

Some people seem pre-ordained to assume one of the most critical roles in any organization: the Quiet Backbone. Delt Brother Robert P. (Bob) Jones (1972 Pledge Class, UD 1975) certainly comes to mind as that ever present, essential and behind-the-scenes guy who quietly and very competently serves his organization, friends, family and DTN Brothers.

From serving as Sergeant-at-Arms ('73) to being the DTN Frat House Manager to being Albie's strong man (details still locked up in a secret safe deposit box at Winter Bank in Dayton) and a stalwart of the DTN football and basketball teams, Bob's a true Delt and a sterling example of what a great husband and father, solid friend, always-there cohort and DTN Brother should be. And his Delt roots run deep. Bob is an active member of the DTN Alumni Committee and the main force behind the DTN Directory that we're now using to find and connect with DTN Brothers around the globe. Bob was also voted best Brother by the pledges in fall '73 and spring '74. .

Bob hails from Monmouth Beach, New Jersey and graduated from Red Bank Catholic High School, Red Bank, NJ one of the many "catholic feeder" high schools to UD. In fact his older brother attended UD and that influenced his electing to attend. Bob's the 10th in line of 10 kids in his family, so he learned early on what it takes to get along with people, and his time at Dayton solidified that. He graduated in the Spring of 1975 with a BA in Communication Arts and a minor in Business Administration. He is married to his hometown honey, Mary Ann P Jones, nee McCann; they went to high school together and dated throughout the 4 years at UD. Bob and MaryAnn are very proud of their three children: Meghan, who just graduated from law school, Kevin and Katie (UD Grads).

Recently Delt Brothers John Heithaus and John Geraghty from the DTN Alumni Committee visited with Bob from his home in Chicago. What follows is the second Brother Spotlight Interview. We hope you'll enjoy it.

Why DTN?

Well, I chose UD for a couple of reasons. First, because I was accepted and second, I was influenced by my older brother, who graduated in '67. From him I had heard this great tale about Charlie Mazza and Louie Deslin, something about a Memorial Day "Lost Weekend" at the Indy 500 with a bunch of guys. Somebody's grandmother owned a bar, and everyone got case of beer as a door prize to the Indy 500 they went up to lake house replete with tales of debauchery. It sounded good to me. Charlie was Delt, and even though my brother was not, I had an early intro that was positive. And it turned out that most of the activities I was involved in at UD had DTN as the root. For instance, I was part of the football team (we won it in Fall of '74), and basketball team (we won it in Spring of '73). So overall, I chose DTN and DTN chose me, not a bad combination!

One of my most fond memories is that four of us from Stuart Hall 5 South (Miskewicz, Viskovich, Maggazzu and Jones) rented a house next to the old "Nursing school" at 321 Lowes. The fraternity house was across the street at 336-338 Lowes. We sat on the porch watching the entire fraternity paint the house the Delt colors and put up the letters and crest. That guys could drink as much as they did...without falling off the roof, was the "inspiration". Richie Miskewicz, along with doing the research on finding our ghetto house, did the research on fraternities and we figured he was smarter than we were, which he clearly is to this day.

But Bob's Favorite DTN memory is sitting in the bar (Mare's Head) after beating the Rhos in football, completely drunk with a bunch of lunatics around me. The bar actually ran out of booze that day, plus they hosted some of the best parties I ever went to. I recall Albie's apartment was above it, which made it even cooler. But there's more:

- Jody Avallone, on our first of 18 scoops, ... swirling lighter fluid in his mouth and "flaming it" in TC's (Tom Conway's) and the Mayor's (Willie Jamison) faces when we took off their blindfolds.
- Winning the basketball championship in the Spring of '73 and going with Pete Martin (deceased) and meeting up with "Flea" Foley at the Iron Boar and (again) getting dead drunk

- Miller Westendorf getting all of us primo tickets for the UD v Notre Dame basketball game, and beating ND like a drum, and all that followed. There was a bonfire on every corner!
- During pledging I found myself in this hellish creation called Shifty's Closet. Shifty (Joe Vandura) was out in the hallway saying: " I wanna see more smoke!" And we could hear him say, "Look at that shit coming out!" ... He was as surprised as we were!

Special Experiences as a Delt Alumnus

I would have to say that all the hard work and the build-up to getting just over 100 email or street addresses for the DTN Reunion in '09 ...then hearing from Charlie Mazza and his getting the "early Delts" involved. The list provided an additional 145 names that we would never have gotten. Fast forward to the '09 Reunion. Whether you're 40-something 60 plus...the Delt DNA runs through all of our veins...which is why a GREAT time was had by all that attended in '09. I am confident we will have an even better time for the DTN 50th!

Work History

Bob should have a PhD in international relations and cross-cultural management. Except for a 3-year stint with a manufacturer of earthmoving equipment (International Harvester) he has managed container freight sales in the Midwest US for Japanese, Chinese, Australian, Denmark and American based companies. He currently manages sales in the Midwest for the China based company.

Amusements

I am a degenerate craps player! There's a new casino 2.8 miles from the house, which fuels the temptation. As a word of advice to anyone seeking to follow in his footsteps ... "Be a do player".

The Future

According to Bob: I would like the fraternity to work toward get together for a reunion twice every 5 years. We should investigate endowing a scholarship in the name of Delta Tau Nu. My 3 years of being a Delt were unforgettable and we should leave something behind.

I also think the Help a Delt campaign was such a success because we saw it at work and 100% of the money went to the cause we all wanted to support. I was very proud to see DTN make this happen and thank all the Brothers that helped.

Back in '09, we were waiting to leave and I saw Phil Mazzucco and Gary Wenck in the lobby. Gary said "I laughed so hard my stomach hurts". That made it all the tracking down of Brothers to be worth it. And I am very confident that the 50th Reunion will be just as rewarding for us all. So I strongly encourage all Brothers to join us next June!