



THE SUNFLOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON

SUMMER 2025

BETTER THAN EVER

Help Build
What Comes
Next

It is an honor to reach out to you in my new role as president of the Kansas DU Educational Foundation. I'm privileged to serve at such a pivotal and historic time for our Chapter. As many of you know, we are officially back on campus, and the Chapter is thriving once again. I'd like to share a bit of background on the rechartering process and my involvement with this inspiring group of young men.

After my years on Emery Road, my career and family took me to Arizona, where my wife and I raised our children. Fast forward to 2020, and our son **Kenzy Rolley '24** chose to attend the University of Kansas. During his campus tour, we visited the DU house, which at the time was sadly closed and shuttered.

After his freshman year, Kenzy came home determined to bring DU back to KU. He had the passion and vision to make it happen. Through an introduction to **Rod Barleen '97** by **Grant Kaufman '92**, Kenzy began navigating the uncharted waters of reestablishing DU on campus and reclaiming the DU house—our house.

Thanks to the incredible efforts of Rod, **John Esau '78**, and many others, Delta Upsilon officially received its charter back in the spring of 2023. The founding class included 24 young men. That number has since grown to 50, and

the Chapter is working hard to continue recruiting high-quality members!

I'm excited to be involved as Kansas DU begins rebuilding its legacy. Delta Upsilon has deep roots at KU, and I firmly believe that with our support, the Chapter will continue to offer a meaningful and transformative experience for generations of young men.

As we enter year three of having the Chapter back in the house, it's time to rebuild our support system. There are opportunities for everyone to get involved. We're currently seeking volunteers for both the Housing Corporation and Educational Foundation boards. We also need your financial support to continue offering a top-tier fraternity experience at KU.

If you're in a position to give, regardless of your past donor status, please consider making a contribution! (See page 6 for information on how to support Kansas Delta Upsilon financially.)

Let's work together to honor the legacy built by those who came before us. Now it's our turn to make a lasting impact.



Dikaia Upotheke,
Blake Rolley '84
President, Kansas DU
Educational Foundation



The executive board attends the Regional Leadership Academy in Kansas City.

THE ALUMNI IMPACT

"What does the ultimate fraternity experience look and feel like?" That was the core question asked at our recent Advisory Board meeting with Chapter leadership, and you would have been proud of the answers our undergraduates gave.

Their responses weren't just idealistic; they were thoughtful, honest, and grounded in the values that have always made Kansas DU something special. They spoke of legacy and leadership, yes, but also of belonging and of building a space where young men are challenged, supported, and shaped into leaders who are defined not by what they consume, but by what they contribute.

They imagine a Chapter that embodies true brotherhood rooted in shared values, mutual accountability, and a desire to grow together. They envision a culture that prioritizes academics and wellness but still makes room for fun, celebration, and deep friendships. They see our Chapter as a launchpad not just for college success but also for lifelong impact.

The conversation was inspiring and provided a clear reminder: **they can't build that experience alone**. This is where alumni like you come in to be mentors and stewards of this legacy. The next generation is asking for the same things many of us once needed. **Now is our time to show up.**

(Continued on page 2)



Making Their Vision Our Reality

(Continued from page 1)

Here's how you can help bring their vision to life:



Become a Mentor: Share your time and experience with a student leader or new member navigating college, careers, and life.



Attend an Event: Whether it's an alumni banquet, a KU football Saturday, or simply joining the Chapter for dinner, your presence strengthens the brotherhood.



Open a Door: Offer an internship, résumé help, or a simple conversation with a member interested in your field.



Tell Your Story: Record or write a short reflection on what the fraternity meant to you. It's powerful to hear from those who came before.



Give What You Can: Whether time, talent, or a financial gift, every contribution moves the mission forward.

The "ultimate fraternity experience" doesn't occur by accident—it's something we build together. Let's ensure these young men experience the same transformative brotherhood we were fortunate to receive. Because this is still *your* Chapter, and it needs you now more than ever!

THANK YOU, LOYAL DONORS!

"Our past is secure; our future depends upon our vigilance" is a line we have all recited during Initiation. We greatly appreciate the following brothers who loyally stepped forward with financial support to help the Kansas Chapter return to campus in the past year. But our needs to maintain the chapter house, support the leadership training with programs, and attract diverse and talented new members with scholarships continue to grow. Please include the Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon among your annual giving priorities.

Dr. Richard Shaw '57	Barton Duckworth '77	Neal Wheat '94
Patrick Bolen '58	Eric Voth '77	Rod Barleen '97
Jerry Nossaman, D.D.S '60	David Wooding '77	Jeff Pritchard '97
K. Michael Berkley '61	John Esau '78	Brandon Williams '97
Max Schardein '62	Lawrence Gaston '78	David Dummermuth '98
Stanley Andeel '63	Douglas Stark '78	Dallas Rakestraw '03
Randolph Austin '63	Reed Dillon '79	Scott Steele '04
Ronald Mastin '63	William Shea '79	Ryan Wasinger '05
Larry Gamble '64	Mark Cummings '80	Thomas Beeler '08
J. Michael Watson '65	Kyle Krull '81	Brian Huntington '08
Dr. Charles Pohl '67	Brent Miller '81	Michael Elliott '09
Rick Utermoehlen '67	David Anderson '82	Mitchell Knopp '10
Dr. Lee Bittenbender '68	Marty Keenan '82	Michael Virgo '12
Mark Miller '70	James Tomlinson '82	Elliott Sobek '16
Richard Hiebsch '71	Todd Slawson '83	
Brian Bracco '73	Blake Rolley '84	If you would like to
Jeffrey Joyce '73	Lawrence Gaston '87	join the list and make a
David Markham '74	Michael Haines '87	contribution online, please
Brad Dillon '75	Paul Hanna '90	visit PAGE 6 for how you
Lewis Gregory '75	R. Todd Ehlert '91	can give.
Jeff Roth '76	Jeff Hatfield '91	

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Mark Wappler '26

Vice President of Membership Education

Hayden Lontz '27

Vice President of Risk Management

Kale Swanson '26

Vice President of External Relations

Michael Gates '27

Vice Presidents of Recruitment

Levi Dewey '28

(316) 373-4007

Nick Sewell '28

(314) 972-4711

Vice President of Finance

Max Brewer '27

Vice President of Academic Excellence

Drew Keller '27

Vice President of Administration

Hayden Sides '27

House Manager

Danny Smith '28

Philanthropy Chairman

Colin Christopher '27



2025-26 GOALS FOR KANSAS CHAPTER

EXPAND PHILANTHROPY EFFORTS

We aim to grow our community impact by hosting at least one major annual philanthropy event in partnership with a local nonprofit. A dedicated committee will lead planning and execution, with support from local businesses and sponsors. We'll set clear fundraising goals and promote events through social media, flyers, and campus outreach to boost awareness and attendance.

STRENGTHEN RECRUITMENT

To continue building our brotherhood, we're implementing a year-round recruitment strategy beyond formal recruitment. Events like open houses, mixers, and interest sessions will help attract new members. We'll highlight Delta Upsilon's values in all outreaches, involve current members as recruitment ambassadors, and prioritize a diverse and inclusive environment.

RECONNECT WITH ALUMNI

We're committed to strengthening alumni ties through annual events like Homecoming tailgates and alumni weekends. We plan to form an alumni advisory board to support Chapter leadership and mentorship. Additionally, we'll develop an online network to connect alumni with each other and with undergraduates.



Active Members

Tate Anderson '27 | Tulsa, Okla.
Connor Bell '26 | Mission, Kan.
Luke Bolander '26 | Cedarburg, Wis.
Tony Bretz '27 | St. Charles, Mo.
Maxwell Brewer '27 | Saint Charles, Mo.
Griffin Caffrey '28 | Rosemont, Minn.
Archie Carruthers '28 | St. Louis, Mo.
Colin Christopher '27 | St. Louis, Mo.
Ethan Clarke '28 | Minnetonka, Minn.
Levi Dewey '28 | Wichita, Kan.
Jaden Didrickson '27 | Mokena, Ill.

"The strong brotherhood within Delta Upsilon was the deciding factor for me. It was clear from my first encounter that this was a group of men who genuinely supported and cared for one another, something I deeply valued."

—**Ben Fazlic '28**

Ben Fazlic '28 | St. Louis, Mo.
Mason French '28 | St. Louis, Mo.
Charlie Fronick '28 | St. Louis, Mo.
Michael Gates '27 | Downers Grove, Ill.
Jack Grandsire '27 | Baltimore, Md.
Mitchell Hans '27 | Fairway, Kan.
Jakari Hetep '27 | St. Louis, Mo.
Chris Holloway II '28 | Gas, Kan.
Tristan Hurley '27 | De Soto, Kan.
Teddy Janson '28 | St. Louis, Mo.
Drew Keller '27 | Fairway, Kan.
Cooper Kezziah '28 | Golden Valley, Minn.
Maurico Lesme '26 | Asuncion, Paraguay

Eli Lewis '28 | Rosemount, Minn.
Hayden Lontz '27 | Tulsa, Okla.
Jack Macha '27 | Topeka, Kan.
Matthew Meehan '27 | La Grange, Ill.
Cameron Mora '27 | Ramon, Calif.
Jude Naumann '27 | Tulsa, Okla.
Samuel Ortiz-Escobedo '27 | Neodesha, Kan.
Matthew Pierpaoli '27 | La Grange, Ill.
Brian Pina '27 | Salina, Kan.
Jacob Podrebarac '27 | Mission Hills, Kan.
Nick Pulliam '27 | Des Moines, Iowa
Zane Saavedra '28 | Albuquerque, N.M.
Jacob Sauer '28 | St. Louis, Mo.
Mason Schutt '26 | Kansas City, Mo.
Scott Schmidt '28 | St. Louis Park, Minn.
Hayden Schmitz '28 | St. Louis, Mo.

"Beyond the brotherhood, I was also drawn to DU by the opportunities to grow as a leader. I knew that being part of this Chapter would provide a platform for personal and professional development."

—**Nick Sewell '28**

Nick Sewell '28 | St. Louis, Mo.
Hayden Sides '27 | New Strawn, Kan.
Brady Smith '26 | Leawood, Kan.
Danny Smith '28 | Plainfield, Ill.
Patrick Strick '26 | Gardner, Kan.
Kale Swanson '26 | Gardner, Kan.
Griffin Tidstrom '25 | Boulder, Colo.
Kyler VanDonge '28 | Topeka, Kan.
Mark Wappler '26 | St. Louis, Mo.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



Angilo Allen	Benjamin Gibbons	Sanketh Reddy	Jonathan Spear
Juan Acuna	Ethan Lestrud	Kenzy Rolley	Andrew Swanston
Dominic Barlow	Logan Matzke	Bobby Ruisch	
Joseph Barlow	Patrick Meehan	Aiden Scariano	
Joseph Fleece	Shyam Pathak	Adam Schwieterman	



CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

The Booth's Next Chapter

David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium—affectionately known as “The Booth”—is a symbol of the University of Kansas’s rich athletic tradition and a tribute to the 129 university members who gave their lives in World War I. It has served as the home of Jayhawk football since its inception.

The stadium’s story began in 1920 after a 20-20 tie against Nebraska under coach Phog Allen sparked a fundraising campaign. Nearly \$225,000 was raised, and construction began on May 10, 1921. The stadium was officially dedicated on November 11, 1922.

Over the years, the stadium has seen several major upgrades:

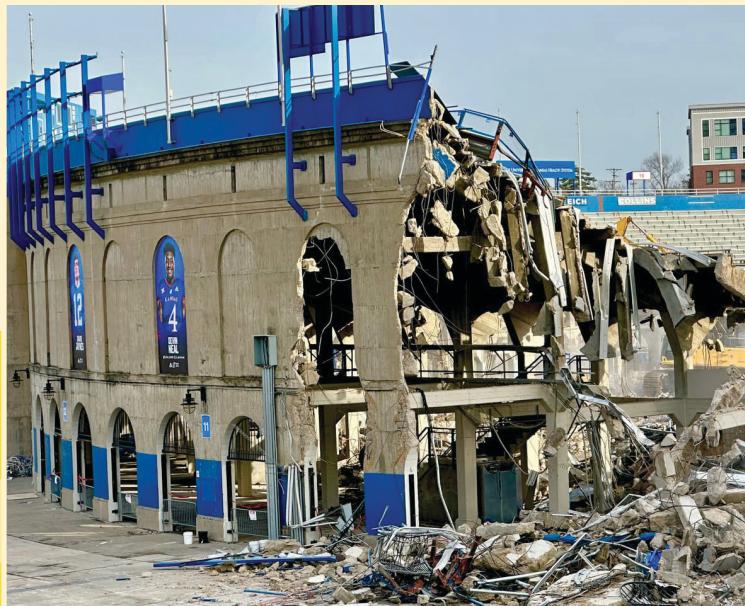
1925 AND 1927: Seating expansions, including the north bowl, increased capacity to 35,000.

1963 AND 1965: Additional expansions brought capacity to over 51,000.

1970: Natural grass was replaced with artificial turf.

1997-99: Major renovations added permanent lighting, a new press box, updated locker rooms, and luxury suites.

2009: FieldTurf was installed, and the track was removed to create a football-only facility.



In 2017, the stadium was renamed in honor of alumnus David G. Booth, who pledged a record \$50 million gift to Kansas Athletics. Booth also donated the original rules of basketball by James Naismith and funded the Booth Family Hall of Athletics.

Today, the stadium is undergoing a transformative renovation as part of the University of Kansas Gateway Project. Phase one, slated for completion in August 2025, includes:

- New seatbacks on the north and west sides.
- Expanded concessions, restrooms, and premium seating (including club seats and suites).
- A new, larger video board.
- A reconfigured capacity of approximately 40,000 to improve the overall fan experience.

From its origins as a World War I memorial to its future as a modern sports venue, The Booth remains a cornerstone of KU tradition and pride!





UPDATES FROM THE UNDERGRADUATES

The 2024-25 academic year has been another impactful and memorable one for the Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon. As always, our Chapter remains dedicated to academic excellence, leadership development, and service to others. With a strong cumulative GPA of 3.3, our members prioritize scholarship while staying actively involved on campus and in the Lawrence community.

Philanthropy and service are both cornerstones of our brotherhood. Many of our members have generously volunteered their time and talents across various community initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to Delta Upsilon's founding principle: "Justice, Our Foundation." Whether participating in campus service events or engaging in charitable outreach, we take pride in putting the needs of others before our own.

We are also proud to stand among the top-performing Delta Upsilon chapters nationwide. This semester, our executive board attended the Regional Leadership Academy in Kansas City, where they connected with peers from other chapters and returned with fresh ideas to strengthen our operations. We are also sending representatives to the upcoming Leadership Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as the Delta Upsilon Emerging Leaders Experience at Williams College. These programs are invaluable in equipping our members with the tools and knowledge to lead effectively.

Mitchell Hans '27 and **Jacob Podrebarac '27** represented the Chapter in a memorial pickleball tournament honoring DU alumnus Sean Biggs. Events like these help us build stronger connections with alumni while celebrating the legacy of those who came before us.

Additionally, our executive board has worked closely with alumni advisors throughout the year, fostering a collaborative path toward sustained growth and success.

In summary, the Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon has experienced a successful and enriching year academically, socially, and philanthropically. As we look ahead, we remain focused on building an even stronger brotherhood rooted in leadership, service, and lifelong friendship!

Fraternally,
Mark Wappler '26
 President



We're Putting Out the Welcome Sign!

Know Someone Who Should Be Here?

We're always looking for promising young men to bring into Kansas Chapter and would appreciate recommendations of men you know who would be a good fit.

Send their info to our recruitment team using the details below. Thank you!

Levi Dewey '28
(316) 373-4007

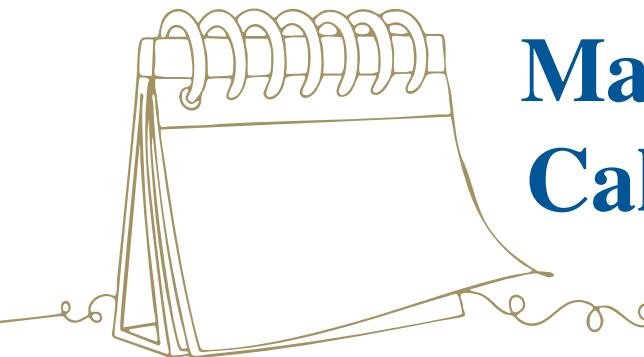
Nick Sewell '28
(314) 972-4711



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Mark Your Calendars!



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Delta Upsilon Alumni Tailgate Weekend

Alumni Football Tailgate

Where: DU Chapter House at 1025 Emery Road
When: Saturday, September 20, 2025
Time: TBA; based on game time

Come check out the new David Booth Memorial Stadium and watch Kansas take on West Virginia!

Distinguished Alumni Banquet

Where: DU Chapter House at 1025 Emery Road
When: Saturday, May 2, 2026
When: 4 p.m. House tours
5 p.m. Cocktail hour (cash bar)
6:30 p.m. Dinner and banquet

This will be a banquet you won't want to miss! Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

DU Needs You!

Make Your 2025 Contribution Today

The Kansas Chapter continues to thrive thanks to generous gifts from our loyal alumni. If you have not included Delta Upsilon in your 2025 giving plan, please consider making a gift and investing in our brotherhood's future today! Give directly to the Housing Corporation (non-tax deductible).

Now more than ever, we need your support as we look to address the ongoing maintenance of a 100-year-old house and provide an attractive fraternity experience to future DUs! Scan the QR code to visit kansasdu.cauevox.com and give to the House Corporation today.



However, if you would like to support the Kansas DU Educational Foundation, feel free to send a check to Kansas Chapter of Delta Upsilon Education Foundation, P.O. Box 1611, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Please contact **Paul Hanna '90** at mr.paul.a.hanna@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding Foundation gifts.