

# MEET THE NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT

▶ CHRIS EDMONDS, UAB '88



New national president Chris Edmonds (right) presents the 2009 Pyramid of Excellence Award to Josh Hawthorne, president of the Alpha Alpha Chapter at the University of Illinois.

Chris Edmonds, UAB '88, was installed as Delta Sigma Phi's 30th national president at the 2009 Convention. Edmonds, who is only 40 years old, has been in volunteer positions within the Fraternity since his graduation in 1992. Prior to his election, he served as a member of the Grand Council since 2005, most recently as its vice president.

Prior to his election to the board in 2005, he served as Chair of the Fraternity's Long Range Planning Task Force, Recruitment and Expansion Commissioner, and District Governor. As an undergraduate member, he served as Chapter and IFC President.

*The Carnation* caught up with Edmonds after his installation to learn more about his Delta Sig experience and his goals for his term as the organization's leader.

***The Carnation: What does Delta Sigma Phi mean to you?***

Edmonds: Simply put, Delta Sigma Phi is my foundation. The values for which our Fraternity stands challenge me daily to be a better husband, father, employee, team member, volunteer and human. It has, and continues to, provide me with a tangible roadmap for living my life.

***The Carnation: Why did you join Delta Sig originally and why have you remained involved since your graduation in the early 1990s?***

Edmonds: I attended the orientation at UAB with all of the wrong expectations. I was introduced to the Zeta Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Phi by one of my best friends in the world from high school. She said, "I know you don't think you will be Greek, but these guys are different." WOW, was she ever right! I was hooked from the first contact.

Zeta Chi was a young (3 year old) chapter at the time. Once my under-

graduate days ended, my involvement was all about "Paying the Debt." Each time we held an initiation, I would learn a little more about the responsibility each member has. I continued to build upon these revelations and decided living the Ritual never put me at odds with the community, family, work, or religion. It became clear to me that the more you put into the Fraternity, the more it gave back. It has been this great circle of investments and returns that is insatiable.

*Footnote: Tina Patterson Vermillion, Alpha Gamma Delta member, was the point of introduction. She married a Delta Sig from Kappa Chapter – Rob Vermillion.*

***The Carnation: What did it mean to you to be elected to serve as the organization's 30th national president?***

Edmonds: This is yet another humbling challenge to serve as the National President. Having been involved as an alumni volunteer for more than 20 years, I have had the opportunity to meet a significant number of the Past Presidents. There are no greater examples of all that is good in mankind than these men. They have accomplished so much in their tenures. To be asked to serve in this same capacity is humbling and overwhelming at the same time. I never expected joining the organization some 20-plus years ago would put me in such a position, but the fact that it has is an example of what membership means. Delta Sigma Phi offers the greatest internship in leadership available, and I am living proof of its results.

***The Carnation: What are your overarching goals and vision for your term as national president?***

Edmonds: In the last four years, we have created a new foundation of expectations. Through our Strategic Plan, we have begun elevating what it



means to be a Delta Sig. We have intentionally focused our efforts to convince the world of the sincerity of our purpose. Continuing to execute this strategy will take all we have in the coming years.

We need to build a bridge between the foundation of expectations and the 2025 goal of being America's Leading Fraternity. Building this bridge, developing a national housing strategy, and continuing the proud traditions of the last 110 years, will keep this Grand Council plenty busy over the next two years.

***The Carnation: What's the best piece of advice you've ever received that you can share with our brothers?***

Edmonds: Live the Ritual – it will never let you down! If you live it, it will give you far more back than you can ever give it. I believe this must be why our brilliant founding fathers defined Paying the Debt the way they did. Add the Pearl of Great Price to Paying the Debt and the result is a great life!

*Chris Edmonds, 40, serves as the President and CEO of the International Derivatives Clearing Group, which is located in New York City. He resides with his wife, Michelle, and children, Blake and Jenna, in Louisville, KY.*