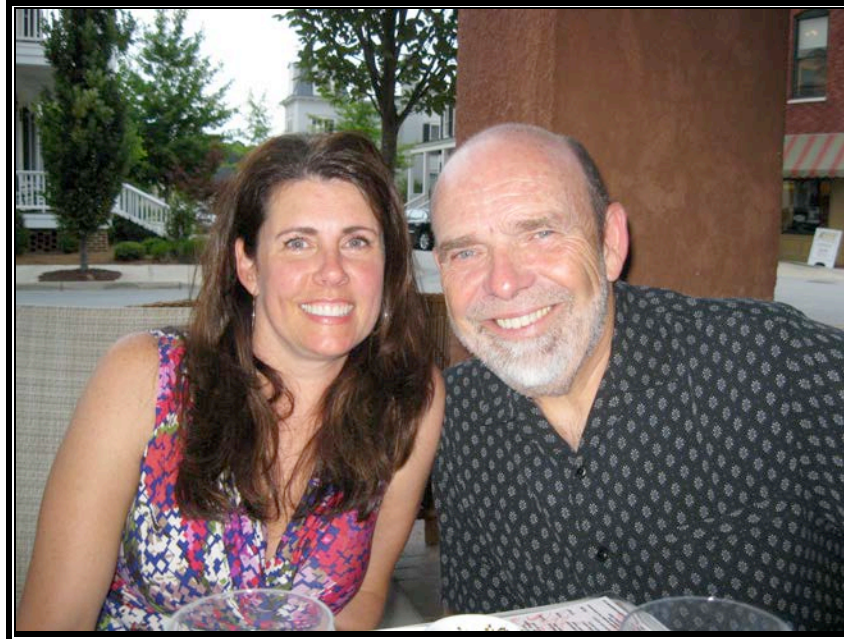


John Steiner
Successful Executive, Family Man,
DTN's Chief Ball Buster and Creator of Swamp Night



Dawn and John Steiner, 2011

There are 404 people with the name “John Steiner” in the “Google Plex” of life. Quite fortunately for the Brothers of Delta Tau Nu, there’s only one of them, an exceptional young man from Kettering, Ohio, that pledged and joined DTN in the Fall 1963 class.

Seems that even though he had been accepted to Miami (Ohio) University, he was motivated to attend UD -- even though that meant being a commuter -- by the lure of, gasp, a young woman. Turns out UD was the perfect choice for John, even though the young lady may not have been. He graduated in 1966 with a BS in Business and a Major in Marketing and earned his MBA from UD in 1973. After serving in the Army Reserves, he then launched a very successful career as an executive with one of America’s most prominent companies of the time, Westinghouse, and relocating around the country as his promotions continued. He culminated his career as President of the Lighting Division of Magnetek, a large multi-national industrial concern, and as President of Kalco Lighting based in Las Vegas.

Steiner was also a Regent of the Milwaukee School of Engineering, a member of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, a Member of the National Association of Electrical Distributors and a member of the American Lighting Association Manufacturers Steering Committee.

And if that was not enough, he then became a Senior Consultant to a very successful executive search firm, The Human Capital Group. "It's been a great ride, and I'm grateful for every opportunity that UD and the Delts prepared me for," says he. As an added bonus, in addition to his stunningly beautiful wife, Dawn (they're celebrating their 14th anniversary this year), John has been blessed with four children and seven grandchildren. Not bad for a boy from Kettering.

Back to UD and the Delts, John and his fellow football team trainer, Dick Kramer, were rushed by DTN and pledged with about 12-13 others. At that time, the Delt brothers had a few pledge classes under their belts and began to perfect the hazing process that we all came to know and, ugh, love (not) as time progressed.

"(They) had a house on Grand Avenue, a big ol' monster house. Joining the Delts seemed like the right thing to do. But it was a full hazing experience and harassment. We were scooped and they took our money and ID and dumped us somewhere in a cornfield. I had a great sense of direction and we got back to campus before the brothers did! This was way before cell phones; we had a dime in a shoe so we could make a phone call. They couldn't out smart us Dayton boys!" What he remembers about hell night: "it was unbelievable. Cold basement, molasses and birdseed, BUSY DAY, BUSY DAY, BUSY BUSY BUSY DAY. To this day, when I hear that I get a chill!" We're sure anyone in his Pledge Class could relate to this.

Once he became a brother, the shenanigans became more complex and lucrative. While other frats made their name for a certain personalities, the DELTS were (and are) something very special on campus. "(we were experts in) organizational, financial, and marketing ... the DELTS always somehow had this unbelievable brotherhood and camaraderie and got it all done. We had a core group that just stood up and took control and made it happen!"

From St. Patty's Day keg parties and "chauffeured" transportation to the girls from Mary Crest, to holding a raffle won by a fictitious person (in order to keep the money to support DTN) to the legendary cruise on the Ohio River with Huncie and Herckie and the Fabulous Egyptians**, a "colorful social experience" was had by all.

** By the way, decorum prevents a retelling Mr. Zimmer's antics on the river cruise event. And to avoid an Anthony Weiner-esque publicity scandal, we have elected to edit the printed version of the story. However, as an added bonus to those that attend the 50th Reunion, John will gladly retell it replete with all the sordid details of the debauchery of the evening.

Of primary, note, is Mr. Steiner's lasting contribution to every pledge class in the years following his ... the dreaded *Swamp Night*. Any DTN brother that has a lasting memory of that event can thank John for his creativity!

“But seriously, the frat to me really matured me in a sense of brotherhood and unity, camaraderie and team play, a lot of that carried forward in my career, a lot of that I learned from DTN, the principles of teamwork.”

But fast forward to today, and the 50th Delt Reunion next June. It’s “mega HUGE— let’s get organized, get all the brother’s emails, make phone calls, so we can get everyone to come. Let’s over communicate ... take over the Marriott – see as many brothers as possible!”

“Let’s get DTN to setup an endowment or scholarship fund to move things forward. We can align with another frat, or hear what other great ideas can we come up with ... let’s continue so it does not get lost”.

Even though he is busy caring for Dawn, who has MS, catching up with his kids and grandkids, playing golf, working with charitable organizations like the YMCA and American Heart Association, and keeping in touch with friends around the globe, John gave us the time to share his great story as our first interviewee. We’re very grateful for having a man of his caliber among our ranks. A Delt through and through.

John L. Heithaus (almost made it to ’76) and John Geraghty (’74) for the DTN News.