

Hi Mrs. Perez! I have some more recent news that I'm really excited about. **My sorority, Delta Zeta**, was the first organization to bring the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission's Shattered Dreams program to a university in the state. Here's an official mini-description of our program:

Teen automobile crash deaths in Texas are among the highest in the country. *Shattered Dreams* is a comprehensive two-day program incorporating several activities to educate our youth by dramatizing the problems associated with drinking and driving. Planned by Delta Zeta, community officials, and school personnel, this program shows students how their dreams and those of their friends and families can be shattered as a result of underage drinking and drinking and driving. Its purpose is not only to inform, but to involve the student body in the horrifying experiences associated with murder by drunk drivers.

On March 7, students representing those who die every fifteen minutes in alcohol-related car crashes in our country will be escorted from their classrooms and become members of the Living Dead. A staged auto crash will occur on Van Week Street, killing two of our students. That night, all participants will attend an overnight leadership retreat at McAllen Medical Center. A mock memorial honoring the lives of Miss Candace Miles (Delta Zeta) and Mr. Frank Cavazos (Kappa Sigma) will take place the following morning and will include motivating speeches by participants, their parents, and community leaders.

Two months of planning paid off on March 6, when we staged our crash at lunchtime. Over 500 students watched as firefighters used the Jaws of Life to extract our victims from their cars. Two were packaged and sent to McAllen Medical Center; one was pronounced dead and sent to the morgue. Our drunk driver was put through a series of tests, arrested, booked, and arraigned at the city jail. Channel 4, Channel 5, Univision, Telemundo, and our own UTPA PR station were there to witness this process. Here is a link to Channel 5's report:

<http://www.newschannel5.tv/2007/3/7/964060/Drinking-and-Driving-Demonstration>

I was Liaison to the hospital. I chose McAllen Medical Center because their Trauma Unit is certified to handle traumas of this magnitude. Once the crash had taken place, an ambulance rushed our injured victim and a helicopter transported our critically injured victim to MMC. The Living Dead received them in the Emergency Department for a tour, in which medical authorities followed mock trauma codes, just as they would during a real emergency. Later that night, all participants gathered at the hospital for an overnight retreat.

We are doing a disservice to our youth by stopping drunk-driving awareness after high school. Delta Zeta recognizes this and chose to sponsor this program in honor of our sisters and of all those who have experienced a loss because of the selfishness of a drunk driver. We effectively raised adult awareness on our campus and in the community five days before Spring Break 2007. I've attached some photos for you. :o)

XOXO, Jessie