



## Delta Tau Chapter at Southern Methodist University

# DELTA TAUKS

Winter 2011

## STATE OF THE CHAPTER

By: Costa Kontoulis (2011), President

The 2010-2011 school year has been one of the most successful and productive years in the Fraternity's recent history. We are currently the largest chapter on campus with 102 active members and have a chapter GPA average of 3.172. Just recently, we extended 31 bids to potential new members and received 29 acceptances. We are excited to educate these young men about the benefits that FIJI brotherhood can have on their lives. We have remained in good standing with the school and have not received any disciplinary reprimands in over a year. Our continued academic success and community involvement have propelled us to be one of the most influential organizations on campus.

This past semester, senior Garrett Olson (2011) was chosen as Homecoming King in front of his peers at the SMU v. Houston football game. Along with his 4.0 GPA, Garrett has been actively involved in the Delta Tau Chapter and played football for SMU his freshman year. Also,



sophomore Gerald Fawcett (2013) won the Mr. University Talent Competition that was sponsored by the Pi Beta Phi sorority.

During the year, many of our members have participated in various community service projects throughout the Dallas community. We understand the importance of not only improving brotherhood through social events, but also through volunteering our time for community service.

Our chapter, as well as the alumni of our chapter have been recognized for several awards this year both by SMU,

and the greater Dallas community.

We just recently upgraded our food and beverage services by hiring Mike Noyes as our head chef, and upgrading our kitchen equipment to accommodate his style. The food has improved tremendously, and more brothers are now enjoying meals at the house.

We look forward to carrying the success that we had this year on into 2011. We continue to work diligently towards improving our chapter every day.

## RALPH SHANKS & ALUMNI

By: R. Stephen Meek (2012), Corresponding Secretary

Attached you will find a photo of the Delta Tau Chapter with recent recipient of the Coulter Cup, Brother Ralph Shanks (1963). The Coulter Cup is awarded nationally to the graduate brother who has contributed the most to an

undergraduate chapter through service in a capacity other than as a Purple Legionnaire or General Officer. The brothers of Delta Tau thank Brother Shanks for his service to our fraternity. We would also like to thank Jeff Samford (1960)

and Joshua Sepkowitz (2002) for taking over as Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA) Co-Chairmen, as brother Shanks retired from this position. With the strength of the BCA, the cabinet, and our brothers

(Continued on page 2)

## Contents

- State of the Chapter
- Thank you Ralph Shanks (1963) and Alumni
- Delta Tau provided gifts to inner city children through SMU's Celebration of Lights
- George Bramblett (1963) Distinguished Alumni Award
- Grades and above 3.5 GPA's
- Pig Dinner Date
- BCA Chairs
- Help us update our alumni database and find lost brothers so we can stay in touch with everyone!  
Visit [www.fiji-smu.org](http://www.fiji-smu.org) to update your contact information.

### CURRENT INTRAMURAL STANDINGS

Indoor Volleyball  
First Place

Quickball  
Second Place

Soccer  
Third Place

Golf  
First Place—Brian Snee  
(2012)

Overall  
Second Place

With our winnings this semester, we plan to place first in intramurals overall.

## RALPH SHANKS &amp; ALUMNI continued...

***“Delta Tau  
continues to  
progress.”***

Delta Tau will continue to progress, and eventually secure our 5<sup>th</sup> Cheney Cup, which is awarded to the undergraduate chapter which demonstrates the greatest all-around efficiency in scholarship, fraternity relationships, and general collegiate activities. Without the alumni support that our chapter has received, we would be in a much different state. Thank you for all that you have done, and continue to do.



## SOCIAL UPDATE

*By: Sammy Marasco (2011), Social Chair*

This past semester had more than its fair share of social events. We threw some of the biggest and most fun themed parties on campus which were simply warm up laps for Black Diamond last semester. Black Diamond was held at the W Hotel in Victory Park in downtown Dallas. Limos brought everyone from the FIJI house on SMU campus to the W where we had a room block for our top 40 rushees as well as actives. The dinner and dance were held in the W's largest ballroom where we had a live band throughout the night. We also partnered with the Pi Beta Phi sorority during homecoming and enjoyed spending time with the girls while building our float. To the right you will find the group of Fiji's that volunteered for the Flower Mound Special Olympics on January 22nd. These young men devoted their Saturday to making this event a success. Bigger social plans for this upcoming semester include Pig Dinner to be held in Dallas on April 7, 2011. This year we hope to make the event more fun and we hope to see a large turnout from the alumni. Pig Dinner will be followed by our traditional trip down to Austin for Island.



## CURRENT BCA &amp; CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Adam Batchelor** (2003), Graduate & Public Relations, abatchelor@wingatepartners.com
- **Allen Myers** (1964), Pig Dinner, armyersretired@sbcglobal.net
- **Bob Wood** (1978), Fraternity Law/University Relations, rccwood@aol.com
- **Charlie Martin** (1963), Risk Management, cmartinmarketing@aol.com
- **Chuck Briant** (2003), Housing, chuck.briant@archongroup.com
- **Evan Saks** (2007), Ritual/Scholarship, saks.evan@gmail.com
- **Fielding Graham** (2009), Fundraising, fielding.graham@ms.com
- **Jeff Samford** (1960), BCA Co-Chair/University Relations, jsam3409@aol.com
- **Joe Mira** (1988), Brotherhood Programs, jmira@krcl.com
- **Joshua Sepkowitz** (2002), BCA Co-Chair/Chapter Operations, joshua.sepkowitz@e2mpartners.com
- **Matt Barron** (2007), Pledge Education, matt.e.barron@gmail.com
- **Matthew Furman** (2010), Purple Legionnaire, mfurman@mail.smu.edu
- **Nick Grayden** (2010), Treasurer, ngrayden@smu.edu



## BROTHERS ABROAD



Several of the junior class brothers traveled abroad during the fall semester.

John Sievers, Andrew Thorington, Bobby Phelps, Jordan Zarcone, John Darwin, and Mike Peterson all traveled to Copenhagen, Mark Seidel and Gates Maus traveled to Spain, and Max Sutro and Blake Fontana traveled to London. Above you will find photos of brothers that were abroad. Although they missed SMU and Fiji while they were gone, they represented us well overseas.



## CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS



*By: Eric Sabandal (2013), Community Service Chair*

This holiday season the brothers of Delta Tau had the opportunity to sponsor two children from Cesar Chavez Elementary School during the annual Celebration of Lights. We met the brother and sister, Michael and Destiny, a few hours before the ceremony and played some holiday games while sipping hot chocolate and getting excited for the holiday festivities. Over the course of the night, the kids exchanged more laughs and listened to SMU's President Turner read *The Christmas Story* on the steps of Dallas Hall. Once the ceremony concluded, we surprised the two with gifts we had wrapped for them earlier in the week. As the night finally came to a close, the two climbed back aboard their bus (Michael with his Patriots cap on and arms full with a new basketball and football and Destiny donning her tiara and new baby dolls) with smiles that left the entire chapter warm with holiday cheer.

## GEORGE BRAMBLETT



*By: Myles De Vilder (2013), Alumni Relations Chair*

George W. Bramblett, Jr. (1963), a fellow Delta Tau FIJI, received the 2010 SMU Distinguished Alumni Award this year. This award is the highest honor the University bestows upon its graduates. Brother Bramblett joined Delta Tau alumni Michael M. Boone (1963), Richard W. Quick (1965), William T. Solomon (1965), Frederick B. Hegi, Jr. (1966), Robert W. Haley (1967), Joe T. White (1970) and W. Payne Stewart (1979), as recipients of this prestigious award. We congratulate Brother Bramblett on this achievement and thank him for his years of service to the Delta Tau Chapter, the Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta and Southern Methodist University.

## DELTA TAU GRADES

This past semester the Delta Tau Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta obtained an average GPA of 3.173. Approximately 30% of the initiated brothers achieved a 3.5 GPA or higher, and they are as follows:

- Kevin Burton (2013)
- Myles De Vilder (2013)
- Curtis Elijah (2012)
- Spencer Gallner (2011)
- Charles Margiotta (2013)
- John Potts (2013)
- Adie Von Gontard (2011)
- Tyler West (2011)
- Dylan Mesh (2013)
- Costa Kontoulis (2011)
- Mark Seidel (2012)
- John Sievers (2012)
- Andrew Thorington (2012)
- John Darwin (2012)
- Gates Maus (2012)
- Scott Kirchhoff (2012)
- Jacob O'Dell (2013)
- Sean Higgins (2013)
- Tyler Kendrick (2011)
- Bryan Poppler (2012)
- Wilson Maclin (2012)
- Charlie Sonnenberg (2012)
- Brett Hanes (2012)
- Clay Patterson (2012)
- Eric Sabandal (2013)
- Terry Andersen (2013)
- Jeff Jones (2013)
- Dan Farabaugh (2012)
- Stephen Meek (2012)
- Chase Michalek (2012)
- Garrett Olson (2011)
- Trev Wilgus (2013)

## PIG DINNER

Thank you for participating in the Pig Dinner Survey. Pig Dinner will be held on April 7th, 2011 at Hully and Mo, in uptown Dallas. See attached invitation for more details.

## DECADE CHAIR CAMPAIGN

The Decade Chair Campaign has been and will continue to be a success with the help of our alumni. Mr. Jeff Samford (1960) has been awarded a \$250 gift certificate to Nick & Sam's Steakhouse for his dedication in conducting alumni updates. Below you will find an information update. Please use this form to update your information. If you know any brothers who are not receiving this newsletter, please forward this newsletter to them.

## DELTA TAU CABINET

**Costa Kontoulis (2011)** - Chapter President  
ckontoulis@smu.edu

**Tyler West (2010)** - Chapter Treasurer  
twest@smu.edu

**Ford Noe (2011)** - Recording Secretary  
jnoe@smu.edu

**Stephen Meek (2012)** - Corresponding Secretary  
Rmeek@smu.edu

**Andrew Biskind (2011)** - Chapter Historian  
abiskind@smu.edu

## Information Update

*Please send us your new contact information so we can update our records.*

*Updates can also be made any time at [www.fiji-smu.org](http://www.fiji-smu.org).*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School/year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Josh Sepkowitz, 3401 Armstrong Ave., Dallas, TX 75205

*Design services provided by the International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta.*