



# THE PARTHENON

Official Newsletter for Alumni of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi December, 2018

## Deal Reached to Purchase Lodge *Capital Campaign Launched to Fund New Building*



By Matthew R. Hess,  
ZΔ '00

**A**fter 25 years of wandering on the University of Illinois campus, the Alumni Corporation is excited

to announce that we have reached a deal to purchase a permanent Lodge for Alpha Zeta Delta.

The new permanent Lodge will be the current Delta Zeta sorority house located at 710 West Ohio Street in Urbana. Before I tell you what we will need from you to ensure our success, let me take a minute to explain how this deal came about.

### **An Unforeseen Opportunity**

The deal came together quickly and unexpectedly. Although the Corporation had been laying the groundwork for a capital campaign for some time, our plan was focused on purchasing the current Lodge at 606 West Ohio Street. The undergraduate Brothers are thriving in the current Lodge, but the location is not ideal and the building requires several expensive repairs. So even with our tentative plan in place, we kept an eye out for other available properties on campus.

Last March a real estate broker contacted the Corporation about purchasing the Delta Zeta sorority house, as they are building a new home in Champaign. Board members conducted a walk-through that same month. The building was impressive, and the location is more desirable than that of the current Lodge. At the time, the sorority's asking price was a firm \$1.8M. This was well above our price range and we walked away without much thought.

In early September, we reached out to Delta Zeta and were surprised to learn that the house had not yet sold. We successfully negotiated a significant price reduction and reached an agreement to purchase the house for \$1.65M. The closing is scheduled for May 31, 2019.

### **Why Delta Zeta?**

Words cannot adequately convey the pristine condition of the Delta Zeta house. Although most sorority houses on campus are kept in great shape, this is especially true for Delta Zeta. Over the last 13 years, the sorority made numerous major (and expensive) improvements to their building, upgrading everything from the cosmetics to the infrastructure. For example, within the last 3 years the building was tuck-pointed, its kitchen was completely renovated, the parking lot was replaced, and the landscaping was overhauled.

Before reaching our agreement with Delta Zeta, we had a property management company inspect both properties to determine how much it would cost to bring the current Lodge up to the standard of the Delta Zeta house. Upon receiving those inspection reports, our decision was clear. While the current Lodge presents plenty of potential, we would need to spend over \$500,000 (on top of the purchase price) to bring it up to the standard we want for our permanent home. In contrast, the Delta Zeta house is turnkey, and we can focus on



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growing our Alpha, not repairing our bricks and mortar.

### **Capital Campaign Begins Now**

They say that success is where preparation meets opportunity. The Corporation has been preparing to conduct a capital campaign for some time, so when this perfect opportunity presented itself, we were ready. While this opportunity has accelerated our timeline, we are confident we have the pieces in place to conduct a successful campaign.

With that in mind, there is much work that needs to be done between now and May 31, 2019 in order to close on the deal. I recently met with the undergraduates and their enthusiasm for this deal is contagious. They recognize the opportunity this presents and have committed to ensuring its success. For example, as of this newsletter over 90% of the undergraduates have committed

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Remarks from the #1



By Joshua Samson, ZΔ '20, #1

This past semester has been one of the most crucial times in our Alpha's history. In moments like these you either succumb to mediocrity or rise to the occasion. We were challenged to recruit a big pledge class, and the recruitment chairs along with the rest of the Alpha pulled together and recruited 10 pledges fall semester. This was the biggest pledge class I have seen in my time active. The odds were against us in recruitment with the Lodge being in Urbana, but this goes to show what a great job our Alpha did especially with Mikal Middleton '20 and Patrick Killigrew '19 leading the way.

bonds and our Alpha was excited to get to know the alumni. The brothers have been excited to see new faces coming down to visit the Lodge. Our Scholarship Chair, Sam Kluber '20, announced brothers that won scholarships last semester. Quinn Dellinger '21, Reid Haberman '18, and Kristian Kelly '19 won the Robert C. Preble Jr, Robert C. Preble Sr, and George H. Bargh respectively. After this semester and passing the torch to the new #1 Mikal Middleton, I am confident we will continue to grow and rise.



From left to right: Tommy Herrell, ZΔ '21, Mikal Middleton, ZΔ '20, Josh Samson, ZΔ '20, Quinn Dellinger, ZΔ '21, Michael Rivkin, ZΔ '21 and John Murphy, ZΔ '20, promote the Lodge at Quad Day.

The new executive board is filled with great men ready to make history and take the next steps for the good of the Alpha. Our success would have not

been possible without the support and guidance of the alumni and believing in us. It's been an honor to lead this group of excellent men. Looking forward I'm excited to see what we'll become especially with all the progress we have made this semester.

The Initiation banquet was great time to welcome 10 new brothers into the

## News & Such

- ◆ Congratulations go out to **Jack Kresl, ZΔ '07**, who tied the knot on August 25, 2018. He and his new wife, Kevan Cita, celebrated their wedding together in Europe and are now living happily ever after in Chicago.
- ◆ Another wedding to announce: **Doug Chuick, ZΔ '05**, and Jenna Joerger got married on November 10, 2018. Hearty congratulations go out to the newlyweds.
- ◆ Twenty-five percent of your Alumni Board has gotten engaged recently. **Matthew Hess, ZΔ '00**, and his fiancé Laura (a/k/a "Lady Meathouse") will tie the knot in Nashville next Fall. Paden **Thomas, ZΔ '14**, and his bride-to-be, Amanda Piesche, will be getting married next year as well. And finally, **Cameron Wall, ZΔ '11**, must have played a trick on his girlfriend Lindsey Fauerbach because she said yes as well. The two will be getting married next fall. Congratulations to all!
- ◆ **Michael Lennon, ZΔ '11** also got married recently, and **Dave Ohm, ZΔ '11**, is now engaged. Congratulations to both brothers!

*If you have a news item you'd like to share with your fellow alumni brothers, please email Matt Hess at [mrhess78@gmail.com](mailto:mrhess78@gmail.com) and it will be included in the next issue of The Parthenon.*

# St. Andrews to Host Founders' Day on May 18

By Cameron J. Wall, ZΔ '11



Following the success of last year's Founder's Day Banquet, the Alumni Corporation is excited to announce that our 2019 Founder's Day Banquet will be held May 18, 2019, at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club in West Chicago.



The banquet will be an opportunity for alumni young and not as young to reconnect and rekindle friendships. The price will be \$100 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and an open bar. Registration will be available online at [www.AZDChiPsi.org](http://www.AZDChiPsi.org).



If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Cameron Wall, ZΔ '11 ([cjwall147@gmail.com](mailto:cjwall147@gmail.com)) or Jeremy Doser, ZΔ '97 ([jeremyd71@yahoo.com](mailto:jeremyd71@yahoo.com)). We look forward to seeing many brothers there!

# Lodge Purchase

(Continued from page 1)

to living in the new Lodge next year. On the alumni side, our goal is straightforward – we need to raise at least \$500,000 before May 1, 2019 to put towards the down payment on the house. While we may be able to obtain additional funds from Zeta Delta's Educational Trust fund (established with the proceeds from the sale of the Lodge at 912 S. Second), the bulk of the purchase money must come from alumni gifts.

The name of our campaign is "Restoring Excellence: The Zeta Delta Lodge Campaign" because our goal is not simply to purchase a building but to restore Zeta Delta's standing as one of the top fraternities on campus and one of the top Alphas in Chi Psi. That cannot be done without a permanent Lodge, and the time has come for all alumni to band together and give our Alpha the permanent home she deserves.

The Capital Campaign will be conducted in two phases. **Phase 1** must be completed by May 1, 2019 and *must* raise at least \$500,000 for the down payment for the Lodge. This will be accomplished through a combination of large gifts from major donors and smaller gifts from anyone who is able to donate to the campaign on or before May 1, 2019.

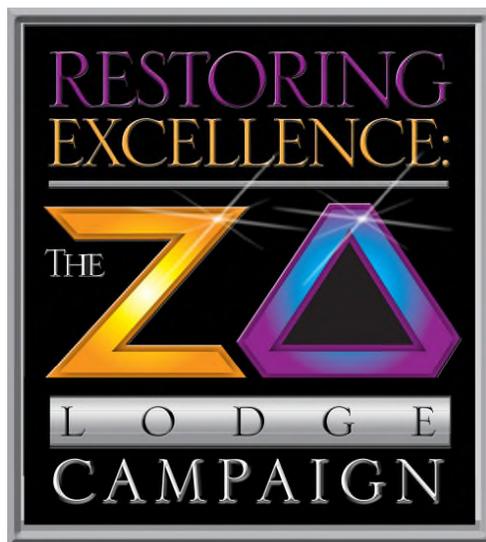
After the new Lodge is purchased, **Phase 2** of the Campaign will begin. It will operate over a multi-year timeline and will raise additional funds to reduce the amount of the Lodge's mortgage, create a reserve fund for maintenance and future repairs, and replenish Zeta Delta's Educational Trust fund so the Alpha's scholarship programs and educational grants may continue.

We are happy to announce that Paul Parks, ZΔ '03, is our Capital Campaign Committee Chairman and W. David Romsos, ZΔ '65, will serve as Director of Development. Together they have done an outstanding job in the past several months reaching out to our alumni Brothers and spreading the good news about the future of our Alpha. We are

also happy to announce that Christopher W. Riehs, ZΔ '90, has agreed to serve as Treasurer of the Capital Campaign. The other 10 members of the Capital Campaign Committee include members of the alumni board and other interested alumni of each generation. Needless to say, the Capital Campaign committee believes we will achieve our goal – and have put their money where their mouths are, pledging over \$95,000 towards **Phase 1** of the campaign.

## How You Can Help

We all need to come together to make this deal happen. Statistics show that generally only 25% of an organization's



members contribute to a capital campaign. We can – and must – do better. For this campaign to succeed – and for our Alpha to finally obtain a permanent home – we will need that number to be significantly higher. So the most important things you can do to ensure our success are: 1.) make a gift to the Campaign; 2.) volunteer your expertise to our fundraising efforts; and 3.) spread the word.

We are actively searching out five (5) Brothers who have the ability and willingness to make a \$50,000 gift, and ten (10) Brother to donate \$25,000 to the cause. However, any amount that you can give will greatly aid our efforts, so

please consider participating in **Phase 1**, **Phase 2**, or (if you are able) **both**. However, *without a successful Phase 1, there is no permanent Lodge*.

We are also in need of volunteers to serve as class leaders or regional chairmen for the Campaign. If you are interested in taking a more active role, please contact me ([mrhess78@gmail.com](mailto:mrhess78@gmail.com)) or Paul Parks ([poparks2@yahoo.com](mailto:poparks2@yahoo.com)) and let us know.

Finally, discuss our plans with Brothers you are in touch with and let them know about the developments in Urbana. Although we have stepped up our alumni outreach efforts these past couple of years, there are still many Brothers we are unable to reach. Pick up the phone, send an email, talk to them about these exciting developments and invite them to attend an event or make a gift.

## Our Success Begins With You

The opportunity to purchase the Delta Zeta house is perfect for us and we cannot let it get away. But we need your help, Brother.

The new, permanent Lodge will impress the undergraduates, future Brothers and their families, and help the Alpha grow – both in terms of size and their level of achievement. A new, permanent Lodge has benefits for you as an alumnus as well – it will be a place where you can reconnect with old friends, relive fond memories, impress your family, and allow your legacy of Brotherhood to continue.

We are on the cusp of solidifying Chi Psi's second century at the University of Illinois. Our Alpha has been on campus for 106 years and we want to make sure it is strong and prominent – a beacon of Brotherhood and Excellence for generations to come. By participating in the Capital Campaign – with your money, with your time, with your enthusiasm – you will be someone that future Chi Psis will celebrate at Zeta Delta's 200th Anniversary Gathering.

The opportunity is right. The time has come. Together we will achieve the dream and leave a lasting legacy for the future!

## Alumni Corporation Board of Directors

Matthew Hess, ZΔ '00  
President

Chris Silchuck, ZΔ '13  
Treasurer

Paul Parks, ZΔ '03  
Trustee

Michael Rivkin, ZΔ '21, #2  
Trustee

Cameron Wall, ZΔ '11  
Vice-President

James Bridgewater, ZΔ '95  
Trustee

Paden Thomas, ZΔ '14  
Trustee

Kaleb Sather, ZΔ '20, #3  
Trustee

Matthew Murphy, ZΔ '90  
Secretary

Jeremy Doser, ZΔ '97  
Trustee

Mikal Middleton ZΔ '20, #1  
Trustee

Quinn Dellinger, ZΔ '21, #4  
Trustee



# In the Spotlight:



## Tom Humphris, ZΔ '53

### Zeta Delta's #1 When it Last Won a Thayer Trophy Reflects on his Time in the Lodge

Ever since the old Lodge was sold in January, 1994, the undergraduates who passed through the doors of Alpha Zeta Delta have all enjoyed a similar Chi Psi experience.

Many words have been used to describe the Zeta Delta experience of the last 25 years. It has been that of a "growing" Brotherhood; a "rebuilding" Alpha; one based on the "promise" of a better tomorrow. The experience has been one highlighted by the formation of close friendships and shared values, to be sure. Brothers have universally described Zeta Delta as being comprised of Brothers who are "down to earth" and "genuine," unlike the fraternity stereotype. And there have been times when the Alpha has enjoyed modest success (such as when it won the Founders Trophy in 1995 and 2000).

But for the past 25 years, the story of Zeta Delta has been a mediocre one. It

throughout the Chi Psi world. The Alpha's accomplishments were recognized in 1953 when Zeta Delta was last awarded the Thayer Trophy at Chi Psi's Annual Convention. Zeta Delta also took home the Goodbody Trophy for the third year in a row that year, which is awarded to the top performing Alpha scholastically.

Tom Humphris was the #1 that year. He joined Chi Psi in the Fall, 1949 semester, and remembers those years fondly to this day.

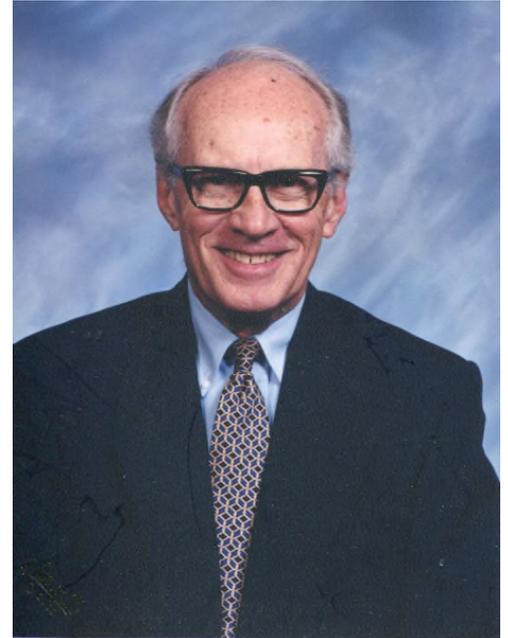
"Back in those days there were summer rushing gatherings for some fraternities, plus formal rushing was a week before classes started. The Brothers of Chi Psi were the most impressive and down to earth during all of the rushing activity."

Humphris, a marketing major, was not above pulling off a good prank on his fellow Brothers.

"One of the pledge duties back in the '50's was waking up brothers on certain days. I had a reputation for being rather difficult to wake up on Saturday mornings, so Pledge Dave Lawrence and I concocted a scheme. At breakfast, Dave and I started getting into an argument about my difficulty of getting up. Dave had a starter gun with his activity with the university track team, so he pulled out the gun and shot me. I immediately fell to the floor feigning being wounded. Naturally, everyone was in a state of shock until Dave and I started laughing."

Many Zeta Delta Brothers were involved on campus during Humphris' years and many held leadership positions in University organizations. The Alpha's strength and high level of achievement, both academically and on campus, resulted in Champaign being chosen to host the 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. Brother Humphris represented the Alpha well at that Convention.

"During the 1952 National Convention of Chi Psi in Champaign, I was fortunate enough to have Trev Roberts, the #1 from Epsilon Delta as my roommate. As events unfolded, our bathtub became



the refreshment center for a lot of Brothers. It was filled with ice for the beverages that were available. I can't remember where Trev and I had to take a shower. Traffic tidiness was a problem, so it resulted in both Trev and I receiving a letter from Slip Slifer, National Secretary, after the convention requesting a donation from each of us for the unfortunate room damage."

After graduating from the School of Business, Humphris spent two years serving in the United States Air Force. He then took a job with Amerock Corporation in Rockford, Illinois, which was a leading cabinet hardware and specialty hardware family-owned business. Going to work for Amerock was "one of the best and luckiest decisions I ever made."

"It was a family-owned business with probably 1,200 employees, growing rapidly in consumer and industrial hardware products. My career path included production control, inside sales, Industrial Sales Manager, and Director of Industrial Products Marketing.

The experience gained with that fine company gave me the background to start T.L. Humphris Company in 1969 which eventually grew to Humphris, Kiefer & Associates as it is today."

Today, Brother Humphris serves Humphris, Kiefer & Associates as a manufacturer's representative stationed in Rockford, Illinois with an office in Hoffman Estates covering parts of Wis-

(Continued on page 5)



Tom Humphris, ZΔ '53 (left) and Stan Thoren, ZΔ '69 (right) received Alumni Recognition Awards in 2004.

has been the story of a meandering Alpha, moving from house to house in search of a sense of permanency and the next group of leaders to elevate her to true greatness. But this has not always been the case.

In the 1950's and 1960's, the Zeta Delta experience was one marked by excellence. The Alpha was filled with leaders on campus and was a model Alpha

# Zeta Delta's Success in Urbana Continues

## As the Alpha Initiates Ten New Brothers

By Logan Weeter, ZΔ '20 and Patrick Killegrew, ZΔ '20

When Alpha Zeta Delta's move to Urbana was announced two years ago, many felt that the location of the new Lodge would hinder the Alpha's recruitment efforts.

It hasn't. Following a successful Fall, 2017 that resulted in eight new initiates, Zeta Delta has just initiated ten new Brothers into the Bonds of Chi Psi, proving that organization and hard work can overcome a less-than-desirable location on campus.

**Charlie Gordon** finished 1<sup>st</sup> in rank in his pledge class and hails from Highland Park, Illinois. He's a Mechanical Engineering major who immediately sensed a strong and genuine sense of brotherhood from the gentlemen at Zeta Delta. He loves tennis and video games, woodshop, robotics and all sorts of other engineering practices.

**Arjun Thakkar** comes from New City, New York, a town in the suburbs of NYC. Majoring in Finance, Arjun says he loves everyone at the Lodge and enjoys himself every time he's here. Arjun loves playing chess and ping pong and enjoys spending time backpacking. He is currently getting into tennis with a few brothers at Zeta Delta and can't wait to hone his skills in the spring.

**Kyle Anderson** comes from Wheaton, Illinois and is a junior studying economics. He encountered some brothers and alums at the Illini Inn and was excited to start rushing. Kyle likes to play handball and hit the gym and is incredibly interested in the NBA.

**Rory Douglass** came to campus all the way from Burlingame, California, and is currently pursuing a degree in Bioengineering. Rory has thoroughly enjoyed spending time with all the

brothers here at Zeta Delta. He loves boxing and Formula 1 Electric Cars and is a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society.

**Evan Fouts** comes into our brotherhood as a Zeta Delta legacy, son of Todd



Nine of the ten newly-initiated Brothers of Alpha Zeta Delta immediately following the ceremonies.

Fouts, ZΔ '89. He hails from Edelstein Illinois, and though he is undeclared he's pursuing both Computer Science and Linguistics. Evan was thrilled for the chance to form such a unique bond with so many people here at the Lodge. He likes painting landscapes and playing rugby and is currently a member of the No Strings Attached Acapella group on campus.

Next, we have **Sam Hoffmann**. Sam is an Engineering major. Sam is from Highland Park and played Hockey and Lacrosse in high school. Sam decided to accept his bid because the values of Chi Psi really resonated with him. He enjoys playing sports and is part of Model UN on campus.

Next up is **Nick Chomko**. Nick is double majoring in Economics and History. He is from La Grange Park. The

reason he decided to accept his bid was because all the brothers were genuine and friendly. He enjoys playing the piano, Playing FIFA, and listening to music.

**Mason Sotomayor** comes from Chicago. He is majoring in Pre-Engineering. He accepted his bid because out of all the fraternities that he rushed he felt he made the best friendships with brothers here. His hobbies include playing basketball and dancing.

**Chester Wilson III** is from Chicago. He is majoring in Creative Writing. He decided to accept his bid because Chi Psi helped change his view of fraternities and made him feel accepted. In his free time, he enjoys reading and cooking.

Lastly, we have **Zhaoyang Chen**. He is majoring in Linguistics. Chen decided to accept his bid because he really connected with the values of Chi Psi and the idea of being a gentleman.

Chen was elected the president of his pledge class and is highly respected by his pledge brothers. He enjoys playing the guitar and hanging out at the Lodge.

All Zeta Delta Brothers, old and new alike (including more than ten alumni) celebrated together at a banquet held at the Illini Union. The banquet was highlighted by a keynote address delivered by W. David Romoser' ZΔ '65, who announced the launch of our capital campaign—"Restoring Excellence: The Zeta Delta Lodge Campaign." He emphasized that we would not be in a position to move forward with the Lodge purchase if it was not for the hard work and dedication of the undergraduates. There was a palpable sense of excitement in the room, leaving all who attended with no doubt that the Zeta Delta's future is bright and in good hands.

## Humphris

(Continued from page 4)

consin, Illinois and Iowa. We represent companies capable of engineering components for assembly in other manufacturers' end products.

"The most challenging part of my job has evolved over the years. Many of our state and national leaders have not recognized the negative impact on the manufacturing community. Many com-

panies and jobs have gone overseas because of increasing regulations and taxes. We have neglected the old axiom, 'You create wealth by making something.'"

Humphris credits Chi Psi for helping him advance not only in his professional life but everyday life by maintaining the same ethical standards initiated by his parents.

Brother Humphris has been married to his wife Sue for 65 years and has two sons and four grandchildren. A resident of Rockford, Illinois, he enjoys golf, fam-

ily, restaurants and keeping up with the grandkids in his spare time. His message for today's undergraduates is simple.

"At some point, decide the career you would most enjoy in life. You don't have to decide in high school or college. Some of my fraternity brothers graduated, became employed and then returned to college after a year or two to decide what they really wanted to do. Long-term happiness is usually based on wife, family and an enjoyable career."



The Corporation of  
Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi  
841 Willowbrook Drive  
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

*Change Service Requested*

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ALUMNI CORPORATION

**To: All Zeta Delta Alumni**

You are invited to attend a special meeting of the Alumni Corporation which will be held on March 30 2019. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss, consider and vote on a proposal to proceed with the purchase of the property located at 710 West Ohio Street, Urbana, IL, which is currently owned by Delta Zeta Sorority, to serve as a permanent Lodge for Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi.

**Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Location: Zeta Delta Lodge  
606 West Ohio Street  
Urbana, IL 61820**

Please contact Matthew Hess, ZΔ '00, at [mrhess78@gmail.com](mailto:mrhess78@gmail.com) if you have questions or concerns or would like more information, and visit [www.AZDChiPsi.org](http://www.AZDChiPsi.org) to pay your dues so you can vote at the Special Meeting.

### Event Schedule

- Jan. 12, 2019 **AMR**  
Champaign, IL
- Mar. 30, 2019 **Alumni Weekend and  
Special Corp. Meeting**  
ZΔ Lodge
- Feb. 23, 2019 **Midwest Rowe  
Regional Conference**  
Alpha Nu  
University of Minnesota
- May 18, 2019 **Founders' Day Banquet**  
St. Andrews Golf &  
Country Club  
West Chicago, IL
- July 24 - 29, 2019 **Chi Psi's 178th Annual  
Convention**  
Alpha Rho  
Rutgers University
- August 25, 2019 **Buell Scholarship  
Banquet**  
ZΔ Lodge

Visit [www.AZDChiPsi.org](http://www.AZDChiPsi.org) for more info