed our recruitment program. We received overwhelming support from our chapter and united around common goals. The result was the largest Phikeia class in thirty years and nearly doubling membership that semester. —Chapter President Dean Sadowski, *Ashland '15*

young men on our college campuses. While presidents are there to become the greatest versions of themselves, this does not come without some lighthearted fun. This includes poker tournaments, stand-up comedians, movie nights, Phi sports events, and t-shirt swaps. Providing downtime to attendees allows them to network with other chapter CEOs, creating and exchanging strategies to improve their chapters and celebrate the great brotherhood Phi Delta Theta has to offer.

In 2021, as PLC begins its third decade of preparing undergraduate leaders, it will undergo a rebranding thanks to the generosity of Michael “Mickey” McKenzie, *Texas Tech '66*, and his wife Barbara Esslinger McKenzie. PLC will now be known as the McKenzie Family Presidents Leadership Conference. By endowing the event, the McKenzie family enables the Fraternity to continue strengthening the existing leadership skills of our chapter CEOs while challenging our presidents to be men of character, good citizens, and leaders in their communities, both now and for life.

Going forward, the McKenzie Family PLC will strive to give our highest-level undergraduate leaders an experience that will enable them to be transformational leaders within their chapters, universities,

“The role of president requires critical decision-making, strategic planning, partnerships with the university community, and unity with the General Headquarters Staff. At PLC, presidents participate in programming that will help them bridge the gap from being an admired brother to a true leader. Whether it is formalizing risk management policies, expanding chapter academic goals, understanding how to get the most out of the Phi Delt network, or sharing best practices in philanthropy, PLC covers the gambit of preparation, planning, and execution!”

—David Kovacovich, *Arizona '98*, PLC Faculty

communities, and eventually within their chosen professions. This gift reinforces that Phi Delta Theta is strongly positioned to continue to prepare our future leaders.

As Phi Delta Theta strives to be the premier fraternal leadership development society in North America, the McKenzie Family Presidents Leadership Conference’s foundation is now part of the McKenzie family’s legacy both within the Fraternity and the world. 🦋

Jesse is senior vice president of membership development and support



PHOTOS BY:
Shane Nourie, Montclair State
@nouries



PHOTOS BY:
Lake Lewis, Carnegie Mellon
@lake.lewis

RECTITUDE

A positive and ever-deepening search for union with others where the morality of one seeks the good of the other.

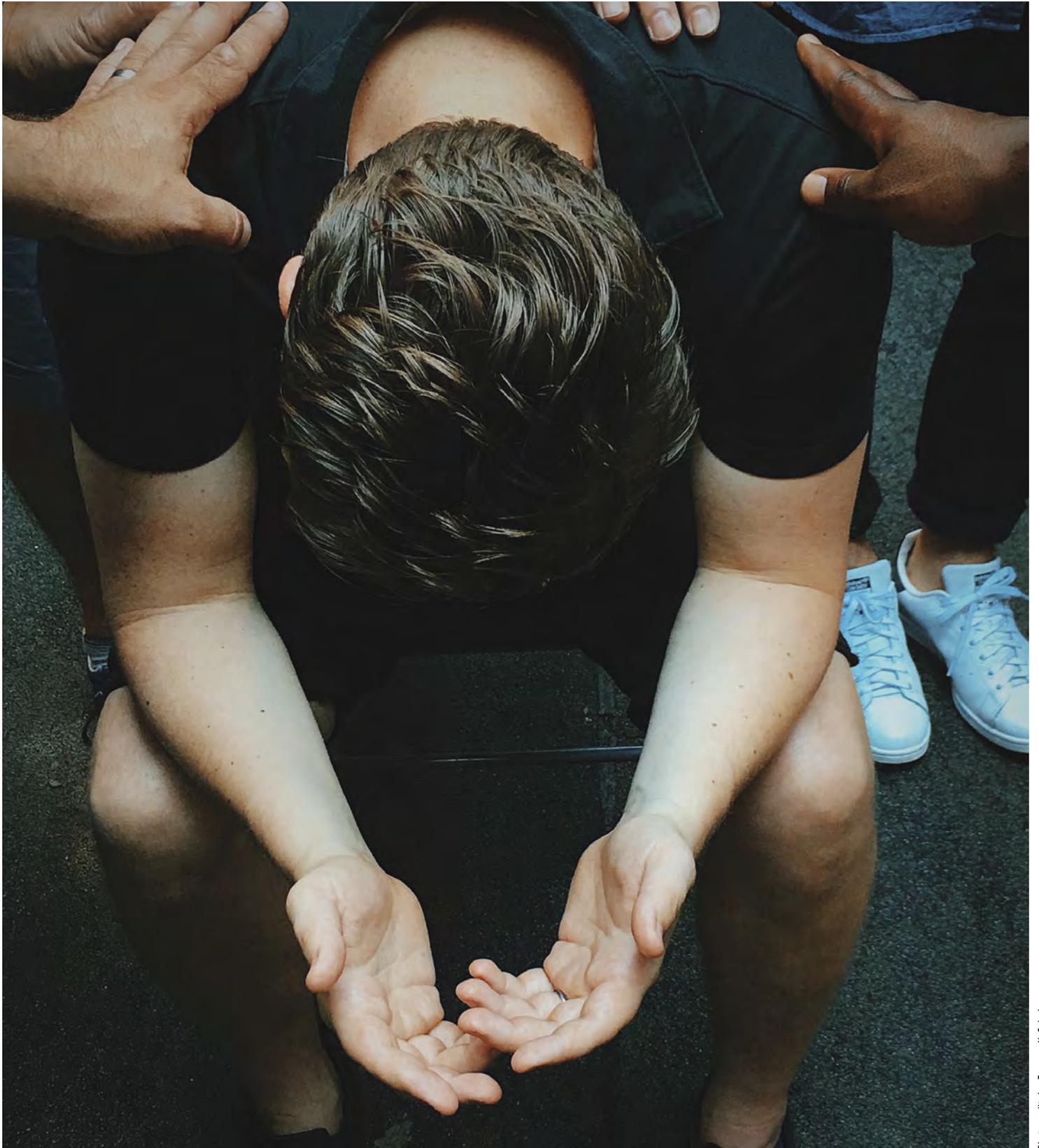


Photo credit: Jon Iyson on UnSplash

MENTAL HEALTH

Start the Conversation

College-age men, depression, and suicide risks

BY ROB PASQUINUCCI, ASHLAND '93

To an observer, Cam Hopkin was enjoying his semester at Kent State University, where he was attending with a full scholarship. The fun-loving nineteen-year-old had recently pledged the Ohio Lambda Chapter. Chapter President Robbie Speaks, '20, says he was one of the more dedicated members of his Phikeias class, already signing up to be an Iron Phi and making plans to move into the chapter house.

"We were just getting to know him. He was super stoked to be living in the house, and he asked me questions about leadership," Speaks says. "He had so much drive and ambition to be successful."

So, when Speaks' phone vibrated with a text message on a day in early February, he couldn't believe what he read: One of Cam's pledge brothers had found Cam dead after taking his own life.

"It just didn't seem real," Speaks says.

Unfortunately, this tragedy happened again. Five days later, in nearby Akron, Ohio, another Phi took his life. And so, Brandon Count, *Akron* '21, Ohio Epsilon chapter president, immediately had to lead his chapter through a crisis.

Between seventy and eighty Phis have committed suicide during the past ten years, based on GHQ estimates. This number includes undergraduates and alumni members. Statistically, college-age men are at very high risk, with suicide being the second-leading cause of death among this group, and the numbers keep rising. The risk isn't among just the college-aged either. Statistics show men have higher suicide rates than women.

Recent data show suicide rates rising nationally in the US during the past two decades, with 35 percent increases in half the states since 1999. John Rudolph, a crisis counselor in Cleveland, notes his organization has seen a rise in college

students' calls during the time he's worked there.

The research reported by GQ magazine shows a third of men have experienced suicidal thoughts over the past year, with social media having a significant negative impact on their mental health.

"That's the population we're working with, unfortunately. We know it's an issue with men, and we know we have to do something," says Province President Dr. Mark Pleiss, *Washington & Jefferson* '11, who is also a member of the Fraternity's education committee. Pleiss works full-time as a psychologist for the federal prison system. He adds that just talking about the issue of suicide can help.

"The Fraternity moved to a position where it acknowledges this issue. I think the biggest thing we're doing as an organization is having the conversation. That's the first battle you have to win—you can speak it into reality and address it. That's why

“ I think the biggest thing we are doing as an organization is having the conversation. That's the first battle you have to win. ”
—Dr. Mark Pleiss

Men can suffer from mental illness.

Men can be self-conscious and insecure.

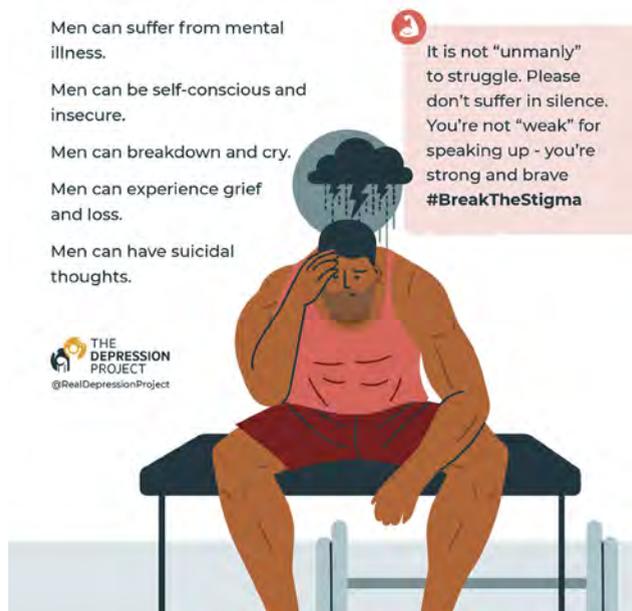
Men can breakdown and cry.

Men can experience grief and loss.

Men can have suicidal thoughts.

It is not "unmanly" to struggle. Please don't suffer in silence. You're not "weak" for speaking up - you're strong and brave
#BreakTheStigma

THE DEPRESSION PROJECT
@RealDepressionProject



we've added suicide prevention and mental health programming to Phi Delt educational conferences."

OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER

While education is helpful, it's often the one-on-one interactions that can make a difference in our chapters. Paying attention to our well-being, along with those around us, is critical.

"There's a spectrum," Pleiss says. "There's sick, there's good, and there's well. Ideally, we want to be in the 'well' category." Here are questions you can ask yourself:

- How do your thoughts, emotions, and behaviors all interact?
- What are you doing to make sure the other two components are in-line?
- Are you finding those things that, when stress happens, can get you back to center?
- Do you have a purpose? Short-term goals?
- Are you content? Do you feel like you are a part of something?

"When fraternity is done right, it helps fulfill some of those inner things," Pleiss says.

"If things are too negative, our emotions lean toward being depressed, and we change our behaviors to things that are more negative," Pleiss says, adding that this year's COVID-19 pandemic has taken some positive behaviors—like hanging out with friends—off the table.

So, when you are in a funk, at what point do you seek help?

Pleiss suggests, "When you hit about two weeks and find the things you normally do aren't working, or anything new you've tried to bust you out of the funk, that's the time to talk to someone. For undergraduates, there are campus resources available, and there are crisis hotlines in every community. You can also call the national suicide prevention hotline in the US at 800-273-8255 or 800-273-8255 in Canada. See the sidebar that accompanies this article for other resources.

In addition to additional suicide awareness programs at educational conferences, the Fraternity plans to offer mental health support resources for members soon, according to Director of Education Clay Coleman. "We know we want to offer immediate help and support when needed, and especially view mental health through a broad programmatic lens."

“I was honestly in a pretty dark place after this happened. I had to be mindful of everyone else and connect them to the resources they needed.”
—Robbie Speaks

Want to Know How to Help a Friend?

STUDENT GUIDE TO MENTAL HEALTH

KNOW THE 10 COMMON WARNING SIGNS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Feeling very sad or withdrawn for more than two weeks | 6 Seeing, hearing or believing things that are not real |
| 2 Seriously trying to harm or kill oneself or making plans to do so | 7 Repeatedly using drugs or alcohol |
| 3 Severe out-of-control, risk-taking behaviors | 8 Drastic changes in mood, behavior, personality or sleeping habits |
| 4 Sudden overwhelming fear for no reason | 9 Extreme difficulty in concentrating or staying still |
| 5 Not eating, throwing up or using laxatives to lose weight; significant weight loss or weight gain | 10 Intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities |



START THE CONVERSATION



OFFER SUPPORT



BE A FRIEND

- Your friend may feel alone; check in regularly and include your friend in your plans
- Learn more about mental health conditions
- Avoid saying things like "you'll get over it," "toughen up" or "you're fine"
- Tell your friend that having a mental health condition does not change the way you feel about them
- Tell your friend it gets better; help and support are out there

GET ADVICE

You may want to reach out to someone to talk to about how you're feeling or to get advice on how to help your friend. Consider talking to a:



Follow Us! NAMI NAMCommunicate NAMCommunicate www.nami.org



Infographic provided by NAMI. To view larger and learn more, visit: <https://phide.lt/3qwv9UL>

“We’re also looking to redefine and further equip the chapter office of chaplain to have that officer be the person members can go to access mental health resources available, Coleman adds.

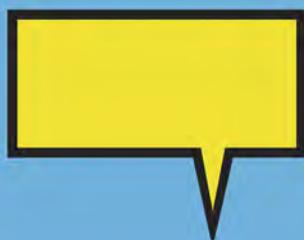
Chapter leaders should be watchful for those who might need help. Often, the brother who is struggling the most appears outwardly to be fine. “You have to be mindful of the people who are giving and giving all the time,” Speaks says. “Those are the people who run out of gas.”

THE IMPACT

The men at Ohio Lambda and Ohio Epsilon paid tribute to their brothers, respectively. The Kent State Phi initiated Cam’s dad and put together a tribute to Cam in the chapter house. Both chapters made contributions to honor the men with Iron Phi status posthumously. Both campuses held candlelight vigils and other memorials. But the impact on the loss of these two Phis (and the many others) continues.

“So many of these young men’s chapter brothers had never experienced any loss, particularly something as tragic as these,” said Sigma South Province President Jim Warner, *Akron ’70*. That’s why he headed directly to each chapter and brought in fellow Province President Mark Pleiss to help. “I knew I had to be there for my guys,” Warner says.

Now would be a good time to ask a friend **how they’re doing**.



SEIZE THE AWKWARD

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Depression strikes men of any age or race and some of the most successful people. Consider NBA star Kevin Love, who, despite winning an NBA title and being at the top of his career, has publicly acknowledged his struggles with depression (read more here: <https://phide.lt/3gye7cG>).

The message from Kevin and anyone else dealing with mental health problems is simple: talk to someone. It can start with your brothers in the chapter house, but consider seeking professional help, particularly the things you do to raise your spirits are not effective. Here are some resources to help yourself or a brother with depression:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Chat: <https://phide.lt/3mJRIvs> or 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)
- The Trevor Lifeline (Suicide Prevention for LGBTQ Youth): 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (1-866-488-7386)
- CDC-INFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
- Veterans’ Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), press 1
- Canada Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-8255
- Seize the Awkward: <https://phide.lt/36HdNoC>
- Starting the Conversation: <https://phide.lt/37AF1g6>
- How to Tell if a Friend is Struggling: <https://phide.lt/3IG8dHI>
- JEDCampus Resources: <https://phide.lt/36F6GgD>
- Online Resources for College Mental Health: <http://www.ulifeline.org>
- You Are Not Alone: <https://www.loveislouder.org>
- Transitioning from High School to College and Adulthood Tool-Kit: <https://www.settogo.org>
- Men and Depression: <https://phide.lt/36HSrll>
- HeadsUpGuys: <https://headsupguys.org/>
- The Depression Project: <https://phide.lt/3gfdSDs>

“I was honestly in a pretty dark place after this happened,” Speaks says. “I had to be mindful of everyone else and connect them to the resources they needed.”

Brandon Count at Akron had a similar experience.

“I never really took time for myself to make sure I was OK,” Count says. When he finally had a friend ask how he was doing, he quickly recognized the personal impact of what had happened. “I feel like being a leader; you need to make sure you’re still taking time for yourself.”

Coleman agrees. “Officer burnout is something we continue to address. Our chapter leaders have to take care of themselves before taking care of others. This is about you becoming the greatest version of yourself,” he says.

IRON PHI

One Small Step

One man's moon landing was his journey to become an Iron Phi

BY MIKE OGG, SONOMA STATE '01

On May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy announced his dream to send a man to the moon. In 1969 Neil Armstrong, *Purdue '55*, proclaimed, “One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” In the eight years between both events, NASA sent multiple missions into space and stepped toward Armstrong’s eventual moonwalk. President Kennedy inspired a nation with what seemed like an impossible goal, and NASA made that goal a reality, where each small step advanced the dream of putting an American on the moon. Each success or failure in pursuit of the day Armstrong set foot on the moon, representing eight years of leadership, planning, teamwork, and celebrating incremental success. The

journey to the moon began and ended with one small step.

We each have our “moon landings.” It is that seemingly unattainable goal, the project you never quite get to, an apathy you feel yet aren’t sure how to overcome. We look at it and think, “I will figure this out tomorrow,” or “I can’t possibly make this better.” Just like President Kennedy, NASA, and Neil Armstrong, with the right mindset, roadmap, and drive, you can make your dream a reality.

My moon landing came in 2019. Ever since the program’s inception, I had set my sights on becoming an Iron Phi by running a marathon, something I had not ever considered before. Running 26.2 miles might as well have been trying to fly to the moon. It was nearly impossible to imagine any scenario where I would be able to run four to five hours straight and finish a marathon.

The first thing I did was to tell people that I was going to run a marathon and become an Iron Phi, not to boast but instead to commit to my goal publicly and ask others to help hold me accountable. Slowly, my mindset shifted from “I want to run a marathon” to “I am going to run a marathon.” A difference between believing you can do something and merely dreaming about it, I pursued the finish line.

With my goal defined and a coalition of support, I found a fantastic coach and team with whom to train. We planned a progressive roadmap from start to finish with weekly objectives and regular steps toward the larger goal in a collaborative discussion. With each achievement, we reflected on what



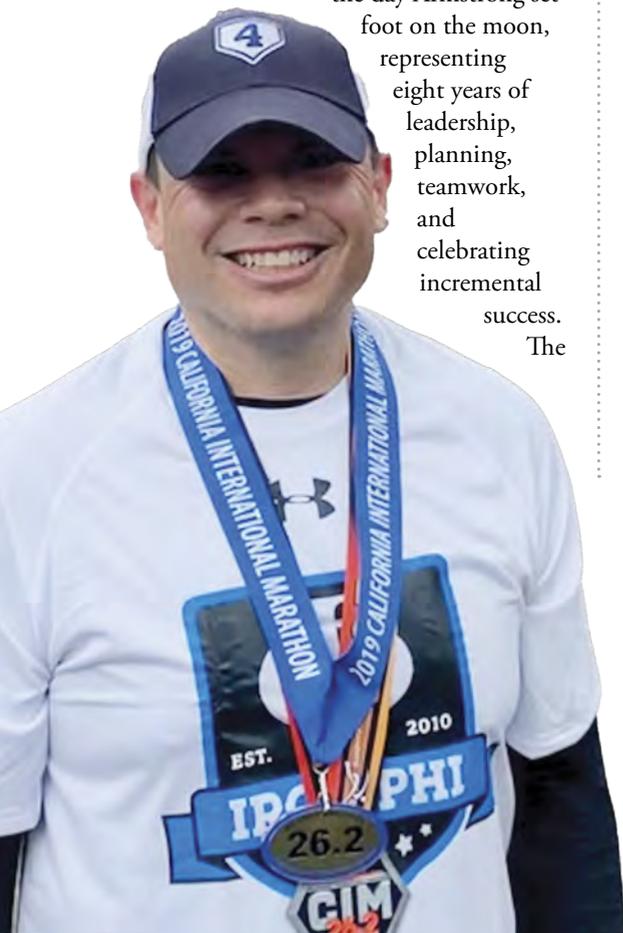
went well or could be improved, then move on. This celebrated progress but also identified behaviors to change to increase performance moving forward.

On December 8, 2019, I stepped up to the California International Marathon’s starting line and did not doubt that I would achieve my goal. A few hours later, I crossed the finish line and became Iron Phi #946, thanks to my coalition, a strong roadmap, reflections, and adjustments each step of the way.

To me, the moon landing and my own Iron Phi journey share some common ground. Both set audacious goals, required drive, and celebrated small successes in pursuit of a larger purpose. Both required chasing success and embracing failure, the latter being much more challenging work. Moving toward the finish line is inspirational. People flock to success and want to be a part of winning. But everyone knows that few dreams come without setbacks, those unique opportunities to become better each step.

How do you embrace failure? As a leader, making mistakes can be the greatest opportunity to improve performance. Many launches never left the pad, and some crashed upon landing, but NASA never gave up and used that experience to improve and build a stronger program. I, too, had tough days where the fuel lagged for the runs planned, but pressing through them and learning from them helped me push on toward my goal.

The same formula that led NASA to put Neil Armstrong on the moon and led me to run 26.2 miles can help you become



NEW IRON PHIS

- 948 Thomas Bean, *Utah Alpha*
- 949 Ethan Deimeke, *Missouri Beta*
- 950 Robert Pitter, *Florida Iota*
- 951 Eathan Foncannon, *Georgia Alpha*
- 952 Matthew Ikard, *Georgia Alpha*
- 953 Richard Stout, *Georgia Alpha*
- 954 Andrew Bergner, *Georgia Alpha*
- 955 Griffin Knor, *Georgia Alpha*
- 956 Julian Shrader, *Georgia Alpha*
- 957 Dylan Bryan, *Georgia Alpha*
- 958 Eric Woytus, *Missouri Beta*
- 959 Kyle Hanzl, *New Jersey Gamma*
- 960 Jake McMullan, *New Jersey Gamma*
- 961 Scotty Garvin, *Washington Epsilon*
- 962 Michael Burke, *Georgia Delta*
- 963 Joseph Jimenez, *Kansas Delta*
- 964 Estevan Mikhail, *Kentucky Epsilon*
- 965 Matthew Van Brunt, *Ohio Lambda*
- 966 Adrian Coomes, *Florida Iota*
- 967 Cameron Hopkin, *Ohio Lambda*
- 968 Danny Dhas, *Oregon Beta*
- 969 J.D. Castleberry, *Kentucky Iota*
- 970 Nate Layman, *Indiana Alpha*
- 971 Evan Peters, *Pennsylvania Mu*
- 972 Ben Manzer, *Nova Scotia Alpha*
- 973 Nathan Ritchey, *Ohio Lambda*
- 974 Joe Cammarota, *New Jersey Gamma*
- 975 TJ Jones, *Ohio Epsilon*
- 976 Shane Benner, *Ohio Epsilon*
(posthumously)
- 977 James Mintel, *New Jersey Gamma*
- 978 Camden Little, *North Carolina Zeta*
- 979 Noah Brady, *Nebraska Gamma*
- 980 Dave Budai, *Ohio Epsilon*
- 981 Josh Lane, *Washington Epsilon*
- 982 Chris Solomon, *North Carolina Delta*
- 983 Justin Vipperman, *Pennsylvania Sigma*
- 984 Kevin Pouch, *Kansas Epsilon*
- 985 Kevin Cummings, *North Carolina Delta*
- 986 Tom Balzer, *North Dakota Alpha*
- 987 Jensen Skelton, *Michigan Beta*
- 988 Brandon Counts, *Ohio Epsilon*
- 989 Danny Malin, *Ohio Epsilon*
- 990 Shane Nourie, *New Jersey Epsilon*
- 991 Brandon Becerra, *Florida Kappa*
- 992 Daniel Peterson, *Washington Alpha*
- 993 Andrew Hill, *Georgia Alpha*
- 994 Andres Perez, *Florida Kappa*
- 995 Luis Ochotorena, *Florida Kappa*
- 996 Chris Chookigan, *Florida Omicron*
- 997 Lukas Miedreich, *New York Kappa*
- 998 Jon Hines, *Texas Pi*
- 999 Bryce Dubois, *Pennsylvania Mu*
- 1000 Gaylon Morris, *Texas Gamma*
- 1001 Matthew Hudak, *Pennsylvania Sigma*
- 1002 Robert Speaks, *Ohio Lambda*
- 1003 Chris Loschiavo, *Mississippi Beta*
- 1004 James Ribellia, *Washington Delta*
- 1005 Kacy Lewis, *Friends of Iron Phi*
- 1006 Brian Bloom, *California Kappa*
- 1007 Aaron Hollis, *Indiana Iota*
- 1008 Christopher Pulu, *California Rho*
- 1009 Carlos Dominguez, *Florida Kappa*
- 1010 Matthew Rigsby, *Tennessee Eta*
- 1011 Silas Skiff, *Pennsylvania Iota*
- 1012 Sam Burgener, *Oregon Beta*
- 1013 Cody Kesner, *Ohio Mu*
- 1014 Connor Forrest, *Illinois Eta*
- 1015 Owen Critchley, *Florida Omicron*
- 1016 Don Schenk, *Maryland Beta*
- 1017 Brendan Cushing-Daniels, *Pennsylvania Beta*
- 1018 Michelle Wagner, *Friends of Iron Phi*
- 1019 Patrick Clackner, *New Jersey Epsilon*
- 1020 Will Kingston, *Utah Alpha*
- 1021 Jake Hallin, *Utah Alpha*
- 1022 Michael Costa, *California Lambda*
- 1023 Devin Brady, *California Pi*
- 1024 Eric Boyd, *New Jersey Gamma*
- 1025 Nicholas Marinelli, *New Jersey Gamma*
- 1026 Matt McGlasson, *Ohio Theta*
- 1027 Gavin Burns, *New Jersey Gamma*
- 1028 Brandon Gibson, *Ohio Epsilon*
- 1029 Tony Duritsch, *Indiana Mu*
- 1030 Hunter Garstin, *Kentucky Eta*
- 1031 Matt Edel, *North Carolina Delta*
- 1032 Nicholas Garcia, *New Jersey Gamma*
- 1033 Noah Didier, *Nebraska Gamma*
- 1034 Alex Girard, *Nebraska Gamma*
- 1035 Marcus Hartnett, *Wisconsin Gamma*
- 1036 Jack Kitterman, *Wisconsin Gamma*
- 1037 Hunter Simmers, *Wisconsin Gamma*
- 1038 Greyson Geiler, *Nebraska Alpha*
- 1039 Kevin Canterbury, *Minnesota Beta*
- 1040 Cormac Madigan, *Wisconsin Gamma*
- 1041 Gregg Garcia, *Indiana Eta*
- 1042 Max Koszinowski, *Utah Alpha*
- 1043 Alex Sahinidis, *Carnegie Mellon*
- 1044 Christian Fagan, *Ohio Mu*
- 1045 Bill Poston, *Texas Mu*
- 1046 Kevin Metzler, *New York Eta*
- 1047 Will Scott, *New York Delta*
- 1048 Jake Vaught, *Kentucky Epsilon*
- 1049 Benjamin Campbell, *Tennessee Eta*
- 1050 Robert Hattan, *Oregon Epsilon*

“the greatest version of yourself.”
 Do you inspire others to chase success and embrace their failure? When you create a roadmap, do you allow the opportunity to measure your incremental success? When you hit a setback, is it a springboard for better performance or an anchor that holds you back? Finally, when you reach your goals,

do you take the time to appreciate the journey, the view, and the team that helped you get there? Neil Armstrong stopped to take in the incredible view of Earth from the moon, and so should you.
 Becoming the greatest version of ourselves isn't the destination as much as the journey. 🌌

THE MISSION OF IRON PHI

is to strengthen the Phi Delta Theta International Fraternity and the impact it has on the fight against Lou Gehrig's disease through the fundraising and athletic efforts of its members. To become an "Iron Phi," members of Phi Delta Theta (both undergraduates and alumni) must select an athletic endeavor of their choice (any type of athletic event is eligible), raise \$1,000 through the Iron Phi website, and accomplish the athletic endeavor itself. Iron Phi participants have achieved incredible athletic milestones to raise money for ALS and Phi Delta Theta's leadership development initiatives. To begin your Iron Phi journey, visit ironphi.org.

LIVELIKELOU

FOUNDATION UPDATES

Phi Delt's Serving ALS Families Through the Great LiveLikeLou Outdoor Clean-Up Program

Over one-hundred families served to date

Volunteering for ALS families is different during a pandemic. ALS families are especially concerned about social distancing and masks to keep their loved ones safe. Phi Delt volunteers have skillfully adapted, and more than one-hundred registered families have been served since March 2020.

RUNKLE

Phi Delt General Headquarters staff served the family of Lisa and Roger Runkle, trimming shrubs, raking leaves, and planting spring bulbs.

KILGORE

Twenty-two Idaho Alpha brothers from the University of Idaho drove two and a half hours each way to eastern Oregon to volunteer on the farm of Wes and Sherri Kilgore. In her note of thanks, Sherri wrote, "Their mothers would be so proud!"

WAUGUMAN

The family of Susan Waugaman in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was served by Iowa Gamma (Iowa State) alumnus Craig Tatro and Pennsylvania Rho (Carnegie Mellon) undergraduates Austin Treau, Alex Sahinidis, and Jeff Chiu.

COLLINS

The mighty Preston Collins passed away from ALS last year, but Georgia Alpha brothers at the University of Georgia continue to volunteer for the family and reach out to his daughter, Alana Collins.

See clean-up photos on the back cover of the magazine.

Do you know a family that has been affected by ALS? Would you like to serve a family yourself? We'd love to connect more Phis to ALS families! Please email salexander@livelikelou.org or visit <https://phide.it/ALSfamilies>.



Lisa and Roger Runkle

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Newly elected LiveLikeLou Foundation Trustee Bob Biggs, Georgia Southern '76, is proud that the best man in his wedding



was his dad, Norval. A devoted family man and Bob's first example of character and leadership, Norval was a role model of respect and positivity for his three sons and daughter. So, when Bob's dad was diagnosed with the fatal condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in 1997, it did not surprise anyone that he would lead his family with optimism and perseverance.

Although the diagnosis shook their family, this was not the first time Bob was confronted with the devastating disease. As a Phi Delta Theta Fraternity brother of Lou Gehrig, and former executive vice president and CEO of the Fraternity, Bob spent much of his career advocating for the disease. Biggs served on the national ALS Association Board of Trustees for sixteen years, volunteering for ALS families and raising significant funds for research.

Sadly, his father died in 1999. Since then, Bob has been unrelenting in his devotion to the cause.

Bob's retirement from the Fraternity this past summer gives him the opportunity to double down on his commitment to ALS. He explained that the Fraternity motto of "We enjoy life by the help and society of others" is what drives him to stay connected to the cause.

ALS Research Is Better Than We Found It

LiveLikeLou's Strategic Investments in Science Are Making a Difference

BY SUZANNE ALEXANDER

Despite the challenges this last year has posed, The LiveLikeLou Foundation's commitment to making strategic research investments in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) science has not faltered. This continued support is due in part to the strong partnership with Phi Delta Theta, and it is making a difference. The Foundation's investment in institutional research facilities, grants to emerging scientists, and unique nation-wide learning forums are expanding the pipeline of new science to address this devastating disease that affects more than 16,000 Americans each year.

LiveLikeLou Foundation Director Suzanne Alexander said, "It is remarkable that Phi Delt brother Lou Gehrig still inspires us, eighty years since his death from ALS, to support this disease. ALS is fatal. There is no viable treatment, and there is no cure. But we are not giving up."

"ALS as we know it has been around for 150 years and we still can't answer important questions about this insidious disease," said LiveLikeLou Foundation Chair WL



Chris Donnelly

Gray, *Texas Christian '70*. "We can't keep funding ALS research the way it's always been done. And we can't keep funding the same researchers who have been doing it. Investing in emerging projects and researchers gives us a great opportunity to spur powerful new science."

This consideration has focused the foundation to make targeted investments that will broaden the network of research institutions and scientists committed to unique ALS research.

"We prioritize our ALS research grants on pre-clinical and novel science, versus drug trials that already have support from large corporations, and on new scientists versus the big, established institutions that have been doing this for decades," explained LiveLikeLou Foundation Vice Chair Gaylon Morris, *Southwestern '87*.

Morris leads the foundation's Scientific Research Committee, made up of esteemed ALS experts from the University of Arizona, the Barrow Institute of Neurological Science, the University of Michigan, and KNOPP Biosciences, LLC. The committee meets monthly to



Amanda Gleixner

assess and propose ALS research investments to the foundation's board that can make a unique impact on ALS science.

"The committee helps us choose research grants that will expand the pipeline of new ALS science and encourage emerging researchers," said Morris. "It's basically an investment in the development of future therapies we hope will come."

GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS COMMITTED TO ALS RESEARCH

LiveLikeLou's first institutional grant was a \$2.5 million pledge to create The LiveLikeLou Center for ALS Research at The University of Pittsburgh, which the university matched in 2015. With this financial support, the center has since grown to employ several new researchers, purchased powerful microscopes and imaging equipment, and built an expansive human ALS tissue bank from which to perform analysis. The center recently announced its second fully-staffed laboratory, and now principal investigators Chris Donnelly, PhD, and Amanda Gleixner, PhD, are

“We can't keep funding ALS research the way it's always been done. Investing in emerging projects and researchers gives us a great opportunity to spur powerful new science.”
—WL Gray



Veronique Belzil

collaborating on important projects in the fields of optogenetics (light), the genetic behavior of ALS in human cells, and nuclear biology, to further our understanding of neurodegeneration in ALS and Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD).

In the short time since its founding, the team at Pittsburgh has already filed for three patents and has had exciting peer-reviewed science published in multiple research journals.

“The pace of discovery is so much faster when new labs spend new dollars,” Alexander said. “They are not confined to long-standing projects tied to aging theories, old equipment or outdated methods.”

LiveLikeLou Foundation trustees will consider making a similar large pledge to a second research institution in 2021.

GRANTS TO INDIVIDUAL ALS RESEARCHERS WITH PROMISING IDEAS

Individual grants to exciting new investigators, called Career Development Awards, are another important LiveLikeLou investment in ALS research. These grants are awarded to projects



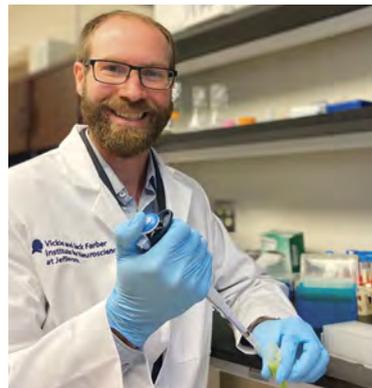
Manolis Kellis

led by newer scientists, pursuing unique and promising ideas that need a few more months of study so they might meet the minimum requirements for major awards from government funders such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

“These grants are the perfect vehicle for helping emerging scientists on the cusp of major breakthroughs, to strengthen their research so they can successfully compete for those large, multi-year government grants,” Morris said.

The Foundation has awarded two Career Development Awards.

The first Career Development Award of \$150,000 was granted in 2019 to Veronique Belzil, PhD, of the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, who is collaborating with Manolis Kellis, PhD, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Their study is a two-year epigenomic review of 30 human brains and the cellular differences that occur with ALS and FTD. The exciting aspect of this project is new computational math capabilities brought to the analysis by the team at MIT, an institution not previously involved with ALS.



Aaron Haeusler

The second Career Development Award of \$50,000 was granted in 2020 to Aaron Haeusler, PhD, of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Dr. Haeusler’s study to develop gene silencing methodologies in the inherited form of ALS, allowing researchers to alter key DNA factors that are known to lead to early neuron death in ALS patients. The research received promising early results last year.

Results of both studies will be available in late 2021 and are expected to prompt NIH-level grant applications in the near future. Additional Career Development Awards will be considered in 2021.

GRANTS TO EMERGING SCIENTISTS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION

“Early on we asked ALS researchers what was needed to encourage and develop a stronger scientific community amongst newer investigators across North America,” Morris explained. “We wanted to break down the institutional walls

Continues on page 61

“These grants are the perfect vehicle for helping emerging scientists on the cusp of major breakthroughs, to strengthen their research so they can successfully compete for those large, multi-year government grants.”
—Gaylon Morris

Ohio ALS Family Gets Many Phi Delt Helping Hands

It's the most valuable thing we can give

BY SUZANNE ALEXANDER



Gary Mitchell is a family man. He loves Sonja, his wife of twenty-seven years, and he adores his three kids and eight grandkids too. Gary's long-time day job was construction, but he filled his days off with his hobbies of dirt track racing, hunting, and fixing old cars with friends.

The Mitchell family was devastated when Gary was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in 2009. The disease has weakened his muscles to nearly full paralysis now, and he is unable to speak. It forced Gary to give up everything, including the hobbies he enjoys, and it requires Sonja to be the sole provider for her family and full-time caregiver for her husband.

Over the years, the Mitchell family's list of household projects had become overwhelming. Small tasks like light repairs and seasonal chores built up and became impossible to prioritize.

"It was the little things that my husband would normally do," Sonja said. "Gary was a handyman, and it was

stressful to him and me that these things were piling up.

"Our house didn't really feel like a home. I didn't have the energy to keep up with everything, and it was depressing me," Sonja shared. Most caregivers share this sense of overwhelming depression, according to a 2017 study of caregiver mental health conducted by the National Institutes of Health.

As part of the LiveLikeLou Adopt and Serve an ALS Family Program, men of Phi Delta Theta at Ashland University, led by long-time Phi Delt volunteer and Ashland alumnus Tony Magistro, have stepped up to the plate. Since the spring of 2019, Tony has recruited and organized nearly thirty undergraduate brothers to volunteer for the Mitchell family through Adopt and Serve. They have repaired door locks, removed old trees, built a dog cage, and even folded the family's laundry.

"They weren't just worried about my list of chores, but the whole family's," Sonja said. "The guys even cleaned my

daughter's rabbit cage."

Two larger projects provided the Mitchell family with wonderful gathering places to be a family and build community.

The first project was building an outdoor firepit, where Gary can now sit in his wheelchair with neighbors and watch his grandchildren play in the yard.

"Tony told us Phi Delt wanted the family to have a place where we could relax and enjoy life, including Gary," Sonja remembers.

The next big job was planning and constructing a greenhouse adjacent to the Mitchell family's business, Big Prairie Local Produce Vegetable Stand. Over several weekends Tony worked with the undergraduate volunteers to plan the greenhouse design, buy and transport the materials, and build the new space where Sonja now grows more produce to sell.

"This small business is a place where our neighbors can shop and visit with Gary, and we can make a little income to support ourselves," Sonja explained. "Now we

“Tony told us Phi Delt wanted the family to have a place where we could relax and enjoy life, including Gary.”
—Sonja Mitchell



Tony oversees the framing of the greenhouse



Building the frame for the greenhouse



Gary and Sonja Mitchell



A firepit where Gary and family can gather and be together

can be together and enjoy life, just like Tony promised.”

Ohio Mu President Pierson Noonan has been on the volunteer team with Tony multiple times.

“Working with the Mitchell family has been a humbling experience,” Pierson wrote. “They have been kind and thankful. There is nothing

“Working with the Mitchell family has been a humbling experience. They have been kind and thankful. There is nothing like helping an ALS family and seeing our impact over time.” —Pierson Noonan



Face painting in the farm stand barn

like helping an ALS family and seeing our impact over time.”

Jaret Baker is the Ohio Mu community service chairman. Jaret wrote, “Volunteering for the Mitchells has given me a better appreciation for the little things in life. Working on their vegetable stand has been so rewarding because we are helping them with their business.”

The disease of ALS is personal for Tony, who lost a dear friend to it thirty years ago, and he also watched his mother suffer from a neurodegenerative disease.

“The Mitchells are doing everything they can to stay together and get through this disease,” Tony said. “They are good people and have dreams for their life. It feels good to help them.”

Tony works with Sonja to plan the volunteer projects and then sets a schedule for the undergraduates to volunteer. He uses patience and planning in equal measure to get the jobs done.

“Tony has a relentless drive to help the Mitchells,” Jaret writes. “He is always the first one to arrive and the last one to leave. He is inspiring to all of us.”

“Some of these guys don’t know how to work certain tools, or they have never had to measure or plan a building project,” he said. “And some of them can only come for short shifts of work. So, I teach one group of volunteers, and then I re-teach a different group of volunteers when they can come.”

“I know they are bringing what they learn back to their schoolwork,” he added.

When asked why he leads the undergraduates in volunteering for ALS, Tony said, “This is something I can do without writing a check. It’s more meaningful to give time. It’s the most valuable thing we can give.” 🗑️

Continued from page 57 that often slow down or stop creative thinking necessary for science.”

The LiveLikeLou Emerging ALS Researchers Forums and Learning Series events are designed to foster discussions and collaborations that strengthen research networks, increase methodology sharing, and accelerate research science.

“This is the fun grant,” Alexander said. “Strategic fun, because we are helping to find a treatment or a cure, and also investing in the community of emerging researchers so they continue to bring their unique ideas to focus on this disease” she clarified.

Two grants of \$100,000 each have been awarded to underwrite the biennial learning forums, hosted by The University of Pittsburgh in 2018 and The Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix in 2020. Organizers develop a short list of the most promising researchers from across the country to participate and propose a theme for the event. The forums are two full days of closed-door dialogue and poster sessions with junior investigators sharing their newest ideas and difficult problems to solve. Senior investigators participate as facilitators and assist attendees in the discussion groups. After hours, the researchers are encouraged to develop social relationships.

Like many conferences and meetings this year, the forum has become virtual in nature. Still, more than sixty researchers participate every quarter.

“We need these scientists to know one another, share tissue samples, and techniques for accelerating their projects,” Morris said. “If they can just pick up the phone and get some help on a problem, they will find answers more quickly.”

“Phi Delta Theta has been committed to ALS research for decades,” Alexander said. “When my husband, Neil, *Pittsburgh* ’97 and I launched LiveLikeLou, we never imagined having such an impact on the science to find a treatment or a cure for ALS. And here we are, in partnership with this Fraternity, making strategic grants for breakthrough science across North America and increasing the number of world-class ALS researchers.”

“Neil would be very proud,” she said.

To learn more visit www.LiveLikeLou.org. 🗑️

Suzanne is the director of the LiveLikeLou Foundation

TRUE BLUE



LOU GEHRIG MEMORIAL AWARD

Buster Posey Becomes Third Giants player to Win Lou Gehrig Memorial Award

Buster Posey of the San Francisco Giants has won this year's Lou Gehrig Memorial Award.

The award was first presented in 1955 and is permanently maintained at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

Phi Delta Theta plans to present the award to Posey during the early months of the 2021 Major League Baseball season.

Posey joins other Giants' recipients of the Lou Gehrig award Alvin Dark, *LSU '45*, (the first ever recipient in 1955) and Barry Zito (2012).

"Thank you to the Phi Delta Theta International Fraternity and Lou Gehrig Memorial Award Committee for recognizing Major League players who have an impact in their communities. I am

honored to receive this award for the work my wife, Kristen, and I are doing for children with pediatric cancer by raising awareness and funds for pioneering research and treatment. Lou Gehrig's character speaks for itself as he accomplished so much on and off the field. It means a lot to me to be recognized alongside Lou Gehrig and all of the previous winners," stated Posey.

Past recipients of the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award include Stan Musial, Ernie Banks, Hank Aaron, Harmon Killebrew, Willie Stargell, Lou Brock, George Brett, Ozzie Smith, Cal Ripken Jr., Tony Gwynn, Albert Pujols, Derek Jeter, and many more. 🇺🇸

Visit <https://phide.lt/TrueBlueSociety> to join today.

The True Blue Society's Newest Members

Larry J. Breakfield, Embry Riddle '04

Alfredo Cevallos, Florida International '96

Isaac Coronel, Westminster '17

Ty M. Coup, Wichita State '90

Cody J. Flynn, Idaho '19

Arash Hashemi, CSUN '98

Richard M. Hobbie III, Alabama '61

John E. Kelly, Washington '92

Ronald D. Lane, Maryland '73

Matthew S. Machicek, West Texas A&M '23

Christopher P. Moody, Westminster '00

Stephen L. Polston, Franklin '87

Michael J. Schulte, Westminster '14

David A. Sly, Oregon State '93

Claude Po-Chia Su, George Washington '19

Barry L. Wilson, Oklahoma State '68

Riley Zack, Westminster '19

CHAPTER GRAND

Phi Delta Theta honors members who have entered the Chapter Grand by listing them in the magazine. We generally reserve extended obituary articles for Famous Phis and general officers. To submit obituary information, email scroll@phideltatheta.org.



At age ninety-six, **John Quincy Adams Jr.**, *Southern Methodist '49*, entered the Chapter Grand on September 30, 2020. Mike Bristol

shared, he “was one of the greatest Southern Methodist Phis of all time.”

Brother Adams served the Texas Delta Chapter as president during his senior year. His lifelong support of Phi Delta Theta at SMU also included chapter adviser, chapter advisory board, and house corporation, and he spearheaded the construction committee to build the current chapter house. Quincy earned the Legion of Honor award from General Headquarters and the “Phi of the Year” Gardner Award. He served on the Foundation Trustees Board from 1970–1972.

Quincy served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, stationed in Italy. He was a navigator and flew more than fifty-two missions on a B-24 Liberator. He received many decorations and campaign ribbons, including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Quincy’s son, Wade, ’74, is a brother of the Texas Delta Chapter.



Nine-term member of US Congress, **James M. “Jim” Ramstad**, *Minnesota '74*, entered the Chapter Grand on November 5, 2020, of

Parkinson’s Disease with Lewy Body.

Jim was a dedicated public servant whose political philosophy was guided by

a fundamental belief in the importance of working in a bipartisan, pragmatic, common sense way to solve problems.

He was proudest of the bipartisan Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Parity Act, which became law in 2008. He was named ““Legislator of the Year”” by the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Addictions Council in 1998, by the National Mental Health Association in 1999, and by the National Association of Police Organizations in 1997 and 2000.

Jim graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota, earned his law degree with honors at George Washington University, and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of St. Thomas. He was a Resident Fellow at Harvard’s Kennedy School and served as an adjunct professor at American University and Montgomery College. He loved his country and served as a First Lieutenant in the US Army Reserves.

Jim served as an advisor to the Hazelden Foundation, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, and the alliantgroup. He was also on the board of the Partnership to End Addiction. Shortly before his death, Jim celebrated his thirty-ninth year of sobriety and was active in Alcoholics Anonymous. He lived by, and frequently referred to, the Serenity Prayer. To support veterans’ efforts to become sober, Jim established the Ramstad Recovery Fund, which provides access to treatment for America’s heroes who have been left behind and unable to gain access to life-saving treatment.

Dallas businessman **Edwin L. Cox**, *Southern Methodist '42*, and former oilman, a longtime trustee of Southern Methodist University, entered the Chapter Grand on November 6. Cox was ninety-nine. The SMU business school is named in his honor.

Cox impacted the oil industry through

his work with Cox & Cox, the Edwin L. Cox Co., Cox Oil & Gas Inc., SEDCO Inc., and the Keebler Co. as chairman.

Cox was chairman of the Salvation Army Dallas County Advisory Board and past board president of Children’s Medical Center of Dallas.

He was an honorary trustee and member of the Trustees Council at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and a member of the Library of Congress Trust Fund and the Dallas Museum of Art.

Ira Blatt, *Colgate '73*, entered the Chapter Grand on August 14, 2020. He was a member of the True Blue Society, Living Bond Society, and Sword & Shield Society. He was a member of the New York Kappa chapter advisory board from 2013–2018 and led the New York City Alumni Club 2017–2018.

Peter Coneway, *UT Austin '66*, investment banker, international diplomat, and civic leader whose career took him from the Rio Grande Valley to the capitals of Europe, entered the Chapter Grand on November 13, 2020 in Houston.

Pete Coneway had a Texas-sized personality that made him larger than life. Tirelessly upbeat, he was the consummate lover of people. When he approached with arms wide open and flashed that electrifying smile, no one found it easy to say “no” to their friend—particularly when he was garnering support for an endless array of civic projects.

Possessing a sharp mind, quick wit, and engaging spirit, Coneway quickly worked his way up the ladder at Goldman, Sachs & Company after earning his MBA from Stanford University in 1969. Six years later, after earning a reputation at Goldman Sachs as a positive, can-do team player, he founded the investment bank’s Houston office and was named a general partner in 1978.

Investment banking, however, was merely one aspect in the multifaceted career developed by the product of parents who instilled a robust work ethic in their middle son. Always more interested in getting results than playing partisan politics, Coneway received important appointments from both Democrats and Republicans—a rarity in today’s world of highly polarized politics.

In 2006, Republican President George W. Bush nominated Coneway as US ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, a position he held for three years.

Said former US Secretary of State James A. Baker III: “Pete has the capacity to juggle complex issues, the judgment to accurately prioritize those issues and the collaborative personality to deal with the people associated with them.”

A relentless fundraiser, Coneway built an impressive legacy of community involvement that included leadership positions with some of Houston’s most important civic institutions.

In 2008, he received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars of the Smithsonian Institution for “his lifelong dedication to strengthening his community, his state and our nation.”

Edward Randall III, *UT Austin* ’48, entered the Chapter Grand on November 15, 2020. Born in Galveston, Texas, to Dr. Edward Randall Jr., and Katharine Risher Randall. BOI, he attended public schools in Galveston until 1941 and thereafter, The Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. He was class of 1944 president and captain of the football and baseball teams, earning seven letters in three sports while there. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1944–1946; Officer Candidate School at Princeton University, 1945–46; and graduated from The University of Texas in 1948. He joined the investment banking firm of Rotan, Mosle and Moreland in 1948 and spent the next forty years there or with its successors, being the chief executive officer for the last seventeen years. He served on the boards of numerous public companies. Starting at the absolute lowest level in the investment banking business in 1948 and eventually serving as a director of the New York Stock Exchange from 1978 to 1983 was an exceptional honor.

He enjoyed all sports and was an avid hunter and fisherman and competed in senior tennis throughout the state. Above all, he valued his wife, Ellen, his large family, his many friends and the telling of a good story.



Thomas C. Eakin, *Denison* ’56, member of the Fraternity’s True Blue Society, Founders Club and the Sword and Shield

Society of Phi Delta Theta, entered the Chapter Grand on November 21, 2020. He was a member of the Cleveland Ohio Alumni Club and named Distinguished Alumnus in 2016. Mr. Eakin served on the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award Selection Committee since 1975.

Mr. Eakin distinguished himself as the most frequent donor to the Phi Delta Theta Foundation, with weekly gifts often in honor of a Phi or a staff member. In his lifetime, he gave nearly 900 monetary gifts to the Foundation.

Longtime volunteer, **Alan Glover**, *Nevada* ’72, entered the Chapter Grand November 29, 2020. Brother Glover was a province president, house corporation member for Nevada Alpha, active member of the Northern Nevada Alumni Club,

frequent donor to the Phi Delta Theta Foundation, member of the True Blue Society and attended nine General Conventions in recent years, with his dear wife, Harle. He was a friend to many.

University of Akron
Ohio Epsilon

- John W. Dye Jr., ’47
- Herman G. Gercke, ’60
- Thomas M. Sweitzer, ’60
- William B. Saltsgaver, ’65
- Robert L. Oldham, ’68
- Frank M. Otterman, ’68
- Karl R. Aufer, ’68
- David F. Fisher, ’68

University of Alabama
Alabama Alpha

- A. Stephens Williams III, ’58

University of Arizona
Arizona Alpha

- Russell E. Rumney, ’54
- Lt. Col. Charles W. Concannon, USAF Ret., ’69
- W. Heath Race Jr., ’86

Arizona State University
Arizona State

- Bruce J. Langhout, ’72

University of Arkansas
Arkansas Alpha

- Frederick E. Ragland Jr., ’53
- Philip R. Atterberry, ’60
- Carl K. Creekmore Jr., ’65
- William C. Richards, ’67

Auburn University
Alabama Beta

- James G. Rittenberry, ’53
- John M. Crutcher Sr., ’58
- Ronald E. Davis, ’68
- Dr. James A. Lockwood, ’78
- Carl R. Latham, ’81

Ball State University
Indiana Kappa

- Michael David Engber, ’63
- Stanley T. Walczak Jr., ’73

Bowling Green State University
Ohio Kappa

- Philip A. Kilpatrick, ’55

University of British Columbia
British Columbia Alpha

- James D. Genis, ’52

Brown University
Rhode Island Alpha

- Robert E. Gorman, ’61

Butler University
Indiana Gamma

- Chris R. Rowland, ’87

University of California, Los Angeles
California Gamma

- Willis D. Longyear, ’52

- David S. Drum, ’58

University of Chicago
Illinois Beta

- Willis D. Longyear, ’52

Colby College
Maine Alpha

- Carroll W. Brower, ’74

Colgate University
New York Zeta

- William A. Leek Jr., ’51
- George R. Swan, ’54
- Daniel A. Moriarty, ’55
- William G. Barracough, ’57
- Howard T. Buckley, ’57

Peter W. Mitchell, '58
 John T. Geddes, '58
 Michael J. Geoghegan, '58
 William L. Donahue, '59
 Ira Blatt, '73
 Todd A. Clemens, '77
 Richard A. Kavanaugh, '79

**University of Colorado
 Boulder**

Colorado Alpha
 Lawrence E. Smith Jr., '57
 Thomas D. Michelli, '63

**Cornell University
 New York Alpha**

Charles L. Van Arsdale, '44
 Walter H. Phillips, '47
 Thomas A. Duncan, '48
 Peter L.L. Brink III, '71

**Davidson College
 North Carolina Gamma**

Rev. Dr. John N. Miller, '49
 Bruce A. Baker, '75

**Denison University
 Ohio Iota**

Thomas C. Eakin, '56
 Todd W. Trautwein, '59

**Emory University
 Georgia Beta**

Lester I. Collier Jr., '58

**University of Florida
 Florida Alpha**

Jerry D. Cloud, '53
 Glenn E. Plumb, '57
 Dr. Mercer L. McClure, '63

**Florida State University
 Florida Gamma**

Bernhardt C. Leynes Jr., '54
 Richard D. Benson, '55
 Patrick G. O'Leary, '76

**Franklin College of
 Indiana**

Indiana Delta
 Eddy M. Teets, '58
 James S. Conway, '61
 Harold K. Lawson, '65

**University of Georgia
 Georgia Alpha**

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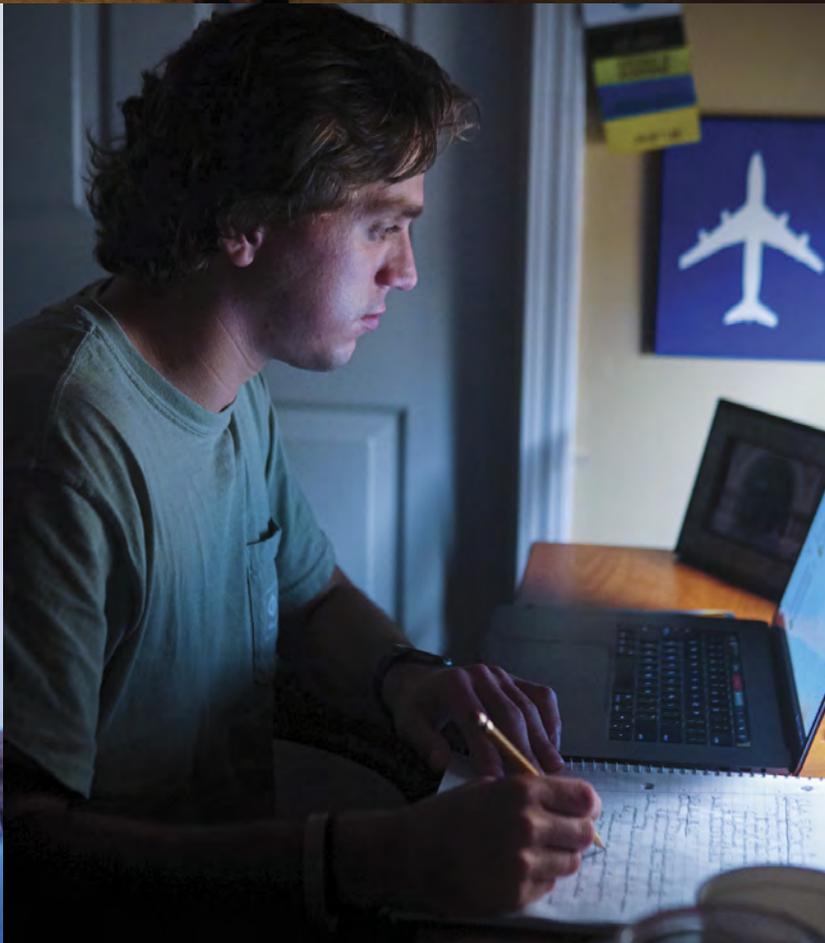
"...in heaven there is rest"

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FAMOUS PHI SPOTLIGHT



Photo credit: National Library of Medicine

Thomas Francis Jr.

Developed the influenza virus vaccine

Looking back on our Famous Phi history, we are reminded of past Phi Delt impact on the world of vaccinations. Thomas Francis, *Allegheny '21*, was an American physician, virologist, and epidemiologist. He was the first person to isolate the influenza B virus and, in the early 1940s, went on to help develop vaccines against influenza viruses A and B.

Upon graduation from Allegheny, Brother Francis attended Yale University's School of Medicine. He served as an instructor in medicine at Yale from 1927–28, then joined the Rockefeller Institute in New York. It was his work here that led to his discovery of the different strands of the influenza virus.

Francis served as an Army private in World War I and as director of the Army Commission on Influenza in World War II. He served as a lecturer in the Army Medical School during

the war. He was a member of the Armed Forces Epidemiology Board starting in 1955 and was named president in 1958.

In 1941, Francis was invited to join the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan. He would become both a professor of epidemiology in both the University of Michigan School of Public Health and Medical School. He continued his research into influenza and conducted evaluations on the vaccine. In 1945, the entire US Army was inoculated against the virus, and it is estimated to have saved over 1 million soldiers' lives.

Francis built the virology laboratory and established the Department of Epidemiology. He evaluated the polio virus vaccine developed by his former pupil and mentee, Dr. Jonas Salk. From 1954–55, he conducted one of the most extensive medical experiments in history, running nationwide field trials proving that the polio vaccine was safe and effective.



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