

Brothers,

I think it is fair to say the past two weeks have created an unprecedented impact on our global community. As our country continues to navigate its path forward, it's clear that we will be facing unique challenges for an unknown period of time. Here at Delta Sigma Phi, we have not been immune to many of these same challenges that are impacting businesses, nonprofits and communities across our country. There is no doubt about it, the past few weeks have created challenges never before seen in our 120 year history.

At the time of this writing, 100% of our chapters have been placed on some form of remote learning with many institutions shutting down for the remainder of the semester. Our undergraduate brothers have been sent home, some without the opportunity to even remove their personal belongings on campus. For many men, this has upended their lives, creating unique challenges they never anticipated. Over the past few weeks, I have heard stories of our young brothers who have lost their university employment. I have connected with seniors who have been emotionally impacted because they will not have the opportunity to walk across the graduation stage. Our volunteer boards are working to address unique challenges relating to the financial impacts of moving men out of their facilities. These are but a few snapshots of the unprecedented impacts our fraternity has seen.

But through each of these stories, I remain optimistic and confident about the future ahead. For every story of hardship I hear, I have seen firsthand every bit of our Fraternity's Mission and Values come to life. I have watched as volunteers and brothers have stepped up to support those most impacted. At the local level, countless chapters are not just supporting each other, but the communities around them. Chapters have been raising funds to support COVID-19 initiatives in their communities, engaging in new forms of brotherhood and actively living our motto of Better Men and Better Lives. Volunteer boards have been working around the clock to ensure guidance and support are provided every step of the way. I am always so humbled by how much each of our members are giving back to support our brotherhood. Their leadership and commitment inspires our headquarters team to continue to think outside the box and provide solutions for the challenges they are facing.

As a national Fraternity, we have been distributing resources and guidance to our chapters across the country since our first chapter was moved to E-learning on March 6th. We have hosted webinars, leadership calls and are engaging daily with our chapters to provide an unparalleled amount of support at this time. Beginning this past Sunday, headquarter staff conducted live new member education classes and secure online initiations to ensure current new members have the opportunity to join our great Fraternity. We will continue to provide weekly national engagement opportunities to ensure our Fraternity stays connected, resilient and united during this time.

There is no doubt about it, this may be one of the most difficult challenge that many of us face during our lifetime. This situation is a real-time test of everyone's courage, mental fortitude and grace; which are all pillars of great leadership. I am confident our Fraternity will come together stronger and more resilient than ever before. By working together as one Fraternity, as one Delta Sigma Phi, we will succeed.

Let us continue to live up to our mission. Let us continue to serve as our brother's keeper. As always, please never hesitate to reach out to let us know how we can support you, we are eager to serve.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay optimistic.

YITBOS,



Phil Rodriguez, *Illinois State '03*
Executive Director, Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity & Foundation

