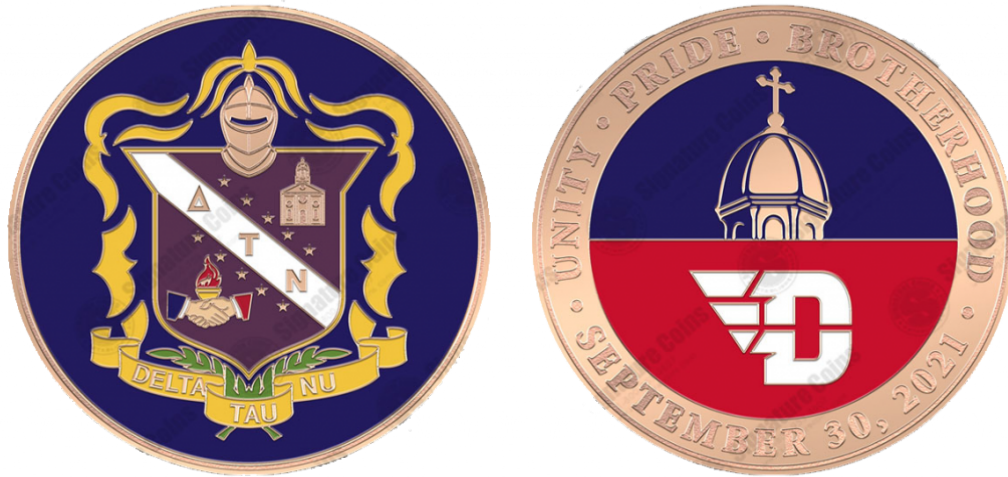


Delta Tau Nu Fraternity History
University of Dayton
May 2025



How ‘Bout Them Delts! Delta Tau Nu Fraternity (DTN) was founded at the University of Dayton in 1962 by ten friends and colleagues with vision. The Founding Fathers sought to create a fraternal organization to further each member’s goals for social networking and fellowship. Today, over sixty years later, it is clear their vision has been met — and exceeded.

This is the story of the Delta Tau Nu Fraternity at the University of Dayton. Our motto: *Unity, Brotherhood, and Pride.*

The Beginning

"It was Fall of 1962 on campus, and socially speaking, while many things were the “same old same old, other things were in the wind that would soon change social life at UD forever”.

There were many student gathering places, some close to campus, others further away (challenging when few students had cars). However, many of these places did not attract coeds. Official on campus dances, sponsored by the student council, often featured "big bands", and were also literally "sock hops", as Head Basketball coach Tom Blackburn would have no street shoes on the hallowed Fieldhouse floor.

The fall semester in 1962 saw a "new" student union opened - the Flyers Hangar - attached to the Fieldhouse, and which replaced the old union, a WWII Quonset hut standing where the current Miriam Hall stands. The Quonset hut was a great place for guys to play pool and nap on old leather sofas between classes, but not a place for coeds to gather. There was an "alternate" student union of sorts, Brother Paul's, in the arcade connecting Saint Mary's Hall and Chaminade Hall. Brother Paul's was an old-style soda fountain which seated maybe fifty people but was pretty much reserved for campus hoity-toity and upper-class students.

The fall of 1962 also ushered in the opening of Marycrest Hall - 500 coeds living ON CAMPUS. Prior to this, and although UD had been coed for years, out of town women students had to rent rooms in UD approved family homes, with signs on the front door identifying it as such, and a strict set of published rules including sign-in of any guests and curfews. Actually, there were very few women students at UD - other than locals who went home after classes.

UD was ripe for change in the fall of 1962. Enter a population of men looking to see if they might be able to experience a campus life, with fraternities, similar to that of friends from other schools. However, at the time, there were no male social fraternities recognized at UD.

While it might seem logical that the DTN Founding Fathers all knew each other at the beginning, this was not the case. It was, however, the beginning of something special!

Two Founding Fathers (Chris Saragaglia and Kenny Pompilio), both of whom had previously been in fraternities prior to coming to UD, separately considered what it might take to establish something similar.

Pompilio (a pre-med student), had discussed with Marty Tassoni and Ray Pierce (also pre-med) about putting something together. Chris Saragaglia & Jack Schrader, not knowing each other until sitting together in a Theology class, had similar discussions. Chris also talked to fellow business majors Jim Wolf, Tom Merkle, Joe D'Orso and Jim Bearns. Schrader and Pierce knew each other from freshman year at University Hall (UH – an off-campus men's dorm about 20 minutes from campus). A week or so later, a few of us (Pompilio, Saragaglia, Tassoni and Schrader), met at Pompilio's house to put a plan together. One thing we agreed on was the University might not be thrilled with what we were up to (at the time there were no male social fraternities at UD). We needed someone with campus credibility. Enter Dale "Dobie" Gilles. Schrader & Pierce knew Gilles from UH, and Dobie at the time was president of the UD Student Council. We had our first "official" meeting with the ten of us in late September 1962.

After a few weeks, several of us realized we needed to increase our numbers, thus we expanded the Fraternity by adding 15 Brothers. This was accomplished by having each of the original ten nominate two potential brothers to join our new fraternity. This was all done prior to Thanksgiving break in November 1962. When we returned from Thanksgiving, we started working on a Fraternity House, which we found on Grand Avenue (off campus), and in January 1963 ten of the brothers left the housemates they had been living with and moved into "The Mansion" on Grand Avenue.

The Dean of Students saw the ten of us changing our current addresses to the same address (off campus), and questions were asked. Each of us was asked to explain what we were doing, but we prevailed!

This is how Delta Tau Nu began (DTN – short for DayToN) - ***How 'bout them Delts!***

With Thanks to the Vision of our DTN Founding Fathers

Mr. Jim Bearnese

Mr. Joe D'Orso

Mr. Dale Gilles

Mr. Thomas Merkle

Mr. Raymond Pierce

Mr. Ken Pompilio

Mr. Chris Saragaglia

Mr. Jack Schrader

Mr. Marty Tassoni

Mr. Jim Wolf

Through the Years

From 1962 until 1982, the Delta Tau Nu Fraternity quickly earned (and continually reinforced) its reputation as a leading contributor to the social, academic, athletic, and artistic community at UD.

As a "local" (not National) fraternity, we continued to successfully add new Brothers each semester (we recruited over three hundred Delt Brothers over our 20-year existence on campus). We were always competitive across a number of intramural and Interfraternity sports. Importantly, we won the "All Sports" trophy several times, beating our rivals and close friends from other fraternities. The Delt's successfully demonstrated sportsmanship, competitiveness, and a winning tradition during these times.

Our Brothers have attained a wide variety of achievements and successful careers. We count among our Brothers Physicians, Dentists, Attorneys, Teachers, Professors, and PhD's. Our Brothers have served in the Peace Corps and the United Nations in underdeveloped countries. We are CEO's, COO's,

Senior Partners, Senior Corporate Executives, Military Officers, members of the CIA and Senior Executive Service, Board Members, as well as Entrepreneurs, Business owners, UD and professional athletes, Musicians and Grammy Award nominees, and the University of Dayton Board of Trustees and Advisory Council members.

With Gratitude to the Leadership of Our DTN Presidents

1962 Marty Tassoni
1963 Jack Schrader
1964 Ken Fischer
1965 Joe Sommers
1966 Dick Kramer
1967 Bob Bray
1968 Tom Focke
1969 Don Hiebel
1970 Rich Hiegel
1971 Jim McCann
1972 Dan Perugini
1973 Al Franzolino
1974 Rich Miskewicz
1975 Jerry Polcaro
1976 Peter Martin
1977 Paul Clarke
1978 John Mulligan
1979 Ridley Watts
1980 Art Gannon
1981 Art Gannon

Keeping the DTN Legacy Alive

There was a significant ten-year DTN reunion in 1972 organized under then President Danny Perugini. There was another DTN reunion held during Homecoming weekend in October 1991 with over seventy-five brothers attending. Formal reunions were scarce as most brothers were busy and

focused on building their professional careers and raising families. However, in 2009, extraordinary efforts, led by John Geraghty, brought Brothers together for a full reunion in Dayton in June 2009 for the first time in almost 20 years. This, and subsequent reunions, occurred during the University's annual Reunion Weekend. John, as the First President of the DTN Alumni Association (DTNAA), was supported by Tom Conway, John Heithaus, Bob Jones, Charlie Mazza, Rich Miskewicz, Jack Schrader, John Steiner, and Tim Thurin. Over one hundred brothers and guests attended this reunion.

Over the next several years, we held additional reunions, regional events supporting UD Basketball, and other social get-togethers. In June 2012, we held our Fiftieth Anniversary and in 2016 we celebrated our 54th Anniversary with yet another formal gala three-day celebration. Brothers from around the globe joined together to reconnect and establish new relationships for the years ahead. Our reunion in June 2023 was another great success with nearly 50 Brothers attending. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 2025, and we are expecting another great turnout as our DTN momentum continues.

In addition to the events mentioned above, we have held regularly scheduled golf outings in both Bonita Springs, FL and Hilton Head Island, SC.

Be sure to check the [PHOTO AND VIDEO](#) vault on the Delta Tau Nu University of Dayton website for more!

Most importantly, during these years, we began to develop more formal plans to support each other, give back to the university, expand our charitable orientation, and provide a legacy for future UD students.

In 2009, DTN established a *Help-A-Delt* program. This program provides support for Brothers and their loved ones in time of need. This support includes financial, social, and spiritual support activities.

In 2012, Delta Tau Nu created a Scholarship Fund that has raised \$325,000 (as of June 2024). The generous financial contributions over the years from our DTN Brothers have already supported nine worthy UD students, including two grandchildren of one of our Founding Fathers, Ray Pierce.

In 2018, Joe Vandura and Danny Perugini assumed leadership of the Delta Tau Nu Alumni Association as President and Vice President, respectively. Supported by a Board of Advisors (John Geraghty, John Heithaus, Charlie Mazza, Rich Miskewicz, Chris Pesce, Jack Schrader, John Steiner, and Tim Thurin), this group developed and adopted formal by-laws of the Delta Tau Nu Alumni Association of the University of Dayton. This leadership group continues today to guide our social and philanthropic efforts while at the same time focusing on establishing a way to reengage with Greek Life at the University of Dayton.

We continue to provide ongoing support to the University and the President with DTN Brothers serving on the University's Board of Trustees and Dean's Advisory Councils. In addition, we continue to provide voluntary support to many organizations for the needs of others less fortunate.

Accomplishing all of the above requires extraordinary leadership, selfless determination, dedication, and commitment. In 2013, we established the Delta Tau Nu Presidential Award, recognizing those individuals that went above and beyond for their special contributions. Over the years there were multiple recipients of this award, and we sincerely thank them for their service to our fellow Brothers:

- 2013 – John Heithaus
- 2020 – Tom Conway
- 2020 – Bob Jones
- 2020 – John Steiner
- 2021 – Rich Miskewicz
- 2022 – Tim Thurin
- 2023 – Tom Barker
- 2023 – Danny Perugini
- 2024 – Jack Schrader

Finally, there were two other special awards for those responsible for leading the development and ongoing success of the Delta Tau Nu Alumni

Association. The recipients of this prestigious award were John Geraghty (2019) and Joe Vandura (2024). Their organization, leadership, dedication, and commitment are forever recognized and appreciated.

DTN – The Next Chapter

Beginning in 2019, several National Fraternities approached us to join forces as these Fraternities were interested in applying for and forming a UD Chapter. After several discussions, few suitors were a good fit. However, in 2022, we held more formal discussions with Phi Gamma Delta and jointly approached the University to form a UD Chapter under Phi Gamma Delta's name.

This Delta Tau Nu/Phi Gamma Delta partnership was successful and a new Phi Gamma Delta colony at the University of Dayton is scheduled to be established in the Fall, 2025. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration with both Phi Gamma Delta and the University of Dayton as we collectively enter the next chapter! Our hope is that our joint charitable orientation and future legacy will continue to grow and provide significantly more financial, social, and spiritual support in the future!

How “Bout them Delts!

In Memory of our Departed DTN Brothers

Anthony L. Barricelli
James “Ardie” Bonanno
John Brennan
Kevin “KB” Brennan
Stew Brissette
Charles Anthony Bronzi
William T. Brooks, Jr.
William Brown
Christian Caggiano
Gary M. Chropka
Marc Jean-Pierre Coustry

Roger Crosby
Thomas R. Dee
James A. “Bud” Dougherty
Tom Downard
Tom “Lefty” Dunlap
Richard G. Evanko, Sr.
Ken “Tuna” Fischer, Jr.
Patrick Flanagan
Benjamin Frindel
Pat Gantt
Albert “Albee” Franzolino
Robert “Bob” Frey
Robert J. Gigante
Tom “Toad” Gloady
John “Jack” Griffith
Joseph Grossi
David Gultinan
Gregg Hauser
Robert “Bob” Ireton
Charles Philip Jacoby
William “Willie” Jamison
Joseph Job
John Kiebel
F. Jan Kopis
Douglas Kramer
Michael Laboe
Ron Land
Allan J. Leff
Peter A. Leotta
Neil Looney, Jr.
Andrew L. Magazzu, Jr.
John Mahoney
Jeffrey Marpe
Peter A. Martin
Thomas F. Morris
Herbert “Herb” Mason
William “Bill” E. Neary

Dennis O'Donnell
John Leo O'Grady
Paul "Oney" O'Neill
Bernard "Sonny" Richardson
Michael Spehar
Bill Schrader
Fred Steele
Robert "Bob" Sullivan
Nicholas J. Tallen
William "Bill" Tapella
Dick Van Jura
Kenneth J. Veil
Roger Westendorf