

# TEXAS DELTS

Gamma Iota Chapter | Delta Tau Delta Fraternity | The University of Texas at Austin | Spring 2023

## RENOVATIONS MOVE FORWARD

**PHASE 1 TO BE COMPLETED THIS MONTH, PHASE 2 EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THIS FALL SEMESTER**

**C**onstruction is progressing! As previously shared, we are completing the construction/renovation project in two phases:

**Phase 1:** The new study pavilion will be completed first to give the chapter a meeting place during the renovations to the existing Shelter. Construction on the study pavilion and new sports court is expected to be completed by the end of May 2023. We plan to host a Grand Opening event to ceremonially open the study pavilion at the first home football game versus Rice on Saturday, September 2. Mark your calendars!

**Phase 2:** Renovations on the Shelter were targeted to begin this summer, but several factors will likely delay the start until end of the fall semester starting with interior demolition. We are targeting spring/summer 2025 for the house construction/renovations to be completed. We are still encountering supply chain issues, including delays and higher costs as well as permitting delays from the City of Austin.

The study pavilion and new, repositioned, and larger sports court will give the chapter a home base until the Shelter renovations are completed. The pavilion will be used for chapter activities and studying.

We are all eager for construction to be completed. Once done, the Shelter complex will be a campus showcase and a great place for the Delts to call home. With over 200 members, the chapter continues to be one of the largest fraternities on campus and the top Delt chapter in the nation.

In addition to the 18 Delts who will live in the Shelter once completed, an average of 30 more

Delts typically live in the houses and condos on the same block. Living close to the house is a trend that has been increasing over the past several years and many say it enhances camaraderie and strengthens brotherhood.

### WHO'S WORKING ON THE PROJECT?

- Michael Hsu Office of Architecture is our architecture firm.
- The construction firm/general contract is Structura Inc.
- **Scott Benkendorfer '90** continues to lead the building committee and serve as our primary point of contact for all things construction. (We can't thank Scott enough for the time and talents he's giving to the chapter.)
- We are using a construction project manager, who is working with Scott to help manage the day to day project.
- Scott would like to give a shoutout to the building committee as well as **Russell Douglas '81**, **Wes Ritchie '80**, and **Chris Utz '98**. (Chris is working on the Shelter's landscaping.)

### BUILDING CAPITAL/FINANCIAL STATUS

We thank everyone who has pledged to the very successful capital campaign. We have surpassed the \$10 million mark for pledges made to the campaign. Approximately \$7 million has already been received. Thank you to all our donors and alumni for helping make this happen. If you haven't already paid, now is the time to make good on that pledge so we can avoid unnecessary financing costs for the project! Haven't donated yet? It's not too late and we are running over budget, so please consider donating! Contact **Greg Ethridge '00** at gregdethridge@gmail.com.

## Building Committee

Bill McMeans '80

Scott Benkendorfer '90

Wes Ritchie '80

Jason Nix '91

Steve Stodghill '83

Kyndel Bennett '92

Steve Rigby '86

Ellis Winstanley '03

Jamil Alam '88

## Gamma Iota Building Association Board

President

Scott Benkendorfer '90

Vice President

James Shaddix '68

Members

Bill McMeans '80

Bill Frisbie '84

Treasurer

Russell Douglass '81

Chris Collins '86

Andrew Douglass '86

Greg Marwill '89

Secretary

Greg Ethridge '00

Brent Korb '94

Aaron Trull '00

## Recruitment Referrals Needed

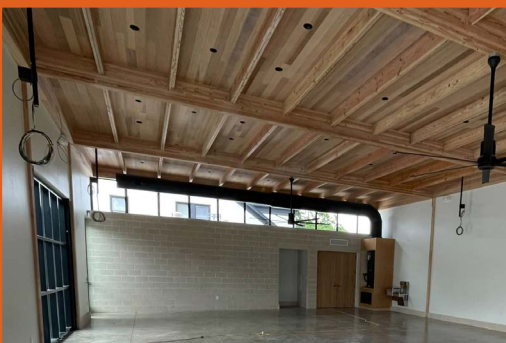
If you have sons or know of any UT freshmen or sophomores (as of this fall) who would be interested in a fraternity, please reach out to either one of the two recruitment coordinators listed below. All you need to give them is the potential new member's name and a phone number. If you know their hometown and high school, including this would be greatly appreciated.

**Andrew Mathis '25**

andrewmathis17@icloud.com  
(770) 881-1563

**Brady Wilkin '25**

bradywilkincollege@gmail.com  
(512) 922-3119



# WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**Ani Anandula '26** | Corpus Christi, Texas  
Ray High School

**Dylan Casas '25** | Del Rio, Texas  
Del Rio High School

**Shreyas Chennamaraja '26** | Fairfax, Va.  
Thomas Jefferson High School

**Troy Falgout '26** | Austin, Texas  
Vandegrift High School

**Matthew Fan '26** | Frisco, Texas  
St. Mark's School of Texas

**Nathan Gruenwald '26** | Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Homestead High School

**Grayson Kendall '26** | Longview, Texas  
Hallsville High School

**Henry Quillin '26** | Houston, Texas  
Post Oak High School

**Daniel Rangel '25** | Rowlett, Texas  
Rowlett High School

**Gabriel Rodriguez IV '26** | Fredericksburg, Texas  
Fredericksburg High School

**Drew Taylor '25** | Flower Mound, Texas  
Marcus High School

**Mikail Wijesekera '26** | Houston, Texas  
Lamar High School

**Zane Wright '26** | College Station, Texas  
A&M Consolidated High School

TEXAS DELTS

## A TRADITION OF SUCCESS

### GAMMA IOTA EMBRACES NEW PHILANTHROPY, BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

**H**ello to all! I hope that the past year has treated everyone well. Our chapter has had an outstanding year, and it is my pleasure to brag about the achievements of our active brothers.

Philanthropy has been at the forefront of Texas Delt endeavors this past year. Brothers have continued volunteering with the Neighborhood Longhorns Program during both the fall and spring semesters, working with underprivileged youth at several Austin Elementary Schools weekly. Texas Delts took on a new challenge this year, partnering with Texas THON to host Pancake Night events during both semesters, raising over \$16,000 for Dell Children's Medical Center. This amount earned Delt the distinction of "Biggest Contributing Partner Organization" from Texas THON. In its longstanding partnership with the Be Positive Foundation, Delt raised \$15,550 to fight childhood cancer this year.

I would like to congratulate **Sammy Hamid '25** and **Luis Osorio '25** for their positions on the University Co-Op Board of Directors. More congratulations go to **Brady Wilkin '25** and **Andrew Sullivan '25** for their induction into the Silver Spurs spring 2023 Rowel Class. Delt has continued our tradition of intramural excellence with a team of seniors from the fall 2019 pledge class winning the flag football championship title in the fall.

Our chapter has thrived socially, putting on many great parties, date events, and tailgates. We have also had two successful out-of-town formals, celebrating the Red River pummeling in Dallas this past fall and enjoying a weekend on the River Walk in San Antonio this spring. Fall Parents Weekend was a big hit, as all the boys and their folks enjoyed a night at the Belmont downtown, followed by a tailgate preceding the Horns' win over West Virginia.

Our former alumni relations chairman, **Stephen Young '24**, arranged a young alumni networking event in the fall, starting an outstanding new tradition. Recent graduates and active members gathered for a night of information and mingling, including small, career-focused group sessions for engineering, finance, and real estate.

Overall, it has been a phenomenal year for our chapter. We have inducted two excellent pledge classes, seen achievements from brothers in many walks, and even added a few valuable new traditions. We would love to see everyone at Alumni Weekend this fall, so be on the lookout for more information regarding our alumni events coming soon.

Hook 'em,  
**David Williams '24**, Chapter President  
(512) 574-8335



Executive members from the fall class of 2021 enjoy a weekend on the ranch.



Gamma Iota welcomes a presentation from the safety board of WestFest, a university-wide event hosted by the Interfraternity Council.



Major Ritchie '26, Luke Fiur '26, Charles Sweet '25, and David Cox '26 showing support for our Texas THON Pancake Night benefiting Dell Children's Medical Center.



Mikail Wijesekera '26, Ani Anandula '26, and Troy Falgout '26 help Will Florer '24 host the Texas THON Dance Marathon supporting Dell Children's Medical Center.

# Brotherhood Lasts a Lifetime

GREG ETHRIDGE '00 ON HIS COMMITMENT TO TEXAS DELTS

As a high school senior, **Greg Ethridge '00** never expected to join a fraternity at UT. Pledging Delt turned out to be one of the best decisions of his life.

"I had a small graduating class in high school, so I was not used to the scale of such a huge university," Greg recalls. "Bonding with a small group of pledge brothers gave me confidence and a home base on a massive university campus."

Gamma Iota opened a world of leadership opportunities for Greg, from chapter treasurer and the Delt Leadership Academy in Bethany to an IFC officer role and Greek Man of the Year. Like many Texas Delt before and after, he also learned about table manners and professional etiquette from longtime housemother Miss Abbott. Miss Abbott was my second mother during college and to this day a great friend. Greg's competitive nature motivated him to help make Delt a top fraternity at The University of Texas—a goal that's stuck with him ever since.

Greg has served on the House Corporation since 2004 and led the Alumni Association for nearly as long. The Association maintains communications and mailings like *Texas Delts* and laid the groundwork for Gamma Iota's capital campaign. To that end, Greg helped connect prospective donors and alumni leaders on the fundraising side. Since then, he's kept busy working with other directors documenting the agreements between the Building Association and the Foundations ensuring Gamma Iota can fund the house expansion and renovation projects.

"I never expected to be a longtime alumni volunteer, but here I am, nearly 20 years later," Greg said. "The impact that we have on these young men is critical. In this age of technology,

social media, and depression, I think the fraternity experience is just as important as ever (if not more). It gives young men a stable place and a group of friends, and it can help them disconnect with the bad parts of life and social media."

When it comes to reconnecting or giving back to Delt, Greg encourages alumni to reflect on their experiences. "We all support organizations that impacted us or that we believe are valuable to others. If the fraternity was important to your growth as a person, a leader or career, it's worth considering how you can support its future."

Greg attributes much of his career success to his network at Delta Tau Delta as well as the skills he learned as an undergraduate leader in the chapter. His first job was found via young Texas Delt alumni looking to expand their team in New York. Greg and his family lived in New York for 20 years, where he would organize several alumni gatherings a year with anyone who could make it. He moved back to Dallas in 2020, where alumni and chapter gatherings have been slow since the pandemic. Greg hopes they'll become more frequent soon and is working with alumni of several eras to make it a reality again.

"It's valuable for alumni to get together, even just in small groups or classes," he said. "It doesn't have to be 10 or 20; it could be three or five."

Greg is active in his local Catholic church and children's schools and on the Delta Tau Delta Educational Foundation board. He spends lots of time with his two teenagers (Caroline and Henry), his wife (Becky) and loves to ski when given the chance. To connect with Greg or learn more about alumni involvement, you can reach him at [gregdethridge@gmail.com](mailto:gregdethridge@gmail.com).



Greg with his wife, Becky, and teenagers, Caroline and Henry.



The Ethridge family enjoys skiing. Here they are in Steamboat Springs in March 2023.

## CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!



We are extremely proud of **Luis Osorio '25** and **Sammy Hamid '25** for being elected to the University Co-Op Board of Directors.



Congratulations to **David Cox '26** for being elected director of service and **Quentin Moon '26** for being elected director of programming both for the IFC.



Congratulations to **Andrew Sullivan '25** and **Brady Wilkin '25** for their induction into the Silver Spurs spring 2023 Rowel Class.



Greg hosts Delt alumni and current members at his Dallas home in May 2023. Left to right: **Grant Stapleton '25** (Assistant Treasurer), **Dennis Sutton '25** (Dallas Area Rush Captain), **Adam Krug '99**, **Greg**, **Josh Collmann '21**, **Matt Thomas '02**, **Abhinav Pal '21** and **Alec Jenkins '15**

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
**David Williams '24**

Internal Vice President  
**Jake Frickenschmidt '25**

External Vice President  
**Preston Lewis '24**

Treasurer  
**Garrett Karbs '24**

Assistant Treasurer  
**Grant Stapleton '25**

Secretary  
**Colby Calagna '24**

Recruitment Coordinators  
**Andrew Mathis '25**  
[andrewmathis17@icloud.com](mailto:andrewmathis17@icloud.com)  
(770) 881-1563

**Brady Wilkin '25**  
[bradywilkincollege@gmail.com](mailto:bradywilkincollege@gmail.com)  
(512) 922-3119

Honor Board Chairman  
**Matthew Ahn '24**

Logistics Coordinator  
**Archer Saenz '24**

Pledge Trainers  
**Jack Richter '24**  
**Milo Kern '24**

Executives at Large  
**Shaunak Divine '24**  
**Will Florer '24**

Social Chairmen  
**Luis Osorio '25**  
**Luke Wacker '25**

House Manager  
**Sean Fanning '25**

Steward  
**Austin Garza '25**

Academics Chairman  
**Dan Sabra '24**

Ritual Chairman  
**Walker Kohler '24**

Philanthropy Chairman  
**Brendan Corcoran '24**

Alumni Relations Chairman  
**Preston Ramsey '25**

Road Chairman  
**Luke Fiur '26**

# ALUMNI SHOUTOUTS

**Bill Frisbie '84** not only volunteers his time as a Building Association member but he also volunteers his home to Delts. Bill hosts members for new pledge class gatherings and other social events at his home, which is blocks from the Shelter. We are grateful for Bill's hospitality and proximity!



*A Delt welcome party for the spring 2023 pledge class hosted by Bill (first row, far right).*



**John Scott '85**, Delt alumnus and former Texas Secretary of State, stepped down from his post at the end of 2022. Scott was appointed in October 2021; he plans to return to private practice. Thank you for your service to the state of Texas, John!



Texas State Senator and Gamma Iota alumnus **Brandon Creighton '93** visited the chapter this semester. Brandon represents District 4, which are areas north and east of Houston from Conroe to Port Arthur. Thank you for sharing your story and passion for Texas, Brandon!

## WHY WE JOINED

"As a new student at The University of Texas who was super interested in Greek life and wanting to be a part of an organization with hardworking students with outstanding character, the only answer was to join Delta Tau Delta."

**Dylan Casas '25**

"I wanted to be more involved within the Austin community. Pledging Delt has helped me find community service opportunities around the city with people I know want to make a positive impact as well."

**Grayson Kendall '26**

# TEXAS DELTS

DELTA TAU DELTA - GAMMA IOTA CHAPTER  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
P.O. Box 442100  
LAWRENCE, KS 66044-2100

*Address Service Requested*

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 66044  
PERMIT #570



[texasdeltalumni.com](http://texasdeltalumni.com)



Texas Delts  
Alumni Association



The University of  
Texas Delts

**SEE PAGE 1 FOR MORE INFO ON CONSTRUCTION!**



*Save  
the  
date!*

*As you can see here, the pavilion and sports court are complete!*

**We plan to host a Grand Opening event at the first home football game versus Rice on Saturday, September 2, to formally open the pavilion and sport court.**

## CHAPTER GOALS

- 1 Exceed last year's philanthropic achievements by accumulating over 235 service hours and raising over \$31,000 for charity.
- 2 Excel socially and maintain our reputation as amicable gentlemen by continuing to host entertaining events.
- 3 Place a strong focus on academics and professionalism by hosting networking events and continuing to mentor our new members.