



# Monthly Newsletter

August 2017

## A New Agreement Between the Fraternity and the Society has been Signed!

"This is a transformational moment in the history of the Alpha Delta Phi Society." - President Kristen Soule, Brunonian 1999

### Good News, Everyone!

We are thrilled to report breaking news from this year's Fraternity Convention in Minneapolis, MN - **a new agreement between the Fraternity and the Society** has been ratified and signed, replacing the 1992 Fraternity-Society Agreement. This is a monumental step forward in relations between the two organizations, with updates that simplify our interactions and treat both of us as equally respected parties.



The most impactful and exciting change is that **there are no longer any geographic restrictions** on where we may use the name "Alpha Delta Phi Society." This allows us to use our identity at all of our chapters and affiliates! Further, the complicated set of rules that had governed our expansion efforts has been reduced to a concise, logical standard.

This is a transformational moment in the history of the Alpha Delta Phi Society. From the Brown Compromise in 1973 which allowed women to be initiated as "local members" through the many negotiations of this agreement, there has been a long and varied history of an imbalance of power between the Fraternity and Society. This agreement establishes a new foundation where both organizations can share our common roots and history, traditions and goals, and move forward in a relationship of cooperation and respect.

**We finally have the parity, respect, and recognition we deserve, and it is up to us now to continue to thrive and grow. And we can only achieve that with the support of Alpha Deltas like you.**

In honor of this momentous occasion, [please consider making a gift to the Alpha Delta Phi Society.](#) Your support will make an impact to our undergraduate members in providing them expanded leadership and educational opportunities as well as the resources to expand the Society to other colleges and universities.

**An anonymous Alpha Delt has pledged to match all donations up to \$10,000! [Donate now to double your impact!](#)**

### Why This Matters to Us

“This new agreement is amazing for the Society. As someone who graduated under the name Adelphi Society, I am glad that future siblings will not have to struggle with the identity crisis that many of my Capital siblings and I did. I am incredibly grateful for all of the work that went into this from all sides and am proud to be a sibling of the Alpha Delta Phi Society.” - **Alina Brewer, Capital 2015.5**

“At GW our name had always been the Adelphi Society - we weren’t allowed call ourselves the Alpha Delta Phi Society. Even after we temporarily received the right to use our letters, there was always a sense of caution - there was never a sense of permanence. When I heard the new agreement had been ratified, I felt a sense of jubilation at the newfound permanence of our letters and an overwhelming sense of pride in the progress we had achieved.” - **Nora Hennessey, Capital 2019**

“I am so excited about the new agreement, not only for the Ursinian Affiliate’s right to permanently use our name, but for the future of the Society. I can’t wait see how both the Society and Fraternity will grow as a result of this new agreement.” - **Bre Tyrell, Ursinian 2017**

“I was in line at the grocery store when Mike called me with the good news. Soon I was jumping up and down and getting odd looks. When I initiated into the Phi three years ago, we weren’t able to use the name Alpha Delta Phi Society. In 2015, when our request for a name use waiver was rejected by the Fraternity, I was devastated. As the then-president of the Capital Affiliate, I had to send the email to the chapter with the bad news. It was one of the hardest emails I have ever had to send. The feeling I had last week was the polar opposite. I was elated and just so happy that it was done. Future Alpha Deltas will learn this history, but will not understand the deep emotions and whiplash we felt in the past few years. No other chapter will have to deal with the pains of not having full rights to the name, of struggling to explain *what* the Phi is without really being able to say ‘Phi’ and *who* we are and *what* we stand for – and for that, I am forever grateful.” - **Kylie Madden, Capital 2017**

“It’s wonderful to see the Society and the Fraternity work together on this. For all of us to work toward a common goal is the perfect reminder that we are all siblings.” - **Sam Straughn, Ursinian 2017**

“The first time I attended a meeting of what would eventually become the Alpha Delta Phi Society was in February of 1990, at a ‘Co-Ed Caucus’ of the five coeducational chapters. We spent a cold Maine weekend at the Bowdoin Chapter dissecting and revising one in a long line of proposals that eventually became the Separation Agreement of 1992. I also attended the Convention in 1992, hosted by the Minnesota Chapter, that saw the agreement's ratification. At that Convention, I think we all had a sense of relief that we were putting a period of enmity behind us, and in doing so, both organizations would be able to grow. For at least a decade, that by and large seemed to be the case. It's interesting to me to observe the echoes of history in this new agreement, in that the Fraternity and Society were both expending a lot of energy around a few areas of disagreement, that our organizations' leaders managed to negotiate a common ground, and that the Minnesota Chapter of the Fraternity once again served as host to the Convention that saw the new agreement's final ratification. Twenty-five years later, I have the same hope I had in 1992 that this new agreement will usher in a period of more harmonious relations between the Society and the Fraternity, and especially that the Society's growth will be facilitated by the ability to use the Alpha Delta Phi Society name without the geographic restrictions that have caused difficulties in the past. My congratulations and thanks to President Kristen Soule for her leadership in finalizing this new agreement, to past Presidents Chad Wolfsheimer and Craig Cheslog, who laid the groundwork, and to everyone involved with getting this agreement finalized.” - **Tim Smith, Brunonian 1993**

“The original agreement was the culmination of 20 years of strife between the co-ed and all-male Chapters. Way back in 1992, the co-ed Chapters were not able to negotiate a separation from a position of strength. The best we could hope for at the time was to retain continued use of the name and rituals, which we achieved for the most part but subject to all sorts of burdensome restrictions. The new agreement is much fairer for both parties. I’m pleased that the current leadership of both the Society and the Fraternity have been able to set aside historical differences and put both organizations on a brighter path for the future.” - **Chas Gross, Brunonian 1972**

## Mark Fung, MID 1989, Finally Gets His Due

It's been almost 30 years since Middletown alum Mark Fung won third place for a poem he submitted to the Fraternity's Literary Competition. Well, almost.

In the late 1980s, Middletown members submitted entries to the competition from male and female members. But instead of using their real names, women were using fake male names to get their work to the judges.

It wasn't until a story about the chapter landed on the front page of *The Hartford Courant*, a local newspaper in Connecticut that the Fraternity and chapter alumni learned what they were doing, prompting them to disqualify all of the members who won prizes in different categories.

For Mark, it was frustrating, as he was torn between wanting to support his female siblings and receiving his prize for the poem he wrote.

But 29 years later, he finally received closure to the decades long loss.

In 2016, he submitted his poem "[Pantun](#)" to SELEF's newly formed [Alumni Literary Competition](#), winning second place and \$100, which he donated to the Friends of Brownell Library, to support a local branch in Vermont.

### Additional Fraternity-Society Agreement Details

The agreement further provides that both parties shall make conscious and reasonable efforts to distinguish ourselves in publications, including the use of disclaimers that explain who we are. Both parties retain equal rights and access to the intellectual property associated with our history and traditions. We also succeeded in modernizing the rules governing communications between our two organizations; removing outdated requirements like the use of certified mail, and adding sensible provisions such as the appointment of an official Liaison from each organization. We encourage you to read the 2017 Fraternity-Society Agreement for yourself, which can be found on [this page](#).

### Help us continue to thrive!

Your donations enable the founding of new chapters, encourage inter-collegiate friendships, and reinforce our life-long commitment to education beyond the classroom. [Please give generously to help fund the educational, literary, and leadership endeavors of generations of Alpha Delts.](#)

### Corrections? Questions? Comments? Praise?

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*The Alpha Delta Phi Society, formed by a group of chapters that withdrew from the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity in 1992, is an independent and legally separate gender-inclusive organization not affiliated with the Fraternity.*