



Bradley Delta Upsilon Alumni Association

Winter 2023-2024
Alumni Newsletter



New Year, New Look

We're thrilled to share some exciting news about the latest improvements to our beloved fraternity house.

Our commitment to creating a better environment for current and future members has led to some remarkable changes that are sure to shape the future of our fraternity. Our work began last summer, but there is more exciting news to come.

The recent renovation of the basement represents a shift in our chapter's landscape following the Substance-Free Housing policies by the International Fraternity as well as a need for a new common space for our brothers.

In addition to the basement renovation, we've also given our guest bathroom a much-needed makeover. It will undoubtedly leave a positive impression on visitors and prospective new members. The bedrooms were also treated with to a fresh coat of paint, breathing new life into these living spaces.

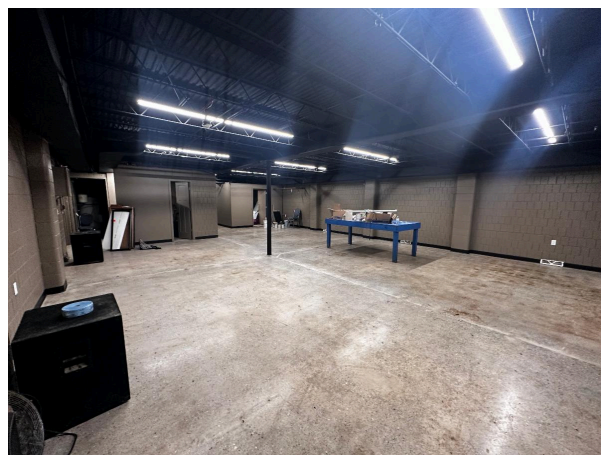
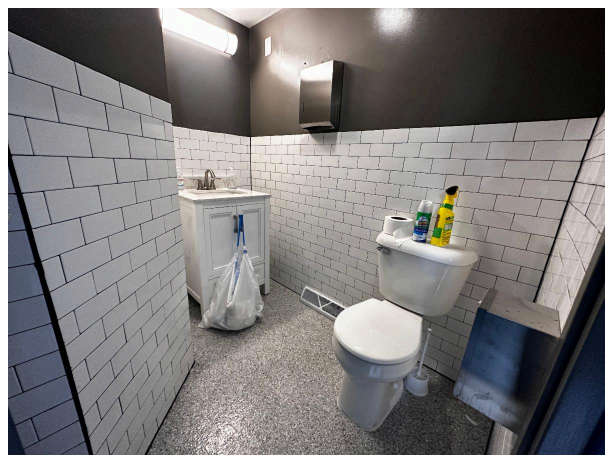
These improvements are a testament to our fraternity's enduring spirit and commitment to excellence as well as our need to invest in our future. These physical upgrades symbolize our dedication to creating a home away from home for generations to come.

With these improvements, we look forward to fostering an even stronger sense of brotherhood and creating unforgettable moments. We invite you to visit and witness these exciting changes for yourself. The future is bright, there's more to come, and we can't wait to see the incredible experiences that will unfold within these hallowed halls.



Above: Alumni Advisor Jon Custis, along with volunteers and Board members Kevin Hird and Norm Sidler, work alongside undergraduates during work week.

Below: (L) Updated guest bathroom and (R) Basement



Your 2023-24 Corporation Board

In our ongoing effort to keep you informed and connected, we'd like to take a moment to introduce the members of our dedicated Corporation Board. These individuals play a vital role in the governance and sustainability of our fraternity, and we believe it's essential that you get to know them better.



Kevin Hird, 1990 - President
Norm Sidler, 1991 - Vice President
Jason Loughran, 1992 - Treasurer
Kevin Custis, 1995 - Secretary
Tim Penrod, 1974

Art Strauss, 1974
Rob Schwartz, 1985
Jack Berry, 1987
Kurt Gibson, 1988
Jeff Sell, 1991
Pat Davis, 1992
Tim Spihlman, 1993
Eric Thompson, 1994
Trevor Mahood, 2021
AJ Fidanzo, 2022

These dedicated alumni volunteer their time and expertise to ensure the continued success and growth of our fraternity. Their collective experience and commitment to our shared values make them an essential part of our fraternity's governance.

As we move forward, it's important that we recognize and appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Corporation Board. We encourage you to reach out to them with any questions, suggestions, or ideas you may have. Together, we can continue to shape the future of our fraternity and maintain the strong bonds of brotherhood that unite us all.

Stay tuned for more updates and information about their ongoing initiatives. We're excited about the path our fraternity is taking under their leadership.



A Word from the Undergraduate President: Jake Manning

The current state of the Undergraduates is one in good fortune, Bradley has been going through a difficult recent patch, but DU stands strong in the center of campus. The current executive board is in its final turn before the next chapter of this book is opened, so reflection on the recent times is fruitful. The undergraduates went through a successful recruitment process, and are excited to see what all 13 of our members can do in their time as a DU. As President and brother, I'm proud of what our guys stand for on campus, in their classes, and in the local Peoria Community. The work done in philanthropy and the local community have impacted many around us, with or without our knowledge. I'm excited to see what comes forth in the near future, in terms of housing and alumni engagement.

And lastly, I'd like to introduce and congratulate the next president of the Bradley Chapter - **Thatcher Zalewski, '26!**

Alumni Spotlight: Jay Istvan, '82



Question: Tell us what you do with your time now.

Jay: I graduated from Bradley in 1982, worked for Abbott Labs for 2 years, then went to grad school and got an MBA. Presently, I am the CEO of a mid-sized medical device company headquartered in Chicago called, Attune Medical. In fact, our CFO is a Bradley DU, Pat Davis, who graduated about a decade after I did.

Question: Update us on your family.

Jay: I am happily married to my wife, Vicki, for 38+ years. We have 2 children. Son, Scott is in his early 30's and has made Boston his home ever since he graduated from Tufts. Daughter, Brooke is in her late 20's, finishing her MBA this June and is engaged to get married next September.

Question: What DUs do you keep in touch with?

Jay: I was on the 5-year Co-op program at Bradley so, I am closest with most DU's from the class of 1981. Brian Gallagher (we had 2 Brian Gallaghers in 3 years at DU) is a very close friend. We served as each other's Best Man. My wife and I frequently get together with the Gallaghers. Tim Ravencroft (DU 1982) has been my long time friend and accountant.

Question: What's your favorite DU memory?

Jay: The first year that we won the Fraternity All-Sports trophy was very big. I played soccer, learned how to wrestle – thanks to DU roommate, Dennis Bowers, and actually came in 3rd in the IFC wrestling meet. I also swam but didn't really help our team score.

I also have very good memories just hanging out in the DU House. Late night foosball with Perry Tate, Kevin Hayes, and Dennis Bowers. Tate has the funniest and sharpest wit of anybody I have ever met.

We also used to host a classy cocktail party for Bradley professors. Wanted to show them that Fraternity guys are responsible humans. I had an EE professor (Dr. Huggins) who used to be a gymnast. He would hang by his fingertips on the ¼" extension of a door frame and do a dozen perfect pike position pullups. None of us could do even one.

Question: What's one piece of advice you would give today's undergraduates?

Jay: Life is a long game: exciting advances and frustrating setbacks. Have confidence in yourself and keep putting one foot in front of the other. Find a few good friends and family members who can give you advice or just be there when you need it.

Question: Ghetto or Suburbia?

Jay: I lived in both. Definitely have a preference for suburbia. Never got a girl to my room in the Ghetto. Back in 1980, Suburbia seemed like an airy loft apartment.

Question: Rank what you would consider the top 3 sororities during your time as an undergrad

Jay: Gamma Phi, Pi Phi, and Chi Omega.



Above: A get together in November 2023 of Chicago are DUs from classes of 1980-1983. I am 3rd from left on one knee.

Alumni Spotlight: Alex Erbs, '18



Question: Tell us what you do with your time now.

Alex: I work in commercial real estate now, specifically in the self storage industry. We own multiple locations across Missouri and Illinois along with managing more locations for other owners across the Midwest and Northeast. On the side, I also am the varsity boys volleyball coach at CBC High School in St. Louis, MO.

Question: Update us on your family.

Alex: My family is doing well. The Bradley DUs include my dad (Todd Erbs) '90 and then my uncles: the late Michael Sullivan '86 and Rob Bailey '94

Question: What DUs do you keep in touch with?

Alex: I have still stayed consistently in touch with many members of my pledge class and the classes a little bit older and younger than us. My dad still catches up with members of his class and I have been able to meet with them the last couple of times they have gotten together.

Question: What's your favorite DU memory?

Alex: During a snow day in the winter, we compacted snow in the back stairwell to be able to go sledding from suburbia to the parking lot!

Question: What's one piece of advice you would give today's undergraduates?

Alex: Enjoy your time while you are in school and make lots of great connections. Your best connections will be the brothers around you.

Question: Ghetto or Suburbia?

Alex: Suburbia

Question: Rank what you would consider the top 3 sororities during your time as an undergrad

Alex: Pi Beta Phi, Gamma Phi Beta, Sigma Kappa

*If you have a DU you would like to be featured in the next Newsletter...
Please email afidanzo@mail.bradley.edu with your suggestion!*

A Remarkable Act of Selflessness...

In the spirit of celebrating the extraordinary within our alumni community, we are thrilled to share a truly inspiring story of selflessness and generosity. Senior Physical Therapy major, Ethan Baker, recently demonstrated an exceptional example of living out the values of DU that deserves our recognition.

Ethan went above and beyond by donating stem cells to a total stranger battling cancer. The procedure, which required him to travel to Milwaukee, kept him immobilized for over three hours. What sets this story apart is not just the remarkable act itself, but Ethan's extraordinary humility throughout the entire process.

Our Alumni Advisor, Jon Custis, stumbled upon this incredible news when Ethan, typically a participant in the hockey games, didn't suit up for the recent match. Inquiring about the change, our advisor discovered the reason behind Ethan's absence and the awe-inspiring truth was brought to light.

When asked about his decision to donate, Ethan simply stated, "It's not every day you get a chance to save someone's life, and I was a match." This statement encapsulates the profound sense of duty and altruism that defines Ethan's character.



Ethan Baker's story reminds us of the incredible power each of us holds to make a difference in the lives of others. Let's celebrate and amplify the spirit of generosity within our alumni community.

Stay tuned for more inspiring stories and updates in our upcoming newsletter!



Bradley Delta Upsilon Alumni Association | 1318 West Fredonia Avenue | Peoria, IL 61606 US

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