



Delta Delta Data

Published by Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at Purdue University.

PAGE 1

DELTA DELTA DATA

SPRING 2021



Tom Morales '75



John Taylor '75



Scott Hutton '94

Morales, Taylor and Hutton Named Significant Sigs

Delta Delta alumni continue to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in their chosen fields of endeavor. Tom Morales '75, John Taylor '75 and Scott Hutton '94 have all been selected as Significant Sigs. They join a group of 58 other Delta Delta brothers to be so honored.

Tom Morales '75 is the retired CEO and Co-Founder of Morales Group, Inc, a company serving as a bridge between the Indianapolis business community and the region's growing Hispanic population. Since its founding in 2003, Morales Group has become one of the fastest growing Hispanic owned businesses in America; an INC 5000 firm; and one of the nation's top 100 Hispanic Businesses. Morales Group has grown to include offices in eight cities and successfully placed more than 50,000 associates.

Tom's strong work ethic, passion to help others, and savvy business ac-

men has allowed the Morales Group to thrive and grow annual revenues into one of the top 1% of staffing companies in the country.

Tom earned his Civil Engineering degree from Purdue in 1975. Prior to starting the Morales Group, he gained management experience working with Proctor and Gamble, Union Carbide, and Donaldson Corporation.

Tom has served on multiple boards in the Indianapolis area and he received an Honorary Doctorate degree from Marion University in 2019 and was inducted into Indiana's Business Hall of Fame that same year.

Significant Sig and pledge brother Mark Lester '75 reflected, "Tom Morales has always embodied the standards of Sigma Chi throughout his life. There is no question that

the world is a better place as a result of Tom's career accomplishments and philanthropy. I am proud to call Tom Morales my brother and to recognize his significant career accomplishments."

John Taylor '75 (JT) has been a tremendously successful business owner across several industries over the course of his career. JT's astute business capability has allowed him to take several companies, either via acquisition or from start-up, and improve their overall performance benefiting his investors and employees.

JT describes himself: "I have realized over my business career that I enjoy the opportunity for rebirth, reinvention, or just embracing new ideas. There is nothing better than building motivated teams and developing those around you".

See Significant Sigs Page 3



THE SIGMA CHI CREED

I believe in fairness, decency, and good manners. I will endeavor to retain the spirit of youth. I will try to make my college, the Sigma Chi Fraternity, and my own chapter more honored by all men and women and more beloved and honestly respected by our own brothers. I say these words in all sincerity that Sigma Chi has given me favor and distinction: that I will endeavor to so build myself and so conduct myself that I will ever be a credit to our Fraternity.

George Ade ΔΔ 1887

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CONSUL Sam Spears
PRO CONSUL ... Ryder Elitharp
ANNOTATOR Dylan Goudy
QUAESTOR Ben Annakin
MAGISTER Will Cagnasola
RUSH CHRM Ben Sons
 Tyler Skiles
 Graham Haines

EDITOR John Henson
SCHOLARSHIP.. Chase Southard
RISK MGR David Musoke
HOUSE MGRS Cam Graber
 Matt Jaros
ALUMNI REL. ... Wes Dulin
 Tyler Skiles

SOCIAL CHRM ... Kobe Burtron
 Brendon Fisher
PUBLIC REL ... Cam Moustofi
 Cam Cole
WEBMASTER Ian Streeper

You may contact any of the officers by going to the chapter's website: www.thesighouse.com.

Consul's Corner Sam Spears '23

We can all see light at the end of the tunnel of this COVID-19 period of our lives! I hope that all of you have stayed healthy as we begin to return to our new normal. Here at Purdue we have begun to get vaccinated and are preparing for the return of in person events next year. We are all hoping to have full capacity football and basketball games, full in-person classes, regular Rush, and annual traditions like Blue Formal return.

This semester has been a great improvement in how we have handled COVID-19 inside of the house. We had one positive case this past spring semester compared to over forty cases in the Fall. Purdue has continued its effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through the implementation of the Protect Purdue policies. These include regular testing, limitations on in person events, mask mandates, and hybrid class schedules of in-person and virtual courses. We expect Protect Purdue and some regulations to continue next semester with reduced restrictions.

Even through this period of virtual events, active brothers are still as involved on campus as ever. We have taken part in various philanthropies, Grand Prix and campus organizations such as the School of Management Employers Forum, School of Management Council, Global Engineering Brigade, and Orbital. Even in these more challenging times, we are striving to be leaders throughout campus.

Due to the Protect Purdue Guidelines, we were unable to hold any in-person events inside of the chapter house during this past semester. This meant that we had to hold our first ever "Founders' Initiation" for

the Delta Delta '24 class. This ritual was Sigma Chi's solution to completing an in-person initiation that follows COVID-19 procedures. The ritual was completed by Magister John Hokanson and Assistant Magister Will Cagnassola, Pro Consul Matt Shern, Kustos Matt Jaros, and me, as Consul, where we completed the ritual in a one on one interview. Given the circumstances, Initiation went smoothly and the next Pledge Class of Delta Deltas was ushered in.

During this period of restricted social activity, The house GPA has increased to a 3.2 from a 2.98. Our new members achieved the highest grades of any pledge class with a 3.24.

Like everything else this year, Derby Days had to be done almost exclusively virtually.

Brothers completed virtual challenges where they would post obscure tasks to complete in exchange for contributions to the Huntsman Cancer Foundation. Brothers also reached out to family, friends, and alumni to raise additional funds. We have maintained our previous goal of raising \$20k for Huntsman and are well on our way to attaining this goal.

As Consul, I could not be more excited for next year. The return of in-person events, rush, sporting events, and in-person classes has already begun to increase the brother's moral. We are looking forward to carrying this momentum into the next semester and beyond.

As always, Boiler Up!



Follow Delta Delta on Facebook and Instagram

For chapter updates go to www.facebook.com/sigmachideltadelta and <https://www.instagram.com/sigmachideltadelta/>.

Significant Sigs continued

Currently JT is CEO of Servantex, Heart of the House Hospitality, Faire Labor, and Acureal Technologies, all based in Indianapolis. These companies provide staffing and labor management services employing thousands of associates with operations in 27 states and 46 cities.

Prior to this, JT was co-founder and COO of Morales Group Inc. from 2003-2013. Earlier in his career from 1977 – 2002, John utilized his Mechanical Engineering and MBA degrees to start, acquire, and expand numerous companies.

JT has also committed his time to numerous non profits including the Sycamore School in Indianapolis, Friends of Holliday Park, The Town of Meridian Hills as Clerk-Treasurer, and on the board of the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Scott Hutton '94 is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Biodesix, a leading diagnostic company with a focus on lung disease. In 2019, Biodesix was named Company of the Year by the Colorado BioScience Association, one of the country's most dynamic life-science organizations.

In January 2021, Scott was named 2020 CEO of the Year USA by CEO Monthly. His leadership helped Biodesix respond boldly to the COVID-19 pandemic and has carried the company through an Initial Public Offering in October 2020 while launching three new precision medicine products. Scott was just recently named one of the Top 25 (#9) Biotech CEOs of 2021 by The Healthcare Technology Report.

Before joining Biodesix, Scott served as senior vice president and general manager of Spectranetics Vascular Intervention and spent 16 years at Medtronic, a global healthcare products company. Most recently, Scott served as vice president and general manager of Medtronic Brain Therapies – Neurosurgery. In July 2011 Scott received the Medtronic Wallin Leadership Award.

Harold Force '73 Tapped For Order of Constantine

Harold Force '73 is the latest member of Delta Delta to be selected for Sigma Chi's highest honor, the Order of Constantine. Brothers chosen for this recognition have contributed their time and leadership to Sigma Chi Fraternity or individual chapters.

Harold's love for Delta Delta and the chapter house has been evident since his graduation in 1973. He has stayed involved through his active participation in Delta Delta's House Corporation and reunion events. In 2003 he took the lead role in managing all aspects of the construction of the chapter house renovation project. This four-year endeavor entailed overseeing architectural design, contractor selection, and project management leading to the successful completion of this \$7.4 million undertaking.

The undergraduates returned to the fully renovated and restored chapter house in 2007. At this time Harold was asked to head the House Corporation. As President he expanded the number of board members and put in place a more formal committee structure to address the additional needs of the updated chapter house. He was also integral to the establishment of the Future Fund which has provided needed capital for major maintenance projects at 202 Littleton. Harold served as President until 2010.



Harold's pledge class has been behind him in many of his Delta Delta endeavors.



Harold Force '73

At the time of the renovation one of the items cut due to budget constraints was the construction of a new garage. Without a garage the Grand Prix team for 4-5 years was forced to find space off campus to work on our Grand Prix carts. In 2015 Harold, with several Grand Prix team alumni, raised \$140,000 to construct a dedicated garage for the Grand Prix team. Harold took the lead on design and construction of the new garage which was dedicated in 2017.

Harold's latest project was to work with his pledge brothers to raise the money to install new sconce lights in the Great Hall. Harold's love for Sigma Chi and Delta Delta is extraordinary. From the day of his initiation, he has served the chapter whenever asked, and wherever he saw a need. Mark Sand '73 remarked, "Harold's unselfish and highly effective service to our Fraternity has demonstrated all that is good and honorable about Sigma Chi."

Brother Force became a Significant Sig in 2006, awarded a Grand Consul Citation in 2007, and was a Distinguished Alumnus at the Krach TLW.

Luke Marklin Enjoys Old Masters Experience

Luke Marklin '07 seems far too young to be considered an Old Master, but it just shows that wisdom and a desire to give back can come at any age. Luke, who is the CEO of Bellhops Moving, a company that has redefined the moving industry, took part in the 2020 Old Master's program last November.

Due to COVID, the program was 100% virtual this year. That meant all interactions with students and other Old Masters took place over Zoom from the comfort of the Old Master's homes. While this was a big setback to some parts of the OM experience, it amplified others. Luke commented, "I definitely missed the energy of campus and the fun, in person moments of the program (like going to Harry's). However, it did make it a lot easier for us to speak to a variety of different student and alumni

groups over a multi-week period. Our interactions ranged from individual Zoom conversations, to taking part of virtual classes, to speaking to large clubs with hundreds in attendance.

The final event, "An Evening with the Old Masters", had student hosts posing questions to each Old Master. This video has been viewed over 1500 times.



Luke Marklin '07 (Top Row, Left) took part in the virtual 2020 Old Master's Program.

The brothers at Delta Delta have always actively participated in the Old Masters program. During this year's program Luke had a chance to have an hour-long conversation with about 30 brothers. Luke re-

marked, "Sigma Chi really helped shape my life so I'm always excited to engage with the undergrads. I really appreciated their questions and the brother's involvement as part of this year's program."

Grand Prix Returns After One Year Break

Purdue President Mitch Daniels stated to the hundreds of spectators, drivers and crews gathered at Purdue's Grand Prix track to watch the 64th Grand Prix, "This event marks a huge step back toward normalcy and the campus we all love. This is always one of the great events on the Purdue calendar, year in and year out." Delayed by one day because of rain this year's Grand Prix race, held on April 25, was the largest Purdue-sponsored event in over a year.

Delta Delta's Grand Prix teams put in countless hours preparing Sigma Chi's two carts and getting the teams ready for the race. Grant Vogt '22 added a third cart to the garage by partnering with the Veteran's Association to help them prepare their cart for the race.

At the end of time trials Delta Delta's carts held their highest qualifying positions in recent memory. Drivers



Sigs leading our Grand Prix teams Ryder Elitharp '23, driver Tyler Skiles '22, Bailey Smith '21, Ryan Bird '22, driver Brendan Trent '23, and Dawson Odle

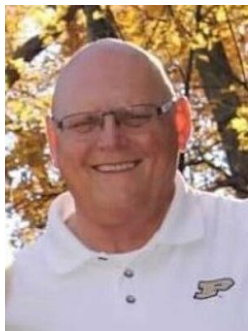
Brendon Trent '23 placed third and Tyler Skiles '22 lined up in the 11th position. Our carts started out well in the race but both of them succumbed to engine failure. It was a disappointing day for many teams

as only 10 of the 33 carts completed the race. With all of our drivers and pit crews returning next year, we are looking forward to better performances and the chance to cross the finish line first.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

David A. Poelstra '72 Served ΔΔ For Years

Dave Poelstra '72 entered the ranks of Sigma Chi at Ball State University. A native of Lafayette, he returned home following law school where he started Poelstra Title Company and raised his family.



**Dave Poelstra EΩ
(Ball State) '72**

Dave served on Delta Delta's House Corporation for over 20 years from 1987—2007, much of the time as its Treasurer. A position that entailed collecting house/rent payments from the undergraduate brothers along with staying on top of all the bills.

Dave's love of Sigma Chi was evident as he worked patiently and persistently with our younger brothers. He always strove to exemplify the ideals of our Fraternity.

Brother Poelstra entered Chapter Eternal on December 12, 2020, a casualty of the COVID pandemic.

Tom Leslie '68, who as President of the House Corporation during Dave's tenure stated, "David was a great Sigma Chi. True, he wasn't initiated as a Delta Delta Sig but he helped turn around a real mess going on in our chapter in 1987 when there really was no House Corporation. He vol-

unteered to be the Treasurer and he kept a tight ship from that day forward while we tried to keep good ole' 202 patched up from month to month. I'll miss him."

Hines Remembered for ΔΔ Commitment

The undergraduates and House Corporation on behalf of all our alumni brothers honored Gerald Hines '46, who entered Chapter Eternal on August 23 at the age of 95, with a memorial plaque placed at the entrance to the Dining Room which bears his name.

Brother Hines was founder and chairman of Hines, a global real estate development company.

Significant Sig Gerald D. Hines '46, was one of Delta Delta's most supportive benefactors. His financial support of the 1988 and 2007 renovation campaigns led to major upgrades to the chapter house. This helped perpetuate Delta Delta's legacy at Purdue.

The chapter is forever grateful for the support, dedication, and love of Sigma Chi that Brother Hines demonstrated throughout his life.



Jonas '97 Engineering Innovator Leaves Mark

Travis Jonas '97 was recognized as an international expert in turbomachinery. In 2000 he received NASA's Space Flight Awareness Award for his contribution in the development of the Space Shuttle's High Pressure Fuel Turbopump.

At Travis' funeral he was remembered fondly by his 14 pledge brothers as someone who left his mark in many ways and in many places.

Chapter Eternal "All honor to their names"

Charles W. Hoffman '58, Peachtree City, GA 2-27-21

James P. Himmelwright '60, Opelika, AL 11-18-20

James O. Parrish '62, Mount Pleasant, WI 11-4-20

James G. Haunty '64, Columbus, OH 9-30-20

James R. Walker '65, Kingwood, TX 11-16-20

John Robson '68, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 10-13-20

David A. Poelstra '72, Lafayette, IN 12-18-20

Joel K. Draper '77, Indianapolis, IN 1-15-21

Greg Volland, '78, Columbus, IN 11-22-20

Travis Jonas '97, Rancho Cordova, CA 3-5-21

YOUR CLASSMATES WANT NEWS FROM YOU!

Engagements, Weddings, Births, Deaths, New Jobs, New Homes, Promotions, Fraternity functions.
Send details and photos to be included in the Delta Delta Data.

Include your name, class year, email address and details and photos of your event or activity.

Email News Notes to Phil Steele at steele202@comcast.net

ALUMNI AND UNDERGRADUATE UPDATES AT WWW.THESIGHOUSE.COM

A Virtual Delta Delta Holiday Get-Together

The House Corporation held Delta Delta's first virtual Holiday Get-Together over Zoom on December 17, 2020. What an unexpected success. Almost 30 brothers took part spanning 74 years from the Classes of 1949 to 2023. Brothers logged in from their living rooms in South Carolina, Florida, and Hawaii to share in the camaraderie and exchange holiday greetings.

The theme of the evening was to recall memorable stories of Blue Formals. It was confirmed by Dudley Foster '49 that Blue Formals were held in the 1940's with the chapter



Blue Formal was a "black tie" affair in the '40s, '50s and '60's.

house being decorated much as it is today with the Christmas trees adorning the Great Hall in a pine tree arch. The tradition of transforming the front entrance of the chapter house into the shape of a White Cross was begun in the early 1960's. Decorating the entrance to the Game

Room with pine boughs, was started sometime in the early '70's.

One of the more memorable stories was the Great Hall fire that took place following the 1961 Blue Formal. With one of the brothers igniting the White Cross entrance made of white tissue paper, the fire quickly spread into the Great Hall, Game Room and Library. This occurred after the dance was over and all the dates had been taken back to their residences. Fortunately, damage to the house was superficial although several items of note were damaged. One was the baby grand piano and the other the Sigma Chi crest over the fireplace.

We also learned that Blue Formal was "black tie" until the late '60's; the announcement of the Sweet-heart continues; that procuring extra trees at little to no cost has been going on for years including cutting pine branches off trees in the Lafayette Police shooting range; and the more recent "tradition" of taking down the Game Room pine bough arch at 3 am following the dance with the participating brothers wearing only their boxer shorts. We also learned that the brothers continued the Blue Formal tradition



The Great Hall has been decorated for Blue Formal similarly for over 60 years.

the year they lived in the AOPi house (2006 – 2007) while the chapter house renovation was taking place. One brother even proposed to his future wife on that evening.

Ninety-three-year-old brother, Dudley Foster '49, remarked that it sure seemed like Blue Formal had gotten a little wilder since his days at Delta Delta.

At the end of the 75-minute Zoom call Don Sondermann '92 seemed to capture the spirit of the evening when he commented, "The stories, the memories, and seeing friends on this call has been wonderful. It reminds me of all the great times I have had as a Sigma Chi. Thank you for arranging this event."