

Greater Interest in Government

The purpose of the Greater Interest in Government Program, established in 1969 by Frederick A. Faville, Illinois Beta '19, is to stimulate interest in civic affairs and public-policy issues among student members of Tau Beta Pi. The Executive Council awards annual grants up to \$750 each for these activities from the investment earnings of the Greater Interest in Government Fund.

Alabama Epsilon Rebuilding

IN 2005 SEVERAL HURRICANES, including Katrina, wrecked havoc along the Gulf Coast. Up to 80-90 percent of the structures in many of the coastal communities were totally destroyed, resulting in a severe housing shortage. Working with Habitat for Humanity in Mobile County, the Alabama Epsilon Chapter organized a District 6 Hurricane Relief Project to aid victims living in a fishing community along the Alabama Gulf Coast. This community was hit especially hard by Hurricane Katrina, and, nearly two years later, some residents still remain homeless.



Alan E. Franks, AL Γ, Stephanie Lee, AL E, and Lana H. Carnel, TN A, help with the heavy lifting.

Habitat works with community organizations to help low-income families build simple, livable homes. Habitat's operation home delivery hurricane-recovery program constructed its 500th home in November 2006 and planned to provide a total of 1,000 homes along the Gulf Coast by mid-summer 2007.

A Tau Beta Pi Greater Interest in Government Grant made it possible for volunteers from Tennessee Alpha, Alabama Delta and Gamma, and Mississippi Alpha to join members of Alabama Epsilon for a weekend of home construction in November 2006. During the weekend, 27 Tau



Harold Z. Eubanks, AL E, cuts lumber for more framing work.



(ABOVE) Ellen D. Styles, District 6 Director (c), guides Jonathan D. Wiggins (left), and Roy V. Blanco (right) AL E, in the framing of walls.

(BELOW) Eileen Zhao, TN A, saws wall openings.



Bates rolled up their sleeves and performed all types of construction tasks, from installing vinyl siding to nailing wall sections. These Tau Bates made a difference to those struggling in the aftermath of Katrina and living in cramped FEMA trailers.

Lana H. Carnel, *Tennessee Alpha '07*, had this to say regarding her experience: "Please let me reiterate what a pleasure the last weekend has been. I would like to thank the University of South Alabama and Alabama Epsilon for all the hard work that went into making this weekend possible. Public-service organizations such as Habitat for Humanity are especially important in areas that have been affected by Hurricane Katrina; I'm grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of it."

Volunteers worked hard, but also had some fun and relaxation as well. Tau Bates were treated to local seafood on Mobile Bay and enjoyed nightlife in historic downtown Mobile. Roy V. Blanco, Alabama Epsilon President said, "When chapters work and socialize together, a valuable bond is created enriching the college experience as a Tau Bate."

In addition to the support of the Greater Interest in Government Grant, the project also received funding from a local engineering firm, Thompson Engineering. This funding provided accommodations and meals for the volunteers.

—Christopher M. Green
Alabama Epsilon Corresponding Secretary



Disaster relief comes one step at a time. Tau Bates from from five chapters reflect on their superb group project.