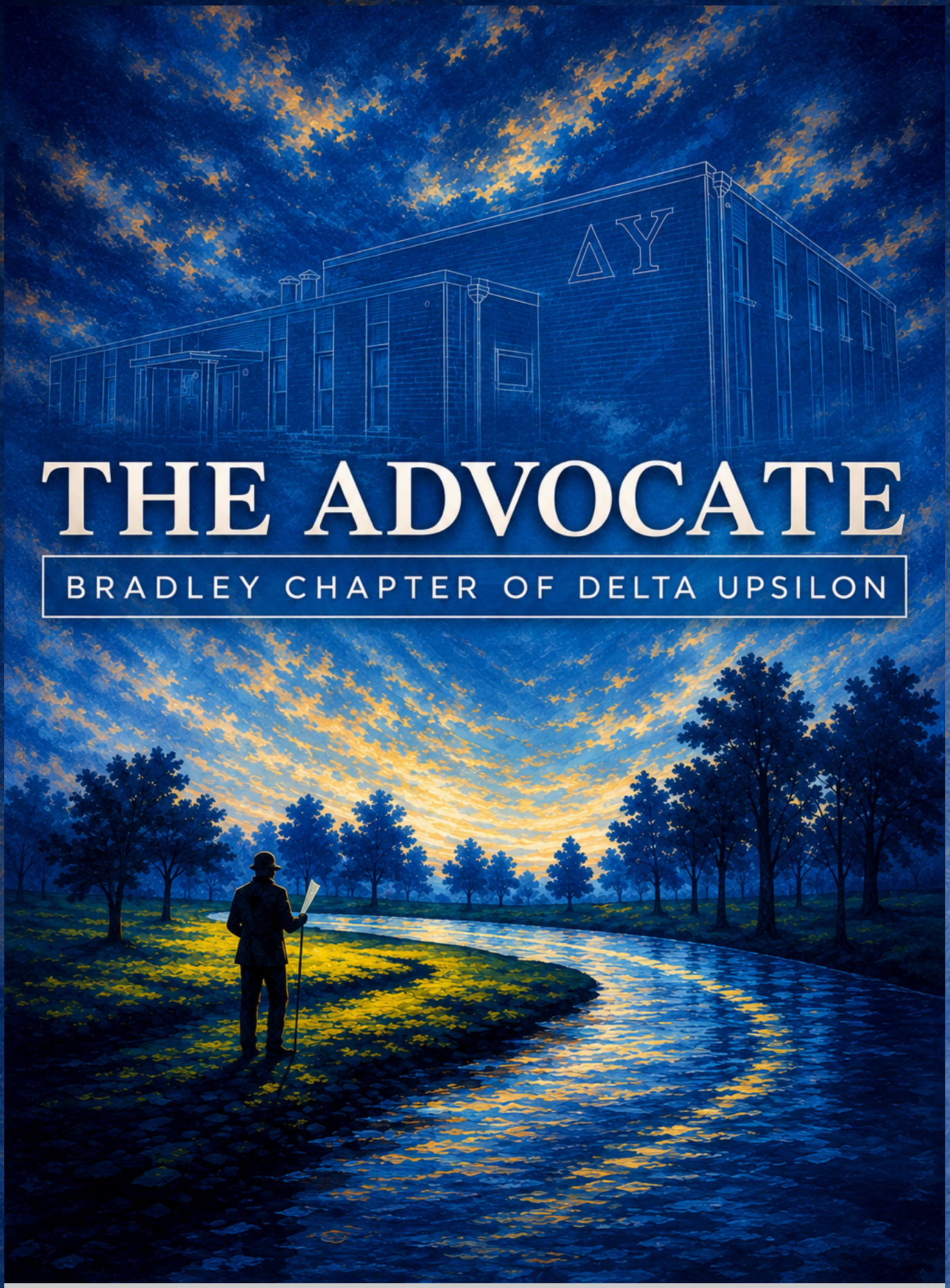


Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of The Advocate, the Bradley Delta Upsilon Alumni Newsletter!

As I was putting this edition together, one thing kept standing out to me: the lasting impact of our brotherhood. Whether it's through volunteering, mentoring, supporting the Capital Campaign, or

simply staying connected, this issue is full of stories about alumni who continue to make a difference long after graduation.

Inside, you'll find updates on our 75th/80th Anniversary Reunion this October, the continued progress of our Capital Campaign, the launch of our new alumni website, and the incredible generosity of the brothers who have helped make these projects possible. We're also excited to recognize Bradley alumnus and Delta Upsilon brother Chris Kamin ('96) on qualifying for his first U.S. Senior Open Championship, and to thank Andrew Schmitt ('23) for his service on the Corporation Board.

One story that really stuck with me was my conversation with Art Strauss ('74). As an undergraduate, Art worked alongside his father and fellow brothers to help renovate portions of the chapter house. More than fifty years later, he's helping lead improvements to that same house as a member of the Corporation Board. Hearing him tell those stories reminded me that this chapter has always been built by brothers who are willing to give back and invest in the generations that follow. It's a tradition that's still very much alive today.

This newsletter wouldn't be possible without the support of our alumni. Whether you've attended a reunion, mentored an undergraduate, volunteered your time, contributed to the Capital Campaign, or simply kept in touch with your brothers, thank you. Every contribution...big or small...helps keep our chapter moving forward.

Whether you're planning to join us on campus this October or reading this from across the country, I hope this edition reminds you that Delta Upsilon is more than four years at Bradley. It's a lifelong brotherhood, and it's exciting to see so many alumni continuing to invest in its future. I hope to see many of you this fall as we celebrate our history, reconnect with old friends, and continue building on everything that makes the Bradley Chapter special.

AJ Fidanzo '22



75th/80th Anniversary Reunion - Register Today!

This October, brothers from across the country will return to Peoria as we celebrate the 75th (Bradley Delta Upsilon) / 80th (Rho Delta) Anniversaries of founding of the Bradley Chapter of Delta Upsilon. Held October 2–3, 2026, during Bradley University's Homecoming Weekend, the reunion promises a weekend filled with brotherhood, memories, and the opportunity to see how far our chapter has come.

REGISTER NOW! We're excited to share that 24 brothers have already registered, and we hope that number continues to grow in the coming weeks. Whether you graduated recently or decades ago, this reunion is a chance to reconnect with old friends, meet brothers from other generations, tour the chapter house, and spend time back on Bradley's campus.

The weekend begins with an Open House at the chapter house, located at 1318 W. Fredonia Avenue, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Stop by to reconnect, share stories, and see the upgraded chapter house that has been home to so many brothers over the years.

The evening continues with Jimmy's Brotherhood Event from 8:00 p.m. until midnight at 2801 W. Farmington Road, providing a relaxed setting to reconnect and kick off the reunion weekend.

Saturday offers several optional activities:

- Golf Outing (7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) — Tee times will be arranged. Course and cost will be announced.
- Pickleball (8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.) — Location details will be provided as plans are finalized.
- Bradley Campus Tours (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) — Take a walk down memory lane and see how the campus has evolved.

The afternoon includes an optional Corporation Board Meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the chapter house.

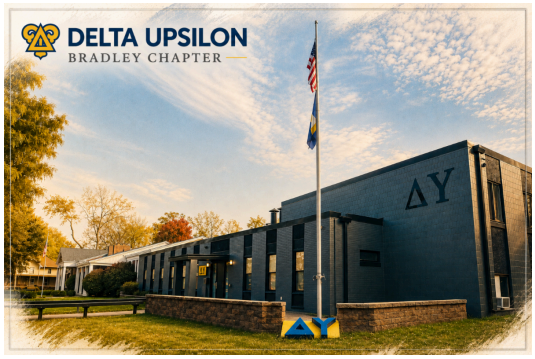
The highlight of the weekend will be the Anniversary Reunion Celebration from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at The Warehouse on State, 736 SW Washington Street. The evening will feature *great food, drinks, and brotherhood with a full lineup of elevated appetizers, desserts, and refreshments in a relaxed social atmosphere.*
Tickets are $100 per person.

Weekend Schedule

Friday, October 2

Open House
4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
1318 W. Fredonia Ave.

Jimmy's Brotherhood Event
8:00 p.m. – Midnight
2801 W. Farmington Rd.
Don't forget—Fridays are DU Shirt Days!



Saturday, October 3

Optional Golf
7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location to be announced

Optional Pickleball
8:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Location to be announced

Campus Tours
10:00 a.m. – Noon

Optional Corporation Board Meeting
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
1318 W. Fredonia Ave.

75th & 80th Anniversary Reunion Celebration
($100/person)
6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
The Warehouse on State

Hotel Accommodations

A room block has been reserved at Embassy Suites East Peoria for Bradley Delta Upsilon attendees.

Reservations must be made by September 12 and are subject to availability.

- King Room: $169/night + tax & parking
- Two Double Beds: $179/night + tax & parking

Register Today

Registration, hotel information, and additional event details can be found on the reunion website. If you know a brother who may not have heard about the reunion, please share this information with him. We hope you'll join us this October as we celebrate our past, reconnect with one another, and continue building the future of the Bradley Chapter.

CLICK HERE for the 75th/80th Anniversary Weekend Website

75th/80th Anniversary Reunion Apparel

To help commemorate this year's 75th/80th Anniversary Reunion, reunion apparel is now available through our online store.

Whether you're looking for something to wear during the reunion weekend or simply want to show your Bradley Delta Upsilon pride, the store offers a variety of apparel and merchandise for brothers, family, and friends.

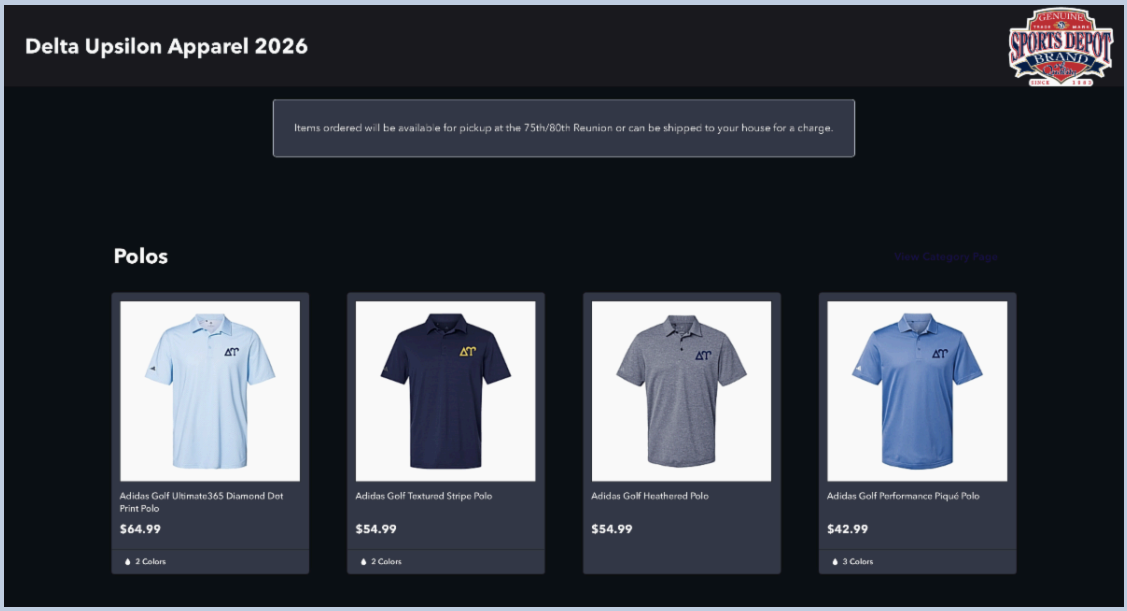
A special thank you to Kevin Hird '90 and Sports Depot for sponsoring the online store and helping make reunion apparel available for this year's celebration.

Items ordered may be picked up during the 75th/80th Anniversary Reunion or shipped directly to your home for an additional shipping charge.

Ordering Deadline: Sunday, September 6, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CDT

The store can be accessed through our website using the link below.

Merch Apparel Link



Recognizing Our Capital Campaign Donors

The Bradley Delta Upsilon Capital Campaign continues to be an incredible success thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends. To date, the campaign has raised **$1,253,670,** helping preserve and improve our chapter house for current and future generations of brothers.

On behalf of the Corporation Board, thank you to everyone who has supported the campaign. Every contribution, regardless of size, has helped move this project forward and demonstrates the lasting commitment our alumni have to the Bradley Chapter.

As another way to recognize those who have helped make this campaign a success, **we are pleased to announce that a permanent donor recognition plaque is currently being completed and is expected this summer.**

The plaque will permanently recognize all brothers and supporters who have contributed at the 1318 Club level and above, serving as a lasting reminder of the generosity that has shaped the future of 1318 W. Fredonia.

We are proud to recognize the following donors:

Ray Zarvell Society
$150,000 to $299,999

Art Strauss '74
Norm Sidler '91

DU Circle of Honor
$100,000 to $149,999

Mike Kilbane '78
Matt Fiascone '85

Rho Delta Society
$30,000 to $59,999

Greg Janis '79
Ken Williamson '92
Tim Spihlman '93
Craig Niebur '93
Ryan Kelly '94

Cornerstone Society
$15,000 to $29,999

James Faltinek '60
Brad DeSplinter '85
Rob Schwartz '85
Scott Bryeans '86
Dave McCalpin '86
Brett Olson '88
Rick Cronholm '89
Eric Hauser '95
Pedro Arellano '96
Luke Weiden '05

Old Gold Society
$10,000 to $14,999

Jim Forte '68
Tom Robinson '68
Richard Karl '69
Lee Wallace '71
Bill Bittner '74

Tony Fasano ’74
Tim Penrod ’74
Larry Richman ‘74
Dennis Duzyk ’88
Mike Copping ’90
Pat Davis ’92
Eric Thompson ’94
Brad Gdowski, ‘99

Sapphire Blue Club
$6,000 to $9,999

Bob Dahlsgaard ‘63
Dan McCormick ‘64
Galen Reser ‘73
Thomas Ambrosch ‘76
Perry Tate ‘80
John Dado ’86
David Nicoll ’93

Brotherhood Club
$2,000 to $5,999

Robert Weigand ’61
Jon Prime ‘63
Jere Bremer ’67
Paul Betters ‘69
John Schueneman ‘71
Ed Bowman ’74
Brian Gallagher ‘81
Dave Hansen ‘83
Doug Olson ’85
Rob Holtz ‘86
Kevin Cohan ’87
Kurt Gibson ’88
Jay Winkler ‘88
James Bruner ’89
Kevin Hird ’90
Steve Horack ’90
Mike Egel ‘91
Derek Glenzinski ‘91
Jeff Sell ‘91
Jason Loughran ’92
Chris Rutt ‘92
Jason Fleming ‘94
Matt Rohm ‘94
Steve Reifel ‘97
Jon Custis ’02 and Laura Custis
Dustin Roberts ’03

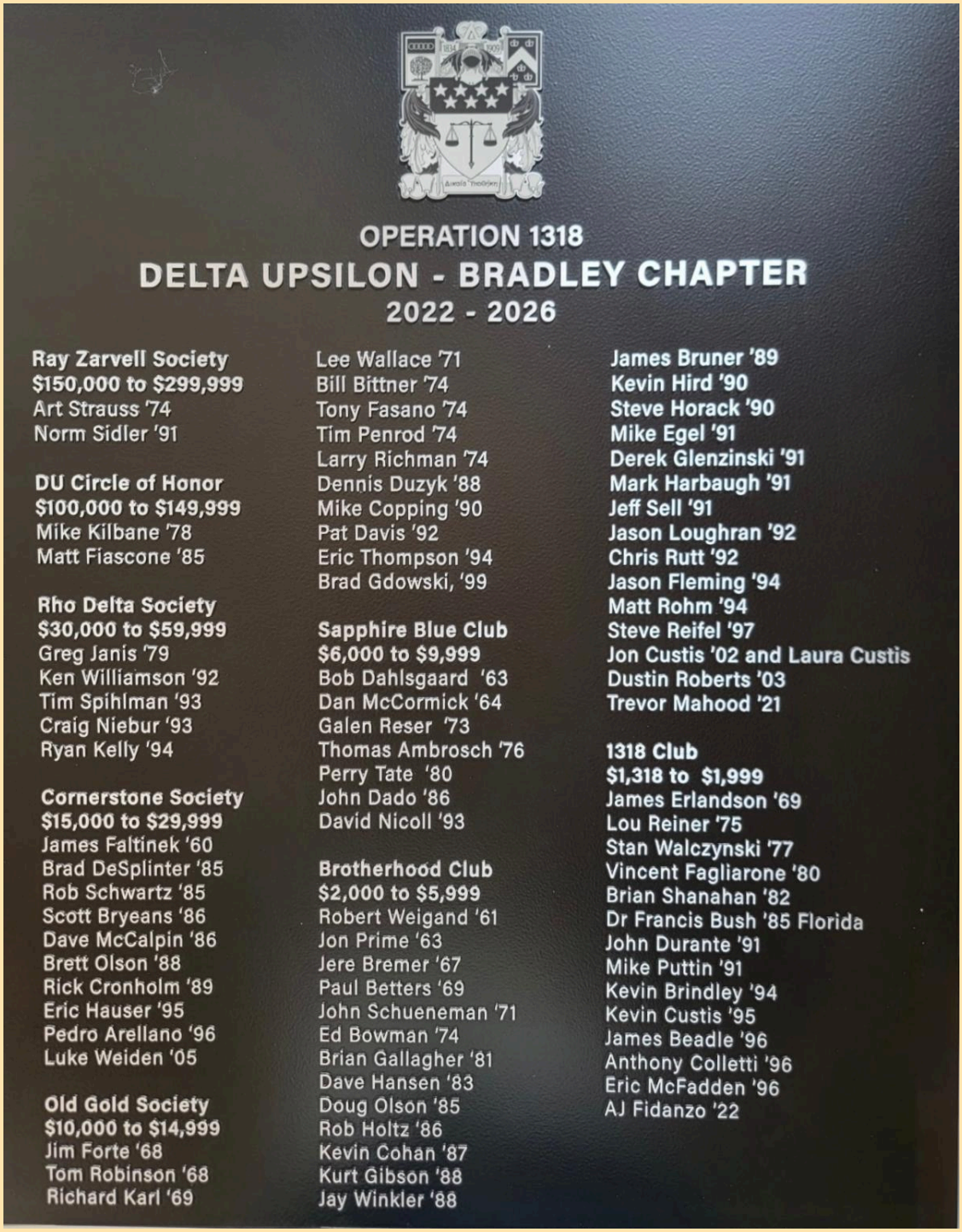
1318 Club
$1,318 to $1,999

James Erlandson ‘69
Lou Reiner ‘75

Stan Walczynski ‘77
Vincent Fagliarone ‘80
Brian Shanahan ‘82
Dr Francis Bush ’85 Florida
John Durante ’91
Mark Harbaugh ‘91
Mike Puttin ’91
Kevin Brindley ‘94
Kevin Custis ’95
James Beadle ‘96
Anthony Colletti ’96
Eric McFadden ’96
Trevor Mahood ’21
AJ Fidanzo ’22

Contributors
$25 to $1317

Donald Riechman ’60
Alvin Block ‘68
Craig Fales ‘68
Donald Spinner ‘69
John Dixon ‘71
Charles Molenaar’71
Mark Sadowski ‘73
John Cowie ‘74
William Griffin, ‘74
John Leonard ’76
Dale Kukla ’77
Clarence Ames ‘78
John Kless ’78
Tony Fidanzo ’81
Theodore Dubbs, ‘83
Lawrence Heavner ‘83
Avery Schneider, ‘83
Brian Read, ‘86
Joseph Orsolini ‘87
Peter Whalen ’87
John Mientus ’91
Denny Knolhoff, ‘93
Dan Blankenburg ‘94
Zach Hall ‘97
Tommy Choi ‘03
Michael Giardina ‘05
Daniel Raskin ‘05
Robert Lugiai ‘12
Nicholaus Thommen ‘12
Kevin Lofgren, ‘16
Ben Gibson ’19
Andrew Schmitt ‘23
Anonymous



Capital Campaign Images


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Thank You, Andrew, for Your Service on the Corporation Board

As Andrew Schmitt ('23) concludes his service on the Bradley Delta Upsilon Corporation Board, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for his dedication, perspective, and commitment to our brotherhood.

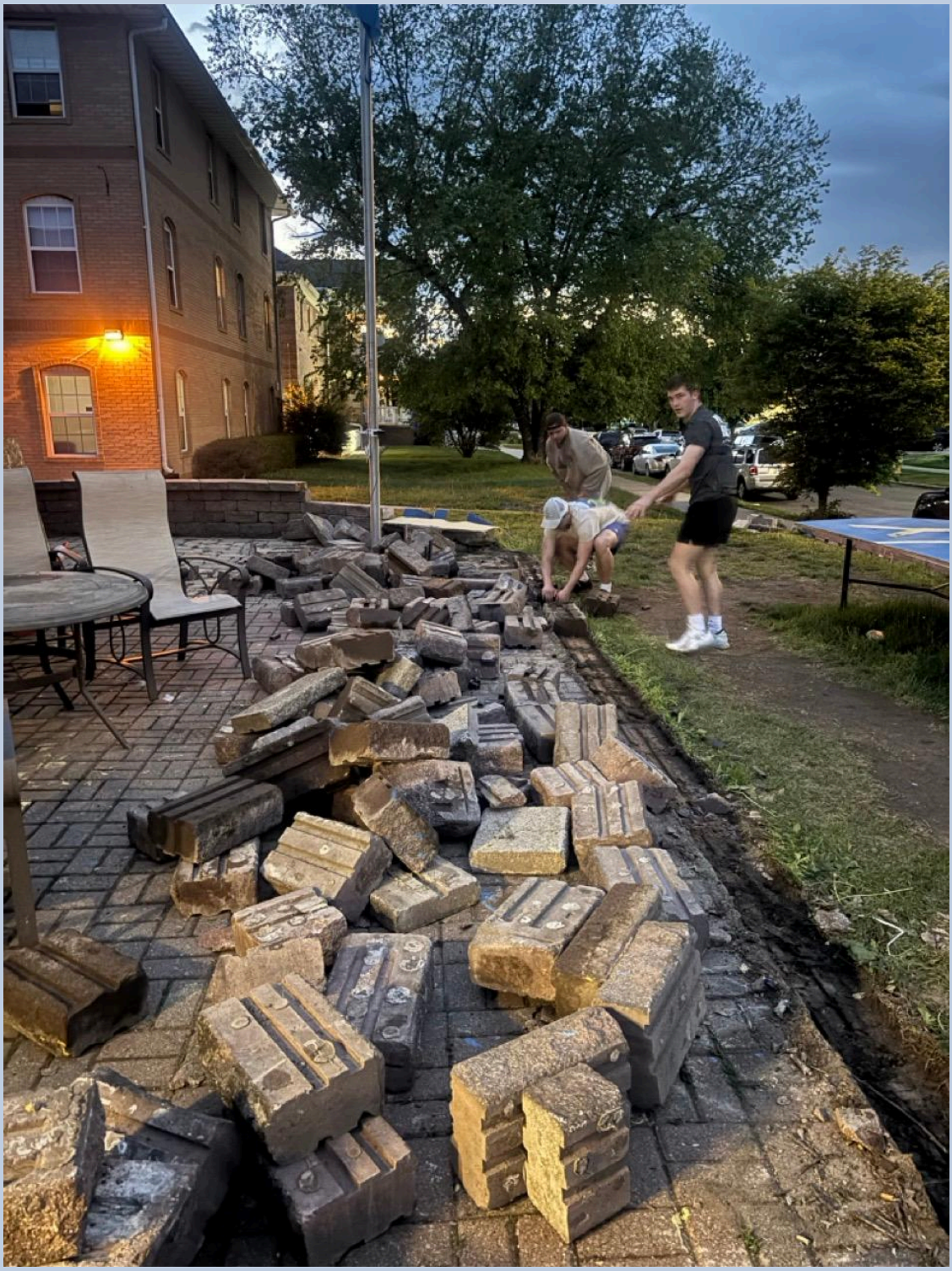
Andrew brought the unique perspective of a recent graduate and was always willing to give back to the chapter. His contributions helped strengthen the connection between our undergraduate chapter and alumni community, and he played an especially pivotal role in the improvement and maintenance of the Chapter House. We are grateful for the time and energy he invested in the continued success of Bradley Delta Upsilon.

Reflecting on his time with the Corporation Board, Andrew shared the following message:

> *"I would like to thank the Bradley Delta Upsilon Corporation Board for the opportunity I was given to be a member of this team. My time with them may have been short, but I am grateful to have been a part of the strides that were made. I can't wait to see the future of this chapter as it continues to grow and evolve."*

Andrew, thank you for your service and for your continued support of the Bradley Chapter. We wish you nothing but success in your future endeavors and look forward to seeing you remain an active member of our alumni community.

Undergraduates Help With Renovations



The improvements to the chapter house have been made possible not only through the generosity of our alumni, but also through the hard work of our undergraduate brothers.

Throughout the renovation process, members of the chapter have volunteered their time to assist with a variety of projects, helping prepare the house for continued improvements while taking pride in preserving the home of the Bradley Chapter.

Their willingness to roll up their sleeves and contribute is a great example of the shared commitment that continues to strengthen Delta Upsilon across generations.



Alumni Spotlight: Art Strauss '74

For more than 50 years, Art Strauss has remained deeply committed to the Bradley Chapter of Delta Upsilon. From his time as an undergraduate to his continued leadership and generosity as an alumnus, Art has played an instrumental role in preserving our chapter's traditions and helping shape its future.

Building More Than a Business—Building a Legacy

For more than five decades, Art Strauss ('74) has exemplified what it means to remain connected to the Bradley Chapter of Delta Upsilon. From serving as chapter treasurer as an undergraduate to helping lead the current chapter house renovations as a Corporation

Board member, Art's story is one of leadership, service, and a lifelong commitment to brotherhood.
While many know Art for his successful career as an engineer and entrepreneur, he is quick to point out that many of the values that shaped his career were developed during his years at Delta Upsilon.

From Chapter Treasurer to Chapter Builder

Art was elected Chapter Treasurer as a freshman, a role he credits to his love of mathematics and engineering.

At the time, the chapter house looked much different than it does today.
The upstairs consisted primarily of one large dormitory that housed 34 brothers in 17 bunk beds, while the downstairs contained four-man rooms furnished with little more than desks and closets. As membership continued to grow, it became clear the house needed more space.

Rather than simply accepting the limitations, Art began measuring the upstairs and drawing layouts that showed additional bedrooms could be built.
After presenting the concept to the Corporation Board, the project was approved.
What happened next remains one of Art's proudest memories from his time at Bradley.
His father became one of the driving forces behind the project, spending nearly every weekend throughout the summer of 1972 at the chapter house supervising the work and building alongside the undergraduate brothers. Together, they transformed the upstairs dormitory into seven new two-man rooms, dramatically improving the living conditions within the house.

The project quickly became a true brotherhood effort. Art and his father completed the planning and engineering, while undergraduate brothers spent the summer framing walls, hanging drywall, sanding, and completing nearly every phase of construction themselves.
Another brother's father, an electrician, volunteered to wire the entire project, while the only work contracted outside the chapter was the heating and ventilation system.
Looking back, Art still smiles remembering a film someone captured of brothers sanding drywall together in perfect rhythm—"like windshield wipers," he laughed.
The finished renovation immediately filled with residents.
"Our pledge class alone had forty-two members," Art recalled. "By senior year, they were asking upperclassmen to move out because there was such a waiting list to live in the house."

More than fifty years later, Art has once again found himself helping renovate the very same building—this time as a member of the Corporation Board and one of the leaders behind today's Capital Campaign improvements.

Coming Full Circle

When longtime brother Fred Roberts asked Art to return to the Corporation Board several years ago, he didn't hesitate.

Following a reunion visit to the chapter house, Art immediately recognized the need for significant improvements. He then became instrumental in planning and guiding many of the renovation projects now underway through the Capital Campaign.

For Art, the opportunity feels remarkably familiar.

More than fifty years after helping build new rooms as an undergraduate, he once again finds himself helping preserve the house for future generations of Bradley DUs.

Lessons Beyond the Classroom

After graduating from Bradley in 1974, Art began his career as an engineer before eventually purchasing and growing his family's window manufacturing business into one of Illinois' leading manufacturers.

Although his professional accomplishments span decades, Art believes the same principles that helped him succeed in business were learned much earlier.

Persistence.
Teamwork.
Discipline.

"Never give up," he says without hesitation.

His advice to today's undergraduates is simple: "Get all your work done first, and then you've got plenty of time to have fun."

He also credits athletics for teaching lessons that extend well beyond the playing field—goal setting, teamwork, resilience, learning from mistakes, and working toward a common objective. Those same lessons, he believes, translate directly into professional success.

Brotherhood That Lasts a Lifetime

Perhaps the strongest testament to Delta Upsilon's impact is that many of Art's closest friends today are the same brothers he met more than fifty years ago.

He still regularly gathers with Tim Penrod, Lou Reiner, Tony Fasano, Bob Kingry, and several other classmates for lunches, dinners, and New Year's Eve celebrations. Other brothers have even traveled across the country simply to reconnect for milestone birthdays and reunions.

Those friendships, Art says, are what have always mattered most.

"They're still like buddies. We just pick up right where we left off."

One Prank He'll Never Forget

Like many alumni, Art has no shortage of stories from his undergraduate years.
One memory, however, has become unforgettable.

Late one evening, the chapter's Little Sisters orchestrated an elaborate prank. They secretly rigged oscillating sprinklers with both hot and cold water throughout the stairwells, scattered "touch powder" that crackled loudly when stepped on, and set off cherry bombs hidden inside a roll of toilet paper to convince everyone the house was on fire.

Startled awake, Art sprinted from his room, slipped on the wet tile floor, and slid directly into a heavy steel stairwell door. As another brother opened the door from the opposite side, it caught Art's foot and badly injured his toes, sending him to the hospital in the middle of the night.

The following morning, after almost no sleep and several stitches later, he attempted to take a midterm exam. It remains, he jokes, the only test he ever failed—though thankfully his professor allowed him to retake it after hearing the unbelievable story.
Ironically, that same evening also led to his first date with Joanne, who would later become his wife.

A Lifetime of Building

Whether constructing seven bedrooms as an undergraduate, growing a successful manufacturing company, mentoring younger professionals, or helping oversee today's chapter house renovations, Art Strauss has spent a lifetime building.

More importantly, he has spent a lifetime giving back.

His story serves as a reminder that Delta Upsilon is far more than four years on campus—it is a lifelong commitment to brotherhood, leadership, and leaving the chapter stronger than you found it.



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on





Alumnus Qualifies for U.S. Senior Open Championship

Congratulations to Chris Kamin '96 on qualifying for his first U.S. Senior Open Championship. Kamin earned medalist honors at the U.S. Senior Open qualifying event at El Caballero Country Club in Tarzana, California, carding an impressive 5-under-par 66 to secure his spot in the championship field.

A four-year member of Bradley University's Men's Golf team, Kamin turned professional following graduation and has competed on the NGA Hooters Tour, PGA Tour Canada, the Asian Tour, and the Nationwide Tour.

The 2026 U.S. Senior Open Championship was held July 2–5 at Scioto Country Club in Columbus, Ohio.

Congratulations Chris on this outstanding accomplishment and for representing Bradley University and the Bradley Chapter of Delta Upsilon on one of golf's biggest stages.



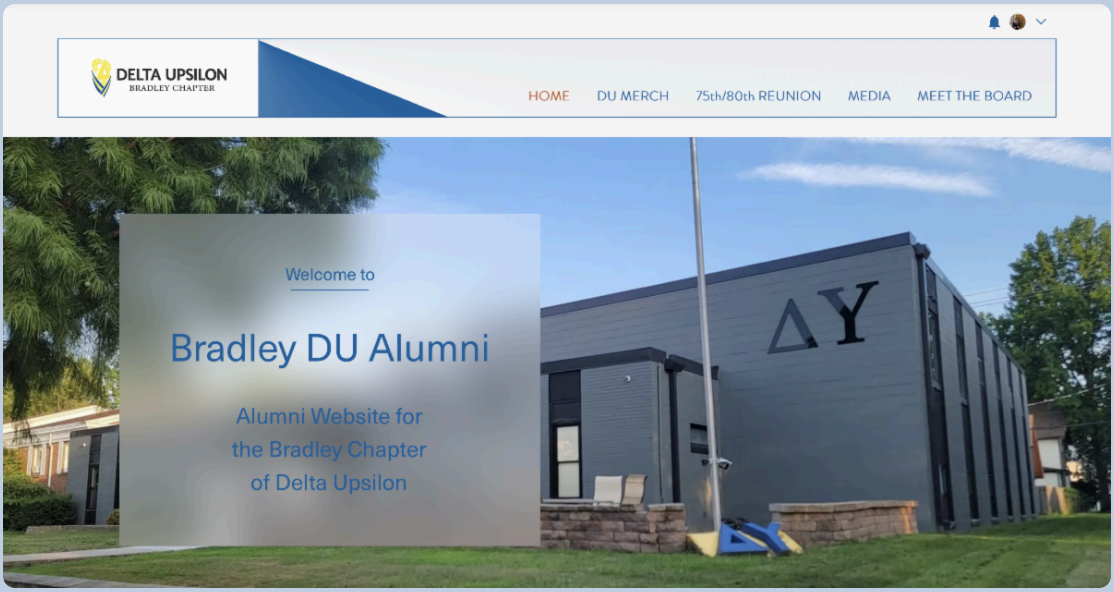
Introducing the New Bradley Delta Upsilon Website

We're excited to announce the launch of the new Bradley Delta Upsilon website, created to serve as the central hub for alumni, undergraduates, and friends of the chapter.

The website provides easy access to chapter news, reunion information, Capital Campaign updates, alumni resources, merchandise, and more. While the site is still a work in progress, new content and features will continue to be added over time, making it an even more valuable resource for staying connected with the Bradley Chapter.

Whether you're looking to register for the 75th/80th Anniversary Reunion, browse reunion apparel, catch up on chapter news, or learn more about the Corporation Board, we encourage you to explore the site and check back regularly as it continues to grow.

Visit the website using the button below or typing **https://www.bradleydu.com/** in your browser.



Visit Our Website

Know an Incoming Freshman?



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

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

Email us at dualumnicommunication@gmail.com

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

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