

# The Open Visor



Special Edition  
Fall 2021

## Celebrating 60 Years at UND



*Pictures Taken at the Groundbreaking Ceremony*

Delta Upsilon fraternity at UND turns 60 this year, and the celebration was held over homecoming weekend in Grand Forks. The events kicked off on a cool, sunny Friday afternoon in October with the groundbreaking of Delta Upsilon's new, \$6.1 million chapter house, to be located at 421 Princeton Street. Other activities included alumni and students participating in UND homecoming events, and a campaign kickoff banquet and 60th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday night at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

On-hand at the groundbreaking were alumni from each of the fraternity's six decades at UND, along with university representatives and local press from the Grand Forks Herald, whose article about the afternoon can be found on the Grand Forks Herald website.

Lynn Luckow '71, event emcee and campaign co-chair, welcomed everyone by stating, "Delta Upsilon's history at the University dates back to 1961 with a formation of a fraternity that was different. That group promoted strong friendship, but also academic excellence. I'm so proud of the legacy we have here at UND." Steve Trandem '71, a local pastor, followed with a ceremonial blessing of the grounds.

Together, Jim Sweeney '86 and Todd H.F. Gierke '88, the presidents of the North Dakota Delta Upsilon Education Foundation and the North Dakota Delta Upsilon Alumni Housing Corporation, respectively, then approved the commencement of construction for a new North Dakota Chapter house to provide a new home and community for future generations of brothers who are charged with being ever vigilant over the future of Delta Upsilon, its values, and its impact in the world.

Two UND-affiliated representatives, Cassie Gerhardt, Associate VP of UND Student Affairs & Diversity/Associate Dean of Students and Dan Muus '93, Vice President of Philanthropy at the UND Alumni Association spoke about the University's support towards Delta Upsilon and the project. This was followed by comments from numerous alumni affiliated with the early years of the chapter and the project committees, as well as project donors.

Current chapter president Gustave Ries '23 also shared his thoughts at the groundbreaking, stating that the fraternity continues to promote academic excellence and community service to its 50 current members.

Following their remarks, these individuals put down the microphone and picked up a shovel, joining together to break ground at the new home of North Dakota Delta Upsilon at 421 Princeton St. This was directly followed by a rousing rendition of "Hail, Delta Upsilon" by all alumni and undergraduates in attendance. Following the event, guests and alumni of the chapter were treated to a reception and house tours of the existing chapter house.

This ceremony represents the culmination of two year's work for these alumni and undergraduates. The amount of time and effort given to this project by alumni and undergraduates alike must be mentioned. In total, hundreds if not thousands of hours have been volunteered by those involved with the project. This time has been given out of love for the chapter and the belief that Delta Upsilon represents something greater than the sum of its parts. This kind of selflessness is what makes Delta Upsilon so unique and special and has allowed for its continuation.

Delta Upsilon expects to close its capital campaign and complete construction, with the members of the chapter moving into the new house as early as the spring of 2023. Added Luckow, "it will be a fine new home for the many young men of the chapter here today and the many who will follow in these footsteps."

The following day, the 60th anniversary of the North Dakota Delta Upsilon chapter was celebrated with a banquet dinner and dance. The event began with a social hour, followed by dinner and then a dance.

The evening was highlighted by several speakers, including Rod Kirsch '78, co-chair of the fundraising committee for Honoring our Legacy, Building our Future, who highlighted the successes of the past year's fundraising efforts. Kirsch stated that the current campaign is on pace to be among the top 15 Greek fundraising efforts in American history. Neil West '62 spoke via video call about his experiences in the early years of the chapter.

Luckow also spoke about the impact that the recent work and growth around the chapter has had beyond just growing the chapter size and fundraising for the future. Through numerous conversations throughout the weekend, it became clear that many brothers, friends, spouses, and others have been able to reconnect due to the efforts of those involved in the chapter and in the new housing efforts. This was highlighted when Luckow opened the microphone up to the audience, allowing several brothers and guests a chance to share their stories and experiences.

In similar fashion to how the previous day had concluded, speaking concluded with a boisterous round of "Hail Delta Upsilon" which rang through the spacious halls of the Alerus Center. Dancing and social festivities lasted until around 10:30, when the evening concluded. The chapter looks forward to hosting another event in the spring and thanks those who attended both events over Homecoming weekend.

## Chapter Update

Coming into the fall semester the chapter was met with a huge goal of recruiting twenty men of merit. The chapter followed through on this goal. With the help of many generous alumni, the undergraduates were able to add new and more exciting events to our recruitment plans.

A few events that were held include boot hockey on the Olympic Ice Rink at the Ralph Englestad Arena, catered food from six local restaurants, a raffle for hockey tickets, and more. Because the chapter house isn't located directly on Greek row, recruiting can be a little challenging and the chapter had to be "all hands on deck" to draw potential new members to the house. However, the chapter rose to the occasion with the final numbers after recruitment being twenty-one accepted bids. Since then, we have eighteen wonderful associate members and thirty active members bringing the total chapter size to forty-eight members!

So far this semester the chapter has held numerous brotherhood events. One of the favorites was a "hot ones" challenge. Everyone in attendance had a challenge of eating progressively hotter chicken wings while having to complete certain tasks or answering trivia challenges to see who could face the spiciest wings. It was a fun event that the chapter will continue to do each semester.

Saturday, October 9th, marked the formal pledging ritual and big brother reveal where the newly recruited men inscribed their name in the chapter pledge book and discovered who their big brother is. The chapter is looking forward to finishing the semester strong with initiation week and the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the North Dakota Chapter of Delta Upsilon.

## President's Message

Thus far, the fall 2021 semester has been a return to form for the North Dakota chapter of Delta Upsilon, and I don't just mean everyone is back on campus and has in person classes, but in the way that the brotherhood is thriving. As a chapter we decided it was time to hold ourselves to the standards that had been set before us and set even higher standards in areas that needed improvement. Our top three objectives for this semester are grades, recruitment, and community outreach.

Academics have always been a core part of our fraternity and is the reason we are all here. Vice President of Academic Excellence Fredrick Matthewson has been working with the entire chapter on scheduling, study habits, grade checks, tutoring and helping any member.

Another of our goals is to bring in a strong new associate member class. Recruitment is never easy, especially for a small chapter with big goals. But, with buy-in from the whole chapter, a lot of hard work and commitment as well as the help of several generous alumni, we were able to have a very successful rush and bring in 18 new associate members.

The future of our chapter has never been brighter. For the first time in this millennia, we are pushing the 50 member mark and building a new chapter house. With the land purchased and the ground broken we can see the next chapter of our fraternity beginning. It will be up to the future generations of Delta Upsilon to write that next chapter, but it's up to us to set the example of what it means to be a brother in the Delta Upsilon Fraternity.



*Gustave Ries, Chapter President*

## Honoring Our Legacy, Building Our Future

The following are excerpts from remarks made by Brother Rod Kirsch '78 at the Chapter's 60th anniversary celebration on October 23 about the status of the Honoring Our Legacy, Building Our Future Campaign.

During the 1830's, about the time Delta Upsilon was founded in 1834, a French historian and political scientist, Alexis de Tocqueville, toured our country to capture the essence of a young America in his work titled Democracy In America.

Some of his words seem particularly appropriate for us this evening as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the North Dakota Chapter of Delta Upsilon and break ground for a new chapter house. As I quote de Tocqueville, think about how his words apply to our new chapter house campaign.

"These Americans are the most peculiar people in the world. You will not believe it when I tell you how they behave. A citizen may conceive of some need which is not being met. What does he do? He goes across the street and discusses it with his neighbor. A committee comes into existence, and then the committee begins functioning on behalf of that need, and you won't believe it, but it is true. All of this is done without any reference to any bureaucrat. All of this is done by private citizens on their own initiative. The health of a democratic society may be measured by the quality of functions performed by private citizens."

We, in the North Dakota Chapter of Delta Upsilon, are living de Tocqueville's words. In December 2019, Brothers Lynn Luckow, Brad Aafedt, Jim Sweeney, Cary Schilling and others saw a need that was not being met—a need for a new chapter house. A Chapter House Planning Committee came into existence. It began functioning on behalf of this need. In short order, we had six committees organized and working on behalf of the campaign—fundraising, architecture and real estate, legal and risk management, communications and events, finance, and campus liaison.

The Planning Committee has become the alumni version of undergraduates managing the chapter. We have such a talented group of alumni in our brotherhood and so many are bringing their special skills to bear on this project. At times over 30 brothers have joined our every other Sunday night meetings. All brothers are welcome to join future meetings if you wish. Just let me know. Hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours have been given to our effort.

**We have come through a fantastic first phase of our campaign. Starting with gift solicitations in February 2021 through tonight, 94 DU brothers have committed \$3.8 million toward a new chapter house.** We have successfully met two matching challenges of \$750,000 and \$250,000 from Katie and Doug Mark '86 and LuAnn and Ken Regan '78, respectively.

At this point, we have raised more money for a chapter house than any other DU Chapter in the General Fraternity's history!! It is a grand accomplishment and deserves to be celebrated as we did with great fanfare yesterday at our groundbreaking.

**But our job is far from being over.** We have a great deal more work to do between now and the end of January 2022.

Our aspirational goal is to raise \$6 million. Our immediate next benchmark is to reach \$5 million. When we reach \$5 million, our campaign will stand as one of the 15 largest campaigns in Greek collegiate history, men or women, in this country.

**Our next campaign phase begins immediately. We are recruiting class chairs to reach out to every single alumnus member**

of the chapter. If you are interested in becoming a class chair, please contact me at [rodkirsch99@gmail.com](mailto:rodkirsch99@gmail.com). It has been an exhilarating and heartwarming experience for me to reconnect with brothers whom I have not seen in 40 years. I know you will enjoy this as much as I have. If you wish to volunteer, we will give you all the tools and information necessary to be successful.

I'd like to leave you with two thoughts tonight, and I direct these especially to our undergraduate members: the first idea is about "academic excellence;" the second is about "vigilance" or in the world of fundraising we would say "stewardship."

During the course of the campaign, I have had individual gift conversations with more than 35 brothers. Nearly all of them recall the importance and pride we had for nearly 30 years in setting the academic standard for the Greek system at UND. Our chapter goal should be to recapture that standard and maintain this record. One of our brothers made a very significant gift, large enough to name a space in the chapter house. Rather than naming it personally, he wants to name it in such a way to inspire future academic excellence.

Now, stewardship. Stewardship is giving care to all that has been given to us, as individuals and as a fraternity. Our initiation rite says, "Our past is secure; our future depends on our vigilance." The rite also says, "May your zeal in Delta Upsilon never flag, may your sympathy with its interests ever grow deeper." As undergraduates, you have the duty to care for this home and our brotherhood. We alumni will help you.

**Brothers, if you have not yet made a gift, I hope you will reflect on what DU has meant to you in your life and consider a contribution.** We have a debt to repay for the experience we had as DU's. I am happy to talk with any of you (814-777-4826) about how you can help.

Thank you.

Rodney P. Kirsch '78





**Cornerstone Society**  
(\$1,000,000 & above)

**Dikaia Upotheke Society**  
(\$500,000 to \$999,999)  
Katie & Doug Mark '86

**1834 Founders Society**  
(\$250,000 to \$499,999)  
LuAnn & Ken Regan '78

**1961 Founders Society**  
(\$150,000 to \$249,999)

**Justice Society**  
(\$100,000 to \$149,999)

Lynn D.W. Luckow '71  
Thomas G. Huey '78  
*in memory of*  
*Susie Huey '75*  
Mitch & Rod Kirsch '78  
Brian Milne '78  
Nadine Nakazono Popham, MD  
& Jerry K. Popham, MD '80  
Laura & Brent Anderson '84  
Cary Schilling '84  
Dennis A. Hill '86  
James P. Sweeney '86  
Todd H.F. Gierke '88  
Melissa & Steve Kuhlman '89

**Character Society**  
(\$50,000 to \$99,999)

William L. Harwood '68  
Avis & Thomas Dolan '72  
Cameron L. Stokka, MD '72  
Susan & W. Brian Poykko '77  
Jean & Jim Echtenkamp '78  
Jeanne & Kevin Moug '81  
Karen & Russ Grundhauser '83  
*in memory of*  
*Matt McGauley '84*  
Peggy & Mark Tollefson '83  
Karen & Robert Gusaas '84  
Craig McKay '84  
*in memory of*  
*Pat McKay*  
Lowell R. Bolken '85

**Liberal Culture Society**  
(\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Douglas B. McLeod '63  
Sam Myers '69  
**Larson Family Gift**  
Gary R. Larson '70  
Rod Larson '74  
Roger Larson '74  
Dede & Bruce Meidinger '71  
James B. O'Grady '71  
John A. Brown '72  
*in memory of*  
*Mrs. Uhas*  
Scott Swenson '75  
*in honor of*  
*Swenson/Petersen Family Alumni*  
Gene T. Veeder '78  
Jeffrey D. Hanson '79  
**Furst Family Gift**  
Joe Furst, MD '81  
Joey Furst '14  
Scott P. Hedge '83  
Greg Mason '83  
*in memory of*  
*Matt McGauley '84*  
Duane J. Kiefer '84  
Peter A. Knoll '84  
*in memory of*  
*Matt McGauley '84*  
Jay Littlejohn '84  
Todd F. Orchard '84  
Nancy & Bart Kounovsky '86  
Stacey & Dan Gaustad '89  
Dieter L. Krumpelmann '89  
Derrick P. Johnson '92  
Linda & Michael Greene '93  
Eric Lybeck '97  
John Kappel '12

**Friendship Society**  
(\$10,000 to \$24,999)  
Fred G. Mitchell '62  
Clifford (Kip) Cranna '69  
*in memory of*  
*Wayne (Rusty) Drugan '69*  
Robert Szczys '69  
Susan & Steve Trandem '71  
Marcia & Gary Euren '72  
Karen & Brad Rohde '72  
*in memory of*  
*Gorden O. Hedahl '68*

**Friendship Society (cont'd)**  
(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Jane & Michael Sandsmark '72  
Randall D. Olson '75  
Deb & Craig Campbell '76  
Gregory S. Peterson, MD '77  
*in memory of*  
*Steve Hartmann '78*  
Dan Joraanstad '78 & Bob Hermann  
Robin & Robert Flurer '80  
Denise & Mark Magness '80  
**The Stoxen Brothers**  
John Stoxen '83  
David Stoxen '85  
Paul Stoxen '87  
Thomas Stoxen '89  
Gayle & Brad Aafedt '86  
Mark Isaacson '86  
Jennifer & David Kack '88  
John M Balintona, MD '92  
*in memory of*  
*John Grefsheim '92*  
Kim & Jeff Burke '93

**Oxford Society**  
(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Neil R. West, MD '62  
Wallace E. Bloom '66  
Roger W. Schauer, MD '66  
Jerry Schmidt '70  
David M. Bender '74  
Mark O. Brown '75  
Kim H. Kaul '78  
Douglas D. Bradford '80  
Eric Ormseth '85  
Derek N. Dunham '89  
Jacob O. Haugen '19

**Blue & Gold Society**  
(\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Craig L. Gjerde '64  
Blake Strehlow '78  
Daniel R. Jacobson '80  
Rev. Jeffrey J. Marian '83  
Todd Adams '85  
Jodee & Dan Muus '94

**Campaign Chairs**

Honorary Campaign Chair.....	Neil West '62
Overall Planning.....	Lynn Luckow '71
Building, Architecture, & UND Liaison.....	W. Brian Poykko '78 Cary Schilling '84 Brad Aafedt '86
Fundraising & Development.....	Rod Kirsch '78 Jim Sweeney '86
Finance & Budget.....	David Kack '88 Brice Welch '11
Legal & Risk Management.....	Dan Gaustad '89
Communication & Events.....	Russell Grundhauser '83

**Documented Commitments as of October 17, 2021**  
**To Donate, email Jerry Cooper: [jcooper@penningtonco.com](mailto:jcooper@penningtonco.com)**

## Summit Brewing Company Event

In 1986, prior to the craft brewing phenomenon, Summit Brewing Company was founded by Brother Mark Stutrud '74. He started his brewery to make craft beers inspired by old-world brewing techniques and ingredients.

Forty-one North Dakota Delta Upsilon members, alumni, and guests gathered on September 29, 2021, in the cozy confines of the Summit Brewing Ratskeller beer hall to enjoy each other's company, drink terrific craft beer, sample some tasty BBQ and listen to a riveting presentation about the plans for the new house at 421 Princeton Street. Randy Olson '75 was the emcee and organizer of the event. He kicked the night off by welcoming the attendees and thanking Brother Stutrud and his staff for the warm hospitality. This was followed by presentations by Jim Sweeney '86 from the planning committee and a 5-minute video introduced by Russ Grundhauser '83. Cary Schilling '86 then provided the group with an update on the building and showed us some renderings.



Finally, Gus Ries '23 and Blake Polejewski '24 gave us a Fall recruitment update and plans for the groundbreaking and 60th anniversary during UND Homecoming in October 2021. There were members and alumni in attendance from the 70s to the 2020s. Everyone had a wonderful time and by voice proclamation Summit Brewing and its products were named the "unofficial" Official Beer of North Dakota.



## Brotherhood Tailgating

Burgers, hot dogs, and sausage covered with Clark's Seasoning (Troy Clark '91) was the fare and there were plenty of libations to be had at the DU tailgate at the Alerus Center on homecoming weekend. Dozens of alumni, members, and friends joined the festivities hosted by Brothers Mike Yem, Lee McFarland, and Ryan "Irish" Fitzgerald (or at least his wife, Caitlyn). These brothers invite anyone with an interest in DU to join them for future tailgates. Just look for the DU Flag!



*Brothers Enjoying Drinks, Smoked Meats, and Hammerschlagen*

## What the DUck is going on?

Can you help explain what is happening and who are in these photos?



Let us know by emailing us at [blakpole91@gmail.com](mailto:blakpole91@gmail.com) about your memories!

**Follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with the chapter and alumni group!**



**Chapter Page: Delta Upsilon Fraternity - North Dakota Chapter**  
**Alumni Group: Alumni of Delta Upsilon - University of North Dakota**



**Delta Upsilon Fraternity - North Dakota Chapter**



**@deltaupsilon\_und**



**[www.nddu.org](http://www.nddu.org)**