



THE ODYSSEY

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR
AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

APRIL 2023

Presidential Press

Vol. 8

THIS ISSUE

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Sorors, don't forget to register
and attend our upcoming
April Chapter Meeting,
Saturday, April 1, at
10 a.m.,

held virtually!

Sorors, please register here,

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkfu6gqzwrGNXkl6CL3zhJtzqBQm2U4y0s](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkfu6gqzwrGNXkl6CL3zhJtzqBQm2U4y0s)

**Sorors, please pay your
dues (\$92.50),
NOW!**

Then her first love is DST.....

Then her first love is DST.....

Sorors, I pray that on Sunday as you were leaving the Founders Day Celebration that what your eyes witnessed and your ears heard helped you to rekindle, reignite, and relight the flame for your first love...DST. As I walked into the room to behold the beautiful decorations, I knew the Founders Day Committee grasped my vision and far exceeded my expectations (Thank You!). From the Rededication Ceremony to the singing of the National Hymn I was taken back to March 25, 1988 when I knelt on that pillow and made my Lifetime Commitment, I realized I was clueless back then. Now after 35 years in this glorious sisterhood, not only being a Delta, but doing Delta, and witnessing the reintroduction to our 22 special guest and the recreation of the Founders picture I can paraphrase from an old hymn "I'm understanding it better by and by."

Sorors, now it is time for us to continue the legacy and take our place in Deltas history because there is still work to do. It is April and we have not finished the race yet this year. Economic Development will host a Housing Affordability 101 Webinar on April 8. Red and White Day is on April 17 and we hope to see you there in red. Social Action has been sharing the legislative initiatives with us and now they need our presence and voice. It does not stop there; on April 22 we will have our virtual DID training that is **required for compliance and we must have a quorum**. Charitable Partners along with Physical and Mental Health wants us to take on the track for Relay for Life as the Crimson Avengers on April 28.

Last but definitely not least Ways & Means says "It's On & Poppin" as we sell popcorn to benefit our chapter programs. Sorors, this is one of the easiest fundraisers you can participate in, and if we have 150 sorors sell a minimum of \$750 in popcorn we will have about \$50,000 to return to our chapter programming efforts. We will be selling April 20-24, be on the lookout for the details and when to create your online account. Let's finish the sorority year strong!

All of My Love, Peace and Happiness I give to each of you,

Soror Robin Blackmon



Chaplain's Message

Shared by Soror Crystal Robinson; and originally presented at E-Board by Soror Avis Gipson

Embrace Reality

Events don't always unfold the way you expect. But just because you didn't expect to be in a particular situation does not make that situation any less compelling.

Life will not always bend to your desires. Yet just because you don't like what's happened is not a reason to deny that it happened.

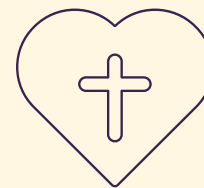
The way forward begins with and depends upon acceptance. Live right now according to the actual reality of right now.

Waiting for things to get back in line with your desires and expectations is a waste of precious time. This is your day to live, and you owe it to yourself to extract maximum benefit from every moment.

Rather than lament what you could have done if life had been different, focus on what you now can do. Respond to disappointment with the transformative power of your own actions.

Acknowledge, accept, and embrace reality. That will illuminate a whole new set of opportunities for progress and fulfillment.

— Ralph Marston



Prayer Corner

Members are encouraged to send cards, visit (if allowed by the family), or telephone sorors for additional courtesies. Sorors, please continue to lift the following in fervent prayer:

- Soror Cassandra Mims Ringer for recovery from procedure and complete healing;
- Soror Audrey Washington for her ongoing health challenges and recent deaths in her family;
- Soror Polly Street for general support for the loss of a loved one and pray for her Granddaughter;
- Soror Emily Thompson as she recovers from knee surgery;
- Soror Renee Conley for the passing of her Mother;
- Soror Kimily Johnson for the loss of her Mother Soror Frances Jones Harris;
- Soror KeShana Odom for the loss of her Grandmother and Stepfather;
- Soror La'Kisha Crenshaw and Soror Antonia Crenshaw for complete recovery of their Father and Grandfather, respectively;
- Soror Patricia Shorter and family on the loss of her Mother-in-Law;
- Soror Adrienne Thrasher as she recovers from her knee surgery;
- Soror Kerri Lang for health and healing; and
- Soror Sandra "FeFe" McCrary-Marshall for health, healing, and recovery from a recent procedure.

Sorors, tap the enclosed link to submit your prayer requests and bereavement notices,

<https://dstatx.org/contact-page/pb-request-form/>

April Omega Omega Assignments

Soror Dewi Smith
through Soror Emily Thompson



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS



Sisterhood Social

March 31, 2023

6:13 PM - 9:00 PM

Attire: Delta Casual

NKB Dance & Expressions

610 N. Austin Ave.

Georgetown, TX, 78626

Secret Soror reveal

Enjoy fun games, music,
line dances, & win prizes!



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

IT'S ON & POPPIN'

APRIL 20-24, 2023

PROCEEDS WILL
BENEFIT AUSTIN
ALUMNAE
PROGRAMMING



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Austin Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Presents Housing Affordability 101 Webinar

April 8, 2023
10 AM - 12 PM

Panelists

Nefertitti Jackmon - City of Austin,
Community Displacement Prevention
Officer
Kellee Coleman - City of Austin, Interim
Chief Equity Officer
Gregory Smith - President & CEO, Austin
Revitalization
Tamela Saldana - City of Austin, Interim
Civil Rights Officer

Purpose

To provide affordable housing
definitions, how affordable
housing can be developed in an
equitable way as well as a
developer viewpoint so
community can advocate for
more affordable housing



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Founders Day Celebration!

Sorors, let's congratulate our outstanding Co-Chairs and Founders Day Committee for a resoundingly successful Founders Day! The day was phenomenal, inspiring, and undeniably EPIC! Thank you Soror President for your dynamic and innovative vision, which ushered in an occasion that led to renewing, rededicating, and recommitting ourselves to this glorious sisterhood. We not only learned about our Soror Founders, but we also witnessed the talents of our Dolls, Divas, and DEARS firsthand.

Here are a few visual highlights captured from this epic day! Congratulations to our sorors celebrating their milestone anniversaries: Soror Kacey Hanson (25 years), Soror Belinda Davis (50 years), Soror Grova Jones (50 years), and Soror Cassandra Mims Ringer (50 years).



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS



This Month's Highlights

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This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!

Vote



Vote



Vote




Vote



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!



Austin Alumnae | Chapter Event Sign-In

 dstatx.pai@gmail.com (not shared) [Switch account](#)  Draft saved

* Required

Event Name *

Voter Deputy Registrar 2023

Attendance *

☐ In-Person

☐ Virtual

Please ensure that you have completed your voter deputy registrar training and signed in the event tracking document, so that we have a way of knowing who all in our chapter has their current VDR certifications.

Thank you to all the members who have currently completed their certification. Remember the goal is to have 100% of the chapter registered as Voter Deputy Registrars and it is up to us, as members of the Social Action Committee to lead the CHARGE!

VDR training information for Travis County, Williamson County, Bastrop County and Hays County links below:

- <https://tax-office.traviscountytexas.gov/voters/volunteer-deputy-registrars>
- <https://www.wilco.org/Departments/Elections/Voter-Registration/Volunteer-Deputy-Registrar>
- <https://www.bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/volunteer-deputy-registrars/>
- https://lwwhaysco.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=741180&module_id=495410

Austin Alumnae - Event Sign In -

- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAb5F4jcz4mAQ2BkwsYWjZhkWOG2sfVM7WAjNEgalyCddugfw/viewform>

Please ensure to include event name as Voter Deputy Registrar 2023

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS



LDF Legal Defense Fund

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION PLANNING MEETINGS

HOSTED BY LDF IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TEXAS NAACP

EVERY 2ND THURSDAY AT 11AM

CASEY THOMAS
POLITICAL ACTION CHAIR
IS INVITING YOU TO
A SCHEDULED ZOOM MEETING

EVERY MONTH ON THE **2ND THURSDAY**,
UNTIL **JUNE 8TH**, 6 OCCURRENCE(S)

- Jan. 12th @ 11:00 AM
- Feb. 9th @ 11:00 AM
- Mar. 9th @ 11:00 AM
- Apr. 13th @ 11:00 AM
- May 11th @ 11:00 AM
- June 8th @ 11:00 AM

 **zoom**

Meeting ID: 894 1259 4317
Passcode: 909696

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
EMAIL: CASEYT1911@GMAIL.COM | PHONE: 214-422-9710

NAACPLDF.ORG | TEXAS-NAACP.ORG | FOLLOW US:   

This Month's Highlights

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

News from Our Economic Development Committee!



APRIL IS FINANCIAL FORTITUDE MONTH!

During Financial Fortitude Month, also known as Financial Literacy Month, we will increase our focus on the importance of financial literacy. In honor of Financial Fortitude Month, The Economic Development Committee will promote **Financial Fortitude Across the Lifespan** by providing financially empowering programs and strategies that are appropriate for everyone. Please mark your calendars and save the dates for the two (2) upcoming webinars. The registration links are forthcoming. The first one is April 8, 2023, 10 AM - 12 PM. It is "Housing Affordability 101". What will people learn: Affordable housing definitions, how affordable housing can be developed in an equitable way as well as a developer viewpoint, and educate the community on how to advocate for more affordable housing. The second webinar is April 29, 2023, 10 AM - 11:30 AM. This webinar will be presented in partnership with Austin Revitalization Authority.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH CALENDAR

The Financial Literacy Month Calendar is a simple, fun and effective resource that calls attention to your financial health. Using this tool, chapters and communities can promote action-oriented tasks to improve and strengthen economic growth and stability. The calendar may be used any month of the year to actively engage chapters and communities in financial empowerment. Every strategy noted on the calendar promotes real-world action steps to help achieve and maintain financial wellness and support economic development. Access the 2023 Financial Literacy Month Calendar,

<https://deltasigmatheta.informz.net/deltasigmatheta/data/images/2023FinancialFortitudeCalendar.pdf>

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from Membership Services

A Sisterhood Reminder!

Let us center our hearts and minds on the “Principles of Sisterhood”
as set forth by our National Chaplain:

Be devoted to one another in love – Romans 12:10

Honor one another above yourselves– Romans 12:10

Be of the same mind with one another – Romans 15:6

Accept one another then as Christ accepts us – Romans 15:7

Serve one another in Love – Galatians 3:13

Carry each other's burden – Galatians 6:2

Submit to one another out of reverence to Christ – Ephesians 5:21

Bear with one another and forgive any grievances you may have with one another –
Colossians 3:13

Encourage one another and build each other up – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Sisterhood is more than a month

Sisterhood is a lifetime bond

Submitted by Soror Florence Smythe-Macaulay
Member, Membership Services Committee



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from Membership Services, Membership Spotlight!

Congratulations



SOROR VERONICA PICKETT-JOHNSON

Member Spotlight



Becoming a Delta was a natural fit for Pickett-Johnson who refers to herself as a "Serial Servant". She was a 10-year CASA advocate and teen specialist, taught middle school aged students in her ministry at Greater Mt. Zion, served 11 years as a Girl Scout leader and Silver Award consultant, past program director of Jack and Jill of America and FAMU alumni association charter member of the Charlotte and Greater Austin chapters.

Soror Pickett-Johnson was born and raised in Ohio and married her high school sweetheart Bruce. They have lived in six states with Austin being the longest stint of 21 years, and their favorite. They have two daughters who are student athletes, both of which represent her family's 4th generation of HBCU scholars. Her oldest will graduate Coppin State University in May. Her youngest is a sophomore at North Carolina A & T University. Soror Pickett-Johnson graduated with a Business Administration degree from Florida A&M University (FAMU) and has had a 32-year career in the Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology industries.

She was initiated at Austin Alumnae Fall 2020, 37 BLAAZES of Distinction and has served as one of the co-chairs of the Social Action committee since November 2020. She served during the 48th Southwest Regional Conference as a member on the Elections Committee and will attend her first Delta Days at the Nation's Capital and her 2nd national convention this year. And even though her family moved to Pennsylvania last year, she has continued to diligently fulfill her duties with Austin Alumnae from afar.

She loves live music and attends concerts and music festivals. Loves to travel.

Interesting facts you might not know about her: Her maternal grandfather served in WWII and was a mechanic for the Tuskegee Airmen. She also graduated high school with Gloria James, LeBron's mom who gave birth to him in the 11th grade.



This Month's Highlights

NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

What's Happening in Our Community,
Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee!



March 28 - April 2, 2023

ain't too proud

The Life and Times of

The Temptations

Bass Concert Hall

2350 Robert Dedman Dr

Please join the Chapter in buying tickets to
the Sunday, April 2nd, 1pm performance of
Ain't Too Proud, The Life & Times of The
Temptations at Bass Performance Hall.

Reminder to Report what you spent at
Black Businesses during SWR Sisterhood week! – March 19-25
Report every dollar you spend using this google form,

<https://forms.gle/nTLrgWWU935DUjs38>



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Physical and Mental Health Committee



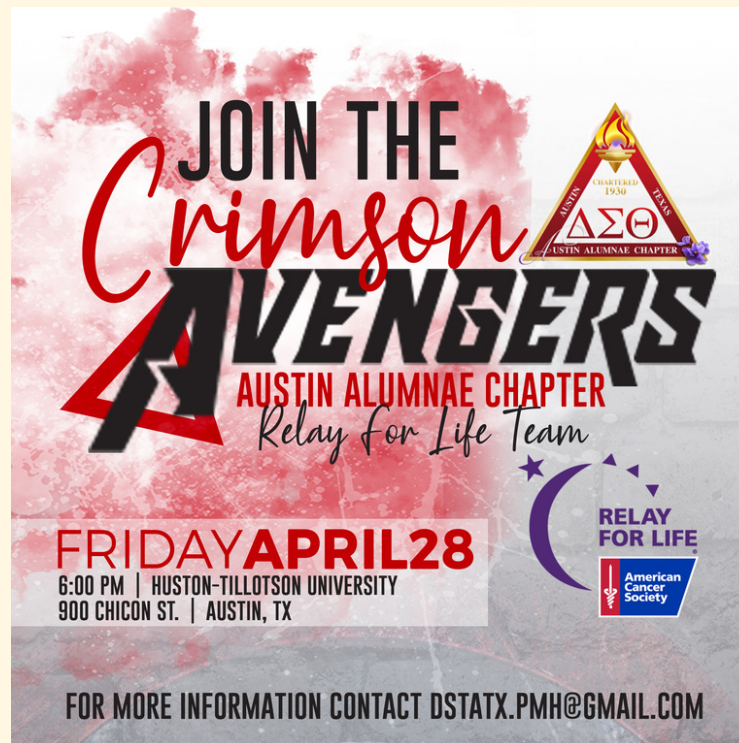
The Physical and Mental Health Committee would like to **thank all the sorors** for participating in the Red S.H.O.E Fitness Challenge in February.

Special congrats to our Top Participants: Soror Lillie Stevens, Soror Elisha Washington, Soror Julie Dixon-Cartwright and Soror Akiea Madyun. **#DeltaCare**

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Physical and Mental Health Committee



Calling All Sorors to the Track!

Sorors it is that time of year again for us to lace up on shoes for a cause. We need all Sorors to show up and show out as we fight to keep our title as the first place winner of the East Austin Relay for Life team. We surpassed our goal last year, so we can't go back now! This year our goal is to raise **\$15,000**, last year, we raised **\$14,947.29** without even trying. We need all members' participation to reach the goal. We are challenging all members to sign up, join the team and fundraise, fundraise, fundraise. Though any and all donations and fundraising efforts are welcomed and appreciated: we are challenging 100 chapter members to commit to raising at least \$150. Prizes will be given to the top 3 highest fundraisers.

Head on over and join team Crimson Avengers,
https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR/RelayForLife/RELCY23SOR?team_id=2679155&pg=team&fr_id=104332 so we can keep our bragging rights, but more importantly help those individuals and families who are facing this unfortunate disease. The numbers are not diminishing Sorors, let's do our part to make a difference!

This Month's Highlights

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Since EDA's inception 57 years ago, EDA has led the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. EDA is proud of the investments it has made in economically distressed regions, based on their locally-driven strategies and needs, and the outcomes of those investments which spurred local innovation and entrepreneurship creating and saving jobs and leveraging private investments.

EDA is seeking a Civil Engineer in Austin, Chicago, and Philadelphia Regional Offices. To learn more about the positions as well apply please use these links:

- <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/716071700>
- <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/716071300>

An Attorney Advisor position is available here,
<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/713473300#>

Thank you for your consideration of this employment opportunity.

This Month's Highlights

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Wells Fargo is seeking talented undergraduates and graduates to participate in our summer internships and full-time University Program hiring opportunities.

I am requesting your support in marketing this opportunity to eligible talent in your network. Please see below and attached for additional details and application links.

LinkedIn Post:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ashleyacordova_wellsfargouniversityprograms-wellsfargo-undergraduate-activity-7021225178193960961--t1i?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop



2023 Full-time and internships for Undergraduates and Graduates



Application Instructions

- Visit www.wellsfargo.com/careers
- Select 'Search Jobs'
- Type the Job ID listed below and select
- Open job opening to review job description and select 'Apply'

Undergraduate Programs

| Program Name | Full-Time Job ID | Summer Intern Job ID |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| January 9 – January 24 | | |
| Human Resources | R-236802 | Application closed |
| January 17 – January 22 | | |
| Corporate & Investment Banking COO Summer Internship | Application closed | R-238280 |
| Commercial Banking | Application closed | R-196367 |
| Operations | Application closed | R-188843 |
| February 3 – February 6 | | |
| CAO – Corporate Real Estate | Application closed | R-190830 |
| CAO – Strategy & Projects | R-182122 | R-190818 |
| Public Affairs – Communications & Marketing | Application closed | R-190834 |
| Public Affairs – Social Impact & Sustainability | Application closed | R-209102 |
| February 3 – February 10 | | |
| Audit | R-174591 | R-174601 |
| CAO – Analytics & Data | R-190814 | R-190832 |
| CAO – Supply Chain | R-182107 | R-190821 |
| Consumer Lending Summer Internship | Application closed | R-190778 |
| Control Management | R-206426 | R-206433 |
| Corporate Risk – Undergrad | R-174903 | R-174933 |
| Paralegal Summer Internship | Application closed | R-242811 |
| Regulatory & Policy Affairs Summer Internship | Application closed | R-243058 |
| Risk and Control Self-Assessment Summer Internship | Application closed | R-238293 |
| Sales Practice & Conduct Management Summer Internship | Application closed | R-243080 |
| Strategy & Digital Innovation | R-236804 | R-236806 |
| Strategy & Digital Innovation – Corporate Strategy | Application closed | R-236805 |

Graduate Programs

| Program Name | Full-Time Job ID | Summer Intern Job ID |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| February 3 – February 10 | | |
| Corporate Risk – Master's | Application closed | R-197253 |

Questions? Please contact Wells Fargo's Recruiting Team with any questions.



Membership Spotlight

Happy Birthday, Sorors!

Happy Birthday to our April birthdays!

04/03: Lamanda Ballard

04/04: Krishella Chandler-Robinson & Kerri Lang

04/05: Mary Caldwell

04/08: Kimily Johnson & Courtney Robinson

04/10: Raissa Ferron

04/17: Pamela Gray

04/21: Lillie Stevens

04/22: Lillian Turner

04/23: Tashia Coleman

04/26: Kacey Hanson

04/28: Erica Breedlove

04/29: Sandra Brown

Coming Your Way...!

Odyssey and MIDpoint Message Deadlines

- April MIDpoint Message -- Submit all content by Tuesday, April 4
- May Odyssey -- Submit all content by Tuesday, April 25

*Please note due to swift publication constraints, content not received by the stated deadline, may appear in a subsequent edition of the desired Odyssey or MIDpoint Message publication. Questions?

Please email Soror Autumn Caviness (dstatx.journalist@gmail.com).



Soror Scrapbook!

A few of our favorite photos from this past month!

Sorors, please email your wonderful photos to

dstatxphotos@gmail.com.



Soror Scrapbook!

A few of our favorite photos from this past month!

Sorors, please email your wonderful photos to
dstatxphotos@gmail.com.



Oh, to be
a Delta Girl!

Austin Alumnae Leadership Team

2022-2023 Committee Chairs

Economic Development

Sylvia Holt-Rabb & Avis Gipson

Educational Development

Tiffany Tillis-Lewis & Bethany Bell

International Awareness & Involvement

Dena Bryant & Akeshia Johnson Smothers

Physical and Mental Health

Courtney Nolan & April Brisco

Political Awareness and Involvement/

Social Action

Celeste Williams & Veronica Johnson

Arts and Letters

Jonna LaGrone-Haynes & Stacey Cleveland

Risk Management Coordinator

Dewi Smith

Internal Audit

Julie Dixon-Cartwright

Rituals and Ceremonies

Michelle Scruggs

Technology

Kathryn Foster & Khaison Reed

Emergency Response

Suzanne Piper & Tonja Walls-Davis

Founders Day

Sheldy Starkes & Donna Jackson

National Pan Hellenic Representative(s)

Kim Whitlock, Bre' Stafford, & Darralyn Johnson

Nominating Committee

Tamela Saldana

Parliamentarian/Chair of Policies and Procedures

Patricia Shorter

Charitable Partners

Sonya Harry & LaTasha Dennis

Protocol and Traditions

Cedel Evans & Sandra Marshall

Records Management and Retention

Vacant

Ways and Means

Alnita Foote

Communications and Public Relations

Autumn Caviness

Heritage and Archives

Nancy Thompson, Historian & Tashia Coleman

Chaplain

Dedurie Kirk

Strategic Planning

Courtney Robinson

Officers

Robin Blackmon, Soror President

Jacqueline Habersham, 1st Vice President

Kacey Hanson, 2nd Vice President

Demitra Alexander, Treasurer

Deborah Shaw-Boatner, Asst. Treasurer

Janet Marshall, Recording Secretary

Tiffany White, Corresponding Secretary

Anita Daniels, Financial Secretary

Tennile Thomas, Asst. Financial Secretary

Kendra Wesson, Sergeant at Arms

Autumn Caviness, Journalist

Lisa Newman, Immediate Past President

Sorors,



Please don't forget to attend our
upcoming
April Chapter Meeting,
Saturday, April 1, at 10 a.m.,
held virtually!
Register here,

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkfu6gqzwrGNXkl6CL3zhJtzqBQm2U4y0s>



Austin Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
P.O. BOX 143381
Austin, Texas 78714