

THE DELTAN

The newsletter for alumni and friends of the Vanderbilt University Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi | Winter 2024

A JOURNEY TO BROTHERHOOD

Vanderbilt's Path to Phi Psi Charter

The journey of the Phi Kappa Psi Vanderbilt Charter has been nothing short of transformative. From our first steps as a colony in the spring of 2022 to officially becoming a charter on November 2, 2024, this journey has been defined by a relentless commitment to brotherhood, service, and growth. Through highs and lows, challenges and triumphs, our fraternity has evolved in numbers and stature and, more importantly, in the quality of our brotherhood. Every step has shaped us into a more unified and resilient group of men.

When we first established ourselves as a colony, we were a small group of like-minded individuals with a vision: to build a strong, value-driven fraternity at Vanderbilt University. The early days were marked by excitement and uncertainty. We knew the task before us would be daunting as starting a fraternity from the ground up requires more than just enthusiasm; it requires dedication, perseverance, and a willingness to support each other through thick and thin. We faced many obstacles: navigating university regulations, establishing our presence on campus, and recruiting men who embodied Phi Kappa Psi's values. Yet, through it all, we learned how to work together and build something meaningful.

One of the most rewarding aspects of our journey was creating community-oriented events that reflected our commitment to service. Events like the inaugural Phi Psi Pickleball Tournament and the Phi Psi 500 Tricycle Race stand out as milestones that raised money for important causes and brought us closer as a brotherhood. The Pickleball Tournament raised funds for the Tennessee Resettlement Aid (TRA), an organization dedicated to helping refugees resettle in Tennessee. The joy of seeing participants enjoy the event, while knowing its impact, reinforced our bond as a fraternity committed to service.



Art Johnson taking a photo with newly initiated member, Henry Zhu '24.

Similarly, the Phi Psi 500 Tricycle Race was both fun and impactful. This race, in which brothers and participants raced tricycles to raise funds for TRA, exemplified our ability to rally together for a shared purpose. The event's energy was contagious, and through it, we learned the power of using our collective energy for good—particularly when helping those in need. Our volunteer work with the Tennessee Addiction Awareness Association further deepened our commitment to service, reminding us of the importance of addressing critical issues like addiction in our community.

Our growth in numbers also played a pivotal role in strengthening our brotherhood. Since our founding, we have consistently attracted strong, values-driven men. From our recruiting classes, we have doubled our original size, and with each new brother, our bond has deepened. The diversity and strength of our membership allowed us to grow in new and exciting directions.

Perhaps one of the most meaningful parts of our journey has been the relationship we've built with our alumni. Homecoming events provided invaluable opportunities to engage with alumni, reflect on our shared history, and honor the traditions of Phi Kappa Psi. These events also allowed us to tap into the wisdom and support of our alumni network, which continues to guide

us as we move forward. Homecoming weekends became more than just celebrations; they were a chance to strengthen ties with brothers across generations, ensuring that we remained connected to the legacy of Phi Kappa Psi.

Our journey has not been without its challenges. We faced moments when internal friction threatened our progress, or decisions did not reflect our highest ideals. But instead of letting these setbacks define us, we learned from them. Through open dialogue, accountability, and a commitment to self-improvement, we learned to become better. The process of self-reflection and growth became a cornerstone of our brotherhood. By learning from our shortcomings, we became more unified, with a deeper sense of integrity and responsibility.

As we officially became a charter on November 2, 2024, it was clear that our journey had done more than increase our numbers or give us a title. We had built something meaningful, rooted in service, integrity, and respect for one another. We had become not just a fraternity, but a true brotherhood. This journey has shown us the power of unity, the importance of philanthropy, and the strength that comes from perseverance. The path to becoming a charter was long, but every step, every challenge, and every triumph along the way made it worthwhile.



Members and guests of Tennessee Delta Recarhrtering Ceremony seated at dinner tables.

NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Jack Sturman '24

Vice President

Gus Collins '24

Treasurer

Todd McPherson '24

Corresponding Secretary

Chris Decamillo '24

Recording Secretary

Oliver Orr '24

Historian

Finn O'NBrien '24

Messenger

Cameron Worn '24

Sergeant at Arms

Taylor Cho '24

Chaplain

Payne Daniel '24



Newly initiated members of Tennessee Delta posing with the official charter in front of the chapter house.

HOUSE CORPORATION

President

Rob Ayerst, Jr. '78

Vice President

Byron Cain, Jr. '70

Secretary-Treasurer

John Dredge '70

Ross Rainwater '65

John Schwenker '67

Edward Shelswell-White '82

Robert "Greg" Benjamin '84

2024 RECHARTERING CEREMONY PHOTO GALLERY



If you were unable to attend the event scan or visit vandyphipsi.org/photos to view more photos of the event!

MEMBERS OF RECHARTERING

Neil Badlani
Loveland, OH

Joshua Bass
McLean, VA

Jack Bijur
San Francisco, CA

Ignacio Bru
Miami, FL

Nick Burns
New Canaan, CT

Graham Calton
Charlotte, NC

Hayden Cate
Nashville, TN

Kyle Chambers
Cypress, TX

Eron Chen
Atherton, CA

Taylor Cho
Gaithersburg, MD

Thomas Cleary
Nashville, TN

Gus Collins
Winnetka, IL

Caden Cyr
Sprint, TX

Payne Daniel
Nashville, TN

Christopher DeCamillo
Brentwood, TN

Gavin Diaz
Boalsburg, PA

Max Fisher
Nashville, TN

Michael Fisher
Nashville, TN

Chris Fonseca
Miami, FL

John Gorman
Darien, CT

Michael Griff
Purchase, NY

Campbell Grimes
Annapolis, MD

Kevin Grunzweig
Solon, OH

Jackson Heis
Dallas, TX

Aedan Hopper
Somers, NY

Brendan Jennings
Newport Beach, CA

Miles Keeffe
Novato, CA

Charles Knoll
Atherton, CA

Devan Kodali
New York, NY

Lennard Lopez Leiste
Mexico City, Mexico

Samir Mansouri
Scarsdale, NY

Todd McPherson
Dallas, TX

Alejandro Merritt
San Francisco,

Coleson Messer
Dallas, TX

Mike Miah
CA Hanoi, Vietnam

Drew Navarro
Miami, FL

Finn O'Brien
Menlo Park, CA

Oliver Orr
Lake Forest, IL

Brett Pettit
Austin, TX

Russell Petty
Nashville, TN

Kevin Phan
Madison, GA

Nick Roddy
Greenwich, CT

Preston Rutledge
Chicago, IL

Jack Salvo
Voorhees, NJ

Patrick Schwartz
Boca Raton, FL

Benjamin Shelton
Atlanta, GA

Brennan Storer
Dallas, TX

Jack Sturman
Indianapolis, IN

Ryan Taylor
Washington, DC

Brock Taylor
Knoxville, TN

Hunter Wanamaker
Atlanta, GA

Conor Weasler
Kentfield, CA

Landon Wells
Brentwood, TN

Cameron Woan
Chicago, IL

Jake Yuskevich
Doylestown, PA

Henry Zhu
Yiwu, Zhejiang, China

NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Mark Reuss *Vanderbilt '83*

Mark Reuss is a mechanical engineer who began his GM career as a student intern in 1983. With nearly four decades of experience within the automotive industry, he has served GM in numerous capacities and now, as President of General Motors, leads the company in their vision of an all-electric future through its innovative technologies, products and initiatives.

Born and raised in Metro Detroit, Mark continues to call the area home. He is deeply committed to revitalizing the city via education, community, and philanthropy. He is a member of the Board of Trustees for several organizations including Cranbrook Schools, Horizons Upward Bound, Detroit Workforce Development, the Detroit Education Coalition and the CEO Leadership Group on Regional Economic Development. He has committed himself to supporting and encouraging the education of the next generation of engineers and leaders. Visit <https://qrco.de/nla24> to learn more about how Mark achieved the National Leadership Award at the 81st Grand Arch Council (GAC).

CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROGRAM

Financial Impact for Tennessee Deltans

The Phi Kappa Psi Foundation is proud to operate one of the most prestigious and recognized award programs in the Interfraternal world, the Chapter Scholarship Fund Program. By granting monies from these funds, the Foundation regularly awards Phi Psis who excel in academics, chapter leadership, and campus involvement. These awards continue to underscore the Foundation's belief that success within the Fraternity and life often reaches beyond the classroom.

Tennessee Delta's Chapter Scholarship and Grants programs have the capacity to have a tremendous impact on the lives of our brothers. The House Corporation approved at its November meeting a plan to award \$50,000 in chapter awards, graduate preparation assistance, need-based grants, and programming assistance. The chapter awards program includes awards to the brothers with a 4.0 GPA. Of the 33 new brothers, 17 received the 4.0 award this semester, including Brendan Jennings and Kyle Chambers.

Tennessee Delta also provides academic awards and assistance to brothers seeking to continue their studies. This funding may cover scholarships for graduate or professional school, including costs for required entrance exams. Samir Mansouri is the first recipient to receive funding for the MCAT exam, necessary for medical school admission.

Continue reading on the next page to hear from three recipients in their own words as they express their appreciation for the Chapter Scholarship program and illustrate how important these awards are in students' lives.

Members Who Achieved a 4.0 GPA

Joshua Bass

Jack Bijur

Kyle Chambers

Angus Collins

Caden Cyr

Matthew Daniel

John Gorman

Campbell Grimes

Kevin Grunzweig

Jackson Heis

Brendan Jennings

Coleson Messer

Oliver Orr

Russell Petty

John Salvo

Hunter Wanamaker

Landon Wells

NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Scholarship Recipients Say Thank You



Hi, my name is Brendan Jennings; I'm a brother of the Phi Kappa Psi Tennessee Delta Chapter at Vanderbilt. I want to thank you so much for the opportunity to join the brotherhood and receive scholarships like the H. Fort Flowers Leadership Excellence Award for a 4.0 GPA. Phi Kappa Psi has meant so much to me and its inherent brotherhood. It has gotten me so much closer with so many of my friends on a social and emotional level, and I feel like it has done a lot for my character development as I move out of my house and become an independent adult. Phi Kappa Psi has done a lot to teach me many essential life skills, and I find those invaluable.

A little about me: I am a junior at Vanderbilt studying applied math, computer science, and business. I am heavily involved on campus in several organizations, most importantly Phi Kappa Psi and a business Greek organization called Phi Chi Theta, of which I am a founding member and President. I am also involved in the club volleyball team.

I really appreciate this award of \$500, which will go a long way for me as I study abroad next semester in Madrid, Spain, at an engineering school. The award will help me with the cost of flights and exploring Europe to gain worldly experiences. I am super appreciative.

Thank you so much.



Hello, fellow brothers, alumni, and friends of Phi Kappa Psi. My name is Kyle Chambers, I am from Cypress, Texas, and I am part of the Tennessee Delta Chapter at Vanderbilt University. I think the day I knew I really wanted to become a Phi Kappa Psi, which was probably one of the most important days of my life and one of the best decisions I ever made; I was with fellow members of my pledge class and current members out bowling. It was a great time, and ever since then, it has been a blast.

Phi Kappa Psi has instilled morals, lessons and great times with me that are going to last a lifetime, and I can't be thankful enough for that. I will use this award to get home for Christmas break to see my friends and family, for which I am extremely thankful. I want to give a huge thank you to everyone involved, and I hope that I continue to do well to receive the award again.

Thank you all very much.



Hi, Phi Psi alumni, scholarship committees, and all the generous donors. My name is Samir Mansouri, and I am the former Vice President of the Tennessee Delta Chapter at Vanderbilt University. I am majoring in neuroscience and on the pre-med track. Thank you profusely for your generous contribution, which will allow me to take the MCAT exam in April.

When I entered college, I was not interested in joining a fraternity; however, when I learned about the TN Delta colony and the national Phi Psi organization, the Phi Psi mission, and what Phi Psi stands for and what it values, I was inspired to learn more about the organization and later to join the organization. When I met the founding members of the colony, I was inspired not only to join the organization but to leave a positive impact. The rechartering of Tennessee Delta is the most significant accomplishment of my vice presidency, and something I will always remember and cherish. It was an incredible moment.

I deeply appreciate all of you for assisting me to follow my dreams of going to medical school. This award is tremendous because it allows me to take the MCAT exam without worrying about financial obligations. Still, it also helps me set my timeline and schedule for studying, assembling materials, and preparing for the test. Being a recipient of an award like this inspires me because I want to give back to my community, similar to what you have done for me. I hope I can one day pay for another student's MCAT exam.

Thank you so much for your generosity. I hope to meet you all in the future. Amici.

NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

If you are looking for another way to continue to support Tennessee Delta without spending anything today, you can include a legacy gift in your will. To thank you for your generous support, we have partnered with FreeWill, a free online resource that guides you through creating an estate plan in as little as 20 minutes.



Scan the QR code or visit freewill.com/pkpfoundation to start your will today.

F R E E W I L L 



WHAT IS THE TENNESSEE DELTA H. FORT FLOWERS EDUCATIONAL & LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE FUND?

The Flowers Fund is an endowed chapter-specific fund that allows alumni and families to make tax-deductible donations to the Foundation, while ensuring the gift is used to benefit our specific chapter in the most flexible ways allowed by law.

Dollars from this fund will allow alumni volunteers, who regularly work side-by-side with the undergraduate chapter, to identify the chapter's immediate needs within the areas of academic or need-based scholarships, character and leadership development training, and chapter house operating expenses. The current assets value of the fund is \$3,897,162 and annually it can grant 4.5% of the principal balance.

For more information, or to make a gift through the Tennessee Delta H. Fort Flowers Educational & Leadership Excellence Fund, please scan the QR code to the right.



IN 2024, \$13,845 HELPED ACCOMPLISH

- Assisted the 53 colony members in recharting Tennessee Delta at Vanderbilt's campus.
- \$13,845 in scholarships awarded to 17 members with a 4.0 GPA in spring 2024, including 3 VU football players.
- Paid for the alumni communication plan, covering the newsletter, website, and event invitations.
- Covered a portion of a National PKP employee's salary to support 53 colony members living on campus.

NET ASSETS: \$3,897,162

Please invest in Tennessee Delta H. Fort Flowers Educational & Leadership Excellence Fund.

STAY CONNECTED

Chapter Website
vandyphipsi.org

Chapter Facebook
Phi Kappa Psi - TN Delta - Alumni

Chapter Instagram
[@phipsivandy](https://www.instagram.com/phipsivandy)

Chapter Twitter
[@phipsivandy](https://twitter.com/phipsivandy)

National Website
phikappapsi.com

Update Your Information

Make sure you stay up-to-date on what is happening at the Chapter and within the organization. Complete the form on the back of this newsletter, place it in a stamped envelope and mail it to the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation. You can also use the link at the bottom of the form to submit your information electronically.

Support TN Delta's Future

Gifts to the TN Delta Chapter Flowers Fund can be made by check, credit card and/or appreciated securities. These gifts are 100% tax deductible through the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation.

You can give online using a credit card at pkpfoundation.org/support-tn-delta



or by mailing a check to:

Phi Kappa Psi Foundation
5395 Emerson Way
Indianapolis, IN 46226

Checks should be made payable to the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation and note TN Delta Chapter Leadership Fund on the memo line.



PHI KAPPA PSI

TENNESSEE DELTA

5395 Emerson Way
Indianapolis, IN 46226

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE!

Place this form in a stamped envelope and send to:

Phi Kappa Psi Foundation

5395 Emerson Way
Indianapolis, IN 46226-1415

Name _____

Initiate Year _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (W) _____

Email _____

Save a stamp and update your information online at
portal.phikappapsi.com

Save the Date Founders Day!

You and a guest are cordially invited to join us for a
Founders Day celebration with Tennessee Delta.

SAT. MARCH 1, 2025

12 NOON

Holiday Inn — Vanderbilt

ADDITIONAL INFO

The 2025 Founder's Day speaker is Todd Salen *Illinois '77*,
a distinguished alum and long-time Chapter Advisor at
Illinois Delta (U of Illinois).

