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Alpha Omicron Delta  
Washington and Lee University

***“We are a fraternity of gentlemen in pursuit of excellence.”***

Chi Psi Fraternity is the eight oldest Greek Letter Society in the United States, having been founded at Union College in 1841. Chi Psi is a leader among fraternities and can boast of being the first fraternity to adopt many practices now common to all Greek societies, including the first to be founded upon the fraternal and social principles to build a Brotherhood, rather than upon literary debate, and the first fraternity to use a Lodge for fraternal activities.

Alpha Omicron Delta was established at Washington and Lee University in 1977 as part of an expansion drive to prestigious colleges and universities which were friendly to the ideals of fraternity life. Shortly after the Alpha’s founding, many of the Fraternity’s alumni luminaries felt the Alpha should have a place of

prominence at the University. This culminated in the purchase of the Lodge at 5 Lee Avenue in 1978. Built in 1909-1910, the building was formerly the home of the Ann Smith Academy, but had been abandoned since 1965 and was in disrepair. However, with a stately presence designed by architect Charles M. Robinson, and prominently situated in a premier location on the Washington and Lee campus, the building seemed the perfect fit for Chi Psi

Washington and Lee acquired the Lodge for the Fraternity through the donations of Chi Psi alumni from other Alphas, including Oliver Rowe (UNC), Edmund Lynch (Yale), Samuel Johnson (Cornell), and Harry Frueauff (Cornell). These men saw a dilapidated but foundationally strong schoolhouse and brought a vision of what our home could be. The generous contributions of these men, and the assistance of Washington & Lee, ensured the Lodge became the Alpha's home (and now recognized as a Virginia Historic Structure). They even crafted an ingenious lease which protects our Alpha's home throughout most of this century.

Locally in Lexington, Washington and Lee faculty members and Chi Psis Dr. George Ray III and Law School Dean Rick Kirgis provided early guidance and counsel to help grow the young Alpha. Dr. Ray remained our faculty advisor well beyond his retirement from the faculty and his son, George Ray IV, a Chi Psi from Wesleyan University, has been an enduring local presence as well.

As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Omicron Delta, we have an opportunity to ensure that our Brotherhood and Lodge retain its current position of prominence. Through our assistance the Brotherhood will continue to prosper and provide a sheltering home for future generations of Chi Psi Brothers and leaders. It is our time to emulate the leadership exhibited by those Chi Psi alumni who facilitated the establishment of our Alpha almost fifty years ago *and* pay it forward to our future Brothers.

## The Alpha

In our short 46 years, Omicron Delta has already enjoyed a rich history, with generations of Brothers finding 5 Lee Avenue as their home away from home. Today, our Alpha numbers 79 active members and 519 alumni. Since our founding, Chi Psi Brothers have been well represented in leadership roles across campus. Over the past five years, three Brothers have served as president of the W&L Executive Council of the student body. Chi Psis have served on IFC annually,

and Brothers have been in leadership roles of the Williams School Society for each of the past five years. The Brothers are also accomplished scholars, winning athletes, and active local volunteers, having volunteered with Students against Rockbridge Area Hunger since its inception. The Brothers approach Fraternity recruitment strategically each year, which has resulted in over a decade of excellent new member classes. The Alpha has been named chapter of the year multiple times and perennially, boasts high academic achievement, and consistently fulfills operational and financial expectations and requirements of W&L and Chi Psi. Alpha Omicron Delta has been the top Alpha in Chi Psi over the last decade in maintaining a membership at its ideal size.

While initially adopted by alumni from around the United States because we did not have alumni of our own, Omicron Delta alumni have become steadfast supporters of the Alpha and for all of Chi Psi. Locally, Omicron Delta alumni have been involved in important roles on the Alumni Corporation Board, as leaders of Alpha Management Retreats and facilitators for the Program for Self-Development, as representatives to the Washington & Lee Alumni Greek Council, as recruitment volunteers, construction and engineering advisors. Nationally, members have become Chi Psi leaders on the Chi Psi Executive Council and The Chi Psi Educational Trust. Omicron Delta has been particularly blessed with the long-term, steady and effective leadership of Brother Andrew Dewing, whose efforts are significantly responsible for the Alpha's current strength, the redevelopment of the Lodge, and the productive relationship with the Washington and Lee Business Office, which has supported us through the recent projects.

As we look ahead to celebrating 50 years at Washington and Lee in 2027, we want to ensure that the next generation of Brothers enjoys our Lodge, the friendships cultivated, and the leadership-building Chi Psi experience just as much as we did during our time in Lexington.

## The Need

The Omicron Delta Lodge has been updated and renovated through the years, including a major renovation completed between 2018 to 2020, funded by multi-million dollar loan from the University and capital generated from a fully leased Lodge. This project included the following upgrades and renovations:

- Structural improvements and corrections
- Mechanical, electrical and plumbing improvements
- Addition of up-to-date safety features to meet current building code
- Improved and expanded exterior spaces including a new front terrace, expanded basement level patio, and outdoor hardscapes adjacent to the new kitchen and dining room.
- Modernized kitchen and dining room – relocated from the basement to the first floor.
- Improved interior and public spaces, including an upgraded central hallway, expanded bathrooms on first floor and basement level, and all new bathrooms and laundry facilities on the sleeping level.
- Game room and TV lounge reimagined and relocated to basement.
- Added a second study area in the basement that is outfitted with tables and study carrels.

Today, the alumni corporation is considering a fundraising effort of approximately \$3 million, with two primary goals:

- Completing Phase 2 of the remodeling project, including the addition of an elevator to bring the Lodge into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, replacing the main floor and basement windows (which are still original) and adding air conditioning at an approximate cost of \$500,000.
- Eliminating our debt obligations and burning our mortgage by our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027. Omicron Delta will host the 186<sup>th</sup> Chi Psi Convention in July 2027, and we can think of no finer activity than burning the mortgage on that occasion!

The Lodge has been our home for 44 years and has meant so much to so many of us. Brother Dewing's inspired leadership has led us to our current success, and the current generation of active Brothers are achieving at the highest level. All Omicron Delta Brothers are the direct beneficiaries of the generosity and thoughtful leadership of those who have come before us. Today we ask you to please join us in the effort to complete the execution of Brother Andrew Dewing's long discussed strategic plan for the Lodge. We hope you will join us to assist in supporting the future of our bonds of Brotherhood so that Omicron Delta will continue the next 50 years within the sheltering walls of our Lodge.