



John P. Geraghty ('74)

How 'bout *that* Delt!

This edition of the DTN Spotlight incorporates an interview we did with John to discuss his past influences, experiences and his impressive professional career.

First and foremost, however, is John's true love of family as a husband to Kathy Keller Geraghty (UD 1974 and GAMMA), Dad to three and Grandfather to eight "little Geraghtys" to bring in the next generation. Hailing from Newark, NJ, John had a veritable graduate-level "street" education as the scion of a law enforcement-oriented family and St. Benedict's Prep education.

This led to his first college stop to play football at The University of South Dakota, and by great fortune, the start of his friendship with DTN Brother Mike Pugh. Both future DELTS transferred to UD and, as they say, the rest is history. John played UD Football his sophomore year and graduated in 1974 with a degree in communication and marketing. John pledged DTN in 1971 and served as Athletic Director & Pledge Master and recalls fondly his favorite DTN Memories of 429 Lowes Street and DTN parties at the legendary 40/8 Clubs of course the Greek Balls. His road trips with DTN Brothers Mike Pugh, Danny Perugini, Willie Jamison were a big highlight and, since then, frequent trips to Florida every two years since 1999 with Mike Pugh, Phil Mazzucco, Miller Westendorf, Gary Wench and Jim Barden.

His professional career in Information Technology includes two very long and successful stays at IBM and MITRE, working on large and comprehensive enterprise systems in commercial government technology. He's also an avid believer in education and, in addition to teaching graduate students as an Adjunct Professor, he has attained the following impressive academic track record Georgetown University – MS Accounting, George Mason University – MS Information Systems, George Washington University – MBA, Virginia Tech – Masters Public Administration and, currently at Virginia Tech – where he's actively pursuing a Ph.D. Public Administration & Policy as an Adjunct Instructor.

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What's even MORE interesting about John is what his closest friends have to say about him. So we thought sharing those comments would be engaging to us all.

Philip Mazzucco

What can I say about John? Probably not a lot especially since the statute of limitations has not expired on most of his activities!! But on a serious note there are a few things that can be said.

#1 several years back John saw that a Brother Delt was down on his luck and needed some financial support, so John comes up with the "Help a Delt" idea, he puts it out to the Brothers, the idea took root and the fund has helped several of our Brothers since its inception.

#2 He took an organization "Delta Tau Nu" which existed only in the memories of its past members and brought it back to life!! From this it expanded to a golf tournament and to reunions at UD. The Founding Fathers, who were just names without faces to many of us came out to support this rebirth of the "Delts" and through the reunions we were finally able to put faces on the names.

#3 John came up with another idea, which would keep the "Delta Tau Nu" name forever enshrined at the University of Dayton, to set up a scholarship fund. With the help of the Brothers it was established and has been awarding scholarships to new students at UD.

So, what do **we** say to John. THANK YOU, thank you for all the time and effort you continue to put into "DELTA TAU NU". We may not have a physical presence at the University but the University again knows we exist.

On a more personal note, John sorry I could not be here for this reunion, and thank you for all the years of friendship with more still to come. You always had my back!!!

One other thing how many people can convince their brothers not to graduate on time, but to stay for one more semester to play fraternity football and to win the championship??? ONLY JOHN!!!!

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Mike Pugh

John loves people. He looks for the good in them and is interested in hearing their stories about their journey of getting to where they are at that moment in their life. You will see that philosophy repeated time and time again below. He loves life and takes in all that it has to offer. He participates and gives effort. Either as a member of the group or the leader, he is in.

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(John is) a leader and a life-long learner. Knows he is an example to others. Awesome mentor to all ages from all walks of life. Found ways to be passionate about every job/task/hobby he has ever had.

Loved his Newark/Vailsburg home and friends. He is loyal to them to this day. This community taught him survival/personal skills that he still benefits from, and uses in all aspects of his life. He is proud of his Vailsburg upbringing. It might still rest on his shoulders as a little chip. This has kept him humble and pushing forward. Somewhat like the Horse in *Animal Farm*. He just keeps working harder. Proving to himself that he can be better.

Delts and UD gave him a sense of community just like home. It was almost a cocoon. People took care of each other. Where one could succeed and/or fail and learn from it without it effecting one's future. Kinda "What happens at UD, stays at UD". He learned from others here too. Soaked it up. This is one reason why he wants to give back through any method possible-Delt reunions/Scholarship/Help-A-Delt, etc. UD gave him a lot.

His Delt brothers remain some of his best friends today. He celebrates their successes. He reaches out and looks out for them. He has lost a number of his close Newark friends early in life, and personally understands how precious and short life can be. This is why he pushes for the Delts to gather at various locations to get together. And the Help-A-Delt program is one he embraces because 'anonymously helping someone in need' is second nature to him. For John, 'It's just the right thing to do.'

Last but not least, he will be there if you are in need. He will celebrate your success. He wants you to succeed. And he is learning from you all of the time.

In summary, John Geraghty is just a nice man. Simple as that.

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Tom Conway

I met John Geraghty in the fall of 1971 at a Delt pledge function at Timothy's bar. He seemed like a quality guy and I knew right then he would be a good fit for the fraternity and bring a new dimension to our football team as well. I told John if he pledged I'd be his Big Brother and would help him navigate the pledge period waters.

John brought a lot to the fraternity, not only was he a natural on the football field but he also brought a presence as he was "all in" to being a Delt brother, and other brothers looked up to him as a leader. As a brother, John was a good recruiter too. He brought in a few big Jersey boys, and before long we had some serious athletes on an already good Delt football team, and in his senior year of '74 John helped bring an IFC football championship to the fraternity by

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beating our arch-rivals, the Rhos, unfortunately that happened after I graduated as I understand that championship game was one for the ages.

After graduating from UD John pursued further education in a newer field at the time, working with computers, and we all know that turned out very well for him. He then caught the education bug and continued his role not only as a student but also teaching on the post-graduate level and now in the process of completing his PhD.

Many years passed, almost 25, before John and I caught up again in the late '90's, and that's when I learned the details about how his family life and career had advanced. But it's no mystery to me as I always knew that John's values and personal qualities would always help him: a good work ethic, an ability to work with people to achieve a goal, the determination to make it happen, a desire to let everyone be a player in any game, and a natural leader. Those qualities are good in any endeavor and have made John a true asset for his family and an excellent President of the Fraternity Alumni Association as well.

It was after our first full reunion back in 2009 that John and I started talking about ideas for a legacy for the fraternity. After many options were kicked around it soon became apparent that working with the University and their gifting office would offer us the best choice for setting up a scholarship that would last in perpetuity. John was instrumental in taking the reins of setting up the scholarship committee and establishing the team of brothers that would need to be involved to get this thing done, and we all did it, the whole fraternity. It was truly a group effort, but we have John to thank for spearheading the process and putting in all the time and effort that allowed it to happen. And those basic qualities he's always had proved instrumental in allowing the process to proceed to where our scholarship fund is today.

I do have to add one quick "John-as-a-Delt-pledge" story: When we launched the fall '71 pledge class at the Kennedy Union and the Senior Patron and Pledgemaster were introduced to the new pledge class, after we adjourned, I had a funny feeling that since I was up on the 4th floor of Founders I was a sitting duck. The pledge period was less than an hour old when I looked out of my dorm room window and saw about 15 pledges running across Founder's field at breakneck speed toward Founder's Hall, and obviously me, ropes in hand. I told my roommate I was leaving, like now, and may not be back for a long time. Somehow, I evaded the attempted scoop and it may have caused them a shit call (too long ago for those details) but I knew John had a big hand in that one as I probably gave him a little too much pledging information, as he had the proverbial Grin on his face when they got busted. Looks like it all worked out for the best...glad he became a Delt.

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Bob Jones

The relationship with John Geraghty and “the boys of 321 Lowes” started when we (Miskewicz, Maggazu, Viskovich and Jones) decided, under the coaxing of Richie Miskewicz, to join “a fraternity”. He did all the legwork (as usual), but the decision became simple. The “new” Delt fraternity house at 336-338 Lowes was across the street and we watched as more than 50 crazy men turned a dingy white house to a freshly painted blue house with gold letters of DTN. The later it got, the drunker they got (Artie Bonanno’s 3 kegs probably had some impact) and we knew they were athletic as they somehow managed not to fall off the porch roof as they painted the front. We had decided.

John (along with Mike Ring) were part of a 2-man wrecking crew, John from 429 and Mike from 409 Lowes, that selected our house at 321 to watch Monday Night Football. The fact that Gill Viskovich had a color TV probably did not hurt! The merriment would start with “the good stuff” in terms of beer (Stroh’s, Genny cream ale, Bud) then degenerate into something called Tapp beer which sold at the dirty Deli for \$1.99 a twelve pack. I am not sure we ever knew who won the game that night and there were not a lot of morning classes with us in attendance on Tuesday. The unique aspect...we had an agreement that MNF would be a “safe haven” in terms of normal pledge duties and in return, MNF was off limits as far as scooping either of the brother attendees.

John was my Big Brother. Maybe the “Jersey” in both of us wore well. He would never give away a secret as to what to expect during a very long (almost 7 week) pledge period but simply say “trust me”...and I did. That reassurance would spread among my housemates and the rest of the pledge class.

Coming back for Fall '74 to get one last good semester in, and to win the Fraternity football championship, made for some lasting memories. He led us, with 2 of his housemates, Mike Pugh and Miller Westendorf, to the championship against a very very good Rho team 13-7.

But really, the legacy that John will always have is what he did in August of 2008. We had always corresponded, but in August of 2008 he sent me an email with a simple message. “the boys of 429 are gathering for the UD reunion in June of 2009. Want to try to get the Delts back to Dayton?” I answered “I’m in”. By early 2009, we had booked more than 100 of the 150 Marriott rooms assigned to the UD reunion. Our golf outing was larger than the UD golf outing. John organized the timelines of when things had to be done and forced us all to adhere to it. Just as on the football field, when John said to do something, however tactfully stated, no one dared F ___ with him!!

How ‘bout *that* Delt and How ‘bout them Delts !!

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From John

As I look forward to the coming years, I'm especially proud of the way DTN Fraternity recruited a group of UD students, turned them into a recognized group of young men based on Unity, Brotherhood & Pride and prepared them to succeed in their business careers and family life. We now have the opportunity to financially help other UD students in their educational pursuits.

My urgent request to the DTN Alumni Association is reach out to other brothers who have not yet reconnected to our alumni association and ask them to join us, share in our events, and add to our legacy by donating to the DTN Scholarship Fund.

How 'Bout Them Delts!

JOHN