



**International Fraternity of Delta Sigma Pi  
Report of the Southern Provincial Vice President  
Carrie Sagel Burns  
January 2021**

Thankfully, our numbers look very similar to the previous year for dues paid, pledges and initiates comparing Fall2019 to Fall2020 and while there are definite concerns over the general well-being of collegiate brothers given the current state of things, we have seen remarkable strides within the Southern Province. Overall the Province looks sound, though, like everything in life, there are certainly lessons learned through this when it comes to virtual learning, recruiting, engagement, and activities. We have District Directors at almost all chapters and continue to see an uptick in the number of Certified Deltasig Leaders (CDL). We have committee chairs for all provincial committees (Alumni Development, Community Service, Professional Development, and Scholastic Development & Awards), who are working on opening up additional communication channels and I encourage all chapters to work with their DD's, Chapter Advisors, Dean's and others to further the efforts your chapters are making as we navigate these odd times. My report from January 2020 referenced significant change within DSP that was creating productive dialog and encouraging...if my January 2020 self could have only known what 2020 had in store for us! We have amazing, resilient chapters and chapter leaders who have gone above and beyond and I feel confident that we can continue to improve on our recruiting, goal-setting, and transitioning, especially when chapters can't meet in person.

**Southern Provincial Leadership & Committees**

- Regional Vice President's:
  - Atlantic Coast - Trina Kirk
  - Central Gulf - Holly Vernon
  - Mid-Atlantic - Aimee King
  - Mid-South - Madison Whitehouse
  - South Atlantic - Gabby Leto
  - Southeastern - Meghan Hill
- Alumni Development - Mitch Simmons
- Community Service - Heather Ferguson
- Professional Development - Marlena Jones
- Scholastic Development & Awards - Gina Irvin
- Discipline - Carrie Burns, Holly Vernon, Meghan Hill

## Significant Travel

1/31/20-2/2/20 Southern Provincial Conference (Jacksonville, FL)

Many, many, many virtual calls w/ chapters, Provincial leadership team and board

## Upcoming Dates

- Make sure to check the [DSP Events Calendar](#) on the website for webinars, etc.
- Jan 30: DSP Board Meeting
- Feb 13: [2021 Virtual Spring LEAD](#)
- Feb 20, 11:30am EST: [2021 Virtual Southern Provincial Council Meeting](#)
  - Previous meeting info found [here](#)
- Feb 15-Jun 1: [Apply for Scholarships!](#) There are a number of National as well as Provincial and chapter-specific scholarships available...you can't win if you don't apply
- Mar 4, 7:30pm EST: [Southern Provincial Alumni Open House](#)
- Mar 6: DSP Board Meeting
- Apr 14: Graduating Senior Celebration
- Aug 8-9: DSP Board Meeting, in Cleveland
- Aug 11-15: [53rd Grand Chapter Congress in Cleveland](#)
- Aug 14: DSP New Board Meeting, in Cleveland

## Province Goals

- Member Education
  - Improve on DD training to better assist with spotting risk management and other concerns that could end up being ongoing and debilitating in a chapter
    - Status: We have dramatically reduced the number of risk mgmt issues and have close to 100% district director placement
    - Goal to have every chapter complete a Risk Mgmt event during the year
    - Still working on getting DDs better training in place to be able to assist and answer questions, but [Deltasig University](#) is a great step for this
  - Improving on transition documents, templates and procedures for national leaders - leadership development/education
    - Status: Work in progress, but further discussions and training with leadership as well as possible new technology will help push forward; we are still seeing a large number of chapters w/ insufficient transitioning for officers and would like to find ways to better encourage this
  - CDL - Ensure all RVPs and DDs are at least Tier 1 (or complete VOLT or VLT)
    - Status: 100% of RVPs are Tier 2 and we are up to 50% of DD's being Tier 1 and 36% are Tier 2, which is a great improvement!
- Member Engagement
  - Engaging alumni for speaker roles at national events and volunteer sign-up
    - Status: With Mitch Simmons heading up the SoPro Alumni Development committee we are working through more productive ways of engaging and retaining alumni
  - 1 additional alumni chapter in each region by 2021 GCC



- Increase number of chapters achieving Accredited, Recognition and Excellence
  - Super important for chapters to watch their CMP numbers and start looking at them early and knowing the dates for deliverables to stay ahead of it and submit early! With the ability to host alumni and other speakers virtually, there is a great opportunity to connect with past alumni from their chapter and further the connection between the alumni and collegiate brothers
- Work on further establishing committees and task force members
  - Alumni development chair is doing great and working on great things for the province and nationally
  - Professional development chair is in place and working on assisting w/ provincial events and further engaging w/ the national committee as well as looking at expanding our social media
  - Community service now has a permanent committee chair who is working with the national committee on outreach to VPCS's
  - Awards committee doing great and further encouraging early submission of awards for consideration
- Increase new ways of thinking about recruiting and goal-setting when chapters can't meet in person and increasing communication w/ DDs/Advisors
- Unite chapters through joint events & initiations - look to South Atlantic region
- Find ways to further decrease the cost of LEAD/GCC
  - While this is a work in progress, the virtual environment did make this a bit easier from an event and travel cost perspective

### **Expansion Efforts**

- Jacksonville Univ - don't have an "in" yet
- Rollins College - in conversation w/ alumnus
- Flagler College - outreach started
- East Carolina (reactivation of the Delta Zeta chapter) - student has reached out
- Focus on alumni chapter development

### **Discipline & Assistance Actions & Issues**

- Definite concerns over the general well-being of collegiate members/Brothers amidst the pandemic and how they are handling it and the changes
- We currently have 13 chapters which will not reach CMP Accredited level due to various reasons
- **Atlantic Coast Region:**
  - Theta Sigma (Univ of Central FL) - Didn't have pledge class/recruiting for Fall2020, have discussed for the Spring, but won't reach Accredited due to this; went for a little while w/o a DD, but now have someone in place
  - Epsilon Chi (GA Southern) - Still working on DD for the chapter, will not reach Accredited due to LEAD attendance
- **Central Gulf Region:**

- Gamma Tau (Univ of Southern MS) - On Guidance until 6/30/21; continuing to work on paying down debt, they are anxious to have it taken care of; will not reach Accredited level due to low approval numbers
- Eta Kappa (Troy) - Continue to be w/o a DD and have lost their Advisor, but working on having a successful transition and implementing strategic plans
- Eta Upsilon (Univ of W FL) - Lots of past due items and concerned about the chapter, working on communication and need to ensure they have a pledge class in Spring; will not reach Accredited level due to pledge program, LEAD attendance and low approval numbers
- **Mid-Atlantic Region:**
  - Iota Omega (Univ of NC) - Held recruitment, but didn't succeed w/ a pledge class so will be actively working on this in the Spring, will not reach Accredited level due to this
  - Omicron Pi (Radford) - Loss of engagement from upper-classmen, DD working w/ chapter to assist
  - Alpha Lambda (Univ of NC - Chapel Hill) - Came off guidance, but warning letter given for ritual
  - Rho Omega (Univ of Richmond) - Came off guidance, but warning letter given for pledge program; will not reach Accredited level due to low approval numbers and LEAD attendance
  - Sigma Tau (Duke) - On Guidance until 6/30/21; warning letter given for pledge reqs
  - Phi Psi (Elon) - On Guidance until 6/30/21
- **Mid-South Region:**
  - Epsilon Psi (Christian Bros) - Need to ensure they receive payments from brothers or place them on trial; on Guidance until 6/30/21, may need something more and need to focus on recruitment and having a pledge class in the Spring since they didn't for the Fall, will not reach Accredited level due to this
  - Omicron (Vanderbilt) - Need to remain in communication w/ the chapter through the Spring as many upper-classmen study abroad and it can impact the chapter
  - Alpha Zeta (Univ of TN) - Overall engagement and division w/in the chapter they are working through; will not reach Accredited level due to low approval numbers
  - Tau Upsilon (Univ of Louisville) - A lot of the more engaged brothers are set to graduate, overall lack of participation and engagement has been noted by new members; working through financial concerns; will not reach Accredited level due to PA attendance and low approval numbers
- **South Atlantic Region:**
  - Rho Psi (USF - St Pete) - Officers working on better understanding roles/responsibilities and holding each other accountable; possible need for guidance
  - Upsilon Phi (Eckerd) - Completed guidance, but working through communication and participation issues and an overall lack of motivation; will not reach Accredited level due to low approval numbers

- **Southeastern Region:**
  - Kappa Tau (Clemson) - Ethics chair helps w/ discipline issues, had a lot of trials in Fall2020 and lack of overall engagement
  - Iota Mu (GCSU) - Could use a more robust committee structure and need to work on transitions
  - Kappa (GA State) - On probation, but doing very well, only concern is w/ non-senior initiates, but feel they will do it
  - Tau Psi (Coastal Carolina) - Will not reach Accredited level due to low approval numbers
  - Beta Gamma (Univ of SC) - Will not reach Accredited level due to LEAD attendance

### **Province Highlights**

- Close to 100% District Director placement
- Percentages of DDs w/ CDL up significantly
- Fewer chapters w/ disciplinary concerns
- Increasing number of Brothers engaging and wanting to be more productive
- Increasing demand for joint initiations/events
- Very similar numbers to the previous year for dues paying, pledges and initiates from Fall2019 to Fall2020 so while it may have seemed like an odd year, overall the Province looks sound, but there are certainly lessons learned through this when it comes to virtual learning, recruiting, engagement and activities.
- Pledge Retention:
  - Overall retention rate for all chapters of over 94% was amazing! In our province, we only had a few chapters under 80% retention - Upsilon Phi/Eckerd (75%), Omicron Pi/Radford (75%), Tau Upsilon/Louisville (71.43%), Nu Pi/Kennesaw State (50%), Gamma Tau/Southern Mississippi (50%)
- Kappa Chi (Savannah State) - Great advisors (req'd to have 2) who have gone above and beyonds, chapter has done well through the pandemic
- Alpha Sigma (Univ of AL) - DD has noted the 180 the chapter has made and encouraged by engagement and enthusiasm of officers
- Kappa Nu (Longwood) - Best chapter in region, very tight-knit
- Lots of improvements in chapters in the Mid-Atlantic region over the years
- Omicron (Vanderbilt) - Did very well w/ CMP and working on being a more diverse/inclusive chapter
- Alpha Zeta (Univ of TN) - Strong pledge class and President would like to start a Recruitment and Engagement committee to increase overall communication
- Zeta Theta (Western KY Univ) - Doing well and while not letting CMP slide, they want to be more actively engaged in it and get out of the "box checking" mindset
- Constant communication w/ the chapters and DDs as a goal for the South Atlantic RVP seemed to have a positive impact on the region as a whole, many chapters had successful events and engagement, even virtually

- Pi (Univ of GA) - Great recruiting/pledge class, even 100% virtually, morale is high and big strengths w/ social media
- Iota Mu (GCSU) - Eager new Advisor and EC
- Kappa (GA State) - Excellent fundraising and would be willing to share advice w/ others

### **Best Practices**

- Slack for team communication working well
- Working on establishing “best practices” for transition docs via Google Drive and other available tools

### **Regional & Chair Summaries**

#### **Atlantic Coast Region - Trina Kirk**

- The Chapters in the Atlantic Coast Region are learning to adapt to the new ways of conducting meetings and events, because of Covid-19. While the change has been an adjustment, Chapters are being creative and thinking outside of the box to make meetings and events productive, informative, and fun. However, the Brothers do feel a sense that something is missing because they are not able to see each other face to face in person. The Brothers of the Atlantic Coast Region are reminded often to go that extra mile to make sure everyone is ok to see how others are doing. Brothers have been reminded often that they are not alone and should they feel that way to reach out to someone and let them know without hesitation. Brothers are reminded that this adjustment is taking its toll on everyone at some level, but together we are one and will overcome this together.
- All of the Chapters in the Atlantic Coast Region have had to adapt to a brand new way of doing things than what they are accustomed to, because of Covid-19. Instead of shying away from change, the Chapters have embraced it to the best of their ability. I am amazed at the creativity of our Brothers when it comes to having meetings or events virtually, in which they are productive, informative, and fun. As Brothers, one of the best things we can do is go above and beyond to remind each other that, we are in this together and together we will get through this. As Brothers, we need to continue reminding each other when they feel like they are alone to never hesitate to reach out to someone.

#### **Central Gulf Region - Holly Vernon**

- The Central Gulf region is struggling this semester with COVID related issues. Many schools in the region have limited student activities, making it difficult to recruit, have meetings, and organize the required Community Service and Professional events. However, some schools have found a way to move past these hurdles and excel in certain areas. Alpha Sigma had a successful recruitment despite the limitations imposed upon them, and Tau Phi has been rocking Professional events, having completed 4 of the required 6. All of the chapters are doing the best they can with the circumstances they are under, and many have hope for improvement in the Spring semester. I plan on pushing more communication with the DDs and chapters in the upcoming semester to work on better ways of successfully dealing with the issues they face.

### **Mid-Atlantic - Aimee King**

- Overall this semester has been a challenge for the morale of every Chapter. But for Leadership, it allowed us to meet with the Chapters face to face via zoom which is a great positive. I felt I could connect more with the Chapters, Officers, and DDs. We also had 8 full COYs applications submitted, which is more than 100% better than previous years. I think a lot had to do with not needing to have Letters of Recommendations. I would like to see that all Chapters engage all Alumni within their geographic area, and not just invite their own Alumni to events.

### **Mid-South Region - Madison Whitehouse**

- Some good and some bad. Many chapters are struggling in different ways whether because of the pandemic and necessary changes from the fraternity and their universities or even the toll things are taking in their lives and thus reflecting on their time at chapter meetings/events. Several chapters have mentioned the lack of participation and general morale with the current situation.
- In conversations with most of the chapters something along the lines of participation and engagement was mentioned as something they need to improve upon. Some believe it's related to going virtual, some have had issues for the last several semesters losing members with just a lack of desire to be involved. In some cases I think it had something to do with miscommunication through recruitment along the lines of "join our awesome group, you don't have to do anything to get something out of it." Which has lead to 'lazy' members wanting things already planned and done for them and not particularly being the officers to plan it and half the time maybe not even attend it because they think it isn't a worthwhile idea and the lack of support has drained many officers and created low participation at events continuing the negative cycle. This is a mix of multiple chapters effectively all mentioning the same problems and unsure how to encourage members or how to make changes to fix it.

### **South Atlantic Region - Gabby Leto**

- This semester was definitely a challenge for some chapters while others exceeded their own expectations. COVID was a hard hit for all chapters but many leaned on their brothers for moral support. I was extremely proud of this region when many of the chapters won regional and provincial awards. Our region brought home 4 provincial awards, 2 individual awards and 1 alumni award. Their hard work during the past year paid off and it boosted the chapter's morale. Recruitment was the main focus for all chapters with many of them getting good turnouts at all events. The district directors' and myself spoke to each VPPE this semester to ensure they were comfortable and ready to roll out the new pledge program. The constant communication with the chapters and district directors was one of my priorities this semester. I am proud of each of them for continuing to meet virtually and make sure they kept in touch with each other. I have a great team of district directors who had a crucial part of staying active with the chapter virtually this semester. All chapters are planning on staying virtual for the spring, hoping to meet in person again but keeping in mind social distancing and keeping everyone safe. Overall, it was another great semester with the South Atlantic region. They make me a very proud RVP.
- In conclusion, I believe the South Atlantic region had a great semester. Even with some chapters struggling internally, the South Atlantic team is working hard to bring that strong

momentum back. Our goal is for chapters to not lose hope and continue to improve. I am looking forward to what this region can accomplish in the spring.

### **Southeastern Region - Meghan Hill**

- Kappa Tau saw good communication amongst the chapter, but a bit disconnected from the new brothers. Working on expectation setting and engagement in the virtual space. They have an Ethics chair who assists w/ discipline issues. Nu Pi is killing community service and they have a solid new President. They're working on communication and continuity and need to rely less on DD for disciplinary issues. Pi adapted well to the PEP, morale was high, even though they were 100% virtual. Social media is a strength, while overall communication could use improvement, as well as transitioning and cross-training. Zeta Lambda transitioned well to the virtual environment and new brothers are brought into leadership positions quickly. They could use fundraising help. Alpha Tau's new leadership is pretty green, but very willing and anxious to learn and most of the chapter attended ELC virtual visit. Iota Mu seems to have found a great new Advisor and they have an eager EC, but they struggle with transitions. Beta Gamma did well with virtual recruitment and expecting a smooth transition w/ a strong EC. They could use help with community service. Kappa does great w/ fundraising, as well as planning & executing event and had a successful recruitment, though working on better communication w/ alumni.