



# THE PARTHENON

Official Newsletter for Alumni of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi September, 2020

## Zeta Delta Named Finalist for Founders, Goodbody Trophies

*Awards to be Announced at Virtual Convention Celebration on September 26*

Those of you who have been following the developments at Alpha Zeta Delta have no doubt recognized the significant progress that has been made over the past three years at the Lodge. We are pleased to announce that the Chi Psi Central Office and Executive Council have taken notice as well.

Recently, the Central Office announced that Zeta Delta would be one of four finalists for the Founders Trophy, which is awarded every year to the most improved Alpha in Chi Psi.

Zeta Delta joins Alpha Omega Delta (George Mason University), Alpha Nu (University of Minnesota), and Alpha Kappa Delta (Yale University) as Founders Trophy finalists.

Zeta Delta's rise has been well-documented in this publication. Three years ago, the Alpha was struggling to keep its numbers up when it was forced to vacate the Lodge that it had called

home for the prior 15 years, at 110 East Armory in Champaign. Upon moving across campus to Urbana, Zeta Delta rented the old Alpha Chi Sigma house for two years while it re-

grouped and waited for the perfect housing opportunity to present itself.

In September, 2018, the Alumni Corporation struck a deal with Delta Zeta Sorority to purchase their sorority house

at 710 West Ohio Street in Urbana. In order to complete the purchase, a capital campaign was launched. In conjunction therewith, the Alumni Corporation struck a deal with the undergraduate leadership and agreed to do everything within its power to complete the purchase of the new Lodge so long as the undergraduates agreed to dedicate themselves to achieving a level of excellence not seen at Alpha Zeta Delta since the 1950's.

Since then, the Alpha has shown itself to be dedicated to that goal. It has raised its membership from the low- to mid-twenties into the thirties; it has increased its level of participation in philanthropies and other campus organizations; and it has raised its GPA from the bottom third of all fraternities into the top 5.

This last achievement is also what landed Zeta Delta on the list of finalists for the Goodbody Trophy as well. The Goodbody is awarded to the Alpha whose scholastic average compares most favorably with the all-men's average on campus, and which makes the best use of the programs offered by the Chi Psi Educational Trust.

This last point has been crucial to Zeta Delta's continued growth. Over the last two years, the Alpha has resurrected the Temple Hoyne Buell Scholarship program, which was started in 1994 after the sale of the Lodge at 912 South Second Street. The program utilized the income earned from Zeta Delta Educational Foundation endowment and served as an important recruiting tool



Brothers from Alpha Alpha (Wesleyan University) took home the Founders Trophy at last year's 178th Annual Convention.



over the past twenty-five years, as Zeta Delta bounced around campus from Lodge to Lodge.

Now that the funds from the old sale have been exhausted — they were utilized to purchase the new Lodge by way of an grant from the Educational Trust, which took over management of the fund in the mid-2000's — a major goal of the capital campaign is to rebuild the corpus of Zeta Delta's fund with the educational Trust so that the Buell Scholarship program can continue.

The program cannot succeed without the active involvement and participation of the undergraduate brothers. Over the last two years, the undergraduates have shown not only a willingness, but an eagerness to make the Buell Scholarship program as successful as possible.

The 179th Virtual Convention Celebration will take place on Saturday, September 26, at which time winner of the annual awards will be announced. To register, please go to [www.ChiPsi.org](http://www.ChiPsi.org). Registration is free.

# Zeta Delta Surges on the Path to Excellence

By: Paul J. Parks, ZΔ '03

When the Alumni Corporation Board formally announced the start of the Capital Campaign in 2018 titled, "Restoring Excellence: The Zeta Delta Lodge Campaign", it was stressed that the goal of the campaign wasn't solely to purchase a permanent lodge, but to restore the Alpha back to the excellence it once knew.

It has truly been amazing to witness the tremendous response from all of you providing much needed time, money, words of encouragement and advice as we took on the arduous task of property ownership and educating young minds about the ways of Chi Psi. We took the first steps in creating a mentorship program for which I am already receiving requests from undergraduates to be paired up with alums, we have made great strides in rebuilding Zeta Delta's Educational Trust fund to support our robust scholarship program, and the University of Illinois flag now flies over the Chi Psi Central Office in Nashville, Tennessee because we came together and collected more donations than every Alpha in Chi Psi on the national day of giving. We have also provided guidance and support to the undergraduates as they navigate schoolwork, Chi Psi, and their personal lives.

The undergraduates began the 2019-2020 school year on an upward swing pledging 8 quality gentlemen who initiated alongside the sitting #7 of the fraternity. They enjoyed a prosperous social schedule and were engaged in phil-

anthropic events. The undergraduates were recognized by the Interfraternity Council (IFC) by earning 3 academic awards during the Greek Oscars. After pledging 7 more quality gentlemen to begin the Spring semester, the undergraduates were forced to overcome the obstacles brought on by the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic. With the brother-



hood spread throughout the country, they continued to dedicate themselves to their studies and their commitment to Chi Psi. The undergraduate's devotion to their duties as students and Chi Psi's earned them the 7<sup>th</sup> highest GPA on campus with a 3.61.

I couldn't be more proud of what our undergraduate brothers have accomplished and I am honored to announce that Alpha Zeta Delta are finalists for two national Chi Psi trophies: The Founder's Trophy and the Goodbody Trophy. If you aren't familiar with these

awards, the Founder's Trophy is awarded annually to the Alpha which has made the most significant improvement during the school term and the Goodbody Trophy is awarded to the Alpha whose scholastic average compares most favorably with the all-men's average on campus and makes the best use of the programs of The Chi Psi Educational Trust. The winners are announced during this year's virtual convention celebration on Saturday September 26, 2020.

Whether or not Zeta Delta is honored with one or both of the awards for which we are finalists, together we are fulfilling our campaign promise of restoring excellence to our beloved Alpha. As the undergraduates continue to grow during their journey in Chi Psi and the alumni board formulates new and innovative ways to strengthen the Alpha both in the short and long term, please continue to support the mission to restore excellence at Zeta Delta by contributing in whatever manner possible. Whether you provide a much-needed donation to the Capital Campaign, volunteer to give a seminar to the undergraduates about your field of work, or gather a group of lodgers together for an event, any and all actions make a difference.

It comes as no surprise that the more engaged we become with the undergraduates and provide them with the tools to succeed, the more successful they become. I've said it before and I'll say it again, what we are doing is working; help us continue to lean forward and restore excellence to Zeta Delta.

## Alumni Corporation Board Elections Conducted During Virtual Annual Meeting on September 19

This past year has been unlike any other in the history of Alpha Zeta Delta. Even though we are still unable to gather in person for Alumni Weekend or Homecoming, the proverbial show must go on.

This year's annual meeting of The Corporation of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi was conducted online, *via* Zoom Meetings, on Saturday, September 19.

During the meeting, Evan Fouts, ZΔ '22, #1, provided a status update regarding all the ways in which the Alpha has been dealing with COVID-19. Due to the restrictions imposed by the university, conducting large-scale recruitment events has not been possible. Brother Fouts reported that this may be actually work in the Alpha's favor, as it has forced the undergraduates to focus on one-on-one recruiting—a historical strength of Chi Psi.

Corporation President Paul Parks, ZΔ '03, discussed the

many ways that the alumni board has been able to assist the Alpha this past year, and expressed enthusiasm for the state of the working relationship that has been developed between the Alpha and the alumni.

Elections were also conducted during this meeting. Brother Parks was re-elected for another term as President, while Jeremy Doser, ZΔ '97, was elected to the office of Vice-President, replacing Paden Thomas, ZΔ '14, who has decided to step down. Eugene Board, ZΔ '06, was elected treasurer—a role that he previously filled in the late 2000's—to replace a retiring Chris Pounds, ZΔ '96.

On behalf of the entire Zeta Delta family, our heartfelt thanks go out to Brothers Thomas and Pounds, who both dedicated time out of their busy lives to serve on the board during a tumultuous time period. We look forward to seeing both brothers at the next alumni gathering, whenever that may be.

# Campus Life and COVID-19

By Paul J. Parks, ZΔ '03

To those of you who have reached out to the Alumni Corporation Board wondering what the plan is for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year, we appreciate your inquiry and everyone's patience as the undergraduate members and the Alumni Corporation Board have dealt with a whirlwind of changes the past few months. The situation on campus is extremely fluid and changes daily.

A lot is being done in Champaign - Urbana to ensure the students have a chance at having a safe and continuous academic year. Students were given the choice of staying home and taking classes virtually, returning to campus for live classes, or returning to campus and taking classes virtually.

For those returning to campus, the University created an in-house saliva test for COVID -19 which students are mandated to participate in at least twice a week. Students will swipe their student identification card, or "I-Card", as proof of identity. To track each student's testing compliance and the status of their health, the University also created a phone application called "Safer Illinois." Before entering University space, such as classrooms,



dining halls, etc., students are required to present proof of health via the Safer Illinois app. To answer

everyone's questions about potential events at the Lodge during the Fall 2020 semester, and potentially the Spring, the Champaign and Urbana City Councils adopted emergency orders stating the following:

- Social distancing requirements on properties in the Campus Area (including apartments, houses, and adjacent property like yards, parking lots, and common areas) and multifamily residential structures throughout Champaign and Urbana (including residential units, common areas, yards, and parking lots).
- In both the Campus Area and multifamily residential

structures in the Champaign-Urbana community, individuals at parties or gatherings must abide by social distancing requirements, including the use of face coverings and limit parties and gatherings to a maximum of ten people (plus the host and the host's immediate family or others legally permitted to reside in the property).



Party hosts and attendees violating an Emergency Order may be cited for a City Ordinance violation and fined up to \$750 per violation day. These Orders also apply to parties or gatherings on public property, unless otherwise permitted by other emergency or executive orders or the law.

The undergraduate executive board respectfully requested that the alumni consider abstaining from hosting events at the Lodge during the Fall 2020 semester as to not introduce outside germs into their living space. Even though the Alumni Corporation Board supported their request 100%, the decision was made for us given the new emergency orders.

Unfortunately, a percentage of students on campus have decided to not obey the rules and guidelines set forth by the university and the Champaign and Urbana city councils. Positive tests for the COVID-19 virus have spiked among the student population due to large gatherings and parties at multiple fraternities and apartments. One fraternity has already been placed on interim suspension and others are under investigation. I am proud to say that the undergraduate brothers of Zeta Delta have strictly adhered to all safety policies and there are no positive cases among the brotherhood.

As of September 2, 2020, the UofI announced a two week ban of any activity outside of essential movements such as going to class, work, purchasing groceries, etc. In order to salvage a full Fall semester, it was decided this was the best course of action to curb contraction of the virus. Whether or not this is successful, all classes will be conducted virtually after November 20, 2020, when the students go on break for the holiday, for the rest of the semester.

## Alumni Corporation Board of Directors

Paul Parks, ZΔ '03  
President

Eugene Bord, ZΔ '06  
Treasurer

Randy Mason, ZΔ '96  
Trustee

Charlie Gordon, ZΔ '21 #2  
Trustee

Jeremy Doser, ZΔ '97  
Vice-President

Chip McConville, ZΔ '89  
Trustee

Colin Johnson, ZΔ '06  
Trustee

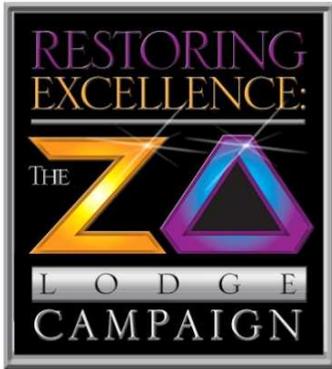
Nick Chomko, ZΔ '22, #3  
Trustee

Matthew Hess, ZΔ '00  
Secretary

Bill Novak, ZΔ '03  
Trustee

Evan Fouts, ZΔ '22, #1  
Trustee

Arjun Thakkar, ZΔ '22, #4  
Trustee



# *Restoring Excellence: The Zeta Delta Lodge Campaign*

## Pledge Form - Phase 2

### **Option A – Donation to Alumni Corporation to Pay Down Mortgage (Gifts are not Tax-Deductible)**

I hereby pledge that I will make a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Corporation of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi during Phase 2 of the Zeta Delta Lodge Campaign. I understand that my gift will go toward paying down the mortgage on the new Lodge located at 710 West Ohio Street, Urbana, Illinois, or toward other operating expenses that the Board of Directors deems necessary for the upkeep and maintenance of the new Lodge.

*I acknowledge that my donation is not tax-deductible.*

Check enclosed (Please make payable to The Corporation of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi and send your payment to Chris Riehs, ZA '90, 3520 Timber Creek Lane, Naperville, IL 60565)

I would like to make recurring payments of \$\_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of every \_\_\_\_\_ (month or year) for the next \_\_\_\_\_ (months) (years) for up to five (5) years.

I will make my donation online or set up my recurring payments at [www.AZDChiPsi.org/Campaign](http://www.AZDChiPsi.org/Campaign)

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### **Option B – Donation to the Zeta Delta Fund of the Chi Psi Educational Trust (Gifts are Tax-Deductible)**

Additionally (or alternatively), I hereby pledge that I will make a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Chi Psi Educational Trust during Phase 2 of the Zeta Delta Lodge Campaign. I understand that my gift will be used to fund scholarships, educational programs, materials or items, and other activities conducted or funded by the Chi Psi Educational Trust, a 501(c)(3) organization, for the benefit of Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi.

Check enclosed (Please make payable to The Chi Psi Educational Trust, write "Zeta Delta" in the memo, and send your payment to Chris Riehs, ZA '90, 3520 Timber Creek Lane, Naperville, IL 60565)

I would like to make recurring payments of \$\_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of every \_\_\_\_\_ (month or year) for the next \_\_\_\_\_ (months) (years) for up to five (5) years.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alpha/Year

I wish to remain  
anonymous

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Sports Page

## Big Ten Announces Return of Football

### *Lovie Smith's Illini Primed to Take Another Step Forward*

**W**hen the Illini shocked the football world last October and upset the No. 6 Wisconsin Badgers as 31-point underdogs on Homecoming weekend, it marked a turning point in the history of the football program. The rebuilding project that began when Lovie Smith was hired in March, 2016, had finally produced results, and a sense of excitement not seen since the Illini's 2008 Rose Bowl appearance circulated throughout Illini nation.

The shutdown of all sports due to the COVID-19 pandemic could not have come at a worse time for the Illini, who were eagerly looking forward to building upon a successful 2019 season that was capped off with an appearance in the 2019 Redbox Bowl. But recently, Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren announced that football would return with a limited Big Ten schedule beginning in October.

Quarterback Brandon Peters, who provided stability, toughness and leadership on offense as a transfer from Michigan, will return for one more year

under center. He showed a mastery of offensive coordinator's Rod Smith system and developed a rapport with wide receiver Joel Imatorbhebhe, who transferred from USC.



The Illini offense could be one of the most exciting in the Big Ten. Along with Peters' return and the continued development of Imatorbhebhe, running back Mike Epstein should be fully recovered from a torn ACL by October. Epstein will be joined in the backfield by freshman Reggie Love, a four-star recruit out of St. Louis who could have an immediate impact. In addition, tight end Daniel Barker will be joined by Georgia transfer Luke Ford, who should provide Peters

with all the weapons he needs to strike fear in their opponents.

There is also reason to be optimistic on the defensive side of the ball. Last year marked Lovie Smith's first full year taking on the duties of defensive coordinator, and although there is much work still to be done, the Illini showed progress. Linebacker Jake Hanson emerged as a leader and a tackling machine. He returns along with Milo Eifler, and the duo will anchor a solid linebacker corps. The secondary suffered a major setback right before the 2019 season got underway when true freshman

Marquez Beason suffered a knee injury. He should be healthy this year, and adds exciting playmaking ability to a secondary led by cornerback Nate Hobbs and safeties Tony Adams and Sydney Brown.

Nothing about this year has been normal. So although seeing the Illini compete for a Big Ten title might seem far-fetched, don't be shocked if they take a big step forward in Lovie Smith's fifth year.

## Dosunmu, Cockburn to Return for One More Run

**B**rad Underwood's Illini squad was peaking at just the right time last year, and was primed to make a deep run in the NCAA tournament after winning five of their last six games en route to a 21-10 regular season record.

Seeing the post-season cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic was bad enough for Illini nation. But not long thereafter, heartbreak struck again when both Ayo Dosunmu and Kofi Cockburn declared their eligibility for the NBA draft.

Neither player hired agents, however, and given the uncertainty surrounding the draft (and the fact that neither player appeared likely to be selected higher



than the end of the first round), both Dosunmu and Cockburn recently announced that they would return for one more run at the NCAA championship.

They will be joined by a couple of big time recruits. Guards Adam Miller (a

former teammate of Dosunmu at Morgan Park High School) and Andre Curbelo should add instant offense, and transfers Jacob Grandison (Holy Cross) and Austin Hutcherson (Wesleyan) are now eligible to contribute.

Underwood has earned universal respect for both his coaching ability and success on the recruiting trail. He has been identified by several publications as a coach on the rise. With the Illini primed for a deep run into the NCAA tournament, Illini fans should prepare themselves for the possibility that Underwood pulls a Bill Self and gets lured away from Champaign for a high profile job when the season ends.



Alpha Zeta Delta of Chi Psi  
45 Rutledge Street  
Nashville, TN 37210

*Change Service Requested*

## ALUMNI DUES AND DONATION FORM

*Please clip or copy & mail to Chris Pounds, ZΔ '96 at:  
521 N. Beck Rd., Lindenhurst, IL 60046  
Or Pay Online at [www.AZDChiPsi.org](http://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 2020-2021 dues  
(\$45 for classes 2016 and later).

*I understand that this donation is not tax-deductible.*

Please update my address to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Phone)

(Email)

## *Event Schedule*

ALL ALUMNI EVENTS ARE POST-  
PONED DUE TO THE COVID-19  
OUTBREAK UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE

- Sep. 26    **Chi Psi's Virtual 179th  
Convention Celebration**  
Register for Free at  
[www.ChiPsi.org](http://www.ChiPsi.org)
- Oct. 24    **Virtual Zeta Delta Alumni  
Gathering**  
Via Zoom Meetings  
Time TBA

PLEASE CHECK [AZDCHIPSI.ORG](http://AZDCHIPSI.ORG)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION