



# DELTS OF OL' ET

## Epsilon Eta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta



Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation | Summer 2017 | Texas A&M University - Commerce  
Alumni Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 | [tamuccommerce.deltsconnect.org](http://tamuccommerce.deltsconnect.org)

### FROM THE HOUSE CORPORATION



David Hitt III '11,  
Treasurer

#### Brothers,

We have closed out another great spring semester! Our yearly BS Open golf tournament helped raise \$600 for House Corporation, and we are proud of the progress the chapter has made this year.

As you have probably noticed, our newsletter has changed slightly. We engaged Elevate, a group out of Atlanta, Georgia, to handle our newsletter content and mailings from here on out. They will ensure you receive two mailings a year as well as email updates.

With that said, Greek life has changed significantly on campus. The Kappa Alphas sold their house after having their charter revoked, leaving four fraternities on campus. It's more important than ever to prove to the university how beneficial Greek life is to male college students. To help aid these efforts, we ask all alumni to fill out the donation form at the bottom of the enclosed cover letter, so that we can continue to maintain the house and distinguish ourselves from other fraternities. This year, I would like to use any donations we receive to replace the house's siding, exterior paint, and landscape. We also plan on finishing any and all interior projects.

Last year, we replaced all of the windows, which not only helped the appearance of the house but also helped with the cost of electricity. This project cost House Corporation \$25,000. I am very proud of

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### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Cliff L. Wood '66

*Editor's Note: For this edition of the newsletter we're shining the Spotlight on Dr. Cliff Wood '66. From the hometown of Dallas, TX, Cliff holds three degrees from Commerce: a double major in psychology and sociology, a master's in student personnel admin and counseling, and an EdD in student personnel with an emphasis in community college education. As an active chapter member, he served as secretary, vice president, president, and attended two Karnea conventions. Cliff has dedicated his career to community college, and retired as president of Rockland Community College in New York on June 30 after 51 years in the field! His dedication to the community extends to the Big Brothers Big Sisters Board, the Governor's Counsel, and lots of community work. He was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the national fraternity, and for Texas A&M! He and his wife, Wylene, have been married for 30 years, and they share four children and five grandchildren (ages 3-9). For fun, Cliff enjoys gardening, spending time with family, and he is looking forward to retiring at his house in Vermont over the summer.*



#### Back in school, how did joining Epsilon Eta help your personal skillset?

As a shy freshman, being accepted for membership in the Delts boosted my self-confidence. Most importantly, the leadership skills I learned while serving as vice president and later as president of Epsilon Eta serve me well today. I also learned the importance of listening, of compromise, and the network of friends I found in Delts has provided support and positive reinforcement throughout my career.

#### Why are you passionate about supporting the growth of community college?

Community colleges were created in America and have helped fulfill America's promise of equality and opportunity for all of our citizens. For the past six decades, community colleges have fulfilled their mission of providing high quality, affordable, and accessible higher education to all of our citizens. In fact, that mission has become a cornerstone of my personal philosophy and value system.



New York Governor Mario Cuomo greets Dr. Cliff L. Wood, President Emeritus of Rockland Community College.

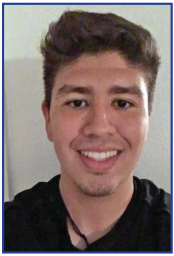
#### What type of opportunities caused you to relocate throughout your career?

Each time I have accepted a position at a community college, the change in job has provided me with increased opportunities as well as increased responsibilities and status. What also makes it special to me is that each move has taken me further northeast, and I will retire in Vermont as both my wife and I love New England and desire to be in a location where

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## FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT



### Greetings Brothers,

It is a good day to be a Delt. I come to you today to report that the chapter is running smoothly. We just initiated our biggest spring pledge class since any active can remember. They are all great men eager to take leadership in the fraternity. Also, our ritual program remains one of the best in the nation as we continue to regard our ceremonies with reverence and pride.

On campus, our academics are on the rise, placing second in the fall, and we are eagerly awaiting our spring grades. In intramurals, we won the championship in Ultimate Frisbee and Futsal while claiming many other second

place finishes. We've also increased our philanthropic efforts to include two new events, Egg-A-Delt and the nearly forgotten Delt Draft.

In the future, our current executive committee plans on refining our recruitment process and planning more campus-wide events. If you'd like to keep up with the active chapter, feel free to stop by the shelter at any time or join us for any of our big events.

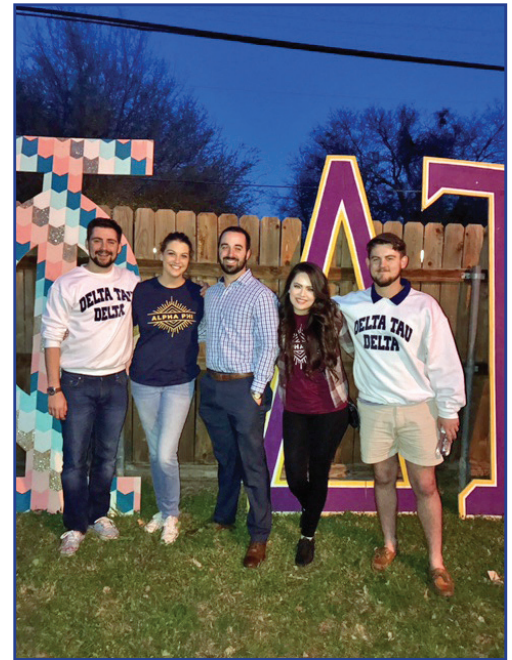
#### Dates to Remember:

- Running of the Hill – Sept. 15, 2017
- Pledge Pinning – Sept. 23, 2017
- Homecoming – Oct. 14, 2017

If there is anything you would like me to add or edit, please let me know.

Fraternally,

Diego Rocha



A chapter mixer was held with the Alpha Phi Sorority. Pictured left to right: Brothers Clay Gibson, Nico Iattanzio, and Jayce Johnson.

## CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT: Jayce Johnson



**Editor's Note:** Representing the chapter as Spotlight is senior Jayce Johnson. From the hometown of Sulphur Springs, TX, Jayce is pursuing a major in visual communications with an emphasis in design. He was selected as Spotlight for his leadership in the chapter and for his tenure as an executive member, having served as chapter secretary followed by internal vice president. Jayce has made strong efforts to bring the brothers closer. On campus, he worked as a residential assistant for the university during his time as the internal vice president. Read on to find out more!

### What led you to join Epsilon Eta?

I joined Epsilon Eta because they were honest. They didn't lie about who they were as an organization or as people, and they weren't fake in order to "get numbers." I genuinely became great friends with members from Epsilon Eta. Then, to my surprise, when it was time for rush all my friends were wearing Delt shirts. The next week, I was proud to wear one with them.

### How has the chapter grown since your time as a board member?

Since I have served on the executive board, I have seen the new exec board and chapter have a great relationship with the chapter's House Corp. It has been great to see younger men in the chapter really step up and take on responsibility and fill chairman positions and work hard year round for recruitment.

### After graduation, what would you like to do with your degree?

I hope to work for an advertising agency in Dallas.

### Outside of school what do you do for fun?

For fun I like to draw, cook for friends and family, and play videogames.



Jayce stands with the chapter flag last spring break in Campwood, Texas.



## B.S. OPEN 2017

The B.S. Open was held on April 22nd at the Buffalo Creek Golf Course in Rockwall, Texas. Although 24 brothers had signed up for the event, the rain and cooler weather that morning scared off a few players. Sixteen of us braved the elements and had a fun round of golf. Afterward, the chapter and their friends joined the golfers at **Rene' Griffin's ('75)** house for burgers and storytelling. Around 60 people enjoyed the after-golf festivities. A great time was had by all.



*B.S. Open golf attendees celebrating after the April event. Pictured left to right: John Bright '74, Mike Reid '73, Eddie Fuller '76, Rene' Griffin '75, Jim Richardson '72, and Charles Gutierrez '71.*

## SHELTER UPDATE

By **Nick Gillick '07**

The latest renovation of the Epsilon Eta Shelter at 1803 Live Oak in Commerce, Texas, is proving to have been a great investment. The house is holding up well and maintenance has been greatly reduced.

Unfortunately, some unforeseen issues with the house had to be addressed in the renovation. This depleted the funds and some plans and work had to be shelved at the time.

But this last year we finished a major project and replaced all of the windows in the house! Non-opening picture windows were installed in all of the common areas, the upstairs bathroom, and windows facing the front street.

The non-opening windows help with security and provide longer life than traditional opening windows. They are also gridless windows, which improve the curb appeal of the shelter, and the sealed double-pane glass will reduce heating and cooling costs.

The next project is replacing the old vinyl siding on the front, and Bois D'Arc side of the shelter. Some pieces of siding are damaged and broken. If you wish to donate directly to this project just let **David Hitt III '11** know.

Along with the active chapter, Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation hosted a shelter/alumni workday before the 2017 spring semester ended. General repairs and maintenance were primarily performed.

Since the renovation, the active chapter has done a great job of letting the Educational Foundation know of where there were problems with the shelter that needed immediate attention and have assisted whenever needed. The boys are taking care of the shelter and we are very proud of them!

Keep an eye on your email to catch announcements about events at the shelter, and we hope you'll get a chance to come by at Homecoming this year.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Work Day 2017**  
 August 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

**Have Alumni News?** We want to hear from you! Send your personal and professional news, achievements, travel updates, and anything you are proud to share to our Account Manager, Kasey Breedlove, at [kbreedlove@elevateims.com](mailto:kbreedlove@elevateims.com). We'll include your news and photos in the next edition of the *Delts of ol' ET!*

### CONNECT WITH US!

- **Website:** <http://tamucommerce.deltsconnect.org>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/commerceDelts>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/deltataudeltaEH>
- **Chapter Website:** <http://tamucommerce.deltsconnect.org>

## 2017 HOME GAME SCHEDULE

**WILLIAM JEWELL**  
**"CommUniverCity" Day**  
 Saturday, September 9  
 6:00 p.m.

**EASTERN NEW MEXICO**  
**Hall of Fame/Letterwinners'**  
**Weekend**  
 Saturday, September 16  
 6:00 p.m.

**WESTERN NEW MEXICO**  
**Homecoming**  
 Saturday, October 14  
 4:00 p.m.

**ANGELO STATE**  
**Youth Sports Day**  
 Saturday, October 21  
 4:00 p.m.

**UT PERMIAN BASIN**  
**Senior Day/Military**  
**Appreciation Day**  
 Saturday, November 4  
 4:00 p.m.



# Alumni Spotlight *(continued from page 1)*

there are four seasons and lots of trees. There is an autobiography by literary critic Willie Morris, *North Toward Home*, and that title captures my sentiment and that of my wife as we settle in our home in Westminster, Vermont.

## **When did you meet Wylene?**

I met Wylene while I was acting provost at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland. She was a candidate for a position as a professor in the English



department, and we met when she stopped by the provost's office in August of 1986. We married a year later in June of '87, one of my life's best decisions.

## **After 51 years of working in education, how has the community college scene changed?**

American community colleges have experienced great change over the last 50 years, and now over 50 percent of all students who enter college begin at one of America's public community colleges. Over the years a significant

number of our students have entered with the goal of transferring to a four-year institution. This has led community colleges to expand their programs and articulation agreements with 4-year colleges and universities. Over the last several years, community colleges, out of necessity, have had to re-examine their commitment to technical education and workforce development. I am pleased that my college, RCC, has met that challenge and has become a leader in workforce training and economic development.

## **Outside of work, what do you do for fun?**

I have a great network of friends and a wonderful family, and for me, it is always a pleasure to spend time with them. I have also been actively involved in community service and receive a great deal of personal pleasure from supporting groups and organizations that enhance the quality of life for citizens of all ages.

## **With your retirement approaching, what are you looking forward to most?**

As I approach retirement, I look forward to spending more time with my children and grandchildren, who are scattered across America and live in Texas, California, Florida, and New Jersey. When it is mud season in Vermont, I will be basking in the sun with grandchildren in the south, southwest, and west.



*Dr. Wood at Commencement in 2017.*

## **How do you stay in touch with your fellow Epsilon Eta brothers today?**

The '60s Delts from old ET have a strong online communication system and we frequently share our lives with each other via email. Also, over the last several years, our brothers who live near our university have planned annual outings and reunions, and, of course, many attend the college's annual homecoming. Now that I am retired, I will add the latter event to my list of places to go and people to see.

## **What advice can you give the young actives and alumni about relating to others, and being willing to acquire new skills?**

The most important thing I can tell them is to embrace and honor strong family values and ties. Also, find a career that provides personal fulfillment as well as career opportunities. And, most importantly, celebrate and honor the diversity of this great country and all it has to offer.

# From the House Corporation *(continued from page 1)*

this accomplishment.

Also, I would like to congratulate **Phillip Clark '11** on accepting his new role as House Corporation president. This position was previously held by James Harvey, and we want to thank him for all of his hard work.

Fraternally,

David H. Hitt III '11  
Treasurer, House Corporation

