



DELTS OF OL' ET



Epsilon Eta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta

Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation | Spring 2018 | Texas A&M University - Commerce
Alumni Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 | tamuccommerce.deltsconnect.org

FROM THE HOUSE CORPORATION

Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation Spring 2018 Update



Nick Gillick, VP of the Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation, with his wife Christina in Las Vegas.

Brothers,

2017 was a great year for Epsilon Eta. The active chapter had a very strong year for recruiting, and they have formed a group that all alumni can be proud of!

The active chapter's adherence to the standards of being great Delts has been very exemplary. With today's anti-Greek

sentiment, it's crucial for the actives to remain steadfast in their commitment to be a shining light of inspiration to all fraternal organizations. I've personally experienced and witnessed their commitment to excellence multiple times this year.

As for the Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation....

Housing regulations for landlords and property owners have been increased in the City of Commerce the past few years. Commerce now has some of the strictest regulations for residential rental properties.

The Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation has reviewed the regulations and is ensuring the Shelter stays up to code with the City of Commerce. We have not had any issues with the city regarding compliance at this point.

The Shelter at 1803 Live Oak also got some important upgrades this last year. Our fire suppression/sprinkler system has been operational since the remodel, but was lacking a couple of key features required for it to be tagged as "fully operational." With the addition of an alarm sounder and flasher in the main hall, the system became certified and we received a much-needed discount on property insurance.

Another major upgrade for the Shelter this last year was the replacement of the remaining vinyl siding with Hardie board siding. The vinyl siding had major cracks and even holes in many locations. Upgraded concrete fiberboard siding

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Duane D. Allen '64

Editor's Note: For this edition of the newsletter we're shining the Spotlight on Brother Duane Allen '64. In November 2017 on the campus of TAMU-C, Duane, an ETSU Distinguished Alumnus, was awarded the National Delta Tau Delta Alumni Achievement Award, the highest award given by the fraternity. From the hometown of Taylortown, Texas, Duane graduated with a degree in classical music. After a singing career with the Prophets Quartet, Duane joined the Oak Ridge Boys and is the lead singer and president of Oak Ridge Boys Inc. Duane's love for singing attracted a lovely singer from the Grand Ole Opry, Norah Lee. They have been married for 48 years now, and share two children: Jamie Allen Martin, 46, and Dee, 44. Jamie is married to Paul Martin, and they have four children, March, Kell, Texas, and Tallant. Together they have a singing and touring group, Martin Family Circus. Dee writes and plays in his rock and roll group, Tall Dark Stranger. Every member of the family is in the music business. In his free time, Duane and the Oak Ridge Boys are spokespeople for the American Legion and try to help bring awareness to veterans who return home with PTSD. He also enjoys collecting antiques, training, and working with his dogs, Halsey (a silver lab) and Blue Bell (a charcoal lab).



Photo courtesy of Jarrett Gaza.

What was the chapter like when you were an active member?

When I became a Delt, they immediately put me to work. Each year the fraternities had a sing-song. The Delts really wanted to win, and I was the only music major. So, I searched out those among our membership who could hear harmony, and we learned three or four songs. The Delts really got behind the effort to win, and when we won they rewarded me by throwing me into the green,

moss-covered lake. Ha ha!

Why did you join Delta Tau Delta?

I was impressed with their reputation on campus. They actually recruited me. I think they wanted to win sing-song! The Delts were very active on campus, raising money for children's homes, etc. They were all about helping people who needed help. I loved that.

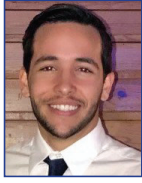
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L-R: Larry Clinton, Thomas Huddleston, Duane, Ray Keck (president of TAMU-C), Richard Sterban (Oak Ridge Boys), William Lee Golden (Oak Ridge Boys), and Joe Bonsall (Oak Ridge Boys). Courtesy of Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Chapter News

FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Greetings Brothers,

I've come to report to you that the chapter is running quite well. We have big plans for our finances and budget for the next upcoming year, allowing us to expand on our rush ideas and possibly give us larger rush classes. We've had an immensely successful rush class this past fall, coming in as the largest class among other fraternities. Although numbers aren't everything, the members that we've rushed have a very strong sense of brotherhood. As of right now our Shelter is full to the brim, making for a lively experience 24/7 when you walk through the doors. Many people who come to the house sometimes never want to leave, giving us a great reputation on campus.

Intramurals have come and gone during the first semester, and I have to say it was a successful year overall. Our Ultimate Frisbee team was so successful,

we almost beat the former A&M - Commerce Ultimate team. As for our academics, we're always pushing higher, looking to increase the lead we have in first for our accumulative GPA. We had an incredibly fun and successful JDRF Walk this year after getting multiple compliments. We showed those who run the Walk that we at Epsilon Eta provide the fire and enthusiasm to get others involved in little activities that they provided. After such an awesome turnout this past semester and me moving to the CEO of the organization, we've also decided to add a bi-annual philanthropy called "Be The Match." This philanthropy helps find matches to help find cures for those who are suffering from leukemia and other blood cancers. We have a lot in store for this chapter and we're always



Brothers with soccer women.

looking to improve and expand—it's a great day to be a Delta!

Fraternally,

Kevin Keefer



Fall '17 rush class.



Brothers with volleyball women.



JDRF Walk.

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT: Cooper Weinstein



Cooper's intern photo for Johnson and Sekin.

Editor's Note: Representing the chapter as Spotlight is graduating senior **Cooper Weinstein**. From the hometown of Plano, Texas, Cooper is on track to earn his BFA in photography and design. Having served the chapter as undergraduate council chairman, pledge educator, and guide, Cooper also works as an art director intern at Johnson & Sekin ad agency. On campus, he is also a member of the Order of Omega, having served as vice president; and he is the current AIGA vice president, and member of the Dallas Society of Visual Communication. He has been honored nationally with awards for photography and his design projects. For fun, he enjoys photography, graphic design, and letterpress.



Cooper winning best of show at the Dallas Addys.

Any plans for after graduation?

After college I want to stay in Dallas and work in advertising as an art director.

Outside of school, what do you for fun?

I love movies and listening to alternative music.

What led you to join the chapter?

Josh Vanalstine '14, who was the president when I rushed, texted me out of the blue one day and invited me to the house. When I came to Commerce I knew no one and was just spending my time watching "Breaking Bad" in my dorm, so I figured why not. I wasn't really interested in Greek life but learning more about the fraternity and meeting the brothers changed my entire perception.

When did you develop an interest in design?

I've always been interested in graphic design, but originally, I wanted to work as a photographer. I had to take a few design classes and the more classes I took, the more I realized how much I enjoyed

being able to solve problems visually. I started becoming more involved in the design community and it just kind of clicked that this was something I could spend the rest of my life doing.

Which achievements are you most proud of?

Winning a national Addy was definitely a big deal for me. Everyone who was there was the best of the best so no matter who you talked to it was someone leading the entire industry. It just reaffirmed that this was something I was meant to do. I'm also really proud of becoming chairman of the UGC, and the work that we did during my term laid down a solid foundation for everyone who comes after me.



Cooper with the undergraduate council for our January 16th arch chapter meeting.

Alumni News

The Texas A&M University-Commerce Lions won its first NCAA Division II National Football Championship in Kansas City on December 16, 2017, beating West Florida 37-27, finishing the season 14-1. They had previously won the 1972 NAIA Championship. The team was led by Harlon Hill Award Winner (the equivalent of the Heisman for Division II) Luiz Perez, a senior All-American.

After an expanded bracket this year, the Lions are the first ever NCAA team to win five playoff games on the way to a football championship. The first three games were played on the road in Minnesota, Central Washington, and back to Minnesota, beating three teams that had a combined record of 34-1. The Lions then returned to Commerce, beating Harding University (Searcy, Arkansas) at home, 31-17, in front of a stadium-record crowd of 10,120 fans. The Lions are now the reigning Division II National Champions!!!



The Lions celebrate National Championship.



EH Delts tailgate in Kansas City before the Lions National Championship.

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. We'll include your news and photos in the next edition of the *Delts of ol' ET!*

Save the Date!

2-23-18: NIGHT WITH THE CHAMPIONS

TAMU-C is hosting a "Night With Champions" on Friday, February 23, at 6:00 p.m. at the Rayburn Student Center, with a cocktail hour and banquet honoring the National Football Champion Lions. Cost is \$75 per person. Pictures, autographs, and live auction included. Proceeds benefit the new summer athletic scholarships. For registration and additional details, please contact **Rene' Griffin '75** at renergif@aol.com.



4-8-18: THE OAK RIDGE BOYS CONCERT

Rally around our Alumni Spotlight Duane Allen and join your fellow Delts at the Texan Theater in downtown Greenville on Sunday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$519 each and, according to the website, include close free parking, full four-course dinner, luxurious seating, table service, and all gratuities. According to the seating chart, there are seats for only 62 people, so this should be a very intimate concert. You can purchase tickets on their website at www.oakridgeboys.com. Please feel free to touch base prior to the event with **Rene' Griffin '75** at renergif@aol.com.

4-14-18: WORK DAY AT THE SHELTER

Join us on Saturday, April 14, at 9:00 a.m., to help out with a number of projects at the house, including painting the inside! Lunch will be served.



4-28-18: B.S. OPEN

Join us on Saturday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m., for the B.S. Open, to be held at Buffalo Creek Golf Course in Rockwall, Texas.

Please arrive at 1:00 p.m. Entry fee is \$110, payable when you arrive. Beer and burgers at my house (less than 10 minutes from the course) starting at 6:00 p.m. If you can't make golf or don't play golf, you can still come for the social that evening. If planning on joining in water volleyball, please bring a towel and swimsuit.

If anyone would like to sponsor an undergrad(s) to play for \$65 each, please let me know (I have three sponsored already--thanks Don Wilks and Scott Hunt). Please email me and let me know if you will attend. If you put a group together, give me all four names so I can get a good head count. The course is getting pickier about a guaranteed minimum. I hope to see you there! Questions? Please contact **Rene' Griffin '75** at renergif@aol.com.

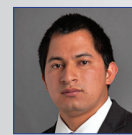


TREE PLANTING AND MEMORIAL CEREMONY

On Saturday, October 28, 2017, we celebrated the memory and life of Brother **Carlos Zaldivar '14** with a tree planting and dedication ceremony at the chapter house. Carlos, age 25, passed away in August after a fatal car accident. We planted a 30-gallon live oak tree and place a memorial stone at the site during the ceremony.



IN MEMORIAM



Carlos Enrique Zaldivar '14, age 25, of Rockwall, TX, passed away August 27, 2017. He was born in El Salvador to Carlos Napoleon Zaldivar and Maria Jesus Calles.

Carlos graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in mathematics. He attended Lakepointe Church, was part of the Texas Titans, and the Texas A&M University-Commerce Alumni. Carlos was a great long distance runner and began running the Dallas Turkey Trot religiously in 2007. He was always cheerful and loved making jokes and being goofy. A hard worker, Carlos helped anyone who needed it. He was genuine, kind and understanding, and he made friends everywhere he went. He always had a smile on his face and brought sunshine into every room he entered. Carlos was loved by everyone and will be greatly missed.

Chapter Eternal

We are saddened to learn of the passing of the following brothers – our sympathies to their friends and family:

George L. Flynn '70
Larry Don Coffey '76
Edward Stress '81

Alumni Spotlight (continued from page 1)

What were your original plans after graduation?

I wanted to sing professionally, just as I have done. I still have some of my written notes from Music 101. I wrote down my dreams, and I built business models on how to reach those goals to fulfill those dreams. I reached them early on, so I had to sit back and dream bigger. I still dream!!!!

How did you become acquainted with the Oak Ridge Boys?

My first job was with the Prophets Quartet. The Oak Ridge Boys worked with us on a few dates and heard me sing. They offered me a job after I had been with the Prophets for a year.

What was your first tour experience like?

The Prophets worked about 150-170 dates per year, as the Oaks do now. We work three or four dates per week, and then we are off three or four days. The only extended tours we make are once or twice a year when we go the West Coast or to a foreign country. Our Christmas tours are huge, and we work some weeks back-to-back, making for a lot of days on the road at Christmastime. After Christmas, we usually take off about three weeks to rest and get ready for another year.

Can you share any funny stories?

I love pulling practical jokes on people, especially Joe. I have a huge, remote controlled spider I put in his bed. When he goes to the bathroom in the middle of the night, I put the spider in his bed. Then, when he is half asleep, I turn that spider on. He just about has a heart attack. That's just one example of years of playing jokes on the other guys.

Which moments/career achievements are you most proud of?

The Oak Ridge Boys have been in two fields of music during the last 52 years that I have been with the group. Being inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and the Country Music Hall of Fame are the highest honors that can be bestowed on any artist in those fields. Individually, I was inducted into both the Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame and the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame. I don't have words to express how honored and humbled I am about all of those inductions.

Outside of music, what do you do for fun?

I have always loved playing basketball. I collect antique cars, and I rehab abused mustangs on my

farm. I love doing things that keep me close to the ground. My father was a farmer in northeast Texas. He taught me that my foundation starts with the soil that God gave us, and I have my farm to go to when this complicated world tells me I need a dose of reality. It helps to keep me grounded.

After achieving so much during your career, what's next on your list?

I have always believed that recording fresh, new music is the future, so this year we signed with a new recording team, new sales and promotion people, and a new producer—all to take the Oak Ridge Boys into the future. Our new release, "17th Avenue Revival" embraces the period of time when we were all turned on to rock and roll, and to the music styles that inspired rock and roll. The project is somewhat retro, but it is also fresh and new.

What advice can you give the alumni and young actives about following their creative dreams?

I advise young people who want to make music their career to get an education in the field of their choice, dream big, and build a business model for what they want to do, how they will do it, and how to bring it home. I tell them, if you want to be in music, you need to perform every time you get the chance. It will help prepare for what is ahead.



Photos courtesy of Texas A&M University-Commerce.

House Corporation

(continued from page 1)

will have a much longer lifespan and nicer appearance. This needed upgrade was made possible with generous donations from Epsilon Eta Alumni.

The active chapter took a role in these upgrades as well. They made themselves available for the contractors and inspectors throughout the process, and they even provided the labor to paint the new siding.

This year our goal is to do some repairs to the rear deck and replace fascia trim on the house that has come loose and is damaged. This will require a contractor or sky lift rental, since most of the fascia board is located on the top of the second level. If you would like to contribute directly to this project, please feel free to include that request with your donation.

2017 also saw some changes with Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation itself. Some

members changed, and our overall composition of board members has been reduced.

Receiving advanced house management training the past few years has helped the board focus on the most important objectives of house management, and what roles the educational foundation should and shouldn't be filling. Our focus is the improvement and management of the Shelter at 1803 Live Oak.

The Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation is now comprised of five members. We meet in person once a quarter and meet via phone conference as needed. If you are interested in serving on the

Buy a Brick in the Alumni Brick Garden

Join your fellow EH Delts that have bought a brick in the chapter garden walkway. Create your own lasting message—mine reads "Rene Griffin Delta Tau Delta." You'll even get a \$125 donation write-off on your taxes!

To purchase, please go to www.tamuc.edu, and click on the upper right corner "Alumni and Community," then upper left "Alumni Relations," then lower left "Brick Garden."

Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation, contact us so we can keep you in mind for future openings.

I hope to see many of you at this year's B.S. Open, and the after party at **Rene' Griffin's ('75) house!** Hopefully the weather will be a bit warmer than last year.

With gratitude,

Nick Gillick '07
Vice President
Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation