



# THE SUNFLOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON

SPRING 2011

## The Success of Our Construction Plan Depends on Your Support *\$350,000 Needed to Complete Phase One*

As the capital campaign moves forward, plans are underway to address phase one of construction. The campaign has received pledges totaling \$1.228 million and actual cash donations of \$550,000. To make sure the campaign stays in stride, I am pleased to announce that **Grant Kaufman '92** has agreed to supervise the campaign from a planning, strategy, and implementation capacity. I know I speak for all of us in recognizing the asset Grant will be in pushing this campaign through.

The window of opportunity is here! We need to take advantage of the impending three-month summer break and utilize the existing and continued pledges to the DU campaign. By breaking up the construction element into two phases spanning summer 2011 and summer 2012, the DU house will benefit in several ways. First, we will eliminate the need for the Chapter to move offsite while construction is underway. Second, we can eliminate the need to borrow bridge funds for any extended period of time. Effectively, we will be paying for the construction as we go.

To do this, however, we need to ratchet up the actual cash donations to the campaign. The lion share of the construction work will take place in phase one and the estimated budget right now is \$900,000. We need to close the door on an additional \$350,000 in actual cash donations.

What will phase one construction address? The house will receive a total facelift from exterior to interior. Here is a brief list of key elements:

### Exterior:

- Site drainage
- Sidewalk repair/replacement
- Stone and brick tuck point
- Landscaping
- Sealing the parking lot
- Exterior doors
- New windows throughout

### Interior:

- New flooring
- Refinishing walls
- Kitchen and dining room remodeled
- New bathrooms
- HVAC repair/replace
- New fixtures and furnishings in all common areas
- IT—network and server upgrades
- Security system upgrade

Another key element of the campaign is the reduction of the house debt now at \$700,000. Elimination of this debt will put the Chapter on a very solid foundation. What is now paid to service the debt can be accrued into a reserve fund to eliminate or greatly reduce the need for future capital campaigns. Also, without debt the Chapter is not forced to maximize house occupancy, allowing us to look for the best class of pledges vs. chase a number just to fill the house.

**DU brothers, your support is needed now!** We are committed to construction this summer. Please do what you can to close the gap on donations so that we can fulfill all of the phase one construction goals. I look forward to seeing you at the Alumni Banquet on April 9.

Fraternally,  
**Kurt Rhoden '92**, Campaign Coordinator

### CAMPAIGN STATUS AT-A-GLANCE

*As of March 13, 2011*

**\$2 Million** Goal

**\$1,228,394** Total

Commitments

**118** Total Contributors

**1,316** Mailable Alumni



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



We are deeply grateful to the following Kansas Chapter brothers for committing \$1,228,394 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 Lindsay Fetter, campaign coordinator, at lfetter@penningtonco.com or (785) 843-1661, so that we may make a correction. Thank you to our loyal alumni!

## DIKAIA UPOTHEKE

(\$250,000 and above)

Donald C. Slawson '55  
Thomas H. Rinehart '57

## KANZA

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

## 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  
K. Michael Berkley '61

Brad Dillon Donor  
Advised Fund  
of the Hutchinson  
Community Foundation  
Lewis Gregory '75  
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)

Wes St. Clair '58  
Tom Stark '65  
L.P. Jeter II '66  
R. Dan Boulware '98  
Brian A. Bracco '73  
Eric A. Voth, M.D. '77  
T. Teal Dakan '78  
Brian R. Winter '91

## FOUNDERS

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

Larry Fairchild '64

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  
Byron E. Springer '54  
Jay R. Warner '55  
Lorrimer Armstrong Jr. '55  
Thomas W. Childers '56  
Charles D. Belt '57  
David C. Skaggs Jr. '59  
In memory of  
D. Curtis Skaggs '32  
Jerry Nossaman '60  
Paul J. Trouslot '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  
John S. Carter '68  
R. Scott Beeler '76  
John E. Esau '78  
Bryan R. LaGree '80  
Matthew D. Keenan '81  
Mike Lawrence '88  
Stuart Berkley '90  
Brad Moody '90  
Christopher M. Andrews '91  
Bradford S. Fitts '91  
Brian E. Perott '91  
Alan Stearns '95  
Derek Dummermuth '99  
Michael E. Johnson '02  
Ryan W. Wasinger '05  
Ben Pyle '12  
Bryan P. Schorgl '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  
Philip A. Baker '58  
Marshall L. Crowther '59  
Lynn H. Miller '59  
Lee R. Bittenbender, M.D. '68  
Mark L. Miller '70  
Rick Hiebsch '71  
In memory of  
Vincent F. Hiebsch '43  
Richard L. Davis '75  
J. Michael Sanner '75  
Phillip M. Frerker '93  
George J.P. Gerritz '95  
Jeff Pritchard '97  
Coy Weege '02  
Bryan Hill '12  
Kevin Kelley '12  
Michael A. Parker '12  
Michael Virgo '12



## A Lifetime of Dedication: Don Slawson, 2011 Dick Wintermote Lifetime Service Award Recipient

**Don Slawson '55** has achieved more in a lifetime than two men could hope to. He has started companies, created real estate ventures, influenced many executive boards, and been appointed to the National Petroleum

Counsel by two American Presidents. Friends, family, and co-workers all attribute his business savvy to his never ending work ethic and dedicated nature. These natural attributes of Don's are the reason he is this year's Dick Wintermote Service Award recipient.

Don was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas, and attended the University of Kansas. While a student at KU, Don joined Delta Upsilon fraternity as a legacy; his father, **Chuck '20** was captain of the KU baseball team and had been a member many years before him. Don enjoyed the four years he spent at DU, spending time with Brothers and enjoying KU's beautiful campus. He completed his bachelor's degree in political science and returned to Wichita. However, he took several geology classes along the way and that became his labor of love.

In 1957, Don created Slawson Companies. Slawson Companies began as an oil and gas exploration firm and has since expanded to include residential and

commercial real estate, hotels, and restaurant development. Don's endless dedication to his company and tireless work ethic has paid off and he is now the president and CEO of over 1,100 employees in Denver, Oklahoma City, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Corpus Christi, Portland, Wichita and North Dakota.

Don is a wildcatter and drilled 4,000 wells in his storied career. He is still one of the most active oil-drilling operators in the United States as a privately held company. His company has pioneered many technological developments that led to advances in horizontal drilling enabling him to play a significant role in the discovery the Bakken Field in North Dakota—the largest oil field to be found in the United States since Alaska's Prudhoe Bay.

If creating a successful company at age twenty-four wasn't enough for Don, he has been a very active citizen of Wichita and the state of Kansas. Don has been appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents twice, each for four-year terms by both Democratic and Republican governors of Kansas. He was elected Chairman to the Regents Board in his second term. He also served as Chairman of the Kansas Health Foundation, President of the University of Kansas Alumni Association, Member of the KU Athletic Board and was the founding Chairman of both the Wichita/ Sedgwick County Partnership for Growth and the Wichita Downtown Development Committee. He has served on the Board of Directors of Cessna Aircraft Corporation, Kansas

Gas & Electric Company, Security Benefit Life Insurance Company and Intrust Financial Corporation. He helped develop downtown Wichita into a popular city center and aided the Sedgwick County Zoo in raising enough money to bring back the tiger exhibit permanently. On a national level, Don was appointed to the National Petroleum Council by both Presidents Reagan and Bush.

However, Don has not spent his entire life working. He has been happily married to his wife, Judy, for over 55 years. They have raised three sons: **Craig '80**, **Todd '84** and Steve who attended Duke University. Craig and Todd continued the family legacy and joined DU at the University of Kansas. All three sons work for Slawson Exploration; Todd and Craig work in Denver and Steve in Oklahoma City.

Don loves basketball of course, KU Basketball. He even played for the KU freshman team. He has been going to games for over 50 years with his wife and sons and rarely missed a Big 8 or Big XII Tournament. He has been to almost 20 Final Fours, including the games when KU wasn't playing.

Don has made a truly profound impact on the world around him. He has influenced everyone with his goal-oriented and focused attitude along with his tremendous generosity. Don has truly exemplified what it means to be a brother of Delta Upsilon.





## 2011 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

### HONOREE: ERIC GUSTAVSON '87



**E**ric Gustavson '87 had not originally considered attending the University of Kansas for his college career. At his girlfriend's urging, Eric went to a few different fraternity recruitment parties at KU but didn't change his mind about joining. At least not until he went to a recruitment event at DU, where he knew member **Sam Silver '85**. Eric really liked how laidback and friendly the members were. Everyone was treated equally and with respect.

Eric's time at 1025 Emery was full of great experiences. He recalls his first Country Club Week with members from Delta Gamma and Yell-In parties. He and his brothers attended KU football games, which turned into trips to the Wheel by halftime. There are almost too many flag football games, sorority functions, and outings to the Wheel, Grasshopper, and Louise's to remember. Eric particularly enjoyed the nicknames given to members: Binky, Aldo, Bobo, Stretch, Wags, Big Man, Otis, Groover, Cruiser, Spud Leb, Hooch, Stinger, Rump, Dirty Bert, Tollef, Squirbles, Ol Spain, Sandbag, T-Squared, Knobby, Swirl, and Shebubshee. Of course all this culminated in long-lasting friendships and experiences he'll never forget. Memories such as these are why Eric chooses to support the Kansas Chapter and ensure the tradition will last for years to come.

As an undergraduate Eric served as treasurer and president for the Chapter. His senior year the Chapter worked hard and was rewarded with the DU Sweepstakes that year. It was a true team effort and that made him very proud.

After graduation, Eric served as Chapter advisor for a few years. He also served on the House Corporation as treasurer and president in the mid '90s and worked on the capital campaign at that time. After moving back to Kansas City, Eric was approached by **Lewis Gregory '75** about joining the foundation. Eric served on the foundation for about a year before joining the corporation so he could work more directly with the undergraduates.

Eric is a little shy about receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award. He doesn't feel like he has done anything outstanding except give back to the Chapter that helped him in so many ways.

With that in mind, he encourages all his alumni brothers, particularly those who have graduated in the last five to 20 years, to reach out and see how you can contribute. The undergraduates want and need our support. "Delta Upsilon brothers have incredible capabilities that can make a difference." Serving his Chapter has been very rewarding for Eric and he thinks it would be equally rewarding for anyone who participates.

Since Eric enjoys working with the undergraduates, he feels that "you only get from it what you put into it. Take advantage of the opportunities that being a Delta Upsilon provides and better yourself. The other part of the equation which gets lost, particularly in our increasingly narcissistic society, is that you have to give as well. This is a brotherhood which you have freely joined. You need to contribute to the brotherhood and hopefully you will benefit from the experiences and relationships as I have. As members of the KU Chapter of Delta Upsilon, we have a mission and a bond that supersedes time and place. I encourage you to really find out what that's all about."

Eric, his wife, and their son live in Overland Park, Kansas. Eric has worked in finance for many years and works for Tyr Energy, a firm that invests in power generation assets. Eric loves to golf and keeps his clubs in his car trunk, just in case a game breaks out somewhere.

### HONOREE: GENE CAMARENA '79

**D**istinguished Alumni Award Recipient **Gene Camarena '79** credits his undergraduate success to a strong work ethic and good study habits. Gene joined DU beside lifelong friend **Bill Shea '79**. After attending a recruitment party together the two decided Delta Upsilon was the place for them.



Looking back on his undergraduate years, Gene enjoyed the sports activities that took place fairly often around DU. Since there were usually multiple basketball teams, there was always a pick-up game of hoops being played. The games were so popular that the entire Chapter would often come out to sit and watch for hours on end. Gene and his brothers also attended KU basketball and football games together as a large group.

After graduating with a bachelor's in accounting and business administration Gene attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and received his master's in business administration and finance. Shortly after graduation he moved to Wichita, Kansas, and began his career in business ownership. Gene owns multiple franchises, including Marriot Hotels, Pizza Huts, and a few commercial real estate properties.

As an owner and manager of multiple businesses, and therefore multiple employees, Gene has learned the ins and outs of successful management. This experience makes him a great resource for anyone looking for business advice. To run a prosperous business Gene feels that creating trust and partnership is crucial to achieving goals. Staying on the same page and communicating is vital. He also feels that recognizing employees and their hard work maintains positive attitudes in the office. Throughout the year Gene hands out pins to employees who have performed exceptionally well and makes sure that plenty of coworkers gather around to share in their friend's achievement.

However, business isn't the only place Gene has been successful; he also has a wonderful family he loves spending time with. He and his wife, Yolanda, have been happily married for 23 years this spring. Their two daughters, Gena (21) and Marisa (18), are now in college. In his free time Gene stays involved in his community by volunteering with the local Catholic Diocese and United Way. Recently, Gene was involved with a Hispanic Scholarship program that raised \$30 million for Hispanic college and graduate students.

Delta Upsilon gave Gene some of the greatest years of his life, and he is thankful for the friendships he gained. Gene hopes by donating to the *Continuing the Tradition* campaign generations of men will have the opportunity to learn from DU like he has. He is looking forward to the banquet this April and the dinner he and friends have together the night before. You can contact Gene at [camal@cox.net](mailto:camal@cox.net).

## Kansas Chapter Represents Delta Upsilon Superbly

- 3.23 All-Fraternity G.P.A.
- \$35,000 Raised for Habitat for Humanity

As 2011 moves forward, the undergraduate members of Delta Upsilon are planning on making this semester as exciting and productive as the last. We recently finished third on campus academically with a 3.23 G.P.A., and we have once again earned a spot in Rock Chalk Revue. The men have also been participating in many community service and philanthropy events, including Head for the Cure 5k run and Harvest Week Philanthropy. We are looking forward to many more events this spring.

Continuing to focus strongly on academics, we have once again finished with the third best G.P.A. for all fraternities on campus. As a part of the Harvest Week philanthropy this past year, we helped raise over \$35,000 for Habitat for Humanity.

A group of 25 members practiced non-stop for the Rock Chalk Revue production on March 3-5. This production is the University of Kansas's longest ongoing philanthropic event with all proceeds going to the United Way.

**Ben Pyle '12** and **John Pecis '12** hold Interfraternity Council positions. We proudly represent the Greek community with our involvement and are excited that many of our freshmen have become involved as well. **Seth Miller '14** is the vice president of risk management for the Junior Greek Council.

The annual alumni event is scheduled this year for April 9. It will be the 91st anniversary of Delta Upsilon at the University of Kansas and will take place at the Adams Alumni Center. Mom's Weekend will be April 29-May 1 and, as always, we are expecting a great turnout.

We are excited for this spring semester. We appreciate the support of our alumni through the capital campaign and recruitment efforts. We welcome you to come by the house to meet the men and see what changes will occur through this renovation!

Fraternally,  
**Evan Captain '13**, Chapter President  
ecaptain@ku.edu | (913) 593-5426



Homecoming Chairmen **Bryan Schorgl '12** and **Pat Sixta '12** display their float.



KANSAS DU ALUMNI  
P.O. Box 1611  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044

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## 2010 Lloyd Houston Scholarship

The Delta Upsilon Lloyd Houston Scholarship is a permanently endowed fund maintained by the KU Endowment Association and provides academic scholarships to Kansas Chapter students. Thank you, Laura and **Lewis Gregory '75** and **L.P. Jeter '65**, for contributing in 2010.

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

**James R. Brooks '62** entered Chapter Eternal May 3, 2010. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Kansas. He is survived by his wife.

**Alfred G. Dietrich, M.D. '37** entered Chapter Eternal Friday, December 4, 2009. He was a World War II Army veteran, serving as a captain in a M.A.S.H. unit. He loved fishing, camping and boating. Survivors include his wife, Mary.

## You're Invited

### KANSAS CHAPTER OF DELTA Upsilon 91ST ANNIVERSARY

#### Stag Celebration

Saturday, April 9, 2011

Adams Alumni Center • 1266 Oread Avenue • Lawrence, Kansas

- 5:00 p.m. Reception (cash bar)
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner catered by Maceli's:  
Beef shoulder tender with  
grilled salmon
- 7:15 p.m. Welcome, toasts, and awards
- 8:30 p.m. Formal event ends/informal  
reunions continue

Cost is your age up to \$40. The event is free for active and retired military brothers.  
Send your check to:

Kansas DU Alumni  
P.O. Box 1611  
Lawrence, KS 66044

To RSVP online, visit [www.kansasdu.com](http://www.kansasdu.com).