



EPSILON MU MAKES THE MOST OF THE PANDEMIC *House Corporation Completes Shelter Updates Ahead of Schedule*

2020—the year that can’t end soon enough. However, there are some bright spots despite the hardships this year has brought us. The premature end to spring semester gave us the opportunity to pursue a number of projects which would have otherwise run through the entire summer and possibly into the fall semester.

Due to COVID-19, it was necessary to clear out the individual rooms and deep clean them using approved methods to sanitize the rooms specifically for the virus. Normally, we have members reside in the Shelter for security purposes. Since we had to vacate because of COVID-19, we had the opportunity to perform the required sanitization.

We completed the second floor bathroom project, so now both bathrooms that were originally installed in 1991 have been totally rejuvenated with new tile, lighting, and plumbing. Repairs to doorways and drywall have been affected and several painting projects have been undertaken. Laundry facilities have been updated and expanded. This summer also hosted several grounds maintenance projects, including power-washing and lawn, shrub, and tree work.

Early completion of our annual summer projects gave members the ability to access their rooms earlier and provided them ample time to build up their rooms. Many have new cubbies, drywall, and painting.

We look forward to updating the wireless access in the Shelter to accommodate the massive amounts of hardware members now use. Remember we were lucky to have a phone or stereo? We replaced the water filter system in the kitchen and now have installed a dishwasher for members’ use.

Although Ball State will go online for the remainder of the semester, we’ll still have members residing in the Shelter since many of them must be on campus and others have part-time positions in the area.

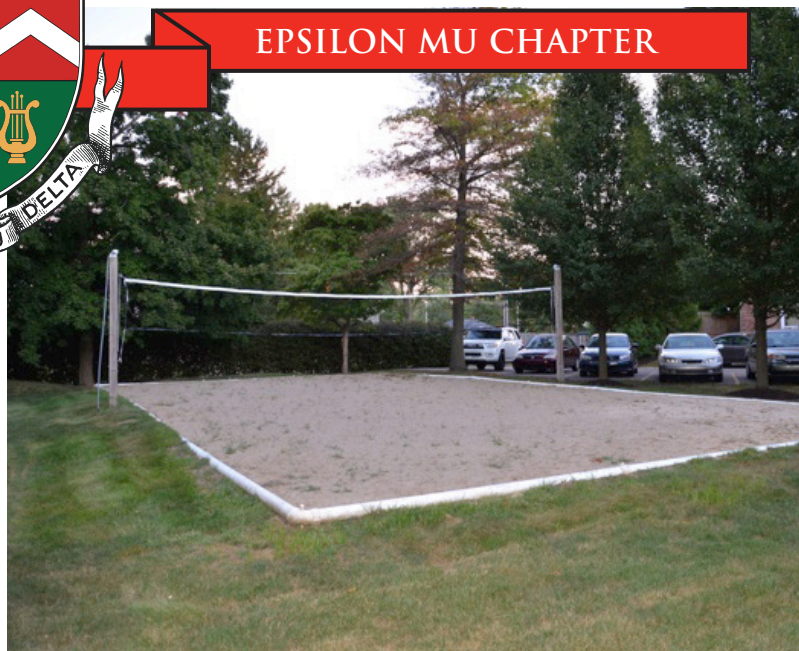
We look forward to seeing you when it’s safe to do so!

Fraternally,

John Knox '78

House Corporation Secretary

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Spring and summer renovations and upgrades to the volleyball court, brotherhood room, and driveway.

LOOKING BACK AT EPSILON MU'S BEGINNINGS

Doug Laslie '69 Shares His Appreciation for Delta Tau Delta



Doug Laslie '69 hadn't given much thought to joining a fraternity when he arrived at Ball State, and after his first impression of visiting one of the fraternities on Riverside Drive, he still wasn't particularly interested. That all changed when Doug felt a true sense of brotherhood when he met **Dan Guio '68** and the men of Pi Delta Gamma. Doug was a member of the second and final Pi Gamma Delta class and became a charter member of Epsilon Mu. He served as the ritualist and has been committed to Delta Tau Delta's principles ever since.

"I think that being in Delta Tau Delta helped me to be a more effective teacher. I was in a group of vastly different personalities who came together and learned to embrace our strengths and respect our

differences," Doug said. "I have no doubt whatsoever that my Delta Tau Delta experiences helped guide me in my career. And that, in turn, has definitely carried over into my life as a retiree."

Doug and Dan's friendship started at Ball State and became stronger over the years thanks to their similar career paths and Delt bonds. Doug started his teaching career in the Indianapolis Public School District along with Dan at Harshman Junior High School. His 43-year career as a journalism teacher came to a close in 2012 when he retired from Fort Wayne Community Schools. Doug spent 25 years at South Side High School, seven years at Northrop High School, eight years at Jefferson Junior High School, and three years in the Indianapolis Public School District.

"I guess I feel a certain gratification in being responsible for the publication of quite a few successful student publications. Actually, some of my high school journalism students have become journalism professionals, and that gives me a great deal of satisfaction," Doug said. "Also, I'm proud of bringing initially resistant high school kids the joys of reading Shakespeare and 'tricking' many of them into actually liking it."

Whenever Doug is out and about in Fort Wayne, it's a very rare occasion when he doesn't run into a former student. He always enjoys the encounters and catching up with those he mentored.

Doug has also stayed in touch with several Delt brothers and hopes to reconnect with many more. He cherishes many wonderful memories of the Soul Delt Club, study tables at the Donut Shop, the Hells Angels at the Pixy, the Funeral Party and Verne the Delta Queen, winning Spring Sing, the 605 Riverside chant on the way to the ballroom, the greenhouse party, moving into the Shelter, and dedicating the sign. Last, but certainly not least, Doug will never forget being lavaliered and then being thrown into Cardinal Creek.

"With the advent of social media, I have connected with brothers I haven't seen or heard about in 40-plus years. It has been great to renew contact with them and revive great chapter memories," Doug said. "I attended the 40th and 50th anniversary celebrations of the chapter and gatherings of 'the Old Guard.' Even though age has changed us physically, and sadly some have passed on, when these chances to renew brotherhood take place, it's as though no time at all has gone by since our undergraduate days."

Doug and his wife, Nancy, live in Fort Wayne. You can connect with Doug at domala@msn.com.



Doug Laslie '69 and his wife, Nancy, at Epsilon Mu's 40th anniversary celebration.



Doug Laslie '69 and Dan Guio '68 at Epsilon Mu's 40th anniversary celebration.



Doug Laslie '69 with his wife, Nancy, and son, Patrick.

MASKS UP FOR EPSILON MU UNDERGRADUATE BROTHERS NAVIGATE CHALLENGES OF VIRTUAL RECRUITMENT

While it was a fall recruitment unlike any we've ever experienced, we are thrilled to welcome 17 new members to our brotherhood. Recruitment was conducted via Zoom. The first day featured a virtual house tour. We also created a PowerPoint of multiple photos to show what Epsilon Mu is all about. It was challenging to convey the true meaning of the Delt experience to potential new members since we couldn't show them in person all of the little things that makes our brotherhood special.

There has been a cleaning crew coming to the Shelter every Monday and Thursday to ensure that we're all remaining healthy. We wear masks whenever we leave the Shelter and there are no exceptions. We were required to quarantine in the Shelter for two to three weeks, so we emailed our professors that we couldn't attend anything on campus and stayed up to

date with our studies virtually. We have been deep cleaning and disinfecting our personal rooms every week for precautionary measures. We put up hand sanitizer dispensers and electronic disinfectant over the door that sprays every 10 minutes.

Due to COVID-19, it has been hard to host many brotherhood events. We have many future events planned to give brothers something to look forward to. We have a paintball outing planned in Fort Wayne, but the date is pending. We are working on some ideas for a spring formal and are brainstorming other possibilities for fun and safe events.

Fraternally,
Jackson Starnes '20
Chapter President
jacksonstarnes07@gmail.com

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Christian Alderling
Indianapolis, Ind.

Kyle Bilby
Noblesville, Ind.

Keenan Bowen
Noblesville, Ind.

Brayden Browning
McCordsville, Ind.

Joseph Carl
Schererville, Ind.

Nate Chapman
Fishers, Ind.

Bryce Decaudin
Fishers, Ind.

Colson Dunham
Pendleton, Ind.

Michael Hart
Fishers, Ind.

Jacob Lawrence
Fishers, Ind.

Ben Lyday
McCordsville, Ind.

Zane Norman
New Palestine, Ind.

Alec Rees
Noblesville, Ind.

Carson Sanders
Noblesville, Ind.

Andrew Synko
Munster, Ind.

Assessing the State of Campaign 50

To say that we live in a time where clichés rule the headlines would be an understatement. Indeed, the last several years have been fraught with challenges. And, the *Campaign 50* project to dedicate the newly expanded and renovated Shelter for Epsilon Mu's 50th anniversary certainly has not happened as we all envisioned. We had shovels ready for the ceremony, but couldn't pull the trigger.

A \$250,000 gift from **John Fisher '90** was an exciting kickoff to the campaign. He was also the lead donor of the 1991 addition and the driving force of the acquisition of the original Shelter in 1967. His gift also conveyed an obligation to make the most of his generosity and vision. Sadly, we haven't lived up to his expectations.

There are probably many reasons for not meeting those goals. The feasibility study painted an unrealistic picture of the support by alumni. There was also a disagreement about the size and scope of the project, including whether to retain or demolish the original house as part of the project. Most significantly, we realized an increase in projected construction costs budgeted of over \$900,000 from the original estimates in 2011. The construction market was depressed in 2011, but was on fire by 2016.

Building safety and accessibility codes had also changed, adding approximately \$326,688 to the construction costs.

The feasibility study, which was very thorough, indicated very strong support by the alumni for the proposed project, but the reality became that several of the highest capacity prospective donors chose not to participate after previously indicating they would. There are no guarantees. The original goal was \$1,175,000. Of the \$818,347.09 received in pledges, only \$695,133.39 has been collected. Repeated attempts to collect the remaining pledged amounts haven't proven very fruitful.

Many of the engineering and design costs have been paid and the bulk of the funds remain. Our mortgage has been paid off. We have undertaken several projects without using any of the *Campaign 50* funds. Those projects include the new roof (\$45,000), new water heaters (\$20,000), a new boiler (about \$18,000), and first and second floor bathroom updates (about \$40,000 each). Several other amenities such as weight room equipment, electronics for the brotherhood room, additional washers and dryers, and commercial-grade wireless internet have also been provided. Some of these would

have been included in the new addition costs, but *none were charged to the campaign.*

Now that we are back in uncertain times, at least for a while, this might be when construction work and costs come down again. Is this worth a look? Any project like this requires a considerable amount of expenditures in both time and treasure. Volunteers did some of this work, but not all. We're always looking for more volunteers to make positive contributions to the effort.

No one is more disappointed than those who worked so diligently only to have the project incomplete. Sadly, **Dan Guio '68** and **Terry Hunsucker '71**, who were both strong proponents of the project, are no longer here to realize the fruits of their labors. We remain confident that it will eventually happen. The House Corporation is also fully committed to make it happen as well. Like many of us, Epsilon Mu has been a part of our lives, in some instances, for nearly 60 years.

Each of you can help by contacting as many of your contemporary brothers as possible and encouraging them to keep this project in the forefront of their minds.

Fraternally,
Epsilon Mu House Corporation

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Email **John Knox '78** at
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ALUMNI WEBSITE

www.emdtd.org

FACEBOOK

BSU Delts Alumni

Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Ball State University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

FROM THE VAULT



The Shelter in Spring 1989



Bike-a-Thon in 1989