

# THE SUNFLOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON

SPRING 2015

## DELTA UPSILON CELEBRATES 95TH ANNIVERSARY

### JOHN HOLT '81 NAMED 2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT

It has been quite the journey for **John Holt '81** since his days at KU and DU. He's traded in his lime green leisure suit for something a little more neutral and his graveyard DJ shift with KLZR-FM for the co-anchor position on the Fox 4-Kansas City evening newscasts.

Along the road, Delta Upsilon played an important role according to John. "In so many ways DU helped shape my college experience in positive ways, from learning how to study to social opportunities. I came from Great Bend, Kansas, but learned to work with guys from all over the country. We found out how to make the community work even when we didn't all agree on aspects of fraternity life."

"Having a support system of upperclassmen who mentored me was invaluable. Guys such as my pledge dad, **Jake Thompson '79**, **Bryan LaGree '80**, **Dr. Boo Hodes '79**, and the late **Dr. Mark Wilson '80** taught me how to stay organized and focused on academics while still enjoying fraternity life."

"As I got into the work world, DUs in business and in journalism inspired me. In particular, KU DU **Brian Bracco '73** at KMBC-TV, now general manager for KSHB-TV, served as a mentor, always willing to offer advice or critique my work. I've always remembered and have been grateful for that, and try to do the same for other young journalists."

*(Continued on page 2)*



John Holt '81 receives the Kansas DU Distinguished Alumni Award.

### Alumni Gather to Remember 95 Years of Kansas DU

Over 100 alumni, undergraduates, and guests gathered on Saturday, April 18 at the Adams Alumni Center on campus to celebrate the Chapter's 95th anniversary. Throughout the evening brothers sang songs, reminisced, and heard comments about key accomplishments from undergraduate President **Kyle Winston '17** and DU Educational Foundation President **Grant Kaufman '92**. We also heard remarks about important moments in our Chapter's history. **John Esau '78** shared memories of the Chapter House fire of 1978 and **Ken Higdon '48** honored those brothers who gave their lives in the military in support of our country. **Jerry Kenefake '92** was the evening's emcee.

The Chapter also honored **John Holt '81** as the 2015 distinguished alumnus for his numerous philanthropic contributions in the Kansas City area and his strong support of Delta Upsilon since his undergraduate days. **Matt Keenan '81** introduced John and shared several humorous anecdotes about their friendship, which began in Great Bend, Kansas. John was also joined by family members.

We are beginning to plan not only our 96th anniversary next spring, but also initial plans to celebrate our centennial in 2020. If you're interested in helping, please contact Phil Frerker at [phil.frerker@hallmark.com](mailto:phil.frerker@hallmark.com).



Master of ceremonies, Jerry Kenefake '92, speaks at the alumni reunion dinner.



## LOYAL ALUMNI, WE THANK YOU

We wish to thank all those who have supported the annual campaign. Alumni who have contributed to the 2014 appeals are listed by graduation year under the appropriate giving levels. A complete list of lifetime annual giving can be found on the website at [www.kansasdu.com](http://www.kansasdu.com).

If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please send corrections to the Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon, P.O. Box 1611, Lawrence, KS 66044. Thank you, again, for giving back to the Chapter—it truly does make a difference!

### Leadership Club (\$5,000 and above)

John E. Meyer '50  
Thomas H. Rinehart '57  
Patrick D. Bolen '58  
K. Michael Berkley '61  
Charles E. Heath '64  
Eric A. Voth, M.D. '77  
T. Teal Dakan '78

### 1834 Club (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

J. Kenneth Higdon '48  
Byron E. Springer '54  
Philip A. Shontz '67  
Blake A. Biles '68  
Robert E. Myers '68

### Cornerstone Club (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

George C. Hollinger '39  
Earl H. Clark, M.D. '42  
Robert J. Moore '53  
Lorrimer Armstrong Jr. '55  
Marshall L. Crowther '59  
Paul J. Trouslot '60  
Michael M. Thomas '62  
Lawrence G. Wilson, M.D. '62  
Ronald L. Mastin '63  
Thomas A. Hamill '64  
Hon. Donald W. Bostwick '65  
Brian L. Biles '66  
James E. Brink '67  
Hon. David J. Waxse '67  
Charles R. Cram '69  
C. David Newbery '69  
Richard A. Hiebsch '71  
Grant J. Milleret '75

### Barton L. Duckworth '77 Michael W. Lawrence '88 Blake C. Wells '89 Jay M. McGrath '92 Kurtis S. Rhoden '92 Brian R. Winter '92 Jacob D. Wassenberg '97 Lung Huang '99

### 1025 Club (\$500 to \$999)

Robert E. Raymer '52  
Dr. John L. Reese '57  
Max L. Schardein '62  
Robert E. Shenk '65  
Dennis N. Morrison '67  
Dr. Charles R. Pohl '67  
Mark L. Miller '70  
David K. Markham '74  
Michael R. Wesley, M.D. '75

## Kansas DU 2014 Annual Campaign Status At-A-Glance

**80 Loyal Donors  
\$18,205 Dollars Raised**

**It is easy to give back to Kansas DU!  
Use our online giving form at [www.kansasdu.com/giving-back/support-kansas-du](http://www.kansasdu.com/giving-back/support-kansas-du).**

## JOHN HOLT '81

(Continued from page 1)



John Holt '81 and his wife, Suzy, with their daughter, Katie, and son, Jack, at his West Point graduation and officer commissioning.

Watching John progress through his career while remaining engaged with DU made him a clear choice for the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award. He returns to the alumni dinner each year, keeps connected with the status of the current members, and has served on the House Corporation.

"Frankly, I was stunned, yet most certainly very honored and flattered to be the recipient. I've emceed a number of the banquets and helped recognize a long list of distinguished alumni, including some great guys from my dad's era and my own. To join that esteemed list is a thrill." John's father is **Dr. John Holt '57**. His DU legacy also includes his grandfather, uncles, and two brothers, **Bob '83** and **Tom '88**.

John also remains connected to DU through his own pledge brothers and by watching the active chapter. "I continue to be impressed with the quality of the guys who call 1025 Emery Road home. It's always exciting when I'm out and one of the young men will introduce themselves to me as a KU DU. The beauty of the shared fraternity experience includes a lifelong bond you develop. It's always a blast to reconnect with brothers to relive and perhaps embellish a bit on those good ol' days."

John and his wife, Suzy, who he met while the two were in law school at KU, have two children, Jack, a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and Katie, who is in the Nurse Practitioner Graduate School at Creighton University.



# DELTA UPSILON WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL SEMESTER

## Excellence in Academics, Leadership, and Philanthropy

This has been another great year for the undergraduate Chapter. We had more than 40 brothers make a GPA higher than a 3.25 and are once again above the all-men's average on The Hill. We won several intramural championships this semester. We also had the honor of having our basketball team play in the championship game at Allen Fieldhouse. Many of our brothers have dedicated their time and talents to serving others through philanthropy events and we continue to put others, and the community, before ourselves.

Nationally, we are once again one of the biggest and best DU chapters. We are in second place for Chapter excellence points. We sent 10 of our brothers to the Regional Leadership Academy in Kansas City, and look forward to sending more to the Leadership Institute in Atlanta this summer. We took away a plethora of ideas to better our Chapter as a whole and to ensure that everyone has the best Kansas DU experience possible.

This year we also made it into Rock Chalk Revue for the first time since 2010 with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta. The theme for this year's show was The Best Is Yet to Come. Our show was about Mario Chalmers' shoe closet and getting ready for the 2008 national championship game. We look forward to trying to make it into next year's show as well.

In summary, Delta Upsilon has had another wonderful year at the University of Kansas, and we are looking forward to even better ones to come very soon.

Fraternally,  
**Kyle Winston '17**  
 Chapter President  
 kjwinston56@gmail.com



Brothers at fall initiation.

### WE NEED YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

As we look to recruit men of the highest caliber to Delta Upsilon, we need your assistance. Please send names of high-achieving, KU-bound high school seniors to **Grant Kaufman '92** at [grantkaufman@gmail.com](mailto:grantkaufman@gmail.com) and he will coordinate with the Chapter.



Kansas DU performs in Rock Chalk Revue with Kappa Alpha Theta.



Yianni Vrentas '17, Kyle Winston '17, Cory Perkins '17, Joey Luber '17, Joe Blake '17, and William Crooks '17 ready for an intramural softball game.

### Kansas Chapter Executive Board

President  
**Kyle Winston '17**  
 (913) 375-8254  
 kjwinston56@gmail.com

Vice President  
**Mitch Altendorfer '17**

Treasurer  
**Cole Franken '17**

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**Gage Crooks '17**  
**Will Ehrman '17**  
**Corey Perkins '17**

Secretary  
**Tommy Larson '18**

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**Jeff Keenan '16**

Membership Education  
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**Tyler Irwin '17**  
**Devin Vickers '17**

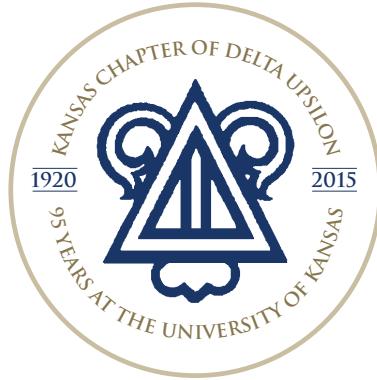
House Managers  
**Joe Blake '17**  
**Will Fuhrman '17**

Executive-at-Large  
**Kobi Mashnouk '16**

Philanthropy  
**Mitch Sneed '16**

Community Service  
**Griffin Bins '17**

Athletic Director/Historian  
**Joey Luber '17**



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## Raise a Glass in Honor of **Chris Hanna '93**

**C**hris Hanna '93 passed away on February 14. Chris was born September 3, 1970, in Wichita, Kan., to Janice Ann and William Wesley "Bill" Hanna. He graduated from Southeast High School in Wichita. He received his undergraduate degree in business administration from the University of Kansas and his MBA and law degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. His brother, Paul, is also a DU, and their entire family has been strong supporters of the Chapter over the years. Chris was also a leader with the University's alumni association and served on several volunteer boards, including the KU Memorial Union Corporation Board and the Associate Board of Advisors for the KU School of Business.

As a self-employed businessman, Chris had previously been employed at Hill's Pet Nutrition, Americans for Prosperity, and was founder and partner in The BleuJacket restaurant. Chris truly loved the restaurant business and most recently enjoyed being an investor in the restaurant, Merchants Pub & Plate.

Chris married Teresa "Tree" Lynch Hanna, a Chi Omega from KU, on August 9, 1997, in Beaver Creek, Colo. He was active in the Lawrence community as the golf coach at Bishop Seabury Academy and enjoyed golfing with his family and friends. Chris was regarded by all as an intelligent, kind, funny, cheerful and giving man who was always willing to lend a hand. He will be dearly missed, and we raise our glass to honor Chris and the contributions he has made to our Chapter and community.



## ALUMNI NEWS

**Lee R. Bittenbender, M.D. '68** is still practicing dermatology and enjoying it. He and his wife spent three weeks last fall trekking in the Himalayas in Tibet and had a fabulous time. "Last March we were in Uganda and Rwanda to see the mountain gorillas, some of which reminded me of some of my pledge brothers." E-mail: [leebittenbender@gmail.com](mailto:leebittenbender@gmail.com)



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