

PINK WITH PURPOSE: ZETA TAU ALPHA RAISES FUNDS FOR BREAST CANCER EDUCATION



Dylan Tracy
Staff Writer

Pink Week started off with a heated competition with Change Wars. Photo submitted by Zeta Tau Alpha.

In a dazzling display of unity, philanthropy, and spirited competition, the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority recently wrapped up its annual Pink Week festivities. These events, held throughout the month, represent a heartfelt effort to generate funds for Breast Cancer Education and Awareness, a cause close to many hearts across the nation. Beyond its noble purpose, Pink Week offers a captivating blend of activities that culminate in the crowning of the coveted title, "Big Man on Campus."

This year's Pink Week launched with two exhilarating days of "Change Wars." Fraternities fought against each other in a spirited competition to fill their respective collection jars with as much money as possible. These days of charitable fundraising led to the grand showdown where the fraternity with the highest amount raised secured the title of Pink Week champions.

Next in line was the delectably messy "Pie a Greek" event, an extravaganza where you could gleefully smear a participant's face with a gooey pie. Set against the backdrop of the campus dorms, this uproarious event garnered significant attention and



The "Pie a Greek" event draws a crowd eager to pie one of the participating Greek participants. Photo by Dylan Tracy.

witnessed a flurry of pie-smothering chaos.

A true test of strength and camaraderie, the "Think Pink Bootcamp" unfolded as a thrilling relay race. Eight members from each fraternity went head-to-head, aiming to score precious points for their Big Man contender. The challenging course included dizzying spins, precarious spoon-balancing with a golf ball, the balloon-squeezing dash, and a tire-flipping sprint. Ultimately, the

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People gather to celebrate Jimmy Carter's birthday in Atlanta, Plains, and all across the nation.

Kappa Sigma Fraternity emerged as the champions, triumphantly displaying their fraternal pride in the wake of a heated competition.

After the intense race, it was only fitting to transition into a more relaxed atmosphere, and the "Mashed Potato Bar" offered just that. For just five dollars, attendees could savor a cup of mashed potatoes loaded with a delightful array of toppings, from cheese to bacon, jalapenos, and a variety of spices. The event attracted

a lively crowd, transforming into a genial party environment for the fraternities and sororities in attendance.

However, all these engaging activities pale in comparison to the magnum opus, “Big Man on Campus.” The penultimate event of Pink Week had the fraternities pitted against each other, each fielding their most talented and charismatic participants. Prior to showcasing their unique talents, the contestants dazzled in a show-stopping display of pink fashion, competing for the coveted Mr. Think Pink award. After the stylish parade, the stage was set for an incredible talent showcase.

The event featured a wide assortment of remarkable acts, including a soulful guitar and singing performance, a harmonica player belting out tunes, and a saxophone expert who mesmerized the audience.

After an exhilarating showcase of skills and showmanship, the distinguished panel of judges settled into the formidable task of sifting through the evening’s standout performances to determine the recipients of various titles and accolades. Each decision was met with applause, as the competitors received recognition for their endeavors. But a palpable tension rose in the auditorium for the most awaited declaration of the night—the crowning of the Big Man on Campus. The crowd held its breath as a resounding drumroll heralded the grand announcement. The honor went to David Williams, and the outgoing Big Man, Ian Jackson, bestowed the coveted title upon him, marking the culmination of an unforgettable Pink Week.



Think Pink Bootcamp. Photo by Dylan Tracy.



Mashed potato bar. Photo by Dylan Tracy.



Mr. Talented winner Andrew Nguyen, who mesmerized the crowd with his saxophone. Photo by Dylan Tracy.



David Williams won the title of “Big Man on Campus.” Photo by Dylan Tracy.



Evren Ozel and Eleni Katz performing at GSW. Photo by Zac Monnier.

The final chamber concert of 2023 left audiences extraordinarily satisfied and eager to hear more in 2024. Eleni Katz on bassoon and Evren Ozel on piano gave quite the performance. Both are accomplished soloists, chamber musicians, and orchestral players with a litany of awards under their belts. Eleni also happens to be a classically trained singer who has commissioned and premiered music based on lyrics from a poem she composed. While GSW did not have the pleasure of hearing her sing, it did have the joy of listening to over an hour of impassioned performance with her bassoon serving as her voice. One particularly noteworthy program piece included Spring Fever by Cindi Hsu. The piece evokes two chapters of Cindi’s life, first in Boulder, Colorado with “Pastoral,” and then the frenetic energy of New York, NY with “Fever.”

Evren provided excellent accompaniment to Eleni’s bassoon and also wowed the crowd with a few solos. The Phantom Tells his Tale of Longing, Op. 66, No. 3, by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor painted a ballad of desire and jealousy. Evren’s solos — normally only accessible in large symphony orchestras like those found in Cleveland, Boston, and Jacksonville — deserve an article all their own.

While November & December have no Chamber Concerts, bigger sounds will be readily available. A Downtown Holiday Open House (ft. Concert Choir, Concert Band, & the Southwest Civic Chorus) can be enjoyed on Thursday, November 16 at 6:00PM in the Rylander Theatre; Fall Band Concert comes soon after on Thursday, November 30 at 7:30PM in the Jackson Performance Hall; and there will be a Community Christmas Sing at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Park in Plains on Sunday, December 3 at 6:00PM.

CAMPUS NEWS

ELENI KATZ AND EVREN OZEL CAP OFF 2023 CHAMBER SERIES WITH VIRTUOSO PERFORMANCES

Zac Monnier
Staff Writer

GREEK LIFE

DELTA SIGMA THETA HOSTS WEEK OF THRILLING EVENTS DURING "NIGHTMARE ON DELTA STREET"

Amari Rudison
Media Editor

During the month of October, the Theta Sigma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc hosted a week of thrilling events for the GSW community. The week was titled "Nightmare on Delta Street," capitalizing on GSW's Halloween spirit.

The beginning of the week started with an All-White Day Party in the Pods. It was a spine-chilling party with tons of spooky treats and festive music. On Tuesday, it was CODE R.E.D, where women and men who attended were informed of the importance of staying on top of their health. In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Theta Sigma shared key tips on how to stay on top of Breast Cancer and how to observe different key signs. Not just physical health was discussed, but knowing about mental health was a big topic of discussion as well. The students who attended the second night were informed of the importance of managing anxiety and how to treat it.

Following CODE R.E.D was the Halloween Pumpkin Bash at the Lake House. This event was the third event of the week, and it involved pumpkin decorating as well as releasing anger by smashing pumpkins. On Thursday, it was Theta Sigma's Zaman Community Service Project. And finally, on the last day, it was the "Let's Address the Elephant in the Room" event to round off all the events of this thrilling week for the Theta Sigma Delta's.



Day one of "Nightmare on Delta Street" sees many people attend the All-White Day Party in the Pods. Photo by Amari Rudison.

IMAGE SERIES

INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL SEASON WRAPS UP WITH EXCITING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Article by Zac Monnier
Photos by Jackson Carlstrom

The Intramural Flag Football finals concluded with a thrilling match between Zeta Tau Alpha and the Chick-Fil-Ladies, where Zeta clinched the title with a close score of 14-12. The men's showdown featured 2LG vs. Paperchasers, with 2LG taking a decisive victory at 48-6 through a mercy rule call.





Homecoming '23

HOMECOMING PARADE

Student organizations, Greek Life, Athletics, and members of the Homecoming Court participate in the Homecoming Parade in their decked-out cars. Photos by Zac Monnier.



TWINSICK CONCERT

TWINSICK and Planet X Industries put on a show with several fan favorite songs at GSW's Homecoming Concert. Photos by Zac Monnier.



BLUE AND GOLD PICNIC

GSW students and faculty hang out and eat lunch on Canes Lawn for the Blue and Gold Picnic. Photos by Colby Hernandez and University Relations.





SPARKY SPRINT 5K AND 1 MILE FUN RUN

This year's annual homecoming 5K was held in memory of GSW alumnus, Pi Kappa Pi, and community leader Sparky Reeves, with all proceeds from the race going towards scholarships. GSW student Aaron Pinckard (pictured below) recieved the first place medal.



HOMECOMING GAMES AND HOCO COURT

The GSW community filled up the stands for the Womens and Mens Homecoming Soccer Games. During halftime for the Men's game, Mr. and Mrs. GSW were crowned. GSW's 2023 Homecoming Court included Abbie Jackson, Ashanti Jackson, Christina Wynn, Emily Larkey, Marlee McArthur, Alex Espitia, and Rylan Jackson. Alex Espitia and Ashanti Jackson were crowned as Mr. & Miss GSW. Photos by Dylan Tracy and University Relations.



WORLD NEWS

FROM PLAINS TO ATLANTA: JIMMY CARTER'S 99TH BIRTHDAY MARKED WITH NATIONWIDE CELEBRATIONS

Jackson Carlstrom
Editor-In-Chief

On October 1, the town of Plains radiated with joy and festivity as its most celebrated resident, Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States and a beacon of global humanitarianism, celebrated his 99th birthday. Georgia Southwestern State University's (GSW) most distinguished alumnus had not just his hometown, but an entire nation, marking the occasion with grandeur.



The staff of the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park display a "Happy Birthday" banner for Jimmy Carter during the Peanut Festival parade in Plains.

The Carter Center, a nongovernmental, non-for-profit organization founded by Carter in 1982 to promote peace, health, and democracy worldwide, hosted several different events at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum in Atlanta to commemorate the former President's birthday. The turnout was spectacular, with over 1,000 attendees from all across the nation present. Some of the activities at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library included a screening of the film *All the President's Men*, a birthday card station where attendees got to sign cards, a crafting station inspired by the crafts and toys Carter played with as a child, and much more. "We were over the moon to see how much the community connected with these nods to Carter's childhood," Museum Technician Emily Curl said in an interview for the National Archives. "Some adults came especially to make their own Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter finger puppets! I loved seeing kids determined to master jacks and tell stories about their very own corn husk dolls."

The festivities weren't confined to Atlanta though. The Plains Peanut Festival took place on September 25; about a week before Carter's birthday, but close enough to draw in people eager to wish the former President an early happy birthday. Attendees were treated to a variety of food stalls, arts and crafts booths, and a vibrant parade. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter made a surprise appearance, riding through the parade in a Black SUV. Despite the former President's health concerns, having entered hospice care in February, the couple made a heartening public appearance. As they waved to the crowd, a spontaneous rendition of the "Happy Birthday" song erupted from those in attendance.

These celebrations serve as a testament to the enduring legacy of Jimmy Carter. Even as the former President and GSW alumnus nears a century, his influence on American politics, his dedication to humanitarian causes, and his unwavering spirit continue to inspire countless individuals worldwide.

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