

THE DELTAN

A publication of the Tennessee Delta Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi at Vanderbilt University | Summer 2025

MORE THAN A KICKER

Brock Taylor '24



How has being in Phi Psi shaped your college experience so far?

Being a Phi Psi has truly given me two of the best years of not only college but also my life. As I said earlier, I had no intentions of rushing a fraternity when I arrived at Vandy, but I thank myself every day for deciding to do so. Being a Phi Psi has brought me so many great friendships outside of athletics, which I feel has allowed me to enjoy what most would call "the college experience." Being an athlete, I knew my college experience was going to be different than most. However, Phi Psi has brought a new dynamic to my life that not only brings me so much happiness as a student athlete but also helps me in all of my athletic ventures here at Vanderbilt.



Brock with some other football players (some Phi Psi and some not) after winning the KD dodgeball tournament for charity this past spring.

What made you want to join Phi Psi?

I wanted to join Phi Psi because of the brotherhood and the good times I had heard accompanied it. Being a freshman is a scary yet exciting time of transition. When I first arrived on campus in the summer of 2023, I had no intention of rushing a fraternity. This quickly changed as I began to spend time with other Phi Psis who were also student athletes. They informed me that joining the brotherhood was one of the best decisions they had made since arriving at Vanderbilt. Fast forward two years, and I can confidently say the same.

What role have you taken in the chapter, and what have you learned?

Since joining the chapter, I have taken the role of Scholarships Chair. This role is something I've deeply enjoyed because I've been exposed to so many things I would have never known were happening in the Fraternity. Seeing all the opportunities that Phi Psi offers to our brothers, not just in financial aid, but in all things needed, has been so cool to see.

What has been your favorite Phi Psi memory so far?

My favorite Phi Psi memory so far is the time I spent with my pledge class during the new member education portion of initiation. At Vanderbilt, all potential new members spend the fall semester getting to know each other and building relationships with the brothers in each fraternity. As a football player, being in season during the fall, I spent most weekends traveling or in a hotel room, unable to attend many of these relationship-building events. This ultimately resulted in a weaker bond with most of my pledge class compared to the other guys. I was able to strengthen these bonds and make up for the missed time during the new member education process, which is something I will always be grateful for.

Who in the chapter has made the biggest impact on you and why?

For this question, I am going to name two individuals. **Oliver Orr '24** and **Andrew Navarro '24** are two students with whom I had no relationship with until we began new member education together. I knew that they were both good guys, but I never knew just how close we would be until we started hanging out in the spring of our freshman year. They have both been such good friends to me and have taught me so much as an individual, without me even knowing. Growing in humility, confidence, and curiosity from two guys that you also enjoy so much as friends has been such an exciting experience, and these are two relationships that I plan to foster for the rest of my life.



Brock with Drew Navarro and Oliver Orr on Spring Break in Tamrock, Idaho.

NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

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Vice President

Gus Collins '24

Treasurer

Todd McPherson '24

Corresponding Secretary

Chris Decamillo '24

Historian

Finn O'NBrien '24

Messenger

Cameron Woan '24

Sergeant at Arms

Taylor Cho '24

Chaplain

Payne Daniel '24

HOUSE CORPORATION

President

Rob Ayerst, Jr. '78

Vice President

Byron Cain, Jr. '70

Secretary-Treasurer

John Dredge '70

Chapter Advisor

Robert "Greg" Benjamin '84

HC Members

Ross Rainwater '65

William Nichols '13

Edward Shelswell-White '82

VIEW BROCK TAYLOR'S SPORTS PROFILE



Explore Brock Taylor's player profile, at q-r.to/vucommodes-roster-brock-taylor follow his journey as a Vanderbilt Commodore!

How do you stay involved on campus outside of the Fraternity, particularly regarding your football experience?



Brock kicking a field goal at the Vanderbilt and Number 1 ranked Alabama game on October 5, 2024.

One of the many things I love about Vanderbilt is how much the university has to offer. Similar to Greek life, I was very skeptical about how much I could be involved, just due to football being somewhat of a full-time job as a student. I quickly realized I was mistaken, and all it takes is hard work and balance to get involved in many different things on campus. Outside of Phi Psi, I am involved in other organizations on campus, such as football, Alpha Kappa Psi Co-ed Business Fraternity, Vanderbilt Consulting Club, Reformed University Fellowship, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and others. That is kind of a mouthful to list, but it is something that I am very proud of. Being extremely involved on campus has allowed me to meet so many other students and faculty members, which has been nothing short of amazing in my first two years of undergrad.



Brock and a group of Phi Psi's at the Pi Phi formal in Spring 2025.

What does Brotherhood mean to you personally?

Brotherhood is extremely important to me. This word holds a deeper meaning because of all the experiences I've had as a student athlete throughout my life. I spend about 340 days a year with my teammates on the football team. Working, laughing, and suffering with over 100 guys who share the same mission really highlights the significance of brotherhood. The ups and downs I've faced through my sport are what come to mind when I hear the word brotherhood, and it makes me emotional, as it shows how much those guys mean to me.

How has being part of the Fraternity shaped you as a leader or student?

Joining a fraternity is much like being a freshman in college. You feel incredibly nervous and eager to make friends at first, but you soon realize that everyone else is in the same boat, trying to do the same things, which encourages you to break out of your shell and experience it together. Being in a fraternity has taught me how to spend time with people who love me for who I am, and to never feel ashamed of being myself. There is nothing superficial in the bonds of our Fraternity, which is something I cherish, and it deepens my care for all the guys around me. Overcoming the challenge of being yourself around new people is quite difficult, but it is a quality that has shaped me into the student and leader I strive to be today.

What do you hope alumni know about the current chapter experience?

I want every alumnus to know just how much the Fraternity is thriving. I hope to look back as an alumnus and see many students enjoying their time at Phi Psi just as much as I have so far. Knowing that Phi Psi is on a great trajectory excites me, and I believe all alumni should share in the excitement of the brotherhood we are building as well.

What would you tell a freshman considering Greek life and Phi Psi in particular?

Take the step! Nothing about freshman year is necessarily easy but doing all the things you are going to do beside a group of young men that you love like family makes every single bit of it enjoyable!

NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI

CHAPTER DASHBOARD

Brotherhood by the Books

71**ACTIVE MEMBERS**

During the 2024-2025 academic year, Tennessee Delta had 71 Members (Average chapter size is 54 at Vanderbilt).

1208**LIVING ALUMNI**

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the chapter welcomed 6 new members in fall 2024 and 19 in spring 2025.

3.82**FALL '24 CHAPTER GPA**

As of Fall 2024, the new member class earned an impressive GPA of 3.805. The chapter achieved a GPA of 3.823, ranking Phi Kappa Psi as the #1 fraternity at Vanderbilt.

FUNDS & SCHOLARSHIPS



TENNESSEE DELTA H. FORT FLOWERS EDUCATIONAL & LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE FUND

Net Assets: \$3,939,917

Available Assets: \$132,995.83

TOTAL DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED

\$9845

TOTAL CHAPTER SCHOLARS

19 Members



CHAPTER ETERNAL

We mourn our brothers who have entered Chapter Eternal and extend heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

Stewart J. Bachmann '50

John D. Bradley '53

Steve J. Pepoy '54

James C. Hickey '56

Peter C. Booher '59

Robert E. Davis '60

Colley P. Webb '68

Stephen A. Wilgus '70

William W. Robinson '82

Michael P. Casey '89

NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI

2024 ALUMNI DONORS

This past year's giving contributes from **18 loyal donors**, totaling **\$3,557** in cash gifts to Tennessee Delta funds through the Foundation.

GIVING TOTALING \$1,000+

Marc Thompson Shafer '76

GIVING TOTALING \$500 TO \$999

San Orr *Friend of Phi Psi*

GIVING TOTALING \$250 TO \$499

Robert Irvin Ayerst Jr. '78

Larry E. Matthews '65

William Lee Webb '73

GIVING TOTALING \$1 TO \$249

Lawrence G. Brown '70

Morris L. Cranor '61

Vince DeCamillo *Friend of Phi Psi*

Henry M. Gaither III '60

Steven Linden Nelson '72

John S. Perry Jr. '64

Sam B. Upchurch '60

Arthur Williams IV '82

**CHAPTER ADVISOR OF THE YEAR**
Art Johnsen '62

In April of 2025, our very own Art Johnsen was named the Outstanding Chapter Advisor of the Year by Vanderbilt University.

This award is given to an advisor who regularly engages with the Vanderbilt chapter, assists the chapter in navigating difficult situations, and is involved with the international or national organization. Vanderbilt recognizes one such advisor for their exceptional leadership and steadfast commitment to their fraternity each year.

His nominators have described Art as resilient, supportive, loving, and welcoming. His leadership has been instrumental in successfully guiding the Fraternity through the rechartering process, despite many members initially being reluctant to persevere. However, they also noted that his role extends beyond that of an advisor; he is the vital link with headquarters, a diligent organizer of alumni events, and a mentor during challenging times.

His personal connection to the chapter is exemplified by numerous engagements, from regular chapter attendance to alumni functions and philanthropic events. His support was not only strategic but also personal, offering counsel and encouragement to members through individual interactions and critical moments of loss and grieving.

As we bid him farewell in his last year as an advisor, his legacy is imprinted on the Fraternity and the individuals he's impacted, making him an outstanding and deserving recipient of this award.



NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI

GREEK LIFE ACADEMIC AND MEMBERSHIP RANKINGS

Phi Kappa Psi continues to set the academic standard at Vanderbilt, earning the top GPA among all fraternities with a 3.823 for Fall 2024. This performance places the chapter not only first among IFC organizations but sixth across the entire Greek system, including both sororities and fraternities. The data highlights a clear pattern of excellence, with Phi Psi outpacing the All Fraternity, All IFC, and even All Men's GPA averages.

IFC FRATERNITIES (Active and New Members)	GPA	GPA RANK
Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity	3.823	1
Kappa Sigma Fraternity	3.818	2
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity	3.816	3
Sigma Nu Fraternity	3.807	4
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity	3.766	5

ALL GREEK ORGANIZATIONS (Active and New Members)	GPA	GPA RANK
Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority	3.860	1
Kappa Delta Sorority	3.856	2
Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority	3.855	3
Pi Beta Phi Fraternity	3.830	4
Delta Delta Delta	3.824	5
Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity	3.823	6

NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI

TENNESSEE DELTA'S FOUNDERS DAY RETURNS

Celebrating a New Beginning!



Group table picture of chapter members at the Rechartering Banquet for Tennessee Delta.

The newly re-chartered Tennessee Delta Chapter celebrated its first Founders Day on March 1, 2025, with a banquet at the Holiday Inn-Vanderbilt.

Todd Salen Illinois '77, flew in to share his thoughts on the Phi Psi experience at both the chapter and national levels. Todd, whose Phi Psi resumé includes a wide range of national directorships, has served for decades as the Advisor at Illinois Delta.

In these roles, he has earned national recognition as one of the most popular mentors. Advisors and undergraduates around the country look up to his leadership and selfless service. His popularity has led to him being hired by other fraternities in Illinois as their advisor.

In addition to his full-time work with the Fraternity, he maintains a real estate brokerage practice. Todd has overcome several types of cancer, which has given him a profound understanding of the most valuable aspects of life. Those in attendance appreciated his words of experienced wisdom.

The day after Founders Day, Todd spent the afternoon with the chapter leaders discussing different aspects of Greek life.

With a fully re-chartered chapter, the move to host next year's Founders Day back at the House is being considered. Please look for the "save the date" for 2026.



Brother John Murray '71 addresses attendees during the program.



Todd Salen Illinois '77 imparting wisdom to the chapter over his Phi Psi experience.



A toast between chapter brothers at the banquet dinner for the re-chartering of Tennessee Delta Chapter.

NEWS FROM VANDY PHI PSI



A timeless cornerstone: The original Phi Kappa Psi stone from Vanderbilt's first chapter house, now proudly displayed at the current home since 1963.

PRESERVING TENNESSEE DELTA

One Piece of History at a Time

Why is a fraternity chapter's history important? Who cares what a bunch of college boys or young men did back then? It seems to be age-appropriate for active brothers to think that the chapter started when they joined and evaporated when they left.

Several compelling reasons exist. As an overarching concept, fraternities strive to provide a lifetime experience rather than just a collegiate one. We emphasize brotherhood for a lifetime, not only during our university years. One strong way to achieve this is by collecting and preserving materials that reflect a chapter's history throughout its existence, while ensuring their accessibility to active members.

As alumni, we need to emphasize to our collegiate members that our involvement stems from the belief that fraternity brotherhood is a lifelong experience, benefit, and calling to which we should all adhere. What better way to convey this than through histories, photographs, objects, and memorabilia from times before the current brothers arrived? Of course, another way to reinforce this message is through our presence and support.

It is also a very significant tool for keeping alumni connected to one another as well as to the chapter.

So, the Board is thrilled to announce a collaborative relationship with a company that has a comprehensive set of services that enable our organization to transform archival materials, from whatever state they are in, into a 21st-century digital space.

Start clearing out those closets and donating your old composites, photos, jerseys, paddles, memorabilia, and even cherished stories from your time as an undergraduate at Vanderbilt. We can scan and copy most of your items if you wish to keep them for yourself.

Details of the plan, including collaboration arrangements, ways to share materials, and a timeline, will be announced in the next Deltan.

Byron Cain '70

Vice President

TN Delta House Corporation

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.phikapppsi.com

Save the Date **HOMECOMING!**

You and a guest are warmly invited to join Tennessee Delta for our Homecoming Weekend, filled with Vanderbilt traditions!

FRI. NOVEMBER 7, 2025

TN Delta Open House | **2 - 5 PM**

VANDERBILT CHAPTER HOUSE

2400 E Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37212

This year's Homecoming game brings the excitement as the Vanderbilt Commodores take on the Auburn Tigers at FirstBank Stadium.



For more details scan the QR code or visit q-r.to/tnd-hoco-25.

