

Howard R. Alter, Jr.

Award for Chapter Excellence



2020/2021 Application

*"A glorious past is ever telling
Of friendships that shall never die.
Within us peace and union dwelling,
While honor crowns the Theta Chi."*

About Howard R. Alter, Jr.

Omega/Penn State 1941

Howard R. Alter, Jr. graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1941. As an undergraduate, he served Omega Chapter as Treasurer and as President.

He served as a U.S. Navy Seabee during World War II in the Pacific area of operations, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant commander.

In 1955, he was appointed to the Fraternity's regional staff and in 1960 was elected to the Grand Chapter, where he was appointed National Chaplain from 1960 to 1962. In 1962, he was elected National President and served two terms. He completed his service on the Grand Chapter as National Treasurer from 1966 until October of 1967, when he resigned in order to become Executive Director.

On Jan. 1, 1968, Howard became Theta Chi's fifth Executive Director, succeeding George Chapman, another Omega alumnus who served from 1948 to 1968.

Howard's tenure as Executive Director lasted over 16 years and saw one of the most turbulent periods in the history of American college fraternities. He became an interfraternity leader, serving as president of the Fraternity Executives Association from 1978 to 1979.

In July of 1984, Howard was appointed Executive Director Emeritus and subsequently elected to the National Board of Trustees (now the Norwich Housing Corporation) in 1984 where he served two five-year terms, including as President of the National Board of Trustees. Brother Alter also served on the boards of both foundations in our Fraternity—the Foundation Chapter and Theta Chi Funds for Leadership and Education, Inc.

His service on these boards is especially notable in that he became the first of two men in the history of Theta Chi to serve as Executive Director, National/International President, and President of the National Board of Trustees/Norwich Housing Corporation.

Howard also continued on the board of the National Interfraternity Conference (now the North-American Interfraternity Conference, or NIC) as director. In 1993, he received the NIC Gold Medal, the fraternal world's most prestigious honor.

Brother Alter formally served Theta Chi for 54 years before his death. He entered the Chapter Eternal on May 9, 2009, at his beloved home on Stockland Farm near Pittsburgh, PA. His lifelong and selfless work on behalf of Theta Chi and the interfraternity world serves now, and will continue to serve, as an example for all to follow.

About the Alter Award

The Howard R. Alter, Jr. Award for Chapter Excellence was created in 1984 upon the occasion of Howard's retirement as Executive Director by a group of former Field Representatives (today's Field Executives) who had served under Howard. The Alter Award was first presented in 1986 to chapters that met or exceeded the Fraternity's standards of excellence.

The Alter Award is the Fraternity's highest chapter honor and is presented annually during the summer. Although colonies and interest groups may also apply for recognition in most of the categories evaluated in the Alter Award, it may only be presented to active chapters.

Consideration for the Alter Award is by application only. A committee composed of the current members of the field staff reviews the applications and decides on winners and Achievement and Excellence Award recipients. To be considered for the Alter Award, all sections of the application must be completed. Incomplete applications will still be eligible for Excellence Awards in individual categories.

There is no limit to the number of chapters which may receive the Alter Award each year. All chapters are encouraged to apply for the Alter Award; even if no award is received, the process of applying can provide a valuable opportunity for self-evaluation.

Chapter Achievement and Chapter Excellence Awards

Chapters that apply for the Alter Award will automatically be considered for the Chapter Achievement Award, which is presented to those chapters that demonstrate substantial progress toward achieving excellence in chapter operations.

Chapters, colonies, and interest groups may receive Chapter Excellence Awards for excellence in individual categories.

Applying for the Alter Award

The Alter Award process requires significant delegation of tasks and duties by the chapter leadership and teamwork on behalf of members and officers. It is an excellent evaluation tool and provides answers to questions such as, "What do you look for in a chapter _____ program?" and, "How do we rank among other chapters in Theta Chi in our operations?"

The Alter Award is presented annually as directed by the Grand Chapter. During even-numbered years, the Alter Award will be presented at the International Convention. During odd-numbered years, the Alter Award is presented at the Initiative Academies.

Direct all questions concerning the Alter Award, Chapter Achievement Award, and Chapter Excellence Awards to Ray Vanlanot by calling 317-848-1856 or emailing rvanlanot@thetachi.org.

Past Recipients

Howard R. Alter, Jr. Award for Chapter Excellence

1985/1986	Epsilon/WPI Sigma/Oregon State Phi/North Dakota State Alpha Phi/Alabama Beta Sigma/Lehigh	1999/2000	Epsilon/WPI Gamma Lambda/Denver Delta Alpha/Linfield Zeta Beta/Adrian	2010/2011	Phi/North Dakota State Alpha Nu/Georgia Tech Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Zeta Beta/Adrian Zeta Lambda/Westminster Iota Beta/Missouri State Iota Theta/Central Florida Iota Lambda/Longwood
1986/1987	Epsilon/WPI Sigma/Oregon State Phi/North Dakota State Alpha Delta/Purdue Alpha Omega/Lafayette Beta Xi/Birmingham-Southern Beta Sigma/Lehigh	2000/2001	Phi/North Dakota State Beta Nu/Case Western Iota Beta/Missouri State	2011/2012	Phi/North Dakota State Beta Kappa/Hamline Beta Nu/Case Western Gamma Rho/Florida State Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Zeta Beta/Adrian Zeta Lambda/Westminster Zeta Tau/Michigan-Flint Iota Beta/Missouri State Iota Lambda/Longwood
1987/1988	Epsilon/WPI Phi/North Dakota State Alpha Rho/Washington Beta Xi/Birmingham-Southern Gamma Kappa/Miami Univ.	2001/2002	Iota Beta/Missouri State	2012/2013	Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Zeta Beta/Adrian Zeta Lambda/Westminster Iota Beta/Missouri State Iota Lambda/Longwood
1988/1989	Epsilon/WPI Alpha Phi/Alabama Gamma Kappa/Miami Univ.	2002/2003	Zeta Beta/Adrian	2013/2014	Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Zeta Rho/Kentucky Iota Sigma/Towson
1989/1990	Beta Xi/Birmingham-Southern	2003/2004	Alpha Xi/Delaware Alpha Phi/Alabama Gamma Kappa/Miami Univ. Zeta Sigma/Wisconsin-River Falls	2014/2015	Theta/Massachusetts Beta Delta/Rutgers Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Iota Beta/Missouri State Iota Lambda/Longwood Iota Sigma/Towson
1990/1991	Beta Xi/Birmingham-Southern	2004/2005	Iota/Colgate Phi/North Dakota State Alpha Nu/Georgia Tech Alpha Phi/Alabama Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Zeta Sigma/Wisconsin-River Falls Iota Beta/Missouri State	2015/2016	Chi/Auburn Delta Eta/Colorado State Iota Tau/Northern Kentucky Iota Psi/RIT
1991/1992	Alpha Gamma/Michigan Alpha Delta/Purdue Alpha Phi/Alabama Gamma Tau/Drake	2005/2006	Phi/North Dakota State Alpha Phi/Alabama Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Iota Beta/Missouri State	2016/2017	Theta/Massachusetts Beta Delta/Rutgers Iota Beta/Missouri State Iota Tau/Northern Kentucky
1992/1993	No Award Recipients	2006/2007	Tau/Florida Alpha Phi/Alabama Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Iota Beta/Missouri State Iota Theta/Central Florida	2017/2018	Zeta/New Hampshire Chi/Auburn Iota Tau/Northern Kentucky
1993/1994	Phi/North Dakota State Delta Rho/NC State	2007/2008	Tau/Florida Alpha Phi/Alabama Beta Nu/Case Western Beta Sigma/Lehigh Gamma Rho/Florida State Delta Kappa/Ball State Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Iota Beta/Missouri State Iota Theta/Central Florida	2018/2019	Alpha Nu/Georgia Tech Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Kappa Zeta/Arkansas
1994/1995	Tau/Florida Gamma Phi/Neb. Wesleyan Theta Beta/College of NJ	2008/2009	Iota/Colgate Tau/Florida Phi/North Dakota State Delta Kappa/Ball State Zeta Beta/Adrian Iota Beta/Missouri State Iota Theta/Central Florida Iota Lambda/Longwood	2019/2020	Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan Epsilon Kappa/Idaho Iota Lambda/Longwood Kappa Zeta/Arkansas
1995/1996	Epsilon/WPI Phi/North Dakota State Gamma Phi/Neb. Wesleyan Epsilon Psi/NJIT Theta Beta/College of NJ	2009/2010	Phi/North Dakota State Zeta Beta/Adrian Iota Beta/Missouri State Iota Theta/Central Florida		
1996/1997	Tau/Florida Beta Chi/Allegheny Delta Alpha/Linfield Epsilon Psi/NJIT Eta Iota/Newberry Theta Eta/Sam Houston State				
1997/1998	Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan Delta Alpha/Linfield Theta Eta/Sam Houston State				
1998/1999	Beta Chi/Allegheny Gamma Lambda/Denver Delta Alpha/Linfield Theta Psi/Wisconsin-Oshkosh				

Application Procedures

Alter Award

Applications must contain accurate and up-to-date information regarding the chapter's performance during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Inaccurate information will serve as a basis for disqualification.

1. Applications must:
 - a. Be submitted as one complete document in .doc or .pdf format; paper applications will **not** be accepted.
 - b. Use standard 8 ½" by 11" paper with one-half inch margins, and 12-point Times New Roman font.
 - c. Have a cover page with the chapter designation, the name of the institution, and "Howard R. Alter, Jr. Award for Chapter Excellence Application 2020/2021."
 - d. Have each section clearly marked (e.g., Scholarship Programming) with the chapter designation.
2. Please email the completed application as one attachment, including all supporting materials and documentation, to alteraward@thetachi.org. Do not mail a hard copy.
3. Letters of Recommendation for your chapter may be emailed to alteraward@thetachi.org.
4. While there is no specific word or page limit per section, the committee asks that your chapter be as concise as possible when addressing each individual section. Should the committee need more information, we will request it from you.
5. To qualify for the Alter Award:
 - a. All sections must be completed. Leaving one or more sections incomplete will render the chapter ineligible for Alter Award consideration
 - b. Chapters must have a Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) on record with the International Headquarters. A CAB is a group of advisers (usually 3 or more) that provide guidance to the chapter officers. If you have questions about this requirement or need help getting a CAB started, please contact Zack Brown, Senior Director of Volunteer Development at the International Headquarters at zbrown@thetachi.org or by calling 317-848-1856.
6. Chapters that apply for the Alter Award will automatically be considered for the Chapter Achievement Award and Chapter Excellence Awards.
7. Chapters may apply for individual Chapter Excellence Awards to receive recognition in specific areas by completing just those sections of the Alter Award Application. The entire application does not need to be completed to qualify for Chapter Excellence Awards.
8. If your chapter receives recognition or awards from your college/university or another organization following the application deadline, please send that information to alteraward@thetachi.org so we can include it with your application packet.
9. Applications must be received **no later than Saturday, April 10, 2021.**

Howard R. Alter, Jr. Award for Chapter Excellence

2020/2021 Application

The Alter Award is presented only to chapters that are the best on their campus, in their community, and in Theta Chi. These chapters help each brother realize his full potential, hold members accountable to the greater brotherhood, and serve causes greater than themselves. They follow and strive to meet The Objectives of Theta Chi and realize that these Objectives will help them be a better chapter and form a strong brotherhood.

To encompass the different areas of chapter operations and The Objectives of Theta Chi, the Alter Award is composed of 14 sections:

1. Scholarship Programming
2. Recruitment Programming
3. Pledge and Member Education
4. Community Service and Philanthropy Programming (including USO programming)
5. Sacred Purpose
6. Alumni Programming
7. Chapter Finances * (see below)
8. The Ritual
9. Chapter Operations (a brief report from each officer will suffice)
10. Internal Cooperation (participation and attendance within the International Fraternity)
11. Campus Involvement
12. Safety Standard Practices
13. Social Programming
14. Incorporation of *The Resolute Man*

* For Section 7 Chapter Finances, please include proof that your chapter is up to date with the annual 990 filing with the IRS. If not, please list the steps the chapter is taking to be compliant with the filing.

For your application, list each section of the Alter Award and tell us how your chapter is deserving of recognition in that area. If the chapter feels that it is not deserving of recognition in a section, explain why and how it is working toward improvement. Should the committee need more information, it will request it from you. While there is no specific word or page limit per section, the committee asks that your chapter be as concise and as specific as possible when addressing each individual section.

At the beginning of the application, please include a brief introductory letter from the Chapter President explaining why the chapter feels it is qualified for the Alter Award. In the letter, please verify that all the information contained in the application is complete, accurate, and is based on the chapter's performance during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. This letter must be signed by the Chapter President and Secretary.

You may include up to three letters of recommendation with your application. These letters must state that the sender understands that the recommendation is for the Howard R. Alter, Jr. Award for Chapter Excellence, Theta Chi's highest chapter honor. Your campus Greek adviser, other university administrators, faculty members, chapter adviser, and community officials are good sources of recommendations. Letters of recommendation may be emailed to alteraward@thetachi.org.