

# INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORSHIP

Intergenerational relationships are among the many benefits of membership in Delta Tau Delta. The bond between brothers of different eras often results in mentoring relationships that last for decades. Alan G. Brackett (Tulane University, 1982) first met Tim P. Cullen (Tulane University, 2009) when Cullen was an undergraduate. Early on Cullen and Brackett became fast friends. Recently, these men sat down with the Foundation to talk about the importance of mentorship.

## Q: When did you first meet?

**Cullen:** In 2006, I was elected to the undergraduate council as a freshman and heard many stories about Alan Brackett. The Beta Xi Chapter has a rich history of alumni serving on the Arch Chapter, so I quickly became familiar with many of their names and stories. We met at the undergraduate council meeting held in New Orleans during the fall semester, and he quickly became a personal mentor of mine. Being from California, I couldn't make it back home for every holiday, and the Bracketts took me under their wing. I have fond memories of attending Easter brunch with them at the New Orleans Country Club.

**Brackett:** He's like our adopted son. Our son, Austin, always thought of him as a big brother.

**Cullen:** I used to babysit Alan and Linda's son, Austin, during college, so I got to watch him grow up.

## Q: Tim, what are a few specific instances in which Alan's mentorship guided you?

**Cullen:** Alan has been there for me, offering advice and support along the way regardless of circumstance. When I was younger, Alan helped me experience the community and cultural aspects of New Orleans that a typical student doesn't get to experience. It opened my eyes to things outside of Tulane and gave me a bigger appreciation for the region I was living in. Following graduation, I struggled to leave New Orleans. I wasn't quite sure what my role would be with Delt on the West Coast. I was hoping to get a volunteer opportunity, and Alan pushed me to become an assistant advisor with the Delta Iota Chapter at the University of California, Los Angeles. At first, it was hard for me to find where I fit in with the Fraternity post-grad, but Alan was always an advocate for me to continue volunteering.



Alan Brackett (Tulane University, 1982) with his son Austin (left) and Tim Cullen (Tulane University, 2009).

**Brackett:** Tim's always understood how to make a chapter successful and the importance of service without expecting anything in return.

## Q: Alan, how have you seen Tim grow throughout the years of your friendship?

**Brackett:** I saw him mature through the many leadership opportunities he's had. The Fraternity taught me a lot as a young man and I always knew I wanted to give back, and Tim is the same way. He's not one to leave Delt behind in his college years and it's great to see him continuing to be involved.

## Q: How do you both see Delt continue to play a role in your friendship?

**Cullen:** Now, we're at similar events together, whether it's the Order of the C— reception at Karnea or similar tables, so it's fun to do those things together. We've been to many Karneas together, including the 2010 Karnea in Washington, D.C., where I held Alan's cue cards when he was elected for the Arch Chapter.

**Brackett:** The Fraternity is always the underlying connection, but our conversations now are more focused on Tim's involvement with the Foundation. On the way home from the Norfolk Karnea, we coincidentally had seats next to each other on the plane because Tim had a layover in New Orleans, so we were able to grab lunch with my wife,

too. He can't get rid of us.

## Q: Why is mentoring such an important piece of the fraternal puzzle?

**Brackett:** Mentoring is such an important part of life, regardless of the stage you're in. Part of the human experience is to share mentoring. It's what we do. Tim gives as much guidance to undergraduates and alumni now as I was able to give him.

**Cullen:** Right, it's special because all the things we experience, people had very similar experiences, whether 50 years ago or five years ago. You can't give or get guidance unless you're talking to people. Alan was that person for me; whether it was about my career, the Fraternity, or continuing my education. I honestly don't know where I would've looked to have those conversations if it weren't for the Fraternity.

Recently, the Brackett family shared another life event with Brother Cullen. Alan, his wife Linda, and their son, Austin, attended Cullen's wedding in Los Angeles. Brothers Cullen and Brackett are both committed to the future of Delta Tau Delta and are recognized with membership in the Order of the C—, **A**

Support mentor relationships by giving to the Delta Tau Delta Educational Foundation at [deltatsd.org/give](https://deltatsd.org/give).