



THE SUNFLOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON

SPRING 2019



Randy Spear '80, Bill Shea '79, Nick Michale '77, Chuck Cook '75, Steve Ballou '76, Eric Voth '77, Kyle Krull '81, and Mark Jabara '77. (Not pictured: Reed Dillon '79)



Emcee John Holt '81



Bruce McKinney, University of Missouri '74, spoke on the Mizzou Chapter's experience to recolonize.

KANSAS DU CHAPTER HOUSE OCCUPIED FOR NEXT TWO YEARS

Lease Agreement with Alpha Kappa Lambda

We are happy to report that we have finalized and entered into a lease agreement with Alpha Kappa Lambda for the next three academic school years (2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22). AKL will take possession of the Chapter House on August 1. Since AKL is guaranteeing three full years of rent, it allows us to collect enough to cover our mortgage, property tax, insurance, and licensing expenses, along with much of our corporate expenses. We are very grateful for this opportunity.

While AKL will still be living in the home as we recolonize in the fall of 2022, we are confident this will not negatively impact our recolonization efforts. There will be more to come on that plan in future newsletters.

In anticipation of some of your questions regarding our agreement with AKL, here are a few highlights:

- The House Corporation is taking measures to prepare the house in terms of repairs, etc., prior to the move-in date.

- DU artifacts are being secured at an offsite location.
- AKL is responsible for all missing items, damage, or maintenance required as a result of use or overuse.
- Alpha Kappa Lambda may not permanently affix any letters, symbols, or other insignia to the outside of the house.
- Decor may be installed in common areas by professional maintenance workers only and with pre-approval.

Loyal Alumni Step Up

In late March, 15 loyal alumni met to discuss Kansas DU's reorganization in the years to come. Our first step is to build a volunteer base willing, trained, and dedicated to Kansas DU. We firmly believe the University of Kansas and the Greek community are better and stronger with DU. We must take steps to ensure those memories and experiences can be part of young men's lives in the years to come.

If you have additional questions, please contact **Grant Kaufman '92** at grantkaufman@gmail.com.

2019 Alumni Banquet

Kansas DU alumni came together the weekend of April 13 for the annual Distinguished Alumni Banquet. A small but mighty group had dinner Friday ahead of the event: loyal Brothers **Randy Spear '80, Nick Michale '77, Chuck Cook '75, Steve Ballou '76, Eric Voth '77, Kyle Krull '81, Mark Jabara '77, and Reed Dillon '79** attended.

Saturday's banquet was nice and included some important discussions about our future approach to Delta Upsilon at the University of Kansas. It was interesting to hear honoree **Randy Austin '63** and his pledge brother **Dick Haitbrink '63** as they spoke of the atmosphere and aura that prevailed in their era. Our founding principles of the Advancement of Justice, the Promotion of Friendship, the Development of Character, and the Diffusion of Liberal Culture were not only lived daily, but were held to members as an expectation, not a suggestion. All in attendance agreed to work toward a brighter future for 1025 Emery Road.



Distinguished Alumnus Randy Austin '63



2019 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS RANDOLPH G. AUSTIN '63

Delta Upsilon's reputation as a fraternity of gentlemen and scholars first attracted **Randy Austin '63** as a high school senior in Salina, Kansas. In addition to the Chapter consistently being in the top three or five on campus in all categories and its emphasis on scholarship, Randy's sister, Colinda, an Alpha Chi at KU, spoke highly of the members.

Leaving home in Texas after his junior year in high school, Randy moved to Salina in order to graduate in Kansas and get in-state tuition; KU was always his first choice. Finding a second home at Delta Upsilon would aid him throughout his collegiate years and in his career. Randy says, "The scholastic competition in the house was hugely beneficial, as well as the mentoring by upperclassmen."



A longtime volunteer, Randy arrives at KU Audio Reader studios.

Randy managed to combine studying and participating in intramurals with starting a sandwich business as a junior. He laughs and says, "The DUs were my best and worst customers. I'd finish up around 1 a.m., and they would hang around to see if I had any leftovers." However, he says his favorite job during the summers and semester breaks was as a tour escort for Berry Travel of Kansas City. "**Jim Lowe '56**, a former tour escort for Berry, encouraged me to apply. I began by taking people to the Seattle World's Fair and then to others in New York and Montreal, to the western national parks, to Mardi Gras, to Banff and Lake Louise, and to Quebec and up the Saguenay River. Then I landed in the international division with tours to Europe, the Middle East, and the Orient. Thanks to Jim Lowe, I had worked in 30 countries before I turned 24."

After graduation, Randy joined the Marines before heading to law school. He earned his J.D. and was a Highway Commission trial attorney for a couple of years before starting his own private practice in Johnson County. Although Randy enjoyed practicing trial law for over 20 years, he switched gears when his aunt asked him to manage his uncle's estate. Since then, he has focused on commercial real estate, development, and banking and is president of Fairlawn Plaza Development in Topeka. In 2017, he was inducted into the Washburn University Business Hall of Fame.

Randy has been heavily involved in civic and community service over the years, including the United Way, as chair of the Humanities Council of Kansas, and as president of the Topeka Zoo Foundation. He has also been a volunteer reader to the blind and sight-impaired with KU's Audio Reader program for 28 years, where he also chairs the development committee.

Randy has two children, **Ed '94** and Heather, and four grandchildren. He says his fatherly hopes were realized when Ed joined the Kansas Chapter and that Ed's DU experience was also very positive. Randy and Ed, who is a private pilot, both enjoy flying to different courses around the country to play golf.

Staying in touch with his DU brothers has always been important to Randy, and he's been able to do so in business and in his travels. Being named the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus has given Randy "an opportunity to remember and appreciate how important DU was certainly during my undergraduate years and, especially, beyond." And Delta Upsilon is proud to honor such an outstanding member of our fraternity.

Randy can be reached at rga@fairlawnplaza.com.

WORKING TOWARD A BETTER TOMORROW

Chancellor Announces New Sorority and Fraternity Task Force

Since the first Greek organization came to campus in 1873, sorority and fraternity life has become a vital part KU's history and tradition. Unfortunately, the state of Greek affairs around KU, universities, and U.S. is less than ideal. Situations including hazing, sexual assault, and drug and alcohol abuse allegations have plastered the news in recent years and created uncertainty and animosity within the Greek community.

To address these growing concerns, Chancellor Douglas Girod announced in November 2018 that a sorority and fraternity life task force had been created to evaluate the state of sorority and fraternity life at KU. The group will also explore best practices related to policy and programming changes and submit recommendations to the chancellor on how Greek life can be enhanced for our Greek brothers and sisters. "The sorority and fraternity community has a rich tradition of leadership, scholarship, service, and friendship," Girod said. "While we can be proud of this history, it is crucial that our sorority and fraternity community is prepared to address today's challenges and opportunities. With sororities and fraternities under scrutiny nationwide and at KU, we must commit to raising our standards for health, wellness, and self-governance to meet the expectations we have for our community."

The goal of this task force is to ensure that a strong sorority and fraternity system continues to be a valuable part of the student experience at KU. This diverse 27-person task force is led by KU and Beta Theta Pi alumnus Mike Michaelis, and members include students, parents, KU alumni, housing corporation representatives, advisors, university administrators, and staff. To view a complete list of task force members, visit studentaffairs.ku.edu/sorority-and-fraternity-life-task-force.

The group is set to provide its recommendations to the chancellor this summer so he may then evaluate those recommendations and announce next steps in fall 2019. For more information, please reach out to the Office of Student Affairs at studentaffairs@ku.edu.



CRIMSON AND BLUE FAST FACTS

Number of Students Involved in Greek Life:

4,000+



Number of Fraternal Organizations



All-Sorority
GPA:
3.35

Number of Governing Councils:

4



Community
Service
Average:

**11.13 hours per
member**



All-
Fraternity
GPA:
3.17

For details and more information, visit silc.ku.edu/greeklife.

Alumni News

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Gerald O. McDonald '44 passed on to Chapter Eternal on October 12, 2017. A pioneer in cancer treatment and cardiac care, Gerald was former deputy director of surgical services at the Veterans Administration Central Office in Washington, D.C. He is survived by Irma, his loving wife of 33 years; their sons, Nuri Sims and Sushil Sims, and grandchildren, Jaden and Parker; his children, Gerald Jr., Sandra, Elizabeth, and their mother; his grandchildren, Alexandra, Bryant, Meredith, and Elizabeth; his great-grandchildren, William and Christopher; and a nephew and niece. Gerald was preceded in death by his sister, Janet, and brother, David.

George C. Christopher II '52 passed on to Chapter Eternal February 13, 2019. He resided in Tyler, Texas, with Mary, his wife of 40 years. George was a registered engineer in Kansas and Texas and a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers. Proceeded in death by his parents; sisters Penny, Shirley, and Nancy; first wife Kay; and stepson Jeffrey, George is survived by Mary; daughters Kim and Kerrie and stepdaughters Barbara and Brenda; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Richard LaGree '53 passed on to Chapter Eternal on October 21, 2018. His 40-year career with Western Resources and Kansas Power and Light included residing in Leavenworth, Manhattan, and Wichita. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Beverly; his daughter, Jane, and son, Bryan; and grandsons, Christopher, Andrew, and Daniel. He is preceded in death by his brother, Darrell, sister, Donnis, and granddaughter, Emily.

Jerrad J. Hertzler, M.D. '58 passed on to Chapter Eternal March 26, 2018. After two years in the Air Force, he went on to study neurology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He returned to Omaha, Neb., where he and Dr. Harold Ladwig organized the Omaha Neurological Clinic. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Nancy. He is

survived by his wife, Julie; three sons, John, Bradley, and Matthew; and eight grandchildren. Julie says, "He loved being a DU throughout his whole life. He had so many fond memories of the DU Chapter at KU."

Ronald D. Andreas '61 passed on to Chapter Eternal on November 3, 2018. He graduated from KU with his master's degree in electrical engineering, obtained his Ph.D. from UNM, and worked for Sandia National Laboratories for 36 years. Ron is survived by his wife of 44 years, Carolyn; daughters, Amy, Renee, and Michelle; son, Aaron; and four grandchildren.

Duane E. Lowry '67 passed on to Chapter Eternal on October 30, 2018. Duane is survived by his wife of 52 years, Carolyn; his children, Kevin, Gregg, and Kayla; and four grandchildren; as well as his sister, Joyce, and his niece and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved horse, Freedom. He earned his doctorate in optometry in 1969 and had a vibrant private practice in Elizabethton for 43 years.

Harold S. Dumler '75 passed on to Chapter Eternal on June 22, 2018. Hal was employed in the banking industry initially in Topeka, Kan., then worked for a small bank in Colorado Springs. In 2001, he moved to Los Angeles to be closer to his brothers and became interested in working with clients in drug and alcohol recovery, eventually becoming a recovery center administrator. Hal is survived by his daughter, Jessica; brothers, Earle and Brian; nephews, Chris and Kale; and niece, Katie.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Monty L. Rose '55 is "still happily married to my ΔΓ wife, Barbara, for 63 years." He retired as technical director from Honeywell in 1989. They live in Sanford, N.C., to be near their four children and six grandchildren. "I enjoyed golf and tennis and now enjoy eating out and TV!"

(Continued on page 4)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We know Kansas DU positively influenced so many lives at KU, and in the next few years alumni are going to be the key to a successful recolonization. We need alumni now who will have a positive influence on future DUs for years to come. We hope you will consider making a commitment and help. Please contact **Grant Kaufman '92** at grantkaufman@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer your time.

THE SUNFLOWER

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Help Us Find Our Lost Brothers

Communication and alumni involvement over the next four years will be critical for our return to KU. Which is why we need to have the most up-to-date information for as many alumni as possible. A list of lost brothers can be found at kansasdu.com/alumni/lost-brothers.

If you know the street address or email address for any of these alumni, please send their information to **Grant Kaufman '92** at grantkaufman@gmail.com.



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The Kansas Chapter of
Delta Upsilon



Alumni of Kansas Chapter of
Delta Upsilon



[deltaupsilonku](https://www.instagram.com/deltaupsilonku)



www.kansasdu.com/giving-back/support-kansas-du

Alumni News

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Lynn H. Miller '59 is co-authoring with an art historian a forthcoming book, "Salut! France Meets Philadelphia: The French Presence in Philadelphia's History, Culture and Art," to be published by Temple University Press in 2020. He retired in 2001 as professor emeritus, political science, at Temple University. He lives in Philadelphia with his spouse, Jim McClelland. Email: lynnm3@comcast.net

Max L. Schardein '62 retired in 1992 as a brigadier general for the U.S. Army Reserve after 30 years of service and in 2008 after 44 years as a consulting engineer. He sadly reports that his wife, Judy, passed away in 2014. He lives in Colorado, "enjoying the beautiful scenery and outdoor activities." Email: maxls7391@gmail.com

Larry A. Houston '64 is retired from Boeing Commercial Aircraft. He says, "All is okay!" He lives in Wichita and has one son, Scott.

Mark A. Praeger, M.D. '64 retired from general surgery practice in 2013. For the last four years he has specialized in breast surgery at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. He and his wife, Sandy, live in Lawrence and have two children, Gretchen and John David. They enjoy traveling, most recently to Italy and Mexico. Email: mpraeger@sunflower.com

Charles R. Cram '69 held various finance and accounting positions with Mobil Oil and ExxonMobil for 29 years before retiring in 2002. He also owned a recreation vehicle repair shop for 15 years and retired for good in 2018. He and his wife, Sandra, have one son, Doug, and live in Krum, Texas. Email: crcram@msn.com

Kenneth W. Wiley '70 is a music producer and recording artist in Tujunga, Calif., and plays on *Family Guy* and *American Dad*. You can

check out his bio and recording dates at www.kenwiley.com. Email: monkeyfuzz@krugparkmusic.com

Nick B. Michale '77 retired in 2016 as an annuity marketing consultant for Creative Marketing Corp. He plays lots of golf: "Not very good at it, but it is my passion! Usually out in 30-degree weather with my cart cover and heater." He'll be working at the Web.com tournament at Blue Hills Country Club in May. Nick and his wife, Kim, live in Overland Park, Kan., and have two children, Kelly and Nick Jr.

Michael D. Robertson '81 is CEO/chairman of Ocean Media (oceanmediainc.com). "We recently launched all the advertising for Etsy, Car Gurus, Clear.com, Rakuten, and Mint Mobile. Mint Mobile had one of the highest rated commercials in the Super Bowl. Ocean Media also continues to service Priceline going into our 22nd year as their only agency. Ocean will again surpass \$450 million in billings. I owe it all to KU! Go, Hawks!" Mike lives in Newport Beach, Calif., with his wife, Kimberly. They have four children, Chelsea, Garrett, Wyatt, and Emma. Email: mikerobertson@oceanmediainc.com

Jeffrey A. Wheat '86 reports that after running Anheuser Busch's Global Security Operations Center in Bangalore, India, he is now director of solutions engineering with @Risk Technologies. He lives in Shawnee, Kan., with his wife, Gabrielle. They have two children, Brandon and Madison. Email: jeffreyawheat@gmail.com

Kenneth Cochran '13 is a products liability and business litigation corporate defense lawyer with Shook in Kansas City. Email: kennethcochran1@gmail.com