New Worthy Master Hits the Ground Running

Worthy Master Kevin Vincenti ('14)

When I met with my Executive Team for the first time, I could feel the electricity in the air…and it hasn’t left yet, not even for a second. My Executive Team and I had a goal to reconsider everything about the Delta Chapter, from our recruitment strategy to our meal plan. We discussed, debated, and contemplated. We came out of our Executive Summit with a concrete plan and attainable goals that would better the Delta Chapter and its Brothers.

This semester kicked off with Spring Rush. With 9 Brothers graduating this May, we knew we needed to bring in large numbers to make up for the departing Fourth Years, the lack of a fall pledge class, and 2012’s large graduating class. I can proudly say that every Brother stepped up, and we found ourselves with 16 strong pledges who are all very dedicated to the Delta Chapter. However, recruitment didn't stop there. With the goal of growing the Chapter even larger, the Brothers have been building a “names list” that should lead to a robust pledge class next fall.

Last year, I spearheaded the creation of our new philanthropic event, Taus For Paws. Benefiting the local SPCA, we pair up with the lovely women of Sigma Delta Tau to throw a bar night and a carnival in Mad Bowl, where we have a variety of attractions including a dunk tank and “puppy petting zoo.” Samuel Conners ('14) is the new Philanthropy Chair and has been hard at work on the event to ensure a second successful year. I am confident that we will be able to raise even more money for this worthy philanthropy this year.

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ATΩ's annual giving year ends May 31! Have you made your 2012-2013 gift yet?

Make a gift using the enclosed form, or visit atodelta.com to give securely online.

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Strong Recruitment Effort Continues With 16 New Members

Aakash Tandel (’14)

The 2012-2013 recruitment year was a successful one for the Delta Chapter. During Fall Rush, we had two men accept bids, but they deferred their pledging semester to the spring. Come spring, they pledged with 14 other outstanding gentlemen to form the Alpha Sigma Pledge Class. The rush schedule this year incorporated classics like the Dominion Gun Range, as well as new events like Swader’s Sports Park in Chesterfield for laser tag.

Our success this year can be attributed to the entire Chapter’s drive to recruit a large pledge class. Every Brother was successful in “man-flirting” and convincing rushees that Alpha Tau Omega was the fraternity they should join. Our new members came from a wide variety of backgrounds -- some of them would have never thought of joining a fraternity before coming to ATΩ, while others planned on joining a fraternity no matter what. The Brothers were successful in selling the fraternity to all the men who we felt fit the mold of great Taus.

This spring, ATΩ Nationals sent Jordan Fischette, a Recruitment Specialist, to help our fraternity in the area of recruitment. After a long four hours, we learned valuable methods we could use to expand our Brotherhood. Jordan taught us, through a dating analogy, the steps to giving a potential recruit a bid. We also developed our “Pillars of Recruitment” with Jordan. These “Pillars” are the criteria we will use to evaluate prospective members going forward. Delta is grateful for Nationals’ involvement and guidance in improving our Chapter’s recruitment program.

This year, we were successful in mobilizing a Recruitment Team in additional to our usual Recruitment Chairs. Our Recruitment Team is currently working on a variety of ways to make ATΩ “top of mind” for potential rushees, to make sure they are thinking ATΩ long before rush begins in spring 2014. Our team would greatly appreciate names for our “names list” from any alumni who know potential Taus at The University. We thank the alumni for the recommendations we received this past spring rush -- your recommendations brought us new Brothers.

The Chapter has decided to make recruitment a year-long objective, thus ensuring the lifeblood of our fraternity. We look forward to continuing to work with our alumni and Nationals to ensure future success in recruitment.

Spring 2013 | Alpha Sigma Pledge Class

Ali Amirghassemi
Vienna, VA

Evan Craighead
Rocky Mount, VA

Peter Page
Alexandria, VA

Evan Trask
Williamsburg, VA

William Brown
Vienna, VA

William Hamilton
Fredericksburg, VA

Scott Risney
Arlington, VA

Jesse Witkowski
Tysons Corner, VA

Parker Campanella
Stephens City, VA

Raymond Hyser
Harrisonburg, VA

Nathan Scholl
Paducah, KY

John Woolard
Virginia Beach, VA

Connor Chambers
Linville, VA

Brian Miller
Raleigh, NC

Travis Taylor
Newport News, VA

Jonathan Youssef
Fairfax Station, VA
Another of the Executive Team’s goals was to increase the public presence of the Chapter around Grounds. Several Brothers have been integral in fulfilling this ambition. Kyle Sheppard (‘15) and Samuel Conners have been encouraging the Brothers to participate in IM sports and various philanthropies around Grounds. Additionally, Miguel Silvestri (‘14) and Andrew Cox (‘14) revitalized the Public Relations Chair role by baking cookies for our sorority neighbors and sending letters on behalf of Delta Chapter to all the sororities on the anniversaries of their founding dates.

The Chapter had its first major Brotherhood event this semester, which we hope will become an ongoing tradition. Brian Uosseph (‘15) organized a paintball outing that was subsidized by the house budget. Those who participated enjoyed flanking and shooting each other all afternoon.

Finally, Delta Brothers continue to be involved around Grounds. We have wide representation in University organizations such as the Jefferson Literary & Debating Society, The Cavalier Daily, Rugby Team, and Glee Club.

I speak for the entire active Chapter when I say we all look forward to seeing a large group of alumni this fall at the reunion marking the 145th anniversary of Delta’s chartering. We’re can’t wait to show you in person what today’s Delta Chapter is all about!

**ATΩ Delta by the Numbers**

- **45** active Brothers in ATΩ Delta
- **10** living at 125 Chancellor Street
  - Class of ‘13: **10**
  - Class of ‘14: **12**
  - Class of ‘15: **12**
  - Class of ‘16: **11**
Hoos Up For Some Rugby?
Worthy Chaplain Dan Schmehl ('15)

Rugby players are stereotypically viewed as brutes who enjoy drinking and womanizing after turning their opponents to mush. That may apply to those guys at Virginia Tech, but I'm more of an “imbibing” and “philandering” kind of guy -- much classier...

I'm one of the men on the UVA Rugby Team, and I'm also an ATΩ Delta Brother. It's difficult to balance my time between being on the Executive Board of the fraternity, playing and practicing with the team, and keeping up with my singing group, all while keeping my grades competitive, but I enjoy keeping myself busy. These activities complement each other well, and they helped me get acclimated to The University my first year because of the number of people I got to know in such a short time. Although I spend ridiculous amounts of time on extracurriculars and keeping up with schoolwork, I still make sure to put aside plenty of time to hang out with my best friends at the ATΩ house.

The story of how I got involved with rugby in the first place is an interesting one. I had set my heart on trying out for the Ultimate Frisbee Team as a way to keep in shape, but like a typical First Year, I showed up to the wrong field and, consequently, to practice for the wrong sport.

"Boy, those sure are some round Frisbees," I remember sarcastically saying to my friend as we neared the team and watched them play. A big guy with a red beard came up to us and asked, "you guys lost?"

My friend spoke up, “Nah man, we're right where we need to be. What sport is this again?" "This here is rugby," the big guy boomed. I picked a spot in line and proceeded to make myself look like an idiot for a few weeks until I got the gist of the game. I continued to go to practice and play, and I'm now starting in my second year. The position I play is called the Hooker. It may not sound tough, but I'm the guy at the front tip of the scrum, a set piece play similar to the offensive and defensive line in football. The difference is, for the scrum, the forwards (Big Boys, sometimes upwards of 300 pounds) must lock together and all push against the other team's forwards. So I'm the guy who bears the most weight and keeps that 1,500-pound mass of muscle from falling over and hurting someone, all while trying to take the ball from the other team. I may be the butt of a few jokes, but I take it in stride. My Brothers show up every once in a while to watch even though they have no clue what the rules are. That doesn't stop them from yelling, "Bull s**t ref! What are you, blind?!" when calls don't go our way. I appreciate their enthusiasm, but I just tell them to cheer when everyone else cheers.

Although I found the rugby team first, ATΩ has become my home away from home, and my Brothers have become like a second, moderately dysfunctional family. We pick each other up when we're down, celebrate each other's achievements as if they were our own, and most of all we are there to help when someone's in need. It may be clichéd, but I seriously feel as though ATΩ Delta has given me something that other fraternities claim to give you, but often do not -- mutual love and respect.
We completed two high-priority projects – the foyer floor and the water lines – last summer, and that will allow us to tackle several smaller, but key, projects this summer. As many of you have no doubt noticed, the original bricks forming the front walkway have eroded and become uneven. Furthermore, the mortar in the joints is cracked, loosening several bricks. We plan on replacing the walkway with new brick, using sand joints, which is more common for walkways and patios than mortar joints. Also, the railing that frames the second-floor balcony, while structurally sound, should be replaced with one that is taller than is currently in place. This will make it more difficult for people to sit on the railing and increase safety for those walking around on the balcony. The final project for which we anticipate having funding this coming summer is the replacement of the door leading out to the balcony, which has become irreparable through a combination of wear and tear, party damage by a guest, and vandalism.

A significant portion of last summer was spent working through the repair of the foyer floor. The floor was completely replaced from the joists up and sub-floor was installed, which is uncommon in older homes and which provides added strength to the floors ($11,000). Further, a supporting beam anchored to concrete pillars was installed at the mid-span of the party room floor joists for reinforcement until a more permanent solution can be implemented. Thankfully, the insurance company paid for both the repair costs in excess of our deductible ($2,500) and a portion of the housing displacement costs. However, the floors in the common areas of the House were not designed for the loads that they currently face. In fully replacing the party room floors, the goal will be to install a structure that can carry the dynamic loads presented by a large group of people dancing. While we are seeking budgetary estimates from contractors for this scope of work, it could be in excess of $20,000.

Finally, we were able to complete the replacement of the water supply and sewer lines. The galvanized supply line coming from the meter into the House was badly corroded, largely held together by the earth around it. Also, the supply lines from the House to the Worthy Master’s Cottage were replaced, to correct slow leaks in the pipe wall. Finally, the section of sewer line that passes through the foundation was repaired and the pipe penetrations through the foundation were repaired to prevent groundwater incursion.

That is what your generous donations in the last year have gone to fund and where we anticipate needing to fill funding gaps. As always, comments and suggestions are welcome. I can be reached via email at mmt7y@alumni.virginia.edu and via phone at 434-466-5190.

Projects List for 125 Chancellor Street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer 2013</th>
<th>Future Projects (as funds permit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front Walkway: The bricks have eroded and become uneven, and need to be replaced.</td>
<td>≥ $20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balcony Railing: The existing railing should be replaced with one that is taller.</td>
<td>≤ $8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balcony Door: The door has been damaged beyond what can be effectively repaired.</td>
<td>≤ $4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party Room Floors: The floors in the Blue and Gold rooms need to be replaced with a structure suitable for a fraternity.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Board of Trustees Update
Matt Terry (‘02)

After 10 years volunteering on the Board of Trustees and serving the last five years as Chairman, I am writing my last Chairman’s article. I have enjoyed working with the various leaders of the active Chapter and those alumni who have volunteered their time on the BOT and in other capacities to improve the Delta Chapter. I look forward to finding new ways of assisting with the Chapter’s continued growth.

The BOT welcomed three new members during this academic year: Adam Goldberg (’04), D. Christopher Lewis (’06), and Andrew Velarde (’05). There are several ways you can become involved, as an alumnus, with the progress we are making at the Chapter. Board of Trustees meetings are typically held three times during the academic year: the start of the first semester, the start of the second semester, and the end of the second semester. Outside of the work that the Board does directly, there are opportunities to assist with organizing and carrying out reunions, publishing the Delta Dispatch, and maintaining the Chapter House. I would invite any of you who are potentially interested to email John Wells (j_rn_wells@hotmail.com) or Bill Beisswanger (bbeiss@gmail.com).

We are moving toward professional property maintenance of the Chapter House with Piedmont Facilities Management. One of the main advantages of moving toward professional property maintenance is reduced time from the reporting of an issue to its resolution, since we will not be relying on the availability of a full-time student or volunteer alumnus. Also, having an individual who routinely inspects the property should help to spot maintenance issues before they become serious repair issues. In recent years, Piedmont Facilities Management has been the primary contractor completing the small projects that fall beyond the expertise of the House Manager and many of the larger projects that require professional skill. We foresee many benefits to professional property maintenance, and plan to move in this direction beginning this fall.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time with your questions or suggestions. I can be reached via email at mmt7y@alumni.virginia.edu or via phone at 434-466-5190. I hope to see many of you in Charlottesville for the big reunion this fall!

Fundraising: Delta Alums Continue To Step Up
Bill Beisswanger (‘96)

In recent years, I’ve written to you about the importance and the necessity of substantial alumni financial support for ATΩ Delta in the coming years. Among many other smaller projects the past few years, your donations covered the $34,000 cost of the long-needed replacement of the metal roof at 125 Chancellor in Fall 2010, and we hope we are continuing to earn credibility and trust as good stewards of the funds you all so generously contribute to ATΩ Delta. As you will read in Matt Terry’s article in this newsletter, we continue to have critical financial needs in the near- and medium-term, most notably the complete replacement of the floors in the first-floor common rooms. Beyond the needed repairs and improvements that the Board of Trustees has identified, as many of the more successful fraternities at UVa have done, we need to begin building a substantial nest egg, well into the six figures, so we will have the resources in the future to a) potentially rebuild and expand 125 Chancellor Street, particularly to make the first floor more appropriate for fraternity events, and b) potentially fund the purchase of a better chapter house, should one become available. The transaction a few years ago in which Delta Upsilon sold their Rugby Road house back to Beta Theta Pi and built a brand new chapter house at 135 Madison Lane after buying and demolishing an old apartment building on that site (not to mention the substantial financial investment Beta made in then completely gutting the old DU house and rebuilding it from the inside) is an example of the type of effort I would like us to have the resources to fund in the future.

As I wrote last year, we are well aware that alums always want to know things like how big the Chapter is and how this year’s rush went, because they rightly want to know if they’ll be backing a winning horse with their financial support. We have hammered that message home to the Actives year after year, and continue to, and I’m happy to sound like a broken record and say once again that they continued to hold up their end of the bargain this past year - Delta is now 45 strong after initiating 16 new members this spring. And it’s quality, in addition to quantity - as Worthy Master Kevin Vincenti (’14) lays out elsewhere in this newsletter, the Actives have been very busy improving how Delta operates and how it recruits new members, the Chapter now has a successful philanthropy which started last year called Taus For Paws, and Delta Brothers are very active in other groups on Grounds, among them The Cavalier Daily, Jefferson Society, UVa Rugby Team, and Glee Club. I hope you will take all of their efforts into consideration when planning your giving to our capital efforts going forward.

Annual Giving

We are nearing the May 31, 2013 end of our fifth Annual Giving campaign with Alumni Hall, and it’s been another great year -- one that will hopefully have an even better finish once you all read about the many positive things that have been going on at ATΩ Delta in the past year! Through April 15 (and in two fewer months than normal due to the late start to the 2012-2013 giving year), we have raised $9,000 from 41 different donors (see list on page 7), compared with $11,100 from 58 donors through May 30, 2012, $15,000 from 55 donors through May 3, 2011, $8,730 from 51 donors through May 3, 2010, and $8,600 from 54 donors through April 15, 2009 (the cut-off date