



DELTA SHELTER NEWS

EPSILON NU CHAPTER | MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY | WINTER 2023

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF BROTHERHOOD Take Advantage of Opportunities to Reconnect

For those who don't know me, my name is **Peter Moore '14**. I'm serving as the president of Kappa Phi Building Corporation and have previously served as secretary, treasurer, and vice president of membership. I'm a member of the Beta Pi pledge class (Bπ400) and graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in mechanical engineering in December 2014.

As president, it's my duty to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of the Shelter. Along with this responsibility, it's also important to keep our alumni informed and involved in the happenings of the chapter. To accomplish this, I plan to send out regular updates on the state of the Shelter and upcoming events. These will include information on any renovations or improvements that have been made as well as planned projects for the future. I also want to highlight our brother Delts, wherever dispersed, **so if you or any of your brothers have stories, memories, accomplishments, or milestones that you'd like to share, please send them to president@kappa-phi.org so they can be included in future updates.**

The next big event on the calendar is, of course, the 115th Annual Best Ever St. Pat's celebration. Officially kicking off on March 16, our annual celebration of the patron saint of engineers is a beloved tradition within our chapter and the Rolla community. As always, this is a great opportunity for alumni to come back and reconnect with their brothers. If able, I encourage you to take the time to visit! In addition to the festivities of the weekend, Kappa Phi will be holding a meeting on March 18 at 2 p.m. in the Shelter and virtually. Meeting details will be made available closer to the meeting, and all alumni are welcome to attend.

As I look to the year ahead, I'm excited by the upcoming opportunities to improve the Shelter and strengthen our bond as brothers. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to connecting with you in the future.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR MARCH 18 MEETING AT 2 P.M.

Fraternally,
Peter Moore '14
President, Kappa Phi Building Corporation
president@kappa-phi.org



Delts gather while enjoying last year's St. Pat's festivities. From left: T.J. Little '13 and Josie Little, Alex Brown '15, and Joe Jacobi '13. Join us this year!



Active and alumni members accepting an award at Karnea in Norfolk, Virginia, on August 6, 2022.

The entire camping group at Matthew Wolken's farm during Memorial Day weekend 2022. The group looks forward to their 2023 gathering!



A HEALTHY BALANCE

Why Preston Kramer '00 Is Grateful for Epsilon Nu

Joining a fraternity is a big step in the lives of young men, and it's only natural for parents to help with that decision. When **Preston Kramer '00** was a busy senior in high school, his parents helped by taking phone calls with fraternity members, though one conversation with **Jason Carter '97** particularly impressed his mother. Once Preston and his father visited campus at MS&T and had issues with dorm amenities, he visited the Shelter and recognized his perfect fit.

EARLY YEARS

"At that time, the only people I knew were some of the other football players I had met at summer camp," Preston mentioned. "There weren't any at the Shelter, but that didn't really matter. . . . The feel of the Shelter is what got me to sign a bid card that day."

For the first time in his life, Preston was away from home for a long time. Brothers called him the "ghost pledge" because of obligations like football practice and studies, but they fully supported him like any other member.

"They taught me how to study, time management . . . my big brother was always reminding me to get my homework done. That meant a lot; he definitely instilled a work ethic in me."

PRESTON AS A PROFESSIONAL

Though he never intended to serve in leadership roles, Preston found himself as sergeant-at-arms, director of academic affairs, and recruitment chairman as a collegian. During his first recruitment chairman stint, he helped recruit the chapter's largest pledge class to date.

Preston's path after college led him to a career in civil engineering, and his efforts resulted in an internship with the Missouri Department of Transportation. Following graduation, he was offered a full-time construction inspector role.

After earning an MBA in 2006, Preston became a project manager for MoDOT and won a practical design award for cutting a \$600,000 project down to just \$30,000 while delivering quality results. During downsizing, Preston later became an area engineer and has greatly enjoyed the position to this day.

ECHOES OF EPSILON NU

Looking back on his college years, Preston appreciates the work-life balance he established. Balancing responsibilities is more important than ever as today's students handle large workloads. (Read more about the relevance of fraternities in college life today on page 4.)

"It's really easy to get burnt out," Preston said. "They're taking 17, 18 hours a semester—it's crazy. If you're taking more than 15 hours, you're either doing poorly in class or not having any fun. Make sure to balance your work and fun, and that is definitely easier in a fraternity house."

As an alumnus, Preston stays connected with brothers largely through social media. He enjoys Memorial Day gatherings hosted by **Matthew Wolken '03**, and Preston even recalls having the same conversations during recruitment with Matthew's mom as Jason had with his.

"His mom told me, years later at his wedding, that she thought I was a snake oil salesman! Then, of course, Wolken was president. The entirety of his wedding party, except for one, was brother Delts."

Preston met his wife while she finished her degree at Truman State, and the two realized they may have even attended the same St. Pat's parties without knowing it. They have one son, Pierce, and the family enjoys plenty of outdoor activities together.

You can connect with Preston at kramep1@gmail.com.

"I THINK YOU'D HAVE TO TRY PRETTY HARD TO FIND A FRATERNITY OR A SPECIFIC CHAPTER WHERE YOU HAVE AS MANY ALUMNI THAT ARE AS ENGAGED AS OURS."

Life at the Shelter

CHAPTER GROWTH AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

After the hardships caused by COVID-19, the number of active and new members dropped significantly for several semesters. However, at the start of the fall 2022 semester, we had 18 returning active members. We also initiated the Gamma Zeta pledge class. These seven new initiates bring our total active membership to 25. Most of this success is due to our 2022 recruitment committee and its chairman, **Colby Rhine '23**, implementing the new plans discussed at the conference, which were mentioned in the spring 2022 *Epsilon Nus*.

With no active members graduating in fall 2022, we have been able to further grow our active membership within the chapter. We also recently removed **Andrew Robbins '23** from his suspension that took place before any of the current actives were members. His hard work and dedication to the Shelter and this university sets a positive example of never giving up. At the beginning of the spring 2023 semester, we also welcomed back **Austin Turner** from his one-semester suspension. We are glad to have both members back, and we look forward to seeing them further impact the chapter.

Homecoming took place in October 2022, and we were pleased to welcome many alumni back to the Shelter. We also participated in our annual events such as the flag football game and alumni paddle signing. It was a great experience, especially for our recently initiated members. We hope to have more alumni participating in paddle signing, as it is an amazing experience for both alumni and the new members. We encourage those who could not make it to join us for the St. Pat's celebration in March so you can meet our newest members.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all the alumni who offer all types of support to Epsilon Nu. Alumni like you truly make it feel like a brotherhood, and all the members of this chapter are extremely proud to be a part of the bond that is Delta Tau Delta. We all look forward to seeing more of you at the Shelter.

Fraternally,
Tucker McLean '23
President



Brothers present our Hugh Shields Award at the Western Plains Division Conference for being ranked fourth nationally.



The Shelter in May 2021.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Theron Dakin '26
Ozark, MO

Landon Dillion '26
Ozark, MO

Thomas Harris '26
Columbia, MO

Jackson Moody '26
Flower Mound, TX

Devin Sanders '26
St. Louis, MO

Thomas Schrader '27
Columbus, OH

Ryan Stika '24
Arnold, MO

Why They Joined Epsilon Nu

"The guys I met from the Shelter were consistently some of the coolest people I've met in college."
—**Ryan Stika '24**

"It seemed like a safe place for my allergies, plus I believed that it would give me more opportunity to get involved."
—**Devin Sanders '26**

"I joined because they advertised anti-hazing, and Weston had a Columbia number, so I actually picked up that call."
—**Thomas Harris '26**



DELTA SHELTER NEWS

SAVE THE DATE

115th Annual Best Ever St. Pat's Celebration

Make your plans today for the 115th Annual Best Ever St. Pat's celebration! Our festivities kick-off on March 16, and we hope to see you back at the Shelter alongside fellow alumni.

See page 1 for more details from **Peter Moore '14**, including information about our housing corporation meeting on March 18.

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ATTENTION: This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your son is still attending Missouri University of Science & Technology, he will receive a copy at the Shelter. If he has graduated, please send his permanent address to updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com. Thank you.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Tucker McLean '23

Vice President

Thaysen Feldbaumer '24

Director of Member Development

Aiden Dougherty '25

Treasurer

Eric Franklin '25

Sergeant-at-Arms

Braeden Drag '24

Secretary

Nathan Lefarth '25

Guide

Evan Nickels '24

Recruitment Chairman

Andrew Robbins '23
ajrcp2@umsystem.edu
(713) 412-8263

Director of Academic Affairs

Devin Sanders '26

Research Proves the Fraternity Experience Is More Relevant to Today's College Students than Ever Before

Recent research on fraternities and sororities demonstrates how positive the impact of the Greek experience—and the Delta Tau Delta experience—is for undergraduates today. Both inside and outside the classroom, we are providing tangible value at the most important time of growth in their lives.



Membership *improves the learning gains* students make in the classroom, and members are *more academically engaged* than their peers.



Members are *more involved* in campus activities than other students, and Greek organizations *promote both personal development during and satisfaction* in their college experience.



Fraternities and sororities seek to enhance inclusivity, and our members report *higher levels of interaction with people different from themselves compared to unaffiliated students*.



These benefits are *even greater for first-year students* as they join fraternities and sororities and find community and belonging. This leads to *stronger retention and higher graduation rates* among Greek students than their peers.



As many college students experience stress, loneliness, and depression, fraternities and sororities *offer critical connection and a sense of community*, and members report *higher levels of positive mental health* than their unaffiliated peers because of it.