

# Delta Mu 'N You

Monthly Newsletter of the Delta Mu Alumni Association  
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity  
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### USM Centennial Gate - A PIKE'S Donation

This is a view from Hardy Street of the new Centennial Gate to the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi, donated by Ed Langton a '66 Delta Mu PIKE, member of the Alumni Hall of Fame, Presidential Search Committee and Chairman of Grand Bank headquartered in Hattiesburg. The gate will anchor the new fence being constructed around the campus perimeter.

Driving down Hardy Street or over on 4th Street on the northside of the campus, one can readily see the fence pillars being bricked in preparation for joining to the Centennial Gate.

### HOT BREAKING NEWS!!

When chartered by National, under IRS guidelines the Delta Mu Alumni Association, automatically became a member of the National "family" and like the Chapter became a 501-(c)(7) tax free organization. But we, like the Chapter, could not ask for donations and if we received donations, they would not be tax-deductible. So it was decided, for our purpose, that would not work for the Association or you and we needed to attain 501-(c)(3), which we were told was extremely difficult to attain by Alumni Associations.

With the expert advice of Brother Ric Savadra, the time, effort and \$400 cost was expended. The application was completed, reviewed, edited and reedited a number of times before being submitted to the IRS in Cincinnati.

After receiving a phone call in October inquiring exactly what the organization was and how was it going to benefit the Delta Mu Chapter at USM, with that information in hand our application was being recommended for approval. But there was one more signature necessary, the final approval from the department boss, that must be given.

Anxiously watching the Hattiesburg mailbox, during the Christmas break, the letter arrived. And in it, was the awaited approval of our 501-(c)(3) charitable status, making all past 2012, current 2013 and future donations to the Association tax-deductible.

### Website Recommendations

A small group of PIKES are working hard to produce an electronic vehicle that will keep you in touch with Chapter events and happenings, plus contact with your Brothers at any time you so desire. Today, tomorrow and years into the future.

But, you, the projected user, we need to hear from after you've taken a thorough look at the two websites. Don't just skim over the headlines and think you've got a grasp of what's there.

Please become a part of these projects by giving your recommendations, by telling us what you like or dislike about websites [www.deltamu.pikes.org](http://www.deltamu.pikes.org) and [www.dmpikeaa@gmail.com](mailto:dmpikeaa@gmail.com).

### As We Go Into 2013

Your Delta Mu Alumni Association opens 2013, with the Chapter's blessing, with implementation of Brother and Professor Emeritus Stan Gwin's proven academic improvement program entitled "Academic Exceptionalism" designed to elevate individual GPA's to 3.0 and above.

Start date, Monday, January 21st.

In Stan's early absence, Association Secretary, Jimmy Baker, a former Corporate Lecturer, former featured monthly column-writer for a NYC trade magazine, former Adjunct Professor at the University of Wisconsin and Madison (WI) Area Technical College will make the 4 hour round-trip drive down area each Monday until April after reporting to and coordinating with Brother Gwin.

Assistant Dean of Students-Greek Life and Association Treasurer, Josh Schutts is scheduled to also assist.

Because the Association's bank account is small and growing smaller almost daily, both Jimmy, Josh and others supporting Alumni are providing their volunteer services on a gratis basis.

### WE'RE GROWING!!

When chartered July 20, 2012, that's but 6 months ago, we chartered with 19 Founding Members. Less than a month later registered membership was a total of 29. What has your Association accomplished in 6 short months? Take a look.

Today, we're providing services to the Chapter and to 610 registered Alumni members, only 43 of whom have made a tax-deductible contribution, and membership is growing at a rate of 30-50 members a month, adding additional budgetary stress.

Using the Association as a resource, our records give you a good chance of locating "lost" Brothers. And, we are happy to provide that service and others to you, free of charge.

Please take the time to go over the 2012 summary of accomplishments attached to get a feel as to just how active your Alumni Association has been and continues to be.



## How Can You Help?

There are currently 610 Association members. Only 43 have provided financial support to the operation, which services all 610 member and the Delta Mu Chapter.

For a tax-deductible donation of just \$25 a year (less than the cost of a lunch for two and tip), you can help (1.) cover the cost of this monthly newsletter, (2.) help fully fund the PIKE Scholarship Fund that been established, (3.) help cover the monthly operating costs, (4.) **permanently table** the two dues increase proposals that will be voted at the Second Annual Meeting in Hattiesburg, July 19-20, (5.) help the Chapter attain chairs and couches for guests and visitors to sit on (there are none today); help the Chapter complete the conversion of a storage closet into a much needed Chapter Office. You would bring to a halt the Association having to rely on Association Officers to make up the operating deficiencies out of their pockets.

Is your fraternity worth just not going to lunch with the "significant other" just one time a year?

If it is worth just \$25 a year, the mailing address is: Delta Mu Alumni Association, Box 25, Hattiesburg, MS 39403-0025.

## Chapter Eternal

Donald Thomas Coston, special initiate '05, was originally from Jackson, MS and a '58 Provine High graduate with Brothers Ed Allbritton and your Association Secretary. Don pledged PIKE in 1958 as a Freshman, but left Southern Miss at the end of his Freshman year to study at Mississippi College.

Don served 3 1/2 years in the Marine Corps Reserve before joining the U.S. Army and spending 6 years overseas in the Middle East as an Arabic Linguist in places such as Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt and the Arden.

For 4 years, he was an Army Field Engineer-Electronics working in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia gathering military intelligence.

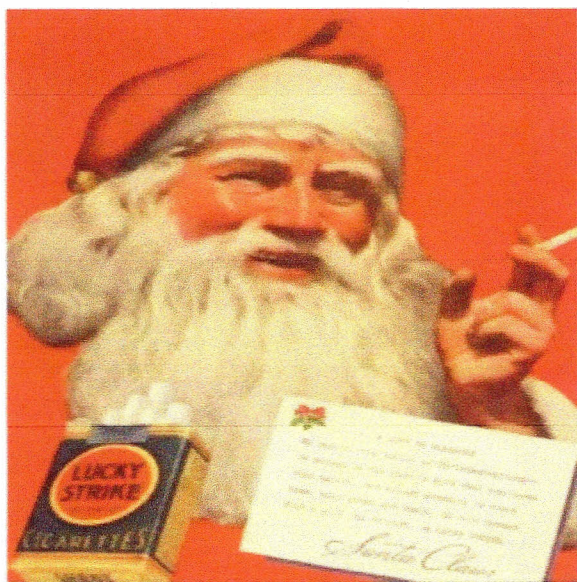
He came back to the States, settling first in Colorado. Then he moved to Leander, TX where he taught Community College electronics for 13 years.

In 2005, Don received special initiation into the Delta Mu PIKE Brotherhood and on October 26, 2009 died at his home in Leander, Texas.

His passing has been reported by the Association to National for proper inclusion into the *Shield & Diamond*.

## You Just Know

- You won't be seeing this 50's Christmas ad any time soon.



## Speaking of Brothers Supporting Brothers

This is a special appeal to those who receive this edition of *Delta Mu N' You*, by "snail mail", you are but one of 277 PIKE Alumni to do so this month.

At \$0.46 postage per letter (\$0.65 at another post office), the costs associated with distributing the newsletter take up a large portion of the Association's meager monthly budget.

Three hundred thirty-three (333) Brothers have provided us with their email addresses and, man, does that reduce the cost of distributing the newsletter because there is almost no cost to distributing it electronically. Talk about a major savings!

Won't you PLEASE take a few moments to send us your email address? Send it to [dmpikeaa@gmail.com](mailto:dmpikeaa@gmail.com) and make a difference today.

## Chapter Happenings



### MOST IMPROVED CHAPTER

Outgoing Chapter President Tanner Williams and Incoming Chapter President Madison Rosonet (former Recruitment Chair) hold the certificates for "Most Improved Chapter - Fall 2012" and "Outstanding Recruiting Chapter" awarded by the USM Inter-fraternity Council. Not bad for a chapter that was about to be booted off campus back in September, huh?

### DEAN'S LIST-FALL 2012

Mohammad (Mo) Ismail Tyler Brant Adam Patano

### PIKE REMOVED FROM DEAN'S LIST

The University reported Josh Ryan on the Dean's List and then took him off. After reevaluating his semester final grades, they'd made a mistake. Seems Josh had earned a place on the PRESIDENT'S LIST. For the uninformed, that's a 4.0 average out of a possible 4.0. Way to go, Ryan!!

### A LITTLE STUMBLE

News just reaching this reporter indicates Chapter grades fell barely below the required 2.5 GPA for the Fall Semester and the Chapter has received an "Academic Warning" for missing by about 0.16 points.

### "Pick Myself Up; Dust Myself Off"

But, this "stumble" falls at a time when the Chapter, led by new SMC Madison Rosonet, is about to embark on the previously mentioned Delta Mu Alumni Association sponsored "Academic Exceptionalism" study program. In preparation, nine ((9)) "academically challenged" members have been invited to demit their membership as has a similar invitation gone out to anyone remaining who feels so challenged this semester. These Brothers are SERIOUS about getting to a 3.0 Chapter GPA.

## In The Brotherhood



## 2012 In Review

- May: Began effort to form Alumni Association.
- June: Discovered Brother Ric Savadra was custodian of a here-to-fore forgotten PIKE scholarship fund, not aligned with the USM Foundation sitting idle over in Alabama for close to two decades and also learned of a very small USM Foundation PIKE scholarship fund. Restructured USM Foundation Fund at their recommendation..
- July 4: Sent petition/application with 19 Founder's signatures and charter fee to National HQ in Memphis.

- July 13: National granted official charter, Delta Mu Alumni Association effective July 20, 2012.

- July 16: PIKE Delta Regional informed the soon-to-be Delta Mu Alumni Association that the Delta Mu chapter owed Pi Kappa Alpha headquarters over \$4000 and was on the verge of losing their charter for that debt, failing to make a 2.0 GPA for several quarters and from owing the USM Housing Corporation more than \$6000 on the PIKE House. Potential: (1.) Being removed from campus or (2.) being removed from campus and losing PIKA charter if debt not settled by opening day of school..

- July 17: Brother Mike Wilson '07, a CPA volunteers to be Association's Chapter Accounting Advisor.

- July 19-20: First Annual Alumni Meeting, Hampton Inn, Hattiesburg, MS. By-Laws formulated and ratified. Officers elected. Initial dues structure approved for voting members.

- July 31: Began compiling Registered Member listing.

### August

- Learned Chapter off probation with 2.6 GPA thanks to hard work of then SMC Tanner Williams.
- Using borrowed scholarship funds the Association paid Chapter's pressing debt directly to Chapter's creditors after meeting with Chapter officers.

### September

- First monthly newsletter, *Delta Mu 'N You*, published. Two sections: Alumni News and Chapter Happenings.
- Helped Chapter develop a budget that included, at their insistence, paying the Association back in but one school year.
- Discussed historic Alumni complaints with Chapter and outlined proper, forgotten etiquette for greeting and serving guests and Alumni not being followed.
- Advertised and began attending PIKE tailgate parties before each Home football game.

- Proposed The Chapter and Association conduct an Open House at Homecoming, something that had not been done in "a number of years."

### October

- Chapter executed a promissory note to pay back the borrowed scholarship funds in, at their insistence, but a single year.
- First payment made October 31st as per schedule and the Association deposited same in a scholarship fund.

### November

- HOMECOMING: For the first time in a "number of years" the PIKE House was open to Alumni, parents and guests of Chapter members. A cookout was held in the courtyard. At the cookout the Association presented the Chapter:
  - A framed replacement copy of the original 1949 Charter
  - A booklet of historical facts about Delta Mu
  - A 40-page 11 X 14" coffee table picture book of Delta Mu history
  - A plaque signifying the 1967 Pike House dedication by the Governor of the State of Mississippi to "Mom" Gibson to be hung in the foyer.
  - A framed photographs of the original December 10, 1949 founding class and officers.
- Feedback from Alumni (including some who had a previous not-so-good experience) indicated they were impressed with the cordiality they received during their visit and had a good time.
- Association Academic Advisor (Professor Emeritus) Stan Gwin presented his academic improvement program to the Chapter, which they opted to put into place Spring semester. Goal: 3.0+ GPA.
- Association Accounting Advisor Mike Wilson was called on by the Chapter to assist in completing the Chapter's federally required IRS Form 990.
- Began planning fund-raising project "Order of 1949" to be announced early 2013.
- Chapter made both November and December promissory note payments to the Association's scholarship fund.

### December

- Exam week began on December 10 as Chapter and Association celebrated Delta Mu's 63rd birthday on the Southern Miss campus the same day.
- Continued contacting registered members by telephone, email and by letter, sending each a copy of the most recent *Delta Mu 'N You* newsletter.
- REGISTERED MEMBER HEAD COUNT:

July 4, 2012:	19
July 20, 2012:	29
December 31, 2012:	567

- IRS granted Association 501-(c)(3) tax-exempt status.