

THE ADVOCATE

BRADLEY CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON



Welcome to our Newsletter!

Welcome to the second edition of "The Advocate," our Bradley Delta Upsilon Alumni Newsletter! As we continue to build on the incredible momentum of the chapter, I am thrilled to highlight the strides our alumni and undergraduates have made since the Spring.

This edition celebrates the successful launch of our Alumni Mentorship Program, which has begun to impact numerous undergraduates as they prepare for their professional journeys. We also recap the camaraderie of our recent Chicagoland Alumni Golf Outing and introduce the newest member of our Corporation Board, Andrew Schmitt '23.

For our Undergraduates, we proudly highlight their remarkable growth and contributions. With the largest rush class on campus and nearly a fully resided house, the chapter is energized. Additionally, over 15 freshmen plan to move in-house for the spring semester. The undergraduates are certainly doing their part during this pivotal time in our chapter's history.

Our newsletter serves as a platform to showcase the legacy of Delta Upsilon at Bradley and the innovative ways our alumni continue to support the chapter. I encourage you to challenge yourself to stay engaged, whether by mentoring, attending events, or simply sharing your experiences with us. Together, we can ensure the continued success of the chapter and its members. Thank you for being an integral part of this brotherhood. Here's to making 2025 another impactful year for The Delta Upsilon Bradley Chapter!

AJ Fidanzo '22



Alumni Mentorship
Program Launches
(Article 2)

Welcome to New
Corp Board Member!
(Article 4)

Brand New Alumni
Spotlight
(Article 8)

And MUCH More...

Sports Highlights - Intramural Champions

Delta Upsilon is back on top! The undergraduate brothers of Delta Upsilon clinched the Intramural Softball Championship this semester, defeating long-time rivals Delta Tau Delta in the final game. The victory was not only a testament to their hard work on the field but also a significant milestone on their path to securing the All Sports Trophy. Congratulations to the brothers who represented Delta Upsilon on the field and brought this victory home.



Alumni Mentorship Program Launches

In the 4th Quarter, we initiated an Alumni Mentorship Program for our undergraduates. For the initial rollout, we matched 10 seniors and 14 juniors with an individual Bradley DU alum with expertise in their specific area of career interest. Going forward, undergraduate juniors will be matched with alumni. The program is designed to provide the undergrads with an informal mentoring relationship that can benefit them as they complete their studies at Bradley, go through the job search process, and transition into the professional world.

The goal is to leverage the tremendous expertise and experience that exists in our alumni base to enhance the undergrad experience in a way that is differentiated from other Bradley fraternities.

Tremendous thanks to the 24 alumni who have volunteered and been matched to an undergrad! Your participation in and feedback on this initial rollout will help shape this impactful program going forward.

Pat Davis '92

Bradley Delta Upsilon Alumni Chapter Hosts Chicagoland Golf Outing at Cantigny Golf Club



On September 14, 2024, the Bradley Delta Upsilon Alumni Chapter held its Chicagoland Alumni Golf Outing at Cantigny Golf Club in Wheaton, IL. The event, played across the Woodside and Lakeside courses, saw twenty-five brothers from various eras, from the late 1970s to recent graduates, coming together for a day of friendly competition and camaraderie.

During the event, a couple of competitions took place. Rick Cronholm, '89 was recognized with the Closest to the Pin Award, and Jeremy Andersen, '01 along with Eric McFadden '96, were recognized with the Long Drive awards.

After the round, participants gathered at Brook's Kitchen and Tap in Oak Brook



Terrace for a brotherhood social, fostering fellowship and creating lasting memories.

A special thanks goes out to the organizing committee and brothers, Jeremy Andersen, '01, and Eric McFadden, '96, for the efforts to the day.

Looking ahead, the Alumni Corporation Board and Alumni Events Committee are already planning future golf outings, with **the next event slated for the St. Louis area.**

If you're interested in helping organize or participating in next year's outing, please reach out to:

dualumniconnunications@gmail.com.



Welcoming New Corporation Board Member - Andrew Schmitt

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Andrew Schmitt, and I am the newest member of the Delta Upsilon Bradley Chapter Corporation Board. I graduated from Bradley University in May of 2023, and was a member of Delta Upsilon for my 4 years there. I was also a member of the Bradley ACHA Hockey Team during my time at school, while studying for a degree in Engineering. Nowadays you can find me working at HNI Corporation as a Manufacturing Engineer. I can confidently say that being a member of Delta Upsilon is one of the main reasons I have had success since graduating. That, along with all the great memories that ΔY brought me, is why I felt it was right to join the board and give back to the chapter that I called home for 4 years.

Andrew Schmitt '23



Congratulations to the Newly Elected Undergraduate Executive Board

Elections for the Undergraduate Executive Board were recently held in the fall instead of the spring, reflecting a change that has garnered positive feedback from alumni. This adjustment reflects a growing desire to create a smoother transition of leadership within the chapter, and it has received positive feedback among undergraduates as well.

We extend our gratitude to the outgoing Executive Board for their hard work and dedication over the past year. Their commitment to upholding the values of Delta Upsilon in this difficult climate has left a lasting impact on the chapter, paving the way for continued success. This year's election cycle was particularly notable as Grady Blessing '26 concluded his tenure on the Executive Board after serving two pivotal consecutive terms as Treasurer. Grady's historic contributions have set a standard for excellence and dedication that will inspire future leaders.

Additionally, Julian Gonzalez '26, who has already proven himself as Vice President, will remain on the Executive Board in his new role as Associate Member Educator. Julian's continued involvement is a testament to his commitment to guiding and mentoring the next generation of chapter members.

The chapter is thrilled to welcome the newly elected board members:

President - Ethan Miller '27
Vice President - Jace Holt '27
Treasurer - Andrew Stepien '27
Risk Manager - Padraig Murnin '28
Membership Development - Sean Dusak '28
Chapter Relations - Kai Droszcz '27
Academics - Nico Felice '28
Associate Member Ed. - Julian Gonzalez '26
Secretary - Keegan Manning '28

We look forward to seeing how their leadership will guide the chapter in the coming year. Congratulations to all!



Above: The house celebrates on Anadexis

Right: Undergraduates cooking out at the Little John Campground

Undergraduate Photo Dump



Above: Little John's event group picture



We're excited to announce the creation of one new piece of our Alumni Communications Hub! To better serve our alumni community and streamline communications, we have established a dedicated email address for all Corporation Board and alumni-related inquiries:

DUAlumniCommunications@gmail.com

This email address is designed to be your one-stop shop for all things DU-related. Here are a few ways you can utilize this new resource:

- **Alumni Relations:** Reach out with questions or suggestions about alumni events, programs, and initiatives. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you.
- **Undergraduate Inquiries:** Have a message or question for the undergraduate chapter? Send it to us, and we'll ensure it's directed to the right person.
- **Personal Updates:** Keep us informed about any changes to your contact information, such as a new mailing address, phone number, or email. Staying connected ensures you don't miss out on any updates or invitations.

This hub represents another step in our commitment to fostering a strong connection between alumni and the active chapter. Whether you have questions, updates, or just want to stay engaged with the fraternity, the Alumni Communications email is here for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out at any time. Together, we can continue to build and strengthen the Bradley DU community. There is a link to email this address at the bottom of the newsletter.

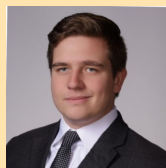
Achieving our Chapter Goals: A Semester of Success

In the last newsletter, we had three chapter goals that we wanted to address for this past semester. Those goals were; enhance accountability across the entire chapter, improve and have consistent attendance at chapter, and increase recruitment numbers. I would say we accomplished all three of those goals. Starting off with accountability, I think everyone across the board was more on top of things with each other. Whether that be on the executive board or just a member in the chapter. A lot of this stems from the brothers just giving each other general reminders to stay on top of any duties or responsibilities that were tasked of them. The next goal was chapter attendance. We did a great job as a chapter of getting everyone there and on time. While, we did enforce attendance a lot more, no one really gave any grief about it. I think this also stems from the accountability aspect that we worked on improving. The last goal was increasing recruitment numbers. We did a great job of increasing our numbers from fall recruitment last year. This fall Rush period we landed 22 new members, which was the most on Bradley's campus. This was due to everyone in the chapter committing to our overall goal of increasing those numbers. It was great to see so many different people involved with Rush and



making the efforts to get such a large rush class!

- Thatcher Zalewski, '26



Chapter Goals

- 1 Enhance accountability across all chapter members.
- 2 Foster a culture of consistent attendance at chapter events and meetings.
- 3 Increase recruitment numbers.

Alumni Spotlight: Michael Copping '90



Tell us about your journey after graduating from DU.

I actually stayed close to the chapter while I completed my Master's, and was working for a publishing company in Peoria. That career eventually took me to New York and then Orange county, CA. My last job in the private sector was with a luxury eyewear manufacturer as VP of Marketing. I then "temporarily retired" and moved to Geneva, Switzerland to be with my partner who I had met earlier in New York, and spent a year learning French and networking - hoping to maybe break into the Swiss watch industry. I also volunteered for the Obama campaign. It was through a fellow volunteer that I learned of an opportunity with UNICEF (the UNITED NATIONS international children's emergency fund), in their fundraising products team. I was surprised how interested they were in my private sector background and how much my skills applied to fundraising. That was 15 years ago, and I feel lucky to be able to work for an organization with a positive social purpose. My work has taken me to over 40 countries, and I am part of a team (ok a large team) that raises over \$2 billion a year from the private sector to support UNICEF's programs in 190 countries.

Share a bit about your life now.

On a daily basis, I manage a team that supports the top 30 fundraising markets globally to maximize their results. We help each country hire and retain the best team, and deploy a marketing strategy that positions UNICEF to raise the most money. Working for the UN also means a lot of rather formal processes and meetings, but this diplomatic side of things is very interesting. For work/life balance, I am

an avid reader, an aspiring cook, and my husband Greg and I own a farm in the south of Italy, which we are restoring and enjoying with our two boston terriers, JoJo and Rita. I also enjoy being the fun and supportive uncle to 5 nephews and nieces.

Reflecting on DU, what are some of your most meaningful experiences or favorite memories?

While at Bradley, I got involved early on in leadership positions within the house, first as secretary, and then Treasurer and Pledge Officer after that. I can honestly say that I learned super valuable lessons (some the hard way) about leadership and teamwork that complemented the academic coursework but have proven to be even more valuable in my life since college. There are too many specific moments to list, but the DU guest speaker series was a highlight. Delta Upsilon invited some very notable and interesting people to come to speak at Bradley's campus. We would usually host a campus-wide event, followed by a private reception at the chapter house where we got a private audience with the speaker. I had the pleasure of shuttling the speakers around to the events while they were in Peoria. We hosted noted sex therapist Dr Ruth Westheimer, Marquette Basketball Coach Al McGuire, White House press secretary Larry Speakes, and the stars of the Soap Opera "Day's of our lives" (Mike and April), among others. Experiences like these, plus interaction with our incredible brothers drew me out of my awkward shell, and I am truly grateful!

Who are the brothers you've stayed connected with, and what has that meant to you?

I've stayed in touch with many of the guys. It was easier at first due to proximity. It is harder now - life gets full and complicated. But luckily through social media I am able to keep in touch and I was able to make it back to the Diamond Jubilee, which was amazing. It is fun to see what guys are up to. I can say that DU has had a positive influence on so many of them and I'm proud of the leaders/fathers/men they have become. To all the brothers out there, trust me when I say that the reunions are worth the effort and expense. Hell, I flew all the way from Switzerland for 48 hours to attend the last one, so no excuses!

Looking back, what advice would you offer to today's undergraduates?

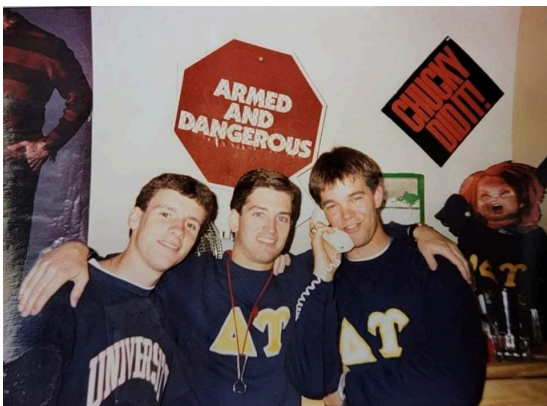
I have 3 pieces of advice for any young (or not so young) person. 1 - Learn a foreign language - the world is getting more connected every day. Learning a second language is good for your brain and opens up the world so much. It is also much easier when you are younger - I'm learning Italian now and it is way harder at 56! 2 - Do something musical - sing or learn an instrument. You will never regret it. And 3 - Pay yourself first - as soon as you have an income, start saving for your future. Compound interest is a powerful thing and it can either be your friend or your nemesis. Call me for more pro tips :)

Share any fun memories and nostalgic moments that come to mind.

I had the pleasure and pain of living in the house for 3 and a half years. I moved in second semester freshman year and lived in rooms 16, 9, 14, and 15 during my tenure. I never had to share a room before that, so apologies to all those guys for my snoring. As for sororities, Chi Omega represented the elite status I both wanted and hated. In the end, I had more friends from Sigma Delta Tau and Pi Beta Phi, and even landed myself a spot as "Mr May" in the 1989 Pi Phi calendar (something that has haunted me to this day).

How has DU or Bradley University continued to play a role in your life?

DU has had a huge positive effect on nearly every aspect of my life. The four founding principles resonate with me every day and have been guiding lights for me in my career and personal life. When I came to Bradley, I was all over the place - desperate to fit in and find my place and a direction for my life, while grappling with the realization that I was gay, which I hid because it didn't match the vision of what was expected of me. Despite all that, DU and our brotherhood built my confidence, helped channel my unique gifts for the benefit of the chapter (someone has to plan the parties and decorate!), and I am truly grateful. Because I have benefited so much, I want to make sure that in the future other young men can have the same opportunities for self discovery and growth. The world we live in is full of challenges and we need men with character, emotional intelligence, resourcefulness, and initiative to tackle these. This is why I am supporting the capital campaign to restore and renovate the house and will continue to support DU for all my days. I encourage all brothers to reflect on the impact DU has had on them, and to reinvest some of that back to the fraternity so that the next generation can make us proud. Dikaia Upotheke!



Undergraduate Initiation 2024

As the spring semester begins, we are thrilled to announce the upcoming initiation of our newest associate members into Delta Upsilon. These young men represent a diverse array of talents, passions, and academic pursuits, and we are excited to see them continue their journey as part of our brotherhood. The initiation ceremony is scheduled for the afternoon of February 1, 2025, and will be an unforgettable milestone for these young men.



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

- Reis Deufahrd – Sports Communications
- Keegan Manning – Finance
- Aidan O'Neill – Biomedical Science, Engineering Concentration
- Josh Lehman – Engineering
- Max Piekosz – Civil Engineering
- Sean Dusak – Finance & Marketing
- Paul Contreras – Management & Leadership
- Luke Young – Sports Communications
- Carson Bergschneider – Business Administration
- Luke Gustafson – Mechanical Engineering
- Dylan Potts – Engineering
- Pdraig Murnin – Civil Engineering
- Landen Statts – UX Design
- Bleu Beckwith – Civil Engineering
- Nico Felice – Nursing
- Luke Dzierzak – Finance

Adding to the significance of the event, Eric Hauser ('95) will deliver the Charge, providing words of wisdom and inspiration. His involvement continues to underscore the strong connection between our alumni and undergraduate members, a growing hallmark of the Delta Upsilon experience.

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

Let's give a warm welcome to these individuals as they prepare to join the lifelong brotherhood of Delta Upsilon. We look forward to seeing the impact they will make in the chapter, on campus, and beyond!

Calling ALL Alumni!

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

Share his details and why you believe he'd be an excellent addition with our Recruitment Chairmen:

Ryan Broach (815-341-5829)
Matt Paver (630-808-0322)
Reis Duerfahrd (636-249-7551)

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



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