

OF THETA CHI FRATERNITY

## COVID-19

Brotherhood Across Any Distance



SUMMER 2020

CHE

#### FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

#### Editor

Benjamin R. Hill (Eta Kappa/James Madison 2002)

#### **Assistant Editor**

Nick Hoke (Alpha lota/Indiana 2014)

#### **Contributing Writers:**

Dr. Richard B. Birrer (Beta Sigma/Lehigh 1972)
Mary Brolley

Bob Corrado (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg 1989) Steve Davis (Gamma Kappa/Miami (OH) 1974) Tom Freeberg (Tau/Florida 1978)

Stephen Kallas (Epsilon Sigma/Wagner 2017) Dr. Tim Miller (Eta Kappa/James Madison 1996) Jack Murray (Alpha Lambda/Ohio State 2022) Jim Russell

Jack Uldrich (Gamma Tau/Drake 1986)

#### Published by

Maury Boyd and Associates, Inc.

**The International Headquarters** is located at: 865 W. Carmel Drive, Carmel, IN 46032

To reach the International Headquarters staff:

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 503 Carmel, IN 46082 PHONE: 317-848-1856

FAX: 317-824-1908 EMAIL: ihq@thetachi.org

WEBSITE: www.thetachi.org
To reach the Foundation Office, please email:
foundation@thetachi.org

The Rattle is the official alumnus publication of Theta Chi Fraternity. It is provided electronically to all collegiate and alumnus members of Theta Chi chapters, colonies, and interest groups. Print editions are provided to: all active contributors to the Grand Chapter and/or to the Foundation Chapter; volunteers of the Fraternity; and collegiate chapters. Individuals may request a printed copy by contacting the Editor at rattle@thetachi.org or by updating their information at www.thetachi.org.

#### Contributions

**Story Submissions:** The Rattle welcomes all story submissions. Decisions to publish submitted materials is at the sole discretion of the Editor.

Photo Submissions: Please share photos of your events! Both print and electronic publication requires photos to be captured at high resolution (minimum 300 dpi, and preferably 600 dpi). Set your camera to its highest setting for maximum file size. Please do not alter or try to correct the original capture. Doing so can permanently delete information that our production team will need to process the best picture for publication. Also, please use a flash to make sure the subjects are well-lit. Large photos can be posted to an FTP site or mailed to the Editor on a flash drive. When you submit copy, photos, or video for inclusion in The Rattle, you agree to allow Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc., The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc., and The Norwich Housing Corporation the right to post, publish, broadcast, print, or otherwise use in any manner Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc. deems appropriate. All media submitted becomes the property of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc.
Please send any materials for publication, as well as address changes, to the Editor at: rattle@thetachi.org



## **Emergency Powers**

Dear Brothers,

Since Convention was canceled, I was saddened that COVID-19 prevented me from being able to thank you all face-to-face for your support and candor during my term as International President. Instead of mingling with 500+ brothers, the pandemic caused a limited, procedural Convention at our International Headquarters in Carmel, IN. It was official, but it was different because it had to be.



International President Tait J. Martin

The Grand Chapter was disappointed about this, as many of you probably were, but sometimes as leaders, we have to employ

"emergency powers" to keep our beloved Fraternity thriving in challenging times. For perspective, the Grand Chapter has had to use its emergency powers to cancel, move, or postpone several conventions throughout its history—these have included times during both World Wars and the Great Depression.

We have been relying on our Fraternity archives to instruct the path forward. Our goal is to ensure the governance and spirit of Theta Chi continue for years to come. In addition, the Grand Chapter and IHQ staff have been meticulously documenting our modern emergency convention planning and procedures just in case we have to do this again for 'COVID-84.'

As I reflect on my time as President, I realize that we often refer to a set of "emergency powers" to keep your chapters alive, too. So many brothers have been showcasing what it means to be a Theta Chi during this time of quarantine and questions. I am so proud and grateful for your continued efforts to keep the brotherhood alive in the age of "social distancing."

Here are a few examples of "Emergency Powers" that we need to be ready to employ at a moment's notice:

#### See Brothers in Need

The murder of George Floyd, as yet another addition to the list of African American citizens killed by law enforcement authorities, hurt our membership because it hurt our Black brothers and brothers of color. Gentlemen, the discussion of what makes us who we are—especially how race and culture make us see the world differently—should be included in your chapter's conversations. Don't force it, just be open to ask questions and listen. It's the tough, interesting, uneasy, and honest conversations that build strong bonds. If you are open to talking about the difficult things, then the easy conversations just happen. Through these conversations, you may quickly realize that you haven't been as explicit as you should have been to your brothers in need. If you realize this, you fix it. Black lives matter. Queer lives matter. Hispanic lives matter. Asian lives matter. Brothers with disabilities' lives matter. The list could go on and on. Bottom line: our brothers who need us should not have to ask for support—let's actively look out for them.

#### **Unflinching Brotherhood**

When brothers couldn't meet in person due to COVID-19, they jumped on video chat to continue meeting and holding public ceremonies to honor their own. One of my proudest moments was to see the men of Zeta Tau/Michigan-Flint come together on Zoom to do a virtual alumni ceremony for their graduating seniors. Not only did each senior provide his own candle, but the focus on their accomplishments by their chapter brothers was remarkable.

#### The Power of Alumni Support

As many brothers found out, when you invite one member of the Grand Chapter to a virtual event, others will likely "crash" the party. I want to personally thank the chapters that reached out to the board to participate in their local events. This should not be dependent on a pandemic. Continue to call on your alumni and Grand Chapter to be active participants in your events.

#### Steadfast Leadership

As I retire from my time on the Grand Chapter, I am confident that our new International President, Darick Brown, and his board will continue pushing our Fraternity to greatness—I am

### TABLE OF CONTENTS



talking about both at the local and international level. More than ever, each of us is being called on to be leaders among men and to personify the values of Theta Chi. I am continually impressed by the men who lead our chapters and later take on leadership opportunities as alumni. To the collegians and alumni who have taken a leadership role, I say a heartfelt "Thank you."

As I sat in the chapter room at IHQ and stared at the portraits of Freeman and Chase during one of our Convention breaks, I thought, "What would they think about 2020?"

I think the Founders would be proud that we're still following their ideals, but they'd be confused as hell, like many of us are now. Why aren't we taking our citizenship as seriously as they did? Why do we spend so much time on petty things when we should be building each other up? This is what the "usefulness of fraternity" is about. Freeman and Chase had good concepts, but the follow-through directions are a little vague. I believe they made it that way so we would all have to work through the challenges of life together. They made our Ritual oaths to be applicable to men of all races and backgrounds. They set up a path to live by, but they also encouraged us to go out and LIVE Theta Chi's purpose.

Theta Chi's purpose is to make Resolute Men...becoming Resolute means facing the realities of the world, specifically starting in your chapter, and working outward. It's being OK with changing your mind when new data is available. It's OK to say, "I was wrong." It's better to say, "Let's fix this." And, "We may not always agree, but thanks for noticing my differences and listening to my experiences." We're supposed to talk about life. We're brothers.

We're all going through the awkward part of the culture party like everyone else. Calm down and ask questions and be sure to listen and it's OK to disagree but keep asking questions and listening until you find some-

thing in common. It's not anyone's job to educate anyone else. Triangulate your data. Try to find joy and friendship. That's more fun than strife.

I think our Founders would tell us, "Life is going to change. We gave you some ideals that we thought were extremely important to live by...remember, we lived in a time when people talked and we had time to think about what's important in life." They were men who discussed brotherhood.

Gentlemen, even though we had to relocate our International Convention and make other necessary modifications, there has been no better time in history to personify the Convention's original theme, "Justify Theta Chi."

I want to leave you with this question: What are you doing today to make Theta Chi better tomorrow?

There is no virus, quarantine, or government mandate that can break the oaths we all took—but sometimes we need to employ "emergency powers" to remind us how important our bond is. Now please go wash your hands.

Stay Resolute,

Tait J. Martin, Ph.D. International President



Bruce Gelb, M.D.



Van Erikson



#### inside

- 4 FEATURE: COVID-19
- 15 From the CEO
- 16 From the Road
- 17 Norwich Housing Corporation
- **18** From The Foundation Chapter
- 22 Awards
- 25 FEATURE: Father Phil Bowers
- 28 Chapter News
- 32 Alumni News
- 38 Chapter Eternal

#### on the cover

Many collegiate brothers will return to campus this fall to face new challenges and opportunities. Flip through this issue to see how brothers have taken on the pandemic and how you can extend a Helping Hand.





Facebook: @ThetaChi



TWITTER: @thetachiIHQ



Instagram: @thetachiihq



Snapchat: @thetachi\_ihq



YouTube: @ThetaChilHQ



Brother Martin presents his parting gift—a mirror made in 1994 by his grandfather, Lynn Dufrene, Jr. Tait shares, "It hung in my chapter's lodge throughout my collegiate years and now it will hang in our IHQ. I hope when someone looks in, they ask the person looking back, 'What are you doing to make our brotherhood stronger?'"

# **Brotherhood Across Any**

BY BEN HILL, EDITOR

## COVID-19:

No global event since World War II has impacted the operations of Theta Chi Fraternity and the daily lives of its members. This issue of *The Rattle* seeks to document a cross section of this impact for the Fraternity's historical record by highlighting members who rose to face daunting challenges with resolve, perpetuated the ideals of the Fraternity through unity, and extended a Helping Hand to all.



Recent medical school graduate Dr. Akshay Kapoor prepares to see his next patient.



Bruce Gelb, M.D. (Beta Alpha/UCLA 1996), a transplant surgeon in New York City, contracted COVID-19 in March 2020 and following his recovery, he has been on the front line, attending to the most critically ill patients in New York City. Dr. Gelb shared his experience with the disease in TIME magazine and said, "My colleagues and I will keep fighting the good fight. But everyone has a role to play: Right now, the most powerful ammunition we have is distancing from each other to make it harder for the virus to find a new host."



Akshay Kapoor, M.D. (Theta/Massachusetts 2013) was featured on ABC News Live and discussed his early graduation from medical school and his immediate transition as he volunteered to be on a team focusing on COVID-19 in a packed hospital right in the middle of the pandemic: "You remember every patient who passes on to your care. You remember their face. You remember their face. You remember their family," he said. "And in just [the] few short weeks I've been in the hospital, I've lost more patients and had difficult conversations with loved ones than [in] my combined training so far."... Kapoor expressed appreciation for the support he's received from the community and asked others to "continue doing that and remember that behind that mask... there is a smile and a human."

# Distance



Esportscaster Jack "CouRage" Dunlop (Iota Sigma/Towson 2016) held a 12-hour livestream event on his YouTube channel with the goal of raising \$250,000 to fight the coronavirus in memory of his grandmother who passed away from COVID-19. Dunlop shared, "I played multiple games alongside some of the biggest online creators in the world... Brothers from around the world supported the cause and I'm so grateful. All donations will go directly to the CDC Foundation." As of press time, the event raised \$512,276.27.

Eta Gamma/Morehead State Chapter Adviser Glen Teager (2011) is the chief financial officer of Rowan County Schools in Kentucky and is in charge of the school's food service program. As soon as school closings were announced, Glen directed his focus on helping feed the kids and, in record time, he had schools preparing and delivering thousands of meals per day to students, using school



personnel who had no prior training in this area. Glen spent countless hours organizing the effort and even helped deliver meals on the longest and most rural bus route so he could assure the proper setup of the delivery process. He took extra time to identify the most at-risk families so additional support could be provided over the weekends. As an example, on March 18, 2020, the district served and/or delivered a total of 1,100 lunches and 1,100 breakfasts to the children of Rowan County.



David Montefiori, Ph.D. (Eta Zeta/Edinboro 1977) is teaming with other researchers at Duke University to develop a vaccine against the coronavirus currently causing the COVID-19 pandemic and is closely monitoring its evolution.



Patrick Crute (Iota Lambda/ Longwood 2010), executive director of the Virginia Alliance of YMCAs, was tapped by Governor Ralph Northam for Virginia's COVID-19 Business Task Force, which provides advice and guidance on safe, responsible strategies for easing restrictions on businesses and individuals.



Lowe's corporate headquarters sent 3D printers to local Charlotte Tech Hub associates, including sr. manager of product management Patrick Carmody (Gamma Upsilon/Bradley 2001), who volunteered with his family to help produce and donate personal protective equipment for first responders and healthcare workers. He said, "We wanted to be able to give back to the community and this was a way for us to do that from our home."



Emily Thornton (wife of former Chief Development Officer Philip Thornton) shares, "Finished my first #quarantinecraft — What do you think,  $\Theta X$  friends?"

Several Theta Chi distillers. brewers, and others in the craft beverage industry converted production to produce hand sanitizer for hospitals, municipal workers, and other local groups:

#### **Hudson Valley Distillers**

Chris Moyer (Theta Lambda/ Bloomsburg 1992)

Tom Yozzo (Theta Lambda/ Bloomsburg 1992)

#### **Charm City Meadworks**

James Boicourt (Delta Rho/ NC State 2006)

#### Wildcat Brothers Distilling

David Meaux (Eta Omicron/ Northwestern State 1999)

Dr. Tait J. Martin (Eta Omicron/ Northwestern State 1997)

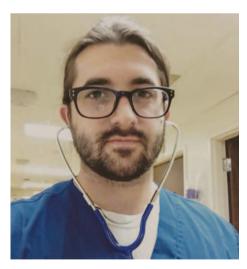
#### Lexington Brewing and Distilling Co.

Dan Haney (Eta Gamma/ Morehead State 1987)



Mark Denzler (Beta Rho/Illinois Wesleyan 1993), president and CEO of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, joined forces with the Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization to increase the production of medical supplies and equipment in the state.

"Some manufacturers are ramping up production of current products, while others are repurposing their facilities to meet the need," Denzler said.



Donnie Bowling (Eta Gamma/Morehead State 2013) was working as a nurse at University of Kentucky Healthcare on the front line against the virus. "Don't forget about our other brothers out here doing it too: Eta Gamma/Morehead State's Daniel Whitt (2011), Matthew Bentley (2011), Ben Bevins (2012), Brad Mummert (2013), Brice Cooper (2012), Wade Prater (2013), and anyone else out there I don't know about."

6 THE RATTLE/SUMMER 2020



# Impact on Collegians



Beta/MIT
Chapter President
Alex Evenchik
(2021) shared a
memory: "Before
MIT told us we
had to leave campus
due to COVID-19,
we were all speculating what was

going to happen and the tone matched the uncertainty and anxiety felt throughout campus. A moment later, someone made a joke, and everything relaxed and jokes abounded for the rest of the day. Yes, we were still worried, but we could also laugh and have fun even in this tense period together, and I really appreciate that ability from this group."

Matthew Roy (Alpha Phi/Alabama 2021) volunteered at the COVID-19 test site at



the Ross Bridge Medical Center in Hoover, AL, scheduling appointments with medical providers to contact patients through telemedicine and swabbing patients for test

samples. "The experience allowed me to see just how vulnerable we are to the virus," Roy said. "But a positive takeaway was seeing how we're all rising to the challenge, whether that's by caring for our fellow humans or daily innovations that address the many facets of this crisis."



**Ben Rozak** (Theta/Massachusetts 2023), second from left, helped his family produce masks for those in need.



### **Delta Upsilon Colony at Arizona State shares,**

We have worked since recolonization to grow from a mere handful of men to well over 50 strong. No matter the obstacle, it is our goal to continue our path of growth, bolstering not only our numbers, but our charitable impact, presence within the community, and precedence of kindness and respect.

With the shadow of COVID-19 looming above, we have moved all operations online. We continue to attend weekly meetings via Zoom, have educated and welcomed our newest members, and are preparing for the fruits of next semester. While the fall may not be what we expect, we are fully prepared to adapt to and conquer whatever scenario we may find ourselves in. As a family of likeminded men, we all seek to lead by example. We believe our awareness and passion for the virtues of commitment, proactiveness, and perseverance will lead us to the position of top chapter at ASU.

It is during times of turmoil when family is most important. While many of our members have managed to find comfort within our new way of living, there are many who have not. As a family, we have reached out to one another, providing reassurance to our members unnerved by uncertainty, guidance to our members who refuse to back down from the pursuit of their goals, and assistance to our members who could use an Assisting Hand. It is with this mentality that we plan to provide aid to people and organizations in need and conquer the uncertain. The Resolute Men of Delta Upsilon Colony plan to extend a Helping Hand to all who seek it.



**Tau/**Florida teamed with Delta Phi Epsilon to donate brunch items to frontline COVID-19 workers at UF Health Shands Hospital.



Colin Marcum (Alpha Phi/Alabama 2023), right, teamed with high school friend Darious Davis to design and sell T-shirts to support local businesses in Andalusia, AL. "Small businesses have been forced to shut down or cut their daily operations. We have been positively impacted by this community; therefore, we understand what it takes to keep the small-town dream turning."





Luke Blackmon, President of our Tennessee Colony:

There is no better or worse time to be a college student.

"How could it possibly be a good time to be a college student?"
you may be asking.

Here is why: Small businesses and restaurants are hiring delivery drivers, expensive stocks like airlines are currently dirt cheap, there is more than enough time to get all of your classwork done, and you have plenty of time if you are an officer in a chapter or colony to brainstorm fresh ideas for the returning semesters at your universities. There has never been a better time to work on general operations or something entirely new

than the break in reality we are currently experiencing.

Admittedly, there are significant downsides to our current situation. Part of being in a fraternity is being able to spend time and make memories with your brothers. For the majority part of a collegiate fraternity experience (barring inactivity or suspension), there is never a five-month period in which you do not physically see or spend time with your fellow brothers, and that is what we are currently experiencing. I feel terrible about all the seniors looking forward to their last semester and subsequent graduation alongside their brothers who will never get to experience that. Unfortunately, it just isn't something that is going to change. All we can do presently is use the resources available to us to spend time together in different ways, be it Zoom meetings, playing video games, using Netflix's party feature, etc., to do the best we can.

From the perspective of my colony, this pandemic led to our Installation Ceremony being canceled and postponed to an unspecified date. That was a hit to morale, especially for those of us who had been here since the beginning and were anxiously anticipating that step for our group. We are currently not affiliated with our school's IFC and not being present on campus could seriously call into question our ability to recruit new men to our Fraternity, but we are currently facing these problems head on and wasting no time planning for every eventuality.

No matter what happens, I have full confidence in both my colony and our Fraternity's International leaders to make the best solutions for all members of Theta Chi during these unprecedented times.



Zeta Epsilon/Long Beach State grads social distance.



**Alpha Kappa**/West Virginia sold T-shirts to raise money to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare professionals.

#### **BROTHERHOOD ACROSS ANY DISTANCE**



Dr. Tim Miller (Eta Kappa/James Madison 1996) currently serves as vice president of student affairs at his alma mater:

"As I reflect on 2020 and its impact on our communities and students, I keep thinking back to several words or phrases that seem to have taken up a greater position in our shared lexicon: uncharted, unprecedented, social distancing, new normal, pandemic, flattening the curve, PPE, and so many more. In considering these words, I reflect back to the transformational time I had during my own Theta Chi collegiate experience. I think about how hard college seemed after a relatively controlled environment at home and I try to imagine how I would do with all of that struggle with the current COVID-19 pandemic piled on top.

The most socially connected generation in history is being asked to distance themselves from each other in ways that no one ever imagined. Students who struggle with feelings of depression, isolation, and a myriad of other mental health challenges are being asked to further isolate and leave the communities where they most feel they belong. This is incredibly hard for these students and I believe that organization membership can be one of the most transformative sources of support and inspiration. The reality of all of this is that our fraternal communities are more important than ever.

College is a way of life and that life includes human connection, community, and support. I have seen many of our students build new and different ways to connect and I have seen others struggle to manage a lifestyle they hadn't expected or imagined. This is further complicated by a transition to online courses that have been built incredibly quickly in order to keep students on track for graduation. I believe strongly that all of us are putting



our best foot forward and I believe strongly that we will all come out of this differently, but better than we were at the beginning. Young people are resilient and they will see their way through this into a new world that may just be a better world than we imagined or even deserve. At least we can hold out that hope for our shared future, together, not apart."



Kappa lota/U.S. Military Academy shared this image and posted, "Be sure to lend an Assisting (and clean) Hand to your community in this time of international crisis. This can be something as simple as delivering groceries or doing your part in social distancing. Wash your hands, keep your distance, and flatten the curve!"



Class of 2020 grads don caps and gowns for photo ops instead of commencement exercises.

Unable to hold their annual USO philanthropy event on campus, lota Mu/Missouri still wanted to extend a Helping Hand, so brothers shifted their efforts to an online campaign and raised \$1,500.



In the midst of the pandemic, Aaron Coulombe (Gamma Upsilon/Bradley 2022) continued to volunteer with the West Peoria Fire Department and assisted with community outreach by riding by the homes of local children on their birthdays. "Through the fire department, I have been able to meet so many amazing people, both members of the fire department and members of the community. I am also able to see a real payoff in my education, as I can apply some of what I am learning on a greater level."



# Impact on Alumni

## Not Alone During My Fight Against COVID-19

BY BOB CORRADO (ETA PI/EAST STROUDSBURG 1989)

In mid-March, I began not feeling well. My energy was gone. My time lying on the couch, not doing much of anything, including eating, began to worry my family. Soon my wife and two sons began urging me to get tested for COVID-19. I resisted. I am one of many who don't go to doctors. Nothing good can come from a visit with a doctor. Moreover, my time lying around was spent watching the news. The stories of those going into the hospital, being placed on ventilators was not pleasant. Add in the fact that I would be alone without visitors, it was more than I was willing to face.

My denial was not helpful. Soon I was having trouble getting up simply to use the bathroom. I never had a fever, but lack of appetite was compiled with trouble breathing. On March 28, my family stated they were taking me to get tested. I felt horrible and did not object. Three days later, without the results, I entered the emergency room at Chilton Memorial Hospital in Pompton Plains, NJ.

Entering the emergency room was surreal. Vitals were taken, blood drawn, and an IV was placed in my hand. Before I knew it, I had been given heavy doses of antibiotics and chloroquine. A doctor stated an x-ray revealed double pneumonia and they were treating me as if I had the virus.

My fears were realized as I was placed in a pressurized room and my nurse explained everything that would be happening to help me through the ordeal. I was not on a ventilator, but my oxygen levels were very low. She told me to fight because the chances of me being placed on a ventilator were high. For the next three days, nurses and techs would come into my room, always alone and wearing protective clothing from head to toe. My vitals were taken every few hours and blood drawn every morning

at 5 a.m. My arms were black and blue from all the needles. The hospital called my wife daily with updates.

My family was my lifeline. I had never used Face Time before, but was happy every time my phone chimed. These conversations meant the world to me. I knew it wasn't easy on my wife, as she was still distance teaching at home while taking care of our two teenage sons, one who was also still in school via the computer. While the nurses were incredible, they were only in a few minutes every couple of hours, so boredom and frustration filled my days.

Fortunately, I had another lifeline to the outside world. The first night at the hospital I reached out to **Chris Koehnlein** (1990) and he relayed my situation to the Eta Pi Facebook group. Messages of encouragement came flooding in each day. The outpouring of support was overwhelming. Brothers whom I had not heard from in years were sending words of encouragement. More amazing were notes from brothers I had never met. It was just what was needed.

Paul Carifi (1988) and my pledge brother, Todd Diener (1989), contacted me daily and shared the updates with the brothers. I appreciated their daily chats more than they could ever realize.

Soon I turned the corner. After a few days, I finally ate. My oxygen levels began to rise and despite some secondary complications, I was released from the hospital on April 7. I had lost 30 pounds and felt weak but was so grateful to be home.

Paul and Todd continued to check in on my recovery, even asking if my wife and kids needed anything. Today I feel great; as I had stated to Todd in the hospital, "I can breathe!"



I married an incredibly strong and beautiful woman, my wife Melissa. She is my rock that holds the family together. The love I have for her grows daily. I am truly blessed to have such an amazing family.

The support from my family, friends, and fraternity brothers helped me when I needed it most. They kept me fighting. Doctors and nurses let me know how lucky I was because of my condition when I arrived at the hospital. Although I have thanked my brothers, I don't know if they realize how important their Helping Hand was to me. Without the conversations from the brothers and FaceTiming my incredible family as often as possible, I don't know how I would have survived that week.

My Theta Chi brothers, though apart over distance and time, epitomize the word brotherhood. No matter what, we are always there for each other. Theta Chi for Life.

10 THE RATTLE/SUMMER 2020

### **BROTHERHOOD ACROSS ANY DISTANCE**





### This Time the Show Would Not Go On...

BY STEPHEN KALLAS (EPSILON SIGMA/WAGNER 2017)

For seven months, I was part of the cast of the first national tour of "The Spongebob Musical." I was lucky enough to play Old Man Jenkins while understudying the three skateboarding rockstars of the 'Electric Skates' and the multi-talented, fully artistic, and always bitter Squidward Q. Tentacles.

During our run, we played small theatres, larger, big name theatres, passed through 24 states, and saw amazing cities and sites throughout our beautiful country.

While crowd sizes changed and each venue had its challenges, we could always count on the reactions of the audiences and the love and energy we could feel from each and every person as we brought our story to them.

On March 10, we started performances in Denver after finishing a weeklong stretch in the northwest. More and more reports were coming in about COVID-19. Our cast sounded the alarm to our company regarding our worries and they were very helpful in taking on this virus. They hired an extra stagehand to wipe down all of the props before, during, and after the show as well as other high traffic areas and we limited our interactions with the audience.

Our producers told us our first week in Los Angeles had been canceled, but we still expected to play the second two weeks. The next day, Friday the 13th, we were summoned for a full company, mandatory meeting as the rest of our performances in Denver had also been canceled. We arrived on stage where our set was half apart and raised up to have a clear deck—a looming and eerie sight. I had



this weird feeling that this could be the last time we all were in the same place. We talked, raised

questions and concerns, and then departed.

On March 20, we were told that due to preemptive cancelations, it was not financially feasible to continue the tour. Five more months, 18 more venues, and seven more states. All canceled.

My heart was crushed and I felt defeated. Our cast was one of the most supportive, loving, and caring casts I had ever met in my entire life and it hurts to know they are not constantly in my life anymore and that the adventure ended far too soon.

I know this was the decision that had to be made and that life will move forward toward other new and exciting projects. My heart may still hurt, but every day I remember more and more the joy I had doing the show. And that is what I take with me from all of this.

We should all take a look right now to truly appreciate what we have. We should appreciate the relationships we have and rekindle the ones we have let grow dim. We need to look inside and see how we can choose to improve ourselves so that we, in turn, can help others with the love and respect that Theta Chi taught us. Let's come together as a people, as a nation, and as a globe to show the true love and graciousness that is humanity, the same way the characters of Bikini Bottom did every day for 160 performances on the road.



# Impact on the Fraternity

Friday, March 6, 2020: The University of Washington, home of Alpha Rho Chapter, announced the cancelation of in-person classes and that students would take courses and finals remotely.

Tuesday, March 10, 2020: The management team at the International Headquarters met for their weekly meeting. Rumors swirled about additional decisions coming from colleges and universities and the Fraternity Executives Association shared an online COVID-19 resource hub to provide fraternity-specific information and best practices. The staff discussed potential impacts to the organization and key decisions that would need to be made.

Our growing checksheet of school closures

Before the end of the night, nearby Indiana University announced that following spring break, classes at all IU campuses would be taught remotely until April 6.

Wednesday, March 11, 2020: CEO Mike Mayer created a check sheet to keep track of affected chapters and colonies. Notices of cancelations, postponements, extended spring breaks, and remote classroom instruction went from a steady trickle to a full flood. That morning, 26 chapters had been impacted. By day's end, the number more than doubled and the decision was made to pull the Field Staff off the road at the conclusion of their visits for the week. That evening, the Fraternity sent a message to chapter leaders:

"...The International Headquarters staff is currently in the process of developing guidance on chapter operations... we are advising all chapters and colonies to follow the guidance provided by your college/university and public health officials. They are best positioned to advise as to the situation on your particular campus and community."

Thursday, March 12, 2020: The staff made further preparations and decisions and drafted a memo to chapter leaders. When the memo was delivered, 138 of 168 chapters had been impacted in some way.

Highlights of the memo included:

- Advice related to chapter houses and guidelines to prevent the spread of germs
- Instructions on how to contact the IHQ staff with a reassurance that the staff remained committed to providing support if a switch to remote work would become necessary
- Guidance on holding chapter meetings, recruitment activities, pledging and initiation, and other events including Founders Day and other alumni events
- Reminders about chapter finances, award and scholarship applications, and International Convention.



CEO Mike Mayer delivers an address via YouTube.

"... The Fraternity is monitoring this rapidly evolving situation and will provide additional updates and resources as appropriate... This is a time for judiciousness, patience, and cool, calm, and composed leadership. This is a time for Resolute Men. I wish you the best, and know the Helping Hand is here for you."

Tuesday, March 17, 2020: The IHQ office and museum were closed and the IHQ staff began its first day of remote work. A memo was sent that evening to inform chapter leaders about this staff transition and announced the cancelations and post-ponements of a number of Fraternity events including the New Orleans Alumni Reception and the Spring 2020 Grand Chapter Meeting, two Brothers & Baseball events, the International golf tournament, and all chapter (re)installations and (re)colonizations scheduled for spring 2020.

Wednesday, March 25, 2020: After conducting business earlier in the month via conference calls and email votes, the Grand Chapter began a series of weekly meetings held on Zoom. During the crisis, the Grand Chapter adopted resolutions authorizing the CEO to temporarily grant exemptions to chapters for the eight-week limitation on pledging; for the allowance of chapter meetings to be held via video conference; and the passage of COVID-19 Relief which provided a 23% per man credit (\$100 credit

### **BROTHERHOOD ACROSS ANY DISTANCE**







Joe McMinn (Eta Kappa/James Madison 2000) and Clarence Frank (Eta Omicron/ Northwestern State 2000) share renditions of the Fraternity Anthem to extend brotherhood and boost morale during quarantine. You can see their performances at www.youtube.com/ThetaChilHQ.

per man) to each chapter's 2020 annual fees. The board also began to study the potential impact on the Fraternity's ability to host the 164th Anniversary Convention in July 2020.

The staff later shared video messages from Bob Eberling (Iota Beta/Missouri State 2015) and Van Erikson (Eta Omicron/Northwestern State 2011) as part of a new series to help boost morale amongst all members during quarantine.

Friday, April 3, 2020: A video message from CEO Mike Mayer reminded members that the Headquarters staff was still hard at work for them and that the Field Staff was conducting visits on a remote basis. He also announced that the Grand Chapter approved a resolution authorizing and encouraging chapters and colonies to hold chapter meetings and conduct business on a remote basis.

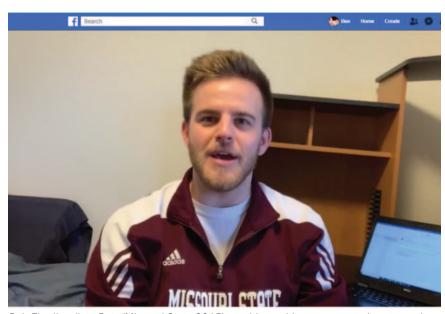
Founders Day 2020: CEO Mike Mayer recorded another video message and International President Tait Martin shared, "... Today, we find ourselves once again confined to a room...or a house...or a hospital, but unlike 164 years ago, our brotherhood spans to hundreds of thousands of men who are finding ways to connect during these turbulent and unknown times. I am continually amazed at how strong our brotherhood is by the number of social media posts and virtual meetings that are happening to keep Theta Chi alive and well... The key is to know your brothers are simply a phone call or Zoom meeting away...'

The Foundation Chapter held a chapter challenge to raise funds for academic scholarships and leadership education endowments. Despite the national emergency, Theta Chi brothers rose to the challenge and donated more than \$50,000 to provide a Helping Hand to the next generation of brothers.

Friday, April 17, 2020: Mike Mayer shared another video message and memo announcing the Grand Chapter's approval of COVID-19 relief and that the summer's International Convention would move ahead, unless, "government regulations prohibit gatherings in Lexington. If such regulations are in place or if other outside factors make the holding of an in-person

event impossible, the Convention will be held online in a remote format during those same Convention dates... I continue to be very proud of your continued commitment to perpetuating the ideals of our beloved Fraternity throughout these challenging times. History will remember the critical role each of you are playing in ensuring that our brotherhood thrives during this time. We believe in Theta Chi. We are Theta Chi. We are Resolute Men!"

May 2020: The International Headquarters phased its staff members back to onsite operations. Strategic planning continued for International Convention, recruitment, continued support for alumni corporations, and the reopening of colleges and universities during fall 2020.



Bob Eberling (lota Beta/Missouri State 2015) provides a video message to boost morale.



# What's Next?

Global futurist and author **Jack Uldrich** (Gamma Tau/Drake 1986) provided his perspective on the shape of things to come:

Resolved: The Great Reset Requires Resolute Men

**Resolute:** Marked by firm determination; admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering.

A great reset is upon all of us and it doesn't matter if you're still in college or graduated years ago, the coming post-COVID world will require Resolute Men of all ages to meet the challenges of tomorrow's extraordinary times.

As a futurist, I am convinced that when we look back at this period in our lives from the perspective of 25 or 50 years, many of us will say, "These were our greatest days." Why? Because those who rise to today's challenges will have helped recreate a better, stronger, healthier, and more vibrant world.

How will this be done?

As a leader, the best place to start is by reframing the current situation away from fear and redirecting it toward hope and optimism. This will help move people from "crisis mode" to "opportunity mode."

The Resolute Man must then reconnect with the ancient wisdom that life was never not about himself (or his material comforts) and, instead, was always about living on behalf of our fellow man—and future generations.

The Resolute Man will next move from reinventing today's workplace to reinventing tomorrow's entirely new ways of doing business. And this will require him to move beyond simply rethinking today's business and marketing strategies to rethinking how everything from higher education and healthcare to energy and manufacturing can be redesigned to better meet the needs of society.

From there, the Resolute Man will move from rebuilding resilient supply chains today to rebuilding resilient children, employees, and communities for tomorrow's challenging environment.

And, finally, the Resolute Man will move from reprioritizing the health and safety of workers today (a task which is utterly essential) to reprioritizing his attention toward tomorrow's grand challenges, which will include addressing poverty and homelessness, battling loneliness and depression, and confronting a rapidly changing climate.

The time is now. Let us all resolve to resuscitate our hearts and get down to the heroic work of reimagining and recreating a brighter future for all of our brothers—and the world.



Visit thetachi.org/COVID-19 for updates and additional information as the Fraternity continues to monitor the pandemic. This website also shares general COVID-19 resources as well as resources to assist with collegiate operations and for alumni corporations with collegiate housing.



For Theta Chi masks and gaiters, visit greekgear.com.

14 THE RATTLE/SUMMER 2020 WWW.THETACHI.ORG



Dear Brothers.

**Resolute and Optimistic**—that is how I am feeling about this coming academic year. I say that not simply as a hunch, but based upon of the commitment and enthusiasm exhibited by our members amidst all that has happened thus far in 2020.

Our members and chapters believe in Theta Chi more than ever. The challenges facing our nation and world have underscored the critical role our brotherhood plays in inspiring true friendship, building better students, and preparing the next generation of Resolute Men. Throughout the pandemic, chapters have continued to gather virtually to conduct business, make plans for the upcoming year, and enjoy brotherhood. Uniformly, our collegiate members have expressed their desire to return to campus and resume their in-person Theta Chi experience as soon as possible and in a safe manner.

As I write this letter in July, it is difficult for anyone to say for certain what the college and university landscape will look like this coming fall. More colleges than not have announced plans to hold in-person classes at the beginning of the new academic year. Others have signaled intentions to primarily hold online courses. Most institutions have left enough wiggle room in their statements to change direction as the new school year approaches. Regardless, colleges and universities will not adopt a uniform approach to dealing with the pandemic this coming year. Our Fraternity has and continues to respond with education, training, and resources to help our members operate in a multitude of campus formats throughout the pandemic.

When our nation was shaken by the horrific murder of George Floyd, our members and chapters responded with resolve and courage to denounce racism and to ensure that our Black brothers and brothers of color felt supported and loved. The International Fraternity also acted by forming its historic Equity and Diversity Advisory Council which is charged with promoting equity and diversity within Theta Chi's membership and communities. In addition, the Fraternity hosted a series of webinars this summer for our brothers to discuss matters of race, racism, and diversity. We look forward to reporting more on our efforts in this area in the near future.

I encourage you to monitor thetachi.org and the Fraternity's social media pages to learn more about our initiatives to support our chapters in these times of challenge and opportunity. I also ask that you reach out to your own chapter today to find out how you can be of support—whether it be giving of your time, talent, or treasure. If you are unsure of how to connect with your chapter, please contact the International Headquarters.

As we enter the 2020/2021 academic year, recall that Theta Chi's first ideals are true friendship and brotherhood. Our Fraternity has endured many great challenges throughout its 164-year history: the Civil War, a prior pandemic, the Great Depression, two World Wars, and many others. Throughout each of those times of trial, it was our brotherhood, an unwavering belief in our ideals, and a willingness to extend a Helping Hand that enabled Theta Chi to persevere and emerge from each crisis stronger than before. The same will be said of the events of 2020.

Theta Chi's best days are still ahead of us.

We will remain Resolute. We will remain Optimistic.

We believe in Theta Chi. We are Theta Chi. We are Resolute Men.

Fraternally,

Michael Mayer Chief Executive Officer



Theta Chi's best days are still ahead of us.
We will remain Resolute.
We will remain Optimistic.

- Michael Mayer, CEO





# Guidance a Good Tale



BY KOFI LADANS, FORMER FIELD EXECUTIVE

Being a Field Executive requires you to be a jack of all trades. A new hat is worn nearly every day. On Monday, you may have to teach a sophomore Treasurer how to make a proper budget. On Wednesday, you may mentor a young President, showing him

that progress is gradual and not instant. Then on Friday, you can find yourself being the voice of reason between older brothers who are reluctant to hand their chapter over to the younger guys—a feeling a lot of us can relate to. This job is the sum of these parts and so much more. And no matter how big or small the chapter may be, a lot of them share the same issues. These past two years of diagnosing problems, mending relationships, and teaching collegians how to be accountable in their chapters (a lesson that translates well into real life) has been extremely fulfilling.

While it is great to interact with collegiate brothers, I've come to really appreciate my conversations with our alumni who live all across the country. Here's a secret for all the young guys: ask an alumnus what his favorite memory was from his time as a collegiate brother. Wait for the fond look and a smile and then sit back and listen to a good story about a ridiculous time with some great brothers. These stories usually come with a lesson of sorts, many of which I've carried with me throughout my travels.

To this day, I tell chapters stories of alumni from my chapter who used a giant mirror on the roof of our old house to beam sunlight into various rooms of the fraternity house next door. Decades of fun and trying to figure things out, to keep the chapter going. No matter how crazy things got, they always stuck with one another, for better or worse. Those stories fueled guys in my chapter. We worked hard in order to create that history ourselves, to pay back the generosity of those alumni who helped guide us. And of course, after graduation, we made sure to show the younger guys how to maintain said history the right way, all while creating stories that they will one day tell to those who chose to enter our brotherhood.

That is the reason I listen in whenever I meet a new alumnus, whether he's a young graduate or an older brother trying to reconnect: to pass along these stories as much as I can so we can all learn from one another. I hope collegiate brothers do the same.

I still wish more of my own alumni would get involved, and I wish the same for many chapters across the country. I think often about the alumni with untold stories, and where those stories go when these older brothers move on. I look back at chapters trying hard to figure things out on their own...how far they could go with guidance and a good tale.



16 THE RATTLE/SUMMER 2020 WWW.THETACHI.ORG



## **Preserving Chapter History Reengages Alumni**

BY BILL RUSSO, CHIEF HOUSING OFFICER

The Beta Zeta/Michigan State Chapter House recently went through a total transformation and renovation. The Beta Zeta Alumni Corporation was able to fund the house makeover with an ongoing successful capital campaign and flexible borrowing agreement with the Norwich Housing Corporation.

Alumni Corporation President **Ty Damon** (Beta Zeta/Michigan State 1982) shared information about the chapter archival displays in the newly renovated house.

## Where did the idea come from to incorporate a chapter archival display in the renovation project?

The collegiate brothers living in the house asked the alumni to create a dedicated study space in the renovation plans. This would be a non-public, quiet area for brothers to read and work on school projects. As the plans developed, it became clear this would be a safer area to display many of the chapter's historical items that had just been sitting in boxes for years. We are very fortunate that many volunteers secured these items over the years.

Later, we were able to put a call out to brothers to get more "fun stuff" to fill the displays in the foyer. It was a great way to get alumni excited about the work being done on the house.

## How did you get involved with volunteering on the Alumni Corporation?

Well, this is my third time serving as an alumni volunteer. When I first graduated from college, I stuck around and served as the chapter adviser. I am now on my second stint as an alumni corporation officer. We are blessed to have so many dedicated alumni working on the corporation over the years.

## What was it like working with the Norwich Housing Corporation during the renovation project?

Really flexible with the terms and conditions of the loan. They understood our goals and what we were trying to do here

## Any final thoughts or recommendations for alumni corporations looking to do their own chapter archival display?

We found if you frame something and put it on the wall, it will last decades. If you leave your chapter's history sitting in a box, it will likely get destroyed or thrown away. Alumni love returning to the house to see their memories on the walls of the house.

You can learn more about the loans offered by the NHC by visiting thetachi.org/housing. If you have any specific questions about how you can become an alumni corporation officer or would like to chat about your chapter's housing needs, please feel free to contact me at bill@thetachi.org or 317-848-1856.









# Reengaged and Reinvigorated



## It's Time to Give Back!

BY JOHN BERGHOFF, CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Growing up in Fort Wayne, IN, Purdue University was a family affair. My grandfather, uncle, cousins, and four out of five of the Berghoff bunch graduated from Purdue. My brother Michael (Alpha Delta/Purdue 1985) is currently chairman of the Board of Trustees at Purdue.

My time as a collegiate member was one of the most impactful and memorable of my life. Lessons and relationships are still with me today. During the most joyful and difficult times in my life, my Theta Chi brothers were there.

I spent over 20 years in the private sector. My endeavors included the selling of a startup and being a trusted advisor in legal technology to the Fortune 500. In November 2019, I was honored to have the opportunity to give back to the Fraternity that has given so much to me. As Chief Development Officer, I lead all advancement activities for The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi which develops and provides the financial resources to support scholarships and professional and leadership development programs.

### **Key Take-Aways**

Like many alumni, I stayed connected and involved with my local chapter. I really wasn't aware of the progress and contributions of other chapters or the International Fraternity. In my short time on the Fraternity staff, I learned a few important things:

#### The Foundation Chapter Board of Directors

I am inspired by the men who serve on The Foundation Chapter Board of Directors.

They selflessly bring their myriad of skills to the board whenever they are called. They love Theta Chi Fraternity and have been very generous with their time and finances.

#### IHQ's commitment to sustaining and growing Theta Chi

I was amazed how dedicated the entire staff is to the growth and development of each chapter. The whole collegiate services team not only works tirelessly to support our 156 active chapters but also establishes and develops new colonies. Their experience, expertise, and passion for leading this organization is fantastic. Our Field Staff travels throughout North America to visit all the 160+ chapters and colonies to provide coaching, mentoring, and best practices to ensure the tradition and ideals of Theta Chi are learned and lived.

## Professional and Personal Development for Officers (Sasser Presidents Conference)

In January, I attended my first Theta Chi collegiate leadership conference. This year, we welcomed more than 800 brothers in Indianapolis for three days. These included Chapter Presidents, Vice Presidents of Health & Safety, Marshals, Chaplains, and Recruitment Chairmen. The Sasser Presidents Conference is endowed by over 200 donors and lead

donor Bob Sasser (Gamma Rho/Florida State 1973). We brought in over 150 Chapter Presidents this year. The topics and training included Taking a Stand-Executive Leadership, Building Positive PR, Health & Safety, Accountability, etc.

A few of my fellow Alpha Delta/Purdue alumni attended the leadership conference in January. Here are their observations:

**Jeff Kucer** (1989), *Chief Operating Officer, Regional Presidents Organization, PNC Financial* "I was incredibly impressed with the quality and the number of brothers who attended the Sasser Presidents Conference. Theta Chi was such an important part of my college experience and it was great to see how the Fraternity is investing in their growth and development."

Brian Schuman (1988), SVP Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

"It was great to see so many Theta Chi brothers in one location. As an alumnus, it gives me hope that Theta Chi is very much alive today and engaged in making the lives of our younger brothers better."

#### **A Common Question and Some Perspectives**

We encourage any of your questions, ideas, and feedback. We can't continue to grow and truly make transformative growth by following the status quo. We are fortunate to have over 130,000 alumni with a myriad of talents and backgrounds. Let me hear from you. A common question I have received is:

## "I want my money to go local... why should I donate to The Foundation Chapter?"

It is important for us to give our time and treasures to the local chapter. However, there are needs and challenges our local chapters face that the local alumni just can't adequately address. For example...

#### The game has changed

These young men are tasked with managing \$200,000 budgets including millions in real estate, and serving as chapter liaison to their college/university, parents, alumni, vendors, etc. The game has changed. They need all the training, resources, and guidance they can get. Think back to the training we received as officers. For some of our chapters, their advisers and house corporation may not have the bandwidth and industry awareness to provide the necessary tools and time to take prompt attention. Theta Chi's International Headquarters staff is replete with resources and expertise to educate, support, and train the collegiate brothers to succeed.

#### **Scholarships**

Each year we provide more than \$400,000 in scholarships. It can make all the difference for a young man completing his degree. One scholarship recipient was holding down two jobs to help pay for his tuition. Receiving a \$3,000 scholarship allowed him to quit the two jobs and take more credit hours. He ended up graduating a semester early, saving him almost \$20,000. Local chapter scholarships don't exist everywhere.

#### Pay It Forward

Many of us were fortunate to be initiated into a chapter that is larger, established, active, and connected. Some of our chapters don't have the same history or involvement. They very much need a team they can rely on for information, support, training, etc. We help























make that happen. Also, in order to ensure that future brothers have the same experience and benefits, we need to grow Theta Chi.

#### What You Can Do

#### Stay Involved and Keep Connected

Please go to thetachi.org. Up in the right corner click on "My Theta Chi." If you don't have a login, go to "Get Access" and create a profile. If you have access, please be sure your profile has your current address, email, and phone. You can use this site to search and reconnect with your chapter brothers.

We have a lot of valuable updates and resources available at thetachi.org and the Fraternity's social media platforms. We provide news on alumni in business, awards, and recognitions. It's a great place to find out about future alumni receptions, anniversaries, baseball games, golf outings, ski trips, and other events and opportunities.

#### Make a Gift

You can give back to Theta Chi in several ways. It can be now, deferred, general, or specific. Either way, just remember that little things make the big things happen. Michael Jordan's goal each quarter was to score 8 points. In his 12 full seasons with the Chicago Bulls, Michael Jordan averaged 31 points a game. He understood that making smaller commitments on a consistent basis will help reach the ultimate goal. I challenge you to put 8 points on the board for Theta Chi this quarter—*Use the envelope provided in the center of this issue, or visit thetachi.org/give.* 

Another option to make an investment in the future of Theta Chi is through a planned or legacy gift. That can come in many shapes and sizes.

#### **Bequest a Will**

By making a will, you appoint your own administrator; you name the guardian of your dependents; you control applicable taxes; you can create a family or charitable trust; and you can share your resources with your family, fraternity, or other organizations as you choose. A bequest in a will can take the form of a set amount of money, a percentage of an estate, a specific asset, a trust, or the naming of the Fraternity as a contingent beneficiary.

Sample language for including Theta Chi Fraternity in your estate might be: "I give, devise, and bequeath (state amount, asset, or percentage of the estate) to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi (Tax ID: 21-4014559) to be used in the area of greatest need as The Foundation Chapter Board of Directors deems appropriate."

For more information on the direction of funds, please contact The Foundation Chapter professional staff.

#### **Tangible Personal Property**

Gifts of appreciated real estate or securities allow you to avoid capital gains taxes if the transfer of said assets to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi occur prior to selling it. However, if the securities or real estate have decreased in value, you may sell the assets before making the gift, thus establishing a capital loss and a potential tax deduction. Please consult a tax adviser.

**20** THE RATTLE/SUMMER 2020 WWW.THETACHI.ORG/GIVE

Gifts of tangible personal property, such as jewelry, coins, works of art, automobiles, etc. may also be given to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi. You are responsible for setting an appraised value on the gift. Any gift over \$5,000 must be independently appraised.

#### **Beneficiary and Life Income Gifts**

Naming The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi as a primary or secondary beneficiary for various retirement accounts will provide meaningful support for our future brothers. For an IRA, 401(k), TIAA-CREF account, and many other types of retirement accounts, you can often go online to your account and name The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi as a beneficiary. Beneficiary designations and "transfer on death" accounts are handled outside of the probate process; they are distributed before the assets in the will and it's a much simpler and quicker process than waiting for the entire estate to settle.

## Gifts of Real Estate, Appreciated Securities, and Gifts of Life Insurance and Retirement Accounts

Life Insurance is another way to make a sizeable gift to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi. For example:

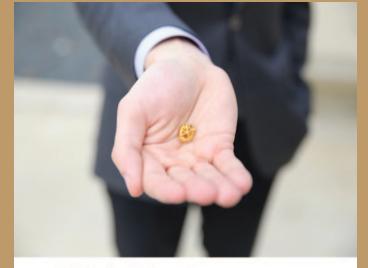
- 1. You can purchase a new policy and make The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi the owner and beneficiary of the policy. This enables you to "leverage" your gift, ultimately making a much larger gift than otherwise possible.
- 2. You can make The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi the owner and beneficiary of an existing policy. Contributions to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi to pay the ongoing premiums become tax deductible. The current value of the policy is tax deductible, as are future premium payments.
- 3. You can make The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi a contingent beneficiary of an existing policy or name The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi to receive the proceeds of the policy if the designated beneficiaries predecease the insured. Also, the remainder value of many retirement accounts can be heavily taxed when left to friends and family but pass tax-free to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi upon your passing.

#### TAX ID INFORMATION

The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Tax ID: 21-4014559

It is critical that you list your legal name and tax ID as the beneficiary of your gift.

The information in this article is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax adviser.



## Make a gift to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi for FREE

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi!

- 1. Log into your Amazon Account via this link: smile.amazon.com/ch/21-4014559
- 2. Under organizations to support, choose "The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity Inc"
- 3. Purchase your items
- 4. Bookmark smile.amazon.com/ch/21-4014559 to login through for all future Amazon purchases

I know that recent events have impacted so many brothers. If you are able, please consider extending a Helping Hand again by making a gift. Your gift, of any amount, reinforces the support of a strong alumni base and demonstrates that the Resolute Men of Theta Chi will rise to any challenge facing our Fraternity and that our brotherhood will endure.

Your support signals to collegians that brotherhood doesn't end after receiving a diploma. Your action today will inspire these brothers to be Theta Chis for Life.

Have questions or suggestions? I'd be happy to speak with you at any time! You can reach me at 317-848-1856 or via email at jberghoff@thetachi.org.

Fraternally,

John

M. Suffulf

John

PS: Make your gift today by using the envelope provided in the center of this issue or by visiting thetachi.org/give!



# The Distinguished

## SERVICE AWARD

Theta Chi Fraternity's Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor that the Fraternity may confer upon a member and publicly recognizes and properly honors Theta Chi alumni who, by reason of outstanding international service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions to the lasting good and general welfare of Theta Chi Fraternity. At no time can the number of awards made exceed the number of years in age of the Fraternity.



Brother Kenneweg's award was presented at the chapter house during home-coming at West Virginia Wesleyan on October 12, 2019.

#### **#138 A. Graham Kenneweg**

(Delta Gamma/WV Wesleyan 1952)

After graduating from West Virginia Wesleyan, Brother Kenneweg served as an informal chapter adviser for Delta Gamma Chapter until 1959. That same year, Graham purchased a beautiful house next to campus, which still serves as the chapter house six decades later. He established the Delta Gamma House Corporation, served as



its first President, and continued in that role for nearly 40 years. He served in many additional roles locally at Delta Gamma Chapter and gave countless hours in service to Theta Chi.

For Delta Gamma's 50th anniversary, Graham worked with other alumni to compile and edit a fantastic history book to document the beginnings and first five decades of the chapter.

Following the closure of Delta Gamma in 1993, Graham did everything in his power to assist with the re-establishment and reinstallation of the chapter, resulting in its return in 1996.

In the early 1990s, Graham helped West Virginia Wesleyan establish an Alumni Interfraternity Council and served as its first President. The Alumni IFC has been instrumental in improving the college's Greek community.

At the International level, Graham served as a Regional Counselor and made visits to Alpha Kappa/West Virginia and other chapters in western Pennsylvania. Living in Morgantown, WV, Graham continued to extend a Helping Hand to Alpha Kappa Chapter over the years.

In 1991, Brother Kenneweg continued his service at the International level with Theta Chi Funds for Leadership and Education, Inc. where he served as a member of the Advisory Committee as well as Board Secretary and Vice President. He remained on the board of Theta Chi Funds for eight years and assisted in providing leadership education and academic scholarships to hundreds of brothers.

The citation covering his award reads as follows:

In recognition of a lifelong servant to Delta Gamma and Alpha Kappa Chapters, and as an outstanding board member of Theta Chi Funds for Leadership and Education, Inc., Brother Kenneweg is a loyal alumnus of the Fraternity. His contributions to our brotherhood are many.

Chapter brother Will Fahrner (1996) said, "Delta Gamma Chapter owes him a lifetime of gratitude and fraternity honors. He has always been great at getting to know brothers and connecting with them in meaningful ways. Graham never hesitated to give his time, energy, talent, and resources to make Theta Chi better. His fraternal legacy will be felt for many decades to come."

Past International Vice President Al Calarco shared, "[During a visit to Buckhannon], Graham was so very proud of the collegians and the chapter house. He gave us a personal tour of the property...but mostly talked about the brotherhood. You see, Theta Chi to him is more than bricks and mortar... it's a brotherhood."

Brother Kenneweg's award was presented at the chapter house during homecoming at West Virginia Wesleyan on October 12, 2019.

22 THE RATTLE/SUMMER 2020



#### #139 M. Walt Davis

(Delta Upsilon/Arizona State 1965)

Transferring to Arizona State from Keystone Junior College, Brother Davis pledged Theta Chi as a junior, bringing the total chapter size to eight members. He served as Social Chairman and was then elected President of Delta Upsilon Chapter. By the conclusion of his term, the chapter had grown to more than 30 members.



After graduating from Arizona State in 1965, Brother Davis was hired by then-Executive Director George Chapman as a Field Secretary. After Mr. Chapman retired, Walt served as Assistant Executive Director under Howard Alter. During this time, he and Field Secretary Ed Jacobson (Sigma/Oregon State 1967) volunteered to work weekends as Editors of *The Rattle* and brought the publication of issues up to date.

Brother Davis was instrumental in the recruitment of several local fraternities that subsequently became chapters of Theta Chi Fraternity. He participated in the installation of 12 chapters.

While working for the Fraternity, he was given honorary titles of 'Admiral' in the Navy of Nebraska as well as 'Lt. Colonel' in the Alabama State Militia. He also met his future wife Jeannine Re on a blind date while visiting a chapter in Missouri. They married in 1969 and had two children.

Upon his return to Arizona, Brother Davis served countless hours for Delta Upsilon Chapter in an advisory capacity as well as on its House Corporation. Brother Davis also assisted with the sale of the chapter house to Arizona State due to eminent domain and arranged for the proceeds from the sale to be placed in a chapter specific fund. This fund provides academic scholarships and helps to cover the costs for Delta Upsilon Chapter members to attend various Theta Chi International leadership education events.

After Delta Upsilon closed in 2015, Walt assisted with recolonization efforts and is looking forward to reinstallation.



Walt Davis (far left) and Graham Kenneweg (second from right) receive the Theta Chi for Life Award at the 150th Anniversary Convention.



International President Tait Martin and then-Foundation Chapter President Lindsay Olsen present the Distinguished Service Award to Walt Davis.

At the International level, Walt served as a Regional Counselor and as President of the Central Arizona Alumni Association. Brother Davis was also among several other Theta Chi leaders who established Theta Chi Funds for Leadership and Education, Inc. in the mid-1980s and served on its board of directors. In 2016, Walt was appointed to The Foundation Chapter Board of Directors.

Brother Davis recently retired after a dedicated career in the insurance industry. Upon his retirement, the president and chairman of the Board of Mutual Insurance Company of Arizona stated that "Walt Davis was 'LEADERSHIP DEFINED'," and that, "While many individuals had played consequential roles in developing the company, none had stayed for 40 years and no one individual contributed as much as Walt."

The citation covering his award reads as follows:

A Theta Chi for Life by every measure, Brother Davis lives his life and serves his Fraternity with a true understanding of our traditions and ideals. Though never seeking credit, his contributions to our Brotherhood are recognized by many and serve as an example to all. Theta Chi is forever grateful for his dedicated service to Delta Upsilon Chapter, on the Executive Office staff, as an Editor of The Rattle, as a Regional Counselor, as a committee member, and on The Foundation Chapter Board of Directors.

Foundation Chapter President Pat O'Connor stated, "Walt Davis brings a voice of reason and experience to Theta Chi. He is one of the most thoughtful and committed men I have had the pleasure of working with over the years. Walt is a great asset to Theta Chi."

Past Foundation Chapter President Lindsay Olsen explained, "Walt is amazingly dedicated and has been a lifelong contributor to Theta Chi in so many ways. He has always been the first to answer the call to duty for the Fraternity and we are all better off due to his hard work and dedication."

Brother Davis' award was presented during an alumni reception in Phoenix, AZ, hosted by The Foundation Chapter Board of Directors on February 7, 2020.

Congratulations to Brother Kenneweg and Brother Davis — and Thank You for all you have done for Theta Chi!

# The Distinguished

## **ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Distinguished Achievement Award recognizes alumni for extraordinary accomplishments outside of the Fraternity, which may include success in business, government, academia, athletics, entertainment, the community, and/or any other appropriate field.

#### #78 Thomas C. Church

(Delta Rho/NC State 1964)

Tom Church graduated from NC State with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. While in Delta Rho Chapter, he served as Treasurer and President. Upon graduating, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force after completing the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. Brother Church served in the USAF from 1964–1970 and completed 400 combat hours in missions in Vietnam. He has been recognized with the Distinguished Flying Cross (twice), the Bronze Star, and nine Air Medals.

After his active service in the Air Force concluded, Church joined Singleton Associates, a construction/development firm. In 1974, he and an associate started Ashland Construction Company, a multimillion-dollar company with 190 projects across seven states. Tom has become quite involved within the city of Henderson, NC, and has served 11 terms as senior warden of the Episcopal Church of Holy Innocents, has been an active member of the Boy Scouts of America's Occoneechee Council Executive Board of Trustees for nearly 40 years, and served as president of the Henderson Rotary Club Rotary Foundation Committee. In 2018, he was presented with the Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award.



All Distinguished Achievement Award recipients are enshrined in the Fraternity's Hall of Honor at the International Headquarters. To date, out of our 190,000+ brothers, only 78 have received the award.

### **Brandon McCoy receives NIC Undergraduate Award of Distinction**

In 2019, **Brandon McCoy** (Iota Beta/Missouri State 2018) was named as a recipient of the North American Interfraternity Conference's Undergraduate Award of Distinction. The NIC Undergraduate Award of Distinction recognizes a fraternity man who has developed as a leader, and person, striving to embody the values of his fraternity while holding others to the same standard.



A leader in student development within Iota Beta Chapter and across his campus, he culminated his long resume of activities with a term as Student Body President, all while maintaining a 3.94 GPA. He earned the highest award Missouri State University can give an undergraduate, celebrating his ethical leadership, community engagement, and cultural competence. "Brandon is a giver and a servant leader. His character, integrity, leadership, and dependability shine through," a nominator said. Notably, Brandon created a grant program called Greeks Give Back to benefit the Springfield community. He lobbied for the broader fraternit

benefit the Springfield community. He lobbied for the broader fraternity experience on Capitol Hill in 2018.

Brother McCoy is the 2018 recipient of the Reginald E.F. Colley Award, the Fraternity's highest distinction for a collegiate brother. Brandon is the 11th brother to receive both the Colley Award and the NIC Undergraduate Award of Distinction, and is the second member of Iota Beta Chapter to be so honored, following in the footsteps of Scott Turk (2012).

Brandon McCoy and parents.



Fr. Phil shares a quip with Associate Executive Director Jim Powell.

# Pater Noster

BY JIM RUSSELL

A routine trip to the hospital more than 45 years ago changed the course of Phil Bowers' (Alpha Delta/Purdue 1975) life.

That visit to see a convalescing Purdue football player led to hundreds of fraternal associations at Purdue and far beyond. To this day, it has enriched his life beyond measure. The circle of influence built on those relationships is profound.

Quite simply, it's the simple and ancient tale of why being of service to others enriches the giver at least as much as the receiver.

In 1972, Father Phil Bowers, a Catholic priest of the Maryknoll religious order fresh from a posting in a remote area of the Philippines, was dispatched by his superior to serve in campus ministry at Purdue University. Upon arrival on the staff at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, he was assigned to a number of campus constituencies by the longtime pastor, Leo Piguet. Among those were the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) and duties as chaplain of the Purdue football team.

Those assignments intersected early on their journey when Bowers popped into PUSH while making rounds room by room. Among the patients he visited that day was a Purdue football player recovering from an injury.

That short conversation led to a dinner invitation to Theta Chi for the following Wednesday night. Bowers, then and now, is a genial sort with a special gift for storytelling. It speaks loudly to his Irish ancestry. He was so popular at that first meal at 800 David Ross Road, he was soon invited back. More than once.

(continued)



"Life is all about relationships." — Father Phil

Jim Russell, a 1975 graduate of Purdue (where he was initiated into Delta Tau Delta), is a former sports writer and editor in Indianapolis who went on to serve as executive director of Delta Tau Delta from 2001–2018. He was president of the Fraternity Executives Association in 2016–2017. Russell notes his seminal fraternal role model was an older cousin, James J. Abel (1969), who served two terms as President of Theta Chi's Alpha Delta Chapter at Purdue.



Fr. Phil celebrates the dedication of the Theta Chi's new headqarters in 2014. (L–R) Fulton Hamilton, Phil Bowers, Tom Van Cleave, and Dave DeVol.



Fr. Phil visits Initiative Academy to share fraternal stories and wisdom.

My real work was outside the meetings. That's when you lay the seed.

— Father Phil

Within weeks, the hook had been set. Deep. The chapter needed a new chapter adviser to succeed **Jack Fenwick** (Alpha Delta/Purdue 1960), an agronomy professor who was leaving Purdue.

The men asked Phil Bowers.

"What would I need to do?" asked Bowers, a native of Philadelphia who did not have an undergraduate fraternity experience. "I had absolutely no clue what the responsibilities were. They said, 'oh, you just need to come to dinner on Wednesday nights.' That sounded easy enough so I agreed."

If the men set a good hook, he was open to accepting it. His on the job training as a volunteer fraternity adviser played well with his pastoral bent. Yet he makes it clear that from the outset he gained more than he gave from those young men.

Bowers also realized there was a little more to it than just appearing at dinner and going to the chapter meetings. His eyes twinkle when he reminisces about those Wednesday night dinners in the first few months as an adviser. It takes time to build relationships and they did. "While I was able to make most chapter meetings, I made it a point to stay quiet until giving my report at the end. My real work was outside the meetings. That's when you lay the seed."

Within a year, a bid for membership was extended. Bowers accepted. Nearing age 40, he was a new brother of Theta Chi Fraternity and its Alpha Delta Chapter. His willingness to say yes rather naively led to a relationship with Theta Chi that continues into his 80s.

In addition to Purdue duties for Theta Chi, he served four years on the Fraternity's international board and remains an abiding influence at Theta Chi gatherings. The Fraternity has honored him with its two highest honors, the Theta Chi for Life Award and the Distinguished Service Award. His formal service to the Alpha Delta Chapter reached 21 years before a new challenge arrived. His departure from the chapter and active ministry at Purdue came when he took a new assignment in 1993 at the three-year-old Holy Spirit Parish near Geist Reservoir in the Indianapolis suburb of Fishers with its exploding population.



While the new posting uprooted him 72 miles after two decades of total immersion in all things Boilermaker, in reality he has never left Purdue or the thousands of students, faculty, staffers, alumni, and parents he encountered well beyond his core ministerial obligations. His extended flock today includes hundreds of Theta Chis, other Greeks and former students, athletes and coaches, and Purdue colleagues beyond count. Regardless of faith, he has befriended them, counseled them in times of challenge during college days and well beyond, married them, baptized their children, buried their parents. Far beyond his professional ministry or voluntary fraternal duties, this good counselor has led a life of influence based on relationships.

"Life is all about relationships," he said with a deep conviction over a recent Panera breakfast at 7 a.m. on a sunny Saturday not far from his former parish.

It didn't take a keen observer that morning to underscore his life's ethos. Before and after his meal accompanied by brisk one-on-one conversation, he was the star of the room. Moving from table to table, he was offered greetings and well wishes. He certainly was no stranger to the vast majority of those early risers of various ages. It's obvious he remains a "draw" several years after his official retirement. He continues to minister informally in that setting, serving as a fill-in priest to

cover vacations, and presiding at funerals of former parishioners and friends.

Now a fraternity man for 45 years and a priest for 55, he most definitely has observations about today's world in general and young people in particular.

"So many kids today are a one or a two in the family. They haven't had the benefit of being from a big family to learn, give, and take," he reflects. He believes the opportunity afforded by living in a commu-

nity setting offered by sororities, fraternities, and cooperatives teaches much-needed life skills useful far beyond college years.

He also encourages alumni of those organizations to share their time, skills, and wisdom in whatever way they can. "Students need guidance. To serve as an officer of a self-governed group is something they've never done before. Having someone to bounce ideas with or just vent is so valuable."

Although his days as a chapter adviser and international fraternity officer are two decades in the past, he well remembers how he tried to gain insights into the men. "Helping out in the kitchen cleaning up during lunch or after dinner was a great way to find out what was on the minds of the guys," he recalled. With more than 100 men often in the mix at Purdue, an adviser's time may be restricted to interacting with the key executive officers and not enough of the rank and file. He enjoyed the easy give and take of the kitchen setting . . . and also knew the cook had plenty of helpful insights, too.

He could be a bit devious as well, particularly near the end of pledging.

"I also liked to drive over to the house, make a few rounds and then disappear. I'd just slip out the back door and walk back to St. Tom's. But the car was still in the lot. It made the guys a little nervous. 'His car's here but where's Father Phil?' I'd walk back the next day and pick it up. Those were great days."

As for today's students, he reiterates their often unstated but obvious need for adult wisdom, particularly from outside their immediate family. "Kids today have been brought up with more emotion than intelligence," he said. "It's all about feelings. They need mentors."

Don't we all? Phil Bowers is still mentoring. It's his gift.



Dennis (Alpha Delta/Purdue 1986) and Beth Cooke are among many Theta Chi couples married by Fr. Phil. Through weddings, baptisms, funerals, or tragedies, Fr. Phil remains a brother and adviser for life.







## **Brotherhood:**

# Demonstrated Strength at a Time of Feeling Helpless

BY TOM FREEBERG (TAU/FLORIDA 1981)

The call that no parent ever wants to receive came to **Bryan Capps, Sr.** (Tau/Florida 1983) on January 17, 2020, at 10:30 p.m. from his youngest son's childhood friend Riley, who relayed that







Tau brothers visit with Mitch's mom, hold a prayer meeting, and sponsor Mitchfest. Mitchell (Tau/Florida 2020) had fallen approximately 60 feet from the 5th floor of a downtown Gainesville, FL, parking garage. Riley was coincidentally passing by when he recognized Mitchell's clothes on the victim lying on the sidewalk being tended to by police. While Bryan Sr. and his wife, Kim, drove the seemingly interminable two-hour trip from Orlando as fast as they could, Mitchell's older brother, Bryan Capps, Jr. (Tau/Florida 2017), hastily drove down from Atlanta.

At UF Shands Hospital emergency room, they received the cruel news—Mitchell was in critical condition with multiple fractures (both femurs, ankle, elbow, wrist, face) and, worst of all, a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Doctors reported that his condition was expected to worsen over the first 72 hours and that he "might not make it." As a lifesaving measure, a Shands neurosurgeon immediately removed half of Mitchell's skull to reduce high intracranial pressure.

Bryan Sr. recounted how, within minutes of Mitchell's fall, word had reached their Theta Chi brothers who then sped to Shands. Both collegiate and alumni brothers continued to be in constant touch, supporting Mitchell and family from the beginning.

Bryan Sr. reflected on the brotherhood's many acts of kindness: "They are incredible young men, most of whom we already know and all of whom we love." Many brothers, including Mitchell's pledge class, visited regularly in droves. The Helping Hand was strong, providing both loving concern and food for the Capps family as they maintained their vigil by Mitchell's side. Bryan Sr. noted, "Boomers need not worry about the next generation. We have been blown away by the care, concern, maturity, and just plain Heart these [Theta Chi men] have and casually show. Just an example (of many), one of Mitchell's pledge brothers, **Anthony Bio** (2020), made us Italian 'Sunday sauce' dinner on Super Bowl Sunday."

Bryan Sr. immediately set up a Facebook group ("Mitch Capps' Prayer Army") while Bryan Jr. established a GoFundMe campaign,

which raised more than \$50,000 in its first 10 days to help defray medical bills. On February 7, Tau Chapter held a benefit called "MitchFest" which featured food, drinks, a silent disco, a display of some of Mitchell's artwork, T-shirts adorned with some of that artwork, and a concert by Mitchell's favorite local



The Capps Family: Bryan Sr. and Bryan Jr.; Kim and Mitchell

band (which includes Tau members). The chapter house was full of supporters and well-wishers who joined the brothers in sharing stories of Mitchell and supporting the Capps family. The band even came later to perform for Mitchell in his hospital room.

Bryan Sr. was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support: "I assumed that, as grieving parents, we would be the only or the most hurting of souls there. I could not have been more wrong. It never occurred to me that others could ache as sorely as Kim and I. In the end, it was we who ministered to the grieving—friends, fraternity brothers, professors, other adults, strangers, Mitchell's own brother, than they to us."

As for Mitchell, anguish eventually gave way to hope. From the outset, Mitchell's pupils responded to light and his feet and hands to painful stimuli. On day 6, he first opened his eyes when a lifelong friend, Bailey, visited and he heard her voice. On day 10, Mitchell awoke speaking, telling his nurse his name, what year it was, and in response to if he was in pain, saying "a little," and wiggling his thumbs and toes on command. On day 11, the neurologist called Mitchell's progress "remarkable." On day 14, Mitchell was demonstrating motor skills by throwing an object to Kim. A highlight was on day 18, Bryan Sr's birthday, when Mitchell was moved from the ICU to a "regular" floor of the hospital. On day 26, Mitchell was released from Shands and transferred to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, GA, one of the top TBI rehabilitation centers in the U.S. He was released from Shepherd's inpatient care and returned home in early April.

The Capps have been thankful for all of the prayers, support, and love: "Kim and I have spoken and written words like 'anguished,' 'distressed,' 'disheartened,' 'painful,' 'unbearable,' 'grieving,' 'overwhelmed,' 'prayer,' 'God,' 'humbled,' 'comforted,' 'heartfelt,' 'encouraged,' 'honored,' 'overjoyed,' and phrases like 'I love you,' 'God bless you,' and, above all, 'thank you,' all so many times that I feel they're becoming the proverbial 'tinkling of empty words.' The most important thing about those words, though, is their order—if you want to describe a journey, that is ours."



**EPSILON** brothers capture the intramural flag football championship.



#### IOTA/COLGATE

We co-sponsored a domestic violence awareness 3K and raised over \$1,200 for the Help Restore Hope Center, a shelter for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in Oneida, NY.

#### **SIGMA/OREGON STATE**

Jacob Friedman (2020) took first place in the 2020 Oregon State Internal Sales Competition, which qualified him to attend the National Collegiate Sales Competition.

#### TAU/FLORIDA

Sean Lanoue (2020) and Jimmy Wheeler (2020) were tapped into Florida Blue Key. Robert Schulte (2021) was elected Secretary of Florida Blue Key.

#### CHI/AUBURN

We raised over \$14,000 for the Choroideremia Research Foundation through our fifth annual "Cookout for Choroideremia."

#### **ALPHA DELTA/PURDUE**

We won the fall 2019 intramural flag football championship. **Nic Konoma** (2022) was on Purdue's



**ALPHA DELTA**'s Nic Konoma participates in the National Society of Black Engineers 2019 Debaters Competition.

team that took third place in the National Society of Black Engineers 2019 Debaters Competition.

#### **ALPHA IOTA/INDIANA**

Ian McCann (2020) and Jacob Mullins (2021) won BMOC, ZTA's annual breast cancer philanthropy. We also won the fall 2019 intramural flag football championship.

#### **ALPHA NU/GEORGIA TECH**

We helped to pack over 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger.



**ALPHA LAMBDA** brothers maintain a large presence at Ohio State's Buckeyethon.

### **Alpha Lambda Continues to Give Back**

BY JACK MURRAY (ALPHA LAMBDA/OHIO STATE 2022)

Alpha Lambda continued its philanthropic endeavors with our Third Annual USO Fore the Troops Golf Outing. After advocating for increased alumni participation, the chapter also encouraged more brothers' families and friends to participate. The winning team, the Lamberts, included a parent, sibling, and a family friend. The event raised \$5,000 for USO. In addition, our chapter hosted a late night grilled cheese sale with Gamma Phi Beta that raised additional funds for each organization's national philanthropy.

Brothers also maintained a large presence at Buckeyethon, a student-run 24-hour dance marathon benefiting pediatric cancer research and oncology at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Last year, only five brothers managed to raise the \$250 minimum for the event. This year, nearly 20 brothers met the qualifications for the dance marathon and danced for 12 hours for children with pediatric cancer who can't dance. Next year, two brothers will be team captains and act as liaisons between the chapter and Buckeyethon while two other brothers will act as an integral part of the Buckeyethon general body team.

#### **ALPHA PHI**/ALABAMA

We raised over \$6,600 for suicide prevention through the Out of the Darkness Walk. We also won our second intramural soccer championship in three years. During the Greek Excellence Awards, we were presented with the IFC Outstanding Alumni Relations and the IFC Outstanding University and Community Relations awards.

Cade Boseck (2021) won Most Outstanding Greek Ambassador.

#### BETA PHI/NEVADA

We were part of the team that took first place for Greek Week 2019.



**ALPHA KAPPA**/WEST VIRGINIA's **Hayden Keener** (2020) was chosen to be a WVU News sports reporter for the spring 2020 semester.





BETA LAMBDA brothers pack 2,160 meals at the Akron-Canton Foodbank.





EPSILON RHO's Danny Campbell (2020), Ledis Delcid (2021), Matt Wolf (2022) (left), and Paul Campbell (2019) (center) receive Certificates of Appreciation from Thomas Reddington and Rider's Color Guard. Paul also received the Yeager Award for his positive attitude and dedication to the Veterans and Military Affairs Office. (Danny Campbell and Ledis Delcid are not pictured.)

LEFT: **DELTA PI** brothers collect more than 250 toys for the Council on Domestic Abuse shelter.

RIGHT: **DELTA ALPHA** brothers Aidan Phizackerley and Dempsey Roggenbuck help clinch a Northwest Conference title.



#### BETA OMEGA/ SUSOUEHANNA

Tanner Kronski (2022) was elected Vice President of Recruitment and Griffin Smith (2022) was elected Vice President of Service & Philanthropy for IFC.

#### GAMMA ZETA/ OKLAHOMA STATE

**Zach DeGeorge** (2021) was elected Internal Vice President of IFC.

#### **GAMMA PI/BUFFALO**

Will Conklin (2020) was elected President of the Independent Interfraternity Council of Buffalo, NY.

#### **GAMMA RHO/FLORIDA STATE**

Through Dance Marathon, we raised \$25,942, which went toward the \$1.9 million raised for the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital and the FSU College of Medicine Pediatric Outreach Program.

#### **GAMMA UPSILON/BRADLEY**

Patrick Haeffele (2020) was honored as PNC Student Achiever of the Game on November 22 because of his involvement within Theta Chi, IFC, and on campus.

#### GAMMA CHI/ RANDOLPH-MACON

Bradley Thomasson (2022) helped the men's basketball team capture the 2020 Old Dominion Athletic Conference Championship.

#### **DELTA ALPHA/LINFIELD**

Wyatt Smith (2021) was named to the CoSIDA 2019 Academic All-America Football Second Team. Aidan Phizackerley (2020) and Dempsey Roggenbuck (2021) helped the Linfield men's basketball team clinch a share of the Northwest Conference title.

#### DELTA GAMMA/ WV WESLEYAN

We packed over 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger.

#### **DELTA MU/TEXAS**

Eshwar Karupakula (2022) received an award from St. David's Medical Center in Austin, TX, for his services through their volunteer program. Noah Alford (2020) was accepted into the Texas Tech University School of Law. Zachary Carrasco (2020) was accepted into the Long School of Medicine.

#### **DELTA PI**/INDIANA STATE

During Indiana State's FSL Awards, **Bradley Murphy** (2020) won the Community Builder Award and **Austin Allen** (2021) was recognized as IFC Man of the Year. We were also recognized for achievement in leadership development, chapter management, community service, philanthropy, and academics.

#### DELTA RHO COLONY/ NC STATE

We were on the team that won the Dance Marathon at NC State Miracle Cup by beating our \$5,000 fundraising goal and raising \$8,134 for Duke Children's Hospital.

#### **EPSILON ETA/IUP**

**Brian Loftus** (2021) was sworn into the U.S. Army after graduation.

#### EPSILON KAPPA/IDAHO

We achieved the highest GPA amongst all IFC fraternities during fall 2019.

#### EPSILON MU/ EASTERN MICHIGAN

Nate Holmgren (2020) was elected IFC President.

#### **EPSILON RHO**/RIDER

Brothers Taylor Docherty (2020), Brandon Lavorini (2021), and Nicholas Zolkiwsky (2021) were tapped for Order of Omega.

#### EPSILON TAU/ STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

During Stephen F. Austin's 2019 Greek Homecoming, Eric Guzman (2023) was named Freshman Duke and Logan Frazier (2022) was named Sophomore Duke. During the Order of Omega's awards ceremony, we won the Most Improved and Outstanding Chapter Engagement awards.

#### ZETA KAPPA/ OHIO NORTHERN

We were awarded silver status in Standards of Excellence from ONU. Brian Pencil (2020) was recognized as Greek Man of the Year.

#### ZETA RHO/KENTUCKY

Nick Elling (2021) was elected Vice President of Judicial Affairs and Rickey Hook (2021) was elected Director of Public Relations for IFC. We won the Outstanding Member Wellness Award from the UK Greek Life Office.





IOTA LAMBDA brothers raise nearly \$1,000 through the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

ETA CHI brothers raise \$700 for the USO during G.I. Theta Chl.



**ZETA RHO** brothers donate \$5,569.68 to the Lexington Veterans Affair Health Care System, which provides for the health care needs of veterans in the area.



**IOTA TAU** is recognized by the NKU FSL Office for achievement in service, inclusiveness, integrity, fellowship, scholarship, and leadership.

#### **ZETA TAU/MICHIGAN-FLINT**

Elijah Madar (2020) and Tim McGlinchey (2020) were members of the Michigan-Flint Entrepreneurship Society that was named the 2019 Global Chapter of the Year by the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organizations.

#### ETA GAMMA/ MOREHEAD STATE

During spring 2020, we were recognized with the following top awards: Excellence in Academic Programming, Excellence in Alumni Outreach, and Fraternity Chapter of the Year.

#### ETA OMICRON/ NORTHWESTERN STATE

We had the highest grade point average amongst all IFC fraternities for the fall 2019 semester.

#### ETA PI/EAST STROUDSBURG

During the holidays, we bought toys for children to support the Walter Reed Christmas Party with the Adopt a Soldier Organization.

#### ETA PHI/OAKLAND

**Kyle Gross** (2021) received the Tekla Strom Ylvisaker Scholarship

Award. Paul Hardwood Ward (2021) and Nikhil Sabharwal (2020) were elected to Michigan's Council of Asian Pacific Americans' Board of Directors.

#### THETA EPSILON/ KENNESAW STATE

Milad Jabbari (2023) was elected Executive Director, Max Wrba (2021) was elected Campus Relations Director, and Brandon Bane (2021) was elected Finance Director for Miracle at Kennesaw State, a student-run philanthropy at Kennesaw State dedicated to raising funds to better the care at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

#### **IOTA BETA/MISSOURI STATE**

Jaymes Dickinson (2020) was named Homecoming King. During spring 2020, we were recognized for Highest Fraternity GPA and Highest New Member GPA on campus. Abdillahi Dirie (2020) was recognized as FSL Man of the Year, Elliot McComas (2021) was recognized as Outstanding Fraternity Junior, and Colin Weber (2023) was recognized as Outstanding Fraternity Freshman.

#### IOTA ZETA/RADFORD

We won the fall 2019 intramural soccer championship.

#### IOTA LAMBDA/LONGWOOD

We had the highest GPA amongst all IFC fraternities during the fall 2019 semester. We were recognized with GOLD in the Pillars of Excellence during Order of Omega's Virtual Greek Awards. Carson Rubin (2022) was recognized for Exemplary Service and Scott Adams (2021) was recognized as IFC New Member of the Year. Brandon Bowen (2021) was elected SGA President for the 2020/2021 academic year.

#### IOTA MU/MISSOURI

Bryce Fuemmeler (2020) was recognized with the Mizzou '39 award, which recognizes 39 seniors for their academic achievement, leadership, and service to Mizzou and the community.

#### IOTA XI/GEORGIA COLLEGE

Josh Astarita (2020) was inducted into the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society.



ZETA ALPHA/ SLIPPERY ROCK's Dan Pennell (2021) received the Army Achievement Medal for his performance serving as the acting S6 Officer for the 107th Field Artillery Regiment.

#### IOTA TAU/ NORTHERN KENTUCKY

Field Oldham (2023) became a senator for SGA.

#### **IOTA PHI/SOUTH CAROLINA**

After graduation, **Nathan Baxley** (2020) will be flying helicopters as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

#### KAPPA ZETA/ARKANSAS

Jared Pinkerton (2020) was one of 71 graduating seniors to be recognized as a Senior of Significance by the Arkansas Alumni Association. Senior students are selected based on their academic achievement, leadership skills, and extracurricular activities.



PHI/NORTH DAKOTA STATE In fall 2019, several Phi alumni attended the funeral of longtime chapter cook Iris Gust. Mrs. Gust was the chef for 22 years (1973–1995) and was known for her vivacious personality, chicken cordon bleu, "horny burgers," and her proficiency at cribbage. During her service, alumni serenaded her one last time with "Dream Girl of Theta Chi" and there was not a dry eye in the room. Her family commented that it was a special moment and that, "You young guys at Theta Chi were also her family."



**ALPHA IOTA**/INDIANA's **Nick Janicki** (2015) published his first novel, a mystery thriller titled Pier 33, which is now available on Amazon.

RIGHT: **BETA RHO**/ILLINOIS WESLEYAN's **Bill Samsoe** (1974) will lead a group to bike across America in 2021 to raise funds for the American Heart Association, Special Olympics, and foundations to help find cures for lymphoma, leukemia, and prostate cancer.

**DELTA GAMMA/WV WESLEYAN's** Fred Lanting (1957) authored the novel Conflict which tells the story of a man who serves in both WWII and the Korean War, and is a Theta Chi. Lanting explains that this part of his story is set at his alma mater, roughly during the years while he was there. Brother Lanting is known worldwide as "Mr. German Shepherd" and has also published The Total German Shepherd Dog and Canine Hip Dysplasia and Other Orthopedic Disorders. He is an American Kennel Club, United Kennel Club, and International All Breed. Conformation Judge and handler.







#### BETA/MIT

Past Norwich Housing Corporation President **Jim Thompson** (1979) was elected to the Harrisburg, PA, school board.

#### **DELTA/TROY, NY**

Detroit Lions Head Coach Matt Patricia (1996) was nominated for the NFL's Salute to Service Award, which recognizes NFL players, coaches, and personnel who show a commitment to the military.

#### **NU/HAMPDEN-SYDNEY**

Ken Catlett (1972) was inducted into the Manchester High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

#### **RHO/ILLINOIS**

Justin Breen (1999) released his first book, Epic Business: 30 Secrets to Build Your Business Exponentially and Give You the Freedom to Live the Life You Want!

#### TAU/FLORIDA

Andrew Kelly (2019) received the Sharon Connell Outstanding Service Award from Florida Blue Key, a longstanding leadership honorary.

#### PHI/NORTH DAKOTA STATE



John Nordgaard (1978) received the Meritorious Service Award from the Northern Plains Potato Growers Association.

#### ALPHA GAMMA/MICHIGAN



J. Clay Vandiver (2005) served as a producer for the 2019 apocalyptic thriller film, Radioflash.

#### **ALPHA IOTA/INDIANA**



Ryan Ahlwardt (2003), a former member of the acapella group Straight No Chaser, wrote the song "Indiana,

We're All for You" for IU's bicentennial celebration. Watch Ryan and **Jerome Collins** (1998) peform the song at https://bit.ly/3gmiaI9.

#### ALPHA MU/IOWA STATE

Brandon Cutler (2004) was elected to the Board of Directors for the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors. Cutler is



currently Associate Dean of Students for Fraternity, Sorority, and Cooperative Life at Purdue University.

#### **ALPHA PI/MINNESOTA**

Shreeman Misurya (2017) was elected to the University of Minnesota's Greek Alumni Council.

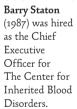


#### **BETA PI**/MONMOUTH

Dwayne Hughes (1987) was inducted into the Monmouth Fraternity and Sorority Hall of Fame which recognizes alumni and

friends who have achieved top success within their professional areas and have given back to their communities.

#### **BETA TAU**/ SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA





#### BETA UPSILON/ FRESNO STATE



Dr. J. Sean McCleneghan (1964) was inducted into the New Mexico Press Association's Hall of Fame.

#### **GAMMA ETA/BUCKNELL**

Upon his retirement from military service, Col. Bob
DeSousa (1982) was honored for 28 years of service in the Penn



sylvania Army National Guard.

## On Wisconsin! Psi Chapter Celebrates Centennial

BY THE PSI 100 COMMITTEE

Whether it was the 2 a.m. revelers at the Up North Bar, the 250 alumni, guests, and collegiate brothers at Monona Terrace, or the large crowd at 210 Langdon after the Badger victory over Northwestern, no one can say Psi Chapter does not know how to celebrate!

100 years at Wisconsin was the focal point of the weekend, but renewing friendships and making new ones was what made the weekend special.

Our Thursday night gathering at the Up North Bar spilled over to the neighboring Essen Haus, with brothers spanning seven decades, watching the Packers play, sharing stories of college experiences, and reflecting on memories of 210 Langdon Street.



Alumni renew Theta Chi bonds during Psi Chapter's Centennial.

Friday's weather put into question whether golfing at Blackhawk Country Club would happen, but five foursomes managed to get in their rounds before rain dampened play.

That evening the brothers were out in force at Monona Terrace for dinner, celebrating Psi Chapter's 100-year anniversary. While the happy hour before the dinner was the highlight for many, there were also comments from **Bill Griffin** (1986) about the history of the chapter and **Lee Davis** (1987) regarding the current state of the chapter. Theta Chi International Vice President Darick Brown and Chief Executive Officer Mike Mayer provided congratulations from the International Fraternity and presented a resolution from the Grand Chapter detailing the many accomplishments of Psi Chapter. To conclude, **David Bunzel** (1977) introduced the Psi 100 Fundraising Campaign to raise funds to support the new house built at 210 Langdon Street in 2014. The funds will be used for mortgage reduction on our next round of refinancing. By the end of the dinner, brothers pledged and contributed nearly \$50,000 toward our goal of \$200,000.

The sun came out on Saturday in time for the football game. The Badgers did not disappoint, beating the Northwestern Wildcats, 24–15. This made the post-game tailgate a special event.

As is often the case at Theta Chi social events, not all was prepared when the party commenced at 2:30 p.m., but the alumni stepped in, manned the grills, got ice for the beverages, and **Joe "Raz" Rezell** (1985) served as DJ, providing tunes from all eras. The music went through 8 p.m. when people were heading out to dinners with friends.

Sunday morning had a light crew for donuts and coffee and some informal discussions with collegians at 210 Langdon.

In addition to the many alumni who helped organize the event, special thanks go to the two collegiate brothers, **Peter Gottsacker** (2022) and **Alex Boudos** (2022). Peter organized the food for the party on Saturday and Alex put together the different video presentations of photos highlighting the history of the chapter. Thanks to all of the brothers and guests who made this reunion weekend memorable!



# Peoria Roots, Far-Reaching Talent

BY MARY BROLLEY, ASSISTANT EDITOR, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, BRADLEY UNIVERSITY



In his eight-plus decades, **Roger Roszell** (Gamma Upsilon/Bradley 1957) has traveled the United States and beyond, serving congregations in beautiful churches and synagogues from Denver to New York to southwestern Florida. He was twice invited to bring a choir to sing at the Vatican, and has made friends with the music staff of the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

He was a musical prodigy, picking out tunes on the piano at age 3. He started lessons

early, and a few years later, one Sunday when the church organist was sick, his minister tapped him on the shoulder and asked him to play the organ.

"I was 9," he recalled. "I wasn't even big enough to reach the pedals."

Describing his early training as "a fascinating experience," Roszell remembered taking lessons in piano, organ, and cello, which lasted through his time at Peoria High School. His connection with Bradley began at age 11 when he started private organ lessons that continued through college with the university's revered organist, Grace Scatterday Bone.

During high school, he decided to focus on the organ. And choosing Bradley for college was natural. "At the time, only Columbia University and Bradley offered a music business major," he said. "I was lucky it worked out for me to attend."

He earned an MBA at Bradley to prepare him for postings as music director, which require direction of a church's choirs and other management tasks. "I had taken most of the courses you needed to get a degree in music, and the MBA helped me learn to be a better administrator."

His vocation allowed him to live wherever he chose. He went to Colorado on vacation and liked it so much he immediately applied for — and got — a job in Denver and stayed for 10 years. He's served churches of several denominations in Chicago, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Arlington, VA.

Roszell's newest position is at an Episcopal church in St. Petersburg, FL. He brings his dachshund, The Baron, to work, a perk they both appreciate.



GAMMA MU/BOWLING GREEN's Nick Mileti (1953) was chosen as a member of the Cleveland Cavaliers inaugural Wall of Honor class. Brother Mileti spearheaded the group that brought the Cavs into the NBA as an expansion team in 1970. During the halftime ceremony of the Cavaliers' November 17 game, Mileti was presented with a 2016 NBA Championship ring.

#### **GAMMA UPSILON/BRADLEY**

Author Andrew Marble published the first biography about **Gen. John Shalikashvili** (Gamma Upsilon/ Bradley 1958) and outlines Brother Shali's journey from a penniless, stateless European refugee in WWII

to the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Andrew's inscription in the book for the Chapman-Alter Library reads, "I hope you enjoy this great American success story of a man known for always giving a Helping Hand to those who needed it."



RIGHT: EPSILON PHI/ CENTRAL MISSOURI'S Mark Rosewell (1977) was honored by Northwest Missouri State University in April 2019 by the renaming of their tennis center after him. Brother Rosewell was longtime men's and women's tennis coach at NWMSU.

#### GAMMA KAPPA/MIAMI (OH)

John Shertzer (1998) was named executive director of the Society of Professional Journalists.

#### GAMMA OMICRON/ WAKE FOREST

Karl Brady (2006) was elected to District 5 of the Charleston City Council in South Carolina.

#### **DELTA THETA/TOLEDO**



Former IHQ Director **Jason McEldowney** (1995) received the 2019 Insurance Agent of the Year Award

for the state of Indiana.

#### **DELTA KAPPA/BALL STATE**

Past International Historian Brad Burk (1991) was elected to the Zionsville (IN) Town Council. R. Clark Exmeyer (1972) was inducted into the Greater Evansville (IN) Sports Hall of Fame.

#### **EPSILON GAMMA/WIDENER**

**Hunter Tower** (2014) was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Kennett Square (PA) Rotary Light.

#### EPSILON DELTA/ YOUNGSTOWN STATE

John Vicarel (1978) was inducted into the Ohio High School Athletic Association Officials Hall of Fame.

#### EPSILON PI/ NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Dean DuCray (1964) received an honorary doctorate degree from NIU. Chris Anderson (1984) was appointed to the



Dean DuCray

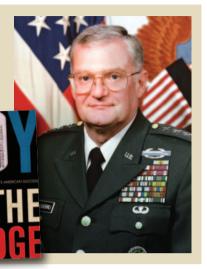
Board of Directors of Members Alliance Credit Union in Rockford, IL.

#### EPSILON PHI/ CENTRAL MISSOURI

The National Association for Campus Activities appointed **Stan Sweeney** (1993) to serve on its board of directors.



Stan Sweeney







Logan Tupper and Riley Keffer

#### **ZETA ALPHA**/ SLIPPERY ROCK

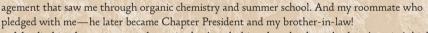
Riley Keffer (2018) and Logan Tupper (2019) spearheaded the establishment of a \$250,000 endowed scholarship through the Slippery Rock University Student Government Association to ensure student success and enhance retention at Slippery Rock University.



BY DR. RICHARD B. BIRRER (BETA SIGMA/LEHIGH 1972)

Standing on the summit of Mt. Allen with my son, the last and most remote of the Adirondack 46ers, I reflected on the achievement and later pondered how it was symbolic of my Theta Chi experience.

After a less-than-stellar year at Lehigh, my roommate and I pledged at Beta Sigma Chapter. I spent long hours improving my grades while participating in the brotherhood. Those formative years served as building blocks for the challenges of my medical career and what would become one of my consuming goals. Despite free love, the Vietnam War, and the drug culture of the late '60s and early '70s, my brothers distinguished themselves in taking the road less traveled. We lived teamwork, tolerance, and diversity long before it became fashionable. The brotherhood fostered a sense of fairness, endurance, strength in unity—values that have served me well. It was their encour-



My climbing began in my early 30s in the Appalachians but slowly evolved to America's high-points and later the seven continental summits. The leadership skills and self-reliance I learned from my brothers sustained me through some rather perilous climbs and difficult moments. My first attempt at Everest resulted in the loss of one of my tentmates and turning around 1,000 feet below the summit. It was a very sad and depressing moment after a year of training and two months of acclimatization. But like some of my failures during college that my brothers guided me through, I realized that the mountain would always be there. I returned five years later with my son and successfully summited.

I am very grateful for those formative years at Theta Chi that solidified the mental, physical, and spiritual ingredients buoying my life as a physician and climber.



Last summer, Matt Brennan (Beta Omicron/Cincinnati 1984) was among the crowds on Mt. Everest trying to reach the summit. He was less than 1,000 feet from the top—only five hours left to go—when he made the emotional decision that it was too risky to continue to the top and turned back. Despite delays, crowds, and a depleting oxygen tank, he was certain he would be able to reach the summit, but was unsure if he would be able to make the initial descent safely. Weighing his situation's many factors and his odds of success, he stated that his training, experience, and commitment to his family back home helped him to make the decision that would bring him safely home. Brother Brennan has established a goal to climb the highest peak on each continent and has completed all but two.









ZETA OMICRON/SHIPPENSBURG's star wrestler Bob McCurdy (1984), far right, is inducted into Shippensburg Athletics' Hall of Fame.



LEFT: IOTA SIGMA/TOWSON's Austin Braswell (2014) starts Frederick Bound, a clothing brand inspired by Braswell's hometown of Frederick, MD. View designs at www.frederickbound.com

ZETA ALPHA/SLIPPERY ROCK's Joseph Lester White (1980) is named Hibernian of the Year in Allegheny County (PA) for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic Organization.



EPSILON IOTA/EAST CAROLINA's Col. Bryan Bennett (1964), far right, is inducted into the Eastern Carolina Distinguished Military Service





Zeta Epsilon's Victor Cook discusses Disney's T.O.T.S.

#### **ZETA EPSILON/** LONG BEACH STATE

Victor Cook (1984) served as co-executive producer for Disney Channel's latest animated series, T.O.T.S.

Hon. John Briscoe (1975) announced he is running for the congressional seat in California's 47th district.



Hon. John Briscoe

#### ZETA LAMBDA/ WESTMINSTER

Greg Nicotero (1985) received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 17th New York City Film Festival in the horror genre.



Greg Nicotero

#### **ETA GAMMA/** MOREHEAD STATE

Awards Ceremony.

Wilson Grier (1985) was presented with the Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" Award from the Federal Aviation Administration. The award recognizes contributions to building and maintaining the safest aviation system in the world, through practicing and promoting safe aircraft flight operations for 50 years. Robert Hawkins (1993) published his first book, A Book of Matches: The Life, Murder and Family of an Appalachian War Veteran. Glen Teager (2011) was recognized as Chapter Adviser of the Year during Morehead State's 2020 Fraternity and Sorority Life



#### ETA KAPPA/JAMES MADISON

Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates Kirk Cox (1980) was reelected to the 66th House District which includes an area near Richmond including Colonial Heights and parts of Chesterfield.

#### ETA OMICRON/ NORTHWESTERN STATE

Past International President Tait Martin (1997) was appointed the president and CEO of Wildcat Brothers, LLC.

#### **ETA PI/EAST STROUDSBURG**

More than 150 alumni celebrated our 45th anniversary at Homecoming by donating \$4,500 to the University Foundation Doc Leland Fund. The money is used for scholarships for deserving Theta Chi brothers.

#### **ETA PHI/OAKLAND**

Anthony Boganey (1988) was presented with the 2019 Alumni Community Service Award from Oakland University's Alumni Association.



#### THETA ETA/ SAM HOUSTON STATE

Past International Vice President Brian Hall

(1988) was inducted into the Sam Houston State College of Business Hall of Honor.



36 THE RATTLE/SUMMER 2020 WWW.THETACHI.ORG



### **Anthony "Tony" Kenney**

(Gamma Kappa/Miami (OH) 1975) Former CEO, Speedway

BY STEVE DAVIS (GAMMA KAPPA/MIAMI (OH) 1974)

Theta Chi has a rich history of turning out exceptional leaders: military generals, senators, governors, university presidents, and CEOs. What are today's odds of a Theta Chi becoming the CEO of a major corporation? Less than 1/1,000 of 1%, far less odds than the possibility of becoming a professional athlete.<sup>1</sup>

How did Tony Kenney go from Theta Chi to become CEO of Speedway? An excellent undergraduate education at Miami of Ohio combined with a compelling drive to succeed was a good start. Along the way, learning excellent communication skills and taking extensive post-graduate courses at Michigan's Ross School of Business were core competencies enabling the opportunity for advancement.

At Marathon Petroleum Corp (MPC), Speedway's parent company, Tony's experience in accounting and finance forged vital connections with co-workers and bosses. His reliability, adaptability, and creativity got him noticed for his accomplishments, but he was also a people person and a smart politician. No matter how brilliant, how innovative, how decisive someone in contention for the CEO position might be, he must know how to handle people the right way.

When I met Tony for lunch, the first thing he did was give me a big hug. And as we talked, it was good to see Tony was still the same humble guy I knew back at Miami. Some CEOs seem full of themselves, but not Tony. He's still down to earth and besides—he knows we've got a lot of stuff on him from back in the day!

Living in the house for three years, Tony experienced the comradery of a great group of fraternity brothers learning how to grow from teenagers into young men. Bonds of friendship formed by going through shared times, good and bad. He loved the friendship, parties, and sports. He had a fun time coaching Powder Puff football (who wouldn't?) and echoes what others have said about their college years: those were some of the best years of their life.

He's had many great years since. He met his wife, Jean, in 1976 at Marathon Oil and they have two boys, Raymond and John, both married and doing very well in business. The joys of fatherhood extend down to three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way.

Tony entered Miami thinking he'd go to medical school but exited in 1976 with an accounting & finance degree. He started with Marathon Oil that same year and moved through many different assignments and locations in his almost 44 years with Marathon, traveling extensively throughout the U.S. and internationally to London, Paris, Singapore, Tripoli, Cairo, Lagos, Abu Dhabi, Khar-



toum, and Jakarta. Relocated seven times in the Midwest, the moves were difficult for his wife and toughest on their kids and he is forever grateful for the significant sacrifices they made to further his career.

Tony was made CEO of Speedway in 2005 and under his 14-year leadership, Speedway expanded from a "Midwest only" brand into one of the nation's largest fuel and convenience store chains, going from 1,500 to 4,000 company-owned and operated stores with 45,000 employees and sales exceeding \$25 billion. In 2015, he was named Convenience Store News Retailer Executive of the Year.<sup>2</sup>

In the early 2000s, Tony led a team to develop the first customer loyalty program in the convenience store industry. "Speedy Rewards" was officially rolled out in 2005. It's estimated more than 50 million Speedy Rewards cards have been issued since.

Part of The Creed of Theta Chi is to "extend a Helping Hand to all who seek it." Tony and wife Jean have a passion for children's charities, especially children's hospitals. Some of Tony's best memories over the last 30 years of his career were getting to know the courageous kids and families who battle daily with incredibly serious and heartbreaking health challenges. Speedway partnered with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) as their charity of choice. CMNH provides funding through corporate and private foundation partnerships and since 1992, Speedway and its employees, customers, and business partners have contributed over \$110 million to 80 children's hospitals to help sick children and their families. Tony served on the national CMNH Board of Directors until 2019 but even though now retired, he continues to stay active with them and is currently on the Board of Directors of Dayton Children's Hospital.

- 1. www.onlinecasino.ca/odds-of-success
- 2. https://youtu.be/68sNu2eiMPs

Steve Davis was Social Chairman during Kenney's time at Miami. Steve has won first place awards in national writing contests in various genres and in 1992, he invented the (plastic) inflatable air pillow for void fill packaging.



#### CHAPTER ETERNAL

Deaths reported to the International Headquarters between September 28, 2019 and April 14, 2020.



#### **Father of Personal Computing** CHARLES I. PEDDLE (GAMMA/MAINE 1959)

November 25, 1937-December 15, 2019

In 1973, Chuck Peddle started at Motorola and assisted with the development of the 6800 microprocessor. Championing the design for a lower price microprocessor, he left and went to MOS Technologies and designed the innovative 6502 microprocessor which was priced at \$25 (compared to the \$300 Motorola 6800). His new chip was used in the development of the Commodore PET and in products from companies such as Apple, Atari, and Nintendo.

#### **BETA**

MIT

Robert J. DeMartini (1941) James M. Dougherty (1956) Robert Heitman (1957) William J. Rapoport (1946) Arnold B. Whitaker (1946) Dr. Stanley W. Zehr (1963)

#### **GAMMA**

Maine

Richard G. Davis (1958) Charles I. Peddle (1959) Gjimiya S. Pryor (2022) Peter M. Saucier (1970)

#### **DELTA**

RPI

Richard H. Molke (1948) Edward F. Williams, Jr. (1962)

New Hampshire John W. Merrill (1948)

Rhode Island John T. Leyden (1957) William E. Lundberg (1949)

#### **THETA**

Massachusetts Col. William G. Phippen (1945)

#### IOTA

Colgate Theodore L. Cole, Jr. (1953) Kenneth D. Potter (1955)

Pennsylvania Eugene Hondorf (1952)

#### **LAMBDA**

Cornell Paul W. Makosky (1954)

#### MU

California Kenneth G. Hansen (1953) J. Alan Wright (1950)

#### NU

Hampden-Sydney Daniel M. Hawks (1961) Robert W. Oldfield (1979) Jesse W. Overbey (1964)

#### **OMICRON**

Richmond Boyce C. Wornom (1951)

Dickinson Philip T. Conrad (1984)

#### SIGMA

Oregon State Kenneth W. Hedberg (1942)

TAU Florida Clem G. Armstrong (1937) James H. Armstrong (1935) Oscar A. Baker (1924) F. D. Bartleson (1926) E. S. Bartlett, Jr. (1934) Charles R. Benton (1939) Drayton D. Bernhard (1934) Robert C. Black, Jr. (1932) Gwynn D. Blanchard (1970) John A. Bostwick (1937) Martin T. Bray (1968) T H. Buckley (1932) Albert L. Buford (1937) William K. Byle (1937) Alan R. Carlson (1948) Harold C. Case (1939) Allen C. Cawthon (1962) Dudley M. Cawthon (1935) C. S. Chapman (1935) S. D. Chittenden (1928) Ralph M. Clements (1942) M. N. Clyatt (1931) Burnis T. Coleman (1931) John M. Conway (1950) Shuler P. Cox (1933) Douglas F. Creighton (1960) John A. Crookshank, Jr. (1943) Frank M. Culpepper (1937) Franklin L. DeBusk (1944) David L. Dicks, Jr. (1935) Hardie M. Dunn (1933) James R. Dunn (1940) C. A. Eaton (1929) Dennis W. Elis (1966) R. B. Elliott (1927) Olger O. Fisher (1933) Jay E. Folk (1971) Charles B. Franklin (1939) James F. Garner, Jr. (1929) John R. Gomez (1935) Stanley Granger (1929) Richard P. Gray (1971) Robert W. Lochner, Jr. (1959) Karl F. Luttrell (1932) Samuel G. Malcomb (1933) John J. Marino, Jr. (1969)

Henry A. Martin (1934)

James A. Mays (1934)

Joseph O. McAloon (1936) Ralph D. McCall (1932) Harry G. McDonald (1933) R. E. McDonald, Jr. (1927) Dr. Vincent McGuire (1940) R. W. McMullen (1935) Walter D. Merriam (1951) C. S. Meuge (1926) Kenneth B. Palmer, Jr. (1948) Jack W. Parker (1932) B. F. Peeples (1932) Jose L. Pelleya (1967) Robert H. Potter, III (1975) W. A. Robertson, Jr. (1931) T. O. Robinson (1928) Paul C. Ropes (1938) Charles R. Scherer (1987) W. S. Shafto (1928) Harry Smallwood, Jr. (1937) William J. Smith (1932) Stuart D. Southard (1934) Emory K. Sparkman (1952) Paul P. Williamson (1936) Dr. S. Russel Wilson (1967) Guy N. Wilson (1940) Fred C. Worthington (1949)

North Dakota State Glen A. Masset (1988)

#### CHI

Auburn Robert I. Gulledge (1956)

Penn State Clarence J. Bauer (1959) Donald J. Griffith (1954) William A. Grun (1947) Richard L. Hill (1958) Walter O. Manning (1958) John F. McElwee (1947) Mark A. Richards, III (1942) Donald A. Smith (1981)

#### **ALPHA BETA**

Pittsburgh Michael J. Duffy (1969)

#### **ALPHA EPSILON**

Anton E. Arnosti (1950) Kris Hoffman (1962)

#### **ALPHA ZETA**

Rochester Jordan A. Aronowitz (2017) Richard A. Zuegel (1957)

#### **ALPHA IOTA**

Indiana Joffre C. LeFevre (1997) Jack D. Wieneke (1950)

#### **ALPHA LAMBDA**

Ohio State Robert H. Martin (1955)

#### **ALPHA NU**

Georgia Tech Donovan F. Dasher (1959) Donald D. Gehring (1960) \* Robert C. Parrott (1956) Glenn R. Wienkoop (1969)

#### **ALPHA PI**

Minnesota John B. Brill (1961) William Haggstrom (1958) #

#### **ALPHA RHO**

Washington James M. Foster (1956) Col. John Henchman (1951)

#### **ALPHA SIGMA**

Oregon Jonathan M. Grove (1989) Richard C. Hyder (1958) Frank N. Preston (1952) Merwin L. Spalding (1949)

#### **ALPHA TAU**

Ohio Jeffrey M. Boulton (1984)

#### **ALPHA PHI**

Alabama Charles A. Pichelmayer (1953)

#### **ALPHA CHI**

Syracuse Henry G. Heise (1963)

#### **ALPHA PSI**

Maryland Edward C. Jarman (1980) Jack R. Templeton (1950)

#### **BETA ALPHA**

**UCLA** David A. Holmes (1960) + Kevin F. Shea (1981)

#### **BETA GAMMA**

North Dakota Raymond F. Sinkbeil (1949)

#### **BETA DELTA**

Rutgers Joseph P. Stopper (1956) Louis A. Winters (1946)

#### **BETA EPSILON**

Ronald G. Smith (1962)

#### **BETA ZETA**

Michigan State Melbourne J. Amo, Jr. (1951) Glenn J. Archer (1948) Daniel S. Barber (1994) Donald O. Barlow (1946) Richard C. Biggers (1967) Thomas C. Blinn (1946) Ltc. George H. Branch (1940) Arnold A. Breiling (1950) Robert J. Brough (1982)

Dr. Clyde L. Burton (1950) George W. Cawood (1943) Earl A. Chisa (1961) Kevin J. Clegg (2001) David M. Coakley (1949) Thomas R. Conklin (1971) John B. Crozier (1988) Reynold V. Dickhaus (1950) Jack T. Dulworth, Jr. (1951) Herbert A. George (1947) Charles A. Graham, Jr. (1950) Robert L. Hood (1963) Dr. Lynn D. Hupp (1941) David I. Jarred (1952) Roger M. Jewett (1942) Charles R. Johnson, Jr. (1962) Christopher W. Kasper (1990) Stephen F. Leibhan (1970) William E. Magee (1944) Robert B. McCurry (1946) Corwin R. Moll (1960) Dr. Burce S. Ott (1946) John M. Parres (1985) George W. Pierce (1946) Harlan E. Pitcher (1943) Nelson Sabin (1946) Charles S. Sabo (1940) William K. Semtner (1944) Dr. Arlan R. Smith (1945) Wallace B. Smith (1949) David A. Villani (1978) Donald M. Walling (1944)

#### **BETA IOTA**

Arizona

F. Marshall Adams (1967) Richard S. Darling (1961) Clyde E. Shields (1953) Joseph O. Voelker (1948)

#### **BETA KAPPA**

Hamline Bruce R. Sundberg (1956)

Birmingham-Southern Rev. Stanley P. Clark (1958)

#### **BETA OMICRON**

Cincinnati Gary M. Crabb (1968) Dr. Jerry W. Koppman (1957)

#### **BETA PI**

Monmouth John B. Lawson (1945) Kerry D. Willis (1975)

#### **BETA RHO**

Illinois Wesleyan Michael Crawshaw (1964) Shawn R. Gravelle (1996) William R. Setchell (1968) Robert L. Stone (1990)

#### **BETA SIGMA**

Lehigh John A. Holtz (2010)

#### **BETA TAU**

Southern California Dr. James E. Lasry (1951) Claude J. Lloyd (1951)

Alleghenv Martin A. Goldberg (1962) Richard C. Jennings (1954) Ralph C. Macek (1962) John W. Waite (1951) Bradley R. Will (1992)

#### **BETA OMEGA**

Susquehanna Curtis W. Barry (1963) William H. Mc Clure (1945)

#### **GAMMA EPSILON**

Western Colorado Douglas M. Asbury (1985)

#### **GAMMA ZETA**

Oklahoma State Michael M. Tuohy (1950)

#### **GAMMA THETA**

San Diego State Merrill W. Seroy (1974) Lawrence W. Worch (1951)

#### **GAMMA KAPPA**

Miami (OH) David K. Batsche (1963) William A. Curry (1957)

#### **GAMMA LAMBDA**

Denver Charles B. Hill (1960)

#### **GAMMA MU**

Bowling Green Shaun D. Probert (1990) Charles W. Richey, Jr. (1958)

#### **GAMMA NU**

New Mexico State William L. Hicks (1954)

#### **GAMMA RHO**

Florida State John R. Beranek (1961) Kevin S. Simms (2000)

#### **GAMMA SIGMA**

Duke Elliott N. Sutta (1970)

### GAMMA UPSILON

Bradley
Walter F. Baselt (1952)
Gilbert E. Cook (1963)
Cpt. Roger H. Hill (1959)
William E. McKinley (1955) +
Daryl Steele (1960)

#### GAMMA PHI

Nebraska Wesleyan Robert M. Larson (1961) Lowell H. Umland (1959)

#### **GAMMA CHI**

Randolph-Macon Albert Greenberg, Jr. (1958)

#### **GAMMA PSI**

Puget Sound Robert K. Hawkinson (1973)

### DELTA ALPHA

Linfield Phelon Cullison (1955)

#### **DELTA ETA**

Colorado State Gerald P. Wergland (1966)

#### **DELTA KAPPA**

Ball State Col. John T. Halley (1956) Douglas R. Knight (1967) Floyd C. Lacy (1941) John A. Lee (1964) Dr. Donald L. Mays (1962) Richard G. Omlor (1968) William T. Reddish (1958) Paul O. Szigetvari (1969) Herbert T. Tilley (1955) Donald T. Walker (1958)

#### **DELTA LAMBDA**

Colorado Mines Franklin D. Wicks (1953)

#### **DELTA MU**

Iexas Michael C. Bess, Sr. (1993)

#### **DELTA XI**

Valparaiso Robert Barley (1960) Gerald F. Ocock (1950)

#### **DELTA PI**

Indiana State
Alan K. Coyner (1961)
Thomas N. Farlow (1952)
Donald Featherston (1985)
Thomas L. Schepman (1971)

#### **DELTA SIGMA**

Clarkson Brian P. Mandryck (1978)

#### **DELTA TAU**

Kent State William D. Wendell (1963)

#### **DELTA PHI**

North Texas Jorden T. Morris (2014) Herbert G. Price (1955)

#### **EPSILON ALPHA**

High Point William F. Fanning (1967) Douglas E. Smith (1970)

#### **EPSILON DELTA**

Youngstown State Walter E. Good (1962)

#### **EPSILON ETA**

Wayne L. Boyd (1992)

#### **EPSILON MU**

Eastern Michigan Russell L. Danielson (1977) John R. Forsyth (1960)

#### **EPSILON XI**

Clarion Edward T. Ashbaugh (1965) Ronald E. Copenhaver (1964)

#### **EPSILON PI**

Northern Illinois Curtis D. Dahlgren (1972)

#### **EPSILON RHO**

Rider Ronald E. Wasik (1971)

#### **EPSILON UPSILON**

Central Michigan
Paul G. Murray (1979)

#### **EPSILON PHI**

Central Missouri Christopher E. Trick (1985)

### Past International Vice President

DR. DONALD D. GEHRING (ALPHA NU/GEORGIA TECH 1960)

October 9, 1937-February 12, 2020



Brother Gehring served on the Grand Chapter from 1998–2006 as International Marshal, International Secretary, and was elected International Vice President in 2004. He provided countless hours of service while on the Risk Management and Standards Committee and shared his expertise in higher education and judicial affairs. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and the Earl D. Rhodes Theta Chi for Life Award.

Brother Gehring was Professor Emeritus and past Director of the Higher Education Administration Doctoral Program at Bowling Green State University. In 1988, he founded the Association for Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA) and served as its first president.

The highly lauded ASJA judicial training seminar was re-named the Donald D. Gehring Campus Judicial Affairs Training Institute in his honor in 1994.

Brother Gehring also co-authored "Alcohol on Campus" (1989), contributed to and wrote chapters on legal issues for numerous other books, and wrote numerous articles on critical law and policy issues in higher education.

Past International Vice President and former CEO Dave Westol shared, "We've lost a giant...and his dedication to Fraternity, higher education, and student conduct development reflected the very best of those endeavors... Gracious, smart, and always able to find a moment of humor, he led by asking excellent questions...We are the better for having known him; the lesser for his passing."

Don is remembered by many for his reply to the question, 'How are you doing?' He was always "Great! And Gettin' Better!" May Theta Chi always strive to remain great—and get even better.

## Past Theta Chi Funds Board Member WILLIAM A. HAGGSTROM (ALPHA PI/MINNESOTA 1958)

June 14, 1933-April 21, 2020

Bill Haggstrom served as a Field Secretary in the late 1950s, as a Regional Counselor (where he helped establish Zeta Upsilon/Hartford), and later served on the board of directors for Theta Chi Funds where he was helpful in establishing the Fraternity's planned giving program.



#### ZETA DELTA St. Cloud State

St. Cloud State Shaun A. Delage (2008)

#### **ZETA LAMBDA**

Westminster
James J. Cosentino (1976)

#### ZETA NU

Parsons
Derek J. Watkins (1971)

#### **ZETA OMICRON**

Shippensburg Stephen E. Haviland (1977)

#### ZETA PI

Old Dominion Jeffrey J. Czyzewski (1994) Randolph Edmondson (1972)

#### **ZETA RHO**

Kentucky Joseph P. Tucci (1981)

#### **ZETA PSI**

Western Illinois Steven M. Wolkowitz (1990)

### **ETA ALPHA**

.....

Clemson Thomas A. Shiels (1978)

#### **ETA GAMMA**

Morehead State
Joseph D. Barber, Jr. (1980)
Stephen C. Chaney (1978)
John R. Coning (1971)
John M. Decker (1970)
Roger D. Fuell (1972)
Richard S. Hall, Jr. (1968)
Leroy Jones (1971)
Daniel E. Livingston (1972)
Dr. Robert Monahan (1970)
Larry J. Netherton (1967)
Robert I. Steele (1980)
Jerry L. Tabor (1975)

#### **ETA ZETA**

Edinboro Michael J. Dubowski (1974) Thomas L. Kaiser, II (1980) Kevin R. Young (1988)

#### ETA KAPPA

James Madison Jeffrey B. Alcott (1978)

#### ETA MU

Findlay Jeffrey A. Bricker (1983) Timothy A. Moore (1999)

#### **ETA PI**

East Stroudsburg Hugh T. Bryce, Jr. (1989)

#### **ETA PSI**

UAB Erik B. Birkhimer (2002)

#### **ETA OMEGA**

Chico State John D. Masson (1991)

### THETA EPSILON

Kennesaw State Matthew A. Martin (1990)

#### THETA XI

Araz Khalilpour (2017)

#### **BK FRATERNITY**

Glenn E. Wade (1939)

**PARENTS:** This magazine is sent to your son's home address while he is still in college; we hope you enjoy reading it before he does. If he has left college and is not living at home, please send us his new permanent address. (Please refer to the Table of Contents.) THANK YOU!

