

Daniel M. Carney

Wichita State '53

Oxford Cup Roll No. 079

November 15, 2014 | Wichita Kansas, KS

Daniel M. Carney, Wichita State '53, was initiated into the Delta Gamma Chapter on October 16, 1960, as Roll No. 215. Born in Wichita, Kan., he attended nearby Wichita State University, where he earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in business administration.

While attending WSU, he helped run the family business, Carney's Market, and was approached one day by the business' landlady. She had read an article in The Saturday Evening Post about the emergence of pizza in America and wanted a restaurant to replace a small bar and grill she owned next to Carney's Market.

In 1958, after borrowing \$600 from their mother, Carney and his younger brother, Frank, decided to open up their own pizza restaurant. The brothers purchased second hand equipment but really had no idea how to make pizza. Through a connection, they met a man named John Bender, who had a pizza recipe. They tried Bender's mixture, liked it and included him in their business venture. Pizza Hut was born.

Pizza Hut quickly became one of the most successful restaurants in Wichita and expanded rapidly. In 1968, the first international Pizza Hut opened in Canada. That same year Pizza Hut went to the open market with a public offering. In 1971, it became the world leader in pizza sales and number of restaurants. Carney sold Pizza Hut to Pepsi Co. in 1977, and it still remains the largest pizza chain in the world.

Since Carney sold Pizza Hut, he has been involved in many organizations, serving on the board of more than 20, including the WSU Foundation, Guadalupe Clinic, Wichita Red Cross, The Lord's Diner, St. Paul WSU Newman Center, Catholic Charities Advisory Board, Harbor House, a shelter for the domestic abused, TOP – The Opportunity Project, an early education program for children living in poverty, and Wichita Community Foundation. He has been Chairman of the Board of Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas since its inception in 1972.

For his efforts, he's received numerous honors. Carney was awarded the Wichita State University President's Medal, the WSU Frank Barton School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award, the Wichita State Achievement Award, named the 2007 Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce Uncommon Citizen, received the Big Brother/Big Sister "Reaching the Summit" honor, was inducted into the Kansas Business Hall of Fame and was the first inductee into the Pizza Hut Hall of Fame.

Residing in Wichita with his wife Gayla, Carney has 11 brothers and sisters, six children, three step-children and 17 grandchildren.