



# ETA SURVEY

Eta Chapter of Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity | University of Illinois | [www.KDRillinois.org](http://www.KDRillinois.org) | Fall 2022

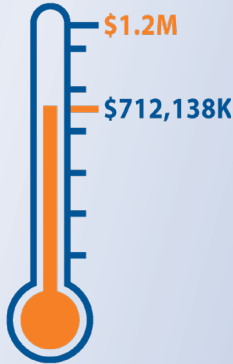
## A Letter from the Alumni President



Brothers:

A lot has happened since my last message to you in the spring edition of the Eta Survey. You might recall that in late spring, our expansion consultant, with the support of the officers from the Epsilon Chapter, initiated the first two core re-founders of the chapter.

In August, our two new members attended the Williams' Leadership Academy and National Convention in Philadelphia. Eta was well represented there by Bobby McCormick '79 and Zach Gooding '09, both on the National Board of Directors, and Bill Paris '87, a foundation trustee. A welcome and special appearance came from Mike Mueller '96, who received the Ordo Honoris Award, which recognized his distinction in service to both his community and to KΔP. He and his wife Renee traveled from Orlando, Florida, and Mike, who still serves as the national scholarship chairman, was the emcee of the foundation scholarship luncheon where nearly \$100,000 in scholarships were awarded.



Our recruitment team began to work and network in earnest in August. Those efforts, which started with our two new members, have paid off. At Homecoming, we initiated 21 new members. They are an impressive group of young men. The group is roughly half sophomores and half freshmen. They plan to recruit between 10 or 20 more men in the spring to close the year with 30 to 40 members.

We're back, we're building, and now *we need you* to join us and step up to support the effort.

We've outlined our financial situation in this newsletter. The house has basically been vacant for nearly three years. That tapped our reserves where we are nip and tuck to cover the bills next year. I want to thank the brothers who have generously made pledges to the campaign. Please consider the best stretch pledge you're comfortable with over five years and fill out the enclosed pledge form.

It's going to be an exciting academic year as we see how the chapter continues to build.

HSO,

Mike Kolberg '03  
President  
Eta Building Association of Kappa Delta Rho

## Meet the New Members

See page four and five for individual photos and bios.



## OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[www.kdrillinois.org](http://www.kdrillinois.org)

If you don't already have a login, please request one. Once logged in, you will have access to member-only content and contact information, including the ability to search for your classmates, suitemates, etc. The website also provides you with an opportunity to update your own contact information, so you don't miss any of the latest news from Eta Chapter.

## RECRUITMENT REFERRAL

Do you have a son, grandson, nephew, or another relative who would make a great KΔP? Have a neighbor or other friends who would be good contacts? Send any referrals to our recruitment consultant, Abe Hinterlach at [ahinterlach@KΔP.com](mailto:ahinterlach@KΔP.com) or by cell or text: 830-456-0798.



# Why We Need Your Help to Bridge the Gap

A lot of brothers have asked a very reasonable question: “Why is it important to support the current campaign effort?” We want to be as transparent as possible. The last two years coming out of COVID, with the house being empty, have drained our reserves. The *great* news is the investment in restoring the chapter is paying off! Like any investment, it will take a couple of years to fully pay off and have the chapter and house back at full operating strength.

October 2022–August 2023		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Cash on hand		\$85,000
Estimated existing campaign pledge payments		\$150,000
Total projected cash available		\$235,000
<b>EXPENSE:</b>		
	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Total through August 2023</b>
Mortgage	\$3,589	\$39,479
House expenses	\$5,500	\$60,500
Insurance		\$22,000
Recolonization	\$5,500	\$60,500
Real estate taxes		\$32,000
Fundraising expenses		\$20,500
Upgrades to house for move-in (furniture, paint, floors)		\$50,000
Total		\$284,979

The GAP is projected to be \$50,000 at a minimum. That assumes all pledge payments are made on time. That also assumes no major repairs or maintenance items arise. We are working hard to finalize live-in numbers for next year. We anticipate it will be fall 2024 when we are at full occupancy.

So, although the last three years have been stressful, we are very close to achieving our goals. Join the brothers who have already generously stepped up to invest in the future.

Complete the enclosed pledge form and, if possible, consider the best stretch pledge you’re comfortable with payable over five years. Or, you can make your pledge online at [www.kdrillinois.org](http://www.kdrillinois.org); click on the “campaign” tab.

Several brothers have asked: “**Why do we have a mortgage if the house was built in 1927?**”

The short answer is to recall that from 2007 to 2009, we conducted a capital campaign to renovate the house and raised multi-year pledges totaling \$1,070,000. The physical construction project on the house totaled a bit more than \$1,800,000. Our *goal* in the current campaign is to raise sufficient funds to pay off the mortgage over the next five to seven years. The raised funds are necessary to cover operating expenses, recolonization costs, and then debt reduction.

To give perspective, the mortgage balance has come down consistently year-by-year as we’ve made payments over the past 12 years. If we come together and support the current campaign with pledges over the next five years, we can restore the chapter, operate, and pay off the mortgage.

Year-End Balance	Year
\$1,100,00.00	2009
\$906,475.14	2010
\$855,000.00	2011
\$795,000.00	2012
\$813,688.48	2013
\$777,529.50	2014
\$739,680.87	2015
\$700,163.69	2016
\$658,710.49	2017
\$619,355.25	2018
\$575,545.95	2019
\$552,821.03	2020
\$550,836.46	2021*

\*includes COVID deferral in 2020–2021

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Volunteer!** We are looking for volunteers willing to help provide content for the website and newsletter, assist with the chapter, and provide mentoring and advice to the actives. Consider volunteering your time to make our chapter stronger.

## From the Consul – Dave Sun '25

Dear Alumni,

I hope the year has been treating you well. It has been an exciting and fruitful journey for me since I joined the Eta Chapter in early 2022. Under the excellent guidance and sage advice of Abe Hinterlach from the Zeta Beta Chapter in Texas, the National office, and the alumni board, I not only was able to lead and help with rebuilding, I was also able to refine my organizational and interpersonal skills and grow as a person. With each new member added, we work to include them into brotherhood activities, and aim to establish a sense of deep bond between the re-founders. I can proudly say that with the 21 fine gentlemen we recruited this fall, the chapter's future looks brighter than ever!

With our current social chair's great efforts, we have already begun to establish friendly relationships with the sororities on campus, and we look forward to future philanthropy and social collaborations with them. We also plan to restore Eta's traditional fall philanthropy, Car Bash, to help raise money for the Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation and bring back the chapter's past success with that event.

While the future of Eta is destined to be filled with challenges and excitement, I'm confident that under the collective hard work from all the re-founders, we will grow rapidly! A promising future awaits us all!

HSO,  
Dave Sun '25

## Stay in touch!

### 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 during the holidays electronically. To check your information, go to [www.KDRillinois.org](http://www.KDRillinois.org), log in, and you can view and update your contact information.

The success of this newsletter depends, in part, on the participation of alumni. Please take a moment to share something by using the enclosed news form.

## Homecoming 2022 Wrap Up



For those of you who missed out on Homecoming this year...you missed a great one!!! The weather was gorgeous! It was a beautiful fall day: crisp, clear, sunny, and breezy. To top it off, the Illini put on a great show, dominating the folks from Minnesota!

**Twenty One (21) new members initiated on Friday night of Homecoming!**

The most impactful event of Homecoming weekend was the initiation of 21 young men at the house on Friday night. Everyone enjoyed interacting with the new undergraduate members and excitement was in the air as discussions began to turn toward spring and the continued growth of the chapter.

A focus of the Alumni Meeting on Saturday morning was the rebuilding of the chapter, thanking and acknowledging those brothers who have already stepped forward to support the campaign, and a frank and transparent conversation on the need to wrap up the campaign on a strong note to close a \$250,000 gap between where we are today and where we need to be.

## 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: Most common ways to include Eta are through your will or life insurance. Sample language: I leave the sum of (\$xxxxxx.xx or xx% of my estate) to: Eta Building Association of Kappa Delta Rho tax id # (37-6048873) c/o the National fraternity of Kappa Delta Rho, P.O. Box 777, Latrobe, PA 15650, for their general purposes.\*

*\*This information is not presented as legal or tax advice. Always consult your advisors for questions you may have.*



# Meet the New Members



**James Mahon**

My name is James Mahon. I am a sophomore, studying industrial engineering.



**Cristian Lager**

My name is Cristian Lager. I am a freshman, undeclared, but I am interested in majoring in business.



**Lanham Herbert**

My name is Lanham Herbert. I am a sophomore, majoring in consumer economics and finance.



**Akhil Morisetty**

Hi, my name is Akhuk Morisetty. I am a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am majoring in computer engineering.



**Luca Francescina**

My name is Luca Francescina. I am a sophomore majoring in civil engineering.



**Kyjuan Morris**

My name is Kyjuan Morris. I am a sophomore on an economics track.



**Aiden Coleman**

My name is Aiden Coleman. I am a sophomore, majoring in accounting and finance.



**Aryan Jain**

My name is Aryan Jain. I am a freshman bio major on a pre-med track.



**Jack Pikulski**

My name is Jack Pikulski. I am a sophomore, majoring in mathematics and econometrics. I am also a part of the AFROTC.



**Sam Wilds**

My name is Sam Wilds. I am a freshman, majoring in political science.



**Gabe Price**

My name is Gabe Price. I am a freshman undeclared but interested in majoring in statistics.



**Evan Zakharchenko**

My name is Evan Zakharchenko. I am a freshman, majoring in biochemistry.



**James Stanley**

I am James Stanley, a freshman, majoring in aerospace engineering.



**Marco Atallah**

My name is Marco Atallah. I am a freshman, majoring in molecular and cellular biology.



**Robert Breaux**

My name is Robert Breaux. I am a sophomore, majoring in agricultural consumer economics.



**Norbert Wojtkowski**

My name is Norbert Wojtkowski. I am a freshman, majoring in electrical engineering.



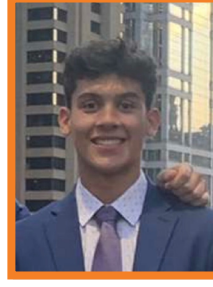
**Arjun Kukarni**

My name is Arjun Kulkarni. I am a freshman, majoring in material sciences and engineering.



**Mekeyes Gashaw**

My name is Mekeyes Gashaw. I am a sophomore interested in majoring in financial planning and sports management.



**Cian Mitchell**

My name is Cian Mitchell. I am a freshman, undeclared but interested in either business or kinesiology.



**Ryan Pegler**

My name is Ryan Pegler. I am a freshman, majoring in business.



**Patrick King**

My name is Patrick King. I am a sophomore, majoring in agricultural communications and advertising, with a minor in public relations.





## Alumni Spotlight:

# Wayne W. Neumaier Jr. '07



### How did you end up at Illinois and in KDP?

I had been building rockets since I was 11 and wanted to work on rockets for NASA. UIUC is a top aerospace school that just happened to be 90 minutes south of my family's house, so it was always my first choice. Even though I spent most of high school telling people I would not join a fraternity, the KDP table on quad day caught my eye and I started talking to a few members about *Star Wars*. Even though I was shy, they invited me to the house, and after several rush events, I received a bid. I took a leap of faith and accepted! It was the best decision I ever made. Even though I've always considered myself a weird rocket nerd who makes costumes and robots in my free time, my brothers always accepted me. They helped me grow out of my shell.



### What was your favorite memory of the chapter?

There are too many to list, and some are probably not suitable for this publication! One of my most cherished memories was probably my senior speech. I had nothing prepared; I just spoke from the heart discussing how much the house meant to me, how much they helped get me through hard times, and how they taught me to take time to enjoy life. I remember I was very emotional and I stopped to cry a few times. When I finished, my brothers all stood up for me. I keep that response close to my heart.

### What has your career been like since leaving UIUC?

Busy. After graduation, I was hired by a rocket propulsion company in Huntsville Alabama, and immediately began working on two lunar lander prototypes for testing technologies for the next generation of unmanned landers. The two landers I worked on, the air powered Lunar Lander Test Bed and the hydrogen peroxide powered Mighty Eagle, flew about 200 combined missions at Marshall Space Flight Center.

For the last few years, I have been the lead manufacturing and test engineer for the thrust vector control system's exhaust gas heat exchangers (TVC's EGHEs) that are on the space launch system rockets used in the Artemis missions. When Artemis 1 goes up, I will have fulfilled a lifelong dream of working on a moon rocket!

The brothers I attended school with may remember that I made elaborate costumes every Halloween, and that part of my life has grown, too. I have been competing in costuming for several years, winning numerous awards, and have even judged some high-level competitions. Some of my projects have found their ways into museums, been featured in magazines, and I've even used my prop-making talent for projects related to work. I've also gotten into replica robotics; I have a full size R2-D2 that routinely visits children in hospitals and I was one of the first people to make a working BB-8 replica.

### Have you kept touch with the guys from your era?

Living in Huntsville has made it very difficult to come back regularly for Homecoming, but my era was the first one to be introduced to Facebook so it has been cool to see how everyone has grown and I've had a few brothers, who are interested in my prop work, reach out to me there.

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

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

**Martin J. Biancalana '69**

January 31, 2022



## Have Alumni News?

We want to hear from you! Send your personal updates, accomplishments, adventures, and photos to our account manager Dorothy Wsocki at [dwsocki@elevateims.com](mailto:dwsocki@elevateims.com), or simply fill the enclosed news form and return it in the mail. We want to share it in the next issue of *The Eta Survey*!