



# ThetaGram

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY • MISSISSIPPI THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON • SPRING 2022

## No Invitation Necessary Come SAΣ Our New E-Hut!

**T**hree and a half years ago, the Housing Corporation (HC) Board met in the Chapter room of Mississippi Theta; it was my first meeting but I did not anticipate that fellow pledge brother **Reggie Sims '81** would announce his vision for *The Time Is Now* campaign.

In early 2019, it all started out small but gained steam, and eventually confidence, that this could be a reality, that we could begin construction later that summer. Enter: COVID. (Really? But, hey ... we had a plan—and were just stubborn enough to pull it off!)

This past fall, we witnessed 48 men move into the “new” house, albeit a bit later than we originally expected, but probably a lot sooner than many of you ever thought possible.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless work of everyone on the committee and **Hoyt Hayes '70**. As the father of two sons who followed in their dad’s footsteps, first as SAΣs and then into the Hayes Construction Company, Hoyt came out of retirement to take on this project. He also brought his brother **Brian Hayes** and his crew along for the ride. Never has there been a group of men so excited to turn over the keys to a project than Hoyt’s crew. Hoyt, you’re the best, and we are thrilled that the centerpiece of the house is named after you: *Hoyt’s Hideaway!*

So many components are part of our new E-Hut (or shall we say E-Palace or E-Dome), including:

- Three washers and three dryers located at the end of halls in the new two-story dorm.
- A new sports-bar-themed *Hoyt’s Hideaway*, which is adjacent to the expanded Great Hall (seats 160 men for dinner.)
- A new 650-square-foot library at the end of the hall on the second floor (the quietest part of the house) equipped with technology for videoconferencing.
- A new conference room, also equipped for videoconferencing.



*Brothers and friends enjoying a night of Christmas fellowship in the “new” Great Hall.*

- A new fitness center on the main floor.
- A kitchen—doubled in size—that bears the name of Green Ella Fox (see the article on page 6 for more details!).
- A new courtyard with a custom-painted basketball court; the courtyard features an HD video image projected onto the exterior west wall of the 1994 building (a great place for the Chapter and guests to watch ball games at night under the stars!).
- A renovated courtyard elevated to same height as the Great Hall to forever eliminate the upstairs/downstairs effect of the old house.
- A beautiful central oak staircase with an accompanying elevator. (Thank you, ADA-compliance!)
- Two new bathroom areas for female guests by the Great Hall and activity room.
- Finally, a pair of five-foot-tall marble lions, named “Bud” and “Budessa,” have been installed on pedestals in front of the

house. The lions, hand-carved in Asia and complete with shields that incorporate icons from the SAΣ Coat of Arms, guard the front entrance. The previous set of lions, who guarded the house from 1959-94, have been moved to the south entrance of the new courtyard. May they avoid being painted for many years!

This is definitely not your father’s or grandfather’s E-Hut, nor is there anything quite like it in the realm of SAΣ. **Consider this an open invitation and feel free to drop by unannounced!** Maybe it’s time for an impromptu reunion of your pledge class for a ball game weekend?! After all, this was built for all SAΣs—whether they be 18-years-old or 80!

In the Bonds,  
**Stephen Farr '81**  
Chairman, *The Time Is Now* Campaign



Eminent Archon *Asa Hausner '20* and Treasurer *Nolan Burch '20* received IFC's Ritter Award for Outstanding Brotherhood.



## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**James Armstrong**  
*Liberal, Kan.*

**Greyson Bogle**  
*Brandon, Miss.*

**Karlton Holcomb**  
*Flora, Miss.*

**Garrett Lacy**  
*Biloxi, Miss.*

**Ty Morgan**  
*Merigold, Miss.*

**Mylen Netadj**  
*Starkville, Miss.*

**Jay Patel**  
*Pascagoula, Miss.*

**Peyton Rodgers**  
*Columbus, Miss.*

**Brayden Roesch**  
*Vicksburg, Miss.*

**Garin Ward**  
*Flora, Miss.*

**Jake White**  
*Medina, Tenn.*



## 2022 FATHER AND SON FESTIVITIES

**O**n March 26, 2022, 154 men enjoyed an awesome afternoon and evening together. Gathering on the rooftop of the Left Field Lofts of Dudy Noble Field, Chapter brothers and their fathers cheered on the MSU Diamond Dawgs as they rallied to beat Alabama in walk-off fashion. Later that night, they gathered for a steak dinner and more fellowship at the newly renovated E-Hut.



## Heaping on the Praise

### Sigma Alpha Epsilon

### National Awards Mississippi Theta

Our brothers have continued to support Mississippi Theta and help our Chapter succeed. It remains important to us to keep alumni connected, and our efforts have been recognized by National. We recently received the following “Most Outstanding” awards:

- **House Corporation (runner-up)**
- **HC Communication in Print Newsletter**
- **HC Communication in Electronic Newsletter (runner-up)**
- **HC Website**

Thank you again to everyone one who supports the undergraduate brothers in these efforts. We couldn't do it without you!



*Brothers attending the dedication party for our new E-Hut.*



*Alumni brothers and their families enjoying dinner at our dedication party.*

# REGGIE'S REPORT

## Campaign Success and Our New Scholarship Fund

**W**hat a wild and exhilarating, but totally rewarding, trip it has been this past year with Mississippi Theta! We started fall 2020 by knocking down the old 1959 dorm. Many of us (pointing at myself) tried to do this while we were in school—and some of us even gave it a shot after school was over—but alas, the ol' battered friend came down and eventually began to take shape into what has now become the best damn fraternity house I've ever been in!

First, we celebrated by throwing a dedication party on October 15, 2021, in the new E-Palace. The guys in the Chapter are calling it the E-Dome. The evening of October 15 also honored the 50-year initiates of 1970-71 whose ceremony was lost in the COVID shutdown as well as the 200 men (and their supporting wives) who helped make this E-Hut possible.

We also hosted Parent's Weekend during the weekend of the Tennessee State game, and we enjoyed seeing many of you before the Egg Bowl. The new house is everything we wanted it to be from an alumni perspective, as it serves as a wonderful place to welcome back brothers with their families and friends.

So what's next, you ask?

Coming up is something that we are very excited about: the Scholarship Fund for Mississippi Theta. We have almost \$3 million in pledges to date with \$2 million already collected; this is way ahead of our

forecast given the five years allotted to pay off pledges.

Unfortunately, we also have an additional debt of about \$1.5 million. While house rent generates an incredible cash flow of over \$300,000 per year, we want to give a substantial amount of that back to the Chapter through scholarships. You may not know this, but a good number of our 175 members are paying their dues to be an  $\Sigma$ AE by working summer jobs, or worse, taking on debt of their own. **These are exactly the kind of men we want as brothers**, and a great candidate for  $\Sigma$ AE brotherhood should not be prevented from joining or dropping out of this great group of men. This will be discussed in greater detail during the year as we launch this effort.

There is one other cause that is especially personal to me, and that is honoring Green Ella Fox. More information can be found about our dedication plans for her on page 6 of this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who said *The Time Is Now* campaign would never be done by fall 2021. We salute you, because it gave us the additional motivation to prove that the Phoenix could indeed rise from the ashes on the campus of Mississippi State University. Phi Alpha!

In the Bonds,  
**Reggie Sims '81**  
President, Housing Corporation  
of Mississippi Theta



*Members of the 1970 and 1971 classes were honored for 50 years of  $\Sigma$ AE membership.*



*Parents of Chapter brothers gathering for Parent's Weekend during the weekend of the Kentucky game.*



*The new house exceeds alumni expectations and will serve as a great home for active members.*



From left to right: Dalton Privett '19, Asa Hausner '20, Mac Fullen '20, Gavin Sparks '20, Justin Rook '20, Nolan Burch '20, Paul Davis '19, and Dylan Ramey '20.



Our new member class of spring 2022.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

Eminent Archon

**Asa Hausner '20**

Mechanical Engineering  
Greenwood, Miss.

Eminent Deputy Archon

**Mac Fullen '20**

Agribusiness  
Ripley, Tenn.

Treasurer

**Nolan Burch '20**

Mechanical Engineering  
Dyersburg, Tenn.

Eminent Recorder

**Dylan Ramey '20**

Business Administration  
Brandon, Miss.

Warden

**Gavin Sparks '20**

Agronomy  
Searcy, Ark.

Social Chairman

**Gabe Blaylock '20**

Marketing  
Ridgeland, Miss.

Recruitment Chairman

**Justin Rook '20**

Business Administration  
Starkville, Miss.

New Member Educator

**Dalton Privett '19**

Finance  
Caruthersville, Mo.

Alumni Chairman

**Paul Davis '19**

Finance  
Dallas, Texas

# RECRUITING A TOP CLASS FOR MISSISSIPPI THETA

## We Need Your Help for 2022-23!

**U**nder the leadership of our 2021 recruitment chairman, **Dalton Privett '19**, Mississippi Theta ultimately recruited 42 members to join this outstanding brotherhood last fall. About two-thirds of these men came from Mississippi, including the Delta and Jackson Metro areas, Starkville, the coast, and Hattiesburg. The other members are from Texas, Alabama, New Jersey, Connecticut, and all over Tennessee (from Memphis to Nashville). Almost all of the newest pledge class consisted of early-bid acceptances, while a handful were from formal recruitment. We are very proud of the men who decided to accept their bids, and we all look forward to seeing them help us grow as a Chapter.

Spring recruitment produced our best results ever as our head recruitment chairman, Justin Rook '20, assisted by Cade Johns '20 hit the ground running landing about a dozen new

members. Summer rush in advance of our Fall recruitment is now in full swing.

Justin plans to assign several recruitment chairmen to various areas of the state (and some out of state as well). These areas include the Delta, Golden Triangle, and Jackson Metro areas, along with Southwest Tennessee and Alabama. **Please contact Justin with any potential fall 2022 new members at (662) 418-0289 or [jmr1063@msstate.edu](mailto:jmr1063@msstate.edu). We would love to invite them to the house or an event and let them meet the wonderful members of ΣΑΕ.**

If you know a potential new member, we look forward to hearing from you. We can't wait to grow our Chapter and welcome new men who prove to be True Gentleman!



In the Bonds,  
**Justin Rook '20**  
Recruitment Chairman



*Brothers attending the dedication party for our new E-Hut.*



*Bubba Asher '84 checking out the house and the new lions: Bud and Budessa*

# REUNITED IN OUR NEW HOME

## Mississippi Theta Brothers Stick Together Through Thick and Thin

**I**t is quite an exciting time to be a member of the Mississippi Theta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. This spring was the first full semester we have had together as a fraternity since 2020—and we embraced it to the fullest! First, we celebrated by throwing a dedication party on October 15, 2021, in the new E-Palace. The guys in the Chapter are calling it the E-Dome. The evening of October 15 also honored the 50-year initiates of 1970-71 whose ceremony was lost in the COVID shutdown as well as the 200 men (and their supporting wives) who helped make this E-Hut possible.

Our Chapter has come a long way since the fall, which held many setbacks as we attempted to move into our home; however, through the many challenges we faced with COVID-19 and our new house construction, we have managed to stick together. We returned to our beautiful new house a few weeks into the fall semester, and our brothers are happy to be reunited under one roof.

Moving into our new home later in the semester allowed us to get a feel for what to expect when we returned this spring and what changes we needed to make to better suit our Chapter. We have high hopes for

what we can accomplish both inside the walls of the new E-Dome and out.

This spring, we brought back Paddy Murphy Week, which focuses on community service, philanthropy, and brotherhood. This event not only enhanced the Chapter's image across the community, but it also boosted the spirits of our members and brought us closer.

Once again, Mississippi Theta stepped up to help others through a series of fundraisers, including tailgate donations to support the Hurricane Ida relief efforts and a Talladega Road Trip to benefit the Memphis Breast Cancer Consortium. We also raised \$6,000 for Starkville Young Life through our Bats and BBQ event and held Operation Christmas Child to benefit children in need.

While we faced many obstacles this year, we are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to strengthening our brotherhood and supporting our community in the years to come.



In the Bonds,  
**Asa Hausner '20**  
Eminent Archon



*At the Alabama game, active members met with former SEC Most Valuable Player and Mississippi State quarterback, Rocky Felker '74.*



## Connect with Us Online!



SAE Mississippi Theta Alumni and Parents



@SAE\_MSUdaws



# ThetaGram

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**SAVE THE DATE**

## ALUMNI WEEKEND

**Alumni Weekend is  
scheduled for  
September 30 -  
October 1, 2022**

Our formal event will  
take place on  
**Friday, September 30,**  
and our party will follow  
on **Saturday, October 1.**

## REMEMBERING GREEN ELLA FOX

**June 1, 1944 – March 15, 2022**



**I**t is with heavy hearts that we mourn the loss of our beloved Green Ella Fox, who passed away on March 15, 2022. Green Ella, aka G-Fox, graced the Mississippi Theta Chapter for more than 45 years as the Queen of the E-House Kitchen. She cooked many meals for more than 1,200 men but, more importantly, was their friend. Her radiant smile and gentle ways will forever be remembered.

We plan to honor the memory of Green Ella on a football game weekend this fall by naming the new kitchen in the Mississippi Theta Chapter House after her.

This past fall, we started a small campaign to formalize this honor. The Housing Corporation has reopened this opportunity to make a donation. For gifts of \$1,000 or more, recognition will be noted on a commemorative plaque.

Please follow this link to participate:  
<https://tinyurl.com/MSThetaCampaign>