

## VOLUNTEERS

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## LOST BROTHERS



Chi has 58 alumni brothers with no mailing address on record who are not receiving copies of *The Chi Delt* like this one. Please visit [www.chidelts.com](http://www.chidelts.com) and check our list of lost brothers under "Alumni Corner" > "Lost Lists." If you find a brother you know, email his contact information to us at [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com). Help us stay connected.

# THE CHI DELT

Chi Chapter • Delta Tau Delta Fraternity • Kenyon College • October 2022

[www.chidelts.com](http://www.chidelts.com)

## JACK CERCHIARA '06

### DTD, penguins and the ethos of woodworking

How do you prepare for a career in making fine furniture? If you ask Jack Cerchiara '06, he will tell you that he got his start by studying penguins.

After graduating from Kenyon, Cerchiara went on to the University of Washington, getting his PhD in Biology. He did field work in Patagonia, hiking miles to track, weigh and measure penguins that ranged from newly hatched chicks to 35-year-old adult birds. By the time he'd finished his PhD in biology, he had completed nearly seven years of study and research on the DNA of Magellanic penguins. After that came fellowships with more study and research. To unwind, Cerchiara started to do woodworking.

He'd done woodworking in high school — his parents still have the first coffee table he put together — but now he applied his science ethos onto his craft. "I brought the same mindset to furniture making that guided me through academia," he said in [a recent essay that he wrote in Fine Woodworking Magazine](#). "First, never turn away from a problem, especially one for which you don't have an answer. Second, become a lifelong student of a craft — a true expert knows that the more they learn, the more they learn what they don't know. And thirdly, care. A lot. About your craft, about the details, about people, about the history and the future of what you do."

His passion turned from a hobby to a side hustle to his full time career. He started [Salish Sea Woodworks](#), a shop that creates heirloom-quality furniture with a commitment to environmental conservation. "If we are going to take a living natural resource from our environment, it is important to craft furniture that will last generations rather than be



Jack Cerchiara '06

photo: [salishseawoodworks.com](http://salishseawoodworks.com)

discarded. And we should try to honor this commitment by making something beautiful," he said.

"I know starting a woodworking shop sounds like a right turn from my academic training in science," he said, "but it's really not. It's problem solving and working with my hands. It has the same sense of fulfillment as science does. It was a huge change, and a huge challenge, and I really love

the work. I work a lot more hours doing what I do now, but I enjoy those hours more. This community of crafts people is wonderful."

Community, he says, has been one of the enduring themes of his life. When he joined DTD as a sophomore, it wasn't for the fraternity itself, it was for the people. "I was a student-athlete and it really wasn't on my radar. But I took a calculus class with several Deltas and we became friends. Joining DTD was a very organic thing to do from there."

"The most important thing was the people. I wanted to hang out with them. The more Deltas I met, the more I enjoyed spending time with them. I decided, OK, I want to be a part of this. To me, that's what fraternity means — a shared connection, shared experience."

He says that the most meaningful memories are also the most mundane. "It was the little things — coming home from class to watch movies or play video games, or late night trips to Hot Rods for a Pizza Sub. The big events were fun, but it was just spending time with folks that stuck with me."

Those friendships have stood the test of time, and Cerchiara said that he and a group of Deltas text and call weekly, and get together whenever schedules allow.

"DTD was huge for my personal development," he said. "I was very focused on

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## JACK CERCHIARA '06

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my classes and athletics, and I wasn't out of my comfort zone very much. Being in DTD helped me have a broader connection to more folks, grow as a communicator, social confidence and step outside my bubble. Joining DTD was really important to who I am today."

Today, as he applies what he learned at DTD and his career in science to his craft, he has advice for the next generation of Delts.

"Care about your impact. There is so much joy and enjoyment in doing that. A scientist once said to me, 'In order to make a difference, you need to focus on your impact on two things: the environment, and

people.' In my time learning and growing as a maker, I have received guidance, inspiration, and support in a community of passionate craftspeople. Find a few minutes and enjoy what you love, and share it with people around you."

As for combining his love of good craftsmanship and his love for the DTD community, he says that he'd love to get his furniture into more Delt homes. "I'm envisioning a great piece of furniture that's been loved for years and then goes with their kids into a Kenyon dorm room. If one of my pieces of furniture has that kind of life, I'll know I've done my job."

## JAKE THORN '14

### DTD played an integral role into making me who I am today

**Jake Thorn '14** ([jakea.thorn@gmail.com](mailto:jakea.thorn@gmail.com)) and his friends **Michael Marting '14** and **Pete Heck '14** rushed together in the spring of '11. "The three of us collectively decided to pledge Delt because we liked the brothers we met," he said. "It also did not hurt that the DTD shelter was recently remodeled and looked incredible."

He says that DTD stood out on campus for its well-rounded emphasis on academics, social life, community service, and career mentorship. "I remember, even as a pledge, getting outstanding advice — on all facets of life — from brothers 10, 20, and 30 years out of Kenyon. They were extremely welcoming, and I learned a lot from them."

He says that his favorite memories are of "Any gorgeous fall afternoon on "the porch" in front of DTD division in Leonard, belting 80's classics from the fireplace at



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**"I remember, even as a pledge, getting outstanding advice – on all facets of life – from brothers 10, 20, and 30 years out of Kenyon."**

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the shelter, and remembering **Michael Marting '14** decking the halls at the lodge for an epic Christmas formal.

He says that DTD has impacted his life long after his time at Kenyon. "When I arrived at Kenyon, I knew next to nothing about what I wanted to do after graduation. But, under the Byron Horn

Mentorship Program, I learned how to cultivate meaningful career relationships from **Jeff Moritz '86**, **Charles "Cully" Stimson '86**, **Don Gest '86**, my fellow actives, and many Chi alumni. Hint: it's very similar to being a good friend."

Since he graduated in 2014, he's worked in Washington, D.C., graduated



## Jake Thorn '14 *continued*

from law school, clerked for a trial court judge and served as an Assistant Attorney General at the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Today, he is an associate attorney at the Columbus office of Littler Mendelson. He and his wife Ingrid welcomed a daughter, Sofia in 2021. This May, they are adding a second child, a boy, to their family.

Thorn says that giving back to the chapter is very important to him. "Delta Tau Delta helped me forge my identity and played an integral role in making me the man I am today. I am now and remain grateful for that experience and that gratitude fuels my openness to mentor any actives who reach out with questions."

And if more brothers gave back? "More alumni making themselves available to actives means that actives can tap our experiences as resources to make sense of a turbulent time in a chaotic world. Access to alumni spread across various industries can do wonders for an active who doesn't know his path just yet or how to navigate it."

*Without Delta Tau Delta, I wouldn't have met some of my closest, lifelong friends. Nor would I have seen Dave Matthew's band live so many times.*



## NILES KEERAN '77

### Giving back is a way I find that to reconnect with fellow Delt brothers

**Niles William Keeran '77** ([nileskey@aol.com](mailto:nileskey@aol.com)) pledged to Delta Tau Delta because of the connections that it has across the country. "There are a lot of Delt Chapters all over the USA and every university from Chapter Chi at Kenyon College where I pledged to the University of Oklahoma and graduate schools had Delt chapters. Chapter Chi was us swimmers at Kenyon College who brought OAC and NCAC Championships to 34 NCAA TITLES."

In his experience, the people that he met during his time as a part of Delta Tau Delta were what set it apart on campus. Some of his favorite experiences were "the Delt Lodge, filling Middle Leonard Hall with more Delts than Independents, and knowing a bunch of good guys from All American swimmers like **Richard Ian James '74** and the best Chapter Advisor **Dr. Robert D. Burns, Ph.D.**"

Some of his best memories are the Dr. Burns Symposiums at the Delt Lodge, the social events at the Chi Delt Lodge, and living at the Delt Lodge with **Scott Muntean**. He appreciated "building character, interpersonal relationships, and the privilege to be a fellow Delt brother."

Keeran said that Delta Tau Delta has impacted his life long after

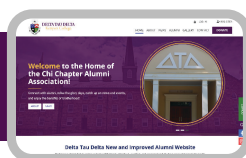
graduation. "Delta Tau Delta certainly builds a foundation with the Delt Creed, as the Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana does with its Honor Code," he said. "It was responsible for building character, interpersonal relationships, and showing me the privilege to be a fellow Delt brother."

Keeran believes in giving back to the organization that was such a foundational part of his life. "There are three ways to give back: money, interacting with fellow Chi Delt Alumni, and assisting with other Delt Chapters. I helped Arizona State University in Tempe to get resettlement and most recently I am a Nature Instructor at Culver Summer Schools in Culver, Indiana in the Woodcraft Camp. I'm giving back to Chapter Chi and Culver in two different ways."

In giving to Delta Tau Delta, Keeran discovered more than simply the opportunity to encourage the new generation. "I find that it's a way to reconnect with fellow Delt brothers that you have lost connection with since graduation, and a way to stimulate them to give back to Chapter Chi."

*Without Delta Tau Delta, I wouldn't have any initiative, drive, and gumption to do my best in anything I do or am involved in life.*

ON THE WEB



Lots more news online at [www.chidelts.com](http://www.chidelts.com)



# DELTA TAU DELTA Kenyon College

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## In this edition of The Chi Delt:

- Jack Cerchiara '06 – DTD, penguins and the ethos of woodworking
- Jake Thorn '14 – DTD's integral life role
- Niles Keeran '77 – Giving back

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## A LUNCH SHARED BY TWO CENTRAL OHIO LOYAL DELTS

Kenyon Delt alumni, **Jack Emens '83**, and OSU Delt alumni, **Tom Calhoon** recently got together to enjoy an afternoon together. As Tom describes it, they had a two-hour lunch that went way too fast -- "Just a delightful and amazing two hours shared by two Central Ohio Loyal Delts."

Jack Emens is a former President of Chi Chapter and DTD Chapter Consultant. Tom Calhoon is a Ohio State University alumni and former Northern Division President.

Jack lives in Marion, Ohio with his wife. Throughout his life, he has overcome the major obstacles of liver transfer and losing his right leg from the knee down. Despite the troubles, he is now playing golf and tennis!

Tom describes Jack as a "remarkable Delt from Upper Arlington, Ohio. A step son of former Ohio Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Thomas Moyer. Son of an attorney in Columbus, Richard Emens. Brother to a law professor at Yale. Grandson to a former President of Ball State University."



Jack Emens '83 and Tom Calhoon

## NEW LODGE FURNITURE

### The lodge just got an update!

We recently purchased a couch, love seat, chair and coffee table for the lodge. The total cost came to \$4,257. Check it out!

