



# THE SUNFLOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS CHAPTER OF DELTA Upsilon

FALL 2015

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## A CALL TO ARMS

Brothers, as the Kansas Chapter approaches its 100-year anniversary, we are facing a battle and need your help. We've all seen the headlines or TV reports. It seems like a month doesn't go by without some negative press regarding fraternities. KU has had its own issues over the last several years as well, leading the University to strongly consider changing recruitment to the second semester of freshman year. In addition, there has been increasing scrutiny on fraternity traditions and practices. In other words, our fraternity is increasingly under pressure to change for the worse or to cease to exist altogether.

The DU Chapter at KU has done many good things over the last decade—we had a major renovation of our Chapter House thanks to generous alumni, and we won the Sweepstakes for Most Outstanding Chapter in the nation. We have had many members graduate and move on to successful careers and become positive contributors to society. However, to maintain relevancy, not to mention continue our legacy of success, the Kansas Chapter needs to address today's challenges. How do we do that? Like DU men always do—by taking action!

Beginning last fall, our alumni leaders met and developed plans for spring and fall 2015 to make our Chapter an exception to the negative trends. We're

calling the program "DU Renaissance." It is essentially a return to the values, beliefs, and traditions of KU DU.

Our undergraduate brothers have stepped up to take a lead in doing the right things and work toward making the Kansas Chapter exceptional in all phases. We're still early in the process, but I have personally witnessed and received reports that our members are responding positively.

The biggest fundamental issue that DU and the other fraternities experience is that few juniors and no seniors reside in the Chapter House. The result is that the culture of those living in the house lack maturity, wisdom, and institutional knowledge. We have tried unsuccessfully to offer incentives to change this phenomenon. Our answer is more alumni involvement to fill the gap for the absent upperclassmen. Our board added three new members this summer to provide mentoring in key areas, and we have increased our physical presence, as well as interactions with the undergraduate leaders. However, we desperately need more alumni, particularly younger ones, involved to achieve our objectives.

I would like you to take a moment and consider your DU experience and the impact it has had on your life. Your DU experience didn't happen by accident; it was the result of the sacrifice of our older brothers. It's

*(Continued on page 2)*

Kansas  
DU needs  
your help today!  
Ask how you can  
get involved!

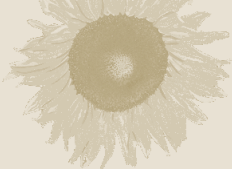
## Jeff Wheat '86 Prides Kansas DU on Lasting Memories and Strong Bonds



Jeff Wheat '86 has a lot to be proud of: a loving wife of 23 years, two ambitious children with bright futures, and a successful and exciting career to name a few. Yet one aspect of Jeff's life that has carried its own sense of pride since his teenage years is his membership in Delta Upsilon. His years as a Kansas DU were some of his best, and with them came friendships that have lasted decades, and life lessons that expanded his horizons personally and professionally.

From the moment he set foot in the DU house, Jeff knew he made the right decision. He credits the fraternity for impacting his life in two very significant ways: 1) the high-caliber members inspired him to raise his game both academically and in everyday life, and 2) DU polished him, providing him with the skills required to succeed in the corporate world. His advice for the active brotherhood? Stay connected.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## LOYAL ALUMNI, WE THANK YOU

**W**e wish to thank all those who have supported the annual campaign. Alumni who have contributed to the 2015 appeal are listed by graduation year under the appropriate giving levels. A complete list of lifetime annual giving can be found on our website, [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!

Donate to  
Kansas DU's annual  
campaign today!  
[www.kansasdu.com/  
giving-back-support-  
kansas-du](http://www.kansasdu.com/giving-back-support-kansas-du)

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

Charles D. Belt '57  
Thomas H. Rinehart '57  
Patrick D. Bolen '58  
K. Michael Berkley '61  
Charles E. Heath '64  
Eric A. Voth, M.D. '77

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

Earl H. Clark, M.D. '42  
Marshall L. Crowther '59  
Lynn H. Miller '59  
Paul J. Trouslot '60  
Michael M. Thomas '62  
James E. Brink '67  
Richard A. Hiebsch '71  
Jacob D. Wassenberg '97

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

J. Kenneth Higdon '48  
Lorrimer Armstrong Jr. '55  
Brian L. Biles '66  
Grant J. Milleret '75

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

Dr. John L. Reese '57  
Bruce E. Taber '58

Warren A. Wandling '59  
Max L. Schardein '62  
Mark L. Miller '70  
Jeffrey A. Wheat '86  
Tom C. Stevens '87  
John K. White '96  
David F. Dummermuth '98

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

D. Robert Buechel, M.D. '47  
George W. Francis '50  
James G. Mason '51  
William L. Mitchell '59  
Gary K. Hackett '60

Larry K. Burke '61  
Halley E. Kampschroeder '67  
Scott A. Wells '75  
Steven J. Roth '79  
Jason Tyrer '92  
Jason J. Stafford '94  
Dallas Rakestraw '03  
Brett T. Koehn '11

### Jayhawk Club (\$25 to \$149)

Vance N. Elder '49  
William C. Brainard '56  
Christopher K. Boyd '81  
G. Thomas Rowe Jr. '85

## A CALL TO ARMS

(Continued from page 1)

time for you to pay it forward. That could involve mentoring in one specific area like academics or RockChalk, joining the corporation or foundation board to provide guidance and wisdom, hosting a recruitment party, or simply attending a dinner at the house to relay your own DU experience or talk about your career. The more alumni we can get involved, the easier the load for all of us, not to mention the benefit of a diverse group that brings different capabilities and experiences to the table.

In closing, I ask you to make a difference in the lives of our younger brothers and help carry on the KU DU tradition. We are all busier than ever with demanding jobs, kids' activities, and numerous organizations requiring our time. Those are important, but your fraternity forefathers made the sacrifice for you. Now your fraternity needs you. Will you answer the call? If you are willing to take up this charge or just have questions, don't hesitate to contact **Grant Kaufman '92** at [grantkaufman@gmail.com](mailto:grantkaufman@gmail.com) or me. Thank you for your consideration.

Fraternally,

**Eric Gustavson '87**

Alumni Corporation Treasurer  
[ergustav@gmail.com](mailto:ergustav@gmail.com)

## Jeff Wheat '86

(Continued from page 1)

"It's not what you know, but who know that matters' is such a true statement," says Jeff. "There are so many talented people in the world that you are competing against. Relationships are the difference. Always look for ways to help others out in your career because it will come back around to you when you need help. Also, be part of something bigger than yourself, and take a leadership role. It will be the closest thing to the brotherhood you feel in the DU house."

Jeff earned his BS in computer science. He works as the director of government systems Engineering for Atigeo, a Big Data Analytics startup out of Bellevue, Washington, that was started by one of the original Microsoft millionaires. "I was brought into them by Senator Rick Santorum to help them work with the Department of Defense. I'm in charge of all their major deployments in both the government and commercial sectors. It keeps me young, especially when I'm going through math formulas with our Ph.D.s that I haven't seen since college."

Not long ago, Jeff took his family on a tour of KU's campus and stopped by

the DU house. While there, a number of members introduced themselves and Jeff quickly determined that they were legacies, descendants of brothers from his era. "It was obvious that the brotherhood extended through the generations. That's a powerful force, so much so that when I asked my son if he wanted to see any other fraternities, his response was, 'Nope! I'm a DU.' I can't even begin to put into words how proud I was at that moment. I cherish every memory from my years as a DU and I want to share those experiences with my family. If you get the chance to step up and take a leadership position, do it! It will pay so many dividends in your life that you can't imagine."

Jeff and his wife, Gabrielle, live in Shawnee, Kansas. Their children, Madison and Brandon, are in their senior and junior years, respectively, at St. Thomas Aquinas. Madison will apply to the U.S. Naval Academy and Brandon hopes to earn a computer science degree at KU. In his down time, Jeff and his family enjoy traveling and experiencing new cultures. You can reach Jeff at [jeff.wheat@atigeo.com](mailto:jeff.wheat@atigeo.com).





*Senior members were inducted into the alumni Chapter after graduation this spring.*

## Kansas DU Aims for Success This Fall

### Chapter Sets Academic Goals as New Men Join the Brotherhood

The Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon is having a very productive 2015. In the spring semester we hosted our philanthropy event with Pi Beta Phi sorority to raise awareness for ovarian cancer. Through our cookout, we took in donations for the cause.

#### Success in Intramurals

As for athletics, we had two of our members (**Joey Luber '17** and **Kyle Winston '17**) win the bowling intramural championship. Two of our other members (**Ian Mutschelknaus '17** and **Cory Perkins '17**) won the ping pong intramural championship. Our intramural basketball team made it to the championship round and played their final game in Allen Fieldhouse.

#### DU's Future Goals

This summer, our executive board met and set goals for not only our individual positions, but also our goals for the house. Our main goal and objective for the semester is to raise our house GPA requirement to a 2.75 and to increase our overall GPA above a 3.10. Along with this, we plan to bring in more men of merit and to continue our success both in and outside the chapter.

#### Homecoming Excitement

The men of Kansas DU enjoyed celebrating Homecoming on October 31 with the many alumni who returned for the event. It's always an amazing experience to connect with our alumni and hear stories from their time as undergraduates.

We're excited to see what this school year has in store and, as always, you're welcome back anytime!

Dikaia Upotheke,

**Mitch Altendorfer '17**

Chapter President

(316) 201-7759

kennethalten@gmail.com

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**Tony Adamle**  
St. Paul, Minn.

**Kyle Krudys**  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Jackson Riley**  
Leawood, Kan.

**Chris Anderson**  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Frank Lafferty**  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Nick Romey**  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Joseph DeBlase**  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Chase McCubbin**  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Jackson Shank**  
Leawood, Kan.

**Jarron Gandy**  
St. Charles, Ill.

**Spencer McGrath**  
Anthem, Ariz.

**Harrison Stewart**  
Prairie Village, Kan.

**Jackson Gossick**  
Mission Hills, Kan.

**Noah Miller**  
Prairie Village, Kan.

**Jack Werner**  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Jacob Kerns**  
Leawood, Kan.

**Parker Moeder**  
Leawood, Kan.

**Seth Winston**  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Mason Morse**  
Overland Park, Kan.



*Brothers at our philanthropy event for ovarian cancer this fall.*



*Gage Crooks '17, Mitch Altendorfer '17, and Will Fuhrman '17 at Kansas DU's alumni banquet.*

## 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.

## CONNECT WITH KANSAS DU ONLINE



[www.kansasdu.com](http://www.kansasdu.com)



Alumni of Kansas Chapter  
of Delta Upsilon



@KansasDU



The Kansas Chapter  
of Delta Upsilon



[www.kansasdu.com/giving-back/  
support-kansas-du](http://www.kansasdu.com/giving-back/support-kansas-du)



Kyle Winston '17 hands over the cornerstone at Kansas DU's pinning ceremony this fall.

# THE SUNFLOWER

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## Kansas Chapter Executive Board

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Wichita, Kan.  
(316) 201-7759  
[kennethalten@gmail.com](mailto:kennethalten@gmail.com)

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Leawood, Kan.

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Risk Management Chairman

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**Jonathan Bush '18**  
Leawood, Kan.

Vice President Recruitment

**Joey Luber '17**  
Prairie Village, Kan.  
(816) 589-0569  
[b1881213@ku.edu](mailto:b1881213@ku.edu)

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Academic Excellence  
**Jonathan Bush '18**  
Leawood, Kan.

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**Tommy Larson '18**  
Prairie Village, Kan.

**Trew Poole '18**  
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New Member  
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Overland Park, Kan.

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