

BROTHERHOOD IN THE GATEWAY CITY

► CONVENTION RECAP

Held at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, the 2009 Delta Sigma Phi Convention brought together more than 400 undergraduates, alumni, and guests to celebrate the Fraternity. In the coming pages, you'll read about what took place over the four days in late July, and meet the Fraternity's new national president.

Brotherhood and Fun

One of the most exciting parts of any Convention is the opportunity for brothers to interact with one another and have fun. That occurred at the 2009 Convention beginning with the first event – the Welcome Reception.

The event allowed brothers to meet, interact, listen to live music from a two-piece band, and participate in the performance of an improv comedy troupe called Mission IMPROVable. Brothers took part in the performance, providing suggestions for skits, and even getting on stage to participate in the skits themselves. The event was an excellent way to kick off the Convention.

Throughout the remainder of the 2009 event, brothers took part in additional events meant to provide a fun experience to attendees. The first ever Vegas Night on the Nile, an event with casino style games and snacks, allowed brothers the chance to mix and mingle while playing their favorite card games. The regular Pilgrim's Degree, the Convention-only



Clayton Spiceland is presented with the E. Allen James Outstanding Undergraduate Award by past national president John Boma.

event where brothers learn the secret of the Convention hat – the Fez, also took place for first-time attendees. All first-time Convention attendees took part in the event, which as usual, was well received by the brothers who took part.

Networking

From the alumni and undergraduate appreciation receptions, to the formal Networking Breakfast, opportunities for networking were clearly an important part of the 2009 Convention.

The 2009 Alumni Appreciation Reception included wine provided by Justin Vineyards and Winery, owned and operated by alumnus Justin Baldwin, *San Jose State '67*. Brother Baldwin attended the event from California to talk a little about his Fraternity experience, as well as talk about the wines he generously donated.

As for the 2009 Undergraduate Appreciation Reception, brothers enjoyed foods and snacks that are famous in St. Louis, while networking and hearing from Executive Director Scott Wiley. In addition, a representative from The St. Louis Chapter of The American Red Cross talked to attendees about the Red Cross' work, and its importance.

The last of the formal networking opportunities was the Networking Breakfast, which paired successful alumni at tables with undergraduates who were interested in entering similar career fields. With 25 tables from which undergraduates could choose, there were alumni to talk to in nearly every general career field out there.



Attendees of the Convention pose for the official group photo in Keiner Plaza, located in the shadow of the world famous Gateway Arch.

Education

Opportunities for networking and fun make for an excellent Convention by themselves, but throw in the tremendous number of educational sessions meant to help our brothers be better leaders in their chapters and in their volunteer roles, and you have a great recipe for a tremendous event.

Over the course of four days, there were twelve educational sessions geared toward helping attendees become better men. Ranging from sessions on Becoming a Pyramid of Excellence Chapter, to learning how to conduct a successful job search,

there was education for everyone at the event.

One of the highlights of the educational portion of the Convention was past national president Loren Mall's History of the Ritual session. Mall's session, which is a Convention staple, drew over 300 members on night #2 of the Convention, and was one of the highest rated education sessions on the post-event survey with 91% of respondents rating it at the highest possible score.

The 2009 Convention provided a great deal of education, but that was not all. There was still more!

Business

Another regular part of the Convention is the business that is conducted. The In Convention Assembled sessions are opportunities for brothers from across the country to vote on the leadership of the Fraternity, changes to the Fraternity's governing documents, and overall an place for the business of the organization to take place.

This year, four members were elected to the Grand Council, two of whom were newly elected, one was re-elected, and one was elected after serving an appointed one year term.



Griffin Cole and Adeel Khan, undergraduate members of the Kappa Delta Chapter at Virginia Tech, pose with the chapter's Pyramid of Excellence Award following the Closing Banquet.

The two newly elected members are Jim Knoll, San Jose State '83, who will serve as a Director, and Caleb Williams, Georgia '06, who will serve as the second undergraduate member along with Tom Seto.

The member re-elected to the Grand Council is Tom Archer, Virginia '87, who will serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. Jim Larson, Cal Poly SLO '72, who will serve as a Director, was elected after serving a one year appointment leading up to the Convention.

After the elections took place, Chris Edmonds, UAB '88, was chosen by the Grand Council members to serve as their new President. *Read more about Brother Edmonds in the coming pages.*

In addition to the Grand Council elections, a change to the Constitution of the Fraternity was approved by the Convention body. Before the Convention, a second undergraduate member was appointed to the Grand Council in the off Convention years by the current members of the Grand Council.

Following a number of Constitution Committee meetings and a floor debate, that has been changed so that starting in 2010, the second undergraduate member of the Grand Council will now be elected by delegates across the country voting electronically who will be certified just as they are for the Convention.

Recognition

A Convention would not be complete without all of the recognition that takes place – recognition of brothers and chapters for continuing to make Delta Sigma Phi what it is today. There were a number of awards presented, but only two were the top individual awards.

The 2009 E. Allen James Outstanding Undergraduate Award was presented to Clayton Spiceland, Kentucky '05. Spiceland served as the InterGreek Programming Assembly president on campus, leading the Greek community to give \$250,000 and 39,000 hours of community service during his time in the position. He is also a three year attendee of the

UK Leadership Summit, which is reserved for the campus' top 75 student leaders.

The 2009 Mr. Delta Sig Award, the top award an alumnus can receive, was presented to Bruce Loewenberg, Missouri '58. Loewenberg is a two-term Grand Council member, a longtime Foundation Board member, and a tireless advocate for Delta Sigma Phi at his home chapter at the University of Missouri, having served on the ACB for many years. He also is a 2008 University of Missouri Citation of Merit winner, a prestigious recognition by his alma mater.

You can find all of the chapter awards, as well as each and every individual award recipient on the Fraternity's web site at www.deltasig.org/convention2009.

Overall, the 2009 Convention was an event that was well received by all those who attended, and with the momentum coming out of the event, Delta Sigma Phi is poised for big things in 2009-10.

New Grand Council Following 2009 Convention

President – Chris Edmonds, UAB '88

Vice President – Scott Kimpel, Texas '93

Secretary/Treasurer – Tom Archer, Virginia '87

Director – Tom Cycyota, Illinois '77

Director – Jim Knoll, San Jose State '83

Director – Jim Larson, Cal Poly SLO '72

Director – Tom Seto, Purdue '05

Director – Caleb Williams, Georgia '06

Past President – Mike Hoffman, Arizona State '85