

THE ADVOCATE

BRADLEY CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON



Welcome to the 3rd edition of "The Advocate," our Bradley Delta Upsilon Alumni Newsletter!

As we turn the page into a new year, I'm excited to share just how much momentum continues to build within the Bradley Chapter of Delta Upsilon, both from our undergraduate brotherhood and from the steady dedication of our alumni network.

This edition features several meaningful highlights from across our DU community. We proudly spotlight two alumni **Ryan Kelly '94** and **Christian Castro '21** whose professional accomplishments reflect the enduring values of our Fraternity. We also honor **Bruce Brown '70 (Initiated 2020)**, a cherished brother and longtime Peoria restaurateur, whose legacy has touched generations of DUs. In addition, we recognize **Jordan Lotsoff '88 (Northern Illinois)**, recent recipient of the Distinguished Delta Upsilon Award. You'll also find high-level updates from the undergraduate chapter which includes the announcement of their newly elected executive board.

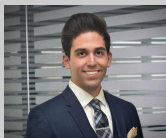
Meanwhile, alumni-driven initiatives continue to gain momentum from the ongoing capital campaign, to new efforts to preserve historical composites and build a more connected alumni network. Your support, whether through mentorship, attending events, or simply staying

engaged, is what fuels this progress. A special thank you goes to our Corporation Board members for their continued leadership, especially as we advance the next phase of our capital campaign efforts. Your time, energy, and commitment are invaluable to our chapter's future.

Looking ahead, 2026 marks a historic milestone - the 75th anniversary of the Bradley Chapter of Delta Upsilon. Originally installed in 1951 from the local Rho Delta Fraternity, our chapter has since become the lasting presence on campus we all experienced throughout the decades and a source of great pride and development for generations of brothers. **Plans are underway for a special Fall 2026 alumni gathering in Peoria**, including a golf outing and commemorative events. More details will be shared in the coming months, but we encourage all alumni to save the date and join us in celebrating 75 years of brotherhood at Bradley.

To all alumni - your support, whether through mentorship, attending events, or simply staying engaged, is what fuels this progress. Thank you for your continued involvement and for helping define what Delta Upsilon means at Bradley: yesterday, today, and always.

AJ Fidanzo '22



Calling All Alumni: Submit Your Composite Photos!

As part of an ongoing effort to preserve our chapter's history, we've begun building a **digital archive of Bradley DU composite photos**. The goal is to make these easily accessible online for alumni to view and enjoy for years to come.

While we've started scanning the composites currently in our possession, we know there are still many missing. If you have access to a high-quality photo or scan of a composite from your time in the chapter, can even take a clear picture, we'd love to include it.

Please email us at:

DUAlumniCommunications@gmail.com

Whether it's one year or several, your contributions will help us capture and celebrate the full history of our brotherhood.



Capital Campaign Fundraising Update

Our Capital Campaign continues to demonstrate the strength of brotherhood and shared commitment to the future of our chapter. To date, the campaign has secured **\$1,190,397** **in**

pledged support from 109 committed brothers. This remarkable level of participation reflects a collective investment in preserving and improving our chapter house for generations to come.

The fourth and final stage of updates, scheduled for Summer 2026, will focus on key outdoor improvements, including enhancements to the front walk, replacement of the retaining wall, duck dock updates, new windows for suburbia and replacement of the back doors to the chapter house. These improvements will complete the comprehensive vision established at the outset of the campaign.

Importantly, all improvements to date have been completed without incurring any additional debt servicing, underscoring the financial responsibility and careful stewardship guiding this effort.

Brothers who wish to contribute to the Capital Campaign can do so easily by visiting www.bradley.edu/giving. When prompted, please select “Other” for the designation and indicate Delta Upsilon Campaign.

Thank you to all who have contributed thus far for helping strengthen our chapter’s future.

Norm Sidler, ‘91
Campaign Chairman



St. Louis Hosts Bradley Delta Upsilon Alumni Golf Outing and Brotherhood Social

St. Louis - Gateway to the West - played host to the annual Bradley Delta Upsilon Alumni Chapter Golf Outing and Brotherhood Social over the weekend of September 12–13.

More than 40 alumni brothers from the St. Louis area, the Illinois side of the Mississippi River, and even as far as the East Coast traveled to reconnect, share memories, and enjoy a weekend of camaraderie and golf.

Friday Night Social

The weekend kicked off Friday evening with a social hosted by **Matt Rohm ('95)** at the Falcon's Nest Social Club. Delicious food from Anthonio's, a popular spot in The Hill neighborhood, was served—including standout St. Louis staples like pizza and toasted ravioli. Brothers and their significant others caught up, swapped stories, and enjoyed rush videos and other nostalgic media from the 1980s and 1990s.

Saturday Golf Outing

Saturday's golf outing was held at Tapawingo National Golf Club on a sunny 90+ degree day. Thirty-two brothers hit the





course. While there was no official format, most groups opted for a scramble to “conserve energy”—after all, we’re not quite as young as we used to be.

Participants ranged from alumni of the mid-1980s through recent grads, including **Nick Niemeier ('25)**. Closest to the Pin honors went to **John Bloss ('88)** and **Kit Cushman ('95)**.

A special thanks goes out to the organizing committee and brother, **Eric Hauser ('95)** for the efforts to the weekend. Plans are underway for next year’s event with details to follow.



Eric Thompson '94



Honoring a Brother: Jordan Lotsoff '88 (Northern IL)

This summer, **Jordan Lotsoff**, Northern Illinois '88, was awarded the **Distinguished Delta Upsilon Award** during the 2025 Leadership Institute which is one of the Fraternity’s highest honors, recognizing those who exemplify the Four Founding Principles throughout their lives and careers.

With the closure of the Northern Illinois Chapter, **Jordan has become an honorary part of the Bradley DU alumni family**. He remains actively engaged with our updates, events, and alumni efforts and has shown a consistent commitment to the ideals of Delta Upsilon that transcends chapter boundaries.

Jordan's professional and personal legacy reflect a deep belief in justice, leadership, and brotherhood. We’re proud to recognize him not only for this incredible award, but also for the example he sets as a DU man.

Please join us in celebrating **Brother Lotsoff** for this well-earned recognition and in welcoming him as one of our own here at Bradley.



Undergraduate Updates

As the fall semester wraps up, the undergraduate chapter continues to show strong momentum and stability heading into the new year.

2026 Executive Board Elected

Elections were held at the chapter house on December 7. Congratulations to the newly elected undergraduate leadership team for 2026:

- **President:** Luke Young '28
- **Vice President:** Keegan Manning '28
- **Treasurer:** Sean Dusak '28
- **Risk Management:** Dylan Potts '28
- **Membership Development:** Josh Lehman '28
- **Chapter Relations:** AJ Bigler '29
- **Academic Excellence:** Nico Felice '28

- **Associate Member Educator:** Jace Holt '27
- **Secretary / Communications:** Casey Klicker '29

Pending university approval, 32 members are expected to live in the chapter house next semester.

Chapter Highlights

- **Social:** The chapter hosted a Christmas-themed social on December 5 to wrap up the semester.
- **Development:** A speaker on men's mental health visited on December 3 as part of the chapter's ongoing education programming.
- **Intramurals:** Won the championship for DU A Soccer and DU A Football made it to the championship game.
- **Service:** Members completed a total of 285 service hours across various organizations, with every brother meeting their individual requirement.
- **Academics:** The chapter earned the second-lowest number of D or F grades among all IFC chapters on the midterm report — a continued point of pride.
- **Membership:** All 19 fall associate members completed their programming and service requirements. Eighteen are on track to be initiated **January 30–31**.

Awards & Campus Recognition

- Nominated for the **2025 Delta Upsilon Sweepstakes Award**
- Recognized for the Largest Fall Recruitment Class at Bradley (19 new members)
- Second-fewest unsatisfactory midterm grades (D/F) among IFC chapters
- Keegan Manning (Communications VP) elected 2026 IFC Vice President and serving as Intramural Sports Coordinator
- Luke Dzierzak elected to Student Senate
- Ethan Miller and Kai Droszcz recognized as founding members of BUnified, a new inclusion initiative at Bradley University



A Toast to Bruce Brown and the Legacy of Paparazzi

For more than four decades, Paparazzi was more than an Italian restaurant tucked away in Peoria Heights. It was a place of warmth, consistency, and community. When the restaurant served its final plate on July 5, exactly 42 years after it first opened, it marked the end of an era that touched countless lives, including many within the Delta Upsilon brotherhood.

Founded by Bruce Brown and his wife Lisa, Paparazzi was built on family recipes, shared tables, and the belief that food brings people together. Long before Peoria Heights became known as a dining destination, Paparazzi quietly set the standard. Bruce was the heart of the kitchen, shaping every meal with pride, discipline, and care. It was more than cooking — it was a craft that reflected his values and his love for others.

For the Bradley Delta Upsilon chapter, Paparazzi held special meaning. In recent years, the undergraduate chapter hosted meetings and events there, continuing a tradition of fellowship around Bruce's table. Those moments connected generations of brothers and reinforced something we all understand deeply: that brotherhood isn't confined to a chapter house. It lives in the places where people gather with shared purpose and respect.

In 2020, Bruce became part of that brotherhood when he was initiated as an alumni member of Delta Upsilon. While his service to our country as a United States Marine made it difficult to join in his younger years, he lived the values of the Fraternity through a lifetime of service, leadership, and quiet generosity. His initiation was not just symbolic, but a recognition of a life already lived in the spirit of Delta Upsilon.

As Paparazzi closed its doors, the community came together one last time to say goodbye. On the final day, Peoria Heights Mayor Matt Wigginton delivered a proclamation honoring the restaurant, recognizing the decades of impact Paparazzi had on the village. A playing of traditional bagpipes and a 21-gun salute offered a fitting send-off not just for a business, but for a place that felt like home.



Alumni Spotlight: Christian Castro '21



Tell us what you do with your time now?

Earlier this year, I made the decision to leave my cybersecurity consultant role at Deloitte to pursue entrepreneurship full time after spending two years building my real estate business part time. These days, I run a residential real estate business where I guide buyers, sellers, and investors through the Chicagoland market with a high level of care and structure. I also founded CSB Services, where we build automations and operational systems for small businesses, starting with real estate professionals. A major focus for me now is creating leverage so work supports life rather than the other way around. I have learned that if I want to go far in entrepreneurship, I need to build alongside the right people and systems that allow everyone involved to grow together.



Update us on your family

Family is everything to me. I am engaged to my beautiful fiancée, Michaela, a fellow Brave, and we are in an exciting season of building our future together. We stay very close to our families and spend a lot of time with our siblings. I recently became a first time uncle, which has been one of the biggest blessings and highlights of my year, right alongside proposing to my fiancée.

What DUs do you keep in touch with?

I still keep in touch with many DUs from my time on campus. Some are close friends I speak with regularly and will be a part of my wedding, while others are people I reconnect with through our careers or yearly events. I have also had the privilege of being connected with two brothers from the early 2000s who have become meaningful mentors in my real estate career, **Josh Weingberg** and **Tommy Choi**. We are all sponsored through Keller Williams ONEChicago, and it has been incredibly meaningful to share such strong history and culture even though we were on campus in different eras. I have also had the pleasure of guiding **AJ Fidanzo** & **Johan Claros** in their recent real estate investment! The bond truly lasts well beyond college.

What is your favorite DU memory?

There are a lot of favorite DU memories for me, from basement parties and exchanges to Leadership Institute in Arizona freshman year, our first Jungle Love and Alumni Weekend, and semi-formal trips to Starved Rock and the Ozarks. The best part was sharing those moments with people who are still a big part of my life today and being able to laugh and reminisce about those times now.

What is one piece of advice you would give today's undergraduates

I would advise the undergraduates to focus on building meaningful relationships and improving their communication skills. Learn to give without the expectation of receiving, listen more than you speak, and follow up with people because those habits compound over time. Expand your network beyond DU as well. Many students in other fraternities and organizations are navigating the same stage of life, and those connections can later become close friends, clients, collaborators, or even the reason for your next hire. While the friendly rivalries are part of the college experience and worth fully embracing, do not burn bridges. Those relationships often come full circle after graduation.

I would also encourage students to spend time reflecting on what life could look like five years after college, then ten or fifteen years out. Start working now on becoming the person you will need to be to reach those early milestones and long term goals. The habits, character, and relationships you build today matter far more than you realize in the moment. "Most people overestimate what they can do in one year and underestimate what they can do in ten years." - Bill Gates

What do you do that makes your kids roll their eyes

No kids yet, but I have a feeling mine will roll their eyes at how much I emphasize consistency. Getting out of bed on time, having routines to start the day strong, and keeping some structure around daily responsibilities so there is more freedom and enjoyment afterward will probably be a common theme in our house.

Did you live in the Chapter House? Ghetto or Suburbia

I did live in the Chapter House. I moved in second semester of freshman year into Room 17 in Suburbia, then sophomore year I moved down to Room 7 in the Ghetto with my pledge class. Eventually, I made my way back to Room 16 in Suburbia until junior year, right before studying abroad in Barcelona for the second semester. I will never forget the Ghetto parties.

Best Sorority on Campus during your time

The best sorority on campus during my time was Gamma Phi Beta. My now fiancée was in GPhi, and we have been to all of our semis and formals together since the second semester of freshman year, which is also when we started dating. Seven years later, we are getting married in September 2026.

When was the last time you were on Bradley's Campus?

It has been a little while since I have been back on Bradley's campus. The last time was during Alumni Weekend in the spring of 2022. We do have an upcoming trip around the New Year, as one of our friends recently got engaged, purchased a home in the area, and invited us back for a New Year's housewarming.

Where are you located now?

I am living in the city of Chicago in the Lake View neighborhood, specifically in the Southport Corridor. It is hands down one of the best neighborhoods in the city and allows me to stay centrally located to the friends, family, business, and communities that matter most to me. We plan to stay here for the next couple of years while enjoying city life, with a plan toward eventually making a move to the North Shore as we expand the family.

What are you most looking forward to in 2026, both personally and professionally?

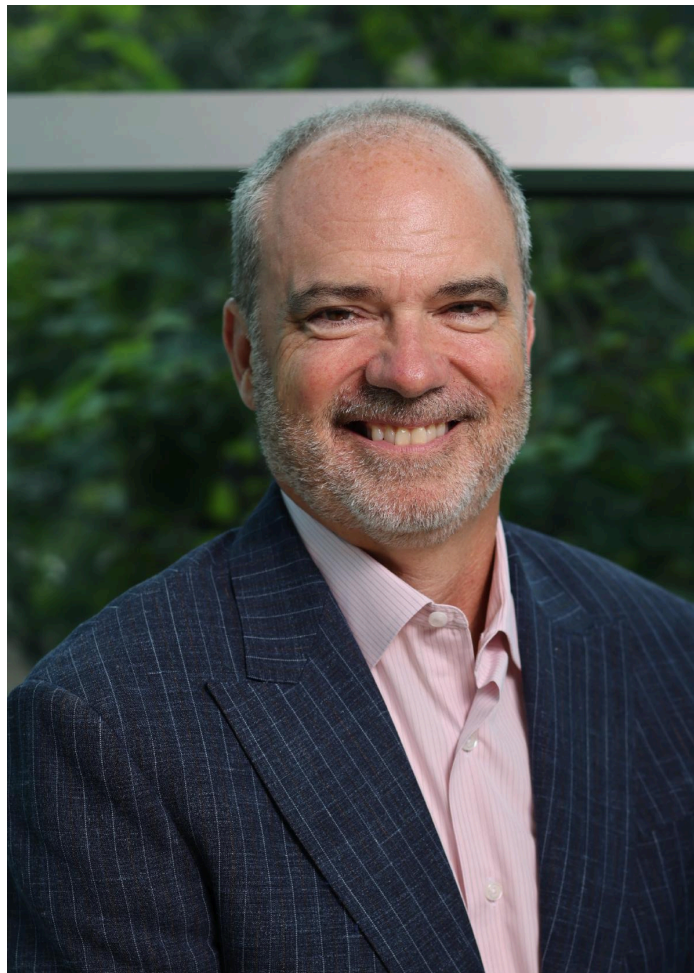
Personally, 2026 is our wedding year. Michaela and I are excited to celebrate that milestone with our family and friends and begin the next chapter together, which makes this season especially meaningful

for both of us.

Professionally, I am excited to continue growing my real estate business and CSB Services, with a focus on building systems that allow people to do meaningful work while creating more balance in their lives. I am looking forward to collaborating with more alumni and helping others think more intentionally about how they build their careers and businesses. If anyone ever wants to reconnect, talk shop, or simply catch up, I am always open to a conversation.



Alumni Spotlight: Ryan Kelly '94



Tell us what you do with your time now?

Today I own and run a Nissan dealership in Oak Lawn IL and while not at work, I am watching my 2 high schoolers play baseball, golf, softball and basketball. If I'm not doing one of those two things, you'll find me on the golf course.

Update us on your family

I have 4 children and 1 grandchild and I've been married for 19 years. My older boys are 29 and 27 and they are from my first marriage. My wife and I have son who is a senior at Providence Catholic and a daughter who is a sophomore at Providence. My oldest son has been married for 4 years and they have a daughter who turns 1 in January.

What DUs do you keep in touch with?

I still talk to and get together regularly with 2 of my pledge brothers, Dan Blankenburg and Eric Thompson. I stay in touch with a number of guys from the early 90's. The class of '91 were the seniors when we were freshman and they were incredible mentors and I'm proud to say I still stay in touch with a number of them.

What is your favorite DU memory?

Favorite memory is a tough one because people that are close to me have heard me say that college was 4 of the best years of my life. My experiences and friendships through DU are the reason I say that. So while I don't have a specific favorite, the times hanging out at the house are definitely some of my favorite. It wasn't funny then, but I was House Manager for a semester when I lived in the house and I guess that's funny in and of itself because I'm the least handy person there is. Anyway, one night during the winter I was asleep in my room and I was awoken by a brother informing me that it was raining in the basement. It obviously wasn't raining but a pipe had burst.

What is one piece of advice you would give today's undergraduates

I would tell the undergrads to take advantage of every opportunity that they house offers, whether that be in leadership or simply being a good soldier. Every great house has brothers that rally around the cause and work together to be the best house on campus.

What do you do that makes your kids roll their eyes

I smoke cigars and one thing I do while enjoying a cigar is scroll through Instagram. I have a habit of forwarding on Instagram reels that I think are funny and invariably it makes all 4 of my kids eyes roll.

Did you live in the Chapter House? Ghetto or Suburbia

I lived in the house my sophomore year and I lived in Ghetto with my pledge father Tim Spihlman. He is a year older and could have lived in Suburbia if he had roomed with another Junior. Rooms were chosen by seniority and he sacrificed for me so we "slummed" it in Ghetto.

Best Sorority on Campus during your time

The "best" sorority on campus was probably Gamma Phi Beta.

When was the last time you were on Bradley's Campus?

The last time I was on campus was 2022 for the Jubilee.

Where are you located now?

I currently live in New Lenox IL. with my wife and 2 teenagers.

Undergraduate Initiation 2025

We're proud to welcome our newest associate members as they prepare to join the lifelong brotherhood of Delta Upsilon. These young men reflect the spirit and values of our

Fraternity, and we're excited to see the impact they'll make within the chapter, on campus, and in the greater DU community.

Here are the names and majors of our soon-to-be brothers:

Nikita Stelmakov - Engineering
Jarrek Hirsch - Construction Management
Jace Carroll - Business Management and Leadership
Cole Hampson - Construction Management
Casey Klicker - Mechanical Engineering
AJ Bigler - Math Education
Cooper Peterson - Corporate Finance
Cayden Merkel - Computer Science
Ethan Ringa - Business Management and Leadership
Maddixx Scace - Mechanical Engineering
Max Treyger - Mechanical Engineering
Alex Hess - Electrical Engineering
Patrick Hajduga - Civil Engineering
Oscar Nowosielecki - Civil Engineering
Brian Spellman - Nursing
Colton Winklebleck - Engineering
Luke Frankiewicz - Industrial Engineering
Kohen Lubben - Electrical Engineering
Lukasz Walasinski - Manufacturing Engineering Technology
Jason Aikman - Nursing



We invite all alumni and members of the DU community to celebrate this occasion. If you would like to attend the initiation ceremony in person or receive additional details, please reach out to dualumniconmunications@gmail.com.

Join us in welcoming our newest brothers as they begin their journey in Delta Upsilon. We're excited to see how they will contribute to the chapter, thrive on campus, and carry our values forward into the future.

Know an Incoming Freshman?

Know an incoming freshman who would be a great fit for Delta Upsilon?

The 2026 Rush committee, elected by the chapter, is as follows:

Ethan Miller (etmiller@mail.bradley.edu)
Reis Deufahrd (rdeufahrd@mail.bradley.edu)
Max Piekosz (mpiekosz@mail.bradley.edu)
Santi Suarez (ssuarez@mail.bradley.edu)
Cooper Peterson (cpeterson@mail.bradley.edu)



Help us identify the next generation of brothers to elevate the Bradley Chapter to new heights!



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