



# THE SUNFLOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON

FALL 2011



*A photo of the outdoor stone fireplace that was constructed next to the west courtyard.*



*A brand new foyer inlay was installed this summer along with new paint.*



*The new basketball court in the parking area was installed this summer.*

## SLAWSON FAMILY CHALLENGE EXTENDED

### UPDATE ON CHAPTER HOUSE RENOVATIONS

**E**arly this spring, the sons of **Don Slawson '55**, including **Craig '80** and **Todd '84**, and his wife, Judy, committed an additional \$100,000 as a challenge to all Kansas Chapter alumni. This challenge was on top of Don's lead gift of \$100,000 to help kick off the campaign. The Slawson Family generously offered a dollar-for-dollar match of new pledges to the campaign through August 17. So far, we have garnered \$67,325 in additional cash and pledges toward this goal. Additionally, many brothers who had made earlier pledges accelerated their payments so we could meet the cash flow needs during the construction phase this summer.

**Brothers, closing the gap between signed pledges already made and the remaining balance of \$33,000 is essential so that we can take advantage of the Slawsons' generosity; which is why, with the Slawsons' approval, the challenge has been extended until September 30. This is a raise it or lose it challenge—that's why we need your attention and action right now.**

From a distance it is hard to imagine the intricate planning, hard work, and personal sacrifice your alumni leadership and a handful of brothers have made to pull this project off. Logistically and fiscally, this has been a huge undertaking. Surely you can honor those men and the hundreds who have already done their part with cash gifts, pledges, and gifts of stock to support this campaign and project. If you are among those men who have already given, *thank you* for your generous support. If you have not stepped up, *now* is the time. Your one-time gift or multi-year pledge, made today, will count towards the challenge gift made by the Slawson family. You will find a pledge card and return envelope in this newsletter. Please don't put it aside or throw it

away—fill it out now and send it today. Remember the phrase we learned as pledges, "Once a DU, always a DU!"

#### PROJECT UPDATE

Brothers **Kurt Rhoden '93** and **Craig Laderoute '92** started getting the house packed up and emptied of all furnishings before the undergraduates moved out this spring. Removal of the carpet, flooring, and other interior finishes and fixtures took place immediately after graduation. Since then, an army of contractors and subcontractors worked methodically at a quick pace to get the house back in tip-top shape before the brothers moved back in for the fall semester. It was down to the wire, but everything stayed on track and looks great!

#### EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

There are new energy-efficient windows throughout the structure, plus repairs to the envelope of the house to resolve some water infiltration and drainage issues. Two new custom exterior doors replaced the front and back doors of the house, giving the entrances a new impressive look and added security. There is a new basketball court in the parking area, along with new exterior lighting for safety of members. An outdoor stone fireplace has been constructed next to the west courtyard and the parking areas have been resurfaced and freshly striped. New landscaping has given the grounds a fresh look and great curb appeal!

#### INTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

Inside, the dining room serving area has been reconfigured, and the kitchen has had a major

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Thank You, Generous Alumni, for Supporting The Campaign for Kansas Chapter



We are deeply grateful to the following

142 Kansas Chapter brothers for committing \$1,333,230 to *Continuing the Tradition: The Campaign for Kansas Chapter*. These brothers recognize the importance of continuing the legacy created at 1025 Emery Road and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. Commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni to achieve our \$2 million goal and complete this major project.

All donors contributing a minimum of \$2,500, over a five-year period, will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the renovated Chapter House. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please advise our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661, so that we may make a correction. Thank you to our loyal alumni!

## DIKAI A UPOTHEKE

(\$250,000 and up)

Thomas H. Rinehart '57

## KANZA

(\$100,000 to \$249,999)

Donald C. Slawson '55

## PI UPSILON

(\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Richard L. Morrison '70

R. Todd Slawson '84

Kurtis S. Rhoden '92

In honor of

The Rhoden Family

## LLOYD HOUSTON

(\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Glenn McCann '38

John E. Meyer '50

In memory of

Margaret J. Meyer

Patrick D. Bolen '58

James W. Ratzlaff '58

K. Michael Berkley '61

Brad Dillon '75

T. Teal Dakan '78

Mark W. Zuercher '78

Gene G. Camarena '79

Laderoute Family Gift

Scott A. Laderoute '90

Craig S. Laderoute '92

## GOLDWIN

## GOLDSMITH

(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Richard C. Shaw '57

Wes St. Clair '58

Tom Stark '65

Lester P. Jeter '66

R. Dan Boulware '98

Brian A. Bracco '73

Eric A. Voth, M.D. '77

Brian R. Winter '91

## FOUNDERS

(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Lorrimer Armstrong Jr. '55

G. Lynn Mitchelson '62

Roger M. Morrison '65

In honor of

Lloyd Houston

Christopher L. Saricks '70

In memory of

Ted M. Gardiner '70

Mark D. Jabara '77

William J. Shea '79

Rod Barleen '97

Jacob D. Wassenberg '97

## BROTHERHOOD

(\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Earl H. Clark, M.D. '42

John F. Elliott '50

O. Kepler Johnson Jr. '52

In memory of

O. K. Johnson '26

Byron E. Springer '54

Thomas W. Childers '56

Charles D. Belt '57

David C. Skaggs Jr. '59

In memory of

D. Curtis Skaggs '32

Jerry Nossaman '60

Ross Clopton '61

Michael M. Thomas '62

Ron Mastin '63

Robert Guenther '64

In memory of

Jack Ashmore '62

In honor of

Dick Wintermote '51

Peter Stork '65

Brian L. Biles '66

Blake A. Biles '68

Charles R. Cram '69

In memory of

Mike Schulz '69

R. Scott Beeler '76

John E. Esau '78

Chad A. Leat '78

David Rayl '78

John L. Spangler '79

Bryan R. LaGree '80

Matthew D. Keenan '81

Mike Lawrence '88

Stuart Berkley '90

Christopher M. Andrews '91

Alan Stearns '95

Derek Dummermuth '99

Michael E. Johnson '02

Ryan W. Wasinger '05

Ben Pyle '12

## GOLD AND BLUE

(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Richard D. Wintermote '51

Ellis D. Evans '56

Dr. John L. Reese '57

In memory of

John Royston Reese '30

N. Milan Hart '56

In memory of

William G. Landess '54

Philip A. Baker '58

Stuart S. Gunckel '58

Marshall L. Crowther '59

Larry K. Burke '61

Max L. Schardein '62

Lee R. Bittenbender, M.D. '68

Mark L. Miller '70

Rick Hiebsch '71

In memory of

Vincent F. Hiebsch '43

Richard L. Davis '75

Nick B. Michale '77

In honor of

George N. Michale '54

Jay J. Coulter '81

Michael D. Haines '87

Andy L. Ernsting '88

George J.P. Gerritz '95

Jeff Pritchard '97

Coy Weege '02

Mitch Knopp '10

Bryab Hill '12

Kevin Kelley '12

## CAMPAIGN STATUS AT-A-GLANCE

As of August 19, 2011

\$2 Million Goal

\$1,333,230 Total Commitments

142 Total Contributors

1,309 Mailable Alumni

## CHALLENGE EXTENDED

(Continued from front page)

clean-up and renovation. A second guest bathroom has been added in the foyer area. All public areas, including the foyer, living room, library, and dining room, will have all new paint, wall coverings, tile, carpeting, and refinished woodwork. Those areas will also receive new fixtures and furnishings coordinated by a designer to highlight our DU heritage and withstand tough use for years to come.

Upper floors have all new carpet and paint throughout, including the dorms, hallways, and study rooms. New built-in closets have been constructed in all study rooms. Both upper bathrooms were gutted with new sinks, toilets and urinals, lavatories, stall dividers, tiled walls, and upgraded flooring added. The north basement has new tile and carpet, a renovated restroom and laundry area, and all stairwells have been repainted.

Please be sure to drop by the chapter house at Homecoming on Saturday, October 1, so that you can see for yourself, all the improvements we've made in the past two months.

Fraternally,  
**John Esau '78**



# Alumni Celebrate 91st Anniversary and Honor Fellow DUs

On Saturday, April 9, the Kansas Chapter celebrated our 91th anniversary with a stag reception at the Adams Alumni Center. While brothers enjoyed refreshments and good company, a few DUs were honored. **Don Slawson '55** was honored with the Dick Wintermonte Lifetime Service Award for his never-ending work ethic and dedicated nature. **Eric Gustavson '87** and **Gene Camarena '79** were honored with the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award. Both men have given back to the Chapter as alumni, as well as benefitted from being a Kansas DU as undergraduates. All who attended had a wonderful time catching up and reconnecting with DU.



*Early 1960s alumni gather for a group photo.*



*Bill Salome '52 presents Don Slawson '55 with the Dick Wintermote Lifetime Service Award as son Todd Slawson '84 looks on.*



*Eric Gustavson '87 accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award from John Esau '78.*



*Craig '80, Don '55 and Todd Slawson '84*



*Gene Camarena '79 receives the Distinguished Alumni Award from John Esau '78.*

# SAVE THE DATE

**Friday, September 30**

Kansas Chapter DU will host an invitation-only dinner honoring our donors at the \$10,000 level and above. Details about this event will be communicated by phone, e-mail, and personal invitations.

**Saturday, October 1**

The Chapter House will be open for tours to all alumni, parents, and friends of Delta Upsilon and we encourage you to stop by and see the improvements, meet the undergraduates, then venture to Memorial Stadium and watch the Jayhawk football squad battle Texas Tech during the evening Homecoming game.

## The Kansas Chapter Will Greatly Miss O. Kepler "Kep" Johnson Jr. '52

The Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon is sad to report the passing of alumnus **O. Kepler "Kep" Johnson Jr. '52**. Kep passed away at the age of 80 on July 7 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born February 19, 1931, in Atchison, Kansas, and grew up in Topeka until high school graduation.

Kep graduated from the University of Kansas and immediately entered the U.S. Marine Corps. He served with distinction in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, retiring with the rank of major. After retirement, he served as a legal administrator in Kansas City and Houston, Texas. While in Houston, he earned an MBA from the University of Houston. After a second retirement, he and his wife, Barbara, relocated to Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, where he became involved in the community, primarily the Museum of the Pacific War.

Delta Upsilon was a positive influence on Kep during his undergraduate career and inspired him to give back to *The Campaign for Kansas Chapter*. The brothers of Kansas Chapter are grateful to have had Kep as a part of their brotherhood. We will not forget his loyalty to the chapter.

Kep is survived by his wife of 55 years; his children, Barbara Johnson, Melanie Butler, O. Kepler Johnson IV, and Tom Johnson; and his sister, Martha Fee of Hutchinson, Kansas.

## Wonderful, Loyal Cook Passes Away

Mildred Turner, longtime cook at Delta Upsilon, recently passed away at age 96 in Lawrence. Known affectionately as Millie, she cooked under housemothers Juanita Brown and Shirley Vaughn for 18 years, serving up breakfast, lunch, and dinner to hundreds of Kansas undergraduates, parents, and guests of our Chapter. Millie was a spiritual woman with a great sense of humor and sometimes was the brunt of our brothers' practical jokes. But, according to her son, Millie loved her years at Delta Upsilon and prized the t-shirt "her boys" had specially made for her emblazoned with "Magnificent Millie." It was still hanging in her closet many years later at the time of her death. We will all miss you, Millie!

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**KANSAS DU ALUMNI  
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## KANSAS CHAPTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### CHAPTER WINS SWEEPSTAKES AWARD!

Our undergraduate men came back from the DU International Fraternity Convention and Leadership Institute in Orlando, Florida, with the top Delta Upsilon trophy—the Sweepstakes Award! The Kansas Chapter has ranked among the top chapters in the United States and Canada for a number of years running, but this year we outshined them all, including recent winners K-State and Missouri. Our Chapter excelled in virtually every aspect of fraternity operations, including recruitment, service and philanthropy, campus involvement, academics, and intramurals; you name it, our guys did it and did it well! Congratulations to each and every undergraduate member, and special thanks to past President **Ben Pyle '12**, current President **Evan Captain '13**, Corporation Board President **Eric Gustavson '87**, and Membership Development Advisor **Joe Snyder '54**.

### KANSAS CHAPTER EARNS GREEK AWARDS

The Kansas Chapter was one of only two chapters (out of 26) to win all seven Greek Awards from the University: leadership, growth, chapter standards and membership, scholarship, financial management and operations, community service and philanthropy, and brotherhood. Two DU freshmen received Outstanding New Member awards for their work with the Chapter and Greek community.

### KANSAS DU SELECTED AS UGAB REPRESENTATIVE

Ben Pyle has been selected to serve on the board of directors of Delta Upsilon International Fraternity as one of two undergraduate advisory board members from across the United States and Canada. Ben was selected by his peers at the convention in Orlando. He will serve a one-year term, attending regular board meetings as a voting member, an honor and privilege reserved for a select few DUs. If you have had the opportunity to meet Ben or hear him speak at one of our recent alumni events, you know what an impressive young man he is. Congratulations, Ben, we're proud of you!