

ACCOLADE

TEXAS ALPHA ♦ UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SIGMA PHI EPSILON

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SPRING 2019

TEXAS ALPHA IMPLEMENTS NEW SOCIAL GUIDELINES

Support the Chapter by Joining the Skull & Crossbones Society

Hello from 2500 Pearl! Once again, Texas Alpha enjoyed a great fall semester. We welcomed 47 new members to our chapter, bringing the active chapter count to 189. The young men of the chapter enjoyed a full semester of academics, socials and football, culminating in a large contingency of Texas Alpha invading New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl. At the same time, Texas Alpha implemented more stringent social guidelines to ensure that all events are run safely. As you can imagine, the potential for issues with a chapter this size is high. However, I am personally proud of the chapter and its officers for taking very seriously their responsibilities for their brothers in a social environment.

The chapter also implemented a new academic advisory structure with increased participation from the older members. We do not have the chapter grades yet but are eagerly awaiting what we hope to be good results. During the semester, we implemented our Residential Learning Center program by inviting Dr. Douglas Garrard, associate dean of students, and Daniel Lui, director of McComb's MBA Career Management, to be the chapter's faculty fellows. Both graciously accepted and are spending time with the chapter. We are lucky to have them and their time. The chapter continued its guest speaker program with UT Regent **Steve Hicks '72** giving an inspiring talk with the entire chapter.

With the spring comes a new group of officers. We recently returned from the Carlson Leadership Academy in Irving, Texas, where 18 active members joined four alumni for an intense weekend of leadership training. This year will also be the national Conclave in Houston. We are planning some big events since the national chapter will be in our backyard.

That brings me to a request to alumni—please join the Skull & Crossbones Society. All funds contributed to the Society go directly to the costs of sending the boys to Carlson, Conclave, the summer Ruck Institute, and speakers for the chapter. We send as many men as we can afford. Your dollars ensure that the chapter continues to produce fine young men ready to lead the state of Texas.

Finally, recruitment will start soon. If you know of any legacies or other qualified incoming freshmen, please send us those recommendations. As always, we appreciate your support and your boys.

HFF,

Lynn Butler '88



David Whitley '05 and his family with Texas Governor Greg Abbot.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumnus Appointed as Texas Secretary of State

David Whitley '05 Thankful for Texas Alpha Experiences

College is a massive time of transition. Leaving behind everything you once knew and were familiar with, such as your hometown, friends, and family, can be a daunting experience. For **David Whitley '05**, it was important to find a supportive community to make the large campus a more navigable environment. After joining Sigma Phi Epsilon as a spring pledge, he instantly felt at home within the brotherhood. "It means everything in the world to me to have those guys by my side, then and now," David said.

Professionally and personally, his life has been positively impacted since joining. David felt the fraternity prepared him well for post-graduate life by teaching him to connect with others and how to listen to someone's personal story—a valuable skill in any industry.

He utilized those abilities and was offered a position during his senior year to work part time as a scheduling and advance man in then-Attorney General Greg Abbott's office. "I thought I'd leave after graduation, but I ended up (Continued on page 2)



JEFF OTTO '77 TO BE HONORED AT FOUNDERS' DAY

Alumnus Dedicates Time to Serving Texas Alpha

Many Sigma Phi Epsilon members will associate Texas Alpha with one word: *home*. For **Jeff Otto '77**, that association couldn't be truer. As soon as **Bill Hicks '76** invited him to a recruitment event, he envisioned himself as a SigEp member. "I could tell SigEp had higher quality members than other fraternities," Jeff said. His undergraduate time held some of his most cherished memories such as freshman matches, backyard horseshoes, football games, and initiation week.



Due to Jeff's strong commitment to SigEp, he is being recognized at Texas Alpha's upcoming Founders' Day by being inducted into their Hall of Fame. "I am humbled and quite surprised—but pleasantly so," Jeff said. "We have such a strong alumni group that the Hall of Fame will never run out of candidates."

He hopes that this honor encourages brothers to give back in a similar capacity. "Make it a life goal to give back in some way to the chapter. It will reward you over and over," Jeff said.

Even as an alumnus, Jeff wants to ensure undergraduates feel at home, too. He's served as chapter counselor, house foundation president, regional meeting speaker, and has assisted with Sigma Phi Epsilon at Baylor. Staying so connected to Texas Alpha has helped him keep in touch with brothers such as **Stuart Sharrock '77**, **Jerry Smith '79**, **Bob McConnell '77**, and many others. "College friends are the best friends because they loved you before they knew how it would all turn out."

Jeff is a managing partner at Thompson Co. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, volunteers for Central Texas SPCA, and serves as an Austin Baptist Church class leader. Jeff and his wife, Patty, reside in Austin, Texas. They have two children: Jordan and Lauren. "Grandkids are turning out to be a delightful chapter of our lives. One now and one on the way!" Email: jotto@thompsoncoe.com.

Alumnus Appointed as Texas Secretary of State

(Continued from page 1)

loving the office and public service," David said. "When you work with great people who believe you can be great yourself, it's easy to love your job." He continued to work in the Attorney General's office after law school and then also served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Appointments Director for Governor Abbott.

On December 17, 2018, David was appointed and sworn in as Texas' 112th Secretary of State, which was an incredible honor. "Being a gubernatorial appointee is nothing I had planned for my life, so when I learned it was happening, it took me a little while to process," David said. "While I treat it as I would any job by working hard, it's not lost on me that it's a tremendous responsibility, and I hope to serve the people of Texas well." Each day, David is immersed in his duties, but his favorite part of his job is meeting interesting people, hearing their stories, and perhaps even helping them face their challenges.

Regardless of his busy schedule, David still takes time to keep in contact with his Texas Alpha brothers. **Matt Doherty '05**, **Chris Guinta '05**, and **Doug Jones '05** were in his wedding, and **Jeff Loomis '71** officiated it. He also stays in touch with **Robert Allen '00**, **Bruce Anderson '71**, **Lynn Butler '88**, **Craig Casselberry '86**, **Gary Griffith '70**, **Steve Hicks '72**, **Jay Hurt '88**, **Dash Lane '05**, **Joey Leak '06**, **Mac McElwrath '07**, **Brad Neff '05**, **Jerry Smith '79**, **Patrick Starley '00**, and **Jim Strickland '79**. "But most importantly, we have no choice but to keep in touch via **Mark Kiester '71**'s stream-of-consciousness emails," he says.

David is thankful for all of his opportunities and everyone that helped him along the way. "When you get to the top of the mountain, take a look around, enjoy it, and thank God for His creation and your ability," he said. "But while you're up there, look for other mountains to climb, and get to it!" The best piece of advice he has for young professionals and undergraduates is, "Keep your head down, work hard, and good things will come. And when you mess up, 'fess up."

He loves to spend most of his free time with his wife and two children. "I also like to play golf, even if it's terrible, and hunt, even if I don't shoot something."

David and his family reside in Austin, Texas.

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Scott D. Miller '00 entered Chapter Eternal on May 21, 2018, of complications from a blood clotting disorder. He was a big Longhorn fan and treasured his fraternity brothers and other friends from his UT days. Scott resided in Dallas.

ALUMNI NEWS

Wilbur "Bud" Greist '56 is the past president of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses and Optimist Club and continues to enjoy Longhorn football. "Hook 'em, Horns!" He lives in Arcadia, Calif.

Warren P. Cash '57 says that after three cancer incidents (two for him, one for his wife, Gretchen), he has resumed traveling and has been to 65 counties and 25 islands/territories so far. Warren has three grandchildren in college, but sadly none are at Texas. He lives in Farmers Branch. E-mail: wpcashjr@msn.com

Brooks Goldsmith '59 reports after four years of dental school and the U.S. Army

Dental Corps, he came back to his birth city of Austin, Texas. He continued to practice dentistry for 50+ years. He also pursued his "college major of Sigma Phi Epsilon" as a chapter advisor. Brooks says, "What a great life!" He and his wife, Anne, still reside in Austin. E-mail: bbgflipper@aol.com

Brian D. Hamilton '87 has served as CFO of a charitable foundation in Austin for the past nine years after spending a number of years in public accounting and hospital administration. "Life is full and good with work, raising two teenage daughters, and attending all UT home football games." E-mail: bhamilton.tx@gmail.com

Jesse E. DeLeon '03 attended the New England Culinary Institute after graduation. He is now the proud owner and chef of the Rosewood Restaurant in Austin, Texas. Jesse was featured in *Texas Monthly*, the *Austin Chronicle*, and *Tribeza* for his culinary skills.



THE SKULL & CROSSBONES SOCIETY MEMBERS

Thank you to the brothers who have given to the Skull & Crossbones Society. Listed below are contributors from 2017-present. Your contributions are directly impacting our brothers.

It's not too late to join the Skull & Crossbones Society this year. Send your tax-deductible \$240 check to Sigma Phi Epsilon Education Foundation of Texas Alpha, P.O. Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902-2187 or visit <http://texassigep.org>.

Lifetime Members

C. Richard Vermillion Jr. '67
David B. Deniger '68
T. Mike Field '68
Steven M. Covey '73
Melvin C. Brackendorff '76
Jerry A. Smith '79
Robert M. Kleiderer '80
S. Gregg Jodie '87
Stewart E. King '89
Gregory P. Barra '03

2017-2019 Members

Aaron Jones
Kyle S. McAdams
Brendan and Mary McCracken
Roger C. Chapman '49
Charles A. Bankston '54
A. Morris Albright '57
Warren P. Cash '57
C. Dean Davis '58
Walter A. Saunders Jr. '58
Cadmus E. Williams '58
Donald P. Mafrige '59
Dr. C. Leonard Dolce '60
Dr. Charles W. Bailey Jr. '62
John K. Tyler '63
Robert F. McCullough '64
Dr. R. Kent Stobaugh '64
Robert L. Adair III '65
Thomas M. Dunning '65
Glenn E. Staats '66
Richard B. Bender II '67

Thaddeus J. Dorsey Jr. '67
D. Reid Patterson '67
John M. Roberts '67
C. Richard Vermillion Jr. '67
David B. Deniger '68
John M. Franklin '68
Thomas O. Hicks '68
Dan H. Blanks '69
Chip Stewart '69
Robert E. Brown III '70
Gary E. Griffith '70
Bruce W. Anderson '71
Dan L. Cox '71
Douglas B. Glass '71
Mark A. Kiester '71
Jeffrey N. Loomis '71
Thomas K. Russell '71
Steven R. McCown '72
Hilry S. Stroup '72
Bryan C. Birkeland '73
John E. Bosch Jr '73
Larry D. George '73
S. Craig Kennedy '73
Robert A. Zamorano '73
G. Fred Rhodes '74
Jack W. Savage Jr. '74
Robert R. Cain '75
J. Cullen Aderhold Sr. '76
J. Alan Alexander Jr. '76
William R. Hicks '76
Pete M. Boyd '77
Jim S. Holotik '77
Jeffery D. Otto '77

Richard S. Rankin '77
Randy L. Stevens '79
James A. Strickland Jr. '79
Fred H. Thomas '79
Thomas N. Aderhold '80
W. Stephen Currell '80
Robert A. Henk '80
Robert M. Kleiderer '80
Russell T. Goldsmith '81
David W. Morledge '81
Joseph W. Thompson '81
Michael C. Turner '81
Joseph S. Babb '82
Mark H. Daniels '82
Douglas A. Duke '82
Randal M. Hall '82
Mark H. Johnson '82
Scott R. Smith '82
Paul G. Boitmann '83
Carlos A. De Ayala '83
Donald P. Mafrige Jr. '83
William H. McCausland '83
Jim S. Addison '84
Steve Simmons '84
David A. Donohoe Jr. '85
Todd A. Dunn '85
C. Daniel Gustafson '85
Jeffrey B. Hall '85
Eric A. Lassberg '85
Douglas W. Pecore '85
D. Craig Casselberry '86
John W. Ghiselli '86
Michael A. Hickey '86

John M. Pack '86
Ronald G. Skloss '86
John D. Fikejs '87
S. Gregg Jodie '87
Steven K. McCann '87
Andre C. Bouchard '88
Lynn H. Butler '88
Richard T. Fass '88
Berry T. Gibson '88
Robert J. Heintzelman Jr. '88
Jeffrey G House '89
Stewart E. King '89
John P. Boland III '90
Donald R. Jowers '90
David M. King '91
Robert M. Smith '91
Elton Wells '95
Dax A. Seale '96
Randy D. Sparks '97
R. Trent Watkins '99
D. Quincy Davidson '01
J. Luke Fatheree '02
Brian J. Ferguson '02
Sean M. Mills '03
Kyle A. Pennington '06
Christopher M. Jeansonne '07
Sean McElwrath '07
Tye Truitt '07
John W. Lodge IV '08
Collin Stephen Currell '09
William H. Sias Jr. '10

TEXAS ALPHA CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP

Sigma Phi Epsilon Prepares for Fall Recruitment

This past fall semester saw the continuation of traditions and success that Texas Alpha has become familiar with in our storied 88-year history. As the new executive council begins its term, the chapter looks forward to making this spring even more successful than the ones before.

Continued Academic Success

With the help of junior and senior brothers, the chapter was able to revamp the academic advising program for new members. The program allows new members to be mentored by an upperclassman in the same major or school. Academic advising and the continuation of the Balanced Man lectureship series are just two of our many efforts to continue being a Residential Learning Community. The chapter retained



Texas Alpha raised \$18,000 for the Nancy-Jane Tucker David Memorial scholarship.

two Forty Acre scholars this semester, making us the only student organization with more than one. Three brothers were also recently admitted into the five-year integrated master of public accounting program.

Serving the Austin Community

Texas Alpha continued its dedication to serving the Austin community with heavy involvement in the Zavala Afterschool Program. Brothers served nearly a combined 800 hours at the local elementary school, directing games and providing academic mentorship. Through multiple fundraising efforts, the chapter was able to raise \$18,000 for the Nancy-Jane Tucker David Memorial scholarship. Nancy-Jane was a UT student and dear friend of the chapter who tragically passed away in 2017.

(Continued on page 4)

SAVE THE DATE

Founders' Day
April 6, 2019
Austin Four Seasons Hotel

6 p.m. Cocktails
7 p.m. Dinner and reception
Honoring Texas Alpha Hall of Fame inductee, Jeff Otto '77

Dress: Business casual
Cost: \$125/person or complimentary for Skull & Crossbones member and guest

Direct all RSVPs and questions to
Jim Strickland '79 at
jimstrickland@austin.rr.com or
(512) 797-1022.

*Register online at
texassigep.com*

56th Grand Chapter Conclave

July 24-28, 2019
Marriot Marquis
Houston, Texas

Visit <https://bit.ly/2N7KuAx> for more information and to register.

Chapter Officers

President | **Jack Stevens '20**
Vice President | **Nick Cheeseman '20**
Social Chairmen
Jonathon Mills '20 | **Hayden Schneiders '20**
VP of Standards | **Michael Waters '21**
VP of Recruitment | **Thomas Parks '21**
VP of Finance | **Matthew Berkowitz '20**
VP of Member Development | **Nick Stuchly '20**
VP of Communications | **Spencer Apel '20**
VP of Philanthropy | **Tyler Greenwald '20**
House Manager | **Daniel Gustafson '20**
Chaplain | **Daniel Lee '20**
VP of Alumni Relations | **Noah Villicana '20**

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Sigma Phi Epsilon – Texas Alpha

TEXAS ALPHA CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP

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On-Campus Leadership

The brothers of Texas Alpha have always found ways to display leadership in organizations outside of the chapter. Current positions that brothers hold include: president of undergraduate Real Estate Society, president and other officers of University Investors Association, president of Zavala Afterschool Program, officers for Phi Gamma Nu business fraternity, and officers for Texas Equity Group. Texas Alpha has also shown significant leadership in Silver Spurs and Texas Cowboys. Members hold elected positions in both organizations, including one Bevo handler.

Upcoming Spring and Summer Recruitment

The recruitment committee is excited to begin the process of meeting the upcoming fall 2019 new member class. If there are any high school seniors you would like the committee to invite



Brothers support Texas football.

to recruitment events, please feel free to reach out to officers or use the recommendation portal on our website.

HFF,
Jack Stevens '20
Chapter President
(915) 309-5294 | jackstevens1@gmail.com