

WINTER/  
SPRING  
2016



# SIGMA NEWS

## DELTA OMICRON of SIGMA NU

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

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THE NEWSLETTER  
FOR ALUMNI  
AND FRIENDS OF  
DELTA OMICRON  
CHAPTER OF  
SIGMA NU AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
IDAHO.

## DELTA OMICRON CELEBRATES 100 YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

BY TY POPPLEWELL, ΔO 1532

Delta Omicron Chapter celebrated their centennial in May of 2015 with a celebration full of brotherhood events.

Over 100 brothers gathered on the campus in Moscow during the first weekend of May to celebrate one hundred years at the University of Idaho. Activities for the weekend included: golf, campus tours, guided house tours, a barbeque at the fraternity, a social meet and greet gathering and a formal dinner.

The celebration's showcase was the Saturday evening formal dinner. Delta Omicron's own **Carl Berry, ΔO 738** received the *Jim Lyle Award*, which is one of the highest honors awarded to University of Idaho alumni. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions of an individual who has shown long-term dedication and service to the University of Idaho through volunteerism.

Representatives from the Sigma Nu General Fraternity were also in attendance. Brad Hastings, Sigma Nu Educational Foundation President, commended the chapter on the celebration of the centennial and all of their accomplishments. Regent Joe Francis presented the chapter with their 100-year certificate and touched on the importance of the chapter continuing to be a leader in the Greek community in the years to come. "Delta Omicron's centennial celebration was one of the most well-attended events I have witnessed in a very long time," said Francis. At the end of the evening, everyone enjoyed a slideshow of memories and photos from the past hundred years.

Brother **Brad Wing, ΔO 1538**, a Division Commander for the General Fraternity and one of the chief organizers of the celebration said, "It was great to see our brotherhood



Over 100 brothers gathered to celebrate one hundred years of Delta Omicron at the University of Idaho.

come back to the University of Idaho and celebrate this once in a lifetime achievement. The turnout for the celebration speaks volumes of the brotherhood."

Brother **Jack Hermann, ΔO 1684**, an active in the house whose family was in attendance, was also very impressed with the turnout and participation. Jack stated, "It was great to see a mix of older and younger alumni as well as actives attending the celebration. We were all able to share experiences the house provided to each of us over the years. The turnout shows the importance the Greek system played in each of our lives."

Notable Delta Omicron chapter alumni include **Jerry Kramer, ΔO 679**, a member of the Green Bay Packers early Super Bowl teams; United States Senators **Jim McClure, ΔO 470** and **Steve Symms, ΔO 714**; two members of the Alpha Affiliate program; and one inductee into Sigma Nu Fraternity's national Hall of Honor. Many other Delta Omicron brothers have

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Alumni Advisory Board Member Ty Popplewell, ΔO 1532 and Bret Miller, ΔO 1540 take a moment to pose for a photo during a social meet and greet gathering to celebrate the centennial.



Bert Zimmerly, ΔO 608, Dick Symms, ΔO 649 and Nels Moller, ΔO 699 show the bond between Delta Omicron brothers lasts beyond graduation.



## ZETA DELTA HOUSE CORPORATION BOARD

### President

Vacant - Interim  
Bryan Bentz, ΔO 1295

### Treasurer

Mark Green, ΔO 1135

### Secretary

Joe Mallet, ΔO 1271

### Chapter Advisor

Chris Chesnut, ΔO 1640

### Chapter Administrator

Steve Yoder, ΔO 1440

### Delta Omicron Alumni Advisory Board

Carl Berry, ΔO 738  
Chris Chesnut, ΔO 1640  
Cody Luper, ΔO 1596  
Joe Mallet, ΔO 1271  
Ty Popplewell, ΔO 1532  
Ben Rae, ΔO 1151  
Brad Wing, ΔO 1538

## Remembering Kyle J. Wilson, ΔO 1119

One of our dearest brothers, Kyle Joseph Wilson, ΔO 1119 passed away suddenly in November of 2015. Kyle left a lasting impression on Delta Omicron in several ways, some of which were holding various alumni positions throughout his years after graduation. He also kept the fraternity afloat in the years after the renovation, serving as Zeta Delta President from 2009 until his death. However, his fellow brothers remember Kyle more for the impact he made on their lives.

**Ben Rae, ΔO 1151**, a brother and close friend of Kyle's, spoke of his legacy at Kyle's funeral services on November 12, 2015.

"On a sunny August Day in 1979, I left Grangeville and headed to the University of Idaho. Fraternity Rush was on my mind, and I looked forward to the upcoming event. Over the next few days, I wandered the Idaho campus with friends and ended up at a beautiful three story brick building with big white columns outside. It looked like a colonial mansion to me and seemed to be full of "genuine guys" with whom I felt I could get along. That place, which was the Sigma Nu Fraternity House, became my home for the next four years and is where I met Kyle, and we made a fast friendship.

Kyle's smile, laugh, dry wit and opinion on almost everything made me want to get to know him better.

He was my fraternity "big brother," which is an upperclassman who acts as a mentor, someone who you go to with questions, problems and concerns; someone you can count on at all times.

Since graduating from college, Kyle and I always stayed in touch. We attended weddings, parties and football and basketball games and yes, we even went to our share of funerals, too. Kyle stayed very involved with Sigma Nu after graduating. He held every imaginable alumni position.



Kyle made a lasting impression on all the brothers of Delta Omicron.



Kyle playing the saxophone at a Delta Omicron social.



**Kyle Joseph Wilson,  
ΔO 1119  
passed away  
November 6, 2015.**

Kyle volunteered his time because he honestly believed it would help young men become productive citizens. He felt a fraternity was a place to learn, to grow and to share life's experiences.

Around fifteen years ago, it became obvious that our beautiful 70-year old home needed a remodel. We were the first fraternity on campus to undertake a complete gutting and top to bottom house remodel.

Kyle knew of the need and stepped up by promoting and giving to the project. Unfortunately, construction costs were grossly underestimated, and our original fundraising efforts were not sufficient for us to finish the project without acquiring some major debt. Kyle stayed focused on our financial situation and was a big part of the glue that held us all together.

Last year, he successfully renegotiated our debt. His efforts saved thousands of dollars and rearranged cash flows, making it possible for Sigma Nu to thrive on the University of Idaho campus for years to come.

I have many fond memories of Kyle. One big memory was Kyle teaching me to play pinochle. Being the Rhodes scholars that we were, Kyle and I thought I needed to learn this during final exam week of my freshman year.

I also remember the dances and socials with Kyle playing saxophone in the Sigma Nu Marching Band. I do not recall the band ever marching anywhere, though. I do recall, however, that when the band cranked up at our homecoming parties, our house filled to the brim with alumni, family and friends having fun.

I've received some thoughts from a few of our brothers I would like to share. One of them wrote, "I have so many funny and poignant memories of Kyle, but I'll always remember his hands. They were the most calloused hands I ever shook. Dirty fingernails, dirty palms, but Kyle always insisted they were clean. Maybe his hands were clean, but they were stained from honest hard work. He was a model American and an exemplary Sigma Nu."

Another brother said, "I might have never gone to college if not for Kyle. As a 17-year old high school junior, I was not sure what to expect out of a homecoming visit to the University of Idaho. I heard about all wild fraternity parties, so I was prepared for that part of my visit to the Sigma Nu house. What I didn't expect, was being met at the top of the stairs by a 25-year old guy with his hat tipped off to the side and his hand out saying, "How the hell are you?! Welcome to Sigma Nu Fraternity!" That was the first time someone treated me like an adult. I did not have a brother growing up, but it was Kyle, and the guys like him, that welcomed me on board just like I was one of their own."

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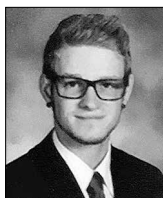


## Commander Update: Delta Omicron Chapter of Sigma Nu

As Delta Omicron Chapter of Sigma Nu enters its next 100 years, we look back on our past two semesters with a sense of accomplishment. Our chapter achieved another term of academic success, placing among the top five fraternities with a 3.09 GPA, compared to the all -men's average of 2.85.

Many of our current members are involved in several organizations including the Engineering Scholars (**Adam Niemet, ΔO 1707**), Pre-Law Society (**Alex Gibson, ΔO 1715** and **Briggs Jackson, ΔO 1702**), Beta Alpha Psi (**Scott French, ΔO 1689**, **Adam Guerra, ΔO 1669** and **Riley Smith, ΔO 1692**), Pi Sigma Alpha (**Briggs Jackson, ΔO 1702**) and The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (**Will DeVinney, ΔO 1676**, **Austin Wahl, ΔO 1685** and **Briggs Jackson, ΔO 1702**).

Delta Omicron has brothers who are ambassadors, or officials, for their colleges and brothers who provide valuable insight for the Davis Investment Group and Barker Capital Management program. Several other brothers work on campus as part of the social media team at the University of Idaho, producing a weekly half-hour television program, *Inside the Vandals*. Brother **Darren Damon, ΔO 1688** is a member of the IFC's Judicial Board. Lastly, we would like to recognize two of our brothers, **Chad Filler, ΔO 1703** and **Josh Newcomb, ΔO 1678**, for placing as finalists in the architecture design contest hosted by the Idaho



**Delta Omicron  
Eminent  
Commander,  
Briggs Jackson,  
ΔO 1702**

Concrete-Masonry Association. Our brothers are very involved and active in both the Greek and campus community and will continue to be leaders on this front.

Last Spring, the chapter participated in "Bike for Life," a community initiative that encourages life-long, healthy activity of riding bikes. During this annual philanthropy, brothers raced other volunteers to numerous locations around Moscow where they then performed community service projects. Delta Omicron plans on participating in this great event again this year. On the Intramurals front, Delta Omicron is once again showing dominance in sports, as our men's volleyball and ultimate frisbee teams recently made the playoffs. The men's basketball team will begin their season soon, and we look forward to another playoff performance.

Our chapter has many reasons to be excited for the upcoming months. Whether that is hosting our new philanthropy, a February blood drive for the Red Cross, preparing to take back our title as champions in April's "Bike for Life" charity, or continuing to lead in academic excellence, Delta Omicron's future looks bright. As always, we welcome alumni and their families and friends to stop by the chapter throughout this spring semester to join us in celebration for our recent achievements or to say hello. Thank you for your continued support of the chapter.

Fraternally,  
Briggs Jackson, ΔO 1702  
Eminent Commander

### UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

**Eminent Commander**  
Briggs Jackson, ΔO 1702

**Lieutenant Commander I**  
Scott French, ΔO 1689

**Lieutenant Commander II**  
Dalan Kerr, ΔO 1710

**Recorder/Rush Chairman**  
Alex Wenker, ΔO 1709

**Chaplain**  
Jake Miller, ΔO 1696

**Treasurer**  
Riley Smith, ΔO 1692

**L.E.A.D. Chairman**  
Fred Taylor, ΔO 1708

**Pledge Marshal**  
Fred Taylor, ΔO 1708

**House Manager**  
Jake Miller, ΔO 1696

**Risk Reduction**  
Chandler Kotoski, ΔO 1700

**Scholarship Chairman**  
Adam Niemet, ΔO 1707

**Public Relations and  
Philanthropy**  
Dalan Kerr, ΔO 1710  
Chad Filler, ΔO 1703

**Social Chairman/Rush Chairman**  
Karter Krasselt, ΔO 1705  
Alex Wenker, ΔO 1709

**Media/Historian**  
Colin Pate, ΔO 1690

**Intramurals Chairman**  
Will DeVinney, ΔO 1676

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### KYLE J. WILSON

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One brother wrote "I had the pleasure of serving with Kyle on our House Corporation Board. Kyle's leadership style was a very frank, but always honest, approach. You could always count on Kyle to tackle an issue head on. At our most recent meeting just a few weeks ago, Kyle started to grow somewhat impatient with the pace of the meeting. He quickly stepped in and moved the meeting along, adding "next topic." This was classic Kyle Wilson style; get to the point, make a decision and move on to the next item on the agenda."

The principles of Sigma Nu Fraternity are those of Love, Truth and Honor. Kyle went through life believing in a life of Love, serving in the light of Truth and walking in the Way of Honor. Kyle was a good man and brother, and left a lasting impression on all those who were lucky enough to know him. We will deeply miss him.

### New Chapter Advisor, Chris Chesnut, ΔO 1640

Pledging as a legacy of Sigma Nu in 2009, **Chris Chesnut, ΔO 1640** earned the honor of serving the chapter as Eminent Commander. During his term as Commander, he accepted awards for Most Improved Chapter Award and Excellence in Chapter Operations Award on behalf of Delta Omicron at Sigma Nu Grand Chapter 2012 in Dallas.

Brother Chesnut later served as a representative of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) with a term as president before graduating with the Vandal Class of 2014. His degree is in Virtual Technology & Design. In 2014, Sigma Nu Alpha honored Chris as an affiliate.

Chris currently is a construction management professional in Midstream Operations for the American Oil & Energy Industry.



**Sigma Nu**  
**University of Idaho (1082)**  
**PO Box 2187**  
**Columbus, GA 31902-2187**

Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Edit your member profile online at [www.uisigmanualumni.com](http://www.uisigmanualumni.com), or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to: Sigma Nu, University of Idaho (1082), PO Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## 100 YEARS

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successful careers in business, finance, agriculture, insurance, politics and coaching. The chapter boasts over 1,700 initiated members.

Delta Omicron was one of the first on campus to pursue and complete an extensive fundraising campaign and remodel of the chapter house. The 2005 remodel fundraising campaign served as a model for other groups and organizations to follow.

Just recently, the chapter was the first fraternity on campus to create an alumni advisory board, which assists the chapter officers by providing them with alumni mentors. The board meets semi-annually with the officers to discuss a wide variety of topics, including but not limited to, house finances, scholarship, campus leadership and recruitment. Other chapters on campus followed Delta Omicron's lead and created similar alumni volunteer boards.

After a weekend of reflecting on and celebrating the past one hundred years, Delta Omicron is looking ahead to the future. As one of the oldest colonized chapters on campus and as the forerunner in campus involvement and leadership, Delta Omicron is committed to providing a fraternity experience that prepares young men to be ethical leaders in their communities.

*Blast from the Past*



**Things looked a little different back in 1985, but our brothers' strong bond remains the same.**

Want your news to make it in the next edition of Sigma News? Did you recently get together with other alumni? Do you have photos from an alumni event or even your undergraduate days that you want to share? If so, submit your materials to **Brad Wing, ΔO 1538** at [bwing@gstrategygroup.com](mailto:bwing@gstrategygroup.com).

ΣΝ

Alumni who want to play a more active role in the chapter should contact **Ty Popplewell, ΔO 1532** at [popwheellie@yahoo.com](mailto:popwheellie@yahoo.com).



**Visit the Sigma Nu Alumni Website and Facebook Page**

Visit the official Delta Omicron alumni website at [www.uisigmanualumni.com](http://www.uisigmanualumni.com) to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number and email address
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)
- [Facebook.com/UISigmaNuAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/UISigmaNuAlumni)