



THE PARTHENON

Official Newsletter for Alumni of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi

December, 2017

Open Letter to AZΔ Alumni from Outgoing Alumni Corporation President Randy Mason

Dear Brothers,

This past Homecoming I stepped down as President of the Alumni Corporation after 12 years, although I will remain on the Corporation Board as the "Ex-officio" 13th member per our By-laws. I guess there's no getting rid of me



that easily. I have been an active member of the Corporation since I graduated in 1996, with the exception of around 2001-2003 when I took time

out to get my MBA at night while working full time.

Over the past 25 years, I have seen so many changes with our Alpha! I was part of the last class to live at the Lodge at 912 South Second Street, and I was there the day our alumni voted unanimously to sell it in 1993. I was one of a few actives and alumni who refused to let AZΔ go dormant and kept things going from several different apartments around campus my sophomore year. That year we held the first "Juices of the Jungle" party (an annual event still to-

day) in our apartment and found a way to get Jeremy Doser to Alpha Epsilon Delta at Northwestern University to be initiated despite a blizzard that had shut down I-57.

We had just seven brothers move into a small group house at 810 West Illinois Street in Urbana my junior year and we worked hard to continue rebuilding. We saw steady growth through my senior year at 908 South Lincoln Avenue for which our Alpha was recognized at the National Convention with the Founders Trophy.

As an alumnus, I enjoyed watching our Alpha move back to Champaign in the Alpha Chi Rho house at 311 East Armory Avenue from 1997-2002. I also remember attending the meeting where we decided to move to 110 East Armory Avenue when the Crows decided to come back on campus. The 15 years at 110 East Armory definitely challenged us, from our failed attempt to purchase the building for \$1.35 million and eventually giving up our equity to install the required sprinkler system, to years dealing with a leaking roof and water damage, to the eventual surprise sale by our landlord to Kappa Delta for \$2.8 million! However, there were a lot of good times at that Lodge as well. I will always be proud of the job our Alpha did hosting Convention and our Centennial Celebration in 2012!

And now, a new challenge: moving to a smaller, albeit much more architecturally interesting, house deep in Urbana. I am so impressed by the efforts put forth by the current actives to get a pledge class of nine this first semester in the new Lodge!

Despite all the challenges we have faced over the years, I have always been impressed by the gentlemen of our Alpha, who have risen to meet those challenges. Time and time again, I have seen the great character of the young men who decide to become brothers of Chi Psi and pass through our Alpha every few years.

As I pass the torch to Matthew Hess, ZΔ '00, I know our Alpha is in great hands. I have known Matt for over 20 years, and I know he cares very deeply about our Alpha and that he has the leadership capabilities to help take our Alpha to the next level. I know it is just a matter of time before AZΔ brings home the Thayer Trophy!

Thank you to all the brothers who have served with me over the years! It was only with your efforts,

your friendship, and your counsel that we were able to weather all the storms and keep our Alpha moving forward.

YITB,
Randy Mason, ZΔ '96



Join the "Chi Psi Alumni AZD" Facebook Group
and Follow Us on Twitter @AZDAlumni for
all of the Latest Chi Psi News



Remarks from the #1

By Marc Ramm, ZA `19

Reflecting on my time as #1 this past year, while we've had our ups and downs I feel that the Alpha has gotten stronger over the course of the semester after coming together for the move.

The move itself from the old Lodge to 606 West Ohio was stressful but nonetheless successful. All the brothers and many gracious alumni came down to help. Having a majority of the brotherhood there to pitch in was a real morale booster to not only myself but the entire Alpha.

The positive morale from the move transitioned into recruitment for the Fall semester. We had a chance to introduce ourselves to a different part of campus and attract a different crowd. The recruitment chairs were Mikal Middleton and John Murphy, and everyone in the Lodge did their part to help them with their plans on how they wanted recruitment done.

We decided to restructure our recruitment to emphasize quality over quantity when it comes to events. This helped

because the entire Alpha had a chance to get their homework done so they could participate in all the recruitment events and meet potential new members.

Moving away from recruitment, we're proud of how our alumni have shown an interest in coming down to see the new Lodge. We saw a huge surge in activity on the Facebook page when we talked about the positives of the new Lodge and how we plan to grow for the future. We're proud of the job we did at Homecoming representing the Alpha and getting the Lodge in great shape, and are thankful to the alumni who came down to visit.

I know that the actives are looking at the Lodge in a more positive way than we did six months ago. The reason is because we learned that we can recruit from here. The Lodge looks a lot more like a fraternity house and is easier to sell to potential new members, and the location is not as bad as we once thought. As the semester is winding down and Initiation is coming up I can definitely say that I think the Alpha is headed in the right direction, and I know that Joshua Samson will do a great job as the new #1.

News & Such

- ◆ Hearty congratulations go out to **Brian Sarna, ZA `03**, who married his longtime girlfriend, Nickie Tibbetts, this past October. Brian and Nickie reside in Woodridge, IL.
- ◆ Congrats also go out to **Matt Kainer, ZA `06**, who was recently married to April Lynn Brewer. Connect with Matt on Facebook to live a really awesome life vicariously through him.
- ◆ **Nick Stevens, ZA `01** and his wife Beth welcomed Elise Leigh Stevens into the world on April 3, 2017. Congratulations go out to the happy, sleepless couple.
- ◆ Another happy couple recently tied the knot. **Eric Goebel, ZA `05** and Connie Sommerville exchanged vows in October, and we couldn't be more happy for them. They reside in Charlotte, NC.

If you have a news item you'd like to share, please email Matt Hess at mrhess78@gmail.com and it will be included in the next issue of The Parthenon.

Alpha Zeta Delta Says Goodbye After 15 Years in Old Lodge

By Paden Thomas, ZA `14

I'd like to start by saying thank you to all of the actives and alumni who made the trip down to 110 East Armory last May to help with the move to our new lodge at 606 West Ohio. As we were loading up the truck I couldn't help but think of the countless hours we had spent in that building, the brotherhood that was built, and the lifelong friendships that building helped create. It was where I met my girlfriend of 6 years, gained social skills that would help me in my career, and was a place I could always return to and be welcomed back by family. I thought of the hours we had spent making the building a better place to live, the time spent planning the 2012 Convention, and the 4 years I was able to live with my brothers. It was hard for us to pack our belongings and take them



The Lodge at 110 East Armory Avenue was recently sold to Kappa Delta sorority. It will be demolished and a new sorority house will be built in its place.

across town.

Moving is never easy, taking a step away from what you have known for years to something new can be frightening. But knowing the current actives and the brothers on the Alumni Board I believed that the future looked bright. The

actives have so far proved me right, gaining nine pledges this fall that will soon join our fraternity. The undergrads have also made 606 West Ohio feel like a Lodge, so walking through the halls this October felt like coming home. The porch on the side of the house is perfect for enjoying a cigar, the front room is a great space to catch up with old friends, and the large study space away from their rooms feels like an actual library.

I would like to thank all of the brothers who spent their time and money to improve our former Lodge, Randy Mason and Neal Rushforth

in particular for their ceaseless dedication to improving our Alpha. I would also invite anyone who hasn't been able to see our new Lodge to come down for Initiation on December 9th. I look forward to building some new memories with you in our new home.

Alumni Involvement More Crucial Than Ever

As AZΔ Begins Writing its Next Chapter



By: Matthew R. Hess,
ZΔ '00

It's hard to believe that next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the sale of the Lodge at 912 South Second Street. Although our Alpha has experienced some turbulent times since that dark day, the Alumni Corporation has enjoyed unprecedented stability.

Under the leadership of Todd Fouts, ZΔ '89, and Randy Mason, ZΔ '96, the Alpha has risen from near-dormancy in 1994 to where it is today – a healthy brotherhood residing in an attractive, functional Lodge, poised to build upon a foundation of accomplishment and success.

When I assumed the high honor and awesome responsibility of succeeding Brother Mason as President of the Alumni Corporation this past October, the first thing I said on our Facebook group (“Chi Psi Alumni AZD”) was that, while I am filling Brother Mason’s position, I will not be able to fill his shoes. I will be calling on each of you to help guide Alpha Zeta Delta into the future together, and that call to action begins today.

With our housing situation being settled for the moment following our move into the new Lodge at 606 West Ohio in Urbana, this year presents a unique opportunity for the Alumni Corporation to focus on its other functions. These include, first and foremost, supervising and advising the Alpha in its day-to-day activities. By taking a proactive approach to training the undergraduate officers, ensuring compliance with Chi Psi’s risk management guidelines and simply taking an interest in the education and development of the undergrads, we will not only ensure a certain consistency and continuity of leadership at the Alpha level but also enhance the Chi Psi experience for our undergraduate brothers.

The Corporation board has formed an Alpha Relations committee to help the Alpha achieve the highest level of success possible. Cameron Wall, ZΔ '11, is a former #1 and the current Vice-President of the Alumni Corporation, and he will be chairing the committee. Alumni who have graduated in the last 5-7 years and are interested in becoming involved in the Alumni Corporation are encouraged

to contact Brother Wall about joining the committee at cjwall147@gmail.com.

The Corporation is also more focused than ever on keeping our alumni informed and engaged this year. We intend to hold more alumni events, and I encourage all of you to try to attend at least one.

If there is only one event that you can attend this year, however, make it the Founders’ Day Banquet. The Alumni Corporation is again hosting a black-tie optional banquet to celebrate Founders’ Day in the Chicagoland area on May 26, 2018. We used to have a tradition of holding a formal Alpha Zeta Delta banquet every year, and we are bringing that tradition back. It is sure to be a special evening for Alpha Zeta Delta, and I am appealing to all of you to mark your calendars now and make every effort to attend.

The Alumni Corporation is also responsible for publishing the newsletter that you are reading right now – The Parthenon. By now I’m sure you’ve realized that you haven’t received one of these newsletters in quite a while. The reason for that is simple – they’re expensive. It takes approximately 20 alumni brothers paying their annual dues of \$55.00 to cover the cost of printing and mailing one issue of The Parthenon. Last year, only 38 total brothers paid dues, and less than 10 made a donation above and beyond the minimum amount.

If you’re enjoying this issue of The Parthenon and would like to continue receiving it, I kindly ask that you consider paying your dues now, or even making a donation above and beyond the \$55.00 minimum amount (\$45.00 for alumni who have graduated in the last five years). While your dues and donations are not tax-deductible, they are the lifeblood on which the Corporation operates. With an increase in the number of dues and donations this year, we will be able to put our three issues of The Parthenon – in December, April and Au-

gust. You can donate online at www.AZDChiPsi.org, or send a check made out to “The Corporation of AZD of Chi Psi” to our Treasurer, Chris Silchuck, ZΔ '13, at 515 South We Go Trail, Mt. Prospect, Illinois, 60056.

Of course, securing a permanent Lodge will always be front and center in my mind just as it with all of you. Toward that end, the Corporation has formed a committee to investigate the possibility of making the new Lodge a permanent home for AZΔ, while keeping our eye on the real estate market to identify other potential opportunities on campus. Paul Parks, ZΔ '03, has recently re-joined the Corporation board and will be serving as Chairman of that committee. The search for a permanent Lodge will always be the #1 priority of the Alumni Corporation, and alumni brothers should rest assured that work is always being done behind the scenes to make that happen as quickly as possible.



The new Lodge at 606 West Ohio Street in Urbana was built in 1935 for Theta Upsilon sorority. It was owned and occupied by the Alpha Chi Sigma professional chemistry fraternity from 1937 to 2007 before being sold to and renovated by a local property management company.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to sit in the President’s chair and for your support over these past 25 years. I’m looking forward to beginning the next chapter in the story of our Alpha. Together, I truly believe that we can lift Alpha Zeta Delta back to the prominent status that she once enjoyed in the Chi Psi world and on the University of Illinois campus.

If you would like to volunteer for a committee, share any thoughts or concerns that you might have or otherwise get involved, please contact me anytime at mrhess78@gmail.com. I’m looking forward to working with all of you.

Nine to Initiate Following Successful First Fall Rush at the New Lodge

The biggest question we faced when deciding to move into the new Lodge in Urbana was whether the undergraduates would be able to recruit being so far away from the center of campus. This Fall, they answered that question resoundingly, recruiting nine young men to pledge the Lodge. These nine will become brothers in Chi Psi on December 9, the first class to be initiated in the



Michael Rivkin

new Lodge at 606 West Ohio.

Michael Rivkin is from Wilmette, Illinois, and his favorite pastime is sailing. His major is nuclear engineering and he is in the Navy ROTC. He has aspirations to serve on a Naval surface vessel after school.



Patrick Killigrew

Patrick Killigrew is a transfer student, joining the University of Illinois as a junior. Coming from Palatine Illinois, Patrick enjoys playing guitar, reading and exercising. Patrick is an economics major and is excited to be joining Chi Psi. **Jimmy Boylen** is a freshman, born and raised in Downers Grove, Illinois. He has yet to declare a major but is considering either finance or architecture. His hobbies include watching movies and participating in



Jimmy Boylen

motorsports.

Daniel Abel is a sophomore majoring in business. He is from Lake Villa, Illinois, and his hobbies include playing tennis, participating in theater and watching Game of Thrones. Daniel has also been playing the viola for eleven years.



Daniel Abel

Thomas Herrell is from Florida and is a computer science major. Thomas enjoys playing video games and hanging

out with friends. He also takes time to program and learn more about computer science. Thomas is excited to get to know his fellow brothers in Chi Psi.



Thomas Herrell

Michael Lentz is also from Florida but he was born in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. He is currently undeclared but is aiming to major in media and cinema studies. Michael likes to



Michael Lentz

play the bass, watch movies and listen to music with friends. **Manuel A. Hernandez-Estrada Jr.**, describes himself as having endless energy and someone who loves people. He is from Leroy, Illinois. Manuel has a passion for knowledge and is excited to carry his academic career into college. Manuel is currently pursuing a pre-engineering major studying comput-

er science.

Quinn Dellinger is a freshman majoring in economics, and he is from Naperville, Illinois. His main hobby is playing the Super Smash Brothers video game, and he loves going to tournaments to compete. He also enjoys playing basketball and other video games along with watching television. Quinn is excited to make more



Manuel Hernandez-Estrada, Jr.

friends within the fraternity.

Last but certainly not least is **Ryan Litt**, who is majoring in aerospace because of his interest in space. His hobbies include kayaking and camping. Ryan is excited to find a place where he can meet people interested in similar hobbies and make new friends.



Quinn Dellinger



Ryan Litt

We hope you can come down to Urbana to help welcome these nine new brothers into the bonds on December 9, 2017, at the new Lodge located at 606 West Ohio in Urbana. An Initiation Banquet will follow the ceremony.

Alumni Corporation Board of Directors - 2017-2018

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Trustee (#1)

Tim Gilmore, '20
Trustee (#4)

Randy Mason, '96 - Immediate Past President

Illini Basketball Preview: A Trip Back to the Big Dance?



By Casey Boguslaw, ZΔ '06

Editor's Note: Casey Boguslaw has been writing and podcasting about sports since 2014 for several websites, including The Hardball Times. He helped launch the website

ROBaseball.com and served as managing editor until his departure to focus more on his own writing. Casey graduated from the University of Illinois with a mathematics degree and still remains a passionate Illini fan. He currently resides in Elmhurst, Illinois with his family. You can follow Casey on Twitter @caseyboguslaw.

It has been four straight seasons of no "Fighting Illini" on our March Madness tournament brackets and it may seem the beloved Orange and Blue no longer has the prestige of yesteryear. Heck, the magical 2005 season was 13 seasons ago! Since the run to the championship game, the Illini have only won three tournament games. It's been a frustrating decade-plus, but the orange and blue arrow may finally be pointed in the right direction after a promising coaching hire.

I could go on a diatribe on how Bruce Weber took a program which reached a national championship to just another joke program in the state of Illinois, but I don't have enough space here. Truth is, his successor John Groce may have been worse (he went 37-53 in five seasons in conference play in the Big Ten!). But a new era has begun in Illini basketball and things are already starting to feel a lot different.

New head coach **Brad Underwood** is more than just the next up-and-coming head coach in the NCAA; he has already reached significant heights. In his four seasons as a head coach in college basketball (three at Stephen F. Austin, one at Oklahoma State), he has never missed an NCAA tournament. The hopes of every Illinois basketball fan is for the streak to continue on for the 2017-18 season.

If you haven't been watching Illinois basketball the past few seasons — who could blame you — there isn't a whole lot to catch up on with the current roster. One of the most underrated Illini of all time, **Malcolm Hill**, has graduated, somehow missing out on a tournament during his fantastic four-year stint in the

orange and blue. **Kendrick Nunn** transferred out after a tumultuous few years in Champaign and is now showing some success at Oakland University in Michigan. Even **Jalen Coleman-Lands**, one of Groce's few recruiting "wins" also decided to leave the program after Groce's departure.

The familiar faces left are red-shirt juniors **Leron Black** and **Michael Finke**. Black, a 6'7" power forward, who won the Mr. Basketball award in Tennessee (each state's best high school player), has already shown he's ready to take a step up as leader under the tutelage of Underwood.

Finke, who is 6'10", represents the extent of the proven "size" on this year's club. However, he should remind many of the long line of underweight big men the Illini have put in uniform through the years. Although Finke can't play huge down low, he does bring range, and is a matchup nightmare if he's on.

A large chunk of the rest of the minutes is going to go to multiple freshmen. Groce did leave the Illini with some pieces of an impressive recruiting class. **Trent Frazier**, from Florida, is a combo guard who has a very high ceiling. **Da'Monte Williams**, will bring back a lot of memories (and make us feel old) of his father, Frankie Williams. Both Frazier and Williams should see a lot of playing time, and could very likely be four-year contributors.

Mark Smith is the future. Last year's Mr. Basketball of Illinois was Underwood's welcoming gift to his new team. Underwood was able to solidify Smith's commitment and through the first few games, Smith has already shown his immense talent. Smith didn't even play basketball until later in his high school career — he was a baseball star who had an arm injury force him into a new sport.

Although it doesn't pertain to this year's club, it felt appropriate to mention Underwood and staff have already nailed down the frontrunner for this year's Mr. Basketball, **Ayo Dosunmu**. There's that arrow in the right direction thing I was talking about.

Back to this year's club, the other players to take note of are **Kipper Nichols**, a transfer who joined the team last year. There is a lot of optimism in Nichols' ceiling as he is truly able to do it all — he has intense energy which shows off on defense and rebounding. He has great length and range he's not

afraid to show off from the three-point line.

Aaron Jordan was somewhat of an afterthought headed into this season as it was believed the former Groce recruit, who hasn't gotten much playing time in his Illini career, would transfer this off-season. Jordan stayed true to the Illini and it has paid off in the early going of the season as the now-junior has found his role as a Three-and-D guy.

TeJon Lucas earned the starting point guard role last year as a freshman. He is a solid all-around player and even though he will be pushed by the incoming class, will be counted on to run the offense to begin the season.

Mark Alstork is a graduate transfer who was brought in for some veteran leadership and to help out the young point guards. Alstork made over two three-pointers a game last season for Wright State, averaging 19 points a game.

The non-conference schedule is fairly weak this season. Outside of the Bragging Rights game with Missouri (who is also seeing refreshed life with a new head coach), the Illini may be favored in each game. But with that said, any loss could be damaging to a tournament resume. With such a young team, with little carry-over, it won't be shocking to have an upset loss (although no Illini fan should be surprised by any upset after the last decade).

Which brings us to the Big Ten. Like most years, the conference brings it up and down the standings. Michigan State is a contender for another Final Four with maybe one of the best Tom Izzo teams ever. The Illini have the unfortunate pleasure of facing them twice this season — Jan. 22 in Champaign and Feb. 20 in East Lansing.

Purdue will also be very good this year with an explosive offense. The Illini will only play them once, in Champaign, in the second to last game on Feb. 22.

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maryland, and yes, Northwestern all look like solid bets to make the NCAA tournament this year.

It will most likely be another season of anxiety and nerves on Selection Sunday for the Illini faithful. If they can get to 19-20 wins, they will certainly be in the running to finally ending the drought of seeing the Fighting Illini back on our brackets.

Event Schedule

- Dec. 1 Happy Hour at Hofbrauhaus
- Dec. 9 Initiation
Banquet to Follow
- Jan. 13* Joint Alpha - Alumni Management Retreat
- Apr. 28* Initiation
Banquet to Follow
- May 26 Founders' Day Banquet
- Jul. 14* Chi Psi at the Park (Arlington)
- Aug. ? AZA of Chi Psi Golf Outing

* = Tentative Date

ALUMNI DUES AND DONATION FORM

Please clip or copy & mail to Chris Silchuck, 515 South We Go Trail, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Or Pay Online at www.AZDChiPsi.org

Name: _____ Year: _____

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____ made payable to *The Corporation of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi*, which includes \$55.00 for my 2017-2018 dues (\$45 for classes 2012 and later). I understand that this donation is not tax-deductible.

Please update my address to: _____

(Phone)

(Email)

SAVE THE DATE

For Alpha Zeta Delta's Annual **Founders' Day Banquet**

Saturday, May 26, 2018

Location TBD (Chicagoland Area)

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

Our New and Improved Website is Coming Soon! Check Back Often for the Latest in AZA News.

* * * * * www.AZDChiPsi.org * * * * *



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