

# SCROLL

*The Scroll of Phi Delta Theta*

SUMMER 2020  
VOLUME 143, Number 2  
PHIDELTATHETA.ORG

## SERVICE *Above* SELF

*Bob Biggs' forty-four  
years of leadership*



# Congrats! Class of 2020

Phi Delta Theta is proud of the contribution our seniors have made to the Fraternity. We know that this is not the way you wanted to end your senior year. We are confident that our network will provide great assistance and hope to you, our fine men.

**ASSISTING GRADUATING  
SENIORS AS THEY LOOK  
FOR EMPLOYMENT**



Phi Delta Theta wants to do everything it can to support these young men. Whether you are a young or seasoned professional, assisting our graduating seniors offers an opportunity to transmit the Phi Delta Theta experience greater than it was transmitted to you.

<https://phide.lt/StudentDirectory>





## 34 Service Above Self

KELLY DERICKSON

June 30, 2020 marked the end of an era for Phi Delta Theta under the executive leadership of Robert A. Biggs.

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KELLY DERICKSON

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## President's Letter

**T**o say that we experienced change and turmoil in the first half of 2020 is an understatement. Our lives have been upended by a global pandemic, which is changing how we learn, work, and play. On the heels of the COVID-19 lockdown in North America, we witnessed the horrific, unconscionable murder of George Floyd that yet again jettisoned issues of racial equality to the forefront of society.

The global pandemic shook the world. The need for most of North America to go into lockdown has caused collateral damage and unprecedented pain and economic hardship to individuals and organizations like never before. Phi Delta Theta responded to the call to action by protecting the health and safety of its members and those who support us. We implemented programs to educate and support our chapters, volunteers, partner institutions, and members in need. For a more detailed review of that plan of support, see page 28.

We have kept you informed and aware of chapters and alumni making a difference in these difficult times through various communication streams, including daily social media posts, "Weekly Six" email announcements, and resources on our website, [phideltatheta.org](http://phideltatheta.org). To adapt to the challenges of COVID-19, we have made temporary modifications to the delivery of our services and resources, including the Kleberg Emerging Leadership Institute, and how we serve our chapters as many return to their campuses this fall. We will partner with each chapter and alumni club to become an even stronger and more impactful leadership society.

As leaders on our campuses and in our communities, we must proactively take the lead to instill a culture of civility and inclusion. Phi Delta Theta has zero tolerance for any form of hate, racism, discrimination, disrespect, or intolerance. We were all created in the image of our

God, and we are all equal in His eyes. We all deserve and should always expect in return respect, kindness, and appreciation. As Phis, we must model the way on our campuses and communities by our actions of kindness, compassion, inclusion, and love in all that we do. We must all strive to become the greatest version of ourselves and encourage others to do the same.

As an organization, stability in sound leadership has always been a strength. We are in an exciting period of transition as we thank and congratulate Bob Biggs upon his retirement on June 30, 2020 and welcome Sean Wagner to take our top management role. Brother Biggs served our Fraternity for forty-four years, becoming the fourth executive vice president in our history. Bob has truly lived our values, and he is a recognized leader in higher education and the Greek community. Brother Biggs dedicated his career to our leadership society with his steady hand on the rudder. The true secret to Bob's outstanding career and success was his wife, Coni. Always adorned with a beautiful smile and tremendous grace, Coni was always there, supporting Bob and our Fraternity. God bless Coni and Bob in this wonderful new chapter of their lives together.

Our organizational stability, leadership, and strategic plan, guided by our values, enable Phi Delta Theta to be resilient and thrive. We have navigated these epic challenges well because we have a culture of strategic planning and management. These challenges have forced us to assess and reposition, which will make us stronger and have more impact on our communities and world. As we march toward our rescheduled Pittsburgh Convention in June 2021, we will exceed all major goals of our strategic plan, *Phi Delt 2020*, including our membership and chapter growth targets. We are going to finish this coming academic year in the greatest position in our history.

Now more than ever, the world needs understanding, compassion, and love. We



are in the business of sustaining a leadership society that is entrenched in the values of Friendship, Sound Learning, and Rectitude. As a Fraternity for life, we are encouraging men to become the greatest version of themselves. Guided by noble values, I am confident that Phis young and old will be the leaders to drive our communities and economies to full recovery and growth following the global pandemic; and our brothers will be those leaders who will confront racism, discrimination, and hate to heal our world. I am so very proud of our Fraternity and very proud to be a Phi.

Yours in the Bond,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris W. Brussalis". The signature is stylized and fluid.

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



# SCROLL

*The Scroll of Phi Delta Theta*

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**A**s we wrapped up our final work for this edition, I realized that this particular issue represents several historical timestamps that will stand for all time. Our future Phis will look back on 2020 and discover the year 2020 was one that will be in all history books moving forward.

First, Phi will recall the legacy of a long-serving executive leader, our beloved Bob Biggs, and be thankful for his leadership for more than four decades.

And as a grand counterbalance to that celebration and recognition of service, a future Phi will see that every aspect of the world changed when COVID-19 stormed the world. And, how the world changed sociologically from the tragic death of George Floyd, and many others, demanding the rethinking of how individuals and organizations learn from circumstances of prejudice, discrimination, racial violence and injustice.

In our research for this issue, we looked back on the years of the first World War and the Spanish Influenza pandemic of the early 1900s to see how those events impacted the Fraternity then. Here is a most compelling and timeless remark by the editor of *The Scroll* (1911–1923):

*“In these times of stress and strain we simply must not forget or lose sight of the inestimable value of the teachings of our Bond. Let us therefore look to The Bond as a guide in what we do in our chapters and as to what men we take into them. This may seem like a little sermon, perhaps it is. but we believe it will commend itself to the good sense of every chapter and of each active man who reads these lines. The times are strenuous and great events are rapidly taking place; nevertheless, let there be a pause occasionally for thought and consideration on the real subject of what the Fraternity is for, what its ideals are, and how they can best be preserved for our successors.”*

—Thomas A. Davis, Wabash 1896

In your service,

Kelly Derickson, Editor



# PROUD TO BE A PHI

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

## Brothers in the Bond

A chance golf game leads to friendship and charity

**P**ete Van Curen, *Miami '84*, and Scott Layman, *Virginia Tech '90*, met while playing golf at Highland Country Club in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. They both lived in Fort Thomas and Scott had just joined the country club; Pete had been a member there for many years. A friendship formed, and this friendship strengthened when they realized they were both brothers of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

When Scott was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2009, he and his wife, Joy, decided to put together a charity golf outing to raise research money for a cure of the disease. One problem: they had never organized anything like this before. When Pete heard of their efforts, he stepped forward, and with his help, and that of some other amazing people, Putting for Parkinson's was formed. Originally designed as a sort of self-therapy to help Scott to handle his diagnosis, the fundraiser has evolved into something that now helps others.

Putting for Parkinson's still maintains its original mission, to increase public awareness of Parkinson's Disease and to raise money to fund medical research grant requests through the University of Cincinnati's Gardner Family Center for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders. For the past four years, 20 percent of their net proceeds have gone to specific individuals suffering from Parkinson's Disease who

might need a certain medication, a special medical device, deep brain stimulation surgery, or a home handicap alteration, but might not otherwise be able to afford it.

Since Parkinson's Disease can eventually impact a person's ability to work, or work as effectively as they did pre-diagnosis, Putting for Parkinson's solicits applications from people with Parkinson's Disease who are experiencing a financial hardship as a direct impact of the disease. Each year, the committee meets to review applications and determine the recipient of the 20 percent allocation of funds raised during the previous year. In years in which no applications were received, the committee looks for other ways to disperse the money ... one year they donated to an organization whose sole mission was to financially support Parkinson's patients; another year they made a donation to a local retirement community to train employees for a special speech therapy program for their residents with Parkinson's Disease.

Early in 2018, Pete approached Scott with a story about Tyson Hellman, a young man in his mid-30s who had been diagnosed with ALS. Being very familiar with the Iron Phi program and the Fraternity's commitment to ALS, Pete and Scott both felt compelled to help this man, with a wife and two young children.

With the donated money, the family was able to purchase a much-needed speech assistance



Scott Layman (left) and Pete Van Curen



Tyson Hellman and family

device to help a deteriorating ability to communicate. His wife said that before the award, they knew they desperately needed the speech aid device, but had no idea how to pay for it.

Putting for Parkinson's will continue its core mission to spread awareness of Parkinson's Disease through various outlets, and to raise money toward research and an ultimate cure, but also not lose sight of the importance of helping others through our "People Helping People" campaign and the assignment of 20 percent of net proceeds to deserving individuals in financial need.

For more information, see [putting4parkinsons.com](http://putting4parkinsons.com).



# BOB BIGGS' LEADERSHIP STATS

*Leadership is an art, not a science*



FOUNDATION  
EVENTS

145



CHAPTER  
INSTALLATIONS

50



GENERAL  
CONVENTIONS

22



EDUCATIONAL  
CONFERENCES

61

*Do what is right, not what is easy*



LEADERSHIP  
CONSULTANTS HIRED

190



GHQ STAFF  
MANAGED

264



GENERAL  
OFFICERS

505



MARRIAGE  
RENEWALS

39

*Be prepared*

## Social

*Are*  
**YOU**  
a CAMPUS LEADER?



347

@PhiDeltaTheta

Are you a campus leader? As Phi Delta Theta prepares for the 2020–21 academic year, we are in search of our most impactful campus leaders to help us create a movement of support for our host institutions and to strategically prepare for the future.

Whether it's appearing in our social media content, promoting initiatives to other undergraduate Phis, or providing feedback to the Fraternity's leadership, we are excited to develop a group of Phi Delta Theta ambassadors who are very proud of their college or university as we enter this crucial academic year.

**UPDATE:** More than forty Phi Delta Theta undergraduates responded to the call to be a social media ambassador and campus leader on behalf of the Fraternity for the coming 2020–21 academic year.

They will be involved in the Fraternity's social media content, promote initiatives to other undergraduate Phis, and provide feedback to the Fraternity's leadership.

These Phi Delta Theta ambassadors will be crucial to helping promote the communications from the Fraternity, especially during this crucial academic year so significantly altered by COVID-19.



# FRIENDSHIP

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



Gilroy's Managing Partner Carl Wertzberger and his kids after delivering the gift cards to first responders



FRIENDSHIP

# Alumni Step Up to Support the Community

Des Moines Iowa Alumni Club helps a Phi-owned restaurant and local first responders affected by COVID-19

**T**im Coonan, Drake '96, and the Des Moines Iowa Alumni Club found a way to help a local restaurant and hold an unconventional Founders Day all at the same time.

Brother Scott Carlson, Drake '92, owns Gilroy's Restaurant and is an active alumnus with Iowa Delta at Drake University and the Des Moines Iowa Alumni Club. In conjunction with the Phi Delt-Owned Restaurant Guide initiative created by General Headquarters, Coonan and the Iowa Delta alumni association wanted to find a way to help Gilroy's that was among the many restaurants virtually shuttered from COVID-19 health mandates and closure orders.

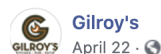
The group committed to trying a virtual Founders Day event courtesy of Gilroy's. On a Wednesday evening in late April, local Des Moines brothers were encouraged to order take out orders from Gilroy's, then eat their dinners while joining a Zoom conference call.

For any out-of-towners, they suggested a unique challenge for Phis to buy gift cards from Gilroy's that the restaurant would then gift to first responders and health care providers.

Though there was a malfunction with the Zoom video conference, a teleconference ensued, with special guest speaker General Council President Chris Brussalis giving an update on the Fraternity. The club recognized Golden, Silver Legionnaires, and Palladian anniversaries, as well as memorializing recent Chapter Grand brothers.

Gilroy's posted on social media the following day. "We are so thrilled to hand out Gilroy's gift cards purchased by the Phi Delt Fraternity to Des Moines first responders and healthcare professionals.

We are humbled to have these great groups of people putting themselves out there in order to keep our community cared for, healthy and safe. We look forward to serving you soon. Thanks and stay strong!"



THANK YOU to all the Drake Phi Deltas who picked up Curbside To-Go for dinner tonight to celebrate their Founders Day dinner. We missed having you in house for your event as originally planned, but this was great! 🙏

Also, big shout out to all the Phi Deltas who purchased Gilroy's gift cards to be donated to first responders during the pandemic. What a thoughtful gesture; we appreciate your support & look forward to handing these out!



We were so thrilled to hand out the Gilroy's gift cards purchased by the Phi Delt Fraternity to different first responders + healthcare professionals around Des Moines this past week!

The masked Wertzberger Warriors made the trip out to Methodist West with gift cards + heartfelt drawings to give to nurses, doctors + EMS crews while Blake with the Des Moines Police Department was able to swing by Gilroy's to receive the gift cards and share with our city's finest.

We are humbled to have these great groups of people putting themselves out there in order to keep our community cared for, healthy and safe. We look forward to serving you soon. Thanks to you all and stay strong! 🙏❤️

For Curbside To-Go: [gilroyskitchen.com/order-online](http://gilroyskitchen.com/order-online) or ☎️ 515.809.1727

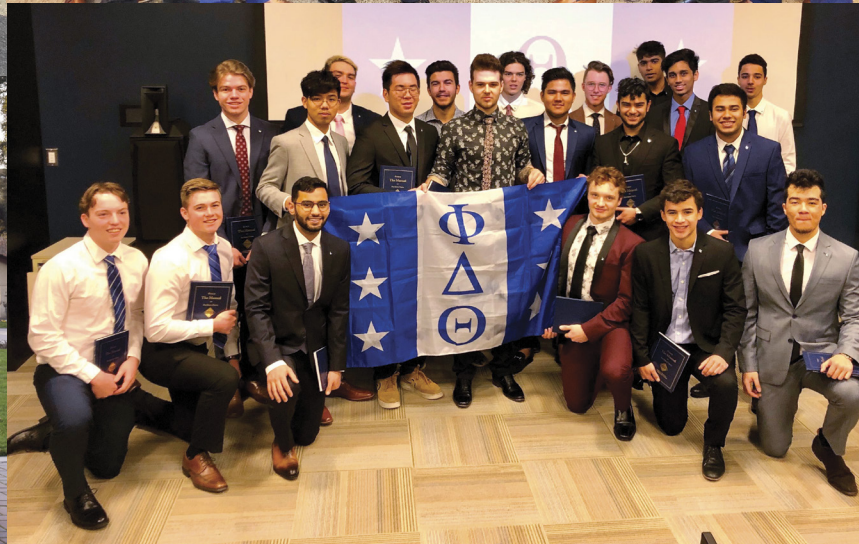


81

2 Comments 14 Shares

To view the complete restaurant guide, visit <https://phide.lt/2Ux95CS>





**TOP ROW LEFT:** Ottawa  
**TOP ROW RIGHT:** Chicago  
**SECOND ROW LEFT:** UTEP  
**SECOND ROW RIGHT:** North Georgia  
**THIRD ROW LEFT:** Santa Clara  
**THIRD ROW RIGHT:** UBC Okanagan  
**FIFTH ROW:** Northern Kentucky

**EXPANSION CALENDAR:**  
 Washington State (Washington Gamma), Michigan (Michigan Alpha), Oregon (Oregon Alpha), North Dakota State (new), East Tennessee State (new), Arkansas State (new), Long Island University (new)



# EXPANSION

## CHAPTER INSTALLATIONS

### Ottawa University

On January 17, 2020, initiation night, winter weather was similar to what the original Founding Fathers of Phi Delta Theta experienced in Oxford, Ohio just over 170 years ago when the Fraternity was created. Province President Kevin Pouch shared his continued support for the new chapter and commended the amount of effort these men gave to establish the first fraternity on campus. Kansas Theta's chapter president, Luke Graham, who recently attended Phi Delta Theta's Presidents Leadership Conference in St. Louis, shared with the

crowd that "it is so important for us to have a positive impact on more than just ourselves; impacting the lives in our Ottawa community is our leading goal."

### University of Chicago

The Illinois Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta at the University of Chicago was originally founded on January 11, 1866. The chapter was the fifteenth to be installed since the Fraternity's founding at Miami University on December 26, 1848. Since the chapter's founding, 1,435 men have been initiated into the Illinois Beta Chapter. On January 24, 2020, thirty-two

men were added to *The Bond* when the chapter was re-installed (along with ten more in February).

### University of Texas at El Paso

On February 21, 2020, the men at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) were initiated and signed *The Bond of Phi Delta Theta*. The Texas Tau Chapter was originally founded in 2006, and since its founding, 222 men have been initiated into the chapter.

The weekend's initiation and installation ceremonies were conducted by the Fraternity's Executive Vice President and CEO Robert A. Biggs. The installation ceremony was

held at the St. Francis on the Hill Episcopal Church on February 22 with family, campus professionals, chapter advisers, Texas Tau alumni, other UTEP fraternity and sorority members, and friends witnessed the re-installation.

### University of North Georgia

On March 6, 2020, in Dahlonega, Georgia, the men of Georgia Iota were initiated. The next day, the chapter received its charter and was officially installed with thirty-six founding members. Georgia Iota is the Fraternity's ninth chapter to be installed in the state of Georgia.

## EMERGING CHAPTERS

### Santa Clara University

On January 25, 2020, the twenty-five men of California Omega were inducted as new members at Sonoma State University during the Northern California Province Retreat among nearly one hundred Phis from the region. Omicron Northwest Province President Mike Ogg worked tirelessly with the interest group to ensure they have the volunteer support necessary to develop a strong group and receive their charter.

### British Columbia Gamma

On February 1, 2020, Phi Delta Theta established its eleventh Canadian group:

British Columbia Gamma at the University of British Columbia Okanagan with twenty-six founders. British Columbia Gamma is the first international social fraternity on campus and has set lofty goals, and the first Phi Delta Theta emerging chapter to establish in Western Canada in twenty-five years.

The men hail from varying backgrounds and majors, establishing themselves immediately as a strong leadership cohort on campus.

President Dante Babin has already formed strong bonds, setting the tone for the reputation British Columbia Gamma seeks by

publicizing their first event: a campus-wide philanthropy event for the BC Children's Hospital, all within one week of becoming founded.

### Northern Kentucky University

On March 4, 2020, Northern Kentucky University (NKU) became home to Kentucky Kappa of Phi Delta Theta.

This emerging chapter has already set the bar high when it comes to academics with a 3.53 average, soaring above the all-IFC average of 2.94.

Though Phi Delta Theta is brand-new to NKU, there have been several connections between the two entities that created an environment

conducive for success. Several staff and faculty at NKU are members of Phi Delta Theta and have been very supportive of the Fraternity coming to campus. These individuals are excited to offer support as the group moves towards installation as a chapter. Phi Delta Theta Chief Operating Officer Sean Wagner received his master's degree from the institution and helped build meaningful relationships on campus along the way.



# CHAPTER NEWS



## TEXAS GAMMA

### Southwestern University

Alumni Chairman Connor Moland proudly reports that the Texas Gamma Chapter welcomed twelve Phikeias in January 2020. Of the twelve, two have a 4.0 GPA, with a pledge class GPA above 3.0. The Phikeias are involved in Pirates athletics, College Republicans, intramural sports, and academic study groups pertaining to their fields of study.

Scholarship Chairman Elliot Reed Hammon reported that later that spring, the chapter was pleased to announce they were ranked number one GPA of IFC fraternities: 3.57 all chapter GPA (up from 3.251 the previous semester). They attribute their success to their 2018 first-time ever GPA number one ranking. In spring 2019 and fall 2020, the group fell to second. So they determined to regain the top spot! They also revamped their scholarship program which became a key resource to help brothers with academic advice or tutoring. The Phikeias are an integral part of the program, building good study habits and often working individually with the scholarship chairman regarding their college academics. Buy-in by the whole brotherhood, working together with the scholarship chairman and one another, to make academic achievement and success a part of their regular routines has resulted in stronger bonds because of the teamwork by all.



## INDIANA ZETA

### DePauw University

When Jack Drake, *DePauw* '23, called home recently to tell his parents that he had pledged Phi Delt at DePauw, his mother remembered some genealogy work she had completed a few years ago. "My mom said: 'You know Jack, you're related to one of their founders.'" Turns out, Jack's fourth great-grandfather is indeed Robert Thompson Drake, one of The Immortal Six of Phi Delt.



## MISSISSIPPI BETA

### Mississippi State University

Great progress coming on the new house! Thanks to everyone involved in the renovation, and we're all excited to come back for the fall.



## TEXAS DELTA

### Southern Methodist University

Each semester, the chapter advisory board of Texas Delta honors the brothers who have earned a 3.6 or better GPA. This spring, seventy-one of the one-hundred and twenty undergraduates were eligible for dinner at the Dallas Country Club.



## TEXAS PI

### Sam Houston State University

Chapter President Eric Manis won the Non-Traditional Student Leadership Award, the Creager Memorial Award for the male senior who has made the greatest contributions to overall student life, the IFC Male Greek President of the Year Award, and the Most Talented in Fine Arts award for Male Greeks for 2020. The chapter also won the 2020 Outstanding Social Fraternity Award from SHSU.

# ROAD TO GREATNESS

Everyday Phis doing Extraordinary Things



**GEORGE HATALOWICH,  
DAVIDSON '20**

Named to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team, recognizing student athletes for their commitment to community service.

Hatalowich uses his athletic platform to raise awareness of rare diseases with Uplifting Athletes. He served as the vice president community service for the NC Gamma Chapter, worked with the South Dauphin Special Olympics, and tutored at South Hanover Elementary School.

“Through service, I’ve learned the importance of putting others first and being a part of something that’s bigger than yourself. Service has been the most impactful on my experience because of how it’s humbled me as a person, taught me to never take for granted the blessings in my life, and created lifelong relationships and memories.”



**DR. CASEY J. HAYES,  
FRANKLIN '84**

A 2020–21 Fulbright Scholar to Vienna, Austria, is an associate professor and the A.J. Thurston chair of music, music department chair and director of choral activities at Franklin College. In addition, Brother Hayes conducts the Franklin College Singers, Women’s Chorus and Men’s Chorus.

His doctoral research focused on educational outreach within Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender choruses. His studies of the GLBT Choral Movement led him to be the Co-Music Director of the New York City Gay Men’s Chorus, as well as Musical Director of The New York City Ambassador Chorus, which is the outreach arm of the NYCGMC. In 2007, Casey founded the Gay Men’s Chorus of Manhattan, the first community chorus of its kind in the country.



**MANUEL ALVAREZ,  
CORNELL '02**

From Lafayette, California, was recently confirmed as commissioner of the California Department of Business Oversight. Alvarez was previous general counsel, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary at Affirm, Inc.

Brother Alvarez has dedicated his career to protecting consumers from harmful practices, previously serving as an enforcement attorney with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) where he investigated and prosecuted violations of federal consumer financial law.



**CALIFORNIA CHI'S PARTH  
DESAI, SAN FRANCISCO '22**

Was recently selected as one of 1,000 students to attend the Under 30 Summit Conference in Detroit as a *Forbes* Under 30 Scholar representing the University of San Francisco.

The Under 30 Summit brings together entrepreneurs, leaders, founders, investors, and creators in the fields of technology, entertainment, finance, fashion, food, and philanthropy to learn, connect, and grow over the course of four days.

Parth was recognized for his previous internship work at high-growth tech startups in client-facing and business operations roles, as well as his side passion projects in music and computer science.

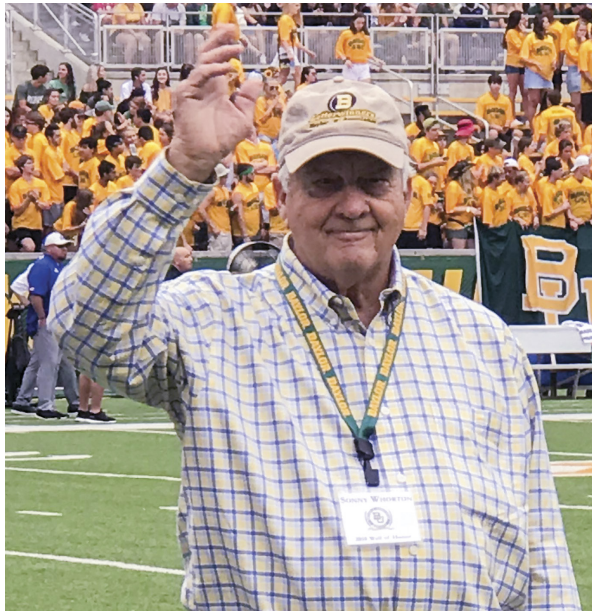
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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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



# PHI FOOTNOTES



Sonny Whorton

## Baylor

**S**onny Whorton, '60, was named by Baylor University Athletics to its 2018 Wall of Honor because of meritorious accomplishments in public or private life following his Baylor athletic career. Sonny Whorton was a football letterman (1957–61) who earned dual degrees in math and physics (1962), is an internationally recognized authority in biostatistics and epidemiology and environmental toxicology. He served as a consultant in statistics to local, state, and federal agencies and to private enterprise for over fifty years. Then Texas Governor Mark White, a close friend and Fraternity brother of Whorton's at Baylor, appointed him as a commissioner and chairman of the Texas Radioactive Waste Authority and an honorary admiral in the Texas Navy.

### 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](http://phideltatheta.org) to submit news and high resolution photos. Email to [editor@phideltatheta.org](mailto: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.

Sonny declined an offer from coach Sammy Baugh to join the old American Football League's New York Titans to accept National Institutes of Health fellowships to obtain his masters and doctorate degrees from Tulane, Stanford, and the University of Oklahoma. While serving as chairman of a National Cancer Institute Committee, Whorton investigated an unusual outbreak in Jamaica which turned out to be an early form of the HIV/AIDS virus. He was sent to Anguilla to rebuild their health care programs after they seceded from the British Empire. Dr. Whorton earned full professorships with tenure at both the University of Vermont and the University of Texas Medical School. The first associate dean of the graduate school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, he drafted the initial bylaws and academic policies for the new school and remained on the medical and graduate faculties for more than forty years as a teacher and director of biostatistics programs. Sonny is adjunct professor at two UT health institutions and continues collaborating with scientists in the UTMB Center for Biodefense and Emerging Diseases.

## UC Davis

**T**he Yolo County Association of Realtors recognized **David Heard, '77**, a mortgage lender with Mason-MacDuffie Mortgage Corporation as Affiliate of the Year (along with two other Realtor of the Year).



David Heard (center)

Heard has been a member of the Association for more than forty-five years, and is known for his strong work ethic, honesty, integrity, and availability as a ready resource by his business partners.

Heard holds a degree from UC Davis in Agricultural Economics and raised four children with his wife in Davis before moving to Woodland. Heard is a current member and past president of the Davis Sunrise Rotary Club, president of the UC Davis Phi Delta Theta Alumni organization, and serves on the Board of the University Retirement Community.

## UCI

Alumnus **Dr. John Randolph, '93**, is a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist, neuroscientist, and brain health coach/consultant in New Hampshire. He is the author of the recently released book, *The Brain Health Book: Using the Power of Neuroscience to Improve Your Life*. He received his bachelor of arts in psychology from California State University, Irvine and then earned a PhD





Keith Aldrich (left) and Eldra Jackson

in clinical psychology from Washington State. John is also on the faculty of Dartmouth Medical School.

**James S. “Jim” Schwab, ’87**, currently serves as the Director of the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions at the US Department of State, focused on providing strategic insights and solutions to help improve the Department’s management platform and advance foreign policy goals. In this capacity, Jim oversees the Policy and Global Presence and Consulting and Advanced Projects directorates, as well as the Center for Analytics, a group dedicated to maximizing the Department’s ability to leverage data for making policy and management decisions essential to achieving its diplomatic mission.

Jim Schwab was recognized in February in the Phi Delta Theta Road to Greatness. <https://www.phideltatheta.org/2020/02/james-schwab-uc-irvine/>

## Chico State

**Keith Aldrich, ’90**, and his company, Continuity Consulting Inc., have partnered with a California Department of Corrections’ program, Inside Circle. CCI’s Youth Peer Mentor Program (YPMP) at the California Division of Juvenile Justice (state prison for youth under age twenty-five) will be incorporating well known Inside Circle methods. Eldra Jackson leads Inside Circle, and with Aldrich, they held circle time with a CCI cohort of youth aimed at bringing about restoration and healing.

To see a short video of CCI program <https://youtu.be/IvdLP1so0fA>



## Capt. Render Crayton Presented with 2019 J.K. Davis Award

On January 10, 2020, General Council Treasurer Morris D. “Moe” Stephens and Executive Vice President and CEO Bob Biggs met with Capt. Render Crayton, USN, Ret., *Georgia Tech* ’54, at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona where Brother Stephens presented him with the J.K. Davis Award for 2019. The award, named in honor of General John Kerry “J.K.” Davis, *New Mexico* ’51, is periodically awarded to a Phi for outstanding service in defense of liberty as a member of the Armed Forces.

Brother Crayton’s thirty-year military career culminated as a naval captain. He was imprisoned in the Hanoi Hilton and another prisoner-of-war camp for seven years during the Vietnam War. Later he served as Rear Admiral Stockdale’s chief of staff at the United States Naval Academy, commanded the navy base at Rota, Spain, and established the ROTC program at San Diego State University.

Sadly, General J.K. Davis entered the Chapter Grand in 2019.

**ABOVE:** Render Crayton with Moe Stephens



“Receiving this award has really changed my perception of the current events, academic success, and personal successes, and I cannot thank the alumni enough for this opportunity.”  
—Spencer Forrest

## Kent State

Ohio Lambda awarded its 2020–21 Paul Kitchin Scholarship winners. **Mitchell Rosenfeld, '22**, serves as vice president (and past scholarship chairman) earning 3.7 GPA in nursing program, with hopes for medical school after college.

**Spencer Forrest, '21**, transitioned from vice president to president during spring semester and amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. He's earned 3.57 GPA, is a regular on the Dean's List, and will dual enroll at Kent to earn a master's in business administration.

“During these unprecedented times, it really has been difficult to feel as though you're succeeding, especially academically. Receiving this award has really changed my perception of the current events, academic success, and personal successes, and I cannot thank the alumni enough for this opportunity.”



Alexander Yang

## McGill

During the second year of his pre-med program (physical therapy), **Alexander Ying Qiao Yang, '21**, has been admitted to medical school. His chapter submitted this news sharing that “Going from undergraduate (after two years) to med school is allowed but requires outstanding academic performance (for Yang 3.92 GPA) and implication.” He leaves McGill to attend medical school at Sherbrooke University.

Yang's field of interest is emergency care and surgery. He encourages his brothers in the bond to consider joining the healthcare industry as his chapter is currently mostly composed of majors in economics and engineering.

## Monmouth

**Col. Stephen Bloomer, USA, Ret., '83**, named Monmouth College's 2020 Distinguished Alumnus, will receive his award at the October 2020 Homecoming ceremonies. Steve served in the National Guard for over twenty



Col. Stephen Bloomer

years in multiple posts. He ended his military career as chief of staff for the Iowa Army National Guard.

After retiring from serving his country, he sought out other opportunities to serve organizations important to him. He joined the staff at Monmouth College in 2008, where he held multiple roles, including vice president for development and college relations. While at Monmouth, Steve finished a \$75 million capital campaign, implemented a traveling development officer program, and expanded the alumni engagement program.

In 2018, he joined the staff at Phi Delta Theta as the senior vice president for advancement. Since starting at Phi Delt, Col. Bloomer has helped ensure a successful close to the Building on the Bond Campaign, completed a bottom up review of the Foundation operations, and launched an internal feasibility study for future comprehensive campaigns.

Brother Bloomer is a special initiate of his Illinois Gamma Chapter, where he served as their faculty adviser for many





Leigh Kerr

years. He and his wife, Cheryl, still host the chapter at their home for special events.

## Mercer

Specialty land use firm Leigh Robinson Kerr & Associates, Inc. celebrated its thirty-fifth year in business. The firm specializes in planning, zoning, and expert witness services. Led by President **Leigh R. Kerr, AICP, '73**, and Kelly Ray-Sosnowski, LEED AP, the firm extends its expertise to private public entities including developers, law firms, and government agencies, working collaboratively with municipalities forging strong working partnerships with the public and other community stakeholders.

## Missouri

Douglas County, Missouri resident **Travis Smith, '90**, is campaigning for seat in the Missouri House of Representatives. Missouri's primaries are in August (hopefully) and general election is in November.



Taylor Janiek

Smith's background is in the private sector. He attended Mizzou for his undergraduate degree, where he served as president of the College of Arts, and later William Woods for his master's in business administration. In college, he served as student body president and was in leadership with Phi Delta Theta. He currently works as the radio announcer for local high school football and is a real estate developer. Additionally, he spent seventeen years as a football and track and field coach at West Plains High School.

As a member of multiple boards, including Ozark Medical Hospital, West Plains Savings and Loan, and the Chamber of Commerce, Smith sees firsthand the direct impact government has on his community.

## Nebraska, Kearney

**Taylor Janicek, '19**, began his career in higher education at the University of South Dakota serving as the coordinator of Sorority/Fraternity Life and



Ralph Sayre

Leadership. He currently oversees roughly 1,000 students and advises the Panhellenic council, Order of Omega, and Circle of Sisterhood through their daily activities and events. In addition, Janicek coordinates and advises six chapter presidents in areas of risk management and general chapter operations.

Taylor is a member of Nebraska Beta and credits his successful transition from a student to a professional role to the skills and lessons he learned as a member of Phi Delt. Chapter leadership helped him work as a team player, plan events, speak to larger groups, and serve as spokesman for a brotherhood he is proud to call his own. The start of his new career would not be possible without these skills from his fraternity experience and the support he has received from his brothers.

## Ohio

**Ralph Sayre, '48**, received honors during a halftime game against Miami University. Sayre earned a collection of ten letters (football, baseball, and basketball), becoming the first Ohio University athlete in thirty-one years to letter in three sports.

After college he taught and coached at Wahama (football for fourteen years, basketball for nine years, and baseball for fourteen years.)

Sayre's career includes maintenance supervisor for Mason County Schools, guidance counselor at Wahama, principal at Wahama Junior High School and Point Pleasant High School, assistant superintendent in Mason County, and superintendent of Southern Local Schools in Racine, Ohio.





Clayton Taylor

## Oklahoma State University

Marnie and **Clayton Taylor, '74**, of Oklahoma City have dedicated their lives serving their community and state while investing in the people around them.

Leadership Oklahoma has bestowed a dual award of the Distinguished Graduate Award on a graduate team whose recent leadership activities have exemplified the highest standards of Leadership Oklahoma and whose activities achieved results or set an example of statewide significance.

Although a dual recognition for this award is not typical, the Taylors' leadership and support of organizations is often so interwoven between them, separating their influences does not seem to do their collective sufficient recognition.

Clayton is tenacious and forward-thinking. His family, OSU, and the State of Oklahoma are his passions. He graduated from OSU as the Outstanding Senior Man in the College of Business Administration and as Top Ten Senior in the University. In



Tony Greubel

2003–2004, he served as president of the National OSU Alumni Association Board and previously chaired the Building Design Committee for the \$14 million ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center built on the Stillwater campus. He serves on the building corporation for Oklahoma Beta, and was recently recognized by Oklahoma State University as a 2012 Distinguished Alumni.

## Sam Houston State

A twelve-year senior police officer, **Justin Berry, '07**, wins July runoff primary election for Texas state legislature. He advances to the state's general election in November.

Born in Austin, when he was a young boy, Justin's single mother worked three jobs to provide for their family and instilled in him the importance of a strong work ethic, faith in God, and community service by her own example. With a strong desire to serve others, Justin became a police officer and has been active with



Charles Scherer

local charities, recently receiving the Civic Leadership Award for his efforts to improve lives.

## Southern Indiana

**Tony Greubel, '92**, serves as deputy chief of mission at Embassy Apia, Samoa. Tony was the Senior Pacific Islands desk officer in the East Asia Pacific Bureau's Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands Affairs. He managed bilateral relations with five Pacific island countries—Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu.

Read more:  
<https://phide.lt/2SE4HSL>

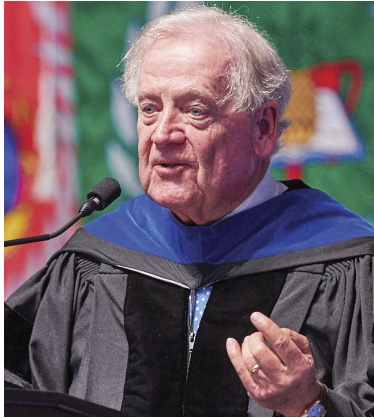
## Tampa

**Charles F. Scherer, CPM, '02**, serves as Regional Executive Director for Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS), with goal to reform foster care as we know it.

Brother Scherer served the Florida Theta Chapter as risk manager and treasurer.

For more <https://phide.lt/3ikqJEd>





Dr. Michael Spalding

## Washington and Lee

Equal Chance for Education was founded in 2014 by **Michael Spalding, MD, '62**, after a friend was denied the opportunity for higher education because of her legal status. Melissa has lived in Nashville since she was three months old and successfully completed high school with outstanding academic records. After talking with her family about her situation, Dr. Spalding went to Nashville State, the local community college, to offer to pay for her first year of tuition. Upon telling the admissions counselor her name, the tuition immediately jumped from \$7,000 for two years to \$28,000. Dr. Spalding helped research the situation and discovered that Melissa not only didn't qualify for any sort of financial aid or student loans, but was denied in-state tuition to Tennessee universities and colleges even though Tennessee is the only home she has ever known.



Shane Magee

Equal Chance for Education has supported 306 Tennessee students at fifteen colleges and universities. This fall ECE enrolled eighty-six new students and now has a total of thirty-four graduates. ECE graduates are improving our communities through their contributions as young leaders. Read more: <https://phide.lt/3aff9iT>

## Western Ontario

Phi Delt and Ontario Beta Brother **Shane Magee, '88**, was one of nearly one hundred sleepers who took to the streets of Toronto, Ontario, Canada to spend a night to help raise money and awareness for Covenant House (which serves 350 youth who are homeless, trafficked, or at risk, 24/7).

Armed with a sleeping bag and a piece of cardboard, Shane slept outside so that the youth at Covenant House Toronto can ignite their potential and reclaim their lives.

He gave up the comforts of home in exchange for knowing the



Col. Frank Montgomery

group's efforts help young people who need it most. Shane and team raised \$22,000; \$1.3 million overall was raised during this impactful Toronto sleep out event.

## Widener

Pennsylvania Mu and Widener alumnus **Col. Frank Montgomery, '96**, serves as director of military support for the Pennsylvania National Guard (PNG) and has been with the National Guard since his Widener graduation. In collaboration with Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the National Guard, Col. Montgomery is working with Governor Tom Wolf on several COVID-19 initiatives.

The PNG is one of the largest and most deployed National Guards in the nation and headquartered at Fort Indiantown Gap.



# ALUMNI & CLUB NEWS

55TH ANNIVERSARY

## The Minnesota Beta Chapter Celebrates Fifty-Five Years

Brothers traveled far to celebrate the history of the chapter in Mankato

BY ANDREW BRAVO

**T**he *Phi Delt* chapter at Minnesota State University, Mankato's marked fifty-five years since founding with both alumni and undergraduate members in early February 2020.

Traveling from as far away as Florida and California to the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, the reunion kicked off with a social at the Loose Moose on Friday. There were events throughout Saturday including a chapter meeting, house tours, and a dinner banquet. With more than 200 Phis and guests at the evening banquet, the group heard from Phi Delta Theta COO Sean Wagner and President of Minnesota State University, Mankato Richard Davenport.

Brother Wagner addressed the chapter during the chapter meeting and commended their hard work for the celebration and the success of the chapter. "The international Fraternity is bigger than ever before," Wagner said. "But with growth, there come challenges which cannot be ignored."

Among the topics discussed was its master strategic plan known as *Phi Delt 2030*. With the goal of being recognized as the premier fraternal leadership society in North America, the plan emphasizes goals in membership growth, member retention, and the cultivation of a culture for members to reach their own personal greatness. Davenport highlighted the chapter's history and the school's plans for a Greek row.

Awards of distinction were presented to Tyler Guggisberg, '21, was named Active of the Year and Bill Rose, '78, Alumnus of the Year. In addition, the memorial ceremony was performed for the chapter's Chapter Grand members, those recently deceased. Among those honored was the late Doug Larson, '69, nicknamed "Mr. Phi Delt" because of his incredible contributions to better the Minnesota Beta Chapter, including funding a Whole Man Scholarship for the chapter, serving its house corporation, serving as province president of the Lambda Province from 1974–1982.

With its Cardinal Principles of Friendship, Sound Learning, and Rectitude, Phi Delta Theta was the first fraternity established on campus. Brothers are unified by *The Bond*, the supreme governing document of the Fraternity written at its founding at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 1848, home of the founding fathers.



## CLUB EVENTS



### METRO DETROIT ALUMNI CLUB

The Metro Detroit Alumni Club held its sixth annual Winter Holiday social benefiting Toys for Tots. At Atwater Brewery, Phis gathered to enjoy each other's company, share a meal, and contribute toys and donations to the local Toys for Tots. Together they raised \$3,500 and presented it later to the Toys for Tots representatives from the United States Marine Corps Reserves. Read about how just a few months later Atwater Brewery operations shifted with COVID-19 pandemic on page 61.



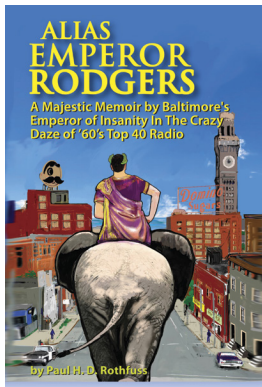
### TORONTO ALUMNI CLUB

The 114th Founders Day celebration for Ontario Alpha was held on February 1, 2020, one of the last Founders Days to be held before COVID-19 pandemic ceased all public gatherings. Many Phis from several Canadian chapters joined together at the University of Toronto Faculty Club to celebrate Gold and Silver Legionnaires and share a meal.

What made the celebration especially exciting was the successful return of Ontario Alpha to campus at the University of Toronto on November 17, 2019.



# BOOK NOOK



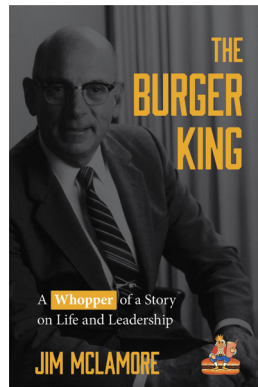
## **Alias Emperor Rodgers**

*A majestic memoir by Baltimore's emperor of insanity in the crazy daze of '60s Top 40 radio*

**PAUL H.D. ROTHFUSS**

A memoir of the days of Top 40 Radio. When Top 40 hit the scene in Baltimore, Maryland in 1956, station WCAO “grabbed it and ran.” Paul Rothfuss, *Gettysburg* '61, whose on-air persona became Emperor Rodgers, learned the radio business at seventeen years old at several Pennsylvania stations before landing in Baltimore, Maryland at WCAO.

This radio history is filled with fun and frivolity, just as AM radio was back then. The story combines insight into the business of radio with genuine affection for the many people who helped this writer build an enduring radio career.



## **A Whopper of a Story**

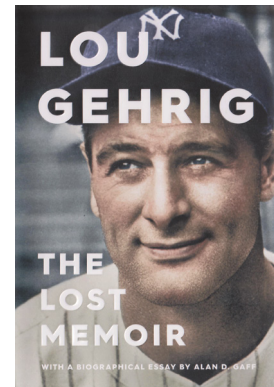
*The life and legacy of an American original*

**JIM MCLAMORE**

A story about co-founder and first CEO of Burger King, Jim McLamore, *Cornell* '47, that recounts the entrepreneurial journey of an international fast food chain and offers a message to today's budding entrepreneur.

A rags-to-\$9-billion-riches story highlighting Burger King history and fast food in America. Written before his death in 1996, he talks of his life, the birth of the whopper, and the rise of Burger King.

McLamore's account of Burger King offers an instructive and inspiring tale to young entrepreneurs. Burger King's journey from south Florida drive-ins to international corporation reveals the ups and downs of entrepreneurship, whether in the food service industry or elsewhere.

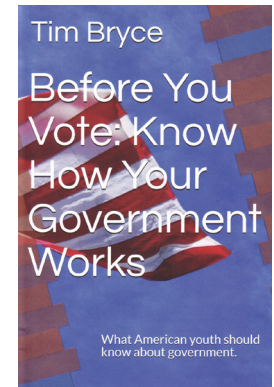


## **Lou Gehrig: The Lost Memoir**

*Autobiography with a biographical essay by Alan D. Gaff*

**LOU GEHRIG**

A book recently discovered detailing the life of Lou Gehrig, *Columbia* '25, and achievements in his own words. From the introduction, “Lou Gehrig’s remarkable achievements came not from a God-given natural talent but from a dogged determination to do better himself and a passionate love for the game. In Gehrig’s mind there was no substitute for hard work. He devoted every day of his life to self-improvement ... When Lou Gehrig died, something beautiful left this world. His memoir stops with the conclusion of the Yankees’ 1927 World Series win. The brevity of the story makes it all the more powerful.”

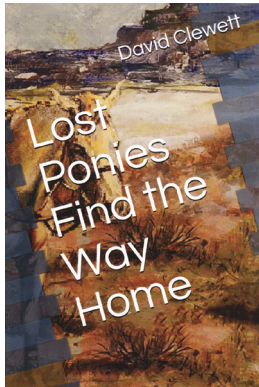


## **Before You Vote: Know How Your Government Works**

*What American youth should know about government*

**TIM BRYCE**

Tim Bryce, *Ohio* '76, writes “understanding American history simplifies the learning of our government, how it works, and the importance of civics, which explains the rights and duties of citizenship.”

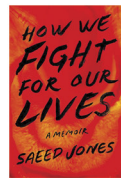
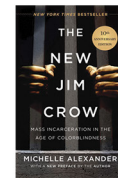
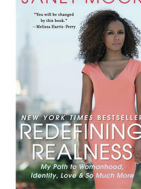
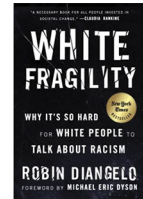
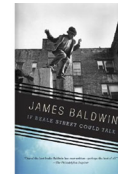
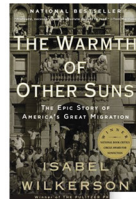


### Lost Ponies Find the Way Home

DAVID CLEWETT

In Clewett's fifth collection of poetry, *Lost Ponies Find the Way Home*, his poems navigate the creative process, a passion for travel, and matters of the heart. This anthology of poems celebrates small hometowns, back country roads, love, childhood memories, family, and praise for the natural world.

David Clewett, *Oregon State '10*, is a writer from Canyonville, Oregon, and now lives on an apple orchard in Naches, Washington.



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

In response to the social inequity issues in the world today, Phi Delta Theta offers up these recommendations from *Men's Health* magazine.

<https://phide.lt/MensHealth>

1. **Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-Winning Stamped from the Beginning**, by IBRAM X. KENDI AND JASON REYNOLDS

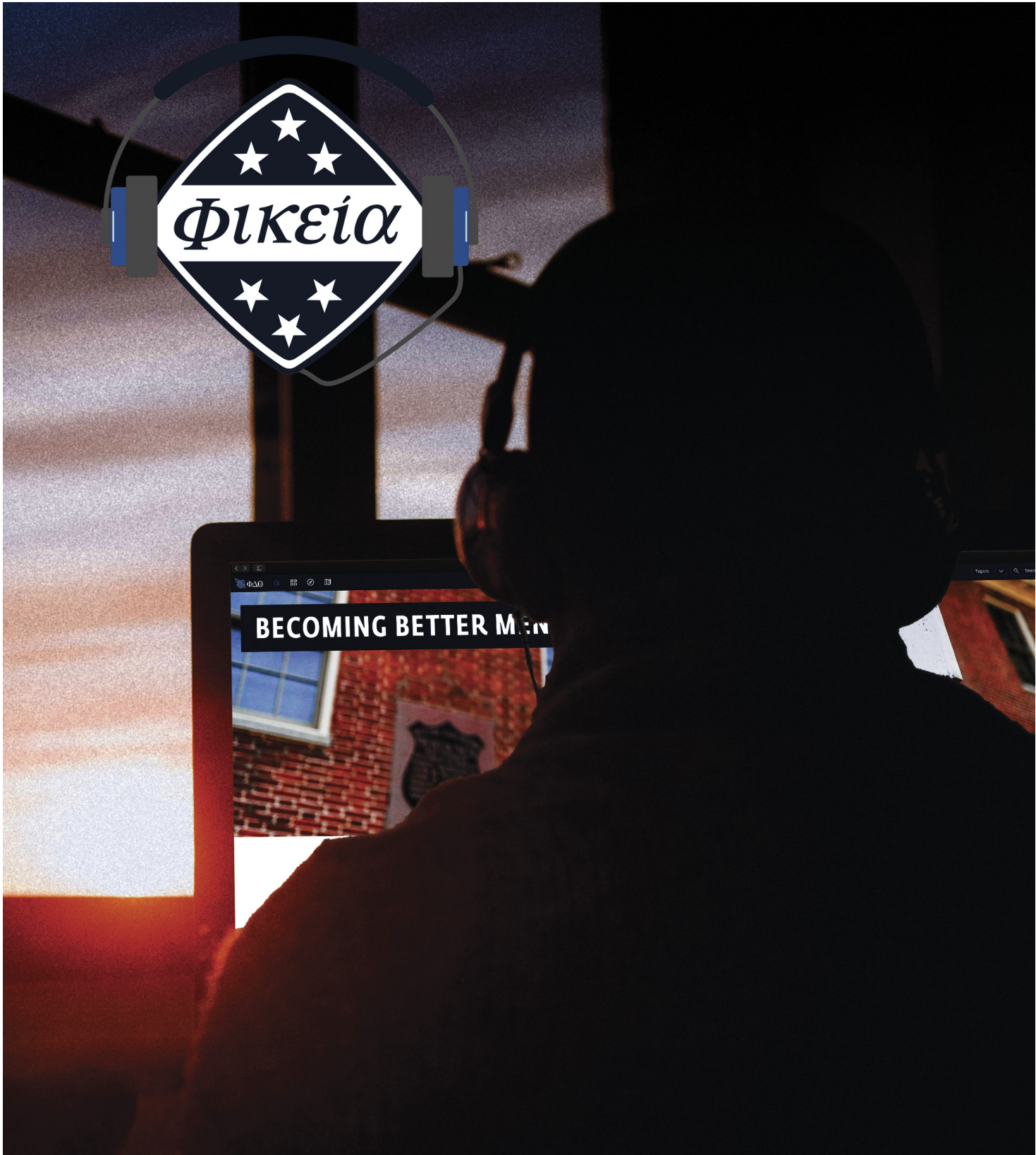
2. **More Beautiful and More Terrible: The Embrace and Transcendence of Racial Inequality in the United States**, by IMANI PERRY
3. **The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration**, by ISABEL WILKERSON
4. **Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People about Race**, by RENI EDDO-LODGE
5. **The Hate U Give**, by ANGIE THOMAS

6. **Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More**, by JANET MOCK
7. **If Beale Street Could Talk**, by JAMES BALDWIN
8. **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness**, by MICHELLE ALEXANDER
9. **White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism**, by ROBIN DIANGELO
10. **How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir**, by SAEED JONES



# LEARNING

Intellectual curiosity and search for truth.



## PHIKEIA EDUCATION UPDATE

# The Phi Delt Experience: Online

The Fraternity has stayed nimble during the COVID-19 pandemic including our education events

BY CLAY COLEMAN

**A**s many things Phi Deltas' experience changed or ceased, there is one thing that continues in a unique new way for our newest members: their Phi Delta Theta experience of Phikeia Education. While in-person experiences such as community service or intramurals are on hold, continual engagement with one another is vital under our new circumstances.

Unfortunately, many Phikeias who were in the middle of their new member education had their experience cut short because of COVID-19 departures from campuses. One of the immediate programs developed by GHQ staff was creation and execution of a four-week virtual Phikeia education experience, which was hosted in early April.

More than 300 Phikeias joined the first-ever virtual Phikeia education program to learn and connect with Phi Delta Theta, our history, values, and other Phikeias from across North America.

Led by Director of Chapter Support Todd Simmons and Expansion Consultant Devin Thornton, this cross-chapter experience was developed in a ten-day span, shortly after students were forced to leave their campuses.

Each Thursday afternoon for one

“The virtual Phikeia education program not only taught me the values and history of the Fraternity, but that I am one part of something that is so much bigger than me.”

hour, a virtual Phikeias meeting was held via Zoom. Classes covered Phi Delta Theta-specific content, important lessons from the *Phikeia Manual*, and unique aspects from the Fraternity's over 170 years.

Along with the four virtual Phikeias meetings, the following resources and materials were included to help deliver a best-in-class experience:

- PDT U Modules: Friendship, Sound Learning, and Rectitude
- Readings from *Phikeia: The Manual of Phi Delta Theta*
- Other materials to complement both the modules and readings
- Additional opportunities for connecting online

Supplemental learning opportunities, such as hearing Phi Delta Theta history directly from Bob Biggs, helped to further explain concepts to the Phikeias. Further, making connections to the LiveLikeLou Foundation, and the many other areas of one's Phi Delta Theta experience helped to streamline the educational journey. These additional forms of engagement allowed Phikeias from all over North America to interact with and learn from a wider range of Phis than ever before.

The program was free and completely optional. This opportunity was hosted for any

Phikeia wanting to continue to strengthen his understanding of and connection to Phi Delta Theta.

This groundbreaking virtual program was designed to help new members take full-advantage of their Phi Delt experience when in-person courses begin.

Phikeias in 2020 had a once-in-a-lifetime experience to enhance their membership in our organization through improving their knowledge of Phi Delta Theta and connecting with fellow Phikeias across North America.

## TESTIMONIAL



*“The virtual Phikeia education program not only taught me the values and history of the Fraternity, but that I am one part of something that is so much bigger than me. In upholding the virtues of the Fraternity, out of respect to members who have come before, I am on the way to becoming the greatest version of myself.”*

—Dominic Davis, Arizona State

Clay is the director of education



# AWARDS

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR OUTSTANDING BROTHERS

## Congratulations to Our 2020 Award Winners

**T**he Phi Delta Theta Awards Program recognizes and promotes various levels of achievement and greatness within the Fraternity on an individual and chapter level.

Every summer the awards are given at either General Convention or Kleberg Emerging Leaders Institute. Health and safety concerns over public gatherings meant that neither occurred. For the first time, all awards were announced using social media throughout August.

### OUTSTANDING PHI DELTA THETA CHAPTER AWARDS

**Oxford Trophy (Large campus, over 20,000 undergraduates)**  
Colorado Gamma, Colorado State University

**Founders Trophy (Medium campus, 7,000–19,999 undergraduates)**  
Ohio Epsilon, The University of Akron

**Kansas City Trophy (Small, less than 7,000 undergraduates)**  
Missouri Beta, Westminster College

**Housser Trophy (Canadian)**  
Ontario Delta, York University

**Phoenix Award (Most improved)**  
Pennsylvania Beta, Gettysburg College

**T. Glen Cary Award**  
Pennsylvania Sigma, Millersville University

### FACILITY MANAGEMENT

**Roy L. Anderson Jr. Outstanding Chapter House Awards**  
Large: Oklahoma Beta, Oklahoma State University

**Best House Improvement Award**  
West Virginia Gamma, West Liberty University

**Live-in Adviser of the Year**  
Missouri Beta, Westminster College, Patsy McDonald

**Outstanding Chapter Room Award**  
Kansas Gamma, Kansas State University



**Campus Professional of the Year**  
Guillermo Flores, Michigan  
State University

### CHAPTER ADVISER

**Samuel V. Stone Outstanding  
Chapter Adviser of the Year**  
Robert King, Texas Epsilon

### COMMUNICATIONS

**William Allen White Excellence  
in Communications Trophy**  
Missouri Beta, Westminster College

**Dallas Alumni Relations Award**  
Nebraska Alpha, University  
of Nebraska

**Social Media Award**  
Pennsylvania Sigma,  
Millersville University

**Parent Communications Award**  
Missouri Beta, Westminster College

**Recruitment Campaign Award**  
Colorado Gamma, Colorado  
State University

### RITUAL

**Bininger-Stitt Cultivation  
of Ritual Award**  
Missouri Beta, Westminster College

### EDUCATION

**St. Louis Fraternity  
Education Trophy**  
Colorado Gamma, Colorado  
State University

**Phikeia Education Award**  
Connecticut Gamma, University  
of Connecticut

**Member Education Award**  
Indiana Gamma, Butler University

**Community Relation and  
Education Award**  
Missouri Beta,  
Westminster College

### SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY

**Lubbock Trophy**  
Iowa Gamma, Iowa State University

**Stan Brown Award**  
Iowa Gamma, Iowa State University

**Paul C. Beam Trophy**  
Maryland Gamma,  
Washington College



Colorado Gamma

New York Zeta



# FRATERNITY NEWS

## GHQ UPDATE

## Preparing for a Year Like No Other

A strong foundation and hard work keep the Fraternity strong

BY SEAN WAGNER

**W**e always expected 2020 to be a year like no other for Phi Delta Theta. Plans were in place to celebrate our strategic accomplishments of the past decade, honor the legacy and impact of Bob Biggs in conjunction with his retirement, and then focus forward on our *Phi Delt 2030* vision to redefine Fraternity in the twenty-first century. Instead, 2020 has been a year like no other for every one of us. Supporting our members during these unprecedented times is our main priority as we work proactively to alter our strategic plans.

### GOOD NEWS

Thanks to the establishment of the Ihlenfeld University for Online Education, also known as PDT U, in 2014, and our 2030 focus to expand our current member development program and online access, we were prepared for this moment. Additionally, COVID-19 and the certain aftershocks that it will have on higher education has further illustrated that we are on the right course for the future. Developing young leaders who can navigate times of chaos has never been more important.

Here is where we have challenges: We all know that great value is derived from fraternity membership through shared social experiences and opportunities for applied leadership. This experience has traditionally happened in-person and usually less than six feet apart. Phi Delta Theta currently has over 190 emerging and

existing chapters. Due to the COVID-19 related plans and regulations of their respective campuses, and the forty-two states and five provinces where they are located, our members will have a wide variety of experiences this fall.

Knowing this, and in addition to leaning in with remote support and education made possible by technology, the Fraternity has done extensive scenario planning recognizing that our approach must act as a Swiss Army knife of sorts. We must offer tools for known and unknown levels of new challenges that our chapters will surely face. As we head into the fall, we've narrowed our focus to three areas: the health and safety of our members, adding value to the member experience while recruiting future Phis, and bolstering programs that are flexible enough to support both a socially distanced experience or one that is exclusively online.

### PROTECT

Since March, we all have made health and safety a top priority as we work to limit the spread of COVID-19 to ourselves, families, and workplaces. Fraternity housing, meetings, and events have a unique set of challenges. This priority led to House Corporations receiving ongoing education from health industry experts throughout the summer. Signage and masks for every member have been sent to our chapters. It should also be noted that the presence of our alcohol-free housing provides a more controlled environment, where sound judgment and the opportunity for limited gatherings usually prevails. The



policy has been statistically proven to offer the safest fraternity environment.

### GROW

Traditional recruitment and Phikeia education will not occur any time in the near future. Instead, online marketing, getting acquainted with candidates in new ways, ongoing member selection, and socially distanced or virtual ceremonies will win the day. Year-long recruitment practices used by award-winning chapters and our expansion staff have been shared through PDT U, and new recruitment-related volunteers have been identified and placed to face this new challenge. Knowing that every financial decision will be highly scrutinized, we've also offered alumni the opportunity to support their chapter financially by paying for the Phikeia and/or initiation dues of one or more new members. Thanks to our Foundation, we are offering \$70,000 worth of scholarships (in \$500 increments) that are only available to new members who join during the 2020–21 academic year. We've also hosted our first virtual Phikeia Experience College for recruitment chairmen and Phikeia educators to help them prepare for the fall. We're confident that our undergraduate members will streamline new practices for a blended in-person and online new member experience that properly welcomes them into our brotherhood.

### ADD VALUE

Classes will be in-person, online, or through a hybrid of the two. The

trickledown policies and expectations from colleges and universities have had our staff and volunteers reimagining standard activities like meetings and recruitment in a COVID-19 world. The effort to lead this transition will be carried out by senior General Headquarters staff members and their teams. They will counsel chapter and volunteer leadership and serve as a conduit of best practices of chapters that find unique success under similar restrictions.

From a supplemental standpoint, additional initiatives will provide Phis with unique opportunities to become the greatest version of themselves. This includes a new LiveLikeLou campus-based initiative to better oneself physically while raising funds to eradicate ALS. New educational efforts in personal finance, self-awareness, relationship

building, and lessons of leadership from standout Phis will also be introduced.

How the Phi Delt experience makes a member marketable to a future employer is always important. One silver lining of the pandemic has been our team's ability to expedite the introduction of our certified, four-year, competency-based member development program. We plan to introduce the program one year early this January. With certification in-hand, the class of 2020–21 and beyond will be able to use our new AI-based talent acquisition partner, eight-fold to be matched with a job.

#### GET INVOLVED

As you can see, the future of Phi Delta Theta is very much upon us. While this year may look and feel a little bit different,

a deep commitment to values-based leadership and ensuring that our members reach their full potential remains the same. The resources from our past success puts us in a stable position to rise to this challenge, but there is much work to be done and many opportunities to support our members during these challenging times. If you'd like to learn more about how you can help, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at [swagner@phideltatheta.org](mailto:swagner@phideltatheta.org). I will personally find a place for you in our efforts. Our collective work will help Phi Delta Theta persevere, and we will further build upon the foundation we have created for the future of our Fraternity.

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

## FINANCIALLY SUPPORT A PHI DELTA THETA CHAPTER

Phi Delta Theta chapters will be returning to campus facing great uncertainty due to COVID-19. In order to provide direct financial relief, to create momentum around recruitment, and to eliminate financial barriers to new members, Phi Delta Theta encourages its members and friends to consider financially supporting a chapter of choice.

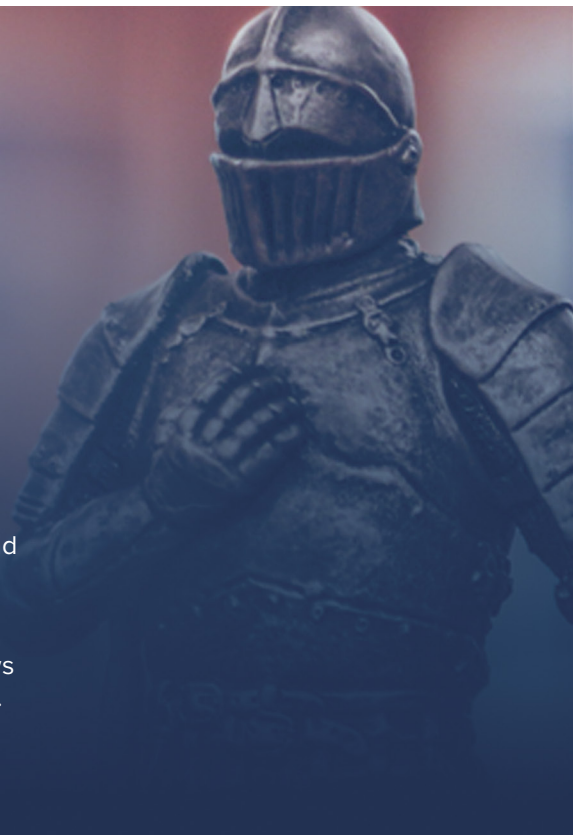
### WHY PHI DELTA THETA IS DOING THIS

Most chapters do not have structures in place to effectively reach out to their alumni base for help. We want to assist them in doing so.

The recruitment of new members will be more vital than ever this fall, and we hope this initiative will keep recruitment front-of-mind for chapters.

We know that many families are feeling a strain financially. Offering assistance to our chapters in the form of new member/initiate fees allows chapters to pass along savings to their newest members where needed.

To learn more about how you can provide valuable financial support to a chapter of your choice, visit <https://phide.lt/supportachapter>







## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

# Presidents Leadership Conference Recap

**T**he Fraternity and the Phi Delta Theta Foundation created the Presidents Leadership Conference (PLC) to develop leadership skills for each chapter's newly elected president. The inaugural PLC was held in 2000 and it remains a staple in the Fraternity's educational programming efforts.

Over three days, PLC participants learn the fundamentals of being a chapter leader, with emphasis on leadership, ethics, managing chapter operations and external relations, risk management, and character. The conference features presentations by the best speakers in the Greek world and breakout team meetings facilitated by volunteer alumni and General Headquarters staff members.

The January 2020 Presidents Leadership Conference was the last all-Fraternity event held. No one could have imagined the realities our chapter presidents would return to campus to face. Plans established at the conference were drastically modified due to the discovery of the very contagious coronavirus.

One very special outcome of the 2020 PLC was the post-conference work by faculty member and Brother Charlie Ford and his PLC small group, Chapter Xi. At each PLC, chapter presidents are broken into smaller groups during the weekend to build camaraderie, encourage networking and idea sharing among the presidents.

Though Ford had already made periodic email check-ins with his Xi Chapter, the regular encouragement and motivation from a seasoned alumnus became meaningful interactions to the Xi Chapter leaders during these uncharted waters of COVID-19.

“Charlie Ford, along with my PLC Xi Chapter brothers, were the best part of my PLC experience. Brother Ford is genuinely one of the wisest people I've had the chance to meet. Ever since PLC, he has kept in touch and shows us that the brotherhood goes far beyond our home chapters and age barriers. During these troubled times, Charlie is a comforting presence from afar for all of us and we're tremendously grateful for it.” —Patrick Bisson, McGill '21



## VOLUNTEER OBSERVATIONS

## Memories of St. Louis

Reflections on the newest class of presidents

BY: JOHN "CHARLIE" FORD, MARYLAND '64

**A**s the heavy rain and snow raged outside our frost-proof windows, St. Louis refused to delay its milder days for our annual chapter presidents' retreat beneath its famed silver arch. Inside however, all was calm and bright as we gathered—300 strong—for this January rite of passage.

T-shirts, mugs, and other swag for sale claimed attention as brothers checked in and grabbed their PLC workbooks, small group assignments and temporary roommates. Small groups enhance the shared experiences of the conference.

My Xi Chapter met eight times in sub-groups and then came together in plenary for more serious discussions around stress, alcohol, and sexual assault and lighter forays into midnight poker and bro humor.

Midst the surfeit of snacks and good cheer rested the real purpose of the convocation—to learn what it means to be a true leader; how to display real and authentic masculinity; and how to emulate the examples of some well-known and lesser-known Phis who daily walk that talk.

“Shifts do indeed happen and, almost sixty years out, I could not have been more impressed with the range of opinions and healthy dialog that accompanied each break-out.”

Keynote and large group speakers ranged from GHQ staff to business leaders to clinical psychologists, all bearing their own Phi banners with messages of inspiration, caution and life lessons designed to help us become the best versions of ourselves.

In our small groups—intimate on purpose and scattered throughout the now familiar airport Renaissance hotel (gracious hosts indeed)—we reviewed the key messages and dissected their application to our own chapters back home.

Every sub-meeting began and ended with ritual, a reminder of how powerful these shared practices are to each chapter, gaining greater pride, proficiency, and comfort with each re-enactment (though our singing could probably be improved exponentially!).

A new feature, some specific breakout educational sessions, self-selected, on a range of chapter topics spurred intense and illuminating conversations, with subjects ranging from depression, drugs and alcohol, to difficult conversations, conflict resolution, and celebrations.

For a guy like me, fifty-eight years since my own initiation, these discussions were revelatory in their honesty and personal exposure. Shifts do indeed happen and, almost sixty years out, I could not have been more impressed with the range of opinions and healthy dialog that accompanied each break-out.

So, another successful PLC is in the history books. It was a great way to start the new year.





Chapters met in Toronto to attend the Central and East Canada Province Retreat



Quad Province Retreat held at Ashland University

## Province Retreats

**F**or the second year, regional province retreats were executed throughout North America, in twenty-three different locations, pooling the resources and talent of neighboring provinces to have a collaborative event for the chapters within that region.

More than 1,500 undergraduates and volunteers attended their province retreat, with an average chapter member attendance of seven members.

As with all Phi Delt conferences, participants were surveyed about various aspects of their experience. From support by GHQ, participation by local chapter advisory board volunteers, facilities, communications, general improvements from province retreats 2020 were very highly rated! And ALL twenty-three occurred before COVID-19 shutdown.

### THE NOTABLE OUTCOMES OF THE 2020 PROVINCE RETREATS:

1. Focus on educating chapter executive committees
2. Challenge to province presidents and other local volunteers
3. Facilitation guide was well-done
4. 2019 retreat preparation and experiences helped reduce prep for 2020 events
5. Great opportunity for peer-to-peer engagement and participation

A new feature for 2020 was the introduction of either a keynote speaker or an alumni panel to address leadership topics. Overall, province retreats are proving to be wonderful regional educational experiences, at very affordable prices.

### QUAD PROV MODELED THE WAY

**T**he 2020 Quad Province Retreat in the Ohio and Michigan regions was hosted at Ashland University in late February. Attending Phi Delta Theta chapters were: Michigan State, Kettering, Central Michigan, Akron, Bowling Green, Case Western, Kent State, Ashland, and Otterbein.

This particular province retreat predates the Fraternity-wide sponsored events by eighteen years. This original Bi-Prov Retreat was held in 2000. When it expanded to include four provinces it became a Quad-Prov including chapters from Central and Northeastern Ohio, plus all Michigan chapters.

In 2017, Director of Education Clay Coleman attended the Quad Prov retreat at Ohio Wesleyan University and worked with province presidents to fine-tune the event and provide programming addressing pressing topics important to both undergraduates and the province. This experience and effective regional conference was the

springboard for the Fraternity-wide province retreat model.

One new feature to this year's event lineup included providing a professional photographer to take professional headshots for their résumés and LinkedIn profiles. A second feature was an added convenience of a PayPal link to simplify the donation process to the LiveLikeLou Foundation. In 2010, the leaders introduced the presentation of The Province President's Brain Award, recognizing the chapter with the best overall GPA in each province.

While the 2020 retreat boasts many successes, Province President Jim Warner feels that the highlight was a chapter president led panel discussion titled "When Things go Sideways." Their comments covered the tragic shooting of a chapter brother at Case Western's Ohio Eta Chapter, and two sad and untimely suicides at Kent State's Ohio Lambda Chapter and at Akron's Ohio Epsilon Chapter. The panel shared how they and their chapters handled these adverse situations and led in the midst of such difficult circumstances.

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## PHILANTHROPY

### The Foundation is a Steward to the Fraternity

A dependable revenue stream continuously supports our members

BY COL. STEPHEN BLOOMER, USA, RET.

**A**fter my commissioning as a second lieutenant of engineers in the United States Army, June 1982, I was assigned to an Iowa National Guard Engineer Battalion while finishing my senior year of college. The battalion was preparing for a REFORGER exercise in Germany spring 1984. All deploying soldiers were required to have a current will and testament. I dutifully stood in line for my discussion with the deputy judge advocate general (DJAG) so that I could tell him that I owned very little besides my Ford Galaxy 500, surely, he would understand and I could quickly “check the block” on this required pre-deployment station. After the DJAG patiently educated me on the benefits of always having one’s financial, health and legal affairs in order, I developed a greater understanding and appreciation for these important documents, and also expanded my soldier advocacy to include; soldier training, professional development, health, welfare and legal preparedness.

The 2020 COVID-19 experience reminds us that it’s never too early or never too late to make plans. To my soldiers I suggested that they expect the unexpected and prepare accordingly. We spend a lifetime making memories, building relationships, earning and acquiring wealth. It is so important to our loved ones and our legacy that what’s important to us during our lifetime is

secure and taken care of for the future.

The Phi Delta Theta Foundation, one of two major revenue streams of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, has benefited immeasurably from the impactful generosity of benevolent Phi Delt alumni, spouses, and friends of the Fraternity. The Shaffer Trust, named for Brother Maurice E. Shaffer and his wife, Dorthea, continues to support established and new Honor’s College scholarships for tomorrow’s undergraduate emerging leaders. Keeping with the times and ever-changing societal conditions, many of our Living Bond Society members (planned gift society) understand the Phi Delta Theta Foundation Board of Trustees keen oversight of Foundation net assets. Many of these bequests remain unrestricted so that future Foundation Trustees have the resources to provide our Fraternity with innovation, educational programing, scholarship, and technology funds. Our 4 percent spending policy protects these legacy funds in perpetuity.

As I often try to remind our brothers and friends of the Fraternity, the Phi Delta Theta Foundation provides a dependable and predictable source of revenue to the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity in order to support scholarship and personal development opportunities for undergraduate and graduate members. In other words, together we “will strive in all ways to transmit the Fraternity to those who may follow after, not only, not less, but greater than it was transmitted to me.”



These words wisely included in our Phikeia Oath. I hope you will join our board of Trustees and the thousands of Phi Delt who support the Foundations honorable work as we continue to separate ourselves from others in the field as the aspirational peer for all other fraternal orders.

Whatever your wishes for the future, it’s never too early, never too late. Best wishes in your future endeavors!

Proud to be a Phi!

*Stephen M. Bloomer*

Steve

*P.S. For questions on Planned Giving with the Phi Delta Theta Foundation, please contact Brother Andrew Cole at [acole@phideltatheta.org](mailto:acole@phideltatheta.org)*

Steve is senior vice president of advancement for the Phi Delta Theta Foundation



# *Service Above Self*

Forty-four years  
of leadership

**When Robert A. “Bob” Biggs was initiated into the Georgia Epsilon Chapter at Georgia Southern University in 1974, little did he know that Phi Delta Theta would become his lifetime career.**



Photos on pages 35 and 36 by Dolce Vita Photography





The leadership impact of Bob Biggs spans beyond the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and Foundation and their staffs.

Bob Biggs' career leaves an indelible mark on the interfraternal world, the Cincinnati and Oxford communities, and philanthropic impact on ALS research and family advocacy. And above all these roles, he is also a wonderful husband, father, son-in-law, brother, uncle, and friend.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, young Bob Biggs moved with his family to Atlanta when he was ten years old. Even in high school, Brother Biggs aspired to lead as he was the drum major for his Henderson High School band. Not surprisingly, the attributes of a drum major are quite similar to those of being a successful leader: enthusiastic role model, committed servant leader, coordinator of a multi-faceted band (instruments, drill team, twirlers, and cheerleaders) for a singular outcome.

Biggs arrived at Georgia Southern University in 1973. Among his 5,000 fellow students, Greek life was a popular option as there were twelve fraternities on campus. As a sophomore, Bob and Phi Delta Theta were introduced when a classmate invited Bob to join his friends one afternoon at his Fraternity's beautiful Southern, two-story, white-columned home. It was as straightforward and logical a decision to join as the man himself. Brother Biggs was initiated into the Georgia Epsilon Chapter as Bond Number 91 on October 15, 1974.

He served the chapter as alumni secretary, house manager, IFC representative, and as its vice president.

When he joined the chapter there were eighteen men. He and his brothers worked to grow the chapter to sixty-five, resulting in a strong brotherhood by the time they graduated in 1976.

The keystone event, one so big that it happened biennially, was the Phi Delta Theta Charity Walk to raise money for the Georgia Central State Hospital and Easter Seals Society. The relay walk started in Savannah, Georgia and Phis



*“I remember Bob as the glue that held us all together; he loved Phi Delta Theta! Bob knew our bylaws backwards and forwards. He was our ‘go-to guy’ if we had a question.” —Andy Garrison, Georgia Southern ’76*

took turns walking all the way to the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta.

The year Bob assumed leadership of the event, he envisioned an expanded Charity Walk. His work with the visiting chapter consultants from General Headquarters, and attending another chapter’s installation, helped Bob see the broader reach of the Fraternity. He applied this expanded view of Fraternity to the Charity Walk by asking all six Georgia chapters of then Epsilon North Province to participate in the four-day relay that ended at the capitol building. Walking a mile at a time along the 800-mile route between cities, approximately 250 Phi Deltas participated. Each chapter walked from their respective towns toward the state capitol, raising \$3,000.

It was a big undertaking but if anyone could pull off such a big task, it seemed that Bob Biggs was the man. Bob quips that maybe this effort was one of the things that helped him get the consultant job at General Headquarters.

In 1975, he met Executive Vice President of the Fraternity Robert J. Miller (RJM), *New Mexico ’50*, while at the Georgia Zeta installation in nearby Milledgeville, Georgia.

Bob’s career journey to becoming only the fourth executive leader of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity began when he was hired at General Headquarters as a chapter consultant.

This was a time for personal and career growth, while working with two other consultants and the director of chapter services. He visited chapters in North America, coached chapter leaders, opened new chapters, planned conferences, met with alumni, and, his least favorite of all Phi Delt tasks, closed chapters that simply weren’t able to meet the sound and firm criteria required.

After he completed his two-year consultant service, he was hired on as director of chapter services. Bob still holds a twelve-year record as DCS. During this time, his mentorship began with Robert Miller. Miller gave young Bob many opportunities to lead and this relationship created an unbreakable bond that endures today.

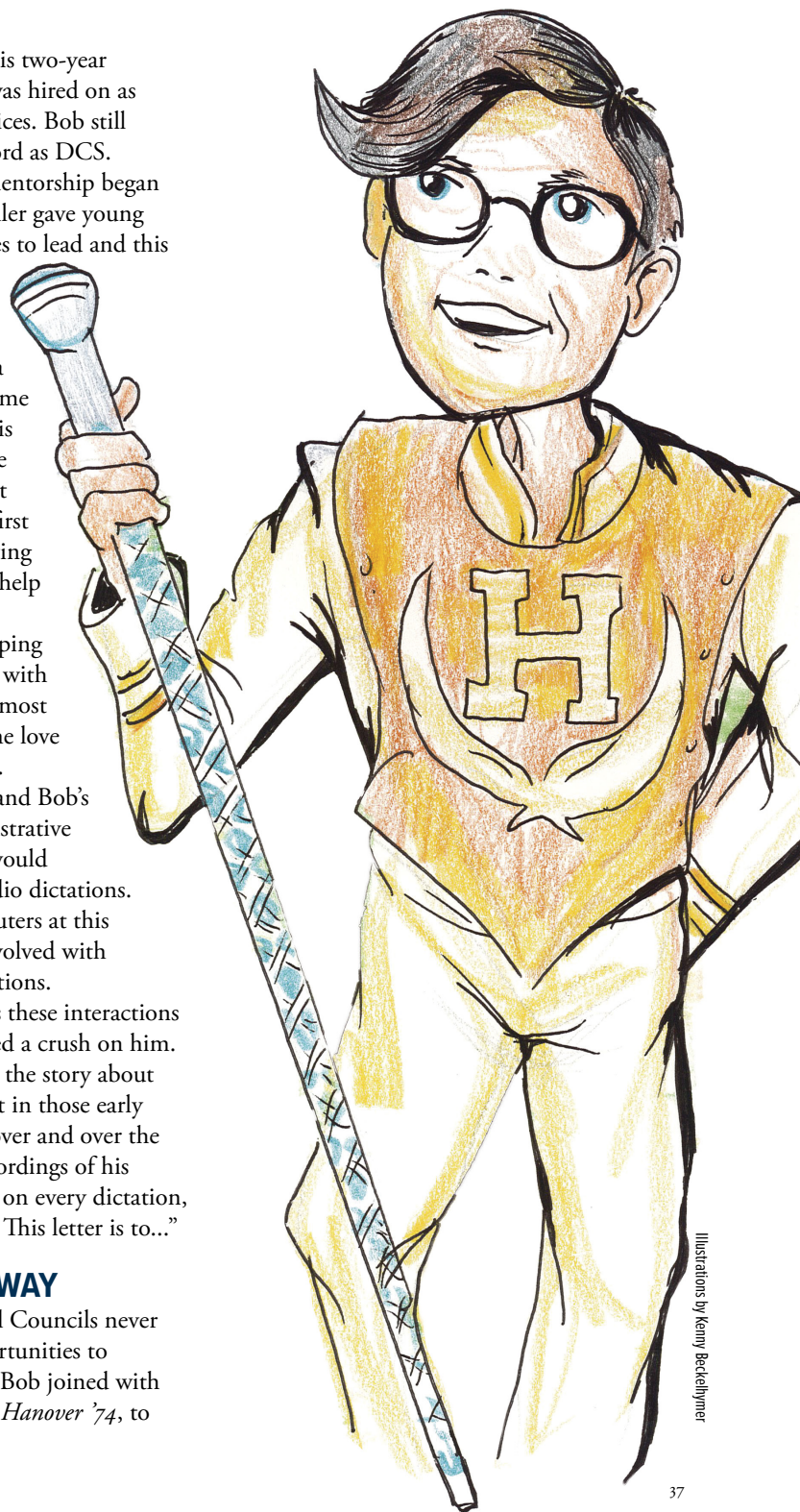
Bob credits Phi Delta Theta for giving him some of the finest things in his life: a place to call home at his first home away at Georgia Southern, his first job out of college, meeting his mentor who would help hone Bob’s burgeoning leadership skills, developing incredible relationships with peer Greek leaders and most importantly, meeting the love of his life. About that...

It was the late 1970s and Bob’s role required an administrative assistant. Coni Miller would transcribe his many audio dictations. As there were no computers at this time, Coni was very involved with Bob’s daily communications.

She recalls that it was these interactions where she first developed a crush on him. Bob grins when he tells the story about learning from Coni that in those early days she would replay over and over the beginnings of those recordings of his warm opening greeting on every dictation, “Good morning, Coni. This letter is to...”

### MODELING THE WAY

Bob Miller and General Councils never failed to give Bob opportunities to lead. In the fall of 1986 Bob joined with volunteer Ed Whipple, *Hanover ’74*, to





## 1970s

First introduction into leadership as the drum major in high school band



## 1974

Initiated into Georgia Epsilon

## April 1976

Bob leads statewide Charity Walk



## June 1976

Joins General Headquarters staff as a chapter consultant



*“Bob Biggs is the gold standard for Greek executives.  
There is no one better.”*

*—Stan Gilson, Cal State Northridge '70*



Bob Miller, Bob Scheiffer, TCU '59, and Bob Biggs

create and execute the first-of-its-kind international educational leadership event on the campus of Miami University. The Leadership College gathered the best undergraduate Phi Delta leaders, brought them to Oxford, Ohio, to meet and learn from each other, and to be influenced by a stellar faculty made up of Fraternity alumni volunteers.

What began as the Leadership College in 1987 has developed into an enormously successful Kleberg Emerging Leaders Institute. Originally around 250 undergraduates attended; in 2019, nearly 1,000 undergraduates participated. This conference has been foundational for both undergraduates and alumni alike, bringing together the greatest volunteers to help educate future chapter leaders.

From the Leadership College a solution to find good volunteers also emerged. An ambassador-style program helped bring the brightest of the chapter's more experienced leaders to serve as assistant faculty at the Leadership College. Many of these ambassadors, now known as peer mentors, have become the robust volunteer corps of Phi Delta Theta as chapter advisers, house corporation

members, province presidents, alumni club leaders, as well as professional staff.

### BB SUCCEEDS RJM

Upon Bob Miller's retirement in 1990, and after a national search, Bob Biggs was selected as its executive vice president. Phi Delta Theta Fraternity has only had four executive leaders since the role was established with the hiring of Arthur R. Priest in 1923. Following Priest (after fourteen years of service) was Paul Beam (eighteen years), then Bob Miller (after thirty-five years), and finally Bob Biggs (or "BB" as he signs most internal documents).

From the very first day, he entered the office with his Phi Delta Theta badge aptly positioned directly over his heart, pinned on his crisp white shirt (not his jacket). At the start of most every morning at General Headquarters, BB briskly walked the halls on his way to his corner office, greeting every staff member by name with a "good morning!"

### EDUCATING CHAPTER CEOS

The Presidents Leadership Conference (PLC), is also a product of a Bob collaboration. This time, he joined

*“Through Bob’s guidance we have set the mark high for future Phis to ‘be the best they can be.’” —Tio Kleberg, Texas Tech ’69*



Bob Biggs with students and Tio Kleberg at the Kleberg Emerging Leaders Institute

General Council President Charles L. “Charley” Pride, *Western Kentucky* ’87 to develop the PLC in 2000.

PLC is a direct result of Bob attending his Oxford Rotary Club district’s president-elect training seminar, a one-day session to learn how to lead a Rotary club. Because of how effective and helpful such a training was, he was inspired to create such an opportunity for chapter presidents. He proposed his idea to the General Council and discovered that a few peer fraternities were also considering similar seminars.

Most of the elements of that original program remain intact, and the conference continues to be the most effective combination of alumni and fraternal peers who join to shape the newest group of chapter CEOs every January in St. Louis, Missouri.

Bob said gathering the presidents was an important milestone of the Fraternity, and “one of the

most effective, high octane, educational conferences for chapter CEOs.”

The most significant policy decision was around the corner—a change to fraternity life that would have international repercussions.

**“DO WHAT IS RIGHT, NOT WHAT IS EASY.”**

### ALCOHOL-FREE HOUSING

Growth from the 1980s preceded the big ‘rush recession’ of the 1990s. People were just not joining Greek societies like they had been. Risk management was becoming increasingly difficult, as was the troublesome rising cost of liability insurance. With increasing insurance claims and membership dues, and decreasing membership numbers, the tides were changing.

Brother Biggs became passionate about a new way. What became almost a mantra for Bob over the last several years of the century, “We have got to

1980

Bob and Coni Miller get married



1987

The inaugural Leadership College meets in Oxford

1990

Bob succeeds Robert Miller as executive vice president



2000

First Presidents Leadership Conference held in St. Louis





July 2000  
Alcohol-free housing implemented

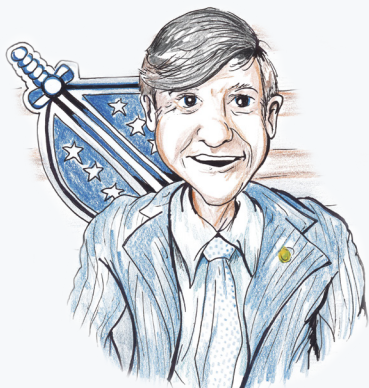


2011  
Named as executive vice president  
of both Fraternity and Foundation



2019  
Foundation's endowment reaches  
(and exceeds) the *Phi Delt* 2020  
goal one year early at \$20 million

June 2020  
Retires and becomes a lifelong  
volunteer to the Fraternity



*"PDT had a hand in shaping me into the person I am today. The best part? I got to watch my dad thrive in doing what he loves." —Amy Biggs*



Bob Biggs and family during General Convention in South Carolina

get out of the bar business and get back into the Fraternity business. We must return to the values-based leadership experience we were founded upon."

Bob was relentless on finding a solution and restoring the Fraternity for future generations. In order to be successful, the Fraternity must return to the Cardinal Principles of Friendship, Sound Learning, and Rectitude by actually living out the values established by the Founding Fathers.

Bob knew that no solution would work without consensus from Phi Delta Theta and fraternal influencers, so, he started discussions with fraternal peers, higher education presidents, and student affairs officials. All individuals concurred that the number one problem in the college community is the misuse and abuse of alcohol.

Bob worked with then General Council President Bob DeIoian, *Arizona State '66*, and the rest of the General Council to build unanimous support. Soon, the Fraternity had a new and momentous goal.

Some favorite quotes Bob uses about this time is, "King keg is dead for Phi Delta Theta," and "do what is right, not what is easy."

The alcohol-free housing policy was extensively discussed at a General Officers Conference in 1997. It was deliberated

#### Foundation Support for Alcohol-Free Housing (AFH)

The Phi Delta Theta Foundation granted \$1 million to implement the policy demonstrating its overwhelming support to help accomplish this difficult goal.

Every chapter that opted to adopt AFH early received a \$10,000 grant to be used for capital improvements in the house. There were regular educational programs to help chapters re-think how they approach recruitment, attract members, and prove to all those watching that such a big hurdle is worth clearing.

Bob said with implementation, it was critical that "there was no GRAY area, no room for misunderstanding, and there must be unified commitment by the Fraternity's volunteers and chapters." To accomplish this, the Fraternity uses a three-pronged approach:

1. Clear policy
2. Education
3. Accountability (corrective action, accountable to Fraternity's principles)

*“Who would have known the great gift the Fraternity was getting when they hired Bob Biggs?” —Bob Roberts, Ball State ’74*



Bob Biggs, Sean Wagner, and Dylan Berg at the San Antonio Convention

at length, and leadership laid out a plan for full implementation by July 2000.

This was national news. Bob and members of the General Council appeared on *Dateline*, *CSPAN*, *USA TODAY*, and *Nightline* television news shows. Bob gave dozens of interviews and spoke at as many interfraternal conferences as possible for other fraternities, sororities, and Greek organizations.

Alcohol-free housing ranks as one of the most pivotal changes in Fraternity operations. In fact, there is fresh momentum, with three fraternal peers that have also committed to alcohol- and substance-free housing in some variation by the close of 2020: Sigma Phi Epsilon, Delta Upsilon, and Beta Theta Pi.

In addition to the obvious focus on health and safety of members, moving to alcohol-free housing has improved recruitment success, given Phi Delta Theta an edge over competing peer groups during expansion, attracted more volunteers, enhanced education opportunities, and brought significant growth in number of chapters and average chapter size.

## ONE-LEADER MODEL

In January 2011, both Fraternity and Foundation executive roles were merged into a one-leader model, naming Brother Biggs to the dual leadership position. And as with everything Bob sets his mind to, he enthusiastically began meeting donors in person, giving them an update on the Fraternity.

Fundraising became a key priority of the Foundation, and now there was one person giving the message of both entities.

During the 2010–12 biennium, the one CEO model became a crucial factor in the foundational strategies for building an endowment that could sufficiently support the work of the Fraternity.

Bob’s transition to number one spokesperson for both sides of the Phi Delta Theta organization has resulted in the successful growth of the Foundation’s endowment from \$4 million to \$24 million. The goal now is to grow the endowment to \$50 million by the year 2030.

When asked the secret to this success, he replies, “I just told Phi Delta Theta success stories face-to-face.” His approach was to inform, engage, and then achieve. Also, he shared that when

## ROBERT A. BIGGS CAREER TIMELINE

### PHI DELTA THETA SERVICE

**Foundation President and CEO**  
2011–2020

**Executive Vice President and CEO**  
1991–2020

**Director of Chapter Services**  
1978–1990

**Chapter Consultant**  
1976–1978

### EDUCATION

MBA, Xavier University, 1984

BBA, Georgia Southern University, 1976

### VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

**Fraternity Executives Association**  
Member since 1978; past president

**Association of Fraternity Advisors**  
Member since 1978; past presenter

**National Interfraternity Conference**  
1978–2002

**Jaycee**  
1978–1986; past president

**Cincinnati Society of Association Executives**  
Member since 1985; past president

**American Society of Association Executives**  
CAE certified 1986; past president  
Cincinnati SAE

**Oxford Rotary Club**  
Member since 1990; past president

**The ALS Association**  
1993–2009; National Board Member

**Order of Omega**  
1997–2001; National Board Member



**National Association of Student  
Personnel Administrators**  
Greek Summit, since 1998

**The Robert Wood  
Johnson Foundation**  
National advisory committee member

**St. Mary Catholic Church**  
Member

**Oxford Community Foundation**  
2003–12; past president

**Edgewater Conference**  
Member since 1991; past president

**Omicron Delta Kappa**  
National Leadership Honor Society; member

**Delta Sigma Pi**  
National Business Fraternity; special initiate

## AWARDS

**CSAE Fellow Award (1993)**

**Leadership Recognition for  
Alcohol-Free Housing (2000)**

**Fraternity Communications  
Association (FCA)  
Evin C. Varner Jr. Award (2020)**

**Fraternity Executives  
Association Distinguished  
Service Award (2020)**

**Bob Biggs' 44 Lessons in 44 Years  
of Service to Phi Delta Theta**

Read here: <https://phide.it/bob44>



*"A visionary leader who has led us through many initiatives which have set apart Phi Delta Theta in the fraternity world!" —William J. "Bill" Mark Jr., Colorado '72*



Presentation of the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award to Cincinnati Reds Joey Votto

you ask someone to financially support something you wholeheartedly believe in, you've nothing to lose, and will get one of three answers, 1) yes, 2) no, or 3) I need to think about it, tell me more.

## TAKING THE LONG VIEW

Bob is master of the use of word pictures to tell a story to accomplish the goals of the Fraternity. When discussing the original long-term strategic plan, *Phi Delt 2020*, with alumni, students and others, Bob used the analogy of an automobile.

There were six strategic initiatives in the *Phi Delt 2020* strategic plan: Growth, Education, Communication, Support, Capacity and Funding. Bob compared the first four initiatives as four passengers in the automobile.

"Growth focuses on increasing average chapter size and chartering more chapters on various college campuses.

We are in the education business; we educate our members; it's what we do every day.

Communication is essential to inform members in a variety of ways of the Fraternity's initiatives and goals.

Support ensures that the staff and volunteer teams have the tools required to lead the organization. Support builds teamwork."

Bob often instructed his team to "pull on the taffy together in the same direction." Another of Bob's oft-used illustrations to make his point.

Bob explained that capacity is like the engine in the automobile, it provides the heartbeat to make everything work. Capacity represents the resources, time, and energy provided by the professional staff and professional volunteers. Their knowledge and experiences ensure our success.

Finally, the sixth initiative in *Phi Delt 2020* was funding. As Bob has said "It's like the fuel in the tank that makes the engine run for the four passengers to move from one place to the next." Ultimately, all initiatives must work in harmony.

In a recent reflective piece, Bob shared forty-four things he has learned in forty-four years, one being to "always look over the horizon and not just the hood of the car."



*“Bob and Coni are tremendously caring, a testament to the character of those who live by the precepts of the Fraternity.”—Dennis Miller*



Amy, Bob, Coni, Lori, and Kyle Biggs in Cincinnati

## JUNE 2020

When Bob announced his retirement, the organization began its plans for how to commemorate his forty-four years of service. Tributes poured in. Most with mention of a man who led by his values; a man who has been a thoughtful and impactful leader among some groundbreaking and controversial Fraternity initiatives.

**“BOB IS A MAN WHO MODELS FOR OTHERS THE ENTIRETY OF THE PHIKEIA OATH.”**

Bob is described as unwavering, committed, self-controlled, faithful, loyal, true, unselfish, and principled. As one tribute writer wrote, “Bob is a man who models for others the entirety of the Phikeia Oath, but most especially the final lines: ‘I will strive in all way to transmit the Fraternity to those who may follow after, not only not less, but greater than

it was transmitted to me.” This character trait carried him through a career full of achievements and challenges. His badge and his oath have remained integral to his life since he pledged his loyalty to Phi Delta Theta in 1974.

Bob models the way as a principled and positive example to all. For that, Phi Delta Theta owes him a debt of gratitude for giving his whole self in service to others. Bob, we wish you the very best as you continue your service as a Phi Delta Theta

volunteer, taking your own sage advice that you give to every other outgoing GHQ staff person. Atta boy!

—Kelly Derickson







#### OUR OBLIGATION

## Phi Delta Theta will be part of the racial equity solution

Ready to do the work

BY MOE STEPHENS

I have watched the news the past couple of months with a heavy heart. I have heard stories from many of our members and alumni. I have had many restless nights. I have shed tears, thinking about the countless lives impacted by violence, bigotry, and racism. My heart hurts. I have worked to continue to educate myself. I have more work to do, and I recognize that I am not going to be perfect. Anti-racism work is messy and difficult. Those who know me well, know that I am happy to engage in spirited debate on a range of issues and ultimately agree to disagree if necessary. Racism is not, and will never be, one of those things.

I have no problem saying that black lives matter. As a movement, BLM has been weaponized for political purposes. Some people have strong opinions on both sides. However, we must filter out the noise of politics. Saying black lives matter is a humanity issue. Do all lives matter? You bet. However, the black community continues to face violence, harassment, and racism on a daily basis. Is that your reality? If it is not, consider yourself to be in a position to make a difference and amplify the voices of those that do.

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity was founded on the high ideals of Friendship, Sound Learning, and Rectitude. Our Founders formed this society to create a place for

the free exchange of ideas in a time when universities were less than hospitable to this type of self-awareness. The fact that Phi Delta Theta contributed to systems of oppression and racism, both in policy and practice, in later years is ironic in a way that I would prefer it not to be. For almost fifty years, like many organizations of the time, Phi Delta Theta did not allow students of color to join our Fraternity. Although this policy was abolished in 1954, we cannot continue to diminish this historical fact and its place in our history.

We have come a long way, but we still have work to do. Saying the phrase, “Becoming the greatest version of yourself” does not magically make it so. It takes work. It takes Sound Learning. It takes Rectitude. It takes Friendship. Our ritual tells us we have an obligation to our fellow man to live our lives in a way that makes our world a better place. History has shown, and the past several weeks have magnified, the fact that we have a long way to go.

So, what do we do now? First, we must listen. We cannot understand what our members of color experience, the lives they have lived. We must not listen without action, and my promise to you is that we will act. I have work to do. We have work to do. We will do this work together.

Moe is the General Council treasurer

# Phi Delta Theta Takes Immediate Action to Promote Diversity and Inclusion

Acknowledging and learning from our past and doing what must be done

To address the racial equity issues within our society and any diversity and inclusion concerns within Phi Delta Theta, the Fraternity recently formed a Diversity Working Group that focused on two distinct areas: education and programming and policy and communications. Approximately forty undergraduate and alumni volunteers, representing diverse demographic backgrounds and unique perspectives, participated in discussions related to race, equity, and the importance of promoting diversity and inclusion within the Fraternity.

As a result of these conversations, a summary report of participant feedback and a list of recommendations was created and then submitted for review by strategic advisors Dr. Michelle Allen, diversity education director at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Marlon Gibson, experienced fraternity and sorority professional and doctoral candidate at the University of Georgia. The recommendations were then provided to the General Council for consideration.

The General Council met July 16–17, 2020, and thoroughly reviewed the report. After careful consideration, the General Council took the following immediate actions:

- Created the volunteer position of Diversity and Inclusion Commissioner and appointed Brother Austin A. Deray, *Mercer '10*, to serve in this capacity. In addition to advising the General Council and General Headquarters staff, the commissioner shall be responsible for overseeing all educational programming, policy recommendations, and communication efforts related to diversity and inclusion initiatives on behalf of Phi Delta Theta. To learn more about Brother Deray and the Diversity



Austin Deray

Working Group, visit <https://phide.lt/2DxKSI3>

- Designated and defined an undergraduate role (chapter officer) responsible for advocating for diversity and inclusion within the chapter, on campus, and in local communities.
- Approved the recommendation from the Diversity Working Group and the Survey Commission to adopt new terminology for burgeoning groups. The use of “Colony” will be replaced with “Emerging Chapter” and initial members of these new groups will now be referred to as “Founders.”
- When evaluating recipients of chapter excellence awards, the Awards Committee will include new criteria in the application that places value on the promotion of diversity and inclusion efforts and programming.

Also determined as priorities, the General Council is evaluating specific language to adopt that would explicitly prohibit the display of divisive symbols on chapter premises and at Fraternity-sponsored events. In addition, the General Council is assessing the viability, logistics, and potential support for identity and affinity groups with a particular focus on ensuring broader alignment with Phi Delta Theta objectives, sustained engagement, and long-term benefit.

Other areas recommended by the working group for review and consideration by Brother Deray, the General Council, and the General Headquarters Leadership Team include individual, new member, chapter, and conference education with a focus on cultural competency and implicit bias training, collaboration with interfraternal partners, diverse identity and first-generation scholarships, and enhanced communication strategies featuring members of color.

We are grateful for the interest, efforts, and insights of all those on the Diversity Working Group. Though these actions represent significant progress, we look forward to continuing our work together to create positive change and a culture of diversity and inclusion for every member of Phi Delta Theta.





# CHAPTER IN THE TIME

## SCHOOLS, MEMBERS, AND VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO A RAPIDLY CHANGING PANDEMIC UPHEAVAL

**M**oving the entire college experience to the virtual world happened in an instant.

Departure from campus last spring for undergraduate Phi varied based on whether they lived in university housing, private housing, or house corporation-owned facilities. Universities mandated the swiftest departures, with off-campus housing and house corporation-owned facilities less impacted by the need to vacate quickly.

Though most students left campus as school administration's required, there were groups with a few students who stayed in their houses and apartments and finished their school terms.

Chapters (and volunteers), by necessity, have become proficient in a variety of technology platforms and are now working hard to remain engaged because of the physical distance required.

The more formal chapter operations like chapter and executive committee meetings, officer elections, and planning moved to video conferencing tools like Zoom, Google Meet, Discord, WebEx, and Facetime.

For general conversations, Slack, GroupMe, text messages, phone calls, and social media are the tools keeping them connected. And to maintain a vibrant presence in their communities and to enhance recruitment efforts most are expanding their Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and website presence to attract potential new members in preparation for fall return.

Chapter presidents report that their executive officers and volunteers are reaching out to brothers individually to keep their connections alive and strong.

# OPERATIONS OF COVID-19

## RECOGNITION OF CHAPTER ADVISORY BOARD AND HOUSE CORPORATION LEADERS

Brother Mike Wahba, *La Verne '14*, chapter advisory board chairman at Kentucky Kappa Emerging Chapter at Northern Kentucky helped this group navigate its very first meeting after becoming members, which was held via Zoom.

Morley Spratt, *Manitoba '08*, regularly advises the chapter in the changing landscape of COVID-19 rules and guidelines.

USC brothers shared that their chapter advisory board and house corporation supported brothers who remained at the chapter house and helped them modify kitchen operations and manage staff to ensure safe food operations. Chapter Advisory Board Chairmen Stacy Sacky, *Texas A&M '88*, at Texas A&M and Dalen Farmer, *Tennessee Tech '84*, at Middle Tennessee State, check in with the leaders regularly.

Auburn's Phi alumni help keep things on track, especially ongoing house repairs. Chapter Advisory Board Chairmen Ray Briscuso, '81, and Jimmy Webb, '78, and House Corporation President Malcolm Marsh, '78, received special recognition.

The Tennessee Gamma Chapter Advisory Board Chairman Chad Rodgers, '03, has been absolutely essential, working with the housing corporation to work out refunds, ensuring the safe removal of residents and property from the chapter house, and has provided ready updates from IFC and General Headquarters.

Special thanks to Georgia Alpha house corporation who safely helped move everyone out of the house and provided the proper PPE.

Thanks to volunteers at Iowa State for steady support. Chapter Advisory Board Chairman

Steve Good's, '04, calm facilitation helped them navigate challenges and find great solutions. House Corporation President Scot Alexander, '84, and House Corporation Treasurer Toby Geiger, '95, are working with officers to determine reasonable steps forward.

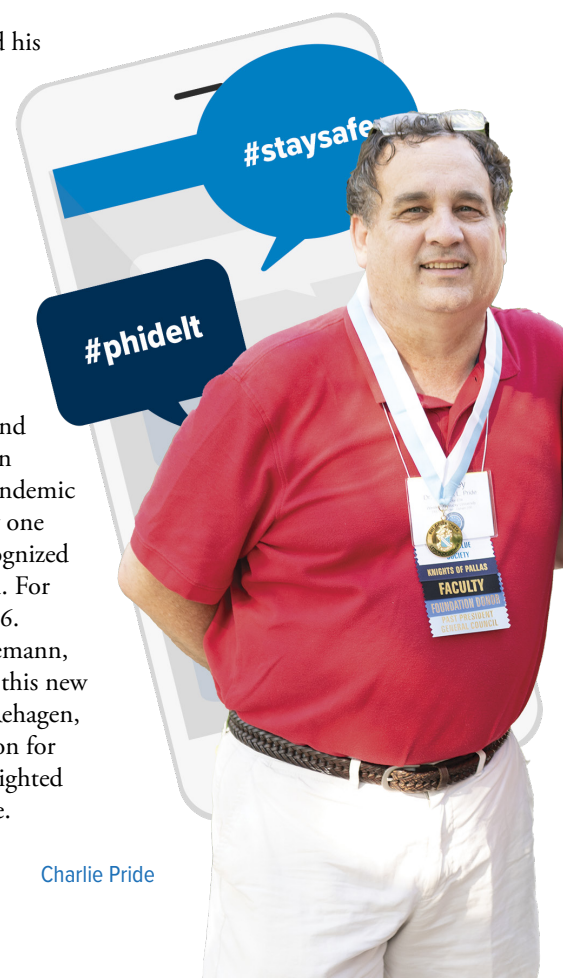
Jim Dyer, *Wabash '83*, recently recognized by Wabash College with their Frank W. Misch Alumni Distinguished Service Award, keeps the officers on the same page and often joins its virtual executive board meetings.

Past President General Council and his home chapter's House Corporation Treasurer Charley Pride, '87, is recognized for his unwavering support and engagement. He texts Western Kentucky undergraduate Phis to check in on how they are and that they are safe. He checks on the house daily and regularly asks where he can help.

## AWARDS AND ALUMNI

The Phi Delta Theta awards process and submission deadlines occurred right in the middle of the spring semester's pandemic shift. GHQ extended the deadline by one week, and the following chapters recognized extraordinary work by their chairmen. For a list of the award winners, see page 26.

Washington Alpha credits Will Ojemann, '21, with getting his job done even in this new landscape. Mizzou Phi Christopher Rehagen, '20, worked hard to gather information for the awards packet that carefully highlighted the chapter's successes by the deadline.



Charlie Pride



Missouri Beta Chapter President Benjamin Morrow, '21, at Westminster says that, "Missouri Beta alumni are the best! They share up-to-date information from GHQ, helped with move-out, the awards process, and regularly check in with officers."

The coronavirus epidemic is the most challenging situation faced by most Greek organizations in recent memory. It has required us to put new member education on hold, cancel events, and adjust to a new style of communication. Even though this pandemic has forced us to postpone our 140th anniversary, cancel philanthropy and community service events, and adapt to a new style of learning, Missouri Beta conducted effective virtual chapter meetings, organized the safe removal of personal items from the chapter house, elected new position chairs, maintained the sacred brotherhood by connecting everyone online.

Switching gears in the middle of the semester from businesses as usual to a new way for the rest of the semester was an intimidating task, but Missouri Beta and our dedicated alumni have helped us handle this situation well and we are thriving."

## STAYING NIMBLE

Most chapters indicated there have been lessons learned during this enormous interruption which are making the chapters better.

The hard work by one of the Fraternity's newest emerging chapters, Kentucky Kappa Vice President Alex Smithson, '22, and Philanthropy Chairman Austin Montanez, '23, who worked together with Delta Gamma sorority on a food and supplies drive for Northern Kentucky's Brighton Center, has been challenging, but they accomplished a successful community service project for the new emerging chapter and their community.

“The coronavirus epidemic is the most challenging situation faced by most Greek organizations in recent memory. It has required us to put new member education on hold, cancel events, and adjust to a new style of communication.”

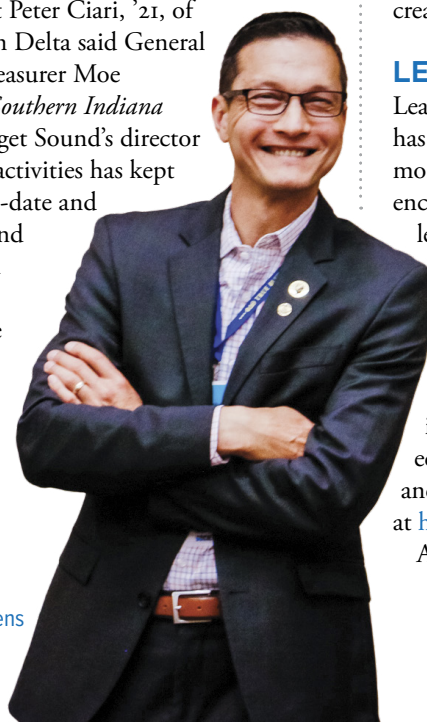
—Benjamin Morrow, Missouri Beta

Jonathan Vuillier, '21, of Maryland Delta at Johns Hopkins said that Zoom meetings allowed the brotherhood to have its annual paper plates award ceremony. They completed elections using contingency strategies to help the next executive board take over.

At Pennsylvania Sigma, scholarship chairman Eric Evangelista, '21, demonstrated outstanding leadership and brotherhood engagement. In their business chat channel, he asked EVERY member who signed *The Bond* of Pennsylvania Sigma to share the reason they joined our chapter. "With some hard work and reminders, the chapter heard back from EVERY member. The results had an outstanding impact and we're proud of Eric's accomplishment."

President Peter Ciari, '21, of Washington Delta said General Council Treasurer Moe Stephens, *Southern Indiana* '99, and Puget Sound's director of student activities has kept them up-to-date and informed and encouraged the chapter to continue chapter meetings virtually. It has been key to member retention.

Moe Stephens



At Ontario Alpha, Shahbaz Khan, '20, and the emerging chapter created a shelter space in the house library, for brothers facing housing insecurity, to come and live in temporarily. Recruitment Chairman Shahryar Khan, '20, continues to reach out to freshmen brothers to check in and offer support during this pandemic.

Paul Vernick, '21, of District of Columbia Alpha thanked Vice President Luke Stauffer, '21, who checked with members that the move to online classes worked well.

Seth Currie, '21, from Georgia Alpha Chapter has moved recruitment to digital format until the university announces its plans, building a list of recent high school graduates and get their information so we can reach out.

Iowa Gamma Chapter President Benjamin Zellmer, '23, says many leaders have made the transition from campus and planning for fall better. House Mother Mary Jo McCully remains at the house and is working hard to prepare our facility now and in the fall. Finally chapter Treasurer Jensen Petros, '22, is ensuring sound financial status by his great work analyzing finances and creating a fair and logical refund policy.

## LEADERSHIP CONSULTANTS

Leadership Consultant Cody Flynn has been instrumental in keeping morale up with trainings, words of encouragement, and being someone to lean into whenever necessary for the Kentucky Kappa Emerging Chapter.

Zack Koeller was mentioned by Phi Delt chapters at UConn, Nova Southeastern, and Johns Hopkins for his regular and instructive communications, Phikeia education suggestions, and creating and sharing the FAQs resource found at <https://phide.lt/2UitQmJ>.

At Middle Tennessee State, Nick



Tori Strobel and Katelin Brendel

“We are seeing a new purpose for chapter meetings and a new way to conduct the business of our chapters. We believe that if we can show new members these benefits, they will continue to see the value in fraternity and sorority life.”

—Katelin Brendel, University of Akron's Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life

Hartney encouraged chapter leaders to strive for excellence by completing Chapter Greatness reports.

## STUDENT AFFAIRS AND FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE ADVISERS WORKED OVERTIME

Missouri Western State Vice President for Student Affairs Shana Meyer is working overtime to make sure the chapter succeeds and remains healthy during this difficult time. Photo of group

MIT Greek Life Advisor Liz Jason provided “fantastic support and has answered our questions quickly. She is very proactive and reaches out to check on me and the chapter,” says Massachusetts Gamma President Christopher Womack.

Raymond Englert of the Pennsylvania Delta Chapter at Allegheny thanks Student Life Coordinator Casey Cole, who, in the early stages of the pandemic, helped us secure stable housing for the chapter in the fall and shared helpful resources aimed at helping with

recruitment and brotherhood morale.

Standout VIPs who have helped Ohio Epsilon at Akron are Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Katelin Brendel and Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life Tori Strobel. They continue to help the chapter function to the best of its abilities. They regularly send resources to help navigate this new environment.

Katelin shared, “The pandemic is providing our fraternity and sorority chapters with a unique opportunity to focus on their purpose and their organization’s values. With restrictions on in-person gatherings, we see the focus shifting to education and ritual, brotherhood, personal well-being, and opportunities to connect in a more meaningful way. We are seeing a new purpose for chapter meetings and a new way to conduct the business of our chapters. We believe that if we can show new members these benefits, they will continue to see the value in fraternity and sorority life. We hope that on the other side of this, our chapters will emerge with a stronger brotherhood/sisterhood, a reinvigorated purpose, and better picture of what makes this fraternity/sorority experience so meaningful.”

Mitch Elbert

## SENIOR SPEECHES: A NEBRASKA GAMMA TRADITION

It is tradition that every spring semester each senior gets about fifteen minutes to share some

thoughts during each chapter meeting, which often includes: advice

for the younger guys, reflections on any impactful moments as a Phi at Creighton, a funny story or some pictures, with time for the senior to answer questions.

These speeches are a favorite tradition as the senior members share how they’ve been challenged, how they’ve grown as a Phi, and how that Cardinal Principles correlate to being a good man who gets the maximum impact of his college experience.

According to VP Mitch Elbert, ’21, “when we learned that we would not be meeting for the second half of the spring semester, it became our goal to make sure seniors still had a chance at their senior speeches. We asked seniors to choose their platform for delivery (YouTube, PowerPoint, screen captured videos), enabling recording to be played during virtual chapter meetings through the rest of the semester.”

To accommodate the question and answer segment, Mitch sent weekly emails to brothers via Google forms in which members could write questions to that week’s speakers. Seniors saw the questions ahead and were prepared to answer them after their speech.

It proved difficult to us Zoom meetings and the recordings simultaneously on a single computer. One of the seniors recommended that they create an Instagram account strictly for senior speeches. Most seniors recorded the speech, played it during the meeting, then used Instagram Live for the Q&A, which was a big hit.

The seniors all were very creative and made it as great as possible. Not what we originally planned, but we made it work and honored our outgoing senior class too.





# COLORADO ALPHA'S MAKE READY PLAN

One chapter's approach to implementing safety measures in a house with full occupancy

**C**olorado Alpha's story represents patience and preparation. Three years ago, upon their reinstallation, they were faced with chapter operations without the benefit of the house corporation-owned facility. Since the chapter's closure in 2002, Sigma Pi held a long-term lease on the building. That is, until fall 2020.

When the University of Colorado Boulder campus closed abruptly in the spring due to COVID-19 evacuation mandates, the building was now unoccupied. Taking advantage of the situation, the house corporation set about with a significant remodeling project to prepare for an August return of Phi Delta Theta members to the chapter house for the first time since 2002. As with all fraternity housing around the country, moving in to them and all other house corporation or locally-rented facilities, will be according to COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Mark Ward, house corporation vice president and secretary, and President Bill Mark are busy preparing the house for fall move-in.

For the years that they

leased the house to outside tenants, rent proceeds were invested wisely. There is no debt or mortgage. The 24,000 square foot, four-level facility is valued at \$5 million.

In August, thirty-two Phis will move in, as will the chapter's live in leadership adviser, Kole Shugars, *Colorado '20*. The facility is COVID-19 ready with twenty-eight single rooms, two double rooms, and multi-floor layout allows for the social distancing recommendations.

According to Brother Mark, "Colorado Alpha is in a better position than any other Greek group on campus to deal with the COVID-19 guidelines."

In a strategic and generous move, the house corporation will be subsidizing rents for Phis moving in this fall. Normal rent for off campus rents averages \$1,500/month. The house corporation rental for double occupancy is \$800/month (utilities included), \$1,000/month for single occupancy through

the 2020–21 school year. This is significantly less than the off campus average rental rate per month.

Bill Mark said that "living in the house is an honor. We want to provide the best quality housing for the cheapest rate in Boulder." To build this sense of pride and privilege to get to live in the updated chapter house, the Phis with the highest points as awarded by the chapter had first rights to live in the house. "We want our members to take pride in the house and benefit by being in the house."

We know that being able to offer the nicest, and most affordable housing is a strong recruitment tool, too. We want our guys to recruit QUALITY new members, rather than quantity."

Other initiatives by Colorado Alpha includes an annual scholarship managed by the Phi Delta Theta Foundation, that is awarded to any legacy's family member, male or female. Secondly, there are four annually awarded (and renewable) scholarships provided by Colorado Alpha available to CU Boulder's business school's majors, open to any student. And lastly, there is a Phi-sponsored scholarship in the athletics department, given to scholar athletes in the name of the Fraternity.

This generosity is meaningful public relations of Phi Delta Theta among the greater CU Boulder community. Bill Mark and his fellow alumni have done a stellar job, investing rent proceeds since the 2002 suspension, so that scholarships, renovations, and current rent subsidies can be offered.

Colorado Alpha's Refounding Fathers are now seniors. They are proud to be part of this new era for the chapter.

Chapter President Cole Jordan, '21, reported that "The Exec Team is meeting regularly, working their chapter strategic plan, dealing with all the regular



## GENERAL HEADQUARTER'S GUIDE TO KEEPING PHI DELTA THETA'S CHAPTER HOUSES SAFE

**T**o ensure that Phi Delta Theta facilities are safe for the fall return to campus, there will be some changes to how our houses operate. Although each unique house corporation-owned-chapter facility must primarily follow its own locale's specific guidelines, the following general guidelines are recommended:



**Supplies:** With such great demand on hand sanitizer, cleaning products and disposable paper products, it is recommended to procure a three-month supply for the fall semester. If you cannot find supplies, work with your institution's facilities department, kitchen service provider, or cleaning company to see if they would allow you to order through their supplier.



**Cleaning Protocol:** Regular sanitation is key to prevention of spread of viruses. Sanitation and disinfection of high touch areas are paramount to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If the house corporation does not employ a professional cleaning vendor, it is recommended that you get bids; keeping common areas sanitized is key to prevent virus spread. If you already employ a cleaning vendor, ensure that their services are compliant with CDC cleaning regulations.



**Facility Modifications:** Ensure social distancing. Arrange furniture to ensure social distancing best practices. You may have to temporarily remove some furniture to eliminate the possibility of close contact. In bedrooms, have the residents sleep head to toe\* to achieve the six-foot distance from their face and mouth.



**Move-In Protocol:** Lengthen move-in time. The typical move-in occurs over one or two days; but new safety recommendations suggest you allow more days for residents to move in to reduce traffic in common areas.

Tip: If you have multiple occupancy rooms, alternate days roommates move in.

\*Head to toe implies that in a two-man room, each person's head is opposite the other.

chapter operations, in addition to the COVID-19 changes.”

The chapter established a Rapid Response task force, made up of both officers and general members, to deal specifically with the rapidly changing health and safety requirements handed down by university and county officials. Member Michael Carr, '21, is a human resources internship for Brennan Industries where he helped monitor and revise the company's internal response to the virus, using weekly video chats with all the vice presidents and the CEO to discuss virus-related areas of concern for the company and their action plan for the upcoming week to make recommended changes at all their locations across North America and the United Kingdom. The Colorado Alpha team will be busy ensuring the health and safety of its members.

Come fall, the awaiting chapter house at 1111 College Avenue will be home to thirty-two of the chapter's seventy-six members in this new world of COVID-19.



“During my internship experience, I learned that when dealing with a crisis within an organization, whether caused externally or internally, it is not only important to look at the crisis itself, but also the people involved in it. Everyone responds to difficult situations differently.”

—Michael Carr

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In 1917, the Fraternity had to make many similar decisions as they have done in 2020 in order to keep the organization strong. Even before the Spanish Flu swept the nation in 1918, men were going to Europe to fight in the war so the Fraternity had to adapt to low membership numbers. Read the editorial from the September 1917 edition here <https://phide.lt/3fzyVPO>



House Corporation President Bill Mark and with Vice President and Secretary Mark Ward





Kinder Rocket  
Be Safe Be Y



AM  
AM  
DO MY





# PHIS STEP UP



## WALTER LAMKIN

**Walter**, *Colorado State '72*, a recovered COVID-19 patient, was quick to donate convalescent plasma when he received a call from Mercy Hospital.

Lamkin said he started having symptoms while in Vail, Colorado, in late February. His case was mild, and he started feeling better after only a few days of flu-like symptoms.

Giving back seemed to Lamkin what “ought to be done.”

## BRAD LITTLE

State of Idaho **Governor Little**, *Idaho '76*, initially watched what other states were doing for stay-at-home orders. In late March Governor Little issued a statewide stay home order closing all non-essential businesses and mandating CDC safety guidelines. Through April and May, regular press conferences presented changing plans, new information, and reports of cases.

Starting in May, Governor Little announced a four-phase program to reopen the state's businesses and travel guidelines. Each phase progressively loosened requirements on essential businesses, travel restrictions, and social safety standards such as social distancing, enhanced sanitation, required masks/PPE for industries

with heavy human interaction, and increased planning for changes.

Overall, citizen reactions to the plan have been predominately positive with some pushback when the initial order was extended.

In late June, many governors were seeing resurgence of cases. When asked what actions he may take if it worsens, he said, “It’s all relative to the magnitude of the spike.”

Little moved to a more decentralized approach moving forward.

## GRADY CRUZE

**Grady**, *George Washington '21*, is working for American Medical Response (AMR) on a special COVID-19 transportation detail in the nation's capital, providing medical care and transport to area patients presenting with symptoms of COVID-19.

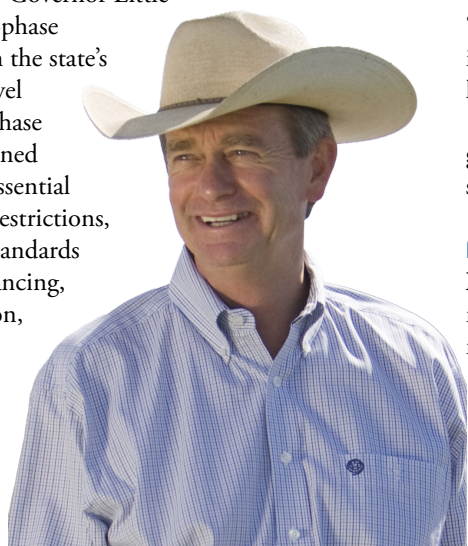
## VICTOR E. GEORGE IV

**Victor**, *Kettering '13*, reports their chapter “raised over \$5,000 for Beaumont Health Heroes in Royal Oak! Thank you to everyone who is helping make a difference in our local area.”

For one meal, several restaurants teamed up and gave a GIANT delicious feast of mac and cheese, salad, and cookies to healthcare workers.

## MICHAEL CARRIER

**Michael**, *McMaster '14*, started a student-run mask startup, GiveAMask, selling reusable cloth masks for \$10, and with every purchase will donate





one to people in need throughout Ontario.

The project started when Carrier and classmate and his apparel company, Charitees, started reaching out to community partners that serve vulnerable populations.

They partner with the Daily Bread Food Bank in Toronto, and other community partners, distributing free masks to support non-medical workers, homeless shelters and other vulnerable populations.

## JOSH YORK

**Josh**, *Michigan State '16*, is CEO of York Project, a clothing line he founded in 2012 at age nineteen.

The line was founded with a mission of serving the homeless using a one-for-one model: for every item purchased, another is donated to someone in need. The social enterprise, which sells trendy t-shirts, hoodies, and hats, has donated over \$91,000 to homeless shelters in Detroit.

York Project manufactures in Detroit with American-sourced materials. They are building their capabilities to manufacture all their garments locally by 2021.

With the onset of COVID-19, York adapted standard operations from clothing to various protective garments in the fight against the novel coronavirus. To date, York Project has produced over 26,000 masks for hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and local businesses; over 5,000 gowns for Michigan hospitals; and, donated more than \$104,000 to homeless shelters in Detroit.

## MARK RIETH

**Mark**, *Michigan State '89*, owner of Atwater Brewery shifted his business operations from spirits to hand sanitizer to aid critical areas across the country during the height of COVID-19.

"Within forty-eight hours after hearing the president's emergency declaration, we found a way to start producing and sourcing



Photo by Derrick Martinez  
from SEEN Magazine



gallons and four-ounce bottles of hand sanitizer," Rieth said. "We heard the demand for hospitals, police and fire department first responders and really wanted to jump on it."

The sanitizer being produced by was primarily used in Detroit, Michigan, an early hot spot for the spread of the novel coronavirus. It blossomed to beyond the local area, some to California and some to Atlanta.

In addition to donating gallons of hand sanitizer to hospitals and first responders, Rieth says smaller bottles of hand sanitizer are being sold to the public, alongside Atwater's standard packaged beer and spirits.

In addition to pivoting Atwater's operations, Rieth with Meijer, a fellow Michigan company and Atwater's largest customer, hosted a two-day job fair at his downtown location.

"Meijer was able to hire a couple hundred people displaced from Atwater's operations as a temporary measure until we're back up and running."

*Excerpts reprinted with permission from Michigan State University Broad School of Business, written by Chelsea Stein*

## MIKE MAHER

**Mike**, *Missouri '20*, has been working as a nursing technician since January. His work is mainly in orthopedics but has been able to work in the emergency room, surgical specialties, and cardiology. His tasks include taking vital signs post-surgery, performing EKGs, maintaining patient comfort and hygiene, and assisting nurses in many patient tasks. The biggest impact COVID-19 was the impact that families were not able to visit their loved ones in the hospital due to the no visitor policy, which was emotionally difficult. Mike tried to be a source of reassurance for many patients who had to cope without their loved ones.

"Phi Delta Theta teaches you from the very start to become the greatest version of yourself, and that one man is no man. In healthcare, you are not working alone; you work with a team to achieve the best results for every patient, where recovery is the result of a team effort. My chapter class at Mizzou is the result of the team effort to re-found the Missouri Alpha Chapter that is now top in grades and one of the largest chapters on campus."



☞ Phi Delta Theta teaches you from the very start to become the greatest version of yourself, and that one man is no man. In healthcare, you are not working alone; you work with a team to achieve the best results for every patient, where recovery is the result of a team effort. My chapter class at Mizzou is the result of the team effort to re-found the Missouri Alpha Chapter that is now top in grades and one of the largest chapters on campus. ☞ —Mike Maher

### DR. JAMES PHILLIPS

**Dr. Phillips**, *Oklahoma State '00*, a board-certified emergency medicine physician currently serving as an assistant professor of emergency medicine at George Washington University Hospital and the section chief of emergency preparedness/co-director of the disaster medicine scholarly concentration.

He published an opinion piece on CNN titled: "I'm an emergency doctor. I expect to get coronavirus." It can be found at this link: <https://phide.lt/31cwk5>

### BEN COGSWELL

**Ben**, *Pacific '04*, is a kindergarten teacher (Mr. C.) in Salinas, California prides himself on his tech-savvy kindergarten classroom. He records videos of himself reading beloved children's books and reviewing words via flashcards. Many of his students speak Spanish at home, and he hopes to strengthen their English skills outside school hours.

The Kinder Rockets kindergarten class is powered by Mr. C and his family. When COVID-19 hit, Mr. C. and his family, created a Facebook page to provide content to Mr. C's (aka dad's) students in Salinas, but also for students everywhere. Throughout the COVID-19 shutdown, the family has

produced hundreds of videos with hours of content available to people for FREE via Facebook and YouTube!

As seen in the *New York Times*:

<https://phide.lt/2EN2wrz>

### BILL STOCKWELL

**Bill**, *Pitt '76*, shares "My little company, Stockwell Elastomerics, Inc. is supplying the manifold gaskets on three different ventilator production builds. My team is working long hours with a limited staff."

### TRAVIS TAYLOR

In the pandemic's early stages, Southwestern student and Texas Gamma Chapter President **Travis Taylor**, '21, took a job on an oil rig in Houma, Louisiana providing sanitation cleaning helping fill the gap by the many workers who are out with COVID-19. Travis emphasized the importance of maintaining oil supply to the economy and said, "it was a great experience to turn something bad into something positive."





# RECTITUDE

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



Photo courtesy of Vitalant.

## ANSWERING THE CALL

# Clemson Phi, Arizona's First Convalescent Plasma Donor

Doing what ought to be done during a global pandemic

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**V**italant launched a program to treat COVID-19 patients with blood plasma donated by people who have recovered from the disease. Known as “convalescent plasma,” this blood component contains antibodies that may give patients an extra boost to fight their illness. Vitalant, Arizona’s largest non-profit community blood provider collected its first “convalescent plasma” donation from a recovered COVID-19 patient at its Scottsdale Donor Center on April 15.

Arizona’s first donor, twenty-one-year-old Jack Schmittlein, *Clemson '21*, believes he contracted COVID-19 while on a university study-abroad program in Barcelona, Spain.

After the presidential European travel ban was announced, Schmittlein cut his studies short and returned home to Scottsdale on March 12. While he had a minor head cold and a dry cough a few days prior to the trip home, he did not attribute his symptoms to COVID-19 at the time. As a precaution, he self-quarantined for fourteen days and then got tested when he learned his Barcelona roommate was positive for COVID-19. After Schmittlein’s diagnosis was confirmed on March 18, his only symptoms were tightness of the chest and loss of taste. On April 2, Schmittlein tested negative for COVID-19.

Jack enthusiastically registered for the Convalescent Plasma program after being encouraged by his doctors at the Mayo Clinic. Schmittlein was happy to be Arizona’s first convalescent plasma donor. “I am just grateful that I can turn around and help other people,” he reflected. “If I can make a difference for just one patient, that is a great thing to do!”

Currently, there are no vaccines or proven treatments for COVID-19. The Food and Drug

“I am just grateful that I can turn around and help other people. If I can make a difference for just one patient, that is a great thing to do!”

Administration (FDA) has identified and approved convalescent plasma treatment as an “emergency investigational new drug.” It is currently the only antibody treatment available to COVID-19 patients and, as such, is a promising new tool.

This form of investigational treatment may give the body more fight against COVID-19 by using antibodies that are active against the disease. With the help of our local communities, hospital partners and extensive research experience, Vitalant is gearing up to help patients fight this novel infectious disease with the help of willing recovered COVID-19 patients.

Eligibility criteria for convalescent plasma donors are:

- Prior diagnosis of COVID-19, documented by a laboratory test
- Complete resolution of symptoms for at least fourteen days
- Meet all other current FDA donor eligibility requirements to donate plasma

Vitalant encourages those who are eligible to go through the process to help make a difference.

**vitalant**





# IRON PHI

## Transformation of mind, body, and spirit

The true spirit of brotherhood leads to crossing the finish line

BY: STEVE GOOD

**I**n early 2020, there were many Iron Phis preparing for their athletic fundraising events to fight ALS. All events were cancelled because of COVID-19 and they had to adapt their challenge to accommodate the new requirements. Isaac Wilson and Noah Bradley tell their story about their journey to becoming an Iron Phi and how that impacted their lives.

### ISAAC WILSON

I had the pleasure of speaking with Kevin Pouch Monday evening after our annual Thanksgiving dinner with Delta Gamma. I ran (no pun intended) an idea I had by him about a potential Iron Phi event that I wanted to challenge both myself and my chapter with. Attached you will find a picture of me during my freshman year of college.

When I started out college, I was overweight and just overall living an unhealthy lifestyle. I credit my brothers in Phi Delta for helping me achieve a healthy lifestyle by challenging me to truly be the greatest version of myself, and in between my freshman and sophomore year of college, I was able to lose seventy pounds.



I attended the 2017 Kleberg Emerging Leaders Institute and while there, I decided to run in the Iron Phi 5K. Up until this point, I had never been a big fan of running, but getting to run around the campus of Miami University, the birthplace of Phi Delta Theta, with hundreds of my brothers from all across North America was a truly magical experience. That race sparked my love for running.

To bring you a little bit more up to speed with where I am at now with running, last year two Kansas Delta brothers and I ran in the Kansas City Marathon to raise money for Heather's Camp. Attached is a picture of us after we completed the race! Heather's Camp is a three-day long camp for visually impaired children, where they get to participate in fun outdoor games and activities that are normally limited to children with complete eyesight, like kayaking, horseback riding, and even hatchet throwing! After volunteering last summer, we knew we had to do more to make this camp available to more children from lower income families. Through the Kansas City Marathon, we were able

to raise nearly \$5,000 and send nine kids to Heather's Camp!

Since the Kansas City Marathon, I continue to train. Last Sunday morning, I ran in the Tulsa Oklahoma



marathon, beating my previous marathon time by over thirty minutes, and breaking the four-hour barrier, running the race in three hours and fifty minutes. Compared to some highly competitive runners, this may not seem like much, but considering the journey, I was very pleased with the results!

This brings me to my main and final point, and something I have been pondering for quite some time now. I am always looking for the next way to challenge myself, whether in my personal, profession, or even academic career. The overall drive and passion to push myself in everything I do has found its way into my love for running. Next spring, I am going to run the Moab 50-mile Ultra Marathon, and I am going to do it to raise money for ALS. I want to contribute to my chapter, community, and Phi Delt as a whole.

Competing in an intense endurance event like this will be a great way to bond the chapter together and give them something to rally behind.

If you would like to help Isaac, go to his Iron Phi page: <https://phide.lt/SupportIsaac>

Isaac Wilson is a senior at Wichita State University

### NOAH BRADY

My initial Iron Phi event was supposed to be a May 3 Lincoln (Nebraska) Marathon. The cancellation of the marathon was added to the growing pile of things in my life canceled because of COVID-related concerns. First, it was my last semester of college, then my graduation, and now my

Iron Phi event. I lost a lot of my motivation to train and fundraise and began to doubt whether I could complete the event.

This challenge was going to be a tribute to my grandpa who we lost to ALS when I was two. Stories about my grandpa showed me he made the best out of whatever circumstances he was dealt. At fifteen, he lost his hand in a gun-cleaning accident. However, he never let that limit him. Even after the accident, he was the family handyman, drove a stick-shift, fixed up my mom's first car, and even built a canoe that the family would take out when it rained enough to flood the streets.

My mom, aunt, and grandma always say that he could do more with one hand than most men could do with two. I decided that if this event was dedicated to my grandpa, then I should go about it with the same unwavering spirit as him. I recommitted to the challenge and started planning out my own self-created marathon.

Around this time, Cam Nielsen, already an Iron Phi and the brother who encouraged me to become an Iron Phi, asked how he could help me carry out my run. Together we planned a new 26.2-mile route. Through the whole run, he biked behind me offering water and snacks as needed.

We were able to be more creative than if I had run the original race. I started on a biking trail in western Iowa, ran west across a pedestrian bridge into Omaha, and then finished the run right in front of my freshman year dorm on Creighton's campus.

We completed the route the



Monday after our last finals week, so it felt symbolic to end my college experience at the same place it started.

Although not as originally planned, I know that I got more out of it this way. And it wouldn't have been possible without Cam's help. It was a great way to bond and I know that whenever I look back on my Iron Phi experience, it will not only remind me of my grandpa's "never-fold" spirit, but also the awesome support of my Phi Delta Theta brotherhood."

Noah will be attending dental school at Harvard School of Dental Medicine in Boston

### 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](https://ironphi.org).





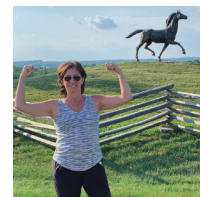
# The Iron Horse Cross-Country Relay

COVID-19 halts group races but sparks a virtual relay spanning 4,044 miles over eighty-one days

**J**uly 4, 2020 marked the eighty-first anniversary of Lou Gehrig's famous Luckiest Man speech when he announced his retirement from baseball due to the 100 percent fatal condition of ALS. Each year, this date reminds us continue our work to find a treatment or a cure for the disease that was eventually named for Lou Gehrig.

To honor Lou Gehrig and to continue the fight against ALS, Iron Phi introduced the Iron Horse Cross-Country Relay, a virtual relay taking place from July 4–September 22, 2020 (eighty-one days). Inspired by the men of Washington Epsilon at Eastern Washington, the 4,044-mile route is passing many landmarks that are important to the life of Lou Gehrig. Participants will complete one or more four-mile legs of the route during the relay, through means of walking, running, biking, swimming or any other activity that participants consider athletic.

The 4,044-mile route began on July 4, 2020 at Yankee Stadium in Bronx, New York and is heading west until the collective mileage reaches the Iron Horse Statues in Vantage, Washington on September 22, 2020. The route was developed to connect many landmarks important to the life of Lou Gehrig. Participants are completing their mileage from anywhere in the world. Learn more and participate at <https://phide.lt/ironhorsereley>.





# LIVELIKELOU

## STEPPING UP IN A TIME OF CRISIS

### Phi Delt's Support ALS Families Across North America

Fifty-seven families served to date

BY SUZANNE ALEXANDER

**W**hen a person is diagnosed with ALS, household chores like leaf collection, gutter cleanup, weed pulling, window washing, and garage clean-out simply go undone. The disease is relentless, and it steers a family's energy, attention, and finances away from everyday tasks that might normally make a house feel like a home. The chore list grows and becomes one more mounting loss that can overwhelm a family living with the difficulty of a crippling disease.

Enter the men of Phi Delta Theta.

Just in time for spring and summer breaks and especially because of the COVID-19 events, undergraduate and alumni brothers have answered the call to volunteer for The Great LiveLikeLou Outdoor Clean-Up, providing occasional, outdoor, and socially-distanced arms-and-legs support for registered ALS families.

Within a month more than eighty ALS families registered for support and were placed on a map of requests shared with Phi Delt's across North America. In just a few weeks dozens of Phi Delt's signed up to help.

US Army Major Chris Loschiavo, *Mississippi Beta '05*, and his son, Gehrig, volunteered for a family living near his home in Washington last month.

"We spent about four hours at the family's house, doing yard work and outdoor clean-up," he reported. "Thank you so much for making us aware of this family and giving us the opportunity to help them."

"Everybody wins with this program," says LiveLikeLou Foundation Trustee Andy Miller, *Southwestern '93*. "The families receive support in a safe and healthy manner, and the Phi Delt volunteers build a relationship with some pretty special people. They will remember volunteering for ALS for the rest of their lives."

"It was a great way to get brothers and Phikeias together to spend time with each other. Most people agreed it was the most enjoyable way to get service hours," said Jack Willm, *Purdue '22*, who led a team of undergraduates to support the Drew family in Indiana last year.

"The family was always grateful for the work we did. They would write letters to us and made us a ton of cookies during finals week. It was awesome to see the bond developed between the family and the brothers," he said.



Chris and Gehrig Loschiavo did yard work for the Chandanais family in Eatonville, Washington



Phi Delt leadership consultants served the Bausch Family in Cincinnati. **FRONT:** left to right, Brett Klein, Jimmy Pietras Corbin Lovelady. **BACK:** left to right, Zack Koeller, Greg Rush

“Thank you so much for making us aware of this family and giving us the opportunity to help them.” —Maj. Chris Loschiavo

Suzanne is the director of the LiveLikeLou Foundation





“The great young men of Phi Delta Theta have been so kind,” writes ALS patient Christian James, whose family has been served by undergraduates from Ohio Theta at the University of Cincinnati this spring.

Even during the quarantine, the brothers have stayed in contact, checking in to see how we are doing, and offering to go to the grocery store for us.”



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](mailto:salexander@livelikelou.org) or visit <https://phide.lt/ALSfamilies>.

**TOP LEFT:** Province President Todd Nisbet and LiveLikeLou Foundation Chairman W.L. Gray led fifteen volunteers from the Tennessee Eta South Province to serve the Campa Family of Nashville, Tennessee. **TO RIGHT:** Washington Delta served the Selle Family in Burien, Washington. General Council Treasurer Moe Stephens (Indiana Lambda) led Puget Sound members Cooper Cochran, Marc Fohran, Silas Washington, Lucas Varela, Gerard Dezutti, and Robert Weaver. **MIDDLE LEFT:** ALS patient Christian James poses in his LiveLikeLou Awful Lot to Live 4 shirt with his family in Cincinnati, Ohio. **MIDDLE CENTER:** Florida Iota brothers Erving Rodriguez, Ethan Flori, and Jake Morran provided some much-needed yard cleanup for the Paul Caretta Family of Lakeland, Florida. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Craig P. Tatrow (Iowa Gamma) volunteered for the Artman Trevino Family in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. **BOTTOM LEFT:** University of Southern Indiana serving Shirley Wolfley (aunt of Bob Wolfley, Indiana Lambda) in honor of their brother Chad Smith who recently died. Brandon Harshman, Torrey Becker, Tim McGuire, Andrew McGuire, Nathan Steinacher, Kris Miller, and Ashley Rostanzo. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Nova Southeastern Varun Andrews and Chris Chookagian serving the Pierson Family in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.



## 2020 IRON HORSE SCHOLARSHIPS

# Four Students Awarded

The LiveLikeLou Foundation is proud to profile the 2020 recipients

**T**he Iron Horse Scholarship Committee, led by LiveLikeLou Treasurer and Phi Delt Greyson Geiler, *Nebraska*

'93, reviewed applications from across the country.

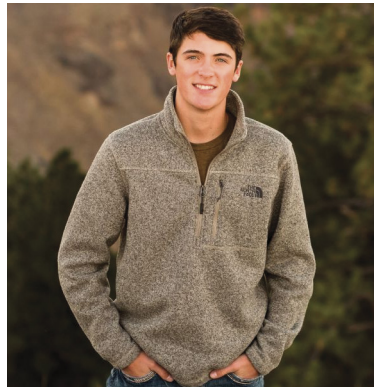
"It is very rewarding to offer support to these awesome kids," said Suzanne Alexander, director of LiveLikeLou. "These scholarships can actually change the lives of the families who receive the funds."

Applicants must submit two personal essays that reflect on their experience with ALS and their hopes for the future.

"Reading the applicant essays brings home the devastation of ALS to the review committee," Greyson said. "These kids live with caregiving responsibilities, grief, and financial burdens that can last decades; and every single applicant has come through their ALS experience with empathy, perseverance and wisdom that many people never attain."

Each scholarship provides up to \$2,130 and is renewable for up to eight semesters. The Foundation is actively raising funds for the awardees' remaining need and hopes to add even more recipients in the future.

LiveLikeLou Chairman W.L. Gray, *TCU '70*, said, "We want all recipients to understand that the legacy of the Iron Horse Lou Gehrig was strength, courage,



Kade Kilgore

and gratitude—the number 2,130 represents and celebrates Lou Gehrig's consecutive games-played record."

"We are really proud we can honor Brother Lou and help these families as well," said Greyson.

Congratulations to the Awardees of the 2020 Iron Horse Scholarship!

## KADE KILGORE

Kade earned an associate in auto mechanics from Lewis Clark State College this spring and intends to pursue a bachelor's in fire science. His dream is to own a mechanic shop and be a seasonal firefighter—a high demand skill in his home in eastern Oregon.

Kade worked hard through high school, volunteered for civic projects, and was the captain of his varsity basketball team. Kade's dad worked in law enforcement for many years. When he was diagnosed with ALS in 2018, it was a devastating moment for their



Samantha Newport

family. But, despite the hardships that come with the diagnosis, he always encouraged Kade to finish college and pursue a career he would enjoy, saying "if you love what you do, it won't be work."

Kade writes that his dad's expectations of him motivate him every day and he is determined to make his dad proud and pursue his dreams.

## SAMANTHA NEWPORT

Samantha is a rising junior at Concordia University in Irvine, California, seeking a bachelor's in graphic design. Throughout her high school experience, Samantha was involved in creative projects, writing and illustrating a children's book, publishing digital artwork and illustrating a chapter of a foreign-language book. Her most personal gifts are portraits of her family members that have passed.

Samantha's dad was diagnosed with ALS soon after she began her

“We are really proud we can honor Brother Lou and help these families as well.”  
Greyson Geiler





Cameron Toton

college career. She would spend her week on campus and commute home each weekend to help her mom and be with her family. Her dad died from his disease after a very short period. Although the financial blow to their family could easily have derailed her plans, her dad's hopes for Samantha were clear: that she should continue her education and pursue her dreams to be a professional artist one day.

#### CAMERON TOTON

Cameron will be a freshman at Michigan State this fall, studying psychology. At Troy High School, Cameron ran cross country and his hockey team won the district championships. His dream is to become a psychologist and help young people like himself as they face big challenges.

Cameron's dad also went to



Audrey Charlton

Michigan State. He must have been a very fine man, adopting his only son from Guatemala when Cameron was a baby. Cameron writes very poignantly about his dad's journey with ALS and the impact it had on him as a young man. Ultimately his dad passed away from ALS during his junior year of high school, leaving Cameron with lessons of compassion and determination to build a positive future.

Cameron's dad encouraged him to persevere through hard moments and left his son with these words, "Weather all the storms with courage and never give up."

#### AUDREY CHARLTON

Audrey grew up in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and will be a freshman at The University of Alabama this fall. Her father was diagnosed in 2010 and,

against all odds, he is alive and able to send his daughter off to college.

Audrey has the unique perspective of having two beloved adults in her life battle the disease of ALS—a dear family friend died from the condition three years ago. Together with her dad and their broad circle of family and friends, Audrey's community has advocated for the cause of ALS and raised funds for research in northern Ohio for years.

She writes that watching her mom be a full-time caregiver to her dad and helping her dad through the journey of ALS losses has taught her empathy, the importance of helping others and gratitude for the things she still has in life.

"ALS has taught me that I am very fortunate," Audrey says.

“My dad taught me to weather all the storms with courage and never give up.”

Cameron Toton

# TRUE BLUE

## REFLECTIONS OF A NEW TRUE BLUE MEMBER

### Recent Grad Aidan Collins' College Career Finished Differently Than Planned

Brother Collins shared how COVID-19 affected his final spring semester at Texas Upsilon

**M**y *final semester* of college started off in a promising way. I was taking my last undergraduate classes at the University of Texas at Dallas and commuting by rail to my internship at an accounting firm in downtown Dallas. Everything seemed normal, until it wasn't. When the COVID-19 cases started to climb in my area, I stopped taking the train as a precaution, but only a few days later, my firm shifted to completely online operations. At my university, we were encouraged not to return to campus after spring break. Classes would resume online.

The transition to an all online life was very unexpected and jarring. I went from working full-time in an office and taking classes in-person to just staying home all day. My roommates moved back in with their parents, but I stayed at my apartment. At first, I had a lot of difficulty with the "new normal." I really disliked the online classes and felt very lonely during the lockdown. Going from seeing my Phi Delt brothers and friends every day to seeing people from a computer screen made me feel disconnected and isolated. Fortunately, with the help of my brothers, we were able to plan fun events such as online brotherhood hangouts, game nights, and informal chapter meetings. It was a huge blessing, and it helped pull me out of a tough time. I completed my classes and internship and, although there was no ceremony, I celebrated my graduation with my family.

This fall I will return to UT Dallas to pursue a master's in accounting, whether online or in-person. Next summer, I will sit for the Texas CPA exam. I also hope to continue to serve my chapter, Texas Upsilon, as a member of the chapter advisory board or housing committee, where I can put the leadership skills I learned from Phi Delta Theta to use, as well as give back to the Fraternity and the people who helped me stay connected during this isolating time.



#### The True Blue Society's Newest Members

Cole Arnold, *TCU '23*  
 Joshua W. Buchanan, *Virginia Tech '20*  
 Judge D. Burroughs, *Emory '70*  
 Jeremiah Cribley, *St. John's '21*  
 Corey M. Carlson, *Allegheny '14*  
 Michaelpaul Cheromiah, *New Mexico '18*  
 Dominic J. Donofrio, *Akron '14*  
 Gregory Escamilla, *UCI '20*  
 Chad M. Hall, *Eastern Kentucky '07*  
 Joseph A. Holczinger Jr., *St. John's '20*  
 Garrick M. King, *Campbell '18*  
 Christopher M. Large, *Oregon Tech '10*  
 Michael Scott Layman, *Virginia Tech '90*  
 John S. Lidstrom, *Oregon State '09*  
 Keith T. Lopez, *Colorado State '07*  
 Gary A. Norcross, *Arkansas '87*  
 Mark Pfohl, *Texas at Austin '20*  
 Mark F. Rieth, *Michigan State '89*  
 Gregoire T. Rush, *UNC Charlotte '18*  
 Isaac I. Scott, *Colorado State '20*  
 Stephen G. Thompson, *Cincinnati '80*  
 Albert M. Vergara IV, *Fresno State '14*  
 Mason A. Whitis, *Ball State '18*  
 Aidan Collins, *UT Dallas '20*  
 Charles F. Scherer, *Tampa '02*  
 Benjamin S. Willstein, *UW-Madison '20*



# CHAPTER GRAND



Former Chapter Adviser, House Corporation President, Alumni Club Leader and Province President **George Rodney Bolin**, *UT Austin* '56, entered the Chapter Grand of Phi Delta Theta in May. George was a native Houstonian and licensed Texas real estate broker for sixty-one years. In his early twenties, his small

firm became the biggest real estate company in Houston, exclusively representing Trammell Crow and Gerald Hines.

In 1969 he put together and led the team of brokers and attorneys that secretly assembled thirty-three contiguous blocks in downtown Houston which now encompasses Houston Center, Discovery Green, Hilton Americas, and the George R. Brown Convention Center.

A lifelong recreational pilot and conservationist, crack shot and avid wade fisherman, rancher, he taught his four boys to hunt and fish, captain a boat, drive a jeep, and fly a plane. He was a friend to people of all beliefs, politicians of all parties, owners of businesses of all types, artists, astronauts, professional athletes, the builders, movers and shakers of Houston the city and Texas the state he loved. He had a different breakfast and lunch group for every day of the week, but his Saturday lunch was reserved for his family, so long as he could get back to his beloved UT Longhorn sports.

**Homer Gibbs**, *Vanderbilt* '54, entered the Chapter Grand on July 8, 2020. He served the Fraternity as province president to the Eta South Province from 1960–1968. He was a respected member of the mortgage banking industry in Nashville, and volunteered for both his Nashville and Sea Island, Georgia communities.

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](mailto:scroll@phideltatheta.org).



Former province president for Hofstra, Rutgers, and Princeton chapters, **Peter "Pete" Spina**, *Iowa Wesleyan* '72, entered the Chapter Grand on July 27, 2020. He helped start several chapters, including the New York Chapter at Hofstra, where he served as chapter advisory board chairman from 2010–2012.

Spina followed his brother and Phi Robert's footsteps from NYC to University of Iowa. Robert, '65, says of the trek west, that "his immigrant Italian parents didn't even know where Iowa was."



**Thomas E. ("Tom") Atkins III**, *Missouri* '56, entered the Chapter Grand in late July.

Thomas Atkins was the cornerstone of the Missouri Alpha Chapter," said CAB Chairman Travis Conduct, '93.

Serving in the US Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Tom partnered with his uncle, Mac McCauley to work in the family business which became known as Atkins Building Services and Products, Inc.

Tom was a pillar of the community. He was a former president of the board of curators of the University of Missouri and former chair of the board of trustees of Columbia College, (an honorary doctorate in humane letters). Tom was a member of Phi Delta Theta, a Faurot Fellow, recipient of the Faculty-Alumni Award and Distinguished Service Award from the University of Missouri, and a lifetime member of the Missouri Alumni Association.

Tom was a firm believer in "paying it forward" and the impacts of his philanthropy and charitable work are far-reaching. Tom and his family support many local nonprofit organizations.

# ...in coelo quies est

"...in heaven there is rest"

## University of Akron Ohio Epsilon

George Womersley, '45  
Robert P. Savoy, '54  
Eugene E. Beyman, '61  
Waldemar Bender, '61  
Jon T. Lombardi, '65  
John W. Brownlee, '65  
Kirk F. Larimore, '82

## University of Alabama Alabama Alpha

Rev. Patrick H. Dunn, '60  
John W. Minor III, '67  
Merrill E. Johnston, '69

## Allegheny College Pennsylvania Delta

Laurance A. Merriman, '50  
Thomas D. Gladden, '54  
Bennard C. Benson, '57

## University of Arizona Arizona Alpha

Daniel L. Finch, '51

## University of Arkansas Arkansas Alpha

Stephen W. Plunkett, '67  
Myron T. Boe, '70

## Auburn University Alabama Beta

Lee Y. Lamar, '52  
Donald H. Bravaldo Jr., '56  
John D. Goodloe, '57  
Gerald L. Hudson, '60  
Joe C. Matzenger, '71  
Nicholas H. Holmes III, '74  
William M. Paxton III, '82

## Ball State University Indiana Kappa

Robert A. Schloot, '73  
Robert W. Byrd, '73

## Bowling Green State University Ohio Kappa

Donald Arthur Knowlton, '62  
Jack B. Albanese, '69

## Butler University Indiana Gamma

Harold W. Dickason, '55

## University of California, Berkeley

California Alpha  
Clayton W. DaVega, '54  
Hector L. Cordova, '61  
Allen H. Cox III, '63

## University of California, Los Angeles

California Gamma  
William T. Baird, '49  
Alan N. Halkett, '52

## University of California, Davis

California Epsilon  
Thomas M. Unruh, '69

## California State University, Northridge

California Zeta  
Walter S. Motak, '69

## University of Chicago Illinois Beta

Jack S. Gusler, '52

## University of Cincinnati Ohio Theta

Walter P. Glazer, '48  
James A. Schrotel, '54  
Rev. Richard M. Royalty, '61

## Clemson University South Carolina Gamma

Harris L. Crowley Jr., '75

## Colgate University New York Zeta

John H. Griswold, '56  
William L. Haws, '56

## University of Colorado Boulder

Colorado Alpha  
Gary M. Speckmann, '60  
James B. Heller, '70

## Colorado State University Colorado Gamma

Robert W. Gray, '54  
Donald L. Showalter, '70

## Cornell University New York Alpha

Russell D. Sprague, '50  
Walter R. Taber Jr., '54  
Ralph Alan Miller, '70  
Philip A. Capin, '78

## Davidson College North Carolina Gamma

Dr. James G. Nuckolls, '61  
Michael A. Pannier, '80

## Dickenson College Pennsylvania Epsilon

Christopher Devries, '69

## Duke University North Carolina Alpha

Robert B. Berger, '53

## Eastern Washington University

Washington Epsilon  
Ronald P. Couden, '93

## Emory University Georgia Beta

John H. Webb Jr., '45  
Benjamin J. Tarbutton Jr., '51  
Woodrow W. Leake Jr., '66  
Evan H. Pontz, '92

## Emporia State University Kansas Epsilon

Richard L. Dickson, '70  
Paul D. Fischer, '90

## University of Florida Florida Alpha

Andreas R. Shaaber, '53  
Clayton W. Mills, '57  
John L. Barker Jr., '60

## Florida State University Florida Gamma

Thomas E. Ehrhardt, '56  
Jan M. Vail, '69

## University of Georgia Georgia Alpha

Leon A. Marsha Jr., '51  
Walter T. Forbes Jr., '63  
William E. Gleaton Jr., '63  
Richard C. Fowler Jr., '64

## Georgia College and State University

Georgia Zeta  
Winfred D. Kirk, '93

## Georgia Institute of Technology

Georgia Delta  
Lucas Charles Hannon, 2016  
Frank C. Harrell, '57  
Joel H. McCormick, '62

## Hanover College Indiana Epsilon

Ramon L. Hamm, '56  
Stanley R. Nay, '60  
John C. Otterman, '65

## University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Illinois Eta  
Eugene K. Hutter, '46  
Roy V. Van Buskirk, '52  
Sully W. Bonansinga, '58

Steven R. Camferdam, '76

## Indiana University Indiana Alpha

Scott Newman, 2016  
Norman F. Newman, '81

## Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Lambda  
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## Indiana State University Indiana Eta

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Richard S. Overholser, '50

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Ronald G. Saffer, '63  
Gavin L. Meerdink, '67

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George William Bill Frick, '66

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Charles L. Backhaus, '74  
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Gregory K. Lewis, '75



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'47

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# CARES ACT

## YOUR 2020 TAXES

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TAX INCENTIVES  
FOR CHARITABLE GIVING

## Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

### CARES ACT AND HOW IT AFFECTS GIVING

The new law **temporarily suspends the requirements for required minimum distributions (RMD) for the 2020 tax year.** This probably comes as a relief to many of you who would have had to withdraw a greater percentage of your retirement accounts. Many of our donors use their RMD to make a gift from their IRA. If you are 70½ or older, you can still make a gift from your IRA or name us as a beneficiary. In addition, there are some new ways you can receive financial benefits and help organizations like us.

The new law **allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, even if you do not itemize.** You might think that this is a small amount and would not make a difference. But if all of our donors gave “just” \$300? Such support would have a huge impact on our students.

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