



SIGMA PHI EPSILON FRATERNITY  
**THE RED DOOR**  
 TEXAS MU ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Fall 2001 EDITION

SIGMA PHI EPSILON FRATERNITY  
 TEXAS MU CHAPTER AT  
 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
 P.O. BOX 2678  
 COLLEGE STATION, TX 77841  
 Email: [alumni@texasmu.org](mailto:alumni@texasmu.org)  
<http://www.texasmu.org>

**2001 Texas Mu Alumni Board**

*President*  
 Will Oliver '91

*Vice-President - Housing Corporation*  
 David Smith '76

*Vice-President - Finance*  
 Jerry Nance '70

*Vice-President - Alumni Relations*  
 Terry Shook '91

*Vice-President - Communications:*  
 Gabe Zazueta '99

*Board Member*  
 Muf Richardson, Jr. '76  
 Danny Ledbetter, '00  
 Rusty Lindsay, VA Tech '78  
 Jared Stack, Wyoming '94

*Secretary*  
 Theo Rouse '73

*Faculty Advisor*  
 Terry Kohutek '73

*District Governor - South Texas*  
 Jay Hurt

*Regional Director*  
 John Weir

**2001 Undergraduate Chapter**

**Executive Council**

*President*

Nick Rutledge '01

*Vice-President - Development*  
 Greg Kay '02

*Vice-President - Finance*  
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*Vice President - Communications*  
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*Vice-President - Recruitment*  
 Michael Britton '02

*Vice-President - Programming*  
 Malcolm McLaughlin '10

*Chaplain*  
 Read Cook '02

**ALUMNI BOARD UPDATE**



Brothers,

As you read through this newsletter you will see that we have been quite busy over the past few months and we have only begun. We have a lot of information to share with you.

We have continued to move in a positive direction both as an alumni group and as a chapter. The chapter is continuing their climb to not only be the best chapter at Texas A&M, but also one of the elite Sig Ep chapters in the nation.

I recently attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Conclave in Washington, D.C. along with David Smith and Rusty Lindsay from the board. I truly enjoyed my time there with our brothers from the Texas Mu chapter as well as the thousands of brothers both alumni and undergraduate from across the US. At this past Conclave the Texas Mu chapter received its first Buchanan Cup. This is the highest honor a chapter can receive from Nationals. To qualify for a Buchanan Cup a chapter must excel in all areas including manpower grades, alumni relations, community service, philanthropy, and socially. We should all be proud that our chapter has excelled in all of these areas without giving up anything as a result.

While in Washington I was reminded of why I chose to be a Sig Ep. We were able to view a ritual ceremony that brought back fond memories. I can tell you that the ritual I witnessed in Washington was a bit more formal than the ones I participated in as an undergraduate.

The annual alumni golf tournament this past March was the biggest it has ever been. We all gathered in Round Rock to tell old stories and to meet new brothers from the chapter. We had 112 players this year and we hope that we will have even more this coming spring.

Our tailgates are getting better and better with every home game. I hope that everyone tries to stop by while attending the games. Remember that we will be serving drinks and food at every game so at least come by for a quick drink.

Since this is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of Sigma Phi Epsilon we are putting together an event to celebrate this milestone. We will have a celebration in conjunction with our tailgate party just before the game against Texas. The details are within this newsletter. We need to show up in numbers to cheer for the Ags against our biggest rival. This is a perfect setting for the anniversary celebration and it also gives everyone ample time to find a ticket.

I hope that everyone is doing well considering the recent tragedies. Let's pray that none of our brothers will be greatly affected by the recent events or any events that will take place as a result of the New York and Washington, D.C. terrorist attacks.

God Bless,

Will Oliver

Texas Mu Alumni President

# Chapter Update

## Letter from the Chapter President

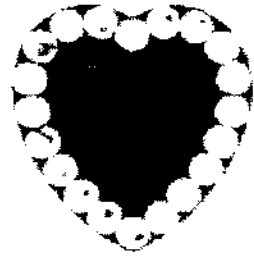
I wanted to update everyone on the recent activities of Texas Mu. The chapter GPA for the spring semester was released this summer. For the 3rd time in as many semesters, the GPA exceeded both the all-men's and all-university average. The chapter GPA was a 3.08. This is up from the chapter's fall GPA of a 2.98. Hopefully we will be able to continue this progress in the fall by continually raising our GPA.

Recruitment has concluded for the fall semester, and Texas Mu has another great fall pledge class. This fall's pledge class includes 18 pledges. The exciting thing about this pledge class is that it marks the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Texas Mu history that we have two pledges whose fathers were members at Texas Mu. This summer marked the beginning of two programs that will greatly enhance the recruitment process for the years to come. A summer rush program was instituted for the 1<sup>st</sup> time this summer. We had two rush events in the Houston area over the summer. Both events were rousing successes. In the future, we will expand these events to Dallas and possibly Austin. Another program that we started this summer was asking alumni assistance in identifying possible candidates for memberships. Although both of these programs started strong, we will continue to improve these events.

Myself and the other 6 undergraduate representatives from Texas Mu really enjoyed national Conclave in Washington, D.C. from August 15-19. Conclave was an excellent opportunity to discuss ideas with the alumni and other undergraduates from across the country and to visit with other presidents about some of the concerns and questions that we have as we become stronger and stronger. Texas Mu came home with the coveted Buchanan Cup for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in its history. This is definitely an exciting time to be a SigEp at Texas A&M. We have set the bar for all fraternities on this campus. What we are challenged to do now is to not only raise that bar for fraternities here at Texas A&M, but for all chapters across the state of Texas.

Fraternally,

Nick Rutledge  
Chapter President



## Chapter Accomplishments

**Chapter GPA** - 3.08 (Highest ever in the history of A&M fraternity system)

**Intramural Rank** - 5th overall  
**Pledges** - 18 for Fall 2001

**Total Manpower:** 96 members

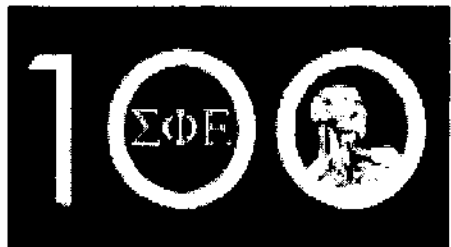
### **SigEp Leaders on Campus:**

FishCamp & Transfer Camp Counselors  
10; more than any other fraternity

### **Interfraternity Council Board**

Jason Evans - Emerging Leader of the year

Dewey Bedeaux - New Member of the Year



# CONCLAVE

1901 - 2001

August 15-19 Washington, D.C.

**Congratulations to the men from Texas Mu for being awarded the Buchanan Cup Outstanding Chapter Award at this years Conclave.**

**Job well done guys!**

Brothers,

As many of you know, **Doug Driskell** had just begun his battle with cancer recently by starting his first chemotherapy session on Monday, September 17th. Apparently, as the doctor said, it may have been 'too little, too late'.

It is believed that his cancer was so advanced the chemotherapy merely accelerated his passing which occurred early that evening.

Doug's sudden death has been a shock to us all. The outpouring of sympathy for Doug has been enormous. It seems there are so many people that were proud to be his friend.

Doug's family asks that donations be made to the Lance Armstrong Foundation or the American Red Cross. You will be able to make donations in Doug's name.

**WE HAVE LOST A GOOD BROTHER AND A GOOD MAN.**

----- Cut Here -----

### **New!!!! Now forming Texas Mu Sig Ep Parent's Association**

The Texas Mu Chapter is beginning an association for parents which will be called the Texas Mu Sig Ep Parent's Association. It is designed as a support organization for men of the Chapter and a means of involvement for the parents of our membership. We can't overstate the importance of parental involvement in our member's lives. We owe much to our parents. We want that connection to also play an important role in our lives while enjoying our college experience. We are excited about the prospects! The Chapter membership will take their Moms or significant Women in their lives out for dinner and a movie on November 17, 2001 in College Station. Other events that the Parent's Association will play an important role in will include fund raising events, Parent's Week-End and as many other events as we can plan together! Won't you consider joining this semester? Annual dues are \$45.00. A form is attached for you to cut out and mail for immediate membership. Please mail and we will be in touch with you as soon as the roster for the Association is complete. We can't wait. We want to express our thanks in advance for your commitment to your son and the enhancement of his college experience.

Parent's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Son's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail completed form to: **Texas Mu Sig Ep Parents' Association**  
**P.O. Box 2678**  
**College Station, TX 77840**

# Alumni Updates

**Mark Thompson**, (Fall '88) recently married Rebecca Humphries in a ceremony in Dallas. His pledge brothers **Will Oliver, Roger Ramirez, David Walters, and Rusty Sarver** were all groomsmen with **Daniel Watts** (Fall '84) serving as best man and **Jim Youngblood** serving as usher markthompson7@yahoo.com

**Terry Shook**, (Fall '87) has moved from Houston to Austin and is living with the Texas Mu Alumni's fearless leader, Will Oliver. I only hope to learn from his wisdom. terrance\_shook@yahoo.com

**John Zaloom**, (Spring '88) has resurfaced and is in New York City practicing law.  
John.Zaloom@shawpittman.com

**Robert Rasberry**, (Fall '87) and Spring '88 Fight Night Champ in the Lightweight division is getting married to Christie Middlebrook on November 10, 2001 in Austin, Texas. Robert resides in Nacogdoches and he uses his fiancée's email. cmiddlebrook@cox-internet.com

**Quin Daly**, (Fall '87) is working in Switzerland for Nestle.  
Daly.Quintin@nestle.com

**Matthew D. Bustos**, (Fall '95) is working in the Pharmaceutical Sales industry with Johnson & Johnson in San Antonio (2 years). He recently exchanged nuptials with Casey Nicole Sanford on August 18th. Casey was a Chi-O and they met during their respective pledgship's (Fall of 95). Fellow Sig Ep's in the wedding party were **Jared Dabiri** (Fall 95), **Travis Wuest** (Fall 95), **Steven Dadd** (Spring 96), and **Matt Flume** (Fall 94). Casey is working for the American Cancer Society in San Antonio and they are building their first home and plan to move in in early December!

**Jim Canon** (Fall '87) recently moved to southern California with GE to help with the states power problems. His new phone number is 714-313-7675

**Shan Moon** (Spring '93) and his wife Lisa just had their first child Makenzie Elizabeth on May 8<sup>th</sup>

**Mike Beaver**, (Fall '90) will be getting married this Fall. He recently had his bachelor party in Las Vegas at the same time that **Brad Hermann** was having his bachelor party for his upcoming marriage. **Aaron Stroud** (Spring '92), **Mike Quiroga** (Spring '93), **Jason Jones** (Spring '93) and **Larry Rodriguez** (Spring '94) were all in attendance. **Mike "Hammer" Davis** and **Trey Burton** also happen to be in town for the party.

**Erik Garza** (Fall '92) is engaged to Chelsie G. King who is now employed as an attorney at Porter and Hedges, L.L.P. in Houston. Erik is employed as an attorney for Royston, Rayzor Vickery and Williams, L.L.P.

**Kenny Bearden** (Fall '92) has informed us that older brother and also Texas Mu alum **Jeff** (Spring '89) is stationed on the USS Kitty Hawk that was recently deployed to the Indian Ocean for an undetermined time during the recent military activity. Let's keep him in our prayers

**Paul Waller** (Spring '86) and his wife just had their first child Caroline May. She was 8 lbs, 4 oz, 20"

**Cade Hanson** (Fall '92) and his wife Jolynn had their first child Loren Elizabeth on September 5<sup>th</sup>

**Frank Bachman** (Fall '82) married to Rachel since 1993 will be moving to Germany for 18 months to 2 years. He will be working for Fairchild Dornier heading up on-site systems integration for the CF34-10D commercial engine program / 928 regional jet program. His number will be +49-172 206-4967

**Lee Orr** and **John Stone** (Fall '87) both are working for Hillwood in Dallas

**Andrew Bellamy** is living in London and rumored to be retired at a young age. Lucky one!

**Jeff Zaleski** (Fall '91) recently moved to Austin and is now working for Tech Reps along with **Mike Hunter** (Fall '90) and **Eric Prinsen** (Fall '91)

**Rusty Sarver** (Fall '88) and his wife Corie are expecting their first child this fall

**Mike Lavine** (Fall '88) and his wife Kristi are trying to start their own fraternity. Kristi is pregnant with their fourth child in six years. Way to go Mike!

**Teddy Peinado** (Fall '85) has recently moved from College Station to Dallas to open a new office for Panotti Construction

**Steven Bradford** (Fall '84) recently married Katrina Marie Posta. They met in 1999 at the wedding of **Stephen Terry** (Fall '84). They married on July 7, 2001 in Santa Monica, Ca. Katrina received her undergraduate degree from Harvard in 1991 and her medical degree from UCLA in 1995. They currently reside in downtown Dallas.

**John Duty** (Fall '89) recently married Cherie in Steamboat the weekend of Sept. 29th. Several brothers were in attendance: **Clint Carlin, Quin Daly, Greg Zaleski, Jarett Duty, and Channing Reynolds**

*Don't be left out! Send in updates, yours or of other brothers, by e-mail to [reddoor@texasmu.org](mailto:reddoor@texasmu.org) or by mail to: The Red Door*

*Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity  
P.O. Box 2678  
College Station, TX 77841*

## Tailgate Party – Celebration of Sig Eps’ 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Nov. 23!

It is football season in Aggieland! Our tailgate parties before each game have been at a fever pitch. We have one last tailgate event slated for Friday, November 23 before and after the t.u. game. We will be in celebration of the fraternity’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will have pastries on hand and plenty of beverages before and barbeque after the game. A truly all day tailgate event! Please come by and see old friends and meet the outstanding members of our Texas Mu Chapter. We will be extending an invitation to the Texas Alpha Chapter (University of Texas) and their alumni to attend as well as the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and their alumni from Chapters of both TAMU and UT. We anticipate a spectacular event! Even if you do not have tickets to the game, please come and participate in the tailgate. You will not want to miss this one! This is the second full year of our successful tailgate parties just south of the Jumbotron scoreboard next to the northwest side of the tennis courts. We have a beautiful new white tent (20’ by 30’) with our letters emblazoned across the canopy identifying our Sigma Phi Epsilon location. Please bring your family and encourage your brothers to attend. You can see pictures of our numerous tailgate parties at our website at [www.texasmu.org](http://www.texasmu.org). We know many alumni brothers attend games but haven’t had connection with the Chapter post-graduation. Here is your opportunity. Whether you come to every home game or rarely come, there is a place for you to feel welcome at our tailgate parties. We have had food and beverages available at every event. There are plenty of tables, chairs and shade. The Alumni Board and the Texas Mu Chapter invite you to stop by and spend some time. Each tailgate party starts two and one-half hours before kick-off although everyone is invited to come out early and stay late. You will have a spot waiting. If you don’t personally know someone with the Alumni Board or with the Chapter, please introduce yourself. Every tailgate party has officers from both in attendance. Alumni from our three decades of history are always present as well. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Date:**

November 23rd

**Time:**

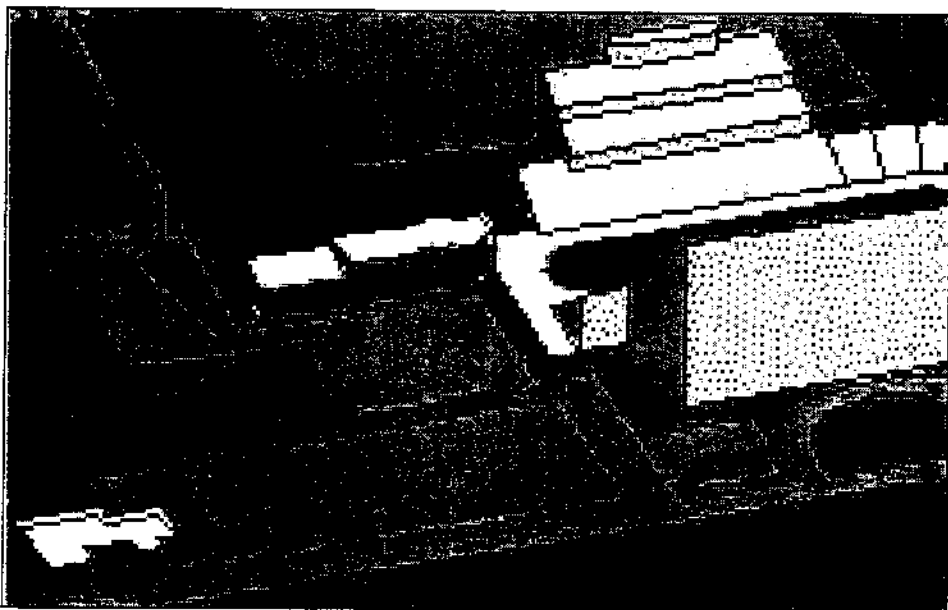
3 Hours before the  
t.u. game

**Place:**

Tailgate site behind  
scoreboard

**Bring:**

Your family, your  
friends, other alumni  
broth-ers, and old  
stories!



# CORNERSTONE CONTRIBUTORS to the Texas Mu Housing Fund

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Texas Mu Housing Fund.  
Those individuals are as follows:

John Aven  
Chris Broussard  
Orval E. Brown, M.D.  
W. Bruce Buffaloe  
Clint Carlin  
A.R. 'Dusty' Davis, III  
Mark C. Durbon  
Grover C. Ellisor, III  
John P. Gilbert  
Ivan S. and Wanda Hughes  
Judith Ann Jackson  
Thomas E. Kirkland  
Rusty Lindsay  
J. Steven Lutz  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Lynd  
Morton Mandel

William B. and Vona C. Morefield, III  
Alan A. Nisbet  
Robert Rasberry  
William T. 'Todd' Ray  
Theo Rouse  
Russel B. Sarver  
Gary Schubert  
Terry Shook  
David M. Smith  
Thomas D. Smith, Jr.  
B.F. 'Frank' Stanley  
M. Shane Sullivan  
Keith Vesper  
Fred Walsh  
J. Bradley 'Brad' Williams  
Will Oliver

## The Texas Mu Alumni Association

*For you are a SigEp for life..*

As an undergraduate, you had the opportunity to enrich your college experience through membership in Sigma Phi Epsilon. Now, enrich your personal and professional life through continued involvement with Sigma Phi Epsilon. You will have fun, foster lifelong friendships, and make a difference in the life of a SigEp.

### Brotherhood is a Lifetime Commitment

Rekindle those bonds of brotherhood from your days as an undergraduate. Events such as social gatherings, golf tournaments, tailgate parties, and fundraisers in Houston, Dallas, Austin, and College Station will provide this opportunity for our brothers from the past 28 years. Your involvement helps strengthen SigEp's reputation in the state of Texas and at Texas A&M. Your participation demonstrates that SigEp is a lifetime experience, and while you fulfill your lifetime responsibility of brotherhood, you are fulfilled in return—personally and professionally. Learn, achieve, and have fun.



### Be a Part of Something Great Again

The Texas Mu Alumni Association will have a structure similar to the Texas A&M Association of Former Students. As a dues paying member of our Alumni Association, you will receive several member privileges. These privileges would include voting rights, name recognition in all newsletters, and invitation to future Association events. The yearly \$35 Association dues will go to paying for alumni events, newsletters, tailgate parties, and mailouts. Contact an Alumni Board member if you have any questions.

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out and mail this form with your \$35 check made out to  
"TexasMu Alumni Association"

Mailing Address:  
TexasMu Alumni Association  
C/O: David Smith  
2118 Smith Street  
Houston, TX 77002

# House Steering Committee Update

As you may have heard by now, our hopes for moving into a 27 bedroom fraternity house located off Wellborn Highway and Deacon Drive owned by the Alpha Gamma Rho Chapter House Fund ("AGR") were not realized due to mold having been identified throughout the house just prior to what would have been a certain closing on this property. We had secured financing through the National Housing Corporation for \$249,000 and an additional amount of owner financing exceeding \$425,000. Our alumni and other supporters stepped up on short notice and committed to over \$15,000 to the project. We will still need more of this type of commitment to realize a house at another location. We had received the required or requested structural, architectural and mechanical inspections on the AGR property and had twenty-five of our committed chapter members signed up to live in the house for the Fall semester of 2001, subject only to closing. Mold remediation costs were quoted to us as being \$221,000. This cost would not include the refurbishing of the areas that would be remediated. In other words, walls, ceiling, bathroom areas and tile would have to be rebuilt at significant additional cost. The seller had indicated that they would prefer that we suffer the cost of the remediation and they would have reduced the asking price of the house. The reduction in price would not have been enough to justify our expense. The time period for remediation could easily be 6 months or more. Additionally, we would suffer the risk of a complete and thorough remediation at a cost we could afford. No remediation company we spoke with was willing to deliver a guaranteed clean house at a turnkey price. The risk would have been solely on our shoulders. After all considerations were weighed, we had to pass on what seemed initially to be a great opportunity. However, as Garth Brooks

sings "Thank God for unanswered prayers!" We could have had a real fiasco should we have closed on the property and found out about these terrible mold conditions afterward. The Chapter has taken this minor set back in stride and we are looking forward to other possibilities.

We are in continuing dialogue with administration officials at TAMU. Dave Parrott is the newly hired Dean of Student Life. We will be partnering with Dave to forward all possibilities relating to a house located on campus lands. All discussions are preliminary only and at this stage have only consisted of identifying an interest by the University and in identifying prospective sites. Our most recent discussions identified campus lands on Luther Street (about 1/2 mile Southwest of Callaway House across from Olsen Field). fiscal and physical plant planning, budgets and approvals for TAMU. However, there are many benefits to be derived from joining forces with one of the strongest universities in the land.

In addition to our TAMU opportunity, we are scouring the College Station for other acceptable sites. In truth, our goal can only be realized through substantial financial support. Please keep this in mind as we proceed down our future path. Great things are happening with our Chapter. We have an opportunity to continue this tradition by providing for a great facility. If you would like to get involved in our worthwhile effort, please contact **David M. Smith** at [dmsmith@psrlegal.com](mailto:dmsmith@psrlegal.com) or calling him at **713-622-6866**. He will be glad to share our successes with you and welcome you to our concerted efforts.

## Brothers Knupp and Svec contribute to Texas Mu Centennial Fund

Through the magnanimous gesture of two former chapter advisors in recognition gifts, Brother Wayne Knupp (Alabama Zeta, Huntington College) and Brother Michael P. Svec (Iowa '90), the Texas Mu Chapter scholarship fund known as the Centennial Fund has been funded in a total amount of \$2627.00. Brothers Knupp and Svec contributed in acknowledgment of the Texas Mu Chapter having been awarded the Buchanan Cup at the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our beloved Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity in Washington, D.C. in August. Brother Knupp contributed \$1,000 to the fund. Brother Svec contributed \$100. We are deeply gratified by these brothers who have turned their praise to the achievements of the active members of Texas Mu. The Centennial Fund was established in celebration of Sigma Phi Epsilon's Centennial and is administered through the Educational Foundation associated with the Grand Chapter. Because of the contributions of Brothers Knupp and Svec, the Centennial Fund is now fully vested and earnings from the fund may be awarded as scholarships each year from this time forward. If you would also like to participate, your contribution will be fully tax deductible and can be made online with a credit card at <https://secure.sigep.org/foundation/gift.htm> and designating your gift for the "Texas Mu Centennial Fund." If you would like to make gifts other than by credit card, please contact David M. Smith at 713-622-6866 to make those arrangements. **We applaud and thank you Brothers Knupp and Brother Svec!**