

Summer 2025

THE RATTLE

OF THETA CHI FRATERNITY

ABC News'

Bob Woodruff

(Iota/Colgate 1983)

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A Timeless Call to Alumni: Extend Your Hand

Brothers:

In 1966, the legendary Howard Alter was completing his second term as Inter/National President of Theta Chi. In his President's Message for that year's Summer edition of *The Rattle*, Brother Alter issued a call to the Fraternity's alumni: "Here I would say to alumni that in this day of increasing pressures on the student from every angle, your chapter needs you... needs you more than ever." Inspired by the famous line of President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address, Brother Alter urged our brotherhood, "Do not hold out your hand to receive, but extend it to help and as much as you put into Theta Chi will determine how much you can get out of that fraternal association. It is up to each of us for himself."



Toby Roth

Although so much has changed for our Fraternity, our alumni, and our collegians over the past 59 years, Brother Alter's call to Theta Chi alumni rings as true today as it



did when he penned those words. The need for alumni engagement is stronger than it has ever been. This spring, our great Fraternity reached its highest collegiate membership in history, surpassing 9,000 brothers. Just 15 years ago, we had 5,726 collegiate members! While this growth trajectory is exciting as well as a testament to the great work of our chapter and alumni leaders, it also underscores the growing need for alumni involvement—particularly a need for alumni mentors.

Theta Chi has a wide variety of volunteer needs to be met: Alumni/House Corporations boards and Chapter

Advisory Boards (CABs) that serve our chapters; the Resolute Man Experience, an immersive professional program that provides collegians the opportunity to engage with alumni who are experts in their fields; faculty members for the School of Fraternity Practices at Convention, our annual chapter officer training conferences, and our Initiative Academy for our chapters' emerging leaders; and numerous other opportunities. Our Fraternity is investing in leadership and professional development for our brothers, but these worthy programs cannot succeed without committed alumni.

Your Fraternity needs you. Your chapter needs you. And with this need in mind, I will echo Howard Alter's words and urge you to extend your hand. "It is up to each of us for himself."

I believe in Theta Chi!

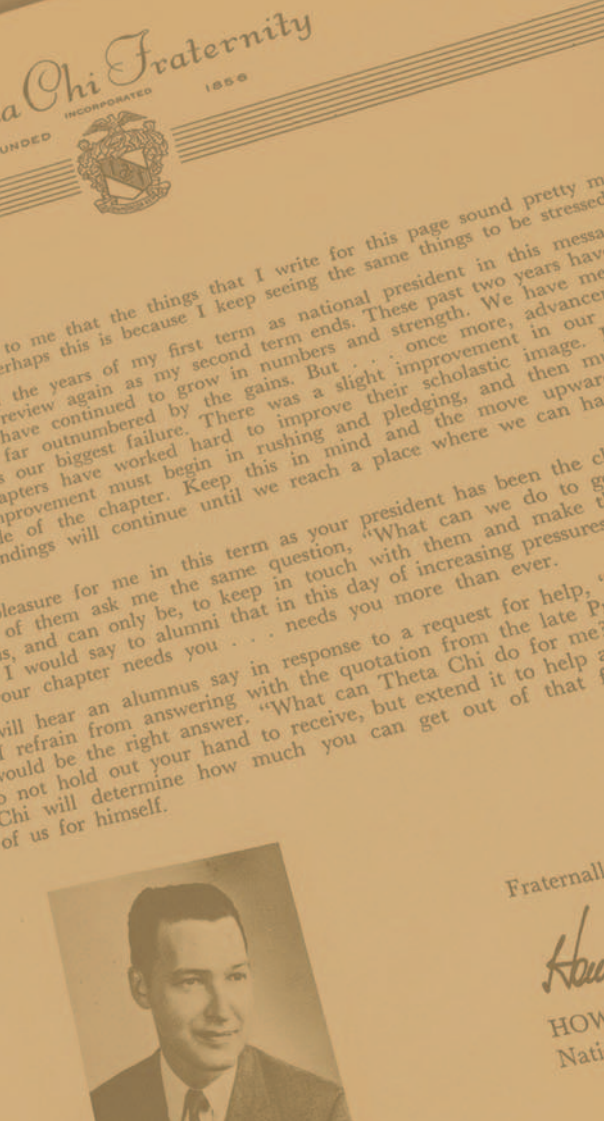
Fraternally,

Tobin (Toby) Roth

International President

troth@capitolresourcesllc.com

(For those alumni interested in serving as advisers and mentors to collegiate brothers, please contact Erik VanDenBerghe, the Fraternity's Director of Engagement, at erikv@thetachi.org.)



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on the cover

ABC News' Bob Woodruff (Iota/Colgate 1983) surveys Iraq from his helicopter transport in 2006. Learn more about his journey on page 8. Photo courtesy Bob Woodruff Foundation.

*RIGHT: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey talks with **Bob Woodruff**, founder of the Bob Woodruff Foundation, at a Veterans on Wall Street Symposium in New York City, Nov. 5, 2014. (Department of Defense photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Hinton/Released). This photo was taken by a U.S. Navy photographer, as credited, and is in the public domain. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.*





FROM THE CEO



Need College Men? Sell Them Fraternity.

BY MICHAEL MAYER
February 21, 2025

[Editor's Note: The following op-ed was written by Theta Chi CEO Michael Mayer (Epsilon Phi/Central Missouri 2004). It originally appeared on Real Clear Policy. At the time of publication, Mayer was also serving as the President of the Fraternity Executives Association. He concluded his term as FEA President in May 2025.]

As a father of two young girls, I celebrate the educational opportunities that have emerged for women in recent decades. I want my daughters to have the same opportunities as their male peers, both in the classroom and in the professional world. They should receive the same chances to succeed and advance to the highest echelons of their chosen fields as men have been for centuries.

I also have a 1-year-old son. I worry that the education system that he will soon enter is no longer positioned to help him succeed academically or in the real world.

Richard Reeves offers compelling evidence justifying this concern in his landmark work, *Of Boys and Men*, which made President Barack Obama's list of recommended books last summer. In it, Reeves argues that efforts over the years to level the playing field in all areas of life were necessary, laudable, and overdue. Yet, in many cases, these efforts had the unintended consequence of worsening the condition of and opportunities for men.

Nowhere is this clearer than in higher education. College campuses, once home either exclusively or primarily to men, now contend with dwindling numbers of male students. According to Gallup, the rate



President Mayer addresses the Fraternity Executives Association.

of men who completed high school and enrolled in college fell a staggering 8 points between 2011 and 2023, with fewer than 4 in 10 college-aged males attending a higher education institution. Not only does this present a serious social problem for the country, but it also poses an urgent fiscal issue to universities that need bodies in desks.

This matter is worsened by dropping enrollment numbers, especially post-COVID. While there is some cause for optimism for rebounding student populations among so-called "Power Four" schools, many smaller, regional and private schools are struggling to maintain enrollment.



Colleges and universities have been awakened to the stakes, and many have turned their attention to returning men to their classrooms. To correct this troubling trend, administrators are now marketing activities and interests they deem “masculine” to entice prospective male students to consider their schools.

The University of Vermont, which now enrolls twice as many women as men, understands how extreme their gender gap has become. That’s why their “Office of Men and Masculinities” is developing supposedly male-centric programming on their campus, like entrepreneurship pitch competitions and hunting classes.

At the University of Montana, where just 42 percent of students are men, administrators hope to reverse falling male enrollment at their school by “send[ing] targeted emails to prospective students highlighting its hunting class, forestry program, and recreational opportunities,” Hechinger Report discovered. This advertising prominently features content like, “Have you ever eaten fresh meat that you harvested yourself?” and “There are few other connections with the natural world better than swinging a sharp axe with the smell of pine in your nose.”

While schools more deliberately pursuing male students should be commended for their situational awareness, they do not need to exclusively focus on clever marketing campaigns to win men back. They already have capable, ready partners willing to do that for them: fraternities.

There is ample social science confirming the benefits of these single-sex organizations. For thousands of years, men and women have organized themselves into groups to achieve societal good. Millions of men throughout America have found service and fellowship opportunities that meaningfully enriched their lives, from the Boy Scouts in their early years to the Knights of Columbus as adults.

Fraternities are special because men foster lifelong bonds that begin at one of the most pivotal points in their lives: young adulthood. Here, men find a home away from home. They meet older male role

models who will help them figure out the world and guide them onto a path of responsibility and care for others. They become more involved on campus and in their communities. And fraternity men support each other and hold each other accountable, which is especially important amid the compounding loneliness epidemic that has left far too many males isolated and unmotivated.

Men want these institutions, and they crave these relationships. This is not wishful thinking on the part of fraternities. Executives in this community see it in surging levels of interest in fraternal life.

Indeed, even as male enrollment drops at colleges and universities across America, participation in fraternities has markedly increased. In fact, membership has grown significantly not only post-COVID but also year-over-year. This occurred in spite of media coverage that has, on the whole, focused on isolated negative incidents about these organizations rather than the overwhelmingly positive and impactful benefits for their members and for society in general.

History shows us that when college students show us how they think, administrators ought to pay attention. When Dwight D. Eisenhower was president of Columbia University, legend has it that staff consulted him about where to install new sidewalks. He told the designers to instead plant grass, observe where students would naturally beat a path over the course of a year and then put a sidewalk there.

Young men have made it clear the path they wish to trod: community with each other. It does not take years of research or focus-grouped advertising campaigns to bring them back to campus. Universities just need to give them what they want and, in so many cases, need.

Schools that proudly promote fraternity on campus and the benefits derived from it can attract the young men they need. Then, our organizations give them the personal connection that keeps them in school and helps them become successful, well-rounded adults. We do it without games or gimmicks. We simply offer brotherhood.



EXPANSION

ETA DELTA/BABSON



KAPPA RHO/FAU



(Re)Installations



Eta Delta/Babson
Babson Park, MA
Reinstalled: 4/12/2025



Kappa Rho/FAU
Boca Raton, FL
Installed: 4/5/2025

Expansion Projects

FALL 2025



Alpha Gamma/Michigan



Theta Tau/Western Michigan

Current Colonies



Alpha Upsilon Colony/Nebraska



Delta Kappa Colony/Ball State



Zeta Omega Colony/West Chester



Eta Zeta Colony/Edinboro



York Colony

Recent Redevelopments



Rho/Illinois



Alpha Zeta/Rochester



Gamma Lambda/Denver

Please contact Director of Growth
Sam Terry at sterry@thetachi.org
if you are interested in becoming
involved with these groups.

Visit www.thetachi.org/news for
additional stories on our (re)installed
chapters and new colonies.



B1



B2



B3



B4

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- B3 Large Plain Badge with Pearl Hilts
- B4 Large Pearl Badge with Ruby Hilts and Pearl Blades
- L1 Heart Lavalier
- L2 Greek Letters Lavalier
- P1 Past Chapter President's Lapel Pin
- R1 Brotherhood Ring
- RP1 Recognition Pin – Greek Letters
- RP2 Recognition Pin – Coat of Arms



L1



L2



RP1



RP2



P1



R1

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The Internationalist

BY BEN HILL, EDITOR

Bob Woodruff (Iota/Colgate 1983) is an internationalist in search of the next big story to share with the American people. His career has taken him all over the globe, totaling 130 countries thus far.

In 2006, while co-anchor of *ABC World News Tonight*, Bob's convoy was hit by an IED while reporting from Taji, Iraq. Sustaining a traumatic brain injury, he underwent 13 grueling months of therapy and was able to return to ABC where he continues to report from abroad. His tenacious spirit is no surprise to those who know him well. A three-sport star-athlete while at Colgate, some of his lacrosse records still stand four decades after his graduation. Bob has received nine Emmy Awards and has been recognized with the Alfred I. duPont Award and the George Foster Peabody Award, the two highest honors in broadcast journalism. He and his wife Lee established the Bob Woodruff Foundation to support post-9/11 impacted service members, veterans, and their families. Bob caught up with us on Zoom and discussed his career, his recovery, how events on the world stage redirected his life, and his Theta Chi experience.



2006: Woodruff co-anchors ABC World News Tonight with Elizabeth Vargas.
Photo Courtesy ABC News.

The Rattle: Tell us why you went to Colgate.

Bob Woodruff: I lived just outside Detroit and wanted to go east and I remember driving across Ontario to head out to Colgate and other schools. I remember arriving at Colgate and it was a beautiful spring day and people had brought their couches out in front of the fraternity houses and it was a really social atmosphere and I'm thinking like, 'Wow, this one would be major fun!' Then I talked to the lacrosse coach there, and the school also had a soccer team and a ski club—it just had fantastic sports. I thought it was a perfect size for me to go and play. I fell in love with it.

R: Tell us how you came to Theta Chi.

BW: I came to Colgate a few weeks before school started for soccer. One of my other teammates, **Bob Gorab** (1983) (who is, to this day, one of my closest friends), got really close and then we ended up living on the same floor in the freshman dorm. We looked around at the different fraternities and we just fell in love with Theta Chi. It

was definitely the people. It was fun and the guys were down to earth, and we felt valued, like they wanted us there and that we belonged there. Theta Chi also had the house that was closest to the city of Hamilton, which had this gigantic downtown of like five buildings.

R: Did you live at the chapter house?

BW: Back then, there were not many places you could live at Colgate unless you joined a fraternity. I lived in the Theta Chi house my sophomore and junior years. It wasn't until my senior year that I lived outside of it. I wasn't able to hold any officer positions or participate as deeply as much as some others did because I played three sports. I was gone from the house for class, and then I was at practice or the gym, and then I was at the library all the time.

R: Can you share some of the high-lights from Theta Chi?

BW: I have vague memories of it. I was pretty badly injured in Iraq, so I've lost a lot of memories and names of events and things like that. It's hard for me to remem-

ber a lot of the details, so I'm not the best interviewee on this, I'm sure. I remember a lot of really great, fun times that perhaps involved too many beverages or maybe a truck pulling up to the house with taps off the side for a party, but times were different, and the drinking age was lower back then.

R: Any recollection of visits to Syracuse or other trips?

BW: There are so many. As an escape from Hamilton, a bunch of us did go up to the big city of Syracuse a few times and went to the bars. I became a very, very good dancer, at least in my own mind.

My freshman year, a group of us went to some concert in New York City. I remember being amazed at seeing everything in the city, but all my boys from Long Island were just taking me around the world that they knew.

I also remember going to Bob Gorab's family house up in Killington, VT. Since I was a big skier, I always enjoyed those trips and have some great memories from them.



ROBERT WOODRUFF
1981/1982

After working at local stations across the country in the early 1990s, Bob began reporting for ABC News in 1996. Photo courtesy ABC News.

R: Who are some of the brothers who you were close with?

BW: One brother, and I won't give his name, because I learned later on that he had gone off to be a CIA agent in Japan. He knew I was a big-time internationalist and interested in Asia, so after I got out of law school, he recruited me for the CIA and I interviewed, but, as you know, I took a different direction for my career.

R: Did you meet Lee at Colgate, or did all of that happen after graduation?

BW: I knew her, but she had a boyfriend and I had a girlfriend. Quick side note, my college girlfriend was part of the group that started Gamma Phi Beta, the first sorority at Colgate. Anyway, Lee and I had some mutual friends, but Lee is a class ahead of me, ultimately becoming my

cougar. It wasn't until I was in law school and I was doing a summer job for a large law firm in New York City that I ran into her at a luncheon, and that's when we decided to go on a date.

R: What did Lee think of all your Theta Chi brothers?

BW: She loved them, but admittedly, she was more of an ATΩ-lover because the ATΩ house was a place where women were allowed to take their meals after freshman year so she hung out with them. But, as you know, Theta Chi brothers are charming and she's still, to this day, really good friends with them.

R: How did you select Michigan for law school?

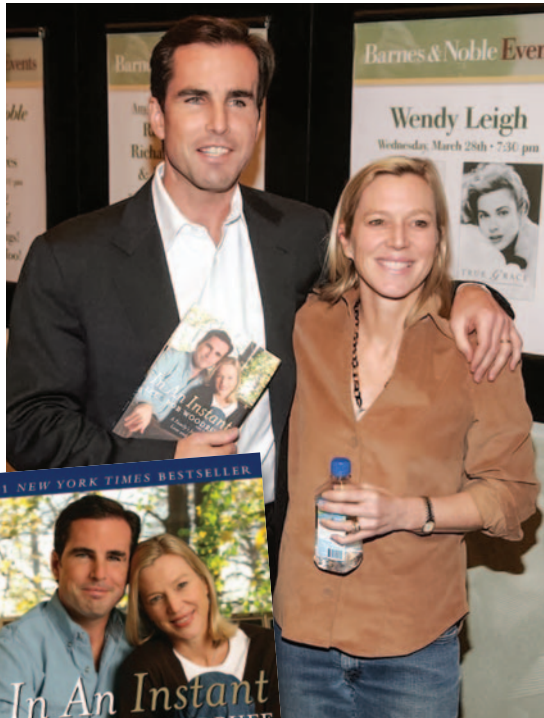
BW: I tell my friends that I went to law school partly because my father didn't want me to go to law school. So, I went to law school. I got into Georgetown and Berkeley, but since I was from Michigan, they gave me in-state tuition which was like \$4,000 a year. That made a huge difference in my decision because the others were way more expensive.

R: What was your original plan for law school?

BW: I think a lot of law school grads have a dream to be a prosecutor or a defense lawyer. Ultimately, I went into corporate law doing mergers and acquisitions because it offered more money. I thought it was a career path but then the market crashed and everything changed when the China thing happened.

R: What led you to go to China?

BW: I was always infatuated with China. I remember in law school the cover of *Newsweek* or *TIME* magazine was Deng Xiaoping, the leader of China talking about how he's bringing China to the modern world, getting rid of the Cultural Revolution Era and the Mao Zedong Era. I studied Chinese when I was in law school to try to go over there to work. In 1987, just a few months after starting corporate law, the markets had a huge crash in October—so there wasn't much merging or acquiring going on, so I thought about taking a year off because it was so boring. My firm knew it was paying me a lot of money and there were not a lot of deals being cut right then. They also knew that



In An Instant, co-written by Bob & Lee Woodruff, details Bob's injury and recovery and their impact on his family. (Above) Photo courtesy of Lee Woodruff via Instagram.

they did not have an office in Beijing; they had a couple of clients there, and I was willing to go, so if I could go there and just represent the firm to some degree, that would be a win for them. So, I decided to go over there and had a couple of good Chinese citizen friends of mine from Michigan who helped me get the connection to get a job as a professor, teaching American law.

R: How did you get connected to the news during the protests?

BW: I only had one American friend over there because we were kind of immersed in the total China world at the university where I worked. John was a cameraman for CBS News. I never watched CBS television news and had certainly never thought about going into it. When all of my students protested, they stopped coming to class and school pretty much shut down. I called John and I said, 'Listen, I've got nothing else going on.' He said, 'Why don't you

come down and be a fixer. You just come down and do interpretation on the street with the correspondents and then get them around town because you know where to go.' So, I went down there and I started working with Bob Simon as a fixer. I didn't know back then just how huge that was and how fascinating the story was. I thought maybe, 'Is this what all the stories are like that you guys do? This is pretty cool.' And so that's how I was introduced to television news.

R: What led you to continue to pursue the path of television news?

BW: I just witnessed this horrific thing—the killing of hundreds of people at Tiananmen Square. They brought four dead bodies back to my university to give them almost like a funeral on these big blocks of ice. Looking at these people who had been crushed by the tanks, and thinking about everything else I had seen there, I knew I wanted to get the chance to reveal these things to Americans who don't see these things overseas. In 1976, there had been another uprising on Tiananmen Square, and that was never even recorded. Hardly anything was ever reported because there are no reporters there. I thought there was a service to be done by telling these stories. There was obviously an adrenaline flow doing it, but I always had a feeling that I could do something good for the world, so I made the decision to do it.

Lee and I came back to the U.S., and I practiced in the same law firm for two more years, this time in their San Francisco office. But I just kept thinking about what I had done over there with CBS and I thought I'd give it a shot. I put in some applications to local stations and ultimately, I was hired at KCPM-TV in Redding, a small town three hours north of San Francisco. That's when I started—with absolutely no skill about how to do this stuff.

It's funny looking back. Lee and I were married two days before we moved to China. Three years later, we're back in the U.S. and I'm going to leave this well-off law firm career to pursue this dream. We'd just had our son, too, so I'm sure Lee was thinking that she must have made a huge mistake with me, but she was always so supportive.

R: What's the most important lesson you learned in Redding that helped you in your future career?

BW: It was almost embarrassing in the beginning. I was uncomfortable and I wrote like a lawyer. I had to learn to tell these television news stories in a smaller way, almost like how a poet can convey so much in just a short poem.

R: How did you go from Redding to ABC's doorstep?

BW: I went to WTVR-TV in Richmond, VA, for two years and then from there to KNXV-TV in Phoenix. That station sent me all the way to New York to report on the TWA 800 plane that went down off the coast of Long Island. While I was there, I ran into a bunch of people from the national ABC News, and they recruited me based on the reporting that I was doing on the crash.

I started with ABC at their Chicago Bureau and then went to Washington, D.C., where I covered the Department of Justice. Then we went to London, because all I wanted to do was report overseas again on the topics like I remembered from my time in China. I had done some war coverage in Yugoslavia and Kosovo but 9/11 occurred while I was in London, and that's an event that caused this other redirection for me and Lee in that all I did from there for years was international war coverage—Afghanistan and then Iraq.

R: Seeing 9/11 from a different country, what emotions did you notice in yourself and those around you?

BW: I'll never forget—I was in the office when I heard someone call me and ask, 'Did you see this thing? There's a plane that hit the building in Manhattan. They think it was like a Cessna or something.' So, I went out and looked at the screen of the live coverage and that's right when the second one hit. And we literally looked at each other and we said, 'This is Osama bin Laden!' We'd been reporting about his intentions for a couple of years, and so we knew this was exactly what he had been essentially talking about.

In our neighborhood in London, there were American flags after the attack hanging



from people's windows—British families! We lived in a largely British neighborhood, and they were very supportive of the U.S.

I literally packed up, said goodbye to my wife and my four kids at our apartment in London, and within five hours after the attack, I was getting on the last British Airways flight to Pakistan with the goal to get as close as we could to where Osama bin Laden was. I was gone for the next 12 straight weeks in Pakistan and then ultimately into Afghanistan. Our lives were changed in an instant.

R: Sadly, Peter Jennings passed away, and you found yourself with Elizabeth Vargas at the anchor desk. What was your plan when you took that role?

BW: It was such a remarkable job and Peter had left such a legacy. It was the top of the game and I was presented with this amazing opportunity, though I never even thought I'd be interested in doing it. Elizabeth really loved anchoring from the news desk and I wanted to be on the road and reporting from overseas. We had that great arrangement together, and while I was an anchor, I was not trapped in the building. Elizabeth would have gone off and done her own reporting and I would cycle back in and trade off, but our arranged plans didn't last very long, let's put it that way!

R: You traveled to Iraq—did this feel like a typical report or did you ever have a sense that something would happen during this trip?

BW: It felt typical enough with our whirlwind schedule and adjusting our focus as necessary while we were there. Elizabeth Vargas reported out of Washington, D.C.



Bob Woodruff speaks with U.S. troops in Iraq in 2006. Photo Courtesy ABC News.

for the State of the Union speech by President Bush. I wanted to report on a key topic from his speech, which was the handover of the power from the U.S. military to the Iraqi military. Overall, the trip went extremely well, except that one little moment.

R: What is your last memory prior to that one little moment?

BW: I knew that we were inside the tank and decided to go up and pop out of the top of it. The Iraqi military guy who was posted up on top of the tank warned us that this was probably a dangerous spot and that we should go back down. Three seconds later, the IED exploded.

R: What was your first memory when you woke up in Bethesda Naval Hospital?

BW: When I woke up, I was ecstatic, and my family and friends were there. I had this sense of extreme happiness because I didn't yet know the full extent of my injuries and circumstances. I also remember my younger brother asking me what it was like where I 'had been,' and I told him that it was a pretty peaceful whiteness with no pain and that I would be completely comfortable to go back.

R: Do you think you could have recovered and made it through the rest of 2007 without Lee?

BW: I'm not sure I could have known anybody who would handle this better. I can't imagine what it was like to go 36 days without even knowing what your husband's condition was going to be and how quickly her life was changed. I think being 44 years old—as opposed to 21, like a lot of the veterans who were on that same recovery floor as me—and having the support of a very stable family certainly helped my recovery. Even just having a company that continued to employ me!

Lee is remarkable and the way that she handled things—I know there could have been very different outcomes, depending on my condition when I woke up. She had the support of her friends and also classmates from Colgate, including some of those Theta Chi brothers who checked on me. There are so many unpredictable elements in these kinds of crises that you'll



Bob's 5-year-old twins help him recover his words after he returned home from the hospital. Photo courtesy of Woodruff family.

never know the ultimate benefit of what you had and what you didn't have but without Lee, would I still be alive? I don't know. There's a lot of high suicide rates in these kinds of crises. Would I be divorced if it was someone else? Absolutely possible. I don't know how I would have done if she were not there. She's remarkable.

R: Were your children helpful during your recovery?

BW: Mack and Cathryn, the older ones, were 12 and 14 when I was hit. The twin girls were not even 6 yet. They all became my coaches; they became my teachers. They helped get my words back because I have aphasia, which is largely the loss of letters and words. My cognitive abilities were not really damaged for me—I could understand everything, but I just couldn't come up with the words that I wanted to express. As a broadcaster, as a writer, it was just brutal. But, ironically, there's my 5-year-olds, teaching me how to speak again.

R: Can you talk about some of your struggles with mental health during your recovery?

BW: I did not have PTSD, but along with the memory loss, I also had depression. After you realize that this amazing recovery that gave you a form of happiness is not going to last forever, you begin to think about the difference between what you were and what you've become. There are kinds of therapy for that, and, in terms of aphasia, you get the most recovery based on trying to read more and think more. A lot of people say exercise is the way you get



the brain functioning again. The support of family and friends is always incredibly important, too.

R: What advice could you share for brothers struggling with depression or other challenges?

BW: It's a huge topic in this country right now. Part of the solution is engaging with people. In a perfect world, you could go back to Theta Chi and live there for a while. We older brothers can't actually go back and live at the house, but there is something to this idea of being engaged with people; we can't relive the experience, but we can still connect with each other, in person. Those friendships that we formed in the Fraternity are so important.

When we started the foundation for the veterans, a lot of that was to help with physical injuries. But we also learned about the invisible injuries and right now we concentrate a lot on mental care.

R: What are some of the Bob Woodruff Foundation's recent accomplishments?

BW: We now have a contact with groups in all 50 states that are doing something for veterans, so we've widened our outreach and ability to impact. There are about 22 million veterans and we've probably been able to help provide access to the programs that we've helped to back and to fund to 20 million of them.

This bomb, this injury was horrific and a negative impact on my life and my family's life, but one thing that was actually good that happened because of it was the ability to do something for the country and for the veterans. I encourage everyone to check out BobWoodruffFoundation.org to learn more.

R: Where do you get your news?

BW: I'm like everybody else, reading online, newspapers and magazines, books, and

audible.com. I don't really do much social media. I'm a big believer that the best news to me is when I go there and visit it. You don't really know the whole story and the big interpretation of it, unless you go there in person.

R: How do you think AI will affect your industry?

BW: It's affecting everything. I have no idea when I get something written to me whether AI wrote it or not. I think we're all getting addicted to it. Even something as simple as being able to research something lightning fast and get tiny facts in detail. Google was amazing, but now this one is even more impressive. My warning is that you must have multiple sources—don't believe it just because it's there. Our education system in the United States has got to really figure out what to do with today's students and how they are evaluated for achievement and success.



Bob Woodruff speaks with athletes playing in the USA Wheelchair Football League Veterans All-Star Game: Army vs. Navy/USMC in New Orleans in February 2025. The event was made possible through the collaboration of the Bob Woodruff Foundation, Move United, and the NFL. Since launching in 2020, the league has brought together over 300 veterans and 850 athletes and coaches. Photo Courtesy Bob Woodruff Foundation.



R: What's the biggest danger to broadcast journalism?

BW: Social media is now the big source of information for the younger generation. I think it's something like 70% of the young get their news off of Tik Tok than from broadcast. So ABC, CBS, even CNN and other cable networks have to figure out how to deal with it and how to get this information out because the younger generation doesn't sit and watch television—they get it all on their cell phones.

R: What can the general public do to try to help keep news honest, for lack of better words?

BW: Use multiple sources. If it's just one story and it's contained in a place that's already known as an advocacy channel, website, or social media source, it would be good to find another side of it and review it. Your news sources should be honest, well-researched, and balanced.

In law school, we had a thing called debate, where you have two sides to an argument and you don't get to pick which one you're going to do. You must win the competition, so you have to craft strong and deeply-thought arguments for your side. So, you may be extremely conservative, or you might be extremely liberal, but imagine arguing with all of your heart for the opposite of what you believe. People creating news programs know that it's most profitable to just argue one side of 'the debate.' The idea of balance is not profitable. In my opinion, ABC is more balanced than cable or social media, partly because it has to obtain an FCC license, but there are a million people who would argue the opposite.

In a perfect world, we'd get FOX News and CNN to compete against each other, but they would take the other side, just like debate in law school. I wonder if the reporters or the anchors could actually even do that without melting down into a pile. It would end up being reality TV!

R: Tell us about your recent trip back to Iraq.

BW: I wanted to go back and see what was happening with Iraq after that war that had changed so many lives. I met people who were with us when we got blown up, including the gunner who was on the



In 2023, ABC News releases the special "After the Blast: The Will to Survive," telling Bob Woodruff's story and his return visit to Iraq 17 years after his injury. Readers can follow Bob's journey and watch the special on Hulu. Photo courtesy Bob Woodruff Foundation.

top with us for protection. After we were hit, my cameraman Doug Vogt and I were both rushed off on the military helicopters and back to the hospitals; I wanted to meet the gunner because I never knew what had happened to him. I met him and learned he had lost his two middle fingers during the blast; they were curled around the metal grip of his weapon he was holding down by his groin. I asked him what would have happened if he hadn't held his weapon in that precise spot and he said, 'They probably would have been blown off, so that piece of metal saved my life!' So, I had to ask if he had any kids since that attack, and he said, 'Seven!' That's a hell of a good gun grip!

R: How did Theta Chi help you in your career?

BW: Some of my brothers were like me at the time and didn't really know exactly what we wanted to do. Having that acceptance from my peers without a lot of pressure was helpful. Meeting guys from different backgrounds and building a rapport is always a good skill for a reporter to have, too!

R: Advice for aspiring journalists?

BW: If you're in a war zone and there's an explosion, make sure you duck! (*laughs*.) You need to make sure that you're not basing your decision to do so based on income. This is not really the most highly paid thing. But, there are specialties in all forms of journalism, whether you like to write, you like to perform, you like to shoot, to

edit, to deal with audio, whatever you think you would like to do, go for it and pursue it. Don't try to go to the very top from the very beginning. Don't try to get to the *New York Times* for your first job writing articles. You're not going to be an anchor for CNN for your first job. You've got to start at a lower level and learn the process. Go to a small news station, or newspaper, or radio station and learn your voice and how to write. You need to make sure you really like doing it, especially when you're making very little money. It's a tough path to do it, but it's a different kind of job than going to an office. Just make sure you really like the path. It is a cool thing to do.

R: What is your definition of a Resolute Man?

BW: In some ways it's a form of consistency, and in another, I'll just call it 'goodness.' Some people ask me what we're going to see when we die—is there a heaven? Is there a hell? Let's just say you believe that there's a heaven and a hell. You always want to do good because then you get to go to the good side. If you don't believe, then to some degree it's irrelevant how you behave and what you do. But what is there to lose to be good, to do good, to treat people well and with respect?

I think every study shows people that doing good, and consistently doing so, is the most satisfying part of life and it keeps you out of depression better than any other possible therapies. That's part of what the foundation of the Fraternity is. That's what Theta Chi is, the idea that, yeah, we have a hell of a lot of fun and we have great friendship, but there's also this idea of trying to serve and you don't have to be a brilliant scientist or a well-studied psychologist to really know all of the positive outcomes that will result from serving others and doing good. I think that's a definition of Resolute.

None of us is perfect, and there are plenty of flaws and sins in everything else that we do. It's hard to keep it consistent, but I think sometimes it feels best to do something for someone. I can say firsthand, it's been remarkably satisfying for me to do something for the veterans who've risked a lot. ■



ETA/RHODE ISLAND brothers (left) partner with Sigma Delta Tau to raise \$29,315 to support Mallory's Army, P.S. I Love You, The Chris Collins Foundation, and The Jordan Porco Foundation. (Right) They also volunteer at Jonnycake Center for Hope in Wakefield, RI, assisting in assembling over 150 bags of food for their SMILE Program, an initiative that increases food security for K-12 students in need.



PHI/NORTH DAKOTA STATE brothers help the Capstone Classical Academy unload two semi-trucks full of furniture into their permanent campus.



ALPHA LAMBDA/OHIO STATE brothers raise \$38,000 during BuckeyeThon Dance Marathon.



ALPHA MU/IOWA STATE brothers host the Iowa State University president for dinner at the house (left). (Above) They also partner with the brothers at **GAMMA TAU/DRAKE** for a tandem cleanup event.



BETA THETA/DREXEL's Michael McCurdy (2028) represents Theta Chi in Delta Phi Epsilon's Deepher Dude Fundraiser event supporting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The event raised over \$29,000.



BETA RHO/ILLINOIS WESLEYAN's Caleb Martinez (2027) and his freelance company, Bear SEO Services, win the Titan New Venture Challenge and a cash prize.



GAMMA DELTA/FLORIDA SOUTHERN's Alex McManus (2026) and **Brian von Suskil** (2027) receive the Sheriff's Commendation Award after saving Terry Dennis' life by performing CPR after he collapsed at a Lakeland, FL, McDonald's.



DELTA THETA/TOLEDO's Luis Martino (2025) (left) is elected IFC President and **Nathan Simpkins** (2025) is elected VP of Judicial Affairs during IFC Executive Board Elections. Brothers also partnered with Alpha Omicron Pi to pack care packages for veterans.

ALPHA NU/GEORGIA TECH's Brock Spence (2024) and **Jason Zou** (2024) won Best Overall Industrial Engineering Project at the College of Engineering Capstone Expo.

ALPHA PHI/ALABAMA partnered with Greek Gives to host a crawfish boil to raise \$4,500 for the USO.

GAMMA TAU/DRAKE brothers helped build a roof with Habitat for Humanity. In addition, they partnered with the James Arthur Albert Foundation to fundraise for children in Belize to attend high school, raising \$22,400. This spring, **JJ Bauer** (2024) had the pleasure of traveling to Belize with their chapter adviser and seeing the impact of their fundraising efforts of the previous year.

ZETA ALPHA/SLIPPERY ROCK received the 2024 Academic Excellence Award and 2024 Excellence in Recruitment, Intake, and Retention Award at their FSL Awards Ceremony. **John Grimm** (2026) also received the individual 2024 Ambassador of the Year award!

ZETA EPSILON/LONG BEACH STATE held a week long event in support of the USO. Alpha Phi won dodgeball while Tri Delta was the overall winner.

ZETA KAPPA/OHIO NORTHERN took home Gold Chapter in Standards of Excellence and Outstanding Philanthropic Project from the 2025 Greek Awards Banquet hosted by Order of Omega. Additionally, **Evan Fisher** (2025) took home Outstanding Greek Man of the Year.



BETA ALPHA/UCLA brothers volunteer at the Collins & Katz YMCA Fire Relief Donation Center to support the wildfire recovery efforts in West Los Angeles.



CHAPTER NEWS

EPSILON RHO/RIDER (right) sweeps the 2025 Greek Awards: Not only did they bring home Chapter of the Year, Chapter President **Jason Aretino** (2026) won Fraternity Man of the Year; their Marshal, **Owen McCaron** (2026) won Campus Leader of Distinction; Chapter Secretary **Joe Rankel** (2027) won Emerging Leader of the Year; Treasurer **Evan Schwantes** (2026) won 2025/2026 Greek Council President; and their Chapter Adviser Timothy "Triv" Trivisonno won Adviser of the Year.



THETA ETA/SAM HOUSTON's Hadyn Pleasant (2027) is named Fraternity and Sorority Life Man of the Year.

ETA TAU/CSU-STANISLAUS brothers raise \$2,200 during their annual two-day Row-a-Thon to support the USO.

ETA MU/FINDLAY's chapter rebuild continues! They initiated six brothers and grew to nine total by the end of fall 2024. The chapter thanks their alumni who have extended their Helping Hands throughout this process and the brothers from **ZETA KAPPA/OHIO NORTHERN** who assisted with initiation. For the holiday season, they tabled and sold hot chocolate and used the proceeds to donate over 120 Christmas cards to the USO, nursing home residents, and university faculty and staff.

Alumni brothers, please contact Director of Growth Sam Terry at sterry@thetachi.org if you are interested in becoming involved with the Fraternity's expansion efforts.





ZETA EPSILON/LONG BEACH STATE brothers volunteer at Los Angeles Food Bank to help package thousands of boxes of food for families, children, and senior citizens in the Los Angeles area.



ETA DELTA/BABSON brothers partner with Kappa Kappa Gamma to assemble 40 skateboards for Ludus Pursuit, a nonprofit organization equipping under-resourced children with the tools needed to pursue their passion for sports.



KAPPA RHO/FAU brothers collect and organize toys for Dino's Toy Drive at Sway Nightclub during the holidays.



IOTA BETA/MISSOURI STATE's Carlos Abrams (2026) (right) is named 2024 Homecoming King, succeeding 2023's king, **Matthew Muldoon** (2023) (left). Abrams is the fifth brother in six years to hold the title.



IOTA ETA/PACIFIC (center left) Brother **Arilius Khim's** (2026) team wins first place at the Tiger Trade Show during the Pacific Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit (PIES) for developing SAVORA—a smart, automated spice dispenser designed to bring global flavors and culinary precision into a single sleek kitchen device.

ETA OMICRON/NORTHWESTERN STATE brothers helped the First Baptist Church with their annual Operation Christmas Child by moving 235 cartons of 15 shoe boxes each totaling 3,525 shoe boxes.

THETA NU/ROWAN brothers organized a food drive where they were able to collect over 200 food items for the Glassboro Samaritan Center.

IOTA PSI/RIT brothers participated in the Polar Plunge and raised over \$1,150 in support of the Special Olympics.

KAPPA THETA/SUNY GENESEO brothers repainted, restained, and retied rope bridges at Tree Creations, a local nature attraction in support of the owner following a recent disability.

KAPPA XI/ALBANY brothers helped sort cans and bottles at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society with funds raised from recycling going to aid the facility and pets up for adoption.

Celebrating 100 Years of Brotherhood at Alpha Rho



BY SCOTT TURK, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Seattle is easily one of America's most incredible cities and is home to the University of Washington. The campus is set near the coast with Mt. Rainier in the background, and the city provides fantastic scenery, an abundance of things to do, and sites to see. It had been nearly 13 years since I left Seattle. In 2013, I was on the Field Staff and part of the team tasked to recruit brothers to revitalize Alpha Rho Chapter. It was interesting to say the least; the three of us lived in the chapter house—one that could easily house over 50 brothers. It was a constant reminder of why we were there and to keep the spark of Theta Chi going at UW. I was fresh out of college, and working for the Fraternity was my first post-graduate job. It proved to be the most fun, yet challenging work I had completed. We worked hard and recruited an incredible group of men to bring the chapter back to life on campus. The group was filled with exceptional leaders from all different backgrounds.

Arriving back at the chapter house so many years later, it was surreal to be there to celebrate Alpha Rho's Centennial. Immediately walking into the house, nostalgia was everywhere as I recalled living there many years ago. The house looked almost the same, maintaining its character that distinguished it as one of the top fraternity houses in the country. It was rewarding to see it alive again, with over 100 other brothers celebrating. International President Toby Roth discussed the need for all of us to contribute to the Fraternity—even years after graduation. Alpha Rho exemplified this with brothers of all ages from different class years.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the reunion was the opportunity to engage in substantive conversations with brothers across different eras of the chapter's history. Alumni from the 1980s and 1990s shared insights on how the chapter navigated various cultural transitions on campus. Their perspectives provided valuable context for understanding the chapter's resilience and adaptability.

One thing remained evident: no matter a brother's graduation date, his major, or city of residence, brotherhood brought together people from all walks of life to make an epic evening. It proved that true brotherhood, founded on shared values and common purpose, transcends the boundaries of time and circumstance.

At that moment, I realized how exciting it was to be back working for Theta Chi, now with the Foundation Chapter. Theta Chi is undeniably unique, and we should all be proud of the work we each contributed to our individual chapters. However, we must also understand that our work is never finished. It became clear to me that our history, traditions, and ideals must be preserved for the decades, or in the case of Alpha Rho (and many of our other chapters), the centuries yet to come. It is up to each of us to make "Theta Chi for Life" more than just a passing phrase.

While we experience new challenges at an International level, our brotherhood will always be a substantive and necessary part of developing future Resolute Men. The best way to preserve these experiences is by volunteering, contributing, and investing in future brothers. I urge you to join me in supporting Theta Chi to continue to positively impact young men—now and in the future.

Inset: International President Toby Roth visits with Alpha Rho alumni and guests. Above right: Brothers begin to gather in the courtyard of Alpha Rho's Chapter House to celebrate 100 years at the University of Washington.





2023/2024 Top Donors

Planned gifts, estate gifts, one-time gifts, and montly recurring gifts all combine to make a huge difference for our brothers. We acknowledge these generous brothers and thank all who made a gift!

1. **Sean M. DonCarlos** (Gamma Upsilon/Bradley 2003) \$255,696.00
2. **Ronald D. Pearce** (Rho/Illinois 1956) \$200,000.00
3. **William R. Dahlgren** (Beta Lambda/Akron 1955) \$50,000.00
4. **Rodger H. Comstock** (Epsilon Nu/CSU-LA 1965). \$25,000.00
5. **Steven J. Mudder** (Gamma Rho/Florida State 1995). \$20,071.65
6. **Bob L. Sasser** (Gamma Rho/Florida State 1973) \$20,000.00
7. **Michael D. Roe** (Alpha Upsilon/Nebraska 1986) \$13,000.00
8. **M. Walt Davis** (Delta Upsilon/Arizona State 1965). \$11,860.52
9. **Vance K. Maultsby** (Delta Phi/North Texas 1974) \$11,500.00
10. **Dru A. Neikirk** (Gamma Upsilon/Bradley 1988). \$10,000.00
11. **Herbert W. Morgan, III** (Theta Iota/UC-Santa Cruz 1988). . . \$10,000.00
12. **Kirby V. Montgomery** (Alpha Phi/Alabama 1975) \$6,262.92
13. **Justin F. Brown** (Alpha Delta/Purdue 1997) \$6,196.04
14. **Donald L. Otvos** (Theta Mu/CSU-East Bay 1993). \$6,000.00
15. **Vance J. Hinton** (Alpha Delta/Purdue 1980). \$5,500.00
16. **Philip P. Pappas, Ph.D.** (Beta Chi/Allegheny 1979) \$5,199.17
17. **James J. McMahon** (Zeta Epsilon/Long Beach State 1979) . . \$5,139.49
18. **Christopher G. Oprison** (Beta Alpha/UCLA 1994) \$5,000.00
19. **Brent D. Layton** (Delta Beta/Georgia 1989) \$5,000.00
20. **Jeffrey W. Mahony** (Beta Alpha/UCLA 1989) \$5,000.00
21. **Byron C. Vielehr** (Beta Theta/Drexel 1987). \$5,000.00
22. **George A. Turnbull** (Gamma Rho/Florida State 1990) \$4,068.40
23. **David H. Pace** (Alpha Eta/North Carolina 1956). \$4,000.00
24. **Kevin R. Mack** (Zeta Pi/Old Dominion 1989) \$3,856.00
25. **Peter S. Mackey** (Alpha Phi/Alabama 1978). \$3,558.30

Gifts made between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.



Gifts to the Foundation Chapter help provide scholarships and support leadership education training for Theta Chi brothers and chapter officers.

Use the attached envelope or scan the QR code to extend your Helping Hand!



Will You Leave a Legacy for Theta Chi?

The Legacy Society of Theta Chi is a collection of men who have a vision for a perfect brotherhood to grow and thrive. These brothers made Theta Chi a part of their estate planning and remembered the Fraternity in their wills. Their Helping Hands ensure the ideals of Theta Chi perpetuate to the next generation and beyond. When joining the Legacy Society, you will know the good work you do today will continue tomorrow.

Contact John Berghoff at jberghoff@thetachi.org to leave your legacy!

The Legacy Society

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| Elmer L. Ahlwardt, Jr.
(Gamma Rho/Florida State 1973) | Mark T. Geenen
(Eta Omega/Chico State 1983) |
| Douglas M. Allen (Delta Beta/Georgia 1990) | Peter J. Granz
(Beta Tau/Southern California 1957) |
| Howard R. Alter, Jr.
(Omega/Penn State 1941) | Walter C. Gutjahr, Jr.
(Gamma Theta/San Diego State 1956) |
| Creig Andreassen (Alpha Pi/Minnesota 1990) | William A. Haggstrom
(Alpha Pi/Minnesota 1958) |
| J. Ronald Atchley (Eta Rho/Centenary 1975) | Dr. James D. Hardwick
(Phi/North Dakota State 1987) |
| Phillip E. Bailey
(Eta Omega/Chico State 1983) | Walter C. Harrison
(Alpha Epsilon/Stanford 1926) |
| John M. Barker
(Alpha Upsilon/Nebraska 1931) | William C. Hart (Mu/California 1944) |
| Allyn R. Bell, Jr. (Kappa/Pennsylvania 1931) | George W. Hesdorfer
(Beta Alpha/UCLA 1939) |
| Carlton F. Bennett
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| Kyle R. Blake (Phi/North Dakota State 1989) | Paul G. Hohmann (Delta Psi/Kansas 1993) |
| Dean A. Black (Delta Pi/Indiana State 1987) | L. Albert Hon (Tau/Florida 1980) |
| Sherwood Blue (Alpha Iota/Indiana 1926) | Eric R. Jayaweera
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| James B. Boggs
(Delta Epsilon/Miami (FL) 1958) | Danny P. Kaiser (Alpha Mu/Iowa State 1976) |
| Harry E. Bonner (Beta Chi/Allegheny 1956) | Royce A. Keehr
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| Hollis D. Brown (Sigma/Oregon State 1939) | Robert C. Kitchen (Beta Theta/Drexel 1949) |
| P. Alan Bulliner (Beta Sigma/Lehigh 1965) | Willis P. Lanier
(Alpha Nu/Georgia Tech 1927) |
| Hon. Dennis A. Cardoza
(Alpha Psi/Maryland 1981) | Jeffrey C. Lovejoy
(Eta Lambda/Virginia Tech 1988) |
| Andrew L. Carr (Delta Phi/North Texas 1985) | Cory C. Loveless
(Phi/North Dakota State 2012) |
| George W. Chapman, Jr.
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Patrick T. O'Connor (Chi/Auburn 1978)

Cal Organ (Lambda/Cornell 1970)

Nicholas J. Osenberg
(Delta Omega/Ripon 2011)

James C. Otis (Gamma/Maine 1969)

Philip P. Pappas, Ph.D.
(Beta Chi/Allegheny 1979)

Ronald D. Pearce (Rho/Illinois 1956)

James E. Perkins (Mu/California 1920)

Carl D. Peterson
(Alpha Pi/Minnesota 1984)

Mace H. Phillips, Jr.
(Alpha Nu/Georgia Tech 1952)

Roger D. Pinneo
(Alpha Rho/Washington 1957)

Col. Wilson B. Powell
(Alpha Omega/Lafayette 1933)

Shawn T. Prohaska
(Delta Omicron/Gettysburg 1989)

Lt. Col. Mark D. Ratliff
(Beta Zeta/Michigan State 1988)

Carl V. Raysin (Eta Phi/Oakland 2003)

Donald M. Redmond
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Daniel P. Reilly (Alpha Pi/Minnesota 1993)

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Leon W. "Buzz" Stroud
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Dr. Jon B. Suzuki
(Beta Rho/Illinois Wesleyan 1968)

William H. Suter (Beta Delta/Rutgers 1943)

Dan F. Sweet (Zeta/New Hampshire 1940)

N. Kevin Tavakoli (Chi/Auburn 2002)

Thomas N. Thompson (Rho/Illinois 1998)

William H. Thomas
(Alpha Phi/Alabama 1963)

John R. Vispo (Zeta Pi/Old Dominion 1972)

Charles H. Wickersham (Delta Phi/
North Texas 1963)

Jimmy M. Wall (Alpha Phi/Alabama 1951)

Dr. J. Michael Wieting
(Eta Rho/Centenary 1978)

Victor Yates
(Gamma Rho/Florida State 1964)

Russell D. Yoder
(Beta Omicron/Cincinnati 1939)

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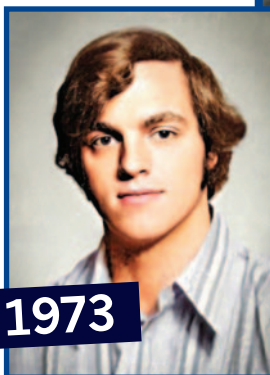
For The Kids

Penn State Theta Chis and the World's Largest Student-Run Philanthropy

BY GREG RUSH, ASSISTANT EDITOR

When **Bill Lear** (Omega/Penn State 1973) helped launch a dance marathon at Penn State in 1973, it wasn't out of grand ambition or a desire to start a legacy, so much as it was out of necessity. As the IFC President at the time, Lear found himself navigating a turbulent era marked by anti-war protests, race riots, and a growing mistrust in traditional institutions—Greek life included.

"The world was changing, we were losing chapters, and we were losing traditions," he said. After a string of failed initiatives, including a canceled All-American football event and a Sugar Bowl trip that went belly-up, Lear and his IFC board were desperate to prove



1973

Then: Bill Lear



Now: Dr. Bill Lear
(Omega/Penn State 1973)

that the Greek community at Penn State could still make a meaningful impact.

So, in just three weeks, they created what they called the "IFC Dance Marathon," gathering approximately 30 student participants and raising a modest \$2,000 for The Arc of the United States (formerly known as the Association of Retarded Children). "I had a neighbor who was a babysitter, and she cared for a

child with Down syndrome," Lear explained. "It felt like a good thing to support."

While Lear and others were satisfied with the result, no one expected the dance marathon to continue, let alone evolve into a campus-wide movement. "We weren't trying to make it a tradition," he said. "But when the next IFC board brought it back, and then Panhellenic got involved, it just kept growing."

Now known as THON and benefitting the Four Diamonds Fund, the annual 46-hour dance marathon has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for families affected by pediatric cancer and is the world's largest student-run philanthropy. And while Dr. Lear remains deeply honored to be recognized for his role in its origin, he's always quick to redirect credit.

"I'm invited back most years, but I never want to take anything away from the students who make it what it is today. It's not about me—it's about the impact students can have on the world."

He recalled being honored at the 25th anniversary for exemplifying one of the Four Diamonds' core values—Wisdom, "I almost tripped over the 50-yard line receiving that award," he chuckled. "To this day, I'm not sure there was any wisdom in that decision—but I'm glad it all worked out for the better."



The original Dance Marathon raises \$2,000 for children with special needs.

Marathon Dance Aid For Retarded

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — A 1930s dance marathon staged by the Pennsylvania State University was won by two students who stayed on their feet for 29 hours, 52 minutes and received the \$300 first prize.

Cris Guenter of Smethport and Samuel Walker of Exton outdanced 38 other couples during the marathon sponsored by the Interfraternity Council for the benefit of the Butler Sheltered Workshop for retarded children. More than \$2,000 was raised.

Photo by Brayden
Kushner, Penn
State University.



2024/2025



Keegan Sobczak
(Omega/Penn State 2025)

the Bryce Jordan Center at Penn State once again became the epicenter of hope and unshakable community spirit. Led by executive director Keegan Sobczak throughout 2024/2025, THON shattered records by raising \$17,737,040 for the fight against childhood cancer.

"As I stood on stage and read the final total aloud, I was overwhelmed by the emotion of the moment," Keegan said. "The excitement, the love, the support; it all culminated in that number, but behind it were thousands of volunteers and millions of moments that made it possible."

Under the banner of this year's theme, "A Home for Hope," Keegan and his team of student leaders guided more than 16,500 volunteers through a year of fundraising, awareness events, and personal connections with families impacted by childhood cancer. From late-night strategizing to early-morning logistics, Keegan played a key role in shaping the vision and impact of this extraordinary event.

For Keegan, the cause was deeply personal. Having experienced the impact of cancer diagnoses within his own family, he was drawn to THON's mission to provide emotional and financial support, spread awareness, and fund critical research. "Cancer is an evil disease that seeks to destroy lives," he said. "But through THON, we get to be part of the solution. We never know which dollar will be the one to find a cure—but this year, we raised over 17 million of them."

Throughout the journey, Keegan found unwavering support from his Omega Chapter brothers. "There were nights I came home exhausted, but there was always a brother there to ask how the day went," he said. "Even if

In 2025, more than five decades later, the same spirit of initiative and service continued through **Keegan Sobczak** (Omega/Penn State 2025).

Last February, deep in the heart of Happy Valley,

they didn't always understand the details of what I did, they supported me in every way that mattered."

Keegan also reflected on Theta Chi's motto of "an Assisting Hand" and how that ideal propelled him not only in THON, but in all areas of campus leadership. "When we have the ability to help others, we should. And when you have an entire brotherhood behind you with that same mindset, incredible things can happen."

"It's surreal to think that I was helping lead the very organization that Brother Bill Lear helped launch five decades ago," Keegan said. "It feels like I was continuing a legacy that was meant to be."

With the final total revealed, the line dances danced, and the lights of the Bryce Jordan Center dimmed for another year, Keegan closed a chapter of impact that will ripple forward for years to come.

Through the leadership and service of Keegan, Bill, and many others at Penn State, THON has raised more than \$236,000,000 since 1973. However, it's important to note that Keegan's story and Bill's story are not simply about leadership and service, but also brotherhood, tradition, and belief in a better tomorrow—For The Kids.



THON executive director Keegan Sobczak (Omega/Penn State 2025) reveals the final total raised during their 2024/2025 campaign. Scan the QR code to watch the reveal at the Bryce Jordan Center at Penn State.



Keegan Sobczak's team and all of the dancers get ready to kick off THON 2025. Photo by Jacob Sparages, Penn State University.



Dedicated Alumni Receive Earl D. Rhodes Theta Chi for Life Award

Two of Theta Chi's most stalwart alumni were recently presented Theta Chi's second-highest award for service to the Fraternity. The award is named in honor and in memory of Earl D. "Dusty" Rhodes (Delta/RPI 1921).

Michael J. Kistler (Epsilon Upsilon/Central Michigan 1973) was surprised with his award during a special dinner hosted in Savannah, GA, on January 18, 2024. Then-International President **Creig Andreassen**, then-International Vice President **Toby Roth**, Past International President **Pat O'Connor**, and CEO **Mike Mayer** had coordinated with Kistler's wife and traveled to make the presentation.

Kistler's professional journey took him from practicing law in Lansing, MI, to real estate development in Georgia, where he founded Development Associates, Inc. After connecting with International President Pat O'Connor, Kistler began his volunteer efforts with the Fraternity and offered advice on real estate, banking, and property development. He was appointed to serve on the board of directors of the Norwich Housing Corporation and continued to provide sound advice and strategy for a decade, and dedicated leadership for four years as its President. From 2012–2014, Kistler played a key role in identifying and acquiring Theta Chi's International Headquarters building in Carmel, IN.

Reflecting on his recognition, Kistler emphasized the value of leadership and brotherhood that Theta Chi fosters. His vision for the Fraternity's future focuses on continuing the positive programs and ensuring a safe, supportive experience for all members, helping them become strong leaders in their personal and professional lives.

William A. "Tony" Tetley (Epsilon Phi/Central Missouri 1967) was surprised a year later on January 15, 2025, when 35 brothers gathered at the Stadium Club in Columbia, MO, to honor him for his exceptional contributions. Under the guise of a typical alumni luncheon, the presentation was made by his chapter brother, CEO Mike Mayer (2004), who was joined by Past International Vice President **Tom "Bo" Tinnin** (1984) and Iota Mu Chapter Adviser **Dr. Reg Rogers** (Iota Psi/RIT 2021).

Tony's dedication to Theta Chi continued long after graduation, through service as a chapter adviser, alumni corporation officer, and Chairman of the Kappa Sigma Kappa/Theta Chi Alumni Scholarship for Epsilon Phi Chapter. When a group of students emerged in Columbia interested in starting Theta Chi at the University of Missouri in 2007/2008, Tony became an adviser and

helped establish their alumni corporation, guiding them toward installation as Iota Mu Chapter and beyond. Tony served the Fraternity as an Alumni Ambassador and has attended many leadership events to share his wisdom with other Theta Chi volunteers. Many brothers in Missouri recognize Tony as a "Mr. Theta Chi" and a paragon of brotherhood.

Tetley expressed deep gratitude and humility. "This award is as much yours as it is mine, and I share this recognition with all of you. This is an award for a lifetime of dedication to the Fraternity, but I didn't think I was doing anything special. I figured that's what I was supposed to do."

Congratulations to these brothers and we thank them for their remarkable and steadfast service to Theta Chi. Their examples inspire brothers across generations, proving that Theta Chi truly is for life.



Brothers gather in Savannah, GA, to surprise Mike Kistler in 2024.



Alumni and collegians of Epsilon Phi/Central Missouri and Iota Mu/Missouri gather to celebrate Tony Tetley in 2025.



MU/CALIFORNIA Brother **Charles Withuhn** (1972) is presented a 2023 Sidney Ann Gilpin Lewis Award in recognition of his efforts in leading the planning and construction of a mobile shower unit to benefit the homeless of Chico, CA, exemplifying the Fraternity's motto of "an Assisting Hand." **International Historian Jim McMahon** presented the award at a gathering hosted at the Eta Omega/Chico, CA, Chapter House.



BETA NU/CASE WESTERN'S **Craig Marvinney** (1979) recently serves as president of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel, an international organization of 1,500 elite trial attorneys defending corporations and insurers in civil claims. Among his duties, he served as an ambassador for the FDCC at other legal organizations around the world, speaking in Nice, at the World Insurance Congress in Melbourne, and across North America, including Hawaii, Vancouver, Miami, and many other sites along the way.

You Are Invited!

Alpha Omega Chapter Alumni cordially invite all Theta Chi brothers with family or friends attending Lafayette College to our reunion during **2025 Homecoming and Family Weekend**
September 27, 2025

Learn more at www.thetachi-alphaomega.org.
For information or to RSVP, email bog@thetachi-alphaomega.org



DELTA/RPI
Matt Patricia (1996) returned to coaching as Ohio State's new defensive coordinator.

IOTA/COLGATE
CEO **Mark Murphy** (1977) retired from the Green Bay Packers after 18 seasons.



PHI/NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Robert Grant (1971) received the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives' Gaylord Olson Cooperator Award.



Robert Grant

RHO/ILLINOIS
Chuck Davis (1967) will be representing the 80+ age group in the National Championship of USA Pickleball this fall.



ALPHA IOTA/INDIANA
Andrew Howerton (2008) joined the team over at HATCH as chief operating officer, bringing more than 15 years of experience in food and agribusiness.



ALPHA XI/DELAWARE



TCNJ Director of Student Life **Dave Conner** (2003) was selected as the 2025 Northeast Greek Leadership Association Compass Award for Distinguished Past Volunteer Honoree. This prestigious recognition celebrates his outstanding contributions to NGLA and his unwavering dedication to fostering leadership, education, and community.



Shaun Savage (2006) was recognized by the San Diego Voyager for the successes of his 2014 logistics startup, GoShare.

ALPHA TAU/OHIO



Art Krasilovsky (1978) was named Chapter Adviser of the Year by Ohio University.

John Jarosik (2020) was recognized as a milestone award recipient for Disney Vacation Club's fiscal year 2024.



ALPHA PHI/ALABAMA

Norwich Housing Corporation board member **Mike Ross** (1986) was recently appointed to serve on the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Birmingham Branch board of directors.



BETA KAPPA/HAMLINE



Former Leadership and Education Consultant **Cory Olson** (2001) was recently selected as a 2024 Attorney of the Year by

Minnesota Lawyer.

BETA NU/CASE WESTERN

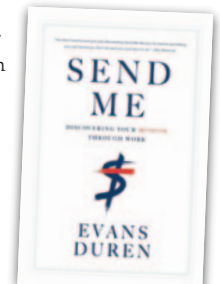
Past Colley Award Recipient **Dan Neumann** (2009) started a new position as Co-Director of Student Services and Advising at Cornell Law School.

BETA PSI/PRESBYTERIAN



Evans Duren (2005) authored and published *Send Me: Discovering Your Mission Through Work*, a self-help book

designed to help readers examine their relationships between professionalism and faith. Available on Amazon.





Hillis is Inaugural Distinguished HOF Inductee

In spring 2024, former Foundation Chapter board member **Mark Hillis** (Gamma Rho/Florida State 1964) and his wife Nan were both recognized by the fraternity and sorority community at Florida State. Nan was inducted into Florida State University's Greek Hall of Fame and Mark was named the inaugural inductee into FSU's new Distinguished Greek Hall of Fame!

Recognizing lifetime achievement, FSU created the Distinguished Greek Hall of Fame to honor alumni who, with their enduring contributions, have left a legacy on the Greek life community.

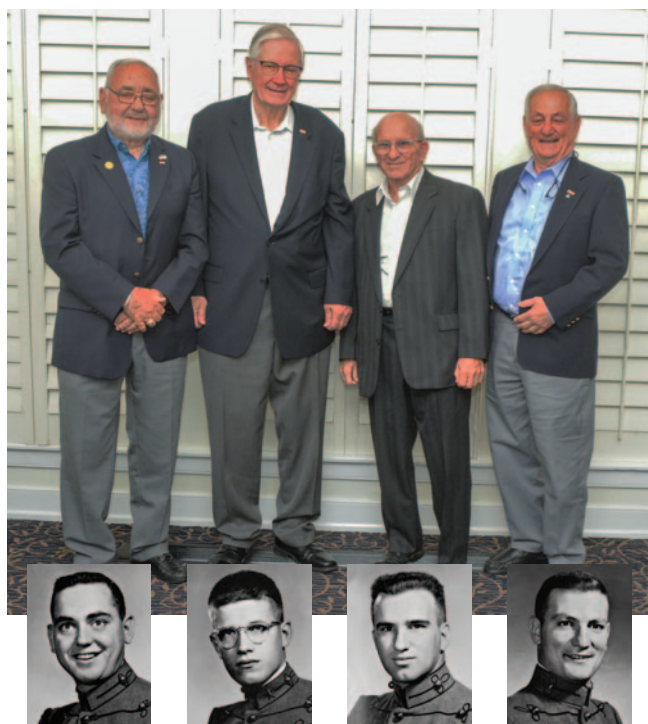
Mark's unwavering dedication has profoundly shaped Greek life and student life at Florida State University. He has been a distinguished alumnus and a former member of the FSU Board of Trustees. Mark's commitment to FSU and its students is truly exceptional. Notably, he was one of the most steadfast supporters of Greek life during the challenging moments of the indefinite interim suspension that occurred in the FSU community in 2017. In fact, Mark was one of the members of FSU's Board of Trustees who led the reshaping of the community because he believed in it and the students. He believed that they could change and commit to doing so and was willing to invest in the Greek life community in any way possible.

His decades of service on numerous FSU boards and remarkable philanthropic contributions alongside his wife have embodied the spirit of selfless dedication, and he is a primary reason why the fraternity and sorority community still exists at Florida State.

Brother Hillis' service and talents have helped Theta Chi thrive in Tallahassee and his work while serving on the Foundation Chapter has helped Theta Chi to thrive throughout the world. His commitment to our ideals and his well-deserved induction are 'Seminole Achievements' and examples for all brothers to follow. We thank Mark and Nan for their legacy of leadership and service!



GAMMA PSI/PUGET SOUND: After being recognized in King Charles III's 2024 New Year Honours List as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to the Royal Air Force in the United States and the United Kingdom, Group Captain **Kevin Billings** (1977) is presented his award by King Charles at Buckingham Palace.



Epsilon Gamma/Pennsylvania Military College 1962 class brothers (L-R): John Nothwang, Morrie Spang, Bob Pinto, and Joe Berarducci.

EPSILON GAMMA/WIDENER: Morrie Spang (1962) reports that four brothers attended a reunion of the 1962 class of Pennsylvania Military College: **John Nothwang** (1962), **Morrie Spang**, **Bob Pinto** (1962), and **Joe Berarducci** (1962). Brother Spang shares, "Our class has an annual reunion and the four of us have a mini-reunion!"



GAMMA RHO/FLORIDA STATE's International Secretary Dr. James Black (2008) completes his term as president of the Georgia Council of Graduate Schools, culminating in hosting the organization's annual conference at Georgia Tech. The event brought together nearly 100 higher education professionals from across the state and featured panels, student research presentations, and breakout sessions focused on innovation and advancement in graduate education.



GAMMA KAPPA/MIAMI (OH) Mike "The Miz" Mizanin (2003) is the new host of American Gladiators.

GAMMA RHO/FLORIDA STATE Ryan Becker (2010) was a panelist at the Santa Clara Sports Law Conference and discussed the crucial role attorneys play in representing sports brands.



Justin Casey (2014) started a new position as vice president of legal and business affairs at Elevate.

From Loss to Legacy

BY WESLEY K. WICKER, ED.D. (ALPHA PHI/ALABAMA 1979)

Sheree and Richard Phillips were proud of their son **Harrison** (Alpha Phi/Alabama 2017) when he chose to attend the University of Alabama, all the way across the country from their home in Newport Beach, CA. "He picked Alabama because of the football program, the campus, and the Greek system," Richard remembered. "And while I'd never joined a fraternity myself, we were pleased when Harrison joined Theta Chi."

Richard continued, "He made so many great friends, and we enjoyed visiting the campus during football game weekends and coming over to the chapter house. Everyone was always so nice to us. We became great friends with 'Aunt Kathy,' Theta Chi's housemother. Harrison had a great experience as a brother in Theta Chi."

By all accounts, Harrison was a popular brother and enjoyed his four years on campus. "Everyone in the chapter liked Harrison," Housemother Kathy Murphy recalled. "He was a sweetheart."

Tragedy struck just a week after Harrison's graduation. He'd returned home to Newport Beach, where he was involved in a fatal motorcycle accident when a truck ran a red light.

"Harrison had been a bike rider all his adult life," his father recalled. "He was a safe driver. But the other vehicle didn't yield. It's taken Sheree and me a long time to recover from our loss. You never forget. It is hard to explain."

Five years after their tragedy, the Phillips returned to the University of Alabama to turn every parent's nightmare, a tragic loss, into a positive legacy. The Phillips Family Foundation has established the Harrison Phillips Scholarship in honor of their late son and our brother.

To date, 20 brothers have been recipients of the scholarship since its inception in 2022.

"Every brother who receives the scholarship considers it a great honor," commented Chapter President Cooper Griffin. "I am a former recipient, and it's one of the prominent awards that I list on my resume."

To complete the legacy of Harrison Phillips, last fall the chapter voted to initiate his father as an Alumnus Initiate of Theta Chi. All of the current and former scholarship recipients attended a dinner hosted by the chapter immediately after the initiation ceremonies.

"I was impressed by the seriousness of the ceremonies," Richard commented. "It was truly an honor to become a member of my son's fraternity, where he spent so many happy days with his best friends."

As the Phillips were finishing their dinner with the scholarship recipients, Sheree turned and realized they were sitting right under Harrison's senior composite that was on the wall behind them. "This was a magic evening for us," Sheree said. "Harrison was here with us tonight. To meet all of these fine young men was personally rewarding. And we hope, through these scholarships, that Harrison's name will live on in Theta Chi."



Sheree and Richard Phillips catch up with Housemother Aunt Kathy and Alpha Phi Chapter President Hardy Mountcastle below Harrison's composite.



Harrison Phillips



Our Plans for an Overhaul in Oxford

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



After 54 years, Gamma Kappa plans for an upgrade.

After 54 years, the Gamma Kappa Chapter House at Miami in Oxford, OH, is getting a needed overhaul. We've begun the first capital campaign in the chapter's history. This is a worthwhile project, as 74 collegiate brothers make Theta Chi the eighth largest of 24 fraternities on campus; and the chapter's 3.29 GPA ranks in the top third among Miami's fraternities. It's now time the physical structure of the house caught up with the quality of its residents.

Though the chapter is financially sound, the amount of money needed for this upgrade requires major dollars, as we plan to add another 4,000 square feet to create a commons area, add more restrooms, six more resident rooms, and an alumni legacy room stocked with memorabilia, etc. We also plan a modern makeover to transform the current big box structure into something Gamma Kappa alumni will be proud to be associated with.

This metamorphosis will generate two additional benefits: an ability to compete with off-campus housing, thereby retaining upperclassmen for in-house leadership, and creating a facility equal to other fraternity houses on campus to improve our ability to attract quality pledge candidates. Our time frame: with a strong alumni response producing successful fundraising, construction should begin within the next two years and is scheduled to take a little over 18 months to complete.

We look forward to receiving contributions from Gamma Kappa alumni. Many brothers have stated that their years at Theta Chi on Miami's campus were some of the best years of their lives. It's time to put some of that money where the mouth and heart are. Because

though we can never truly pay Theta Chi back, we can now pay it forward!

Perhaps you've been fortunate and blessed with an abundance of wealth, but you did not attend Miami of Ohio. Rest assured, your contribution to this Theta Chi house will be put to responsible and beneficial use. To learn more or to make a gift, go to: oxgammakappahousing.com.

Lifelong Competition/Lifelong Brotherhood

BY GREG RUSH, ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gary Abbate (Eta Zeta/Edinboro 1976) and **Steve Muthler** (Epsilon Beta/Lycoming 1973) recently made waves at the YMCA Masters National Swim Meet, held May 8–11, 2025, at the Rosen Aquatic Center in Orlando, FL. Longtime teammates and friendly rivals in Masters League swimming, the two men swam alongside one another for years before realizing they also shared a bond of brotherhood through Theta Chi.

Abbate delivered a standout performance at the national meet, earning three gold medals, a silver, a bronze, and a fourth-place finish across individual events. Muthler held his own with a collection of medals, including a long-awaited gold in his 11th event, adding to three bronze, five silver, and three top-five finishes. Together, they joined teammates in relay events, claiming sixth in the mixed 200-medley relay and silver in the men's 200-medley relay.

Their friendship and competitive partnership have yielded impressive results over the years. At the 2022 YMCA Nationals, they captured gold in the men's 200-free relay, and in 2014, they helped secure a USMS Top 10 national ranking in the 200-medley relay. Now in their 70s, Abbate and Muthler continue to prove that brotherhood, fun, and fierce competition don't have to have an age limit.



Gary Abbate (left) and Steve Muthler make waves at Nationals.



Brown Earns Ed.D.

Dr. Jared Brown (Eta Zeta/Edinboro 1999) recently completed his Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership at Wilmington University. Dr. Brown was nominated and selected to serve as a 2024 student commencement speaker at the June 2, 2024, Wilmington University graduation ceremony, where he shared his thoughts on the importance of achieving first.

Dr. Brown holds a Bachelor of Arts (1999) and a Master of Arts (2001) in Communication Studies from Edinboro University and has over 20 years of experience in higher education, including roles in leadership and with the fraternity/sorority communities at Penn State and West Chester. In 2002, while working at Penn State, Brown answered the call for a Helping Hand and helped to initiate and guide a group of young men seeking to reestablish and revitalize Omega Chapter.

Dr. Brown's commitment to education is evident in his role as an adjunct professor at Delaware County Community College for over 10 years, teaching interpersonal communication and public speaking courses. He also serves as

the assistant dean of academic affairs, instruction, and assessment at Montgomery County Community College. He hosts the award-winning "MontCo on the Move" podcast, sharing stories from the college's students, staff, alumni, and community members.

Dr. Brown is a proud member of several honor societies and fraternities, Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor Society), Chi Sigma Alpha (Student Affairs Honor Society), and Alpha Alpha Alpha (National Honor Society for First-Generation College Students).

DELTA GAMMA/ WV WESLEYAN

Will McMinn (2005), a member of the 2003 conference championship football team, was inducted into the West Virginia Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame.



ZETA PI/OLD DOMINION

John Teeuwen (1992) has been tapped as a member of the ODU Alumni Association board of directors. John is a mortgage loan officer serving Virginia and North Carolina and serves on Zeta Pi's Alumni Board.



ZETA PSI/WESTERN ILLINOIS

Bob Eden's (1970) team, Northern Virginia Force 75, won the 2024 over-75 softball World Championship. Earlier in the tourney, they won the USA National Championship (which pits the Eastern champs against the Western champs). Bob's team also won the Eastern title earlier in the year. These three victories make his team 'Triple Grand Slam' winners. Bob said, "Doesn't happen often. Finally won this tourney after 24 years." He batted .639 with a slugging % of .928 for the year. "Not too bad for an old guy!" Bob said.



EPSILON SIGMA/WAGNER

Brian O'Neill (1996) was promoted to battalion chief in the FDNY.

EPSILON OMEGA/ SACRAMENTO STATE



Robert Rivinius (1968) serves as chairman of the board of Battlefields2Ballfields, a non-profit organization that provides

scholarships for military service members (active duty or veteran) to become an official in any sport.

ZETA XI/UC-DAVIS

Former Field Executive and Director of Education **Shaun Hamlin** (2017) was recently promoted to Server Account Executive 3 at Dell Technologies, covering Large Enterprise in Central Texas.



ETA BETA/ EASTERN KENTUCKY

Brig. Gen. Lawrence M. Muennich (1996) was appointed the 60th Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard by Governor Mike Braun in January 2025. The Adjutant General leads the over 12,000 soldiers and airmen



of the Indiana Army and Air National Guard. Brig. Gen. Muennich has served more than 32 years as an enlisted soldier and commissioned officer.

ETA OMICRON/ NORTHWESTERN STATE

Former LEC **Clarence Frank** (2000) was named the 2024 American Prize National Nonprofit Competition in the Performing Arts winner in the community orchestra division. He is the music director and conductor of the Baytown Symphony Orchestra in Baytown, TX, and has served in this post since January 2021.



IOTA NU/SOUTH FLORIDA



Dwayne Isaacs (2005) was recognized at the ACUI Community of Practice Annual Conference for Multi-Ethnic

Professionals and Allies (COMP) for his unwavering support and unrelenting guidance.

IOTA OMICRON/FIU

Alian Collazo (2017) was appointed chief executive of Commercial for the Miami Association of Realtors.





A Chapter So Nice They Celebrated Their 50th Thrice

BY AL CALARCO (ETA PI/EAST STROUDSBURG 1978)

It was the kind of fall weather a homecoming committee's dreams are made of: sunny skies, great temperature, and no rain in sight. It was also the weather you hoped for when planning a celebration of 50 years of brotherhood for Eta Pi Chapter. The chapter organized multiple events throughout 2024 to celebrate our 50th year beginning with a successful Red Carnation Ball (with record attendance), our 20th annual golf tournament (with record participation), and it all culminated with a memorable homecoming tailgate (with yet another record in attendance).

Our Homecoming weekend was amazing:

- Friendships reestablished, some after 40 years
- Charter Members in attendance, some returning for the first time since graduation
- The Memorial Ceremony was attended by over 100 brothers, family members of deceased brothers, and friends
- The tailgate had the largest ESU attendance on record, with many friends from other organizations stopping by to congratulate us.
- The presentation of the Sidney Ann Gilpin Lewis Award: This award is presented to chapters and individuals for exemplifying the Fraternity's motto of the Helping Hand. Last fall, when **Rich Green** (Omega/Penn State 1993) learned that he needed a new kidney, several of his friends and family members stepped forward as potential donors. Unfortunately, none of them were good genetic matches, including Rich's brother-in-law **Jason S. Kingsborough** (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg 1997). Undaunted, Jason readily agreed to a "paired match donation," and they were connected with another kidney donor in Los Angeles who was a better match for Brother Green—and had a loved one who was compatible with Brother Kingsborough. Their paired donation was the 100th of its kind at the University of Pennsylvania hospital in just 12 months! **International Historian James McMahon**, Chairman of the Lewis Award Committee, presented the award.
- Two current Grand Chapter members were present for the weekend. Our thanks to brothers McMahon and **International Vice President Alan Copeland** for participating in our celebration. Alan also attended our Red Carnation Ball the previous spring!



Jason Kingsborough (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg 1997) (left) receives the Sidney Ann Gilpin Lewis Award in recognition of his selfless participation in a "paired match donation" to help secure a kidney for his brother-in-law Rich Green (Omega/Penn State 1993) (right).

Whether it was the Red Carnation Ball, the golf outing, or homecoming (or a combination), our time together reminded us that Theta Chi is for Life, and worth celebrating. Special thanks to the brothers who planned the events and gave of their time and their treasure to ensure success.

Alumni and collegiate brothers celebrate at Eta Pi's 50th Anniversary Red Carnation Ball.





Seven Honored at Delta Beta/Georgia's 75th

BY WESLEY K. WICKER, ED.D. (ALPHA PHI/ALABAMA 1979)

Delta Beta Chapter celebrated its 75th anniversary at the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta on August 29, 2024. In attendance was **Robert E. Brown** (1950), Charter Member and Roster Number 1 and the first President of the newly installed chapter in 1949. Brother Brown was a World War II veteran of both the U.S. Army and the Navy before enrolling in college.

"I think I was elected President because I was a few years older than the other members at the time," recalled Brother Brown. Brother Brown's surprise attendance received a prolonged standing ovation from alumni and guests. "It occurs to me, at 99 years old, I'm responsible for everyone being here tonight! You honor me with your presence."

Also in attendance was Delta Beta's very own **Doug Allen** (1990), who had served as the Fraternity's International President from 2008–2012.

In addition, seven alumni were presented the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Grand Chapter to recognize outstanding career achievement. Those honored included:

The **Hon. Chris Carr** (1995), current Attorney General for the State of Georgia; The **Hon. Arch McGarity** (1974), Council of the Supreme Court (retired); and The **Hon. Allen Keeble** (1967), Senior Circuit Court Judge, who retired after serving on the bench of Georgia's second highest court for 25 years. Also honored were **Alec Poitevint** (1969), CEO of Southeastern Minerals, Inc., a Bainbridge, GA, businessman, and a former chairman of the Georgia Republican Party and treasurer of the National Republican Committee; **Padgett Wilson** (1996), Director of Economic Development for the State of Georgia; **Brent Layton** (1989), former president of Centene, a healthcare products provider and a Fortune 500 Company based in St. Louis; and **Armistead Whitney** (1991), entrepreneur and CEO of Apptega, a cybersecurity management and compliance company.



Delta Beta's Distinguished Achievement Award recipients (L-R): Brent Layton (1989), Armistead Whitney (1991), Hon. Arch McGarity (1974), Hon. Allen Keeble (1967), and Alec Poitevint (1969).



Robert E. Brown

Delta Beta's original President Robert Brown gathers with other past Chapter Presidents who were in attendance at their 75th anniversary.



Blast from the Past

[Editor's Note: Sometimes running across a photo can bring back many great memories and that can be a spark that reunites good times with brothers. Here we share two such stories.]

Alpha Sigma/Oregon's Top Team and TOPGUN



BY MICHAEL JAMES RYAN, III (ALPHA SIGMA/OREGON 1977)

I'll never forget when I was initiated into the brotherhood of Theta Chi at Alpha Sigma Chapter at the University of Oregon on February 2, 1975. But another memory I'll always cherish is when we won three straight intramural football championships. Our 1977 team only had to punt once all season! I say with all humility, "We were pretty good!"

If you take a closer look at our championship photo taken right after our victory, you'll find a brother on the far left of the front row holding up a number one sign with his finger: **Jack Fields** (1977) from Ontario, OR. After graduating from Oregon, he joined the Navy and learned to fly, training in the T28C Trojan, T-2C Buckeye, and TA-4 Skyhawk. He was given the Call Sign "Coney" and he received his Navy wings in 1985 and was assigned to fly the Grumman F-14 Tomcat. During active duty, he flew the F-14, F-16 Viper, and A-4. He served in the Idaho Air National Guard, flying the F-4G Wild Weasel and A-10 Warthog. He had a career flying for UPS and one of his two sons joined the U.S. Marine Corps, flying Ospreys, while the other became a mechanical engineer.

In 1985, he was a RAG (Readiness Air Group) student and a TOPGUN pilot when the first *Top Gun* movie was filmed. He is in a number of scenes as real TOPGUN pilots were used as background extras. During the hangar scene with Kelly McGillis, he is one of the pilots behind Maverick and Goose as they explained how they had kept up foreign relations in a prior scene. During the graduation scene where the pilots are wearing their dress whites, as Tom Cruise walks by Brother "Coney," he pats Cruise on the shoulder and is in the shot as Viper hands out orders.

It's amazing how a simple photo can bring back so many great memories of all the great times we had together—and thoughts about the success we found after college. We had a special band of brothers and still do to this day. Theta Chi for Life!



The Alpha Sigma intramural football team was undefeated three years running and included Jack Fields (front left).



Jack "Coney" Fields (front center with glasses) with other active duty servicemen and actors appearing in Top Gun.



Seminole Sebring

BY JOHN MURPHY (GAMMA RHO/FLORIDA STATE 1974)

In 1972, I attended the Grand Prix race at Sebring for the first time. During the festivities, I posed for a photo with five other brothers who also attended: **Joe Sowinski** (1971), **Hal Greenman** (1971), **Craig Sowers** (1972), **Bill Magill** (1972), and **Charles Keller** (1972). Later that year, I submitted that picture to *The Rattle* and it was published in the Fall 1972 issue on page 25. In 2022, we recreated that picture for the 50th anniversary of the occasion. Sadly, Bill Magill, who was in the middle of the top row in the 1972 photo, had passed away years earlier. This year, we lost Craig Sowers who was on the top left of both photos. Attending the race was a tradition for many brothers and eventually the sons of Brother Sowers carried on for many years. Great memories. Great brothers. A great Fraternity.



ABOVE: The original photo in the Fall 1972 *Rattle*.
 LEFT: Joe Sowinski (1971), Hal Greenman (1971), John Murphy (1974). Top: Craig Sowers (1972), Bill Magill (1972), Charles Keller (1972).



Brother Fields can be spotted in other scenes in the original *Top Gun* movie.



CHAPTER ETERNAL

We share the names of our brothers reported to the International Headquarters between October 11, 2024, and April 27, 2025, as passing to the Chapter Eternal.

BETA

MIT

Chester G. Bell (1956)
William G. Franklin (1943)
Richard T. Obrien (1960)
Dr. Henry J. Rack (1964)
James R. Thompson (1979)

GAMMA

Maine

Harris E. Pendleton (1958)

DELTA

RPI

Albert S. Birks (1953)
Gunther Brunhuber (1958)
W. Everett Molony (1963)
Richard C. Packard (1962)
William H. Sackrider (1943)
Richard D. Watson (1941)
Roger W. Winslow (1957)

EPSILON

WPI

Thomas J. O'Connor (1955)
Ludwig P. Reiche (1943)
Joseph R. Weiss, Jr. (1942)

ZETA

New Hampshire

Theodore Belanger (2017)
Douglas C. MacKenzie (1958)
Donald F. VanDenBerghe (2022)

ETA

Rhode Island

Alexander Cruickshank (1943)
John T. Heelan, Jr. (1963)
Dr. Philip H. Monte (1941)
Angelo V. Morrone (1967)
James J. Prata (1961)
Edward P. Swanson (1969)

THETA

Massachusetts

Clarence N. Emery (1942)
H. Neil Harris (1964)
John Mastalerz, Ph.D. (1948)
Lt. Col. Paul Skogsberg (1941)

IOTA

Colgate

Hardin K. Davis (1937)
Bartholomew O'Conner (1957)
Peter A. Gates (1954)
Dr. Holley W. Reed (1944)
Fred M. Wright (1940)

KAPPA

Pennsylvania

Budd Burgunder, Jr. (1941)
Howard K. Dreizler (1953)

LAMBDA

Cornell

Warren Childs, III (1978)
William K. Menke (1960)
Allan C. Vesley (1953)
Gordon Youngwood (1955)

MU

California

Vernon D. Brammer (1945)
Col. Ronald J. de Golia (1959)

XI

Virginia

John W. Cutler (1955)
Harrison R. Magee (1950)
George C. Seward (1933)

OMICRON

Richmond

James L. Millner (1970)
William J. Nicoll (1991)
Rev. Jack Noffsinger (1940)
Walter Williamson, III (1977)

PI

Dickinson

Cody H. Brooks (1955)
George T. Hartzell (1942)
Bernard J. Keating (1941)
Rev. H. Paul Leap (1943)
Rev. A. G. Mower, Jr. (1940)
J. Richard Relick (1951)
Walter Zolner (1989)

RHO

Illinois

Edward L. Bentley (1940)
David R. Buschman (1939)

Donald O. Johnson (1941)
Ronald D. Parks (1959)
John S. Patterson (1964)

SIGMA

Oregon State

Robert D. Campbell (1961)
Thomas R. Conklin (1958)
Thomas S. Eaton (1966)
Lt. Col. George Epperson (1942)
Col. Reginald Fifer, Jr. (1944)
Richard C. Goheen (1958)
David R. Hockett (1963)
Howard A. Lanyon (1952)
Norman L. Myers (1957)
Lawrence B. Rauch (1959)
Raymond A. Rigert (1962)
Darwin P. Rosito (1964)
Gary E. Smith (1962)
Jack L. Sturza (1954)
William F. Tinney (1951)
Thomas Townsend (1964)
John J. Wittkopf (1943)

Distinguished Service Award Recipient Past Norwich Housing Corporation President

JAMES R. THOMPSON (BETA/MIT 1979)

December 3, 1956–November 19, 2024

After receiving the Colley Award in 1978, Jim graduated from MIT and went on to earn a Master of Architecture from Carnegie Mellon University. His tie to Western Pennsylvania through his high school, his major, his dry wit, and his membership in a single-letter chapter (among his other qualities) made him a favorite of then-Executive Director Howard Alter. Jim became a Regional Counselor and dutifully visited chapters in the old Region VI.

In the early 1990s, he assisted the Grand Chapter in researching potential locations for the International Headquarters in Indianapolis. Jim would appear at a site (over a dozen), tape measure and other devices in hand, and donate many unpaid hours. After identifying, inspecting, and assisting with the purchase of the

former Zeta Tau Alpha headquarters at 3330 Founders Road, Jim was instrumental in the remodeling of the building, including the acquisition of its modular boardroom table that could be assembled and reassembled into a number of pieces (much to the vexation of Brother Alter).

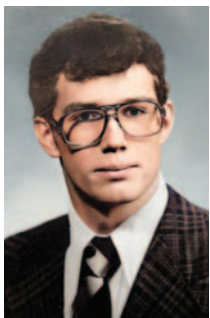
Jim was appointed to the National Board of Trustees in 1994 and served for 10 years, including two as its President. During his two terms, he oversaw several key initiatives including the NBT's repurpose and update as the Norwich Housing Corporation in 1997/1998 and the establishment of a fire safety loan program within the NHC. In addition,

Jim provided professional architectural advice to chapters and alumni corporations requesting assistance.

Jim was an accomplished architect with extensive experience in planning and design for educational, health-care, and residential projects primarily in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Jim also served as board president for Harrisburg School District and board vice president for Bellevue Park Association.

Jim was a recipient of two George T. Kilavos Alumni Awards (one presented by the Grand Chapter and the other by the Norwich Housing Corporation) and, in 2004, he was named the 122nd recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, the Fraternity's highest honor. The Earl D. Rhodes Theta Chi for Life Award was presented posthumously.

Though Jim was often the smartest man in the room, his humility rivaled his intelligence. **Former CEO and Past International Vice President Dave Westol** recalled, "Jim was quiet and remarkable and exemplified 'tolerance.' His swift wit, often concealed within a bland expression, reflected his wry view of life and our Fraternity. He was an example of leadership by asking excellent questions. Theta Chi is certainly better because of Jim Thompson."



**TAU***Florida*

Denny B. Dennison (1968)
Michael R. Flanagan (1962)
Scott L. Frampton (1971)
Harold P. Reddick (1960)

UPSILON*NYU*

Richard A. Rohrssen (1963)

PHI*North Dakota State*

Gary L. Dick (1955)
Edward H. Matthews (1957)
Keith E. Snortland (1970)
Lee A. Snortland (1973)
Alan J. Streifel (1985)

CHI*Auburn*

Col. James H. Boykin (1939)
James Hancock, III (1959)
John B. Harper (1953)
Robert J. Kloeti (1970)
Robert L. Mann (1976)
John G. Moore, Jr. (1945)
Joseph E. Noojin, Jr. (1942)
Franklyn S. Oertling (1962)
Charles R. Pair (1957)
Joseph F. Paschall (2018)
William S. Ragan (1969)
Dwayne C. Smith (1996)

PSI*Wisconsin*

Lawrence H. Alfery (1958)
James C. Barany (1958)
Robert J. Brennan (1967)
Robert O. Nicol (1942)
Thomas Oberhofer (1958)

OMEGA*Penn State*

Dominic Alisio (1954)
James V. Forsythe (1956)
Bruce E. Gerwig (1951)
George W. Herring (1967)
Dr. Marion Magalotti (1940)
William J. Mohan (1991)
Henry C. Suppan (1941)
Robert H. Sweeny (1982)

ALPHA BETA*Pittsburgh*

Robert D. Bausher (1941)
Leonard R. Wagner (1950)

ALPHA GAMMA*Michigan*

Harold K. Sperlich (1951)

ALPHA DELTA*Purdue*

William Bassett, Jr. (1998)
K. Michael Pierce (1975)

ALPHA EPSILON*Stanford*

Edward W. Cundiff (1941)
Edwin J. Rutledge (1957)

ALPHA ZETA*Rochester*

Richard C. Bensman (1956)
Keron O'Neill (1942)

ALPHA IOTA*Indiana*

Clarence G. Modjeski (1950)
Rex O. Stinson (1957)
John P. Zieg (1973)

ALPHA LAMBDA*Ohio State*

Darrell E. Baird (1977)
Richard E. Ferguson (1954)
Charles P. Haught (1966)
Victor E. Koblitiz (1954)
Dudley McDonald, Jr. (1968)

ALPHA MU*Iowa State*

Roderick P. Dodds (1939)
Jeff A. Harrison (2005)
Robert R. Harvey (1961)
Jack H. Kohrs (1941)
Vincent J. Morinello (1978)
John R. Sladkey (1954)
Peter R. Tuttle (1941)
H. Wayne Van Ness (1951)

ALPHA NU*Georgia Tech*

William A. Cashin, Jr. (1956)
Byron E. Hodnett (1967)
J. Vernon Nicodemus (1957)
Emmanuel Pasyanos (1957)
Joseph R. Primm (1966)
Brian W. Sanford (1957)

ALPHA XI*Delaware*

David M. Beininger (1961)
Lloyd A. Teitsworth (1966)
James F. Tingley, Jr. (1941)

ALPHA OMICRON*Washington State*

Harry W. Brynson, Jr. (1942)
Theodore J. Noble (1982)

ALPHA PI*Minnesota*

David H. Bennefeld (1969)
Dr. Richard Borstad (1958)
John R. Brynteson (1963)
Gregg E. Ericksen (1955)
James B. Jensen (1950)
Bernard J.E. Johansen (1957)
James L. Lindquist (1951)
Thomas H. Swain (1942)

ALPHA RHO*Washington*

James R. Mahaffie (1962)
Kenneth B. McGhee (1957)
Scott O. Simenstad (1937)

ALPHA SIGMA*Oregon*

Gerald M. Dodaro (1972)
Chad D. Maggio (1994)
William E. White (1941)

Automotive Innovator**HAROLD K. SPERLICH** (ALPHA GAMMA/MICHIGAN 1951)

December 1, 1929–January 20, 2025

Hal Sperlich's 31-year career in the automotive industry rejuvenated his hometown of Detroit and left an indelible mark on the roads and highways of America.

After three and a half years in the Navy, he began his automotive career with the Ford Motor Company in 1957. While at Ford, he worked with their vice president, **Lee Iacocca** (Beta Sigma/Lehigh 1945), in the development of what would become the Mustang. After numerous assignments over 14 years, he became a vice president, one of the youngest in history, as vice president of truck operations in 1971. In that role, he helped push Ford to a dominant position in light-duty trucks. Following the 1970s oil crisis and advent of higher gasoline prices, Hal also led the advanced development of the Ford Fiesta.

In 1977, Hal moved on to Chrysler as vice president of product planning and design. Shortly afterward, Lee Iacocca came to Chrysler and together, they saved the company. Hal led the development of the Chrysler K cars, and in 1981, he became president of Chrysler North American operations. He led the development of the industry's first minivan which was introduced in 1983 and gave Chrysler another significant win. Hal became president of Chrysler in 1984 and retired four years later in 1988, following an 11-year career that saw Chrysler's market share grow by 50% and the company move from near bankruptcy to solid profitability.

The highlight of his career was his election to the Automotive Hall of Fame; however, he remarked that he received the most gratification from seeing many thousands of Ford and Chrysler employees and dealers make it through difficult times.

The Winter 1993 issue of *The Rattle* featured an interview with Brother Sperlich where he discussed his career and team-ups with Brother Iacocca. "He was a visionary leader, a tough taskmaster, but always fun to work with." He also fondly recalled his collegiate days in Alpha Gamma Chapter and said, "Theta Chi influenced my life. The friendships, the songfests, and just doing things together. It was continually rich even sleeping in the windows-open dorm all winter!" He continued, "I believe the chapter instilled several common traits in us as individuals, and those traits would serve as good advice today: Be a hardworking, positive influence in all you undertake. Make a difference; it's the most important gift you can give yourselves and those who love you."



Sperlich (third from left) in the showroom with Lee Iacocca (second from right).



A Tribute to the Bonds of Brotherhood

PETER D. MCNAMEE (DELTA PI/INDIANA STATE 1983)

November 13, 1960–January 9, 2025

BY H. ERICK FAUST (DELTA PI/INDIANA STATE 1983)

We were lifelong best friends; we were college roommates, were in each other's weddings, shared the craziest adventures, and kept in touch nearly every day. Most importantly, we were pledge brothers who were initiated on December 9, 1979.

After our first year, Pete decided to leave ISU and forge his own path. Getting his electrical degree/certification, he quickly rose through the ranks at Long Electric to become a supervisor. At age 40, he decided to retire and begin a new chapter with his wife. They started their first company as brick masons, segueing into residential, business, and commercial construction. Quickly, their reputation earned them accolades and further business across the country. Within a few years, they had more than 200 people on their payroll.

Not ones to rest on their laurels, they started a nationally recognized horse farm while they started their masonry company. They bred, boarded, and trained award-winning horses. They invested in more land in order to accommodate their growing equestrian business and bought semi-trucks to transport horses all over the country.

As if that wasn't enough, they soon ventured into dog training and breeding. Their reputation became such that the Anderson, IN, Police Department contracted with them to breed and train German Shepherds for protective, recovery, and scent work. They also held classes for the public to train their dogs. They trained me and my dog so that she is the greatest dog that I have ever had. Their business grew rapidly, forcing them to buy a new facility which they remodeled into a state-of-the-art dog training center and event center.

A little over a year ago, Pete stopped by my house to buy a generator. Like usual, we talked for a couple of hours before loading the generator. Something struck me funny when Pete couldn't lift it. He was a large man and strong as a bull, yet I outlifted him. When he left, my wife mentioned that he looked as if he had lost weight and didn't look right. I thought the same thing but chalked it up to exhaustion due to his constant work.

A week later, he called me to say that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. I was shocked and mortified. He threw his typical determination into his treatment while maintaining his work schedule. I called him nearly every day to lend support and keep up on his progress. Last summer, I went over to his place to get a motorhome working. It didn't take long, so we sat in that motorhome and just talked for hours. That period in time was cathartic.

Coincidentally, the last house that he built was for our other pledge brother, **Brent Waymire** (1983). Once that house was finished, his decline began. Day by day, he sounded weaker. I tried to keep his spirits up with humor and optimism, but we both knew.

In early January, he was admitted to the hospital, and staff did a nerve ablation to mitigate the pain. They then sent him home where he could die comfortably. When his wife called me and asked me to help get him off of the floor and back into bed, I gladly and sadly complied. He knew I was there, but could barely utter anything but a guttural groan. So, I sat next to him and recalled the crazy times that we had, all the while with tears running down my face. I haven't shed a tear since my mom's passing, yet this brought it all out. I left as a blubbering mess and hugged his wife. When he passed, there was and still is an immense emptiness within me for the loss of my friend and brother.

He was the most benevolent badass whom I've ever known. I hope this story encourages other brothers to reach out and check on each other or to finally go in for that long-postponed doctor visit.

Rest in Peace, Pete. You were one of a kind!



L–R: Brent Waymire, Pete McNamee, Erick Faust.

ALPHA TAU

Ohio

John E. Dalton (1956)
Daniel J. Druso (1968)
William P. Dunlea (1941)
Anthony Franzolino (1944)
Robert H. Gamertsfelder (1942)
William P. LaForce (1993)
Donald C. Long (1953)

ALPHA UPSILON

Nebraska

William C. Holling (1951)
Dr. Robert D. McCartney (1969)

ALPHA PHI

Alabama

Chas W. Ball, Jr. (1942)
Neil B. Dunlap (1941)
Adolphus H. Gibson, Jr. (1933)
John R. Grimes (1957)
Dr. George W. Hall (1953)
Robert N. Hart (1939)
Caleb R. Hathaway (1936)
Jack T. Jackson (1952)
Howard W. Jeffcock (1936)
Ronald W. Johnson (1968)
Richard A. Kidwell (1962)
Billy J. Marshall (1957)
Edward H. Oakley (1949)
Thomas T. Pike, Jr. (1950)
Graham M. Powell (1955)
C. W. "Bill" Scott, Jr. (1953)
William E. Scott (1940)
Clyde R. Seal (1954)
Leon F. Smith, Jr. (1952)
Richard B. Smith (1977)
Cmdr. Hugh Sullivan (1950)
William J. Taylor, Jr. (1940)
James E. Tillery (1953)
William E. Wolaver (1956)
Robert L. York, Jr. (1966)

ALPHA PSI

Maryland

Peter C. Schmidt (2001)

ALPHA OMEGA

Lafayette

Frederick Sommer (1938)
James T. Holcombe (1937)
Jacob H. Overholt (1943)

BETA ALPHA

UCLA

Jerry L. Brown (1966)
Thomas P. Sayer (1954)

BETA GAMMA

North Dakota

Herbert T. McKennett (1942)
Dr. Raymond J. Parisi (1958)
Dr. Gordon Salness (1941)
Merle E. Wralstad (1942)

BETA DELTA

Rutgers

Dickson H. Spencer (1966)

**BETA EPSILON***Montana*

John P. Bayless (1966)
Paul F. Crosbie (1969)
Donald R. Ferron (1957)
G. George Ostrom (1955)
George L. Sherwood (1970)

BETA ZETA*Michigan State*

Dennis D. Decarlo (1980)
Ernest A. Gruenberg (1960)
Melvin D. Prentice (1958)

BETA THETA*Drexel*

John B. Bicking (1942)
Frank I. Hinchcliffe (1954)
Randolph C. Reist (1971)
Tyler D. Solomon (2025)
John V. Wagner (1947)

BETA KAPPA*Hamline*

Dr. C. C. Clawson (1956)
Leon A. Ernster (1971)

BETA LAMBDA*Akron*

Robert C. Berry (1942)
Thomas R. Bilowsky (1979)
Barry Brockenbrough (1956)
James C. Frase (1964)
Carl K. Kolling, Jr. (1966)
Leon Spence, Esq. (1951)
Glenn Zimmerman (1941)

BETA MU*Middlebury*

Howard Hasbrouck (1941)

BETA XI*Birmingham-Southern*

Eric A. Lundberg (1976)
Dr. Harry Sparks (1947)

BETA OMICRON*Cincinnati*

Richard E. Brown (1952)

BETA PI*Monmouth*

James H. Rupp, Jr. (1941)
John E. Vest (1940)

BETA RHO*Illinois Wesleyan*

Jack D. Garrett (1950)
G. Dana Kinsman (1937)
Robert D. McFeeters (1950)
Chester E. Sheldon (1943)

BETA TAU*Southern California*

George M. Ferrier (1950)
Samuel Douglas, III (1948)
Dr. James R. Valentine (1959)

BETA UPSILON*Fresno State*

James E. Dunaway (1961)
Bernard J. Herman (1973)
Willard F. Tidyman (1941)

BETA PHI*Nevada*

Lt. Col. Edward J. Barrett (1944)
Frank Y. Simoni (1948)
Philip A. Waln (2015)

BETA CHI*Allegheny*

Jeffrey C. Brandon (1975)
Donald J. Haack (1943)
Earl W. Johnson (1950)
Dr. James W. Kelley (1932)
Albert Linz (1953)
Leon R. Maitland (1931)
Carmen E. Merritt (1961)
Robert D. Miller (1947)
Donald G. Paish, Jr. (1953)
Gilmore P. Scholes (1948)
Charles L. Seif (1959)
Dr. Robert E. Smith (1938)
Richard S. Strauss (1930)
Dallas H. Vaughn (1959)

BETA PSI*Presbyterian*

Willet P. Cochran (1958)
Fayette O. White, Jr. (1941)

BETA OMEGA*Susquehanna*

Park H. Haussler (1957)
David A. Smith (1963)

GAMMA ALPHA*Chattanooga*

James J. Corbitt (1909)

GAMMA BETA*Furman*

Rev. Milum Owens, Jr. (1933)

GAMMA DELTA*Florida Southern*

Charles W. Evans (1972)
Gordon B. Hudson (1950)

GAMMA EPSILON*Western Colorado*

Jacob P. Accola (1937)
Anthony A. Gazarik (1947)
George W. Hardy (1947)
Michael J. Henderson (2002)

GAMMA ETA*Bucknell*

Edward J. Barvir (1968)
John L. Bove (1949)
Richard F. Leslie (1964)
George H. Roenning (1968)
Robert O. Winkler (1964)

GAMMA KAPPA*Miami (OH)*

George E. Bodoh (1961)
Mark A. Fullerton (1973)
James T. McGill (1959)
Mitchell Pedroff (1955)

GAMMA LAMBDA*Denver*

Richard J. Dempsey (1951)

**Venerated Faculty Adviser**

DONALD A. KLEINSMITH (ZETA BETA/ADRIAN 1987)

February 2, 1934—February 9, 2025

BY JIM MAHONY (ZETA BETA/ADRIAN 2000)

Don Kleinsmith served as the dedicated adviser for Zeta Beta Chapter for over two decades, leaving an indelible mark on countless brothers. His wisdom, guidance, faith, and sense of humor were instrumental in shaping the character and values of the chapter.

Don's influence extended far beyond his role as adviser. He was a mentor, a friend, and a pillar of the Adrian College community. His dedication to the brothers and his commitment to their personal and professional development were truly exceptional. And who could forget the chocolate chip cookies that Louise would make and Don would bring to the chapter meetings! One of our (Theta Chi) four scholarships at Adrian College is the Don & Louise Kleinsmith Scholarship which is awarded to a business or English major.

Prof. Kleinsmith worked at Adrian College for 45 years. In that time, beginning in 1970 when he joined the Student Dean's staff, Kleinsmith was a professor of English, journalism, communications, and business, and also advised student government, Order of Omega, and the Mortar Board senior honors society, for which he was named Adviser of the Year in 1998. He served as the voice of Adrian College sports, calling play-by-play for the Bulldog basketball team, football team, and more. In 1996, he was honored with the College's Exemplary Teaching Award. He was the fourth inductee into the Adrian College Faculty Hall of Fame.

GAMMA MU*Bowling Green*

David G. Karibo (1964)
Jeffery H. Koch (1968)

GAMMA NU*New Mexico State*

Harlen Smith (1961)

GAMMA XI*San Jose State*

Edgar W. Case (1952)
Pedro R. Silva, Jr. (1955)

GAMMA OMICRON*Wake Forest*

C. Irvin Grigg (1953)

Wade B. Haubert (1967)

Harry B. Miller (1936)

GAMMA RHO*Florida State*

Robert I. King (1968)
Dr. John G. Shedd (1974)
William C. Sowers (1972)

GAMMA SIGMA*Duke*

Jesse J. Floyd, Jr. (1980)
Donald N. Nelson (1956)

GAMMA TAU*Drake*

Robert E. Listeck, Jr. (1986)

GAMMA UPSILON*Bradley*

Carl H. Woerner (1956)

GAMMA PHI*Nebraska Wesleyan*

Dean L. Crewdson (1957)
Dale R. Fredstrom (1958)
Edward N. Jenkins (1965)
Donald R. Keller (1956)
Ladd A. Prier (1965)

GAMMA CHI*Randolph-Macon*

Robert D. Bowers (1974)
Dr. Lewis D. Tamkin (1953)
John L. Tuttle (1952)



Chief of Patrol

JAMES A. MAURER (DELTA XI/VALPARAISO 1972)

October 16, 1946–January 2, 2025

BY DANIEL E. DENYS (DELTA XI/VALPARAISO 1977)



Jim was a proud member of the Chicago Police Department for 41 years and retired as chief of patrol. He started with the CPD in his late teens and they sent him to Valparaiso to get a college education in his early 20s. He played football and became a Theta Chi.

I met Jim when my wife worked with his wife at Northwestern Medical in downtown Chicago. We had some adventurous meetings (almost like we were both still in college at a weekend party) and heard many stories from Jim.

He worked for the campus security force for a college job and once protected a campus speaker from being attacked by radical protesters by dressing and disguising Theta Chi brothers (who were also football players) in wigs and tie-dyed T-shirts.

When protesters started charging the stage, the brothers all stood up and created a barrier blocking their advance! He was also the night watchman at the campus administration building and sat in a little office with a rotary phone with no dial, just a red light. One night, the phone rang and advised him to exit the building within two minutes to “preserve” his life. Of course, Jim started yelling back, and the voice on the other side of the line calmly stated, ‘You now have one minute and 50 seconds to preserve your life.’ Fortunately, Jim decided he could do his job if he stood outside the building because after those two minutes, the building blew up!

Jim was a friend to many, and after retiring, he remained loyal to fellow officers who also became like brothers. He always enjoyed Chicago sports and a good cigar. In my opinion, Jim Maurer was a true Resolute Man!

GAMMA OMEGA

Vanderbilt

John H.S. Boys (1961)
Edward B. Hopper, II (1961)

DELTA ALPHA

Linfield

Jess A. Hamby (1974)

DELTA BETA

Georgia

Boyd E. Nixon (1970)

DELTA GAMMA

WV Wesleyan

Robert G. Dubois (1952)
Marquis E. Garrett (1963)
David K. Hui (1984)
John M. Skolka (1982)

DELTA EPSILON

Miami (FL)

Richard E. Weber (1957)

DELTA ZETA

Nebraska-Omaha

Richard Langhammer (1957)
Jarrett W. McAnally (2006)

DELTA THETA

Toledo

Richard L. Dennis (1965)
Richard C. Feus (1963)

DELTA KAPPA

Ball State

Walter S. Fitch (1960)
Peter M. Garvey (2006)
Robert E. Gordon, Jr. (1961)
David W. Heath (1984)
Donald L. Matchett (1969)
Max E. Smith (1953)

DELTA MU

Texas

Dr. Robert Z. Eanes (1955)
Patrick T. Shields, Jr. (1959)

DELTA XI

Valparaiso

Thomas E. Foelber (1955)
Robert M. Heiden (1962)
Arthur C. Hornburg (1956)
James A. Maurer (1972)
Kenneth R. Meyer (1960)
Jay A. Pohlman (1977)
Thomas Rodenbeck (1964)

DELTA OMICRON

Gettysburg

Richard G. Myers (1966)

DELTA PI

Indiana State

Ronald G. Barnes (1970)
Joseph M. Bauer (1949)
Robert L. Crabb (1957)
Peter D. McNamee (1983)

DELTA RHO

NC State

Thomas H. Eck (1961)

DELTA SIGMA

Clarkson

John F. Dearstyne, Jr. (1961)
Carl E. Diltz (1943)
Arden Henry (1959)
Mark J. Kennedy (1978)
Fred S. Orchard (1967)

DELTA TAU

Kent State

John F. Black (1959)
Gary J. Sabath (1961)
Ralph A. Wuest (1949)

DELTA PHI

North Texas

Arthur A. Honea, Jr. (1951)
Hon. Tony Goolsby (1959)
Howell A. Wall (1962)

DELTA CHI

Lenoir-Rhyne

Rev. Harvey L. Blume (1958)
John C. Misenheimer (1970)
Francis E. Starnes (1964)

DELTA PSI

Kansas

William R. Patterson (1963)
Mark E. Reed (1972)

DELTA OMEGA

Ripon

Harry L. Arthur (1953)

EPSILON ALPHA

High Point

Thomas L. Kiley (1968)

EPSILON BETA

Lycoming

Richard C. Erickson (1965)
Chester J. Ganczarz (1975)
David R. McMahan (1964)
James E. Murtagh (1977)

EPSILON GAMMA

Widener

George D. Alloway (1963)
Charles H. Bracken, II (1964)
Dr. William F. Graner (1961)
Thomas G. Harper, Jr. (1956)

EPSILON DELTA

Youngstown State

Dr. Lewis E. Galante (1962)
James F. Carey (1964)
Nicholas A. Caizzo (1970)
Daniel W. McCauley (1964)

EPSILON ZETA

Tampa

Larry Geller (1964)
John J. Mulry, Jr. (1968)
Mario Sanchez, Jr. (1956)

EPSILON ETA

IUP

Steven P. Curlen (1980)
Mathew J. Pavlovich (1960)
Timothy E. Quinlan (1967)
Paul E. Rechenberg, Jr. (1963)

EPSILON IOTA

East Carolina

Clyde E. Lee (1963)
William G. Norman (1965)

EPSILON KAPPA

Idaho

James A. Diebel (1983)

EPSILON LAMBDA

Lewis & Clark

Philip D. Lang (1954)
Jack L. Whitfield (1960)

EPSILON XI

Clarion

Jerome E. Steis (1965)

EPSILON OMICRON

Waynesburg

John M. Mamula (1971)

EPSILON PI

Northern Illinois

William S. Haraf (1970)
Barry W. Sanders (1969)
Winston A. Sawlis (1963)

EPSILON SIGMA

Wagner

Warren A. Caldecutt (1967)
Angelo J. Caropola (1995)

EPSILON TAU

Stephen F. Austin

Gregory T. Bennett (1971)
H. Duane Branch (1970)
Gary G. Cooley (1972)
Robert W. Denton (1969)
John V. Dunagan (1975)
James R. Goodman (1974)
Daniel E. Hanrahan (1988)
Gregory P. Harness (1971)
David C. Jernigan (1992)
Kenneth I. Kissinger (1973)
Christopher Lyngos (1990)
William K. Park (1981)
Roger E. Pollex (1988)
Mark L. Ragusa (1983)
Joseph C. Reed (1976)
Stephen C. Restivo (1972)
Wayne D. Sealey (1976)
Floyd R. Shipp (1983)
Dale R. Short (1970)
John H. Tigner, III (1970)

EPSILON PHI

Central Missouri

Thomas R. Nelson (1972)
Robert D. Richmond (1955)

ZETA ALPHA

Slippery Rock

Theodore F. Disalvo (1985)
Patrick Phelan (1963)

ZETA BETA

Adrian

Timothy T. Doty, II (1988)
Eric M. Fox (2003)
Donald A. Kleinsmith (1987)
Richard F. Russo (1975)

ZETA EPSILON

Long Beach State

Ian Logsdon (2014)

ZETA ETA

Northern Michigan

Gary F. Dowell (1968)
William G. Hagman (1968)
Charles J. Seguna (1970)

ZETA THETA

Troy

Stephen R. Mitchell (1979)

**ZETA KAPPA**

Ohio Northern
William J. Sweet (1970)

ZETA NU

Parsons
Dr. Richard M. Goldstein (1971)

ZETA XI

UC-Davis
W. Brent Chaney (1968)
Philip M. Smith (1986)

ZETA OMICRON

Shippensburg
Michael R. Wildasin (1972)

ZETA PI

Old Dominion
Michael P. Loizides (1967)
Roger D. Martin (1981)
Philip A. Stein (1973)

ZETA PHI

Cal Poly
Bruce H. Summers (1986)

ZETA CHI

Bryant
Allen A. Calafrafrancisco (1965)
Herbert Garrett (1970)

ZETA PSI

Western Illinois
Andrew R. Dorr (1970)
Nicolas M. Lamb (2026)

ZETA OMEGA

West Chester
Vincent J. Fetter (1994)

ETA GAMMA

Morehead
Kenneth J. Durham (1976)
Jacob J. Moore (2021)
James K. Sergent (1985)

ETA DELTA

Babson
Edward W. Frederick (1995)
Thomas D. Morrison (2001)
Darren L. Susi (1991)

ETA KAPPA

James Madison
Thane E. Richmond (1982)

ETA LAMBDA

Virginia Tech
John R. Waterman (1988)

ETA SIGMA

Arkansas Tech
Russell L. Irons (1989)

ETA OMEGA

Chico, CA
Brian G. Flournoy (2001)

THETA BETA

TCNJ
Joseph G. Apoldo (1990)
Michael W. Grant (1987)

Former Growth Specialist**JACOB J. MOORE** (ETA GAMMA/MOREHEAD 2021)

June 6, 1998–February 27, 2025

As a Growth Specialist from 2021 to 2022, Jacob helped recolonize Alpha Upsilon/Nebraska and Delta Kappa/Ball State and helped rebuild the membership at Alpha Psi/Maryland. He facilitated sessions and workshops at a number of Amplify Theta Chi conferences as well as during the 165th Anniversary Celebration in Lexington, KY, and the 166th Anniversary Convention in Washington, D.C. He was a recipient of the IHQ Service Award and also received a Citation of Honor from the Eta Gamma Alumni Association. He was an Honorary Member of Kappa Omicron Chapter at the University of Tennessee.

Brother Moore served Eta Gamma Chapter as President, Vice President, and on numerous committees. On campus, Jacob was involved with the Interfraternity Council and Pre-Physical Therapy Club.

Past International President Darick Brown wrote, "Jacob was a natural-born leader. His smile lit up the room and his charisma attracted others to follow him. Jacob guided Eta Gamma through the challenges of COVID, all while setting the chapter up for future success. He will truly be missed."

**Collegiate Brothers****NICO LAMB** (ZETA PSI/WESTERN ILLINOIS 2026)

Nico Lamb was Vice President of Zeta Psi Chapter, vice president of judicial affairs for WIU IFC, and vice president of Lambda Alpha Epsilon, the American criminal justice association. He was also a recipient of the WIU Presidential Scholarship and worked as an admissions ambassador for undergraduate admissions.

Emir Miranda (2026) described him as "the most genuine person you could ever meet—smart, kind, funny and a true leader. He single-handedly reformed our Fraternity's study program and revamped our budget, ensuring success for future members. Without Nico, I would not be the man I am today. He was the best of us, and he will always be my brother."

**TYLER SOLOMON** (BETA THETA/DREXEL 2025)

Tyler Solomon is remembered by the brothers of Beta Theta Chapter:

"We remember him for both his service to others as well as his commitment to Theta Chi and his own hobbies, including making beautiful meals each night, his passion for video games, and his love of music, all of which he used to bring others together.

Whenever someone was hungry, Tyler would not hesitate to feed them. Whenever someone needed company, Tyler would always welcome his brothers to come and spend time and play video games with him. Whenever someone was in need of advice, Tyler would offer support and be there for them in a true, empathetic capacity that truly embodied the ideal of extending a Helping Hand to all who seek it."

THETA KAPPA

Texas Tech
Ernest S. Crouch (1998)

THETA SIGMA

UC-Santa Barbara
Kurtis A. Scheck (2002)

THETA OMEGA

Appalachian State
George F. Bynum (2004)

IOTA PHI

South Carolina
Mike X. Aufiero, Jr. (2021)

Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc.
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Carmel, IN 46082

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PARENTS: This magazine is sent to your son's home address; we hope you enjoy reading it before he does. If he has left college and is not living at home, please update us with his new mailing address by sending an email to rattle@thetachi.org. THANK YOU!

SAN ANTONIO!

170th Anniversary Convention and 42nd School of Fraternity Practices

Convention will begin on Friday, July 10, 2026, in San Antonio, with attendees departing on Tuesday, July 14.

STAY UP-TO-DATE AT [THETACHI.ORG/CONVENTION](https://thetachi.org/convention)



142nd Anniversary
Convention, 1998

Theta Chi's first Convention in the Lone Star State since our last visit in 1998!

