



# ETA SURVEY

Eta Chapter of Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity | University of Illinois | [www.kdrillinois.org](http://www.kdrillinois.org) | Fall 2018

**Winner of the Donald C. Wolfe Award for Outstanding Chapter Newsletter**

## A Letter from the Alumni President



Brothers:  
In my last letter, I shared in great detail the efforts underway to address the skyrocketing property taxes all fraternities, including our own, face in Champaign. Thanks to all of those who took proactive action to contact your representatives. As with any legislative effort, progress is most commonly slow! No specific changes or visible progress have been made to date. That said, the Greek Alumni Corporation Board Association (GACBA) continues to meet and organizationally is an important means for all of the alumni volunteer boards to bring our issues and concerns to light.

On your next visit to Champaign, you will find that our neighborhood continues to change. The new Kappa Delta Sorority house is complete, and we welcome our new neighbors. For many of you, that was the former Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity house at the end of the block. For others among you, that property was a rental occupied by Chi Psi Fraternity. The latest change on the horizon: the former Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity house across the street from us was sold a few years ago to Delta Sigma Phi, and they are now selling that property. We will have to wait and see whether the new purchaser will be a Greek organization or whether a new apartment building will be built on our block.

Your board continues to monitor developments on campus and how those developments potentially impact us. At the same time, we actively work with the undergraduate chapter leadership to focus on recruitment and the importance of keeping the house full. The ongoing support from each of you annually is important and makes a difference as we plan to support the chapter and to maintain our campus home.

Fraternally,  
  
Mike Kolberg '03  
President, Eta Building Association

## Alumni Spotlight: Bobby Gene McCormick '79

*Editor's Note: For this edition of the newsletter, we're shining the spotlight on Brother **Bob McCormick '79**. From the hometown of Champaign, Illinois, Bob is a longtime resident of Beavercreek, Ohio. He and his wife, Helen (Bee), a retired teacher and active volunteer in the community, have raised two successful daughters: Rebecca, an archivist at National Archives in DC, and Kara, a math teacher in Beavercreek, Ohio. While an undergraduate member of Eta, Bob served the chapter as senior tribune and junior tribune and was on the executive council during his senior year. His dedication to KΔP continues today; he was recently elected to the KΔP National Board of Directors at this year's Convention and is currently serving on the finance committee. He also supports Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers, and the Airmen's Fund. A 28-year career in the US Air Force earned him many honors, including being awarded Air Force Senior Analyst of the Year. Much of his work was as an operations research analyst and also as a chief analyst for sustainment for several years. Before a September retirement from government, Bob was leading a supply-chain planning systems and process group. Today, Bob is consulting part-time, enjoying some golf and tennis, and his long-time hobby, ham radio.*



Bob and his wife, Bee, during his retirement ceremony.

### What did you enjoy most as an undergraduate Eta member?

The sense of family and being part of something that felt like home. I had no interest in fraternities until **Steve Lawrence '79** invited me over for Sunday dinner, which my dorm didn't serve. I met a group of guys that I liked, and that seemed like a good fit. I remember **Tom Burns '74** and **Kurt Wrage '78** making a big impression on me at the time.

### After graduation, where did your service with the Air Force take you?

I was an Air Force civil service (civilian) employee at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, for most of my career and worked for the Defense Logistics Agency in Chicago for a short period. I travelled extensively for the job and worked with a lot of great people, many of whom became friends.

**Bob McCormick** (continued on page 4)



The 2018 Eta fall pledges are a phenomenal group of guys, all members with the potential to embody our fraternity's ideals. A few good things that happened over the course of rush include but are not limited to: a united house effort, quality over quantity in terms of recruitment, future of the house in good hands, pledges itching to get involved in the house as quickly as possible, leadership on exec. showing new initiative and direction toward growth and improvement.



## From the Consul

Brothers:

Eta is a growing chapter that encourages the young men of the University of Illinois to develop their life skills. Communication, service, and brotherhood are some of the core values that we all share here at Eta. KΔP has brothers who come from far and wide, who bring forth a diversity of majors, making Eta a melting pot of ideas and creativity. Members also engage within the campus by picking up responsibilities, such as being RAs, playing intramural athletics, and working as scientists in various labs. KΔP has become a valuable resource for many undergrads on campus, providing scholastic opportunities for men far and wide.

One of our biggest missions here at Eta is to encourage brothers to go out across the university and to embark on new adventures, whether that be academically, athletically, or socially. We believe that, once a member starts to develop himself, he can go on to advance others, to truly be his brother's keeper. As KΔP continues to grow and flourish, we strive to better ourselves and live everyday true to our precepts. Eta continues to be a shining example of service, philanthropy, and good will toward all men, and we achieve this simply through honesty, liberty, and above all else, honor!

Fraternally,

Sean Tobin  
College of ACES - Crop Science

## Eta Philanthropy Update

We here at Eta have our biggest event: Car Bash! This event is our largest fundraiser, filled with food, music, and fun. All the proceeds go toward the Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation. Last year, we raised more than \$2,000. Our goal this semester is to raise \$3,000.



After eight hours of helping freshmen move in, we, the brothers of KΔP, came together for a photo.

**Visit our website:**  
[www.kdrillinois.org](http://www.kdrillinois.org)

## Chapter Spotlight:

## Shil Patel '20



*Editor's Note:* Representing the chapter in the spotlight is junior **Shil Patel**. From the hometown of Elgin, Illinois, Shil is working toward a degree in finance and is on track to graduate in 2020. Our current recruitment officer and past assistant director of philanthropy, Shil has also served as event coordinator for the Vietnamese Student Association. For fun, he enjoys volleyball, golf, and volunteering in the local community.

### What have you enjoyed most as a member of Eta?

I have been a brother in Eta Chapter of Kappa Delta Rho for almost three years now, and I would say without a doubt that the strong bond of brotherhood that shines throughout the house has been what has kept me coming back all these years.

### What type of challenges have you faced as recruitment officer?

I would say that the biggest challenge/fear that any recruitment officer faces in their respective time is complacency. When I was a freshman, the biggest lesson that a mentor of mine at that time bestowed upon me is that, as a fraternity, "We die by complacency." I took that lesson to heart, and my co-chair and I made one of our primary goals to incentivize undergrad brothers to come to events to further increase attendance.

### Which achievements are you most proud of during your time at UI?

Being at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I say with pride that being the recruitment officer for Kappa Delta Rho has been fruitful for my professional career, due to the heavy amount of technical/organizational work that comes along with the position.

### How would you like to apply your degree after graduation?

I would like to see myself in the consulting field, where I can utilize the soft skills that I have developed and strengthened over my academic career, yet still be able to apply the knowledge I have attained through the study of my major. I would also love to travel and see the world through my work.

### Outside of school, what do you do for fun?

I love enjoying the small and simple things in life: going on walks, reading, hanging out with close friends. I also try to stay as active as possible by playing in intramurals for sand and indoor volleyball.

## Eta Homecoming 2018

The 2018 Kappa Delta Rho Homecoming was a great event for the undergraduate members and alumni of the fraternity. Current brothers got to see some old friends and met some older alumni from before their time. Undergraduates spoke with alumni, learning more about their fraternity experience and life past that. From my perspective, it was great to see brothers ten or more years out of the house see each other again.

As for the game, Purdue ended up winning by a wide margin, so we can only hope for next year. We hope to see everyone at the 2019 Homecoming for another great event!

## UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL

We want you to be in the loop! Please confirm we have a good email for you. We periodically send updates, reminders, and good wishes at the holidays electronically.

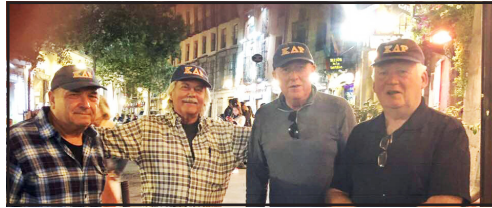
To check your information, go to [www.kdrillinois.org](http://www.kdrillinois.org) and log in.



Alumni enjoy catching up before the game: Pete Roberts '96, Ken Krynicki '74, Doug Jackson '78, Dale Schaffenacker '78, and Dave Mosborg '78.



**Don Russell '70:** Seven brothers and five wives got together for our annual reunion; the Maloneys, Tunkels, and Panices went to Spain in October and re-united with **Bob Weibel '67**, who lives there with his wife. The Haags and Russells didn't make it this year, but **Marc Perilli '70** and **Bob Nespechal '68** joined in our reunion of sorts. Hope all is well with you, brothers!



**Bill Paris '87:** Santorini is one of my favorite places. Life is short. The older I get, the more I realize we should each take time to enjoy life and loved ones.



## HAVE ALUMNI NEWS?

We want to hear from you! Send your personal updates, accomplishments, adventures, and photos to our account manager Kasey Breedlove at [kbreedlove@elevateims.com](mailto:kbreedlove@elevateims.com), or simply fill out the tear-away form at the bottom of your cover letter and return it in the mail. We want to share it in the next issue of The Eta Survey!

Chapter Eternal

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the following Eta brothers:

Timothy F. Moore '68

Eric J. Cornelius '82

## Congratulations to our 2018 Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to the Eta brothers who received scholarships at the KAP Foundation Scholarship Banquet:

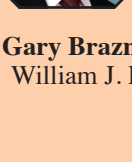


**Hyeonjun Bae '21:**  
Thomas P. Burns Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

**McHugh A. Carroll '19:**  
Guy L. Davis Scholarship (\$1,000) and Michael A. McCarthy Architectural Scholarship (\$750)



**Tyler Rasmussen '19:**  
Dale W. Schaffenacker Scholarship (\$1,000) and Rho Alumni Scholarship (\$1,000)



**Gary Braznichenko '21:**  
William J. Paris Scholarship (\$1,000)



## KAP Launches ULifeline: a mental health web resource as part of the Brothers' Keeper program

The National Fraternity of Kappa Delta Rho partnered with The Jed Foundation to develop and put in place resources to support our undergraduate members who might be in distress or suffering from depression or suicidal thoughts. ULifeline is a web resource available to these brothers, as well as to officers, roommates, or pledge brothers who are concerned about a brother and don't know where to turn. The National Fraternity has partnered with the

Kappa Delta Rho Foundation, supported by the generous support of alumni, parents, and friends, to fund the program.

One life cut short is too many. Kappa Delta Rho has averaged at least one suicide per year for the last ten years. Through Brothers' Keeper, KAP is among a small handful of fraternal organizations leading the charge to respond to this crises and to put resources at the disposal of our brothers.



## Bob McCormick (continued from page 1)

### What inspired you to pursue a master's degree?

I had been at Wright-Patterson for a few months and considered returning to Illinois for a degree in industrial engineering. The course material was relevant to my work, so I met with one of the engineering deans, who supported acceptance into the program. I weighed the options between returning to school as a full-time employee and continuing to work. The compromise — I needed the money — was to enter a Master's in Management Science (operations research) program at the University of Dayton. That changed my career direction and was one of the best (and luckiest) decisions I made.

### During your career, which achievements are you most proud of?

This doesn't sound exciting, but we implemented new approaches for supply-chain planning and execution: what parts to buy or repair, where to stock parts, etc. The challenges included introducing new methodologies, addressing culture change, and implementing new IT systems. The impact was to reduce by half the number of airplanes waiting for parts. That's a huge impact on readiness.

### Why do you feel it's important to remain involved with KΔP as an alumnus?

KΔP gave me a college home, life-long friends, and experiences that helped me as a person. I think it's important to help to sustain the ideals and opportunities that have been valuable to so many.

### How have the needs of the fraternity changed on the national level?

KΔP National plays a much more active role today than it did when I was an undergraduate. The needs of the fraternity reflect changes in society, such as generational change and increased awareness of many issues, such as a growing suicide problem, sexual assault, and diversity. These affect both the fraternity's mission and its relevancy.

### How do you spend your free time these days?

I just retired, so I have a lot more free time recently. I will continue to work part-time as a consultant, but I have more time for my hobbies (tennis, ham radio), volunteering, and fun travel.

### When did you discover ham radio, and what type of format do you utilize?

I was a seventh grader and had to sign up for a weekly "activity." Two of the math teachers, Mr. Vokac and Mr. Wallace, taught a ham-radio license course. It sounded more interesting than audio-visual club, so I signed

up and passed the FCC test. There are lots of modes (voice, video, various digital modes), but I tend to use Morse code, the oldest digital mode, more than others.

### What advice can you give your fellow alumni and young undergrads about values?

That's a dangerous question. The short version of what I told my folks at work was pretty straight forward; show up, take care of the basics, and look for opportunities to make what you do better. It's important to be committed to what you do, to bring some passion for the job (or whatever you're doing), and don't be afraid to take chances.



Bob, Bee, and Rebecca celebrate Kara's graduation.

# KΔP

## Leave A Legacy

CONSIDER A LASTING GIFT that will support Kappa Delta Rho long after you are gone. By including Eta in your estate plans, you ensure the long-term health and success of our fraternity. Here's what you and/or your advisor might need to know; the most common ways to include Eta are through your will or life insurance. Sample language: I leave the sum of (\$xxxxx.xx or xx% of my estate) to: Eta Building Association of Kappa Delta Rho, tax ID number 37-6048873, c/o the National Fraternity of Kappa Delta Rho, PO Box 777, Latrobe, PA 15650, for their general purposes.

*PLEASE NOTE: This information is not presented as legal or tax advice. Always consult your advisors for questions you might have.*



## 2018 Kappa Delta Rho Leadership Academy



The Eta chapter received an award for going above the university's all-men's average (top 12)(L-R): Bob McCormick (alumni rep.), Sean Tobin (Eta consul), Robert McAuliff (sr. tribune), Zack Gooding (Eta alumni), and Bill Paris (alumni rep.).



KΔP National Convention (L-R): Zack Gooding (Eta alumnus), Sean Tobin (Eta consul), Bill Paris (alumni rep.), Robert McAuliff (sr. tribune), and Bob McCormick (alumni rep.).