Texas A&M University–Commerce
Chapter 101

Phi Delta Kappa
Annual Awards Banquet

Celebrating 57 Years of Service
To Texas A&M Commerce

May 1, 2014
Luigi’s Restaurant
Rockwall, Texas

Phi Delta Kappa
Chapter 101
2013-2014 Officers

President
Kriss Y. Kemp-Graham

Treasurer
Rebecca Tuerk

VP for Membership
Susan Lynn Williams

Foundation Representative
Leah Garrett

Immediate Past President
Sam Roberson

University/District Liaison
William Holt

Research Representative
Brent L. Donham

Advisor
Joyce E. Miller

Historian
James A. Vornberg

New Members 2013-2014

Brenda Bondurant
Krystal Cook
Hannah Elder
Nicole Elliott
Sheiti Gentry
Julie Ann Graves
Lindsey Haunisky
Amy McKinney
Kathryn Moore

Special Thanks to Ms. Dorline Nelson for all of her assistance in helping to
Phi Delta Kappa was only twenty-six years old in 1936 when the first efforts were made to charter a chapter at the East Texas State Teachers College. The East Texas graduate program had been started in 1935 and with it came the need for a professional organization for education graduates. Dr. H.M. Lafferty wrote to PDK Executive Secretary, inquiring into establishing such a chapter; however, twenty years were to pass before the Kappans teaching at ET were to realize their goal of establishing the Delta Epsilon Chapter.

In 1954, Dean Frank Young and President James Gee both wrote Paul Cook in an effort to obtain approval to petition the Board of Directors for a chapter. Cook's response was more positive, although still very delayed, and Dr. Lafferty spearheaded efforts to start the chapter. In the Fall of 1956, Dr. Cook retired and Maynard Bemis was named his successor. From that point, efforts met with continuing success. Dr. Young attended the November 1956 district III conference in Austin and Dr. Bemis followed by visiting East Texas State as he returned to PDK Headquarters on November 13 and 14, 1956. The ET Kappans gathered at the Lafferty house in the evening to visit with Bemis who then recommended to the PDK Board acceptance of a petition from East Texas. Preliminary information sent to PDK in 1956 indicated there were then 330 graduate students during the academic year and 647 graduate students during the summer at East Texas State. Twenty-six ET faculty members were then members of Phi Delta Kappa.

Approval for the petition came from the PDK board in February, 1957, and efforts were already underway to assemble the petition and the necessary petitioners. Early responses indicated a large group of petitioners would be initiated. A Kappan selection committee of J.E. Franklin, chairman; Zeno Baily, Walter Klein, Carey Southall and Welcome Wright was appointed to screen those being recommended for membership. On July 19, 1957, the Delta Epsilon Chapter was chartered at East Texas State Teachers College. One hundred and one petitioners were initiated, the largest group ever to begin a new chapter. The North Texas College Chapter (Beta Beta) team performed the initiation ritual; dinner at the City Cafe followed.

Banquet Program

Welcome
Dr. Kriss Kemp-Graham
President, PDK Chapter 101

Dinner

Guest Speaker
Dr. Tim Letzring, Dean
College of Education and Human Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Awards Ceremony

Chapter Scholarship Recipients
Presented by Dr. Joyce E. Miller
Nicole Elliott, Alicia Maphies

Distinguished Leadership Award
Presented by Dr. William Holt
Dr. Linda Henrie

Distinguished Service Award
Presented by Dr. Brent Donham
Peggy Leeman-Ramirez

Service Key Award
Presented by Rebecca Tuerk
Debra Farquhar