



The OPEN VISOR

THE PUBLICATION OF THE IOWA STATE CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON

December 2020

Undergrads Adapt to New COVID-19 Policies



Ryan Poppert '24

classes, we were away from campus, which was the most important thing.

Fast forward eight months and this “hiatus” from normality never ended, and now a normal college experience feels like prison. Masks are the new school uniform, hanging with friends is considered a “misdemeanor” by the university, and a stray cough or sneeze in public could cost you your life, or at least your right to be around others. Even in our own home, 117 Ash, things aren't like they used to be. Of course, we all understand that these precautions needed to be put into place, but life in Delta Upsilon just isn't the same from what it once was.

Luckily, the men of 117 Ash Ave have taken many steps forward in the containment of COVID, and it shows, as in-house members have not experienced a new positive COVID case since the first week in September. First off, no guests are allowed in the house, with restricted measures for out-of-house members and now our recently-initiated new member class. Our duties now include extensive sanitizing and deep cleaning, hand sanitizer dispensers in many new locations around the house, and the chapter and the dining room have new “social distancing”-abiding layouts.

Brenden Ball '24, Future VP of Recruitment, has been a big part of the successful adherence to the new health procedures within the house. Brenden's natural leadership and accountability has greatly improved the quality and quantity of the chapter's response to these guidelines. “One thing that I think we have done really well this semester is keeping the house clean and sanitized,” Brenden said. “This is reflected in our lack of positive COVID cases in

the house; we haven't had a new positive case since early September. The overall health of the entire house has been surprisingly high in regards to the university as a whole, which speaks volumes of the men in the house.”

In regards to Chapter-wide events, our executive board has been very adaptable and crafty with handling these events. Our chapter meetings are now held in a hybrid setting, both on Zoom, and in the lecture hall in Gerdin, the College of Business. Because of the outdoor space at the house, we have been able to hold brotherhood events, LIFE Committee events, as well as Associate Member Education classes both in the chapter room and on the patio.

Nate Espeset '22, Current VP of Academics, being one of the older members in the house, has experienced living in the house both before and during the pandemic. “Life in the house has been different with COVID but still fun,” he said. “No visitors in the house has been the most difficult change for us all. The dining situation has also changed and in my opinion changed for the better. Access to leftovers, breakfast, and other things are accessible 24/7.”

Alongside Brenden, Nate oversees our in-house members' efforts to comply with health procedures as a good sign of moving forward. “Brothers have done an excellent job with having no outside visitors this semester,” Nate said. “It's been hard, but we've done a good job. Next semester, though, I am hoping to make some changes revolving around the guest policy. I am hoping brothers can have friends and family come to the house and visit.”

Honestly, it took some time to adjust to the new “normal”, however I do see this as a temporary situation. Our brothers, both in-house and out-of-house, have done tremendous in keeping up with efforts put in place by both the University as well as the Colonnades. Hoping that our extended winter break proves to be a positive change, our chapter believes that we can play a big part in stopping the spread of COVID and look forward to bringing back that sense of normality to our college experiences.

Ryan Poppert '24
VP Member Education

Message from the Colonnades President



These are extraordinary times for Delta Upsilon at Iowa State. Our chapter completed the first semester of in-person classes in the COVID-19 era. Throughout the semester, the chapter enforced a strict, no guest policy. This was not an easy decision but it was the smart decision to make. The house we built to foster brotherhood, was effectively locked down and the men of

the chapter had to find creative ways to foster brotherhood outside the doors of 117 Ash. Delta Upsilon survived the semester despite the challenges and with hope that the pandemic will end soon, allowing Greek life as normal.

On August 1 of this year, management of the house transitioned from 117 Ash LLC to Colonnades. This transition has been a major change, with many added responsibilities for Colonnades. We hired Pat Sogard '17 as part-time House Director. Pat has a full time job in Ames and is available evenings and weekends. But even with Pat's help, many new functions have fallen on key Colonnades' board members. Chief among these has been writing a COVID-19 Plan and working with the Chapter Executive Board to adopt and administer it.

In the spring of this year, we started planning for the expansion of the Colonnades Board to assume these added responsibilities. We have targeted the need for 10 more Colonnades positions, half of them to be filled by recent graduates, but that plan was not completed. Managing COVID-19 took priority. A few alumni have volunteered to

help on the expanded Colonnades board but we need more. Please consider joining us to support our chapter. The pandemic has impacted our Colonnades financial operation. The house capacity was lowered to 35 men, 6 fewer than normal to accommodate our members more safely. Our income has been proportionately lower and COVID-19 related costs have been significant. The addition of our part-time House Director was another new cost for Colonnades.

Our commitment to Building Better Men has not wavered and never will, as long as we all continue to support our Delta Upsilon brothers in Ames. That is why I am asking you to join me supporting the Colonnades Club in 2020. Your gift will help us provide a clean and safe environment for our students. We may need hardship scholarships for the young men who lost jobs on campus this year due to the pandemic.

As we go to press with this Open Visor, we are at 33% of our annual goal. December 31st will bring the end to this year's campaign. Thank you to the 28 donors who have donated to this year's campaign. Support Colonnades by mailing in a check with the enclosed envelope or giving to the Chapter Educational Account at deltau.org.

Our brotherhood is strong, and we plan to survive and thrive despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other headwinds to the Greek community. Our DU brotherhood is a gift we all received. Let's pass it on.

Fraternally,
Colin P. Finn '05
Colonnades President

Your Support Matters

Thank you to all the alumni who have made a gift to the Colonnades or the DUEF to support educational program scholarships in 2020! Because of YOU the Colonnades provided over \$8,500 in support to help them navigate these uncertain times. These are just a few ways your gift has helped:

- COVID 19 health and safety supplies – \$2,900
- Professional cleaning service prior to move in – \$1,500
- Updated Internet Speed to accommodate more online classes - \$2,000
- Welcome Back to Campus Chapter Dinner - \$450
- DU Educational Program Scholarships for RLA - \$1,800

COVID-19 takes life of DU Alum...My Father



In the last edition of the The OPEN VISOR, I wrote an article entitled The COVID-19 Challenge. I challenged the undergraduate members of Delta Upsilon to work hard to keep the virus out of 117 Ash Avenue and to keep it from affecting the lives of DU brothers, family members, and the greater community. I pledged to let them shave my head if they were successful for the entire semester. Unfortunately, it only took 3 weeks of class this fall, and the boys had their first nine cases in the house, and a resulting 2-week quarantine. My hair is safe!

Now, I want to share my personal loss related to this pandemic and hopefully inspire my DU fraternity brothers to do a better job of protecting themselves and those around us. My father, Jim Larson '51, died last month (you can read his obituary in this issue of The OPEN VISOR) as a result of the COVID-19 disease. He spent his last 3 weeks in the hospital fighting pneumonia before succumbing to this nasty virus.

Unfortunately, he caught it from his wife, who was asymptomatic.

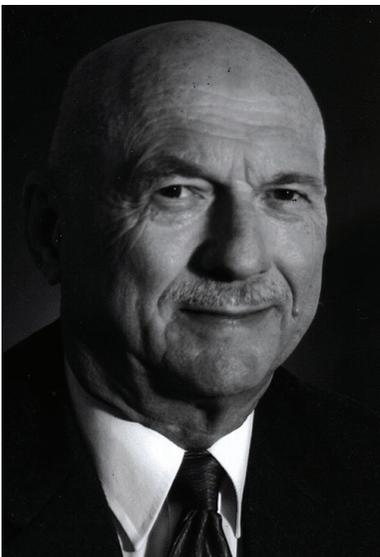
Dad was an incredibly young 92-year old when he passed away. Those of you who knew him appreciate how talented he was in many venues....a true modern day Renaissance man. Those DU brothers who invested in 117 Ash, LLC a decade ago, and therefore helped me in the effort to bring back the DU house and the DU Chapter at Iowa State, all have a copy of the painting that he did of 117 Ash Avenue at that time. DU undergraduates can see several copies on the walls in the house currently.

Dad was an inspiration for me throughout my life, as he taught me the value of hard work, the importance of keeping your pledges made to others, and the reward of volunteering your time and treasure to those things for which you are passionate. Thanks, Dad.....Your values were consistent with those of DU.....You helped me become a Better Man.

Jami Larson '74

Retired Iowa State DU Advisor and House Director

Jim Larson Paints 117 Ash Ave



After 40 years in business, Jim returned to Iowa State University to earn a degree in fine arts the College of Design, majoring in painting and printmaking. He was an active artist for the rest of his life. He served

as a director and instructor at the Clear Lakes Art Center. He painted this picture of our Delta Upsilon Fraternity house during the renovation of the house in 2011-13.

A Note from Newly-Elected President Nick Lee



On October 25th and on November 1st, we held our chapter elections for the upcoming 2021 executive board. We had great interest in the positions on the executive board, showing that the brothers of Delta Upsilon are invested in our fraternity even with all the challenges that COVID-19 has brought us. After competitive elections, we elected 11 great guys onto our mostly

sophomore-led executive board, two of which have served before and two that were recently initiated. The new executive Council members are:

- + Nick Lee as President
- + Jack Mahoney as VP Associate Member Education
- + Brenden Ball as VP Recruitment
- + Jack Nelson as VP Finance
- + Jack Belloli as VP Loss Prevention
- + Alex Murphy as VP House Management
- + Caleb Stevenson as VP Academics
- + Ryan Poppert as VP Member Education
- +Xavier Lee as VP External Relations
- + Graham Owen as VP Compliance
- + Jaren Pierce as VP Administration

I am personally very excited to get to work on the executive board this next year with these great guys. I think we elected passionate guys who are just as excited

and ready as I am. Some big things we want to work on during our term are brotherhood, maintaining great communication with Colonnades and other outside organizations, and, of course, recruiting strong associate member classes to allow our chapter to stay in great shape.

Brotherhood is the backbone of fraternity life, and developing good relationships is an important aspect of maintaining brotherhood. I think a hidden blessing of COVID-19 has been the extra opportunity for guys in the house to foster tight-knit relationships. We have also done a great job bringing together members that live out of house and the newly initiated members with a good amount of brotherhood events. Even with the challenges that COVID-19 brings us, I am confident that we can maintain brotherhood amongst ourselves. We will continue to see unique challenges in the future that we can tackle head on and come out the other side better than before. This defines what DU is about. We want to personify Building Better Men.

Communication is always important to get an understanding of where we are at as a fraternity. This is something that I want to place on myself and the rest of the executive board. Strong ties between us and Colonnades, the Sorority and Fraternity Engagement office, DU alumni and members, and other campus organizations is great for us as men. Getting viewpoints that we don't get from within the house and building ties with the people that care about us externally are great opportunities that we need to take advantage of.

Recruitment has been tougher with COVID going on but with our current recruitment team, we were able to initiate 19 new members into our chapter. With the size of our chapter, we are able to be selective with who we want to invite into our fraternity, and this is a great position to be in. Additionally, we are anticipating a strong spring associate member class. I am looking forward to building great associate member classes in the future and I have full confidence in the guys leading the charge in this.

Nick Lee '23
President

Brotherhood Activities with COVID-19



This fall, the chapter initiated 19 men. The new initiated members include: (top row from left to right) Billy Coakley, Max Drancik, Charlie Moreland, Anthony Tazouti, Jacob Siska, Steven Marlowe, and Alex Murphy; (middle row from left to right) Ethan Frazier, Max Weber, Davin Olson, Braedon Heun, and Ben Frieberg; (bottom row from left to right) Mitchell Lutz, Owen Schulte, Max Hayes, Joe Schoenecker, Jack Nelson, Micheal Partoll, and Charlie Hobbs.



The chapter recently went through elections to elect the new 2021 Executive Board. The members include, from left to right: Jack Mahoney, Caleb Stevenson, Xavier Lee, Brenden Ball, Ryan Poppert, Alex Murphy, Jack Belloli, Jaren Pierce, Nick Lee, Jack Nelson, and Graham Owen.

Delta U Remembers

James Robert Larson

Died October 7, 2020 in Mason City, Iowa

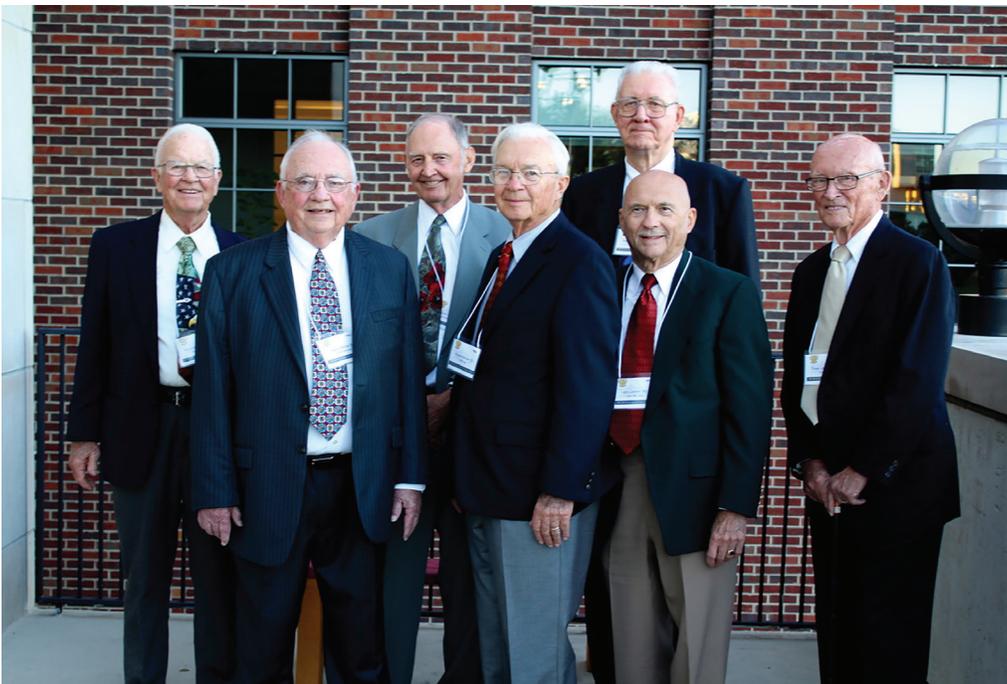
Jim was born July 31, 1928 in Detroit, Michigan. Larson received his education in Fargo, North Dakota and Marshalltown, Iowa, where he graduated from high school. He attended Iowa State University, where he studied mechanical engineering and was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity. He began his career as a gas furnace designer for Lennox Industries in Marshalltown, where he was united in marriage with Jean Rowley in 1950. After several years as a Lennox sales territory manager in Owatonna, Minnesota, Jim purchased a heating and cooling business in Marshalltown.

During his years in Marshalltown, Jim and Jean raised four children: Jami, Kim, Lori, and Todd. Larson was a leader in many civic and business organizations. He was active as chair of the YM/YWCA, president of Rotary, and a board member of the Chamber, the Construction Bureau, Homebuilders, the Industrial Bureau, and the Commercial State Bank. He also served as president of the Sheet Metal Contractors of Iowa and was an original founding member of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Iowa.

After 40 years in business, Jim returned to Iowa State University in the College of Design, where he earned his fine arts degree in painting and print making at the age of 63. He and Jean then moved from Ames to Clear Lake, where the Larson family had a summer vacation home for nearly 50 years. Here he built a new marine dealership called Clear Lake Boats. He also officially began his career as an artist, creating paintings and drawings, many of the Clear Lake area.

While in Clear Lake, Jim volunteered for the Chamber of Commerce, served as a volunteer instructor and board member for the Clear Lake Arts Council, was instrumental in designing and building a new Clear Lake Arts Center, served on the boards of Opportunity Village and the Community Foundation, and was president of Rotary.

Another passion of Jim Larson's was sailing, which he was still doing at age 92. In addition, he also was an excellent musician. In his late 70's, he organized and directed a fourteen-piece swing/jazz ensemble band called the NONSEMBLE. The band mostly played at venues around North Iowa, but his band also had the distinction of playing at the legendary Surf Ballroom when Jim was in his late 80's.



Jim was one of 65 Delta Upsilon alumni who attended the Centennial Celebration in September 2013 at the Alumni Center. The event marked the 100th anniversary of Delta Upsilon's initial charter on the ISU campus and the re-chartering of the chapter with a renovated chapter house. Jim is shown with DU's from his era.

1st row: David Morse '52, Wayne Brown '53, Jim Larson '50, Einer Larsen '49. 2nd row Norman Brown '51 (deceased), Dick Frink '51, Herb Harmison '56.

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Keaton Mohr Joins Colonnades Board Editor of the Open Visor



It can be hard to figure out a way to give back to DU after graduating from ISU, especially when you move away from the Midwest. After a couple years watching the success from afar, I wanted to step back in and

help out in anyway I could while reconnecting with DU brothers and getting to know new brothers. I'm excited to be able to help put together the Open Visor moving forward and serve ISU Delta Upsilon on the Colonnades Board.

My story is similar to the men that joined DU around my time. Growing up in a small town in eastern Iowa, I never

thought I would spend my college years in a fraternity, let alone as heavily involved in one as I was. However, there was something about DU that made me want to join, and I'm happy that I made the decision.

During my four (and a half) years, I tried to get involved in anyway I could, from community service opportunities to attending social events and everything in between. As I got older and got settled into my (third) major, I took on roles within the house and outside to represent our fraternity on campus. Other than taking on these responsibilities, I met some of my best friends.

After moving out to Portland after college and a couple years away from the fraternity, I wanted to jump back into helping out with the success of the fraternity. It's been great to watch what everyone has built since DU came back to campus and to continue with the legacy that is DU. I'm looking forward to working with everyone and please reach out for anything. Dikaia!

The Colonnades

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