

**International Fraternity of Delta Sigma Pi
Report of the Southern Provincial Vice President
Janene W. Markuske
January 2014**



Past Travel and Visitation Summary:

Date	Visit or Communication	Location
8/24/13	PVP teleconference call	
9/12/13	Theta Phi recruitment event, "Meet the Chapter" with RVP Ollie Moses	Tampa, FL
9/26/13	Board of Directors meeting	Cincinnati, OH
10/12/13	LEAD School (southern)	Columbia, SC
10/22/13	Board video conference call	
11/5/13	Xi Omega chapter meeting	Miami, FL
11/5/13	Meeting/dinner with Beta Omega's SVP	Miami, FL
11/16/13	Atlantic Coast regional/joint initiation (Epsilon Rho, Kappa Pi, Theta Sigma, Beta Eta, Gamma Lambda, Kappa Chi, Epsilon Chi)	Jacksonville, FL
11/16/13	South Atlantic regional/joint initiation (Rho Psi, Theta Phi, Delta Iota)	St. Petersburg, FL
12/7/13	Southern Provincial Leadership Team Meeting (5 RVP's, PVP, 2013 COY)	St. Petersburg, FL
12/10/13	Theta Sigma's end of semester banquet	Orlando, FL

Tentative Future Travel and Visitation:

Date	Visit or Communication	Location
1/17 - 1/19/14	Board of Directors Meeting	Oxford, OH
2/28 - 3/2/14	Southern Provincial LEAD Conference	Orlando, FL
3/29/14	Southeastern Regional Conference	Atlanta, GA
4/4 - 4/6/14	Eta Upsilon 45th Anniversary Banquet	Pensacola, FL
4/26 - 4/27/14	Omicron Pi 10th Anniversary Banquet and nearby chapter visits	Radford, VA
late March?	North Carolina chapter visits (Xi Sigma, Sigma Tau, Alpha Lambda, Iota Omega, UNCC possible colony)	Raleigh and Charlotte, NC

Other possible travel plans:

- Joint 50th Anniversary for Zeta Theta and Epsilon Psi in Nashville (date TBD)
- Alpha Zeta's 90th anniversary banquet (not yet planned)
- Visit with Kappa Chi and Epsilon Chi chapters in southern Georgia

Chapter Statistics and CMP Status

39 active collegiate chapters:

- 22/39 (56%) have made efforts to reach *Chapter of Excellence*
- 24/39 (62%) have made efforts to reach *Chapter of Recognition* (including above chapters)
- 28/39 (72%) are on track to achieve *Accredited Chapter*
- 1/39 (3%) chapter at risk for not achieving *Accredited Chapter*
- 10/39 (26%) will not achieve *Accredited Chapter* (no GCC attendance)

	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011
Total Chapters	39	35	39	38
Collegian of the Year				
Nominated by chapter	39	31	30	27
Submitted by COY	34	27	27	23
CMP				
Accredited	28	16	18	16
Recognition	24	11	7	10
Excellence	22	5	4	6
Nothing	11	19	20	22
# of Initiates	Fall: 577	1,017	954	986

General Comments and Upcoming News:

As this was my first semester as your Southern PVP, it was a learning curve! Additionally, five of our six RVP's are new. In working with the RVP's, I found it refreshing that they ask a lot of questions. As a team, all seven of us work well together and get along. We have built a lot of friendly camaraderie over the past few months, and I look forward to the future with this team.

At our fall LEAD School in Columbia, SC, my goal was to create an agenda with "tracks" so that attendees could follow a track of break-out sessions if they wished to. Although it was not well-publicized at opening session, it had great reviews. We are striving to create a similar program for the Southern Provincial LEAD Conference in Orlando this spring. My goal in utilizing the track program is to create agendas that allow new collegians, seasoned collegians, and alumni to all have sessions they would like to attend during each break-out session. Also, my goal has been to try to not overlap programs where attendees may want to attend more than one at the same time. Both of these goals will hopefully lead to better experiences, more repeat attendees, and more alumni attendees at future LEAD's.

Our province in general has historically struggled with alumni participation. Not only do we have poor attendance at events, we struggle to find local and national leaders and volunteers. I hope that over the next few years we will see a marked improvement from alumni and alumni chapters. Alumni are encouraged to reach out to Central Office, myself, or their local RVP if they wish to participate as a local leader.

Regarding the collegiate chapters, we have seen drastic improvements already in CMP and COY submissions. This can likely be attributed to more dedicated local and RVP support, along with reminders via our new Facebook group. I would like to congratulate all of the chapters who are striving to improve and encourage them to continue to do so!

We have also created a Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southerndsp/>) for the brothers of the Southern Province. We post CMP due dates, provincial initiates, reminders, joint or large chapter events, etc, on this page. It also serves as a way for leadership, including myself, to get opinions from the local brothers. This was a request made at GCC that came out of the southern PVP caucus, and I was happy to oblige. I think it has been a great success so far, and I plan to continue to utilize the group in the future. All local collegians and alumni are encouraged to join.

I will be hosting monthly tele- or video-conference calls with the southern RVP's. Our first conference call will be in late January to summarize the board meeting topics. It is my goal to encourage my RVP's to have open lines of communication with me and our team so that they can transfer those habits to their team of DD's. The best way to keep District Directors involved is to communicate with them often about how their chapter(s) is(are) doing.

In summary, my first semester as Southern PVP has been exciting, encouraging, and educational. I strive to become better and to help others to improve as well.

Leadership Team Update:

All six Region Vice President (RVP) positions are filled and leading their regions in a positive direction. All chapters should contact their RVP if they are in need of any questions or concerns.

Atlantic Coast RVP (Harmony Lazore)

Kappa Pi (University of North Florida) hosted the fall joint initiation which proved to be a great success. The Region's chapters participated in all nationally-sponsored events including Grand Chapter Congress, fall LEAD in Columbia, Make a Difference Day, and Collegian of the Year. All chapters have active District Directors, and open lines of communication directly from Chapter to DD to RVP to PVP. With no negative issues to note, Atlantic Coast Region is on the "Up and Up".

The Central Gulf RVP (Lee James)

There have been a lot of accomplishments in the Central Gulf Region over the last two years. On September 7th, 2013, we had our first area conference in the region since 2002. All of the Alabama schools were in attendance for the conference. The Regional Awards Committee consisted of three members; now the Regional Awards Committee consists of 5 members that are spread out more throughout the region. All of the chapters in the region are improving as a whole, and I am proud to say that all of our chapters currently have District Directors. With the combination of the Alabama Area Conference and the LEAD Schools in both Columbia and Houston, all of our chapters received CMP credit for the fall LEAD Schools. We also have a new colony in the Central Gulf Region, Theta Omega Sigma, at Jacksonville State University. This project has taken two years to get off the ground, but we are now making some headway. I am pleased with the progress our region has made in the last two years.

Mid-Atlantic RVP (Karin Fitzgerald)

The chapters in the Mid-Atlantic region used this fall semester to re-examine their recruiting methods, work on chapter growth, and begin to strengthen bonds and brotherhood internally as well as externally. There are many dynamic personalities within the region who have shown excellent leadership and communication. All collegiate chapters nominated brothers for the Collegian of the Year (COY) awards, and our awards committee submitted a very strong candidate as the regional COY winner. All but one chapter attended a fall LEAD School, and all chapters in the region will have brothers in attendance at the Southern Provincial LEAD Conference this spring. A goal of mine when I initially ran for RVP was to begin to bring the chapters together. We have seen the first steps of that process take place: multiple chapters have reached out to one another and have begun to share ideas and schedules for joint events. Through friendships formed at GCC, we even saw multiple brothers travel to a joint initiation in Florida. Two chapters (Xi Sigma and Sigma Tau) have struggled but both are making vast improvements and will continue to do so. We have also experienced three requests for potential new chapters: one collegiate at University of North Carolina - Charlotte (UNCC) and two alumni in the Roanoke and Richmond, Virginia areas. The District Directors have been more hands-on this past semester and will continue to do so going forward. Having a

more-hands on DD and RVP approach has proven to increase communication, timely CMP submissions, and association with Delta Sigma Pi from a national view point. Brothers in our region are confident that alumni, officers, and those at Central Office are always willing to help. Overall, the brotherhood in our region is strong, and I believe we should see many success stories as well as award winners come from the chapters over the next year.

Mid-South RVP (Erin Lee)

The Mid-South region continues to expand their recruitment efforts. All four collegiate chapters initiated pledge classes with 10-20 brothers, an increase in recruitment numbers from the previous fiscal year. While all collegiate and alumni chapters were represented at both GCC Seattle and Fall 2013 Columbia Lead, event attendance has been down. I'd like to see these numbers increase for the Orlando Provincial conference. I'm happy to report that all four collegiate chapters nominated a COY and all COY applications were submitted. Our four Mid-South COY's are incredible brothers and have each given their various talents to help their chapters succeed. Kappa Psi has expressed interest in hosting a regional initiation during the Spring and I am currently working with their VPPE to start a committee and generate interest. Our chapters are functioning independent of one another. I'd really like to see an increase in inner-chapter communication and events. Our chapters have had a close bond in previous semesters and reviving some of those tight friendships and bonds will help our region flourish. Additionally, for Spring 2013, we will seek expansion opportunities within our region. Overall, the Mid-South Region is progressing steadily. Chapters are on track to earn their various CMP goals and to increase their pledge class sizes. The Mid-South region has a lot of brotherhood to offer and we should see improvement during the Spring semester. I look forward to seeing the chapter's awards submissions and hearing about their many accomplishments.

South Atlantic RVP (Ollie Moses)

Overall I am happy with the progress that the South Atlantic Region is making. All of my chapters set a goal to at least achieve Accredited status on CMP. A few of them have set their goals of Chapter of Excellence and are on track to achieve that milestone in their chapter's history. This year the region hosted two joint initiations; one at the University of Miami and the other at the University of South Florida – Saint Petersburg, initiating a total of 96 collegiate members and 2 faculty members. Xi Omega is our only chapter currently under any disciplinary action, however, they have been working hard and are on track to complete the terms of their probation by the predetermined date. Xi Omega and Delta Iota both struggle with their recruiting efforts, something of which I plan to personally work with them on this upcoming semester. As I mention my concerns I also want to accentuate the positives going on in the region: Rho Psi and Epsilon Rho initiated a record setting number of brothers this semester. Rho Psi and Beta Omega both hosted successful joint initiations. Theta Phi, Epsilon Rho, and Rho Psi are all on track to achieve Chapter of Excellence status this year. I have secured a temporary and possible permanent DD for Zeta Phi and would like to welcome Robinson Vancol to the South Atlantic leadership team. I would like to personally thank my other DD's, Chris Sands, Joseph Yerger, Nicole Vucic, Geoff Hunter, and Theodore Moore, for all their hard work and dedication the region and their chapters. We had attendance from all seven chapters at a LEAD School this fall semester, and I expect the same at Provincial this semester. We plan to continue moving forward this upcoming 2014 with strong recruiting efforts, chapter bonding and motivation, and even higher attendance at LEAD and other national or regional events. Our motto: Don't just be; Be the best!!

Southeastern RVP (Carrie Burns)

Overall I'm pretty happy with the direction of the SE region, though I know that I need to get on-site a bit more. With the exception of Omicron Upsilon, everyone seems to be working towards their goals, communicating with District Directors and working well together. All chapters have District Directors in place with one, Kappa Tau, resigning this semester. We have been working towards a replacement and may have found one. We have had no luck to date on finding a receiver for Omicron Upsilon and the current status is fairly unknown since responses tend to be cryptic at times. I am looking at reaching out to GA Tech about the possibility of reactivation. All chapters, except for Omicron Upsilon, were represented at the Columbia LEAD School and all are expected to be in Orlando. The first joint initiation between Alpha Tau, Iota Mu and Nu Pi went very well, and I would like to see them attempt this again, possibly throughout the region. The alumni chapters are both struggling a bit with membership, but hanging in there. Atlanta's DD is working hard to help make a positive change in the chapter. Both Atlanta Alumni and Kappa applied for the Clyde Kitchens/Thoben Elrod Foundation Grant funds by the deadline.

Provincial Committees:

Community Service Chair - Ashley Bernstein

- At the Columbia LEAD School, chapters donated \$10 or used blue jeans to get CMP credit. The blue jeans were donated to www.bluejeansgogreen.org to be turned in to housing insulation for Habitat for Humanity. 296 pairs of jeans were donated, and \$130 was donated. 21 out of the 26 chapters in attendance participated. Additionally, 5 alumni chapters participated. The donated money was used to pay for shipping.
 - Shipping was a huge hassle, so it is unlikely we will have a collection drive again unless the items can be donated to a local charity by a chapter after LEAD.
- At the 2014 Southern Provincial Conference in Orlando, we will be hosting a hula hoop contest to create awareness for our provincial community service initiative, Relay for Life. We will also be collecting pop tabs.

Scholarships & Awards - Jeanne Gregory

We saw a substantial increase in the number of Collegian of the Year nominations from chapters. Additionally, all but one nominee submitted their completed applications. All six regional COY's have very strong applications and we look forward to revealing our Provincial COY at the Orlando LEAD.

Alumni Development - Gabe Cossio

We held an alumni council at the Columbia LEAD although the Columbia LEAD was not well-attended by alumni. Our province struggles with alumni retention. Our goal is to increase alumni retention at local and national events.

Professional Development Chair - Eddie Stephens

Chapter Concerns

- Omicron Upsilon (Francis Marion in Florence, SC) - Closed in Jan. 2014 at the chapter's request.
- Xi Sigma (Wingate in Wingate, NC) - The chapter of five brothers initiated nine new student members via two fall pledge classes. They also initiated one honorary brother from the community. With this growth and a full officer slate, the spring semester has many opportunities for continued success. The school remains small with business enrollment having declined, but opportunity remains for the chapter to be successful.
- Xi Omega (FIU in Miami, FL) - The chapter has about seven members after the fall graduation. They had 12 members in the fall semester and only initiated one of their seven pledges. They struggle to pay past debts they owe to Central Office. The chapter brothers are in good spirits and want to see the chapter improve. I believe with more involvement from leadership at a local level, they will be able to increase their membership.

Actions Update:

During the Provincial Leadership Meeting and past Board Meetings, the leadership team recommended the follow:

- Xi Sigma (Wingate) - on probation until January 2014. Recommended for guidance June 2014.
- Sigma Tau (Duke) - recommended for guidance until January 2015. They were installed last year, but they struggle with timely CMP submissions and national event attendance.
- Gamma Lambda - recommended for a letter of concern due to the lack of diversity within the chapter that does not reflective of the university's or the College of Business' demographics.
- Zeta Theta - recommended for a letter of concern for the appearance of a chapter house.
- Xi Omega - on probation starting in August 2013 for one year for operational issues

Expansion:

This fall semester saw the opening of a new colony, Theta Omega Sigma, at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. We also have interest from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. We are looking to reactivate Vanderbilt in Nashville, as we have many local alumni in that area.

Legislature:

No legislature submitted at this time.

2013-2014 Goals:

- Increase the number of chapters achieving Accredited, Recognition, or Excellence in CMP
- Increase participation in social media from collegiate and alumni members
- Increase participation in the COY and chapter awards programs
- Increase alumni attendance at LEAD's and GCC's
- Increase attendance at the LEAD School, LEAD Provincial Conference, and GCC
- Encourage RVP's to utilize DD's and take an active role in the success of their chapters
- Define provincial committee goals and expectations so that they can be better utilized
- Encourage and help RVP's plan regional conferences