



## FROM THE HOUSE CORPORATION



David Hitt III '11,  
Epsilon Eta Educational  
Foundation Treasurer.

### Hi, Brothers!

In 2016, we made our semesterly newsletter a top priority, with the goal to strengthen our sense of alumni community. Instead of managing the newsletter internally, we hired Elevate IMS, a company that specializes in alumni outreach. In

order to measure the success of this campaign, we determined the following metrics must be improved: accuracy of alumni database, engagement in alumni activities, and donations attributable to semesterly mailings.

Our alumni database was very outdated. It hadn't been properly updated in years, resulting in an incredible number of returned newsletters. Following our first mailing with Elevate IMS, we received three to five returned newsletters a day. By establishing a "lost brothers" list for the mailings, our directory has become much more up to date. There are still many brothers that have inaccurate contact information on file with our chapter. If you know of a brother not receiving the newsletters, please help us update their information. Thank you to those that took the time to help us with these updates!

Alumni engagement has also increased. We've seen an uptick in participation for our workdays, as well as the annual BS Open golf tournament. As you know, alumni engagement is crucial to preserving our legacy as Deltas. It also sets quite an example for the active chapter members who will one day be alumni themselves.

As treasurer, donations were an important metric to determine the success of our newsletter mailings. I was thrilled to see how many alumni donated as a result of the spring 2019 newsletter. Not only do these donations support the mailings, they help fund repairs on the house. In the last three years, we've replaced all the windows, installed a new air conditioner unit, reroofed the second-floor balcony, and installed a new vanity in the first-floor

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Jacob Stahl '14



**Editor's Note:** For this edition of the newsletter, we're shining the spotlight on Brother **Jacob Stahl '14**. From the hometown of Dike, Texas, Jacob graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering and mathematics, before attaining a master's degree in mechanical engineering. As an active chapter member, he served as sergeant at arms. After much persistence, Jacob joined the NASA team, and is now working as a propulsion engineer. He was recently honored as NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Mission Engineering and Systems Analysis (MESA) Division Rookie of the Year. On the home front, Jacob and his wife Tiffany have been married for two years now. They enjoy traveling, playing softball, hiking, and showing support for the SPCA of Anne Arundel County (AACSPCA)—the largest and oldest animal welfare organization in the county.

*Jacob (pictured, left) enjoying a heavy snowfall at Niagara Falls.*

### What did you enjoy most as an active chapter member?

Spending time with my brothers was always time well spent. I have a lot of very good memories of my time in the chapter, and all of them revolve around the men I was there with.

### How do you stay in touch with your brothers today?

After moving to Maryland, it has become difficult to have face-to-face interactions with my brothers, but I regularly talk to them in text messages or in the fantasy football group message that we have.

### When did you first develop an interest in all things NASA?

I remember going to Johnson Space Center with my family when I was very young, so I imagine that sparked my interest in spaceflight and NASA. I've always been fascinated by stories about explorers and adventurers, and when you're a child there's no more fascinating adventure than to be an astronaut traveling in space.

### What is a typical day like?

This is one of my favorite things about my job - we

don't have any typical day. Depending on what phase of a mission we are in, our jobs change radically. The past two years have been designing our propulsion system which is a lot of technical analysis, hardware selection, and writing various technical and procurement documents. However, now we are approaching the integration and test phase where we spend a lot more time in the laboratory testing hardware and will soon start building our system in a cleanroom.

### How do you rest your mind and rejuvenate?

Watching a movie or TV show with my wife Tiffany is always great. I also like to exercise, read books, play video games, and watch college football (though this is usually more stress inducing).

### Which achievements are you most proud of?

I'm very proud of my work at Texas A&M, and the thesis I wrote for my master's degree. I'm a very slow writer, so for me that was a big accomplishment. In regard to my achievements at NASA, I am also proud of my PREP II work, which is similar to a thesis for new engineers at Goddard, as well as

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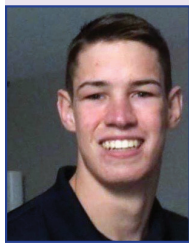


*Jacob standing in an ISS mockup at Marshall Space Flight Center.*



# Chapter News

## FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT



*Greetings, brothers:*

I am happy to inform you with an update of Epsilon Eta. Rush week has been a huge success, and thanks go out to those who have helped contribute, and thank you for all that you do! This year, we are looking

at about 20-25 guys interested in our chapter. Intramurals are about to come into full swing, and we are excited to see how well we do this year in that aspect as well. We are paired up with the wonderful ladies of Chi Omega for Homecoming this year, which will be held on October 26. We plan to go to the Mayo Memorial Service at 10:00 a.m., and this will be followed by refreshments at the house, before heading to the tailgate area. We are excited to see what this semester has in store for us and as always, it's a great day to be a Delt!

Fraternally,

*Kevin Williams*

Kevin Williams

## CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT: **Trystin Edwards**



**Editor's Note:** Representing the chapter as spotlight is junior class member **Trystin Edwards**. From Mabank, Texas, Trystin is working towards his degree in business management. Having served the chapter as intramural chair and house and grounds chair, he is currently contributing to the chapter's success as internal VP. On campus, Trystin works as an office assistant in the psych department, as well as an intramural official. Outside of school, he enjoys playing ultimate frisbee and log rolling.

### What do you enjoy most as a member of the chapter?

The thing I enjoy most is having outstanding men around me day in and day out. I'm surrounded by great people that have nothing but love for each other, and it's a great feeling.



## SAVE THE DATE!

# HOMECOMING: OCTOBER 26, 2019



Join us on Saturday, October 26, when the Lions take on the Western New Mexico Mustangs. We have a full day of festivities planned, so bring your family and enjoy catching up with your brothers. Be sure to share stories from your time as an active member with our new members and the undergraduates.

*We hope to see you there!*

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

**8:00 a.m. – Actives/Pledges at the shelter**

**9:30 a.m. – The food will be ready**  
*Pulled pork, sandwiches, mac and cheese, chips, and potato salad*

**10:00 a.m. – Food will be served**  
*At the shelter. Cost: \$15 alumni, \$10 Commerce students, \$5 active/pledge*

**11:00 a.m. – Tailgate will be set up**

**11:30 a.m. – Head to tailgate**

**4:00 p.m. – Kickoff**  
*Lions vs. Mustangs*

### How would you like to apply your degree after graduation?

I plan to use my degree to get an internship that will catapult into a salaried job after graduation. Then apply what I've learned from the business management degree courses and my internship to the work field.

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

One of the many things I do for fun outside of school is stream. I have a channel on the video streaming site twitch (DeltHuncho), where I go live. Some of the brothers will come in and joke around, have a good time, and maybe even donate or subscribe to support me. Feel free to check it out and follow just to see what it's about.

### How did you get into log rolling?

I got into log rolling because a lot of my brothers are lifeguards at the rec center, and they encouraged me to try it. I've been going non-stop it seems like, enjoying my time with the guys (*pictured, above: Trystin practicing on the log roll*).

### Who is an inspiration you and how?

Cooper Weinstein is a big inspiration to me, not only because of his achievements, but the amount of passion he has for Delt. The level of commitment that he gives, not just to his pledge class, but everyone that's followed, is admirable.



## LOOKING BACK: COMMERCE IN THE 1960S

**By René Griffin**—Hey, Brothers! Come help me celebrate my attendance at my 60th Homecoming game in a row! That's right—my dad took me to my first game in 1960 when we moved to Commerce, and I have not missed a Homecoming game since! I know some of you had my dad as a biology teacher, Dr. D.N. Griffin (he shared an office with Dr. Williams, Delt Chapter Advisor).

*What was Commerce like in 1960?*

Only three years earlier, the school's name was changed from East Texas State Teachers College to East Texas State College. The school was two years away from its first doctoral program, and was four years away from integration. There were no fraternities or sororities, only social clubs.

The four main academic buildings on campus were the Hall of Languages, the social sciences building, the education building, and the science building. The Gee Library had just been finished that year. The student center was a small wood building across the street from the Baptist Student Center (it later housed the speech and drama department).

The home economics department had a house across the street from campus that HomeEc majors had to live in for a few weeks during their college career. The two main dorms were Henderson Hall and Binnion Hall, and everyone walked across the street and ate at Central Cafeteria. There were no university buildings on the west side of Highway 50, and Whitley Hall was still a few years away. Memorial Stadium was fairly new. The university swimming pool was between the women's gym and the men's field house.

There was a jet airplane on campus across the street from the women's gym that you could climb on and crawl inside (I bet you totally forgot about the plane). To purchase alcohol, you had to drive to West Tawakoni or Oklahoma. Ladonia went "wet" in the late '60s, and Commerce in 1972. Every restaurant and gas station had a cigarette machine in it, and nobody thought anything of it.

Commerce had a drive-in movie theater and Hailey's Bar-B-Que outside of town, and the Palace Theater downtown. Other stores downtown were Jim Clark's Men's Store, Freezia & Steger (clothing store), Bilnick's Jewelry, Eastland's 5&10, Cranford Drug Store (yes, they had a soda fountain), J.C. Penney's, Ward's Pharmacy, Drake Furniture, Chaney Furniture, Commerce Cafe and Commerce Cafeteria, the Chat & Chew Cafe (yes, that was the real name of it), the

News Stand, the Commerce Journal, Taylor Brothers' Grocery (they had a \$50 gold piece imbedded in the concrete at their front door), Phillips Grocery Store (Piggly Wiggly would come soon), First National Bank, Security State Bank, Commerce Federal Savings & Loan, Latson's Print Shop, Commerce Lumber Yard, and Commerce Hardware.

My Dad bought our first STEREO record player at Eddie Moore T. V. and Appliances. It was a Zenith. You bought your insurance from Dyer Insurance or Fuller Insurance (both their sons are Brother Deltas). Anybody ever get a haircut at the West Side Barber Shop on the downtown square? It opened in the 1950s and is still in business at the same location.

The Commerce Hospital was an old pink building on Monroe Street. The

Commerce Natatorium was the public swimming pool next to the Little League baseball field and the City Park. Across the street was the Pony League field, the Commerce Library, and "The Hut," which you could rent out for small parties.

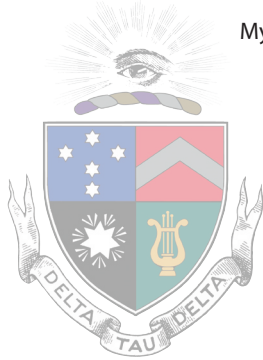
Anyone ever live in the beautiful South Dorms, or buy your sweetie some flowers at Bickham's Florist? The phone service was provided by Gulf States United. There were no dials on the phone. When you picked up the phone, the operator said "number please," and you gave her the number you wanted to call. My home number was 340.

You had a choice for electricity, Texas Power and Light (TP&L), or the city owned source, Commerce Power. W.Y. Goff and Houston Jones ran the two funeral homes and also the ambulance services (this always seemed like a conflict of interest to me). The Riviera and Ponderosa Apartments would soon be built, followed by Watergate (name changed to Westgate later for obvious reasons).

The station attendants pumped your gas, checked your oil, and cleaned your windshield at Enco, Esso, and Texaco gas stations. The Cotton Belt Railroad had a depot on Park Street next to the train tracks.

We had a Dairy Mart (my very first job was as a carhop there—which later became the Charcoal Broiler) and a Dairy Queen (downtown, with no inside seating), and the only motel was the Sage Motel. The Pizza Inn and the Sonic Drive-in had not yet arrived. We had a bowling alley, the Commerce Lanes. That building later housed Gibson's (a forerunner of Wal-Mart).

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## ACTIVE AND ALUMNI WORKDAY

**By Nick Gillick '07**—First, we'd like to thank all of the brothers who devoted their time and labor get the shelter ready for the fall. Attendance at the August 17 workday was great, and we hope to see more alumni at the next workday. We'd also like to thank those that couldn't be there but donated funds and supplies.

Everyone worked hard and got the deck cleaned, painted, and resealed. The downstairs bathroom vanity was replaced, fence repairs were made, there was mowing and tree trimming, and multiple other projects were done as well. A new sign for the front yard was even made by hand, with Phillip Clark leading the effort.

We want to specially thank Karen and **Nate King '04** as the MVPs of the workday for arriving a day early to power wash and prep the deck. Also, a special shout out to Konrad Jett for providing lunch.

We'll see you next workday!



**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!*



Jacob and his wife Tiffany exploring Harrison's Cave in Barbados.

the surge testing campaign I ran for PACE this year. For the surge testing, I designed an experiment setup, selected and purchased all my instrumentation, wired all of the electronic components, wrote the operation procedures, and ran over 100 tests with a team of coworkers. Seeing that campaign through successfully was a lot of work, and I'm very proud of it.

### What are your goals?

My dream is to become a NASA Astronaut. This is an insanely competitive position to get, and even

*Right: Jacob was recently awarded the 590 Rookie of the Year Award by NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. The award is given to an employee from NASA's Mission Engineering and Systems Analysis (MESA) Division who practices "commitment to excellence, creativity, dedication, customer service and personal integrity in providing outstanding support to Goddard's mission."*



## House Corporation

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bathroom. We've also been able to handle random expenses that pop up, such as broken A/C units and plumbing repairs.

If you haven't already joined the Sutton and Brown Society, please use this opportunity to do so. Also, it isn't too late to get your name on our yearly donation board.

I thank all of you for your time, talents, and treasure.

Fraternally,

David H. Hitt III '11  
Treasurer, House Corporation

if you're the most experienced candidate in the world, you can easily be rejected for some minor health condition you didn't even know you had! My short-term goal is to see the launch of the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, and ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, which has been my primary job these past several years. I also want to continue working on green propulsion development efforts.

### What advice can you give the brothers about perseverance?

I think perseverance is dependent on finding something that motivates you, whether that's your family, self-improvement, a career goal, or financial success. It may take some time, but once you find what it is that gets you excited, perseverance becomes much easier. I have also adopted a "front load your work" philosophy. Getting the hard tasks done first makes the rest of your day that much easier, and you can apply that philosophy to any time scale.

## Commerce in the 1960s

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T. V. antennas did not work very well because of our distance from Dallas, but we had cable T. V. with Channel 7 out of Tyler. It was great for watching Cowboys games that were "blacked out" for a 50-mile radius because the home games did not sell out.

Speaking of football, this was only a year and a half after Sam McCord led the Lions to a 26-7 victory over Missouri Valley in the Tangerine Bowl (later called the Citrus Bowl). Ironically, E.T. should have played The University at Buffalo, but they declined their bid to play because the Bowl Committee would not allow their two black players on the field.

Yes, Commerce, E.T., and "the times" have all changed just a little over the last 60 years.

*Oh, to be in the 2nd grade again...*

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

*We are saddened to learn of the passing of the following brothers. Our sympathies to their friends and family members:*

R. MICHEAL REID '73

WAYNE A. NEAL '85

Brother Mike Reid '73 passed into the Chapter Eternal on August 15, 2019, after a brief bout with brain cancer. Mike was supposed to be featured in the "Alumni Highlights" section of this newsletter, but the Lord had other plans for Mike.

Mike built beautiful custom homes in and around the Rockwall area for most of his working career. In 2013, he volunteered to put his skills to work by supervising the remodeling of the Shelter in Commerce. Honestly, this was more of a "re-build" than a "re-model." His sub-contractors gutted the house while he supervised, and then installed new plumbing, electrical wiring, a sprinkler system, floors, walls, etc. in order to make the Shelter a desirable place to live again. Because of Mike's dedication, the Shelter continues to be the center of activity for Delts at the University.

Mike served on House Corp for several years, participated in the B.S. Open numerous times, received the Outstanding Delt "Rock" award, and was a frequent attendee at Homecoming events.

Please enter this link to see the video celebrating Mike's life that was presented at his memorial service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KkUMVM8b0o>

Please enter this link to read Mike's Journal, and then click on "Gallery" to read his obituary and see more pictures: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/mikereid/journal>

*Mike Reid (center) after receiving Outstanding Delt "Rock" Award at the 55th Anniversary Banquet.*



## Buy a Brick in the Alumni Brick Garden

It's not too late to buy your brick for the Alumni Brick Garden. Several brothers have bought one so far this year. Join your fellow EH Delts who have already bought a brick in the chapter

walkway. Create your own lasting message—for example, 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](http://www.tamuc.edu) and click on the upper right corner, "Alumni and Community," then upper left, "Alumni Relations," then lower right, "Leave Your Mark on Campus."