

TEXAS FIJI

The Longhorn Fiji—The University of Texas at Austin
Established 1883

Fall 2011

Tau Deuteron Thanks Graduates for Involvement

Chapter Experiences Successful Rush and Elects New BCA President

I am happy to report that all is well at Tau Deuteron. The spring semester included a successful Pig Dinner and Parent's Weekend. **Jon Brumley '57** was the keynote speaker at the Pig Dinner and gave a wonderful talk that was enjoyed by all.

Chapter Completes Successful Rush

Tau Deuteron put a lot of effort into a very successful 2011 rush. The captains effectively managed the rush budget and pledged 55 outstanding young men. We have a great Chapter because of the undergraduates who value and proudly carry on the Texas Fiji tradition. If you have sons, grandsons, nephews, or brothers who are thinking about the University of Texas at Austin, please inform **Chris Renaudin '10** so that he can get their name on a recruitment list for next summer.

Marshall Merritt '79 Elected BCA President

I extend a hearty welcome to **Marshall Merritt '79**, who is the incoming Board of Chapter Advisors president. Marshall, along with the board, has helped guide the Chapter with the fall and spring schedule. On the schedule are tailgates at Buen Retiro starting two hours before every home football game. Other members of the board who have made an impact on the Chapter's schedule include **Bill Fowler '73**, who is in charge of pledgship oversight, **Robert Canon '72** who helped plan and execute the Pig Dinner, and **Mark Winter '79**, who has overseen the Chapter's finances.

We also extend a thank-you to the many graduates who support the Chapter with their time, talents, and resources. Please stop by the house before any home football game. The undergraduates are looking forward to visiting with you and hearing about your time at Tau Deuteron. Glad to be a Fiji!

GTBO,
Bobby Orr '75, Outgoing BCA President
borr@orrinc.com

Perge!

THE WALTMON FAMILY: Four Generations of Fiji Tradition

GREAT MEMORIES HIGHLIGHT THEIR HISTORY

For the Waltmon family, the Fiji tradition is engrained and a strong part of their history. From the oldest graduate, **DeWitt Waltmon '19**, to the youngest, **Austin Waltmon '11** (pledge), Fiji has been a life-altering experience for four generations.

DeWitt Waltmon Sr. '45 grew up in Hearne, Texas. But due to his father's untimely death when he was only two years old, he never heard firsthand how much Phi Gamma Delta meant to his dad. Nevertheless, through his mother, his father's college photo albums, and influence from other family and friends, primarily his uncle, **Ghent Graves Sr. '20**, he maintained the family tradition and pledged Fiji with his cousin, **Ghent Graves Jr. '44**. "I pledged because of all the Phi Gams before me, including my dad." As an undergraduate, he held the position of social chairman. "My undergraduate experience meant lifetime friendships." DeWitt Sr. graduated with a bachelor of arts. From his life experiences, he offers sound and simple advice to younger alumni. "Maintain your friendships, marry well, and raise a great family."

Over the years, DeWitt Sr. has had a chance to experience leadership and councils individuals to "be a good leader or a good follower, listen to others." Both of his sons, **DeWitt Jr. '76** and **Scott '83**, carried the Waltmon Tau Deuteron Fiji tradition to the third generation.

(Continued on page 2)



Three generations of Waltmons enjoy a Fiji tailgate.
From left: Scott '83, DeWitt Sr. '45, Austin '11, and DeWitt Jr. '76.



THE WALTMON FAMILY

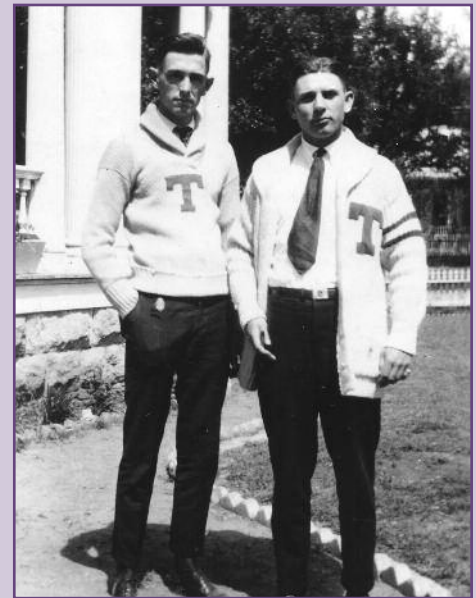
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DeWitt Jr. pledged Fiji and never looked back. “Regardless of my family history at Fiji, I went through full rush with all the other fraternities, but ultimately decided on Fiji because of the active Chapter at that time. In the end, it was a 1-2 punch that made the decision a no-brainer.” That attitude has continued and DeWitt Jr. says that his time spent as an undergraduate was the greatest time of his life. “Who I am and the successes I have achieved, and most importantly, the enjoyments in my life, all revolve around the relationships I made at Phi Gamma Delta. Members of my pledge class are still my very closest friends.” He graduated with a degree in marketing.

The leadership opportunities available at Tau Deuteron still have a huge impact on DeWitt Jr., much like his father and grandfather before him. “The brothers of our Fraternity taught me

so much in life and continue to be the individuals I look up to, respect, and just plain enjoy being around. Those relationships bring rewards and successes on a personal, financial, and spiritual level for the rest of your life.”

For over 30 years, DeWitt Jr., Scott, and their father have been responsible for hosting multiple Fiji gatherings, including rush parties, bus trips to and from football games, and reunions at their river home in Hunt, Texas. DeWitt Jr. remembers, “My dad was such a friend and gracious host to all of our Fiji friends, that they gave him the nickname ‘Summer Santa’ for being so jolly and jovial year round.” In 2008, DeWitt Jr. hosted a 25th reunion for his Fiji brothers, which was followed the next year by a surprise gathering where DeWitt Jr. and his father were honored with the gift of installing new lights at their river home tennis court, along with a plaque commemorating the appreciation the Texas Fijis had for the many years the Waltmon family helped keep them all together.



DeWitt Waltmon '19 and Ghent Graves Sr. '20 stand outside Buen Retiro.



The plaque honoring DeWitt Sr. '45 and DeWitt Jr. '76 for their dedication to Tau Deuteron.

Texas. He is a self-described goof-off and a member of the board of Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation. Scott and his wife, Emily, have three boys: Travis, John, and Ben. DeWitt Jr. and his wife, Karen, live in Houston, and DeWitt is a member of the Tau Deuteron BCA. DeWitt Jr. and Karen have three children: Amanda, **Matt**, *LSU '05*, who was the first fourth-generation Fiji, and **Austin '11**, the first-ever direct fourth-generation Tau Deuteron Fiji.

DeWitt Sr. is now retired and lives with his wife, Margaret, in Houston,

Meet the Board of Chapter Advisors

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merritt-capital.com
(214) 987-9808

Chapter Administration
Mark Muecke '00
San Antonio, Texas

Finance
Mark Winter '79
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Relations/Newsletter
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Purple Legionnaire
Max Reinbach III '07
Austin, Texas



Fiji Maintains Academic Standard and Community Involvement

We have had an incredible summer at Buen Retiro. Recruitment went exceptionally well and a lot of the credit goes to the four state recruitment captains. We surely have one of the most exceptional pledge classes in Tau Deuteron history.

Academic Success a High Priority

Texas Fiji maintains our record of academic excellence. We were ranked in the top 10 among all IFC fraternities for yet another year. Starting from the moment a brother receives a bid to the day he graduates, the brother's academic support of other brothers creates a learning environment incomparable to other fraternities on campus. New members attend weekly study hall sessions and are encouraged to use the study house.

Undergraduates Involved in the Community and Intramurals

Tau Deuteron recently held a raffle benefiting the Beyond Battens Disease Foundation. Thanks to the support of many Fiji families, the Chapter was able to make a sizable donation to the foundation. Fijis also continue to set example in athletics: we won the intramural softball championship and placed second in intramural basketball. **Patrick McNamara '08**, a wide-receiver walk-on, led the Texas football team in receiving yards this past spring.

Fijis Around the World

I would like to highlight some unique experiences from brothers during the summer vacation. **Michael Atmar '09** interned at a seminary in Barcelona before traveling to Israel. **Jack Holtzman '09**, **Trevor Howard '09**, and **Will Carabasi '09** made a trip to the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain.



Luke Stone '09, Charles Beckendorf '09, Milam Miller '08, and Tripp Ballard '09 worked in New York City this summer. In lieu of Fiji Island, the brothers found the closest thing to the famous sand-filled front yard at Buen Retiro.



Jess Cole '09, Nick Barham '09, and Jeff Wilson '09 spent this summer touring Europe.

As we look forward to the year, graduates, here are a few things to keep in mind for the fall semester. I would like to cordially invite all family and friends to congregate at Buen Retiro before each Longhorn home football game this season. Food and music will be provided, and the tailgates will begin two hours before each game. Parent's Weekend will be October 28-30, the weekend of the Kansas home game. We look forward to seeing you and we would like to thank you for your continuing involvement and support as we begin another exciting year for Texas Fiji!

Yours in the Bond,
Chris Renaudin '10
Chapter President
cwrenaudin@gmail.com

Perge!

.....2011 PLEDGE CLASS.....

Gus Chestnut <i>Amarillo</i>	Burwell Thompson <i>Corsicana</i>	Hayden Carson <i>Ft. Worth</i>	William Case <i>Houston</i>	Chris Fouggerousse <i>Lufkin</i>	Mickey Chevans <i>Tyler</i>
Sam Boyce* <i>Amarillo</i> (Beaumont Boyce '04)	Brian Cavanaugh <i>Dallas</i>	Connor Mannon <i>Houston</i>	William Reade <i>Houston</i>	Ross Montgomery <i>Midland</i>	Will Deshazo <i>Tyler</i>
Austin Shealy <i>Atlanta, Ga.</i>	John Paul Ackels <i>Dallas</i>	Dillon West <i>Houston</i>	Matt Luna <i>Houston</i>	Nelson Grimes* <i>Midland</i> (Link Grimes '83)	Graham McGregor* <i>Wichita Falls</i> (Robert Edwards '66 , Joe Flack '69 , Mark Edwards '74 , Joe Flack III '98 , J.P. Finley '01)
Billy Bedillion <i>Austin</i>	Zach Dorflinger <i>Dallas</i>	Holden Hamblen <i>Houston</i>	Buc Howard <i>Houston</i>	Carter Thurmond <i>San Antonio</i>	Will Huddleston <i>Wichita Falls</i>
Brew Houston <i>Austin</i>	Alex Bryan <i>Southlake</i>	Graham Bayley <i>Houston</i>	John Cotton* <i>Houston</i> (Taylor Cotton '11 , John Cotton '14)	George Shaw <i>San Antonio</i>	<i>*Legacy; relative in parentheses</i>
Reid Hairston* <i>Austin</i> (Kyle Hairston '10)	Cole Marlow <i>Dallas</i>	Jay Mullen <i>Houston</i>	Chase Russo <i>Houston</i>	James Uhl* <i>San Antonio</i> (Arthur Uhl '77)	
Spence Howden <i>Austin</i>	Carson Ashbaugh <i>Dallas</i>	Matt Williamson* <i>Houston</i> (Brant Williamson '09)	Austin Waltman* <i>Houston</i> (DeWitt Waltman '19 , DeWitt Waltman Sr. '45 , DeWitt Waltmon Jr. '76 , Scott Waltmon '83)	Richard Sparr <i>San Antonio</i>	
Jack Scharnberg <i>Austin</i>	Harrison Duncan* <i>Eagle Lake</i> (Vance Duncan '74)	Steven Gay <i>Houston</i>	Dylan Case <i>Lubbock</i>	Coley Kellogg <i>San Antonio</i>	
Reed Clemons <i>Corpus Christi</i>	Preston Moore* <i>Ft. Worth</i> (Arden Moore '77 , Tucker Moore '11 , Hudson Moore '12)	Thomas Duncan* <i>Houston</i> (John Duncan '12 , William Duncan '14)		Taylor Thornton* <i>San Antonio</i> (Mark Thornton '72)	
Lyles Carter* <i>Austin</i> (Carl Brumley '50 , Harold Brumley '51 , Jon Brumley '57)	Will Schumacher <i>Austin</i>	Joe Robertson* <i>Burnet</i> (Robby Robertson '76 , Tyler Robertson '93 , Will Robertson '08)	Mauricio Garza <i>Dallas</i>	Kelly Kuni* <i>Houston</i> (Doug Kuni '78)	Rye Hinkle* <i>Lake Travis</i> (Carl Brumley '50 , Harold Brumley '51 , Jon Brumley '57)

Save the Date

October 28-30
Greek Parent's Weekend
Texas vs. Kansas

April 12, 2012
Pig Dinner

Please mark your calendars: two hours before every home football game, there will be a tailgate sponsored by the men of Tau Deuteron. Please join us!

HOUSE CORPORATION

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Jim Rodman '82
Austin, Texas

Robert Heiser '74
Austin, Texas

Kevin Snodgrass '78
Houston, Texas

Buddy Pletz '56
San Antonio, Texas

TEXAS FIJI

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BUEN RETIRO COMMITTEE
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ATTENTION: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Texas, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

Donors Who Made Recruitment 2011 Possible

Thank you loyal donors for supporting Tau Deuteron's recruitment. If there has been a mistake recording these names, please contact **Marshall Merritt '79** at marshall@merritt-capital.com.

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James Armstrong
Steve Arnold
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*Indicates Fiji Dad