

**Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity**  
**Board of Directors/President-Elect**  
**Declaration Form**

|                 |                       |             |                            |         |              |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Name:           | James (Jim) Johnston  | Chapter:    | Delta Xi                   |         |              |
| Address:        | 4009 Pelone Dr.       | School:     | Carnegie Mellon University |         |              |
| City/State/Zip: | Verona, PA 15147      | Class Year: | 2001                       |         |              |
| Home Phone:     | 412.841.2131          | Work:       | 412.967.6888               | Mobile: | 412.841.2131 |
| E-mail:         | jimjohnston@gmail.com |             |                            |         |              |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Biographical Information   | Candidate For (choose one or both)  |
| Age: 29  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors <input type="checkbox"/> President-elect |
| Profession of Business with Title: Aerotech, Inc., Senior Application Engineer |   |

Fraternity Information

Collegiate: (Include chapter offices held and years, national and regional meetings attended, IFC offices, campus organizations, awards)

- 2001 Ellsworth C. Dent Man-of-the-Year Finalist
- Chapter President: 2000
- Executive Vice President: 1998
- Vice President of Finance: 1999
- Associate Instructor: 2001
- IFC Representative: 2000
- Grand Chapter Conventions: 1998, 2000
- Grand Chapter Judicial Committee Chair: 2000
- National Conventions: 2001
- Regional Meetings: 1998, 2000, 2001
- Campus Community Advisor (CA): 2002
- Eta Kappa Nu Electrical Engineering Honors Fraternity

Alumni: (Include national/regional offices held/years & meetings attended, alumni assoc & chapter actives, awards)


- Winebrenner Medal: 2007
- Wilson C. Morris Fellowship, NMF
- Regional Vice President: 2002 - 2006
- Vice President of Instructional Programming: 2006 - 2008
- Assistant Dean, Academy of Principled Leaders: 2007 - 2008
- Facilitator, Academy of Principled Leaders: 2003 - 2006
- Grand Chapter Conventions: 2002, 2004, 2006
- National Conventions: 2003
- Strategic Leadership Conferences: 2005, 2007
- All Regional Meetings: 2002 - 2008
- President, Delta Xi Alumni Association: 2002 - 2004
- Facilitator UIFI: 2004, 2005

Religious, Civic & Professional Information

Alumni:

- St. John's Lutheran Church
- Society of Manufacturing Engineers
- Laser Institute of America Member

I certify that I have the time, means and interest to serve in the office indicated above, and if nominated and if elected I will accept the office and serve in the best interests of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity.

Signed 

31 January 2008  
Dated

## Board of Directors Declaration Form

Please use this space to answer the following questions. Your answers will be distributed with the Call of the Grand Chapter and will be available for review by all registered delegates.

1) *What is your principle reason for running for the Board/President-elect?*

My primary reason in running for the Board is a genuine interest to help grow and develop Sigma Tau Gamma into a premier organization with clear relevance and value to our members. Many challenges face our organization that hinder growth and success, some of which test our very existence. For the Board to be resourceful and successful in tackling these challenges, it must be comprised of individuals with diverse backgrounds to ensure multiple perspectives are presented and discussed during strategic planning. Professionally, my role involves a combination of engineering and business development, which I believe will help compliment the Board's dynamic. I will bring an open-minded, analytical, growth focused thought process and ensure we act effectively and efficiently.

2) *If Sigma Tau Gamma were to cease to exist, why would you work to re-establish it?*

Sigma Tau Gamma provides valuable life experiences and personal growth opportunities that are not otherwise obtained in a collegiate environment. These opportunities exist far beyond graduation, complementing professional careers and ultimately lasting a lifetime. Personally, I continue to develop significantly from my membership within Sigma Tau Gamma and would not be where I am today without it. In the process I have also made countless friendships that are closer than any other friendship I have had previously. This perspective is not unique – it has been experienced by members dating back to our Founders. These benefits must be preserved and the board has a responsibility to ensure Sigma Tau Gamma is positioned to survive and thrive.

3) *What are the top two or three issues facing the American fraternity movement? Pick one issue and explain how Sigma Tau Gamma can help improve the system?*

Top issues facing the fraternity system include:

- Unclear relevance at our host institutions
- Negative public perception
- Cost of liability insurance

There is no question the fraternity system strayed from its values and core competencies in past decades, creating these issues. If fraternities were providing clear value to students, universities would be embracing, not inhibiting, expansion and operation. Even the vast majority of Sigma Tau Gamma's current undergraduates never thought they would join a fraternity. This image needs to change for the system to be viable in the long term and can be tackled by establishing a chapter culture based on leadership and membership development. Sigma Tau Gamma's Path of Principles program is an excellent step towards this effort. When fully developed beyond the associate period, the program will provide the means for the entire chapter to build a culture that embraces and enhances its members. It also establishes the mindset of "Sig Tau for Life," encouraging active participation post-graduation. The Board's strategies should provide the appropriate resources and priorities to ensure these, as well as future, challenges are addressed.

## Board of Directors Declaration Form

4) *What have you accomplished or learned since you left college that you will bring to the Board?*

One of the most important lessons I have learned is that communication is key for any organization to be successful. If all constituencies do not work towards the same goals, priceless time and effort will be lost through inefficiencies and misunderstandings. The communication lines between undergraduates, alumni, volunteers, headquarters staff, and universities must be utilized and remain open to ensure brothers are obtaining value from membership. When communication channels are closed or inefficient, misinterpretations occur, damaging our organization. I will bring this perspective to the Board, ensuring we utilize effective means of communication and employ new technologies to reach our members.

5) *A risk to all of our chapters is the lack of responsibility by one of our members or chapter. What can the Board do to address this major liability?*

Risk can never be fully eliminated, but it must be managed and mitigated. This is accomplished by creating a culture of responsibility at our chapters. Our undergraduates must be given the tools to become effective leaders, understand the impact of their own actions, and to hold each other accountable. Our advisors must also be informed and educated on new rules and policies introduced by universities or the NIC. The Board has an obligation to analyze forces that jeopardize our organization and focus strategic plans to address these risks.