



# DELTS OF OL' ET

## Epsilon Eta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta



Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation | Spring 2020 | Texas A&M University - Commerce  
Alumni Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 | [tamucommerce.deltsconnect.org](http://tamucommerce.deltsconnect.org)

### FROM THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Dear Brothers!

For years, the Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation has delivered a printed newsletter to you each semester. This semester, to help save cost and provide extra financial assistance to the active chapter,

we are sending you a digital-only version of our newsletter which will be delivered to your email inbox in a few days. We hope to return to a printed newsletter for our fall edition.

Because of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Texas A&M University-Commerce has moved to online-only learning and we don't anticipate the campus opening back up until Fall 2020. This has put our organization in a potentially tough position financially. With careful planning, we are certain we can weather this storm.

At this time many students have returned home leaving the house with very low occupancy. We are facing the very real fact that the chapter will likely not be able to meet their obligation to pay rent - to no fault of their own. It will likely be the fall 2020 semester before campus life is back to normal and we can count on a full house of undergrads and the rental income that keeps the shelter viable.



Helping these young Delts to come through this potential financial hardship is important to the long-term health of Epsilon Eta.

This is why I'm asking you to donate, within your ability, to the chapter's rent and utility fund.

We understand if you are not able to help. If you can, this money will directly benefit the chapter by subsidizing the cost of the house, allowing our foundation to keep the lights on and the house maintained. Any donation, regardless of the amount, is a huge help.

You can make a secure online donation here using a credit card or you can send a check to:

Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation  
Alumni Relations Office  
P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, GA 30366

(continued on page 2)

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

## Dr. Robert "Bob" Williams, Ph.D. '59

**Editor's Note:** For this edition of the newsletter we're shining the Spotlight on Brother **Bob Williams '59**. From the hometown of Mansfield, Texas, Bob was our very first Chapter Advisor back in 1961. He and his wife Bobbi (called "Red" by most folks because of her flaming red hair) evidently threw some pretty good parties when the chapter first started. Bob taught in the biology department and is a retired Professor of Biology at East Texas State College (now TAMU-C). He holds a B.S. in Agricultural Education and Military Science, Entomology and Zoology for Masters, and a PHD in Entomology with minors in Zoology and Botany. Bob served in Korean War and was honored with the Purple Heart and Silver Star. He remained in the Army Reserves after active duty, and became a Lt. Col. Bob and his wife, Bobbi, have been married for 67 years and they have three grown children: Terry (named after Terry and the Pirates), Stephanie, and Scott.

#### What were the first chapter parties like?

Parties were held at the M.S.C. Everyone had a good time. Delts were always well-mannered and made a point to visit with me and Bobbi. They did not have alcohol in the party area, but some had "bathroom bars." These Delts were early "boomers" who had been taught rather high standards. The spring outings at state parks were also very enjoyable.

#### What type of connection did you and your wife "Big Red" have with the active members?

Relationships were very personal. Bobbi was only a couple of years older than the Delts, and they were



very attentive to her. She was invited to dance with the members and their girlfriends enjoyed chatting with her. They were always friendly and very respectful to me. They were always welcome at our home and many of them would come when they were hungry to get a sandwich. In many cases, some of the members would be "going steady," and we would become emotionally involved only to become heart broken when they "broke up."

#### Why did you decide to become a teacher after graduation?

I was nearly finished with the PhD when the opening for the job occurred. I applied and was accepted. I found that I really enjoyed developing adults. Previously, I had worked in agriculture (extension service and advisor to farmers), had not intended to be a teacher. My family members growing up were farmers with various crops; mostly peanuts.

#### Which achievements are you most proud of?

I was able to greatly expand my academic horizons far beyond my PhD requirements and was able to enter other fields of teaching. It was a lot of fun and was very rewarding.

(continued on page 3)



A young Bob and Bobbi at a school event.



# Chapter News

Meet our president, **William Prevost!** He is a sophomore from Frisco, Texas majoring in Public Health. He rushed Fall 18 and has held the position of DAA. In his own words Will loves DELT because "It's offered me so many opportunities to grow as a man and make myself a better person as well as develop and hone my leadership style!"



Chapter President William Prevost proudly holds the fraternity flag.

## YOU HEARD IT HERE

By **Ryan Hair**, Public Relations Chair

This year we saw five of our members attend the division conference and go to several educational sessions to bring back to the chapter. We were awarded the academic award for exceeding the AMA/AFA. During the conference our chapter was given the honor to perform the initiation ritual for all Deltas in attendance. Our ritual team performed a flawless ritual that lived up to our reputation. Our chapter advisor **Alfred Kuzov '02** was also awarded the position of Division Vice president for the Western Plains.

The Delt Gold team was also given the honor to play several unified basketball games with a Special Olympics team. The Delt gold basketball team also went to the intramural championship. February, we had our Mugs benefit to raise money for JDRF and Deltas hung around to provide information about Type 1 diabetes.

Epsilon Eta currently has thirty-one active members and four men living in the house. The men of Epsilon Eta also attended several information meetings to educate our members on topics such as Risk Management, Mental health awareness and Finance/Budgeting. This recent spring semester saw us rush three men for our spring pledge class. Sadly, due to the Corona pandemic we are moving them to rush during the fall 2020 pledge class. Due to Corona weekly chapter will not be held and several members moved back to their hometown and are taking online classes.

## CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT:

# Ian Beckett



**Editor's Note:** Representing the chapter as Spotlight is Brother Ian Beckett. From the hometown of Friendswood, Texas, Ian is in his first year and is pursuing a degree in computer engineering with an electrical focus. He has already served the chapter as Director of Standards, Assistant New Member Educator, and Ritual Team Member. Ian was selected as Spotlight for having such a hardworking nature, go-getting attitude, and for having stepped up and grabbed the bull by the horns - even as a J! On campus, he is also a Senator with Student Government, and is part of the Fraternity Government Relations Coalition as a Student Lobbyist. Ian proudly served for six years in the US Navy as a nuclear reactor operator and maintenance technician on Ohio Class submarine, USS Kentucky.

### What led you to join the chapter?

As I was nearing the end of my enlistment, I was looking for ways to get socially involved so that I could improve my chance of success in civilian life and at college. A junior officer, who happened to be the former chapter president of Pi Kappa Phi at Texas Tech, recommended that I look into joining a fraternity. I thought that this would be the best way to find a brotherhood that at least somewhat resembled that which I had experienced in the Navy.

### How has the transition from a submarine to apartment living been?

I'm currently living in an apartment just off campus. The knowledge that one will be sleeping in the same bed every night, and that the bed will be larger than the 2.5' x 6' rack I had on the boat, is something that



Lifting heavy at Commerce Fitness.

most other people take for granted. Also, getting off rotating shifts and duty section has made me feel much healthier and happier. The only negative aspect I can think of is that not everyone in the general

(continued on page 4)

## CONGRATULATIONS!



## GRADUATING SENIORS SPRING 2020

**Dhimant Sahi** from Chenna, India. Receiving a degree in business administration.

**Zach Auringer** from Mount Vernon, Texas. Receiving a degree in math and physics.

**Greyson Allen** from Richardson, Texas. Receiving a degree in sport and recreation.

**Taylor Graham Peters** from Laredo, Texas. Receiving a degree in business administration.

## Educational Foundation

(continued from page 1)

When making your donation via check, please be sure to specify that you would like the funds used for the rent and utilities fund.

We want to thank you in advance for your support.

Fraternally,

David H. Hitt III '11  
Treasurer, Educational Foundation

P.S. Because of closures and concerns over COVID-19, the Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation will be unable to host the annual B.S. Open this spring. We plan to reschedule this event for the fall. We have also cancelled our spring workday which was going to be devoted to repainting the interior of the house. We will reschedule this workday once we know that it is safe to do so, and we can reasonably fit the costs into the budget.

P.P.S. Please check with other brothers and make sure that they received this email. If they didn't, please have them update their information online here or email their updated info to: recordsmanager@elevateims.com



## DELT SHELTER REPAIRS UPDATE

By **Nick Gillick '07**, Vice President, Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation

As you are surely aware, the wear and tear on a fraternity house goes well beyond "normal." Add in the age of the house, and those problems are only compounded. You were there once (it may have been the current shelter, old blue, or even G1), and you know what you did!

Because of this, a big job of the Epsilon Eta Educational Foundation is ensuring that the shelter is not only financially secure, but also physically secure. This means proper maintenance and repairs need to be done often.

For instance, this past summer it was discovered that a piece of roofing had come off and exposed the wood decking. It was likely caused by faulty flashing from a previous roof repair. Water leaked between a wall and some flashing going under the decking. We had to replace two sheets of roof decking, siding, flashing, and a section of rolled roofing on the upper roof of the shelter. Due to your generous donations over the past few years, it was possible for us to handle this repair, and write a check without sweating or passing the hat!

In this process we also discovered significant damage and rot to large sections of fascia and soffit all around the house. We knew it needed repair ... just not how bad it was. This caused a risk not only to the structure, but also to the brothers living in and enjoying the house.

We just completed the exterior repairs needed to the fascia and soffit at a cost of \$4,000. A significant part of this expense was in equipment and labor due to how high off the ground these repairs were! A risk we couldn't ask any brothers to take. It was obviously a



risky situation, and we could see it was a job for the professionals.

We'd also like to brag that this past year, maintenance and repairs were performed on the deck, stair banister, air and heating, exterior doors, bathrooms, electrical, and more.

We had planned a "painting day" on May 16th to paint the interior something other than battleship gray. This event has been cancelled due to the economic impact and safety concerns of COVID-19. We will reschedule a workday/paint day for later this year. We hope to see you there.

As a final note, thank you to all the brothers who have donated their time, money, and talents to maintaining the shelter for future generations of better Deltas, and better men!

### "Bob" Williams

(continued from page 1)



Bob and his wife Bobbi last October at a wedding.

#### When did you learn to scuba dive?

I learned how to scuba dive in Cozumel during a boat trip in the Army. Scuba diving was necessary, and I took the longer scuba training course. In the late 1970s I had the opportunity to take graduate students of Marine Biology there.

#### What did you enjoy most while visiting Colorado for vacation?

The mountain hiking and scenery were extremely enjoyable. I also taught graduate classes in mountain biology for several summers.

#### How do you spend your time today?

Mostly reading novels, watching movies on tv, reading newspapers, and walking through the community. And long before that...playing golf with the Deltas!

#### What advice can you give the Alumni and active members about helping others?

Always be available but not intrusive. In today's social climate, keep alcohol and abusive hazing out of the pledge program.

SAVE THE DATE!

# HOMECOMING: OCTOBER 24, 2020



### Homecoming Events

#### Beginning Around 10:00 am

The date for homecoming has been set. At this point in time we do not anticipate it being cancelled or postponed. Please mark your calendars. The university will have a full day of events planned.

*We hope to see you there!*

#### DELT B.S. OPEN

Postponed

#### WORKDAY AT THE SHELTER

Postponed





**For this edition of the newsletter we're going to skip the usual news and regale you with stories from the old days!**

Last year, **Tom Huddleston '62** asked the 1960's Deltas to send to him any stories that could be shared about their time as a Delt at E.T. When I told him I wanted to publish them in this newsletter, he suggested I select a sample of the stories and submit them. Consequently, here they are. I tried to clean up some of the grammar and misspelled words but did not want to change the narrative as told by the Brother who wrote the story. Please enjoy!!! **Rene' Griffin EH '75**.

**Jerry Wesson '62** — My first meeting with the members of the Cavaliers was overwhelming. The president of the freshmen Class, Sophomore Class, Senior Class, and the president of the Student Body were all Cavaliers! It was beyond my imagination to think I would be president of the senior class and on the Student Senate in two years! (Remember, I was admitted to ET on scholastic probation!)

One of my favorite memories was ET's first Greek Sing Song. When we were announced as the winner, we broke spontaneously into the only -Christmas Carol - pinning ceremony - brotherhood song - gospel hymn - we knew... "The Cavalier Song!"

"Put on your old blue bonnet with ET upon it.

It's a damn good college, but we're not for knowledge, so let's raise hell while we're here!"

## C-A-V-A-L-I-E-R-S-I



**Tom Coker '68** — I had the honor of introducing Justice Tom Clark at his speech/Q&A session on the ET Campus as he interacted with students and faculty. As an old country boy from Cooper, Texas, I would have never dreamed that I would one day be privileged to meet such a man. Thank you DTD.

**Craig Atherton '62** — I pledged Cavaliers social club in the fall of 1958 and attended ET continuously until summer 1964 when I finished a Master's in Mathematics. **Phillip Rutherford '62, Lynn Williams '61, and Fred Turbeville '61** were among my pledge brothers. I would represent the transition from Cavaliers to DTD.

During this time, there were many veterans returning from active duty. One such vet, Joe Lindsay, was the roommate of **Jim Boaz '63** and had been a Cavalier. When those guys spoke, you listened. We were fortunate to have them as role models.

Our fraternity house was at the NW corner of Hunt and Monroe - an empty lot as of two years ago. The school started to build some new dorms south and west of the campus to be ready for occupancy in 1960. For each dorm, there were 12 four-person apartments in the dorm. There were two people in each of two bedrooms, with a common bathroom and living/kitchen area. One was designated the Cavalier/Delt dorm. I can't remember how many Cavaliers we housed there, maybe up to 32?

Unfortunately, when we arrived for the fall semester, the construction was not complete. The school housed us in East Hall. The dorm was divided in the middle of each floor by plywood panels from wall to wall and ceiling to floor. They housed boys on the north side and girls on the south. There were at least four to a room, designed for two. The top floor of East Hall was a huge open attic and they housed dozens, mostly freshmen as I recall, on cots. Three lasting impressions from that experience - no air conditioning, fire codes violated, and multiple holes drilled in the plywood. Before the end of the semester, we moved into the Cavalier dorm. **Jerry Wesson '62, Donald Jack Allen**

**'63, James Carr '62** and I lived downstairs left at the rightmost door of the three entry doors to the dorm.

The dorm was relatively quiet on the day of our induction on January 7, 1961, as we all prepared to caravan to Dallas in our finest garb. I had stayed up most of the night working on a drafting project and was somewhat ill prepared for the full experience of the day's activities. I had never stayed all dressed up for so long a period of time.

**Stay tuned for Part 2 of Tales from Epsilon Eta in the next newsletter.**

## Ian Beckett (continued from page 2)



Enjoying the view from the summit of Mount Ellinor.

population is as dedicated, trustworthy or enthusiastic as the men I served with.

### Which achievements are you most proud of thus far?

Other than my military service, I'm proud to have a positive effect on the reputation of Delta Tau Delta. I receive compliments from people within the national Fraternity and the TAMUC campus that seem to reflect credit upon our chapter. I'm also happy with my academic performance in college so far. It could always be better, but it's best to find a balance between school and personal life.

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

When I lived in Washington, I liked to go mountain climbing. These days, I stay physically fit by lifting weights at the gym, often with one or more of my Fraternity brothers. I'm also looking into going fishing, martial arts, or hunting, the latter of which I have never done before. Other than that, I listen to podcasts while driving and spend time with my friends. I'm always looking to learn something new or challenge myself.

## 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 Deltas 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."