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The Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha (Agriculture)

September 15, 2015

TO: Chapter Advisors
Chapter Presidents

FROM: Dr. Beth Walker, Ph.D.
National Advisor

Howdy and I hope your semester is going well and plans have been made for the induction of a new group of DTA members as we continue the proud tradition of honoring our best students with the opportunity of joining DTA.

MUSINGS

I am a huge fan of history and over the past few weeks I have gone through boxes of historical documents from DTA. I love traditions and would like to bring back a few traditions that I uncovered. For starters, I contacted the folks over at NACTA, our parent organization, and have introduced myself. If at all possible, I hope that one of the NACTA officers will be able to attend our National Convention. Since my contact, NACTA "liked" our Facebook Page (see more about that down below). You will see more evidence of my love of history and tradition in the coming months.

Speaking of....As I was reading past newsletters, I saw that one National Advisor always included thought provoking quotes. Here is my try....

"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful" Samuel Johnson.

DTA WEB SITE

Currently, the DTA Web Site may be found at: <http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/agriculture/natdta> ;however, the address will be changing in the near future. How soon, well as soon as I can find a good internet provider. Luckily for me, I found an Agricultural Communications major who needed 3 hours of credit. We have some ideas for the website so be expecting some changes. If you have any ideas regarding for the National Website, feel free to contact me.

NATIONAL DTA FACEBOOK PAGE

I hope to make DTA more accessible to our current and new members, alumni, and advisors so I am trying to update our National DTA Facebook Page with relevant updates. I'll also be posting additional pictures from this past National Convention as well and past Conventions. If you have pictures you would be willing to share, please send them to me. And, please like our page!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/nationaldeltataualpha?ref=hl>

REPORT OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Please be sure and have all reports (Chapter Officers and Returning Members) and chapter dues (\$20) submitted by **October 15** (the date matches that for the fall induction deadline) to maintain active chapter status. Chapters need to be current in chapter dues for memberships to be processed. The forms may be found at:

<http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/agriculture/natdta/information/active>. Please note the reports and membership forms are in Excel. You may check your chapter status regarding dues and memberships at: <http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/agriculture/natdta/information/active/chapstatus>. The reports help the National Council stay in touch with local chapters.

FALL INDUCTION

- Please submit the names of fall inductees to me (EWalker@missouristate.edu) by **October 15** to ensure that certificates reach the chapters before fall graduation. Membership applications may be found at: <http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/agriculture/natdta/information/active>.
- Certificates will be not processed until membership dues (\$25) are received. National chapter dues (\$20) for 2015 and earlier must be paid before new memberships will be processed.
- Membership dues and/or names not received by **October 15** will be processed in the spring.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Please review our induction ceremony found on the DTA website. Send some pictures of your induction ceremony so I can post them on our Facebook page. Keep in mind the importance of these ceremonies as we try to instill the importance scholarship, leadership, ethics, and all the other things which DTA stands for. DTA is **more** than a line on your resume; it is a tradition of excellence and recognition of outstanding agriculture students.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The National Council will hold a fall meeting in mid-November. The meeting will be by teleconference. Please contact the vice president for your region if you have items that you would like the National Council to discuss and bring to the membership at the National Convention.

THE ACHIEVER

- The Achiever is a newsletter that provides information to the local chapters about what is happening at the chapter level. Please submit information (Form 40) for The Achiever to the National DTA President Billy Cameron, Eastern Kentucky University at billy_cameron4@mymail.eky.edu
- The Achiever is available at <http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/agriculture/natdta/newsletter>.

57th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Fort Hays State will be hosting the 2016 National Convention on **March 31 - April 2, 2016**. We really appreciate Jean Gleichsner for taking on this huge responsibility. For the rest of you, if you haven't hosted a National Convention, please consider doing to. Not only does it draw national attention to your University and Chapter, it also provides a great leadership experience for your member. We would love to head east so if there is anyone who is willing, please let me know. As is our tradition, we like having our conventions in the various regions of the country – Midwest, Southern, Eastern, Western and if possible, Northern.

OUTSTANDING TEACHER-ADVISOR AWARD

I am not aware if we have continued this tradition over the past few years but I hope it is something our members take time to consider doing.

- DTA provides the opportunity each year to recognize a professor from one of our chapter schools as an outstanding teacher-advisor.
- Nomination forms and a copy of the award guidelines are available at: <http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/agriculture/natdta/awards>.
- A letter or e-mail of nomination is due by December 15 and all application materials for the award are due by February 15 to me.

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE HONOR SOCIETIES

- DTA is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies. I invite all members to preview their website – www.achsnaatl.org.
- Washington Internships are being offered via a partner group associated with ACHS. Please see the website above for additional information.
- Being a member of a nationally recognized honor society such as Delta Tau Alpha allows an individual to start at GS-7 rather than a GS-5 for government work classified as two-grade intervals. An explanation of this policy can be found in the United States Office of Personnel Management - Operating Manual - Qualifications Standards for General Schedule Positions and is available at this web site: <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/sec-ii/s2-e5.htm#e4f>. To get an idea of what that means in terms of salary (GS -5 vs. GS-7) refer to <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2013/general-schedule/>. Other links that might be useful: <http://www.usajobs.gov/studentjobs> and <http://www.usajobs.gov>.

DTA MERCHANDISE

- Lapel pins, graduation honor cords, graduation medallions, a brief bag, and fleece pullovers recognizing membership in DTA are available. Merchandise may be viewed at <http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/agriculture/natdta/merchandise>. To order merchandise advisors should contact Kenneth E. Jernigan & Associates by phone (850)-469-0344, Fax (850)-434-3728 or email ken@kenjernigan.com and indicate you are with DTA. You will be required to guarantee the order with a credit card. Chapters must be current in national chapter dues to order merchandise. Allow at least 2 weeks to receive your order.
- To order DTA t-shirts advisors should contact me jgleichs@fhsu.edu by November 1 and indicate short (\$11) or long-sleeved t-shirts (\$16), color (black or light grey) and sizes (additional charge for 2X and larger). Postage will be added to each order. Chapters must be current in national chapter dues to order t-shirts. This date will allow me to order a group quantity and save money. Allow at least 2 weeks to receive your order.

TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

- DTA has tax-exempt status. The number is 47-0889516. If you have questions about the use of the number, please contact me.

Please contact me with any questions.

Dr. Beth Walker
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