



THE SUNFLOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON

FALL 2012

Juan Manuel Santos '73 Receives Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award President of the Republic of Colombia Reminisces on His Time at Kansas Chapter



President Juan Santos '73 answers questions in a Q&A segment during his visit to Lawrence.
Photo credit: Kelsey Kimberlin/KU Marketing Communications

On September 24, the small municipal airport on the outskirts of Lawrence became Lawrence International Airport, as **Juan Manuel Santos '73**, president of the Republic of Colombia, arrived from Bogota aboard his 737 jet accompanied by his wife, entourage, and security detail. He was en route to the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, but paused in Lawrence at the invitation of KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

President Santos was honored with the presentation of the Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences during a ceremony at the Dole Institute of Politics on the KU campus. President Santos came to KU in the early 1970s and initially lived in McCollum Hall. He was invited to become a member of Delta Upsilon and moved into the Chapter House for two years, then lived in an apartment off-campus for his final year. **Phil Miller '73, Jeff Joyce '73, Brian Bracco '73, Lewis Gregory '75, John Dobbins '72, Tom Krebs '73, John Hays '74, John Esau '78**, and other DU alumni, plus a contingent of undergraduate brothers, were present at his speech and Q&A session, which was open to the public. He mentioned DU many times in his remarks, joking that he "honed my poker skills" at the fraternity. President Santos said he "learned to appreciate and admire the American way of life, your commitment to democratic values, to principles you have always defended." In a humorous anecdote, President Santos said he used his winnings playing poker with his fraternity brothers to purchase stock in fast-growing Pizza Hut, which later allowed him to buy his first car.

Several of President Santos' close DU contemporaries were able to spend about 15 minutes with him prior to the award ceremony and were given exclusive access and reserved seating with other dignitaries. The Colombian



President Juan Santos '73 leaves Lawrence en route to the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

Photo credit: Kelsey Kimberlin/KU Marketing Communications

president also showed up unannounced at the DU Chapter House early in the morning of his KU visit with just his security guards. He wanted to look around, so several undergraduate brothers gave him a tour of the first floor of the house. Although offers were extended for a more formal visit to the Chapter, security arrangements and a tight timetable made it impossible for DU to host our esteemed brother from Colombia.

President Santos said in remarks at a press conference that five members of his family had attended the School of Journalism at KU. For generations, his family owned the country's largest newspaper, *El Tiempo*, which was founded by his great-uncle. After his undergraduate studies at KU, President Santos attended Harvard and the London School of Economics. He served in the Colombian navy prior to coming to KU, and after his education became active representing his country in the coffee trade. He became the first foreign trade minister of Colombia, opening up a previously closed economy to international trade. Later

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Brothers Lewis Gregory '75, Phil Miller '73, President Juan Santos '73, Jeff Joyce '73, and Brian Bracco '73 catch up in Lawrence.
Photo credit: Kelsey Kimberlin/KU Marketing Communications



DU UNDERGRADUATES SEE SUCCESS IN ACADEMICS

Actives Welcome Back Famous Alumnus

The Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon is excited about the fall semester at the University of Kansas. With a continued focus on academic success, community service and campus leadership, our fraternity is one of the top chapters on campus.

Undergraduate GPA Second on Campus

During the spring semester our Chapter had a 3.20 GPA, which placed us second on the Hill in grades. We hope that with different programming and incentives we can boost our GPA to claim the coveted position of first on the Hill. We have set a goal to achieve a GPA of 3.25 for this fall semester.

Chapter Named Finalist for Sweepstakes Award

Each year, the international fraternity acknowledges the top accomplishments with an awards program based on the merit of each individual's or chapter's achievements. Each year, the Sweepstakes Award is given to the best DU chapter in North America. Kansas Chapter has had the honor of receiving this award six times—most recently in 2011. This year, our

Chapter was one of seven finalists for the award and we received the Chapter Excellence Plan award for the most CEP points, which are used to judge the progress of the chapter throughout the academic year. While we did not win the Sweepstakes Award this year, it was motivation for the years to come.

Colombian President and DU Alumnus Visits KU

On September 24, our Chapter had the honor of welcoming Colombian President **Juan Manuel Santos** '73 back to the University of Kansas. President Santos is one of the most distinguished and recognized Kansas Chapter alumni, who was recently on the cover of *Time Magazine*.

As you can see, we have set the stage for a great semester in Lawrence. I would like to thank you for your support and your contributions.



Fraternally,
Garrett Marler '14
 President
 gmarler10@gmail.com

Welcome, New Initiates

Jake Cobble '16*

(Uncle **Brad Cobble** '85 and Cousin **John Lawrence** '85)

Michael Esselman '16*

(Brother **Andrew Esselman** '09)

Tyler Faust '16

Charlie Ferber '16

Tyler Flores '16

Spencer Green '16*

(Brother **Gordon Green** '15)

Max Hagan '16*

(Father **Phil Hagan** '81 and Brother **Sam Hagan** '13)

Brad Hess '16

Zach Jacobson '16

Jeff Kennan '16*

(Father **Marty Kennan** '82 and Uncle **Matt Kennan** '81)

Henry Krause '16*

(Brother **Fritz Krause** '14)

Sam Krause '16*

(Grandfather **Don Krause** '57)

Cole Kretchmar '16

Riley Lafferty '16

Teddy Larson '16*

(Father **John Larson** '86)

Mick Lyons '15

Drew Martin '16

Kobi Mashnouk '16

Thomas Meitzner '16

Jack Miller '16

Bobby Moore '16*

(Cousin **Mick Whittmann** '03)

Brett Rooney '16*

(Brother **Brandon Rooney** '14)

Nick Rowley '16*

(Brother **Ryan Rowley** '13)

Chris Savage '16

Nate Smith '16

Mitch Sneed '16*

(Father **Mark Sneed** '87)

Elliot Sobek '16

Brooks Tate '16

Robert Tung '15

Connor Ward '16

*Legacy; relative in parentheses

CHAPTER ETERNAL



Sean D. Biggs '98 passed on to Chapter Eternal in early October. He was a great son, loving and devoted husband, caring and playful father, and a loyal brother and friend to all. Late September of last year, Sean was diagnosed with cancer. He fought cancer with the same amazing spirit that he lived his life.

Born on January 27, 1976, in Wichita, Kan., to **James Dennis Biggs** '70 and Sheila Pyle Biggs, Sean grew up in Abilene with his older sister, Bridget Biggs, and his younger brother, **Casey Biggs** '00.

He received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering at KU and was the first engineering student to complete a study abroad program at the University of Stuttgart in Germany. He moved to Boston where he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received his master's in technology and policy.

Sean and his wife, Neha, welcomed the arrival of their son, Millan Shah, and, a little over a year later, welcomed their daughter, Simran Malini. Sean spent all his energy sharing his passions with his children, which included golfing, swimming, playing cards and board games, traveling, and spending as much time as possible outside.

Though he spent much time with his family, Sean had many other accomplishments. He ran six Boston Marathons with an astonishing sub-three-hour finish. He played golf as often as he could and, as his friends will tell you,

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KEN HIGDON '48 SHARES LIFE AS A MEMBER OF KANSAS CHAPTER DURING WORLD WAR II

Today, the University of Kansas campus is a different place than the campus **Ken Higdon '48** attended. In the midst of World War II, the campus was packed with members of the armed forces. Ken came to KU as a member of the Navy V-12 college training program. He was enrolled in the accelerated college program that would help him become an electrical engineer. At this time, fraternity life lay dormant, many of the chapters were not active due to the war, and chapter houses were being used to hold military students. Ken visited the campus when his brother was a student and remembered seeing the Delta Upsilon house being built. Interested in the beautiful home and what fraternity life was like, he searched out the active Chapter.



In the spring of 1944, Ken found the undergraduates of Delta Upsilon living in a house off of Tennessee Street. With only eight active members, Ken became the pledge class of one that semester. In the fall of 1945, the Chapter House was once again returned to

the Chapter. With a small number of active members, they made friends with Sigma Nu, who was in need of a chapter house. The

two chapters shared the home, DU on the second floor, Sigma Nu on the third. They shared the common areas, a housemother, and ate meals together like one brotherhood for the fall semester of 1945. To this day, Ken can still remember the song "White Star of Sigma Nu." Later in the spring of 1946, veterans flooded back to KU and both chapters quickly grew. Sigma

Nu moved out that spring and left to find their own house. Ken has many fond memories of his days as an active member. From Sunday dinners to traditional serenades to the sororities, as well as being a member of the chapter's quartet, he cherishes these memories today.

After five semesters of engineering under his belt, Ken chose a new degree. Earning a general business degree, Ken yearned to serve his country and returned to active duty with the commission he earned through the University's Air Force ROTC program. For eight years, Ken

was a military pilot and spent a year living in Korea. He resigned from the Air Force and started working for Business Men's Assurance. This was thanks in large part to Ray Wright, an alumnus who visited the Chapter often and introduced him to the life insurance business. In 1984, Ken retired as the president of the Business Men's Assurance.

Ken's love for the military and Delta Upsilon crossed paths many times in his life. While overseas in Korea, Ken met an escort officer, **Robert Standerwick '52**, who was another Kansas Chapter brother. Sadly, Robert died in the Vietnam War, but his death inspired Ken. He started working to find members of Kansas Chapter who had died in service and developed information for a plaque to honor all the fallen brothers. Today, this plaque is displayed near the flagpole of the Chapter House. Ken's constant loyalty and support of Delta Upsilon makes him a role model for all of his brothers.

Ken and his wife of 21 years, Mary, live in Lenexa, Kansas. He has three living children who live in the Kansas City area.

Generous Alumni, We Thank You

As announced in previous issues of the *Sunflower*, the *Continuing the Tradition: The Campaign for Kansas Chapter* has officially come to a close. We have now gone back to our annual giving campaign. We have great confidence that the annual campaign will be instrumental in maintaining the Chapter House and providing an exceptional environment for our undergraduates.

We wish to thank all those who have supported the annual campaign. Alumni who have contributed to the spring 2012 appeal are listed by

Leadership Club (\$5,000 and up)

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

Lester P. Jeter II '66

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

Byron E. Springer '54*
Robert L. Randels '59
Samuel D. Evans Jr. '65*
Paul A. Hanna '90

1025 Club (\$500 to \$999)

George N. Michale '54
K. Michael Berkley '61

Blue & Gold Club (\$150 to \$499)

Clarke L. Henry, M.D. '44
Charles T. Hinshaw, M.D. '54
Lorrimer Armstrong Jr. '55
Thomas H. Rinehart '57
Charles D. Belt '57
Lawrence G. Wilson, M.D. '62
Hon. Donald W. Bostwick '65
Robert E. Shenk '65
Robert E. Myers '68
Steven T. Joyce '70
Tom C. Stevens '87
Brian R. Winter '92

Jayhawk Club (\$25 to \$149)

Earl H. Clark, M.D. '42
J. Kenneth Higdon '48*
Robert E. Raymer '52
Patrick D. Bolen '58
William L. Mitchell '59*
Marshall L. Crowther '59
Paul J. Trouslot '60
Max L. Schardein '62
Jerry W. Dickson '63
Larry R. Gamble '64
David R. Stanton '65
J. Michael Kavolus, M.D. '65
Mark A. Praeger, M.D. '65
Brian L. Biles '66
Halley E. Kampschroeder '67

James E. Brink '67
James E. Cram '71

Michael R. Wesley, M.D. '75
John L. Wright '76
Paul D. Miller '76
Jeffrey A. Wheat '86
Bradley C. Cobble '88
Michael W. Lawrence '88
Kevin M. Shields '91
Grant O. Kaufman '92*
John K. White '96
Timothy L. Hix '02
Dallas Rakestraw '03

*Donor to the Dick Wintermote memorial fund

Juan Manuel Santos '73

(Continued from page 1)

he served as finance minister and minister of defense. He was elected president in 2010 for a four-year term with over 9 million votes, the largest ever obtained by a candidate in the history of the Colombian democracy. He created the Good Government Foundation and founded the political party Partido de la U, Colombia's largest political party. When asked by a DU undergraduate whether he had held any leadership positions on campus or at the fraternity, he responded "No." He said he was just a "common student."



Photo credit: Kelsey Kimberlin/KU Marketing Communications

CHAPTER ETERNAL

(Continued from page 2)

he rarely came out on the losing end of a round. He fulfilled his passion of traveling by spending time in South America, Europe, South East Asia, and visiting India with Neha and their children. He was able to bring his passion for the environment and clean energy to his work as a leading energy analyst with Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

One of Sean's favorite quotes, by Mahatma Gandhi, epitomized how he lived his life: "Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behavior. Keep your behavior positive because your behavior becomes your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny."

Sean is survived by his wife and children. We are deeply saddened that Sean is no longer here but his memories will ever be here in every fold of our minds.

THE SUNFLOWER

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

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Attention: This newsletter is intended for Kansas DU alumni and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Kansas, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

Connect with Kansas DU

Website:
www.KansasDU.com



To connect with brothers and receive updates from the undergraduates, join our Facebook group! Simply search for Alumni of Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon today.



This Group is a place for both current Kansas DU undergrads and alumni far and near to keep in touch with brothers, the Chapter and the University. To find the Kansas Chapter group, search The Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon through the Groups Directory.

KANSAS CHAPTER HOUSE CORPORATION BOARD

President
Coy Weege '99
coy.weege@gmail.com

Treasurer
Eric Gustavson '87

Secretary
Andy Protzman '91



SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2013 Kansas Chapter Distinguished Alumni Banquet
Honoring All Retired and Active Duty Military Brothers*

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013

Adams Alumni Center on the KU Campus

Cocktail Reception at 5:30 p.m. / Dinner at 6:45 p.m.

(\$40 per person with cash bar)

NOTE: The Chapter House will be open for informal tours on Saturday.

*If you have served in any branch of the U.S. military and are active duty, reserve, retired, or honorably discharged, please make an effort to attend this recognition in your honor. Kansas DU alumni and undergraduates are grateful for your service to our country and we want to recognize you! If you served or know a deceased brother who served, please provide the following information:

Name: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Branch of Military Service: _____ Duration of Service: _____

Summary of Your Service Record: _____

Do you plan to attend this event: YES NO

Please return your information to Kansas DU Alumni, P.O. Box 1611, Lawrence, KS 66044.

For accommodations, please visit www.visitlawrence.com/accommodations

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