

# SOUTHERN PROVINCE LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS - 2015

International Fraternity of Delta Sigma Pi  
 Report of the Southern Provincial Vice President  
 Janene W. Markuske  
 January 2015



## Past Travel and Visitation Summary:

| Date           | Event  | Location           |
|----------------|--|--------------------|
| 7/31 – 8/3/14  | Board of Directors Meeting                           | Indianapolis, IN   |
| 8/13/14        | Board of Directors conference call                   |                    |
| 10/11/14       | Rho Psi Alumni Picnic                                | St. Petersburg, FL |
| 10/19/14       | Atlanta LEAD School                                  | Atlanta, GA        |
| 11/7/14        | Atlanta Alumni Chapter – Honorary Initiation         | Atlanta, GA        |
| 11/8/14        | Georgia Joint Initiation (Nu Pi, Alpha Tau, Iota Mu) | Atlanta, GA        |
| 11/15/14       | South Atlantic (FL) Joint Initiation                 | Tampa, FL          |
| 12/5 – 12/7/14 | Southern Leadership Team Meeting                     | St. Petersburg, FL |

## Tentative Upcoming Travel:

| Date             | Event  | Location         |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| 01/23 – 01/25/15 | Board of Directors Meeting                               | Oxford, OH       |
| 1/28/15          | Videoconference with Southern RVP's                      |                  |
| 2/27 – 3/1/15    | Southern Provincial LEAD Conference                      | Birmingham, AL   |
| 3/7/15           | Southeastern Regional Conference                         | Kennesaw, GA     |
| 4/11/15          | Univ. of Louisville Colony Installation (tentative)      | Louisville, KY   |
| 4/11/15          | Jacksonville State Univ. Colony Installation (tentative) | Jacksonville, AL |
| 4/18/15          | Relay for Life at Univ. of Tampa                         | Tampa, FL        |
| 4/25/15          | Coastal Carolina Colony Installation (tentative)         | Conway, SC       |
| 8/9/15 – 8/16/15 | Board Meeting & Grand Chapter Congress                   | Chicago, IL      |

This past semester I attended a joint initiation hosted by Iota Mu outside of Atlanta, Georgia. I was thoroughly impressed with the memorization and professionalism that the chapters exhibited. I would call their event the one to model other joint initiations after!

It has been my goal to prepare all of the Southern RVP's to find their replacements. I have challenged each of them to identify a few people who would be a good replacement for them, the "hit by the bus" theory. I have also asked them to continue to find new alumni who would be willing to serve as DD's. We generally lose a few DD's each semester due to relocations or life events, and usually it is with little notice. We always need to be prepared to replace ourselves and our team members if we find that there is a vacancy.

This past fall semester we struggled with risk management issues. We had a number of chapters that were accused or found guilty of hazing or hosting events that conflicted with our risk management policy. We have seen a drastic increase in the interest that campuses are taking in our chapters' activities. Our leadership team has been encouraging chapters to act in accordance with our policies.

## Chapter Statistics and CMP Status

38 active collegiate chapters. We also have five colonies.

|                              | 2014-2015 | 2013-2014                                | 2012-2013 | 2011-2012 | 2010-2011 |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Total Chapters</b>        | 38        | 38                                       | 35        | 39        | 38        |
| <b>Collegian of the Year</b> |           |  |           |           |           |
| Nominated by chapter         | 31 (82%)  | 38 (100%)                                | 31 (89%)  | 30 (77%)  | 27 (71%)  |
| Submitted by COY             | 23 (61%)  | 34 (89%)                                 | 27 (77%)  | 27 (69%)  | 23 (61%)  |
| <b>CMP</b>                   |           |  |           |           |           |
| Accredited                   |           | 25 (66%)                                 | 16 (48%)  | 18 (46%)  | 16 (42%)  |
| Recognition                  |           | 17 (44%)                                 | 11 (31%)  | 7 (18%)   | 10 (26%)  |
| Excellence                   |           | 11 (28%)                                 | 5 (14%)   | 4 (10%)   | 6 (16%)   |
| Nothing                      |           | 13 (34%)                                 | 19 (54%)  | 20 (51%)  | 22 (58%)  |
| <b># of Initiates</b>        | Fall: 586 | Fall: 579<br>Spring: 482<br>Total: 1,061 | 1,017     | 954       | 986       |
| <b>Awards Submitted</b>      |           |  |           |           |           |
| Collegiate                   |           | 87 app's from<br>30/38 chapters          |           |           |           |
| Alumni                       |           | 7 app's from<br>3/10 chapters            |           |           |           |

### LEAD School Summary:

Out 2014 LEAD School was held in mid-October in Atlanta, GA. Nearly 400 people attended, including 300 collegiates, 9 pledges, and 7 colony members. We struggled with the venue because there was a simultaneous conference going on in the same hotel that had adjacent conference space. We were extremely limited in regards to our room sizes. With some creative room setups, we were able to increase the number of seats.

Instead of having a formal keynote speaker as we have done for nearly all conferences in the past, we set up the ballroom in stadium seats and orchestrated a networking and team-building activity. We asked each row to come together as a team. The three sections of the seats were then each given a separate issue to solve. Throughout the day, attendees voted on the best ideas using the provided stickers. At the end of the day, we read the ideas with the most votes. Afterwards, we typed up the list of all of the submitted ideas. When attendees submitted their conference survey, they were provided with a link to the list. Overall, we received outstanding reviews for this activity. It encouraged people to collaborate and work as a team with attendees, many of whom they did not know. It also set the tone for the whole day; everybody was more engaged and active throughout the conference. We are planning to do the same for our next provincial conference.

During the opening session we also honored the 2014 Career Achievement winner, Theresa Drew. She has contributed much to our Fraternity throughout the years, and we thank her for her service.

During closing session were presented the chapter award winners for the regional, provincial, and national winners.

For the second semester in a row, many chapters than asked for vendor space in order to sell t-shirts and other fraternity merchandise. There were about again 10 at this event, whereas usually there are only 2 or 3. This created a challenge for us regarding space; the chapters each received half of one table as there were a limited number of tables. Nearly all of the chapters had creative and tasteful merchandise.

For the Friday night event, we hosted a Halloween Costume contest and DJ. We had about 50-60 people attend and about half were dressed in costumes. It seemed like a pretty good success compared to previous dances that our province has hosted at LEAD's.

We again utilized the “tracks” for sessions to help attendees coordinate which sessions they wanted to attend. The tracks were better advertised and therefore were used more than the previous semester. We are going to continue it for the next year to see what more feedback we received.

## **Leadership Team Update:**

### Atlantic Coast RVP (Harmony Lazore)

The Atlantic Coast region has had a great Fall Semester. We had every chapter submit nomination for Collegian of the Year. Three of them applied for Regional COY. Each chapter attended LEAD in Atlanta. Gamma Lambda and Theta Sigma won first and second place in the National Service event for the Province at Atlanta LEAD, bringing in the most pop tabs in support of the Ronald McDonald House. All chapters received at least one Regional award, with Beta Eta receiving Outstanding Financial Operations for the Province. Five of the chapters are on track to attain Chapter of Excellence; one is aiming for Chapter of Recognition.

The Atlantic Coast hosted a Regional Joint Initiation this semester at University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida. We initiated 71 pledges, and ritual was appropriately memorized. Directly afterward, each chapter’s VP Community Service brought to the front of the auditorium various boxes of school supplies. A regional effort was put toward stocking a Deltasig Alumni Brother’s second grade classroom in the Central Florida area. I am very pleased, as all six chapters as well as both alumni chapters provided enough supplies to support this Alum’s teaching to the end of the school year, if not into next school year!

Due to an incident at the hotel prior to Joint Initiation, I regret to inform that I have preferred charges against several brothers from Beta Eta and Theta Sigma chapters. Risk Management should be taken seriously, and in an effort to bring attention to Delta Sigma Pi’s zero tolerance policy with respect to drugs and alcohol, I acted accordingly. Having taken action in this situation, I suspect that the region is especially aware of our Fraternity’s risk management policies. As such, I do not predict that such activities will take place within Fraternity jurisdiction next semester.

We are looking forward to next semester. Since November, my committee has been planning the first Regional Conference for the Atlantic Coast in the past six years (possibly more). This event will take place January 17th in Jacksonville, Florida. Joint initiation will be taking place on March 28th, and I continue to promote each chapter setting aside funds to put towards sending more brothers to this year’s Grand Chapter Congress.

### Central Gulf RVP (Lee James)

We hosted a regional conference in September that was attended by Dale Clark from Central Office.

Gamma Tau – They initiated a large pledge class in addition to initiating new faculty members. They are strong operationally and are thriving.

Beta Lambda – They had a large pledge class last semester (great job!). They are on guidance for operations.

Eta Kappa – They had a large pledge class last semester and a strong showing at the Atlanta LEAD. They had 12 people in attendance.

Eta Upsilon – They initiated one of the largest pledge classes in years with 21 initiates. Congratulations!

Alpha Sigma – Struggled this past semester in all aspects of operations.

Theta Omega Sigma (Jacksonville State Colony) – Tentatively will be installing April 11, 2015

### Mid-Atlantic RVP (Karin Fitzgerald)

The chapters in the Mid-Atlantic Region used this fall semester to hone their recruiting methods, work on chapter growth, strengthen bonds and brotherhood externally, as well as improve on timely CMP submissions and greater national event attendance. All collegiate chapters nominated brothers for the Collegian of the Year award and our awards committee feels as if we will submit a very strong candidate as the regional COY winner.

One chapter (Xi Sigma) continues to struggle but is determined not to let it get the best of them. Two former struggling chapters (Nu Chi and Sigma Tau) have made tremendous improvements thanks strong, new District Directors stepping into the roles. Across the regions, a push to get to the next level, whether chapter of accreditation or excellence, could be found. Chapters began to implement all areas of ritual, began the task of memorization of pledging and initiation rituals, implemented professional dress, and created and stuck to attendance policies.

While the region had to close a colony we also saw the activation of an alumni chapter. The activation of the Charlotte, NC alumni allows graduates from within the region to reach out to an alumni chapter regardless of which state they are from. With that being said, we have had some overzealous alumni who have begun to encroach on current DD’s. While one of the

alumni is clearly over stepping their bounds, others have brought up a DD issue that doesn't seem to be corrected despite previous attempts.

Overall, the brotherhood in our region is strong and I believe we will continue to see many success stories as well as an increase in award winners come from the chapters over the next year.

#### Mid-South RVP (Erin Lee)

The growth in the Mid-South region has been wonderful. All of our chapters initiated pledge classes in double digits. The increase in initiation numbers is great for the smaller chapters in our region. Additionally, we are on track to add a 5th chapter to the Mid-South region this Spring. The colony at the University of Louisville is moving right along with all of their requirements. Interest is strong and they should be on track for an April installation. I've also had inquiries about reactivating the University of Kentucky chapter and starting an alumni chapter in Nashville. Both of these opportunities would be great for the Mid-South region.

All of our current collegiate chapters are on track to receive at least Accredited Chapter in CMP with one expected to earn Chapter of Excellence. All of our chapters nominated a COY this Fall and 3 of the chapter COYs submitted their applications. We do have a few chapters who have struggled with ritual memorization this year but all are aware of what they need to do to improve the initiation experience for future pledge classes. I look forward to continued growth and success from our chapters.

Fall LEAD was held in Atlanta in October. I was impressed with the turnout from each of our collegiate chapters. Participation at national events helps brothers connect to the overall fraternity as well as meet other brothers within our region. I think this has helped with some of the communication between chapters and has opened the conversation for a possible joint initiation in Fall 2015.

While there is much work to still be done during the Spring semester, I'm proud of the progress that our chapters have made thus far. I'll continue to provide my support where needed and to search for expansion opportunities.

#### South Atlantic RVP (Ollie Moses/Chris Sands)

The South Atlantic Region has continued to make great strides this year. We had 6 chapters initiate 120 new brothers for fall. Six of the seven chapters were represented at the Atlanta LEAD School. Four of the chapters in the region are well on track to achieve Chapter of Excellence. One of the greatest success stories of the semester is the revitalization of the Xi Omega chapter at Florida International. For the first time in two years the chapter is debt free and growing. Our alumni chapters have both started initiatives to establish themselves as professional networks to the collegiate chapters in their respective areas. I am excited to announce the establishment of the Eckerd Colony at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. I am excited for the spring semester and look forward to the continued growth and professional development of my region.

#### Southeastern RVP (Carrie Burns)

It has been a bit of a challenging year for the SE region in regards to risk management, but overall the semester has ended on a positive note with great take-aways for Spring. The joint initiation with Alpha Tau, Iota Mu and Nu Pi was handled perfectly and we have started talking about the first regional initiation in sometime. Recruitment and diversification as well as fundraising and motivation tend to be topics of concern for many chapters and re-engagement of alumni into leadership roles within the Fraternity. With 2 new colonies and a busy coming year it will be a testament to the brotherhood to have brothers step up and help with guidance of the potential new chapters and existing ones who need it now more than ever.

### **Provincial Committees:**

#### Community Service Chair - Ashley Bernstein

- At the Atlanta LEAD School, chapters donated pop tabs to support Ronald McDonald House. Participants included 20 collegiate chapters, 1 colony, and 4 alumni chapters. Overall, over 30 pounds of pop tabs were collected and donated to RMHC.

#### Scholarships & Awards – Darrick Williams

We saw a substantial decrease in the number of Collegian of the Year nominations from chapters this past October. The candidates that were nominated were all very strong candidates and well deserving of their recognition. We are looking forward to presenting their awards to them at the Birmingham LEAD Conference.

We will again be encouraging chapters to write chapter awards at the end of this semester.

We have increased the number of people on our awards committee by promoting two people from regional awards committees. I am very appreciative of the committee members' diligence and participation.

#### Professional Development – Liz Cotner

Liz has been helping me with the planning of sessions for LEAD's. She has also written a few new break-out sessions. Overall, I am thrilled and excited for her help as this position has generally not been utilized in our province.

#### **Chapter Concerns**

- Xi Omega (FIU in Miami, FL)
  - After making improvements and paying off their remaining debt after the Board approval a debt write-off, the chapter improperly questioned a pledge during initiation. They were sent a warning letter.
- Beta Omega (UM in Miami, FL)
  - The chapter improperly questioned a pledge during initiation. They were sent a warning letter.
- Zeta Phi (Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton, FL) - Probation until June 2015
  - The chapter was put on probation in late May 2014 after the RVP and PVP found out about a physically harmful event that happened at a party hosted by alumni members of chapter after the spring joint initiation. They were not allowed to hold recruitment or have pledges in the fall 2014 semester.
- Gamma Lambda (Florida State in Tallahassee, FL) - received letter of concern in Feb. 2014 for lack of diversity
  - Gamma Lambda has been a predominantly African-America chapter for many years as are quite a few chapters in the Southern Province. Gamma Lambda had, however, also become a nearly all-female chapter in the last year or two, prompting concern for the lack of diversity in the chapter. The president of the chapter replied to the letter of concern acknowledging the lack of diversity, explained their struggles, and explained how they had planned on trying to achieve more diversity.
  - In the fall 2014 semester, the chapter initiated four male collegiate and more diverse members in general.
- Beta Eta (Univ. of Florida) and Theta Sigma (Univ. of Central Florida)
  - Eight members, mostly officers, have had charges preferred against them for smoking marijuana at a joint initiation event.
- Theta Phi (Univ. of South Florida in Tampa)
  - Hosted a "scavenger hunt" as reported in CMP as part of the Big Brother introduction event. They were sent a warning letter.
- Kappa (Georgia State)
  - Complaint about hazing activities during pledging ceremony was received by campus. Campus put the chapter on suspension pending an investigation. Unfortunately, this investigation did not finalize until December, so the chapter was essentially non-existent for the entire semester. Some brothers did attend the LEAD School in Atlanta. The school is willing to accept our Fraternity's punishment to the chapter as a substantial punishment. We will be requiring them to host a risk management event in the spring.
- Kappa Tau (Clemson)
  - A brother posted an advertisement on a chapter Facebook group invited the brothers to his house for a keg party. The chapter was warned about keg parties and what constitutes a "fraternity event."

- Pi (Univ of Georgia)
  - There was a trial for sexual harassment this semester. Leadership believes that it stems from underage drinking, so we are continuing to monitor the chapter.

### **Actions Update:**

During the Provincial Leadership Meeting and past Board Meetings, the leadership team recommended the follow:

- Letters of Encouragement:
  1. Alpha Zeta: Encourage Ritual memorization, needs better fundraising ideas, keep up the strong recruiting efforts.
  2. Epsilon Psi: Encourage Ritual memorization, overall chapter is improving (keep up the good work), continue to attend national events.
  3. Zeta Theta: Keep up great recruiting effort, improve Ritual memorization, look for better fundraising.
  4. Kappa Psi: Great job on Ritual/initiation, better monitor pledge process, must improve fundraising practices
  5. Xi Sigma: encourage them to keep improving
  6. Sigma Tau: encourage them to keep improving
  7. Nu Chi: encourage them to keep improving
- Warning Letters:
  1. Theta Sigma for illegal substance abuse
  2. Beta Eta for illegal substance abuse
  3. Kappa for risk management issues (hazing pledges)
  4. Xi Sigma for low pledge retention (44% for fall 2014) – goal is 80% or more
  5. Epsilon Chi for low pledge retention (57% for fall 2014) – goal is 80% or more
  6. Omicron Pi for low pledge retention (62% for fall 2014) – goal is 80% or more

### **Expansion:**

We currently have five colonies, three of which may be installing this spring. The colony at University of North Carolina-Wilmington in Wilmington, North Carolina, which opened February 2014 closed during the fall 2014 semester. There is potential to re-open the chapter at University of Kentucky. Nashville and Richmond (VA) have expressed interest in re-starting alumni chapters.

- Theta Omega Sigma, at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama (opened November 2013)
- University of Louisville in Louisville, KY (opened April 2014) has expressed interest in being installed on April 11, 2015
- Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC (opened August 2014) has expressed interest in being installed on April 25, 2015 after rapid expansion through the fall semester.
- Eckerd College Colony in St. Petersburg, FL opened in September 2014
- Georgia Tech Colony in Atlanta, GA opened in October 2014

### **Legislature:**

No legislature submitted at this time.

### **2014-2015 Goals:**

- Increase the number of chapters achieving Accredited, Recognition, or Excellence in CMP
  - The RVP's and DD's encouraged their chapters to turn in their reports on time. The use of the Facebook group to remind brothers also helped.
- Increase participation in social media from collegiate and alumni members
  - Chapter groups, recruitment pages, Twitter hashtags, and the provincial group all seemed to have an increase in use over last year.
  - I would like to have a social media chair next year for our province to help post reminders on Facebook and to help increase activity on social media.
- Increase participation in the COY and chapter awards programs
  - We had 100% submission for COY nominees from chapters. Each year over the last 4 years, our province has increased COY submissions.
  - I do not have access to prior years' statistics for awards submissions.

- Increase alumni attendance at LEAD's and GCC's
- Increase attendance at the LEAD School, LEAD Provincial Conference, and GCC
- Encourage RVP's to utilize DD's and take an active role in the success of their chapters
  - Most of our RVP's are seeing numerous returning District Directions for next year. We are also trying to utilize more DD for alumni chapters to help increase alumni chapter events and communication.
- Define provincial committee goals and expectations so that they can be better utilized
  - This year we did not utilize some of the provincial committees to the best of our abilities. Historically, our province has not done a good job utilizing the professional development and alumni development committees. As PVP, I am still trying to find the best way to utilize those committees.
  - Community service, awards, and the discipline committee did great jobs this year.
  - I am looking to start a committee for social media so that we can communicate via Facebook and Twitter regarding upcoming due dates for CMP, joint events, and national events.

### **Upcoming Events**

Spring 2015 Provincial Conference – Birmingham, AL: Feb 27 - Mar 1, 2015

Grand Chapter Congress – Chicago, IL: Aug 12 - 16, 2015

Fall 2015 LEAD School – Greensboro, SC: November 6 - 7, 2015

Spring 2016 Provincial Conference – Nashville, TN