

Summer 2018

# THE RATTLE

OF THETA CHI FRATERNITY



U.S. Circuit Judge

**David Stras**

(Delta Psi/Kansas 1995)

PAGE 12

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**FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT****Influence and Accomplishments**

Brothers,

As my service on the Grand Chapter draws to a close, I have been reflecting on all the successes, challenges, growth, and transformation that Theta Chi has experienced over the past eight years. Without a doubt, Theta Chi has grown and matured as evidenced by several years of record-breaking initiation and membership numbers. We moved our physical International Headquarters operations into a beautiful, best-in-class facility. Our International Headquarters staff, led by Executive Director Mike Mayer, is second to none. We introduced landmark programs and movements to address health and safety, as well as to drive the concept of lifelong member development. We doubled down on the importance of developing our collegiate leaders. The Cornerstone Campaign was the largest capital campaign in our history and raised more than \$1.5 million. Finally, we installed 20 new chapters and reinstalled 28 chapters since 2010.

These accomplishments are the direct result of collaboration and fraternal teamwork. I had the privilege to serve with two outstanding International Presidents, Doug Allen and Dick Elder, as well as 15 other Grand Chapter members. The Grand Chapter, The Foundation Chapter, and Norwich Housing Corporation have committed to a unified vision and strategy. There are also many other alumni, most of whom do not have fancy titles, who have played integral roles in our recent success.

I am extremely proud of Theta Chi's leadership in the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) and particularly commend Mike Mayer for his unwavering commitment and leadership in NIC governance. To put it bluntly, fraternities and sororities are under attack and our best chance to grow, learn, and become stronger is to work together with our interfraternal friends. I never imagined in 2010 that we would be defending our ability to function as a single-sex organization or our collegiate members' ability to freely associate with whomever they want, whenever they want. This is the reality we now face. Our ability to influence and accomplish is more critical than ever before.

As International President (and as an alumnus), my very favorite interaction involves running into a brother, whom I met when he was a freshman, and finding out that he has reached personal success. Seeing my younger brothers become leaders, pursue professional degrees, start families, buy their first homes, and find happiness brings me great satisfaction. Theta Chi was an instrumental part of my college education and I believe it is even more important now for today's collegians. If there is anything for which I care to be remembered, it is that I helped provide to my younger brothers the best possible fraternity experience.

I encourage you to help promote this experience. I believe that local chapter advisers are the most impactful volunteers we have. Please consider helping a chapter or colony realize its full potential in Theta Chi Fraternity. This should be *our* legacy. I thank you for the trust you have placed in me for the past eight years. It has been a tremendous honor to serve on the Grand Chapter and as your International President. I look forward to many more years of service.

With fraternal regards,

*Joseph S. Couch*  
Joseph S. Couch  
International President







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Kappa Iota at U.S. Military Academy



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Beta Phi gives back to Reno.

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Farewell to Ross Nash,  
The Spirit of Theta Chi.

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From collegian to International President: At 1995's CLC, then-Chi/Auburn Chapter President Joseph Couch grabs a photo with Past International President Howard Alter; 23 years later, he returns the favor with Thomas Schuette (2019), Chapter President of newly installed Kappa Iota/U.S. Military Academy.





Mike Mayer  
Executive Director

# A Lifelong Impact

Dear Brothers:

In this time of unprecedented challenges for fraternities, your active interest and involvement are essential. Our collegiate brothers need the active participation of their alumni as mentors, advisers, and benefactors. As we prepare for the 2018/2019 academic year, I encourage you to consider extending a Helping Hand by supporting our Fraternity in one or more of those ways. Your involvement can be very rewarding to yourself and others and have far reaching impact.

One alumnus who had an impact on me was Brother **Mel Aytes** (Epsilon Phi/Central Missouri 1959). Nicknamed "Frosty" for his distinctive white hair, Brother Aytes joined Kappa Sigma Kappa, the local fraternity that preceded Theta Chi at Central Missouri State College. While Frosty was completing his graduate work, he attended the Installation of Epsilon Phi Chapter and was formally initiated into Theta Chi Fraternity.

I first came to know Frosty while I was Chapter President. At that time, the establishment of a scholarship fund was one of our chapter's priorities. During the inaugural meeting of our Alumni Scholarship Board, Brother Aytes was elected and graciously accepted the position of Chairman. Through Brother Aytes' leadership, a special fund was created to grant scholarships for collegiate members of our chapter. The fund began to grow and has now benefited several generations of Epsilon Phi brothers.

Several years after the creation of the scholarship fund, Frosty was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. It was difficult news for all who knew him. Frosty had been a source of energy for our alumni leadership and the collegiate chapter. Fortunately, this energy would not diminish.

Throughout his battle with cancer, Frosty still made it a point to attend every alumni meeting and social event as he was able. He was always optimistic about his situation and still maintained his enthusiasm for Theta Chi up until the very end.

In 2007, despite his worsening condition, Frosty attended Epsilon Phi's Founders Day event. We all told him, "Don't feel obligated to come. We understand what you are going through." However, we all knew this would not stop him from being with his Theta Chi brothers.

During that event, Frosty was able to participate in the initiation of his long-time friend and classmate, Chuck Simmons (1961). Chuck was initiated into Kappa Sigma Kappa along with Frosty, but had not previously been able to make it back to campus to become a Theta Chi. Despite being confined to a wheelchair and visibly weak, Frosty still



*Mel "Frosty" Aytes (Epsilon Phi/Central Missouri 1959) provided leadership and assisted in the establishment of Epsilon Phi's chapter scholarship fund. He served as an adviser and mentor to many Epsilon Phi brothers.*

made every effort to be an active participant in the initiation ceremony. One of the most moving moments of the evening was watching him recite the oaths of initiation along with the rest of the brotherhood assembled. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Frosty and Chuck exchanged the grip for the first time. Frosty entered the Chapter Eternal three weeks later on May 1, 2007.

Brother Aytes taught all of the brothers of Epsilon Phi Chapter a great deal about leadership and brotherhood. He was a mentor to me and many other Epsilon Phi brothers. He taught the principles of effective leadership and governance while emphasizing the need to still have fun and enjoy life. To this day, I still consider Frosty a model for my own involvement when advising our collegiate members.

As an alumnus, you have a unique opportunity to make a lifelong impact on our collegiate brothers and chapters. I encourage each of you to visit [thetachi.org/helpinghand](http://thetachi.org/helpinghand) to learn how you can become involved as an adviser, mentor, and/or donor to Theta Chi Fraternity. Your engagement has never been more important to the future of our Fraternity.

Fraternally,

Mike Mayer  
Executive Director





## House Corporation Officers— Essential for the business of brotherhood

BY BILL RUSSO, CHIEF HOUSING OFFICER

House corporations are legally incorporated entities that typically manage the chapter house and certain aspects of a chapter's finances. Even if a chapter does not have a house, they may have an incorporated board that helps manage the long-term business aspects of the chapter.

One of Theta Chi's most talented house corporation officers, **Mark Rebillot** (Delta Beta/Georgia 2001), discusses why he volunteers.

### How did you get started volunteering on the Delta Beta House Corporation?

After I graduated, I stayed fairly active trying to help the chapter. Over the next 10 years, I kept in touch but wasn't able to spend much time in Athens since I had three kids. Thankfully, Keith Newberry (1999) lived in Athens and was able to serve as Chapter Adviser. He was running a one-man show for a long time. In 2012, Keith brought me back when he realized that our chapter had become a very poor representation of the ideals of Theta Chi. That March, we recruited a group of alumni to assist with a membership review and we're grateful to former LEC Joshua Wilson (Delta Kappa/Ball State 2003) for his help during that process. We dropped down to less than 40 brothers and I stepped in as Chapter Adviser while Keith focused on the physical house. After Henry Bell (1989), Brian Beckwith (1991), Chip Ferguson (2000), Chris Carr (1995), and Chuck Couch (1993) all agreed to step up, we had a full alumni board of Delta Beta brothers for the first time in decades.

### What has been your most rewarding experience as a volunteer?

Seeing the collegiate brothers who stuck with the chapter through the membership review grow as leaders on campus and in the chapter and seeing them now as successful alumni.

### What has been the biggest challenge?

One challenge was rebuilding after the membership review. Managing my time was sometimes difficult because the chapter was consistently in need of my time and I had a lot of family and professional obligations. Thankfully, the chapter runs very efficiently now and it looks like we'll be back over 100 brothers this fall for the first time since I was a collegian.

Our current challenge is our capital campaign to raise \$1.5 million so we can completely renovate/rebuild our house. We are about 1/3 of the way there and hoping that we make some big strides this spring and summer.

### What advice would you have for anyone interested in volunteering locally with their chapter or on a house corporation?

I'd recommend that they do it. It's a great way to stay connected to the next generation while staying in touch with fellow alumni. I think a big key for successful chapters is to have a deep group of alumni that care and are available to the chapter. These guys need and frankly want advice and I think you will find it to be a great experience. ■

The Delta Beta Alumni Corporation recently acquired and utilized a loan from the Norwich Housing Corporation (NHC). You can learn more about loans offered by the NHC by visiting [www.thetachi.org/housing](http://www.thetachi.org/housing). If you have any specific questions about how you can become an alumni corporation officer or would just like to chat about your chapter's housing needs, please feel free to contact me at [bill@thetachi.org](mailto:bill@thetachi.org) or 317-848-1856.



*Mark Rebillot continues to extend a Helping Hand to Delta Beta Chapter while raising the next generation of UGA Bulldogs.*







# Expansion Updates

Kappa Eta/Salisbury, MD



Please contact Theta Chi's Director of Recruitment & Expansion, Taylor Dahlem, at [tdahlem@thetachi.org](mailto:tdahlem@thetachi.org), if you are interested in becoming involved with these groups.

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

## (Re)Installations



**Gamma Pi/Buffalo**  
Buffalo, NY  
Reinstalled: 4/21/18



**Epsilon Delta/Youngstown State**  
Youngstown, OH  
Reinstalled: 3/17/18



**Epsilon Rho/Rider**  
Lawrenceville, NJ  
Reinstalled: 3/24/18



**Zeta Alpha/Slippery Rock**  
Slippery Rock, PA  
Reinstalled: 4/29/18



**Theta Delta/Santa Clara**  
Santa Clara, CA  
Reinstalled: 6/2/18



**Kappa Eta/Salisbury, MD**  
Salisbury, MD  
Installed: 3/10/18



**Kappa Theta/SUNY Geneseo**  
Geneseo, NY  
Installed: 4/22/18



**Kappa Iota/U.S. Military Academy**  
West Point, NY  
Installed: 5/5/18

## Redevelopments



**Beta Tau/Southern California**



**Delta Iota/Northwestern**



Kappa Theta/SUNY Geneseo badges are arranged for the Charter Members.

(continued on page 10)





Theta Delta/Santa Clara

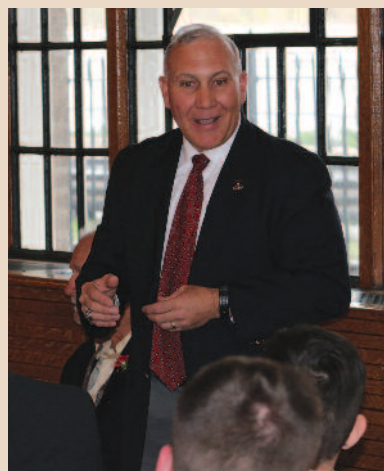


Zeta Alpha/Slippery Rock



Kappa Theta/SUNY Geneseo





TOP: Kappa Iota and the Installation Committee. MIDDLE LEFT: Former West Point instructor Scott McQuaig. MIDDLE RIGHT: Zain Shaikh gives visiting brothers a campus tour. BOTTOM LEFT: Chapter Adviser Will Maher provides words of wisdom to the new brothers. BOTTOM RIGHT: International President Joseph Couch shares remarks and congratulates the new brothers.





# Duty, Honor, Country

It was a warm spring day in West Point, NY when Theta Chi Fraternity installed Kappa Iota Chapter at the United States Military Academy, the nation's oldest service academy. It is a place forever etched in time, resonating with legacy, mission, and tradition.

Despite the obvious connections between West Point, Norwich University, and Theta Chi, the Fraternity lacked a formal presence and connection to the institution.

In 2015/2016, two cadets, **Zain Shaikh** (2018) and **Mitchell Winey** realized something was missing from their academy experience and that they had a desire to establish a legacy and create something greater than themselves. Zain recounted stories from his civilian friends who had joined fraternities and an idea was born.

Theta Chi was the first fraternity to be contacted and was ultimately chosen due to its ties to the military and core values. The duo continued to recruit and worked on their goal.

Tragically, on June 2, 2016, Mitchell Winey died during a training accident in Fort Hood, TX. With his spirit in mind, the rest of the members carried on his legacy and the group was colonized in March 2017.

The colony experienced challenges in recruitment. The combination of rigorous expectations, tight schedules, and a lack of free time did not make starting a fraternity an appealing endeavor to most cadets at first. However, the colony tirelessly recruited new members and participated in service projects at the Boston Area Food Bank and the West Point Fallen Comrades Half-Marathon. They volunteered at Rhode Island beach clean-ups and at events to support the USO.

On May 5, 2018, Kappa Iota was installed in Thayer Hall with International President Joseph Couch serving as Installing Officer. He was joined by International Counselor Darick Brown, Past International President Doug Allen, Past International Vice President Joe D'Amore, and other International staff and volunteers.

In total, 31 brothers from 19 different chapters attended the day's ceremonies. **Roy Velez** (Zeta/New Hampshire 2020) came to support Zain Shaikh, whom he met at the 2017 Initiative Academy. Nine Rechartering Members of Epsilon Rho/Rider proudly came to aid another new chapter. Kappa Beta/Long Island-Post was represented by **Michael Nicosia** (2017), Roster Number 1. **Scott McQuaig** (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg 1979) had served as an Army Infantry Officer and has previously worked at West Point, mentoring students.

Former Leadership and Education Consultant **Kyle Griffis** (Gamma Rho/Florida State 2012) had studied at West Point for two years

until receiving an honorable medical discharge. He shared, "It meant a lot to see two important pillars from my collegiate experience blend together against the odds. I believe this installation is one of the most special milestones to occur within our Fraternity."

The evening's Installation Banquet was held on campus at the Class of '47 Train Station. Cadets shared their pride in joining a new brotherhood and vowed to maintain its standards at West Point. Past International President Doug Allen shared the story of Capt. Francis Van Natter (Rho/Illinois 1916) who had valiantly led troops during World War I. International President Joseph Couch welcomed the men of Kappa Iota Chapter and challenged them to remain true to each other and to the Fraternity.

Chapter President **Thomas Schuette** (2019) shared, "I joined a brotherhood unlike any other I've experienced... This is not your stereotypical fraternity you see on social media and movies. This is a group of gentlemen focused on academics, class, and Alma Mater. After hearing and seeing the values, Sacred Purpose, traditions, and origins of Theta Chi, I could not think of a better fraternity to join, let alone have at West Point. Theta Chi expands upon the values of the United States Military Academy and gives us the structure to reach outside the Academy and help others."

Standing in the small, gothic train station one could only beam with pride at seeing the excitement of the new Kappa Iota brothers and the camaraderie that was developing between them and their civilian counterparts—collegiate and alumni.

Black and white photos on the walls of the station depict cadets gathering to depart via trains and provided a subtle touch of reality. In an instant, these current cadets—these Kappa Iota brothers—could be called upon to serve their God, Country, and Fellow Man and placed in harm's way.

It is our hope and prayer that these and future brothers of Kappa Iota Chapter remain safe, lead well, and stand resolute in their duty so that they may perpetuate our ideals and continue to fellowship with their brothers in Theta Chi for many years to come.







## EXPANSION



Gamma Pi/Bufalo



Epsilon Delta/Youngstown State

### Current Colonies



Gamma Mu/Bowling Green



Zeta Omicron/Shippensburg



Eta Alpha/Clemson



CSU-San Marcos



Point Loma Nazarene



Young Harris, GA



Epsilon Rho/Rider

### Fall 2018 Expansion Projects



Gamma Nu/New Mexico State  
Las Cruces, NM



Delta Upsilon/Arizona State  
Tempe, AZ



University of Colorado  
Boulder, CO





# The Distinguished

## ACHIEVEMENT AWARD #72

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

### #72 Joe T. Moore, Jr. (Delta Rho/NC State 1953)

*Presented March 3, 2018*

Joe T. Moore, Jr. is a Charter Member of Delta Rho Chapter and served as its first Treasurer. He received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering-Construction from NC State in 1953. After serving in the United States Army as a Military Policeman, Joe completed a 30-year public service career with Duke Energy. In assignments of increased management and leadership responsibility, Brother Moore built dams and canals that housed or supported hydroelectric, steam fired, and nuclear power plants in North and South Carolina.

One of his first projects was the Cowans Ford Hydroelectric Station, the largest conventional hydro station owned by Duke Energy. The station helped to create Lake Norman, the largest lake in North Carolina. He was also the Project Manager for 10 years on the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project that included construction of three dams, two hydro plants, a pumped storage unit, and the Oconee Nuclear Station in northwest South Carolina. All projects continue to provide vital service to the citizens of North and South Carolina with no accidents or incidents.

After completion of his distinguished public service career, Brother Moore founded and operated Cherokee Construction Company in Cherokee County, SC. Joe also served as treasurer of a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization lending a Helping Hand to low income residents with vital home improvement needs.



*ABOVE: Joe T. Moore is joined following the award presentation by his wife, Jean (r), and Oscar and Dorcas Fuller. Joe and Oscar are long time friends and business partners. LEFT: The Cowans Ford Dam near Huntersville, impounds the Catawba River to form Lake Norman, the largest man-made body of fresh water in North Carolina.*



**All Distinguished Achievement Award recipients are enshrined in the Fraternity's Hall of Honor at the International Headquarters. To date, out of our 180,000+ brothers, only 72 have received the award.**

**Brothers are welcome to visit the Theta Chi Museum and Hall of Honor. Call 317-848-1856 for hours.**





# Rock Chalk

BY BEN HILL, EDITOR

After completing his college degree, Judge David Stras (Delta Psi/Kansas 1995) continued at the University of Kansas and enrolled in a dual MBA/J.D. program. Following his completion of law school, Stras clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. After working one year at the office of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood in Washington, D.C., he clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas of the United States Supreme Court. From 2004–2010, Stras was a professor of law at the University of Minnesota Law School and received the Stanley V. Kinyon Tenure Track Teacher of the Year Award in 2006. He was appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court in 2010 and was elected to a six-year term in 2012. On January 31, 2018, Stras was sworn in as a Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit after having been confirmed by the United States Senate. Judge Stras spoke with us shortly after moving into his temporary chambers in Minneapolis.

## **The Rattle: Tell us why you chose KU.**

**David Stras:** One reason was my wife, Heather. We were high school sweethearts and she was a year ahead of me and had decided to go to KU and I decided to follow her. The second reason is that both of my parents went to KU and were active in fraternity and sorority life. They both had a wonderful time in college and thought it was a great place to go. I thought going to a public school was important and I also wanted to stay closer to home.

## **R: Why did you join Theta Chi?**

**DS:** My dad was in Zeta Beta Tau at KU. I didn't really know a lot about fraternities but I knew I wanted to at least take a look. I went through formal rush and looked at a dozen different fraternities and I really just sort of fell in love with Theta Chi from the beginning. I knew from my first meeting with the Theta Chi folks that it was the fraternity that was toward the top of my list. It was the people. I really got along well with my future fraternity brothers. I thought they were kind. They seemed to love the Fraternity and seemed to enjoy each other. I noticed these things in the first few visits with them. There were certainly some problems with the chapter house—the 1011 Missouri Street house was not in good shape. But you don't join a

fraternity for the physical structure; you join a fraternity for the friendship and for the brotherhood.

## **R: What was the chapter size while you were there?**

**DS:** When I first joined it was probably around 50. By the time I graduated, it was probably 25–30. I hope that wasn't a reflection on me or that I drove everybody away! (*chuckles*.) I was trying hard to expand the membership and found some good people, but we struggled because there were a lot of people who weren't buying in. When you don't have buy in it's really hard to push the chapter in the right direction. You can't just have one or two people doing the work while others are saying, "Well, we shouldn't do this or shouldn't try that." That's the challenge and when you're outnumbered, that doesn't help. After I left, the chapter was reorganized and membership increased and led to the chapter that we have today, which is a pretty good size and does pretty well.

## **R: What positions did you hold in the chapter?**

**DS:** I sped through undergrad; I did it in three years. So year one, I was a pledge. Year two, I was Secretary. Year three, I was Chapter President. After finishing as

President and through my first year of law school, I was vice president for fraternity affairs for the Interfraternity Council (IFC).

## **R: Did you live in the chapter house?**

**DS:** I lived a majority of the time in the chapter house. I lived in the chapter house my first year and my third year. I also lived in the chapter house during the summer between my third year and my first year of law school. The housing board trusted me since I had just been Chapter President, so they allowed me to stay and I watched over the house that summer.

## **R: What's the most important lesson you learned as Chapter President?**

**DS:** It's the importance of people. You can have great ideas and some not-so-great ideas. But in any organization, and this is particularly true in a fraternity where it's really a democracy, even if you have a vision, you have to get the people around you to buy into it and to help you with that vision. You've got to be able to delegate to them. You've got to have that core of people who can help implement that vision and take the chapter to the next level. I don't think I knew or appreciated that when I stepped into that position. I thought I could do a lot of the stuff myself or with the help of the chapter executive board. I underestimated



# Judge



1994/1995:  
David Stras  
Delta Psi/Kansas  
Composite



2018: Judge Stras  
in his temporary  
chambers in  
Minneapolis.



Jayhawks: Lindsay Olsen (Delta Psi/Kansas 1983)  
presents the Citation of Honor to his chapter  
brother, then-Minnesota Supreme Court  
Associate Justice David Stras (1995), keynote  
speaker for the 158th Anniversary Convention's  
Alumni Luncheon in Minneapolis, July 2014.





*U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas administers the oath of office to his former clerk, Judge David Stras (Delta Psi/Kansas 1995) during his investiture ceremony in May 2018. Stras is joined and supported by his family.*

the extent to which it was necessary to share the vision and to get buy in on the vision from everyone and how important it was for the people in the chapter to really love the Fraternity and want it to turn around and get it to the next level. I learned that you have to be able to trust others to get stuff done. You have to make them part of the team and you have to make sure that you make them feel valued as well.

**R: What moment were you most proud to be a Theta Chi?**

**DS:** My Pledge Dad, Rob Nye (1995), and I were actually set to graduate together since I finished undergrad in three years. On graduation day, all of us were waiting at the chapter house for Rob and he didn't come. We waited as long as we possibly could and we didn't know where he was. We went to graduation because we needed to be there and our families were expecting us. I remember coming back and we all asked, 'Did anyone see Rob?' Still, nobody knew where Rob was.

About 30 minutes after graduation was over, Danny Kaiser (Alpha Mu/Iowa State 1976), who was KU's assistant dean of students,

came to the house. He said, 'I've got some bad news. I didn't want to tell you beforehand because I wanted you to experience graduation and not be too upset. Rob Nye passed away. He had some sort of diabetic reaction. His parents found him today.'

Danny told us, 'We're going to open up all of the resources of the university and I'm going to make sure that all the resources of the Fraternity are available to you as we go through this grieving process. I want you to know that I'll personally be available to you. I know this is extremely hard. I also know that somebody else could have told you this but I felt it was really important for me to come out here as a fellow Theta Chi and let you know.'

That's something I'll never forget. It was a tough day. It took a happy occasion and put a very somber note on it. At the same time, it was amazing how all of us banded together. I was very, very proud of the way we handled that situation, the way we responded to Rob's family, and the way we mutually supported each other. That was by far the hardest moment I had during college. There is a Rob Nye scholarship

that the chapter gives out in his memory and I think that's a great example of what Theta Chi and brotherhood can mean.

**R: Tell us why you decided to go to law school.**

**DS:** I always thought I wanted to be a lawyer though I didn't quite know what lawyers actually did. My exposure to lawyers was black-and-white reruns of Perry Mason and he was really good at getting the witness on the stand to confess to committing the crime. It was really neat how he had such skill with language and interacting with people that he could get even the most hardened criminals to confess. I didn't really have lawyers in my family, so it really was that it looked interesting to me. I also did debate in high school, which is a common activity that many future lawyers seem to do during high school or college.

**R: What's your advice to collegians or even alumni about going to law school?**

**DS:** My advice is different than it would have been five or ten years ago, when I would have said think twice because we had a market that really was inundated with



lawyers. More people were going to law school than the number of jobs available. People realized that during the latter part of the last decade and law school admission numbers went down quite sharply.

I think it is different now and that it has actually switched cyclically to the other side. Some law school classes are about 60–70 percent of what they were in terms of size and a lot of baby boomers are going to be retiring over the next decade or two. I think that right now, over the next five to 10 years, there are going to be a number of openings and jobs available. I think we are in an entirely different environment than we were six or seven years ago. The market has started to respond because law school admissions numbers have gone up sharply this year. So my advice would be if you've always thought you wanted to be a lawyer and you're willing to put in the hard work that it's going to take, you should do it.

### **R: What are some of your favorite memories as a law professor?**

**DS:** One of my favorite stories as a law professor was my first day teaching while I was at the University of Alabama on a fellowship. First days are always difficult in any new job. I remember standing outside the room where I was going to teach thinking to myself, "Is this the time when they're going to figure out that I'm a complete fraud and that I have no business teaching here?" I was about to turn the handle to walk into the class and I couldn't do it. I stepped back and went around the corner into the bathroom and threw some water on my face.

Actually, something similar happened on my first day on the Minnesota Supreme Court. I remember reaching to press a button to turn my microphone on before my very first question and my hand was shaking. Those same kinds of thoughts were going through my mind: "Is this the time that all my colleagues are going to figure out that I'm a fraud and I shouldn't be here?" Was I going to ask a question so stupid that everyone's going to turn and laugh at me in the middle of court?

I loved teaching and I enjoyed being around the students and watching them grow up in the early stages of the profession before my very eyes. I always loved

those moments where somebody said something that really resonated or really taught me something!

Another favorite moment is when I see my students do great things. Some of them eventually became partners in law firms and many of them did clerkships for judges. I became the chair of the clerkship committee at the University of Minnesota, so I saw some students go on to clerk for circuit judges and U.S. Supreme Court justices.

### **R: What do you consider to be the most important quality for a judge?**

**DS:** I think it's the ability to put aside your own biases. It's not necessarily biases in the traditional sense like discriminating against somebody. What I'm talking about are personal experiences you've had throughout your life that may be similar to what the parties are going through or the type of claim being asserted. It could be experiences you had as a practicing attorney in similar cases. It could be experiences you've had in your personal life. It could be experiences family members have had that you know about. One of the things you have to do as a judge is that you can't think about the experiences you've had or the experiences other people have had. You can use the experiences to have a better understanding of the case or what these people have gone through, but you can't let that sway your decision making. You have to put your own experiences aside and decide the case based on what the law requires. You can't impose your own personal policy preferences on a particular case that you're deciding. That's hard because you have to be conscious of what those biases may be and you have to have the ability to set them aside. Some judges fail at putting aside their own biases because they never understand or accept what their own biases are and, if you don't know what your biases are, you can't put them aside.

### **R: How are the justices on a state supreme court like a fraternity?**

**DS:** Well it's a close knit group. I would say that that's probably the biggest thing. Instead of a group of 20–80+ people all of the same gender, as in a fraternity or sorority, you have seven people (or nine in some states), not all of the same gender, not all of the same backgrounds. We don't live together, thankfully! But we spend a lot of

time together, so you need to be collegial with each other. You need to be cooperative. You need to be able to talk with them about confidential matters because all of our cases are confidential. In those ways, it's just like being in a fraternity. You need to be collegial with the people you live with and the people in the chapter. You need to be able to trust them with confidential matters. You need to be able to work together with them. You're in very close quarters if you live in the house. There are some similarities and I certainly will say that some of those things that I learned in the Fraternity have helped me become a more effective judge in terms of the interpersonal aspects of the job.

### **R: Leadership lessons from other judges you have worked with?**

**DS:** The two judges that have had the most influence on me are Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court (for whom I clerked) and Justice Alan Page, a former NFL football player who served on the Minnesota Supreme Court. They taught me how to act as a judge and how judges do things. There are a lot of aspects of being a judge that are not just about deciding cases. It's interacting with your law clerks, it's interacting with colleagues. It's the way you treat the attorneys at oral argument. It's serving on committees, which were particularly important on the Minnesota Supreme Court where we had liaison duties: I had no idea that around 30 percent of my job was administrative. Those two judges taught me how to act in those situations—how to approach people and to treat them with dignity and respect.

Second, certain things that those two judges said to me (and certainly others as well) resonate on a daily basis. Justice Page said, "We can't always be right as judges but the least we can do is be consistent." What he was really saying was to treat all of the attorneys and the litigants before you equally and to try to be consistent in the way you decide cases because that's the least people can expect. Another thing Justice Page said was, "We exercise our judgment, not our will." That means you can't always decide cases in the way you want them to come out. You've got to exercise judgment and figure out what the right answer is and who should win, not the party you would like to win.





The third thing they taught me, even though it may sound very mundane, was how to organize my chambers. You have a very close working team made up of clerks and administrative staff. How do you show leadership within that staff? I learned quite a bit about how to organize my chambers and work efficiently because cases are coming in constantly and you have to get those cases out and write the opinions and get them done. Part of that is making sure that everyone's working toward that goal.

## **R: Is it challenging being impartial outside of the courthouse?**

**DS:** No. I will say this: the impartiality is not tough. What can be tough is that there are certain times you shouldn't express an opinion and, as a law professor, I was supposed to do the opposite. You're supposed to engage students. You're supposed to play devil's advocate. You're really supposed to be provocative. It is now a complete change in roles. As a judge, the last thing you want to do is go out in the public square and be provocative because you could have a negative impact on the legitimacy of the courts. Of course, you have your First Amendment rights, but you cannot discuss political matters publicly. In many ways as a judge, the only voice you have comes out at oral argument and in your opinions. You lose the voice that you once had. I've gotten used to it, but it can be frustrating.

## **R: How has technology affected the judicial branch?**

**DS:** We are slow to change. I'm a little younger than a lot of my colleagues so I'm much more comfortable with technology. I've been 100 percent electronic on reading briefs and other papers. I have a convertible tablet computer so I can actually edit opinions using a digital pen. If you've been doing this for 15–20 years and you're familiar and comfortable with the way you do things, you're not going to want to change. For example, this court is still using WordPerfect. Most people don't even know what WordPerfect is. I can't use my digital pen to edit on WordPerfect on my tablet, but I can use it to edit on Microsoft Word. It's not so much what application you're using—it's about what functionality those applications have. I'm going to try to push my colleagues in a very gentle way by coming to a meeting with my nifty new convertible computer and taking notes on



*Collegiate Days at KU: Stras with future wife Heather and Chuck Unger (Delta Psi/Kansas 1997).*

my tablet. Maybe one of my colleagues will say, "That's really neat. How do I do that?" And I'll get to say, "Well, you'll need Microsoft Word or Microsoft OneNote so you can take notes."

## **R: What is a tough day for you?**

**DS:** It is a tough day when I'm working on an opinion or a case and I'm just having a hard time getting it. As a judge, you are a generalist. You hear criminal cases, civil cases, administrative cases, etc. You can't be an expert on everything. There are some areas that I'm experienced in and I can master and I just get it and then there are some areas that are challenging. I just want to do the best job I can for the people, the parties, and my colleagues.

Another tough part of the job is that some cases are factually very difficult to handle. At the Minnesota Supreme Court, we heard appeals from all first-degree murder cases, including a handful that involved parents killing their children. The things you read can be worse than the absolute worst movies or books. Those are cases where I could only read for a little bit and then I'd go take a walk and clear my head because I wanted to work really hard at remaining impartial and I didn't want to become jaded against one party or the other. Those were among the hardest cases I've ever dealt with and probably ever will.

## **R: What is a good day for you?**

**DS:** A good day is when I get an opinion done, especially a really hard opinion or one

that I struggled with and it gets circulated or published. You feel a real sense of accomplishment. Another example is the converse of what I said earlier, which is when I'd have a really hard time figuring something out and all of a sudden that light bulb comes on and I figure it out.

## **R: Do you think a judge's judicial philosophy can change over time?**

**DS:** I don't for sure know the answer and here's my caveat with this. I don't know whether people move toward the philosophy they really had in the beginning as they mature and spend longer in a job. I know this: my philosophy has not changed one bit. There are things that I have different views on after applying first principles, but in terms of my underlying philosophy, my philosophy hasn't moved one inch since I started as a judge. You do see the phenomenon of people, particularly on the U.S. Supreme Court where it's most studied, where justices look like they're going to be something when they first start and then end up being something entirely different. I just don't know if that's a question of drift, which is what scholars call it when philosophy changes, or whether it's a function of them moving toward what they were in the beginning. There isn't a big enough sample size. Perhaps people were attributing something to them or they wanted to see something that maybe wasn't there and that something becomes only more apparent later on when their philosophy is fully formed.



**R: How would you describe your leadership style?**

**DS:** While my judicial philosophy really hasn't changed, my leadership style has. I'm much more comfortable delegating now and empowering people than I was before. When I first took the bench, it took a while for clerks to gain my trust where I could give them really substantive tasks and trust them to get it done the right way. I think they feel more empowered for having been given the trust and the responsibility that I now give them. A big part of it is also teamwork. You have to make everybody on the team feel valued or they're not going to have the motivation to do their best work. If people feel like they're trusted, valued, and empowered, I think that they will act as a team and work together.

**R: Based on some research, you also attribute some of your leadership style and character to your grandparents, who were both Holocaust survivors. Could you discuss your relationship with them?**

**DS:** One of the things that, wisely or unwisely, my grandparents did is they never wanted to tell me the full story. They tried to shield me from it. My grandmother said, 'We suffered so you could have a better life.' I didn't quite know what she meant. I remember one day when I was in my grandfather's nursing home, he showed me his papers when he emigrated to the United States and when he was part of the liberation camps. When I was younger, I remember him showing me the number on his arm and telling me, 'That's what makes grandpa special.' When I was older, he explained that it was the number that a fellow prisoner tattooed on his arm when he first got to Auschwitz.

In 2013, I was asked by the chief judge of the federal district court in Minnesota to co-chair an event about the Nuremberg trials and lawyers in the Third Reich and that forced me to confront a lot of things about my grandparents. It forced me to go back into his papers and it was sad in some ways because only now, 20 years after he passed away and later in my life, do I understand what he was really saying and what he was really going through. That's actually one of the greatest regrets of my life: I can never have a conversation with him where I show the interest or the knowledge about what he

had experienced. If he were still alive, I wonder if we would have an entirely different conversation that would be much more enlightening to both of us.

So I chose to speak at that event and read a speech authored by my grandfather. One of the reasons I did was because we had a program lined up without any Holocaust survivors. I said to my co-chair, 'This can't stand. What if I read my grandfather's speech?' So I read my grandfather's speech on behalf of all of the survivors. I feel a special responsibility to remind people because I think that that's why my grandfather did a lot of the things he did so that people would remember—so that they never forget.

**R: One of your grandfather's quotes was, "It is important to serve your fellow man." Had you ever connected that back to Theta Chi?**

**DS:** I hadn't until now, in asking that question. As I think about the Creed, in particular, my grandfather and Theta Chi have the same message in many ways: to serve your fellow man. My grandfather was very big on public service. Toward the end of his life, he had multiple sclerosis and was always in pain and had a difficult time moving around. But he never gave up on speaking to people and providing context and advice. He spoke to immigrant groups, in particular, people who had just come to America and he thought that that was a really important part of what he could do. He lived in a nursing home and he would often talk to people who came to the nursing home for the first time to try to help them. All of that kind of stuck with me. The message is very similar between what my grandfather told me and what Theta Chi is all about.

**R: How do you think Theta Chi prepared you for life on the bench?**

**DS:** It taught me how to deal with people, how to treat other people with dignity and respect, and how to maneuver through difficult situations. When I was Chapter President, I had to make some difficult decisions for the good of the organization even though some members of the chapter didn't agree with me. Even though they may not have been happy with my decisions, I know that I did the right thing. The Fraternity teaches responsibility, teamwork, and collegiality.

**R: Why do you continue to come and speak at Theta Chi events?**

**DS:** Because it's the right thing to do. Theta Chi was good to me. I gained a lot from Theta Chi and I believe strongly in paying it forward. I think alumni can have a profound impact on collegians and I think that's important. When I'm asked to do it and I have time to do it, I'm happy to do it and I enjoy it. The last time I spoke here at the University of Minnesota, it was great. I loved that format because a lot of people asked me questions and that was fun. Anything I can do to set a good example or to talk about my time that is helpful, I'm happy to do it.

**R: What is your definition of a Resolute Man?**

**DS:** Someone who is strong and willing to lead and be there for his fellow brothers.

**R: Do you stay in touch with any of your Delta Psi chapter brothers?**

**DS:** I do. Mostly I catch up through Facebook, but I try to stay in touch. I'm planning to see Tim O'Bryhim (1997) while in Wichita this spring for a wedding. Craig Lewis (1996) is a rabbi in Tennessee. My Vice President, who eventually became Chapter President, Col. J.J. Herrman (1996) is still in the Army. We stayed in touch and hung out while he was stationed up here in Minnesota. Lindsay Olsen (1983) will write me every once in a while. I just heard from him a few months ago: he knows both of the U.S. Senators from Kansas and wrote letters urging them to take a personal interest in my confirmation process and to help in any way they could. I had absolutely no idea that he was going to do anything on my behalf and I thought that was a very nice gesture.

**R: Any final thoughts for the younger readers of *The Rattle*?**

**DS:** Take advantage of your years in college. You don't know how good you have it until it's over. That's not to say that I don't thoroughly enjoy what I do now or don't thoroughly enjoy my family. I do. But those years were some of the best years of my life and I'd encourage collegians to learn to appreciate it while it's happening, because it would make the experience even that much richer. Being a Theta Chi is really a wonderful experience. ■





# Thanks, Mom!

CONTRIBUTORS: John Russ (Beta Zeta/Michigan State 1965), excerpts from Fall 2017 Alpha Phi Tideings newsletter, Jared Hunter (Alpha Phi/Alabama 2018), and Katie Kodad

Throughout the decades, several chapters have received guidance from a live-in adviser. Whether they were called house mothers or house directors, these unique individuals chose to live amongst the collegiate members of Theta Chi Fraternity to assist in oversight of the day-to-day operations of the physical chapter house and to provide advice and instruction along the way. Their impact can be felt decades later and, according to the house mothers themselves, it is a rewarding experience.

John Russ (Beta Zeta/Michigan State 1965) shares, My best teacher while in college was the house mother at Theta Chi: **Mrs. Delia Jostes**. Her approach to teaching guided the rest of my life. Mrs. Jostes treated all of us as her sons. She served as house mother at Beta Zeta for five years.



She was a 1922 alumna of Eastern Michigan University (EMU), a member of Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority, and had also attended the University of Wisconsin and the International Business College of Fort Wayne, IN. She taught business for two years at EMU and was employed for 10 years as secretary to the president of the Detroit Steel Corporation. In 1947, she started her own business: the Delia Craft Gift Shop in Marshall, MI.

Mrs. Jostes received all brothers and dates during events and dances at the house. Her mission in life was to instill impeccable manners, dress code, and dining etiquette in the brothers.

Mrs. Jostes had a very effective way of achieving these goals without ever verbally correcting. You did not want to have a private coffee with her. We all found out about them and all attendees reported they were causal and constructive.

Dinners during the week days were served promptly at 6:00 p.m. Brothers arrived before her, dressed neatly in coat and tie, and stood behind their chairs to await her arrival. She arrived in beautiful attire and was escorted by the Chapter President, who sat to her left. We only sat after she was seated. The meal was presented by servers in



Mrs. Jostes with Beta Zeta/Michigan State during 1965/1966.



white jackets and no one began eating until Mrs. Jostes took her first bite, and the same went for dessert!

Mrs. Jostes gave the chair to her right special significance at Monday dinners. It was for the brother invited to sit there at request of the President. The brothers quickly discovered it was the poor soul who had not followed her unwritten rules the prior week. Fortunately, Mrs. Jostes never discussed issues during meals.

The common areas of the house were always immaculate. It looked like a fine home. Each Saturday morning all the windows were washed and floors were waxed and polished or vacuumed. I am sure she inspected when we were not around. Food and drink, except coffee or tea, were not allowed in these rooms, period. Cups and saucers were promptly removed to the kitchen.

Mrs. Jostes mothered our house for many years, molding us into gentlemen for future career and family successes.



*Christmas at Alpha Phi/Alabama with Aunt Kathy Murphy.*



We learn about our next House Mother, **Ms. Kathy Murphy**, in excerpts from the Fall 2017 *Alpha Phi Tideings* chapter newsletter and an article written for TheOdysseyOnline.com by Jared Hunter (Alpha Phi/Alabama 2018):

Hundreds of Alpha Phi brothers simply know her as **"Aunt Kathy."** She has served as our House Mother longer than any of her predecessors, and this year begins her

11th on the job.

Originally working as an office manager at a country club in Birmingham, she knew it was time for a change. When she received a call from her nephew, Paul Keith (2009) asking her if she would like to possibly be a housemother at a fraternity house in Tuscaloosa, she was very interested to learn more.

One of her most memorable experiences is from her first day: "I will never forget my first dinner at the house. I walked in to the dining room and there was chaos everywhere. There were boys standing on tables, chairs all over the place, and dogs running between people's legs! I immediately closed the doors and hurried to my room. In a little bit, I heard a knock on my door and some of the guys had come to get me to show me to my seat at the table. After that, I knew I was in for an incredibly rewarding (and interesting!) experience."

The day-to-day responsibilities of a House Mother can be taxing: she has been responsible for employing and managing the kitchen staff, meeting with repairmen, and assessing each situation when something needs to be repaired or replaced. Even so, Jared Hunter (2018) said, "Other than the brotherhood, philanthropy, the house, and our amazing food, one of my favorite things about Theta Chi is getting to see the smiling face of our house mom every day. She is never too busy to ask about how my family is doing or how that exam went."

She keeps order in the house and adds a level decorum in a chapter of 140 rambunctious young men. At Homecoming, alumni enjoy her house decorations. And hospitality. Each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Kathy decorates the house for the holidays.

She's also seen tragedy first hand when we lost a collegiate brother and when Harrison Phillips (2017) died one month after graduation in an accident. Kathy was right there at the side of parents and brothers serving as a counselor and sharing her empathy in the worst of times.

In recognition of her outstanding service to Theta Chi, she has been awarded the "House Director of the Year" twice during her tenure by the Order of Omega.

Aunt Kathy shares, "One of the most rewarding parts of my job is getting to be around such a funny, great and loving group of guys. I have loved getting to see the guys grow and mature, and of course have a bunch of fun throughout college. The best part is getting to know all the boys and their families, and interacting with them on a daily basis. Sometimes I would wonder if this is where God wants me and struggle with handling the job. But it seems like anytime I begin to wonder that, a guy will come in and give me a big hug or mention how much I mean to them, and I know I'm exactly where I should be."

She was (and still is) "Aunt Kathy" to Brother Paul Keith, but she's become "Aunt Kathy" to hundreds of other young men who've passed through our doors. On behalf of the hundreds of alumni, whose lives she's touched, "Thank You to Aunt Kathy for all that you do."

In our final profile, **Katie Kodad**, a master's student and events coordinator for the Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services at the University of Nebraska, shares her thoughts on





Katie Kodad keeps Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan's home festive.



Katie Kodad

recently becoming the House Mother across town at Nebraska Wesleyan:

"I decided to become a house mother because I thought the experience would contribute to my work in higher education. Making the transition from sororities to a fraternity has definitely been an eye-opening experience, but a wonderful one to say the least. The first semester had its natural challenges: guys getting used to having a woman

living in the house, the random yelling because a group of guys beat a level on a video game, or even surprised looks when people find out I'm a house mother for a fraternity. All of the challenges don't even come close to the positive experiences I have had in my short time being a house mother for the gentlemen of Theta Chi Fraternity's Gamma Phi Chapter. There have been a lot of guys that seek out advice on relationships and most of the guys make it a point to introduce me to their friends and significant others, introducing me as their mom. I always got a laugh from hearing my mom talk about my siblings and me, but now I find myself talking about "my boys" just like a proud, corny mom. They have definitely captured my heart in many instances, but there are a few who stand out. I was actually out of town on my birthday this year and the guys know birthdays

are a big deal to me, so they called me and sang to me to make sure I knew they didn't forget my special day. When I returned they surprised me with my favorite flowers and a T-shirt with "Nebraska Wesleyan MOM" on it and I was overwhelmed with joy.

The guys can also attest that I am a very loud and proud mom, which I clearly displayed during a recent Greek Week lip sync performance. A few of the guys won individual awards and I made it very clear how excited I was for those individuals and the whole chapter as I lost my voice cheering for them. Along with sitting next to my boys and cheering on Theta Chi, the highlight of the evening was when they announced I had won Outstanding House Director. Receiving this recognition meant so much to me and I appreciated that the guys even thought to nominate me for it. Being a house mother, I don't always know what each day will bring; but I do know that I am grateful for this experience and this chapter holds a special place in my heart."

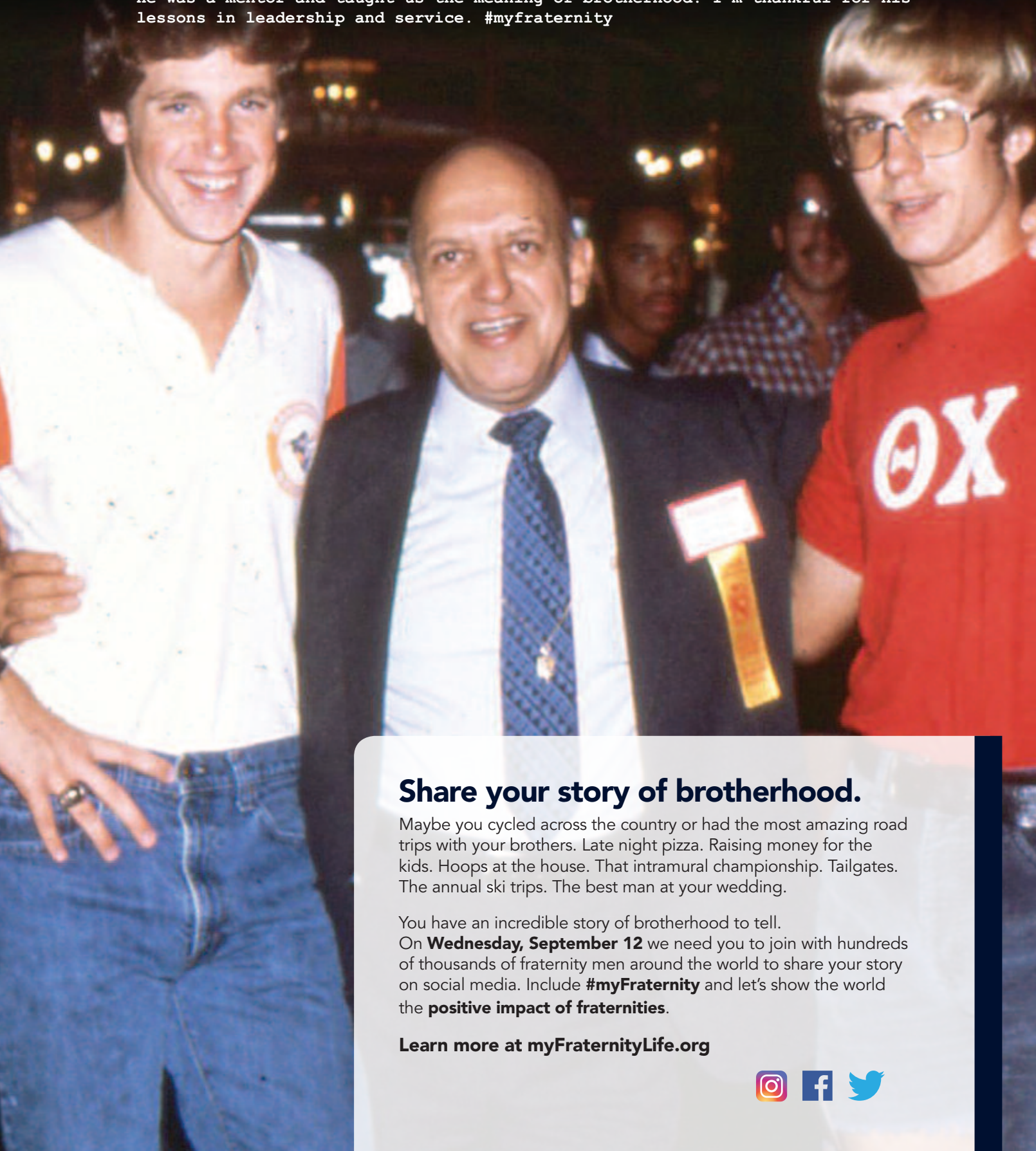
No matter the title, no matter the decade, House Mothers (and House Directors) have had a tremendous impact on the brothers of Theta Chi. Their guidance, wisdom, support, and dedicated service are written on the hearts of our brothers. We hope that these unique individuals know how truly grateful and appreciative the Men of Theta Chi truly are. While we didn't know them from birth, let's strive to be the Resolute Men that they raised us to be!

**Have a great memory or story to share about your House Mother? Send to [rattle@thetachi.org](mailto:rattle@thetachi.org)! ■**



# #myFraternity

Jim Ramsey (Eta Chi/George Mason 1983): I'll never forget Convention in New Orleans with John Boland and meeting International President George Kilavos. He was a mentor and taught us the meaning of brotherhood. I'm thankful for his lessons in leadership and service. #myfraternity



## Share your story of brotherhood.

Maybe you cycled across the country or had the most amazing road trips with your brothers. Late night pizza. Raising money for the kids. Hoops at the house. That intramural championship. Tailgates. The annual ski trips. The best man at your wedding.

You have an incredible story of brotherhood to tell.

On **Wednesday, September 12** we need you to join with hundreds of thousands of fraternity men around the world to share your story on social media. Include **#myFraternity** and let's show the world the **positive impact of fraternities**.

Learn more at [myFraternityLife.org](http://myFraternityLife.org)





# Giving the Gift of Brotherhood

“Theta Chi has allowed me to grow stronger leadership skills and academic values. I am

continuously reminded of the lifelong value of primacy of alma mater. As a molecular and cellular biology major, I have been involved in a genetics research laboratory that specifically studies the molecular components of colorectal cancer. I have received great support from brothers towards my involvement in a research lab and my constant pursuit for science.”

—Jorge Jaimes (Eta Upsilon/Texas A&M 2018)

Brothers,

Everyday Theta Chi changes the lives of our members whether it's no-cost leadership training, a much-needed scholarship, or lifelong friendships. Theta Chi is there to shape the lives of future leaders. You can play a role in supporting our men through tax-deductible giving to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi. In my recent travels, I met two outstanding brothers—John and Jorge. I

wanted to share their Theta Chi story as well as a few unique ways you can support more of these great students.



Philip Thornton  
Chief Development Officer

## Gifts of appreciated securities

One option for supporting The Foundation Chapter is gifting appreciated securities (stock gifts). Theta Chi has a brokerage account setup to receive your gifts of stock, which can support our leadership training and scholarship programs. When making a gift of appreciated securities, typically you will receive credit for a tax-deductible gift of the entire value of the stock and avoid paying the capital gains tax. This can be very advantageous for brothers who are holding significant amounts of appreciated securities. For more information about gifting appreciated securities, or to receive a copy of the transfer instructions, please reach out to the Foundation staff.

## Gifts from Required Minimum Distributions of your IRA

Not many brothers are aware that you can gift your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to The Foundation Chapter. Retirees typically need to pay income tax on withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts. However, retirees ages 70 1/2 or older who directly transfer their IRA withdrawals of up to \$100,000 to the Foundation will typically not owe income tax on the distribution. For this to

happen, you need to contact your IRA administrator for the transfer and they will require documentation confirming the Foundation is an eligible charitable organization. The IRA administrator will need a copy of Theta Chi's IRS Determination Letter. The Foundation staff will provide a copy of this document upon request. If you have check-writing privileges for your IRA, you can write a check directly to the Foundation. Your gift (direct transfer) to the Foundation will count as your annual RMD and will not be included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). If you have questions or would like to know more about RMD gifts, please reach out to me.

### Planned Gifts

One of the most impactful ways to support Theta Chi is through a planned gift of your estate. Planned gifts can take many forms, but often a brother can make a much more significant gift through their estate than they ever could during their lifetime. The most significant gifts Theta Chi has ever received in its history are through estate giving. The benefit of a planned gift is the assurance that you get to support Theta Chi for generations to come, and it costs you **NOTHING** today. Planned gifts can take many forms. They can be retirement accounts, real estate, valuable personal property, or gifting a portion of your estate to Theta Chi. The simplest way to support Theta Chi through a planned gift is to list the organization as a beneficiary of your estate. You can list Theta Chi as a primary beneficiary, co-beneficiary or secondary beneficiary for any of the assets listed above. The most important way to ensure your gift arrives to Theta Chi's Foundation is to list our organization's legal name and Tax-ID number as the beneficiary:

### The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc. Tax-ID 21-4014559

It is critical to use our proper legal name and Tax-ID, then you know your planned gift will be properly fulfilled. I want you to know that I've made my own planned gift; I've listed the Foundation as the primary beneficiary of two of my retirement accounts. It costs me nothing today, but I know that my assets will support our brotherhood for generations to come. I know you have questions about customizing these gifts to your personal situation. I'm happy to assist you in this process.

Please reach out to me to set up a time to talk. I look forward to hearing from you!

Fraternally,

*Philip Thornton*

Philip Thornton

Chief Development Officer

philip@thetachi.org

317-848-1856

*\*This article does not serve as financial advice. Please contact your accounting professional to understand how these giving options will affect you.*



“Theta Chi brought me some of my closest friends that I would never have met without the Fraternity. I’m not

sure where I would be in my college experience if I hadn’t joined. Between a brotherhood that will last for the rest of my life and an improved academic wellbeing, Theta Chi has been the best decision of my life.”

—John McAndrew

(Eta Upsilon/Texas A&M 2020)



## Foundation Ambassadors Spark Fundraising Success

Before last year, the primary way to serve brothers in need of financial assistance was to make a tax-deductible gift to The Foundation Chapter. There is now a new opportunity for giving back—by becoming a Foundation Ambassador.

The biggest crowdfunding event of the year for nonprofits is #GivingTuesday, which takes place the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. #GivingTuesday 2017 was the largest online day of giving in the Foundation's history; 178 donors gave a combined \$18,790.59!

The ambassadors were the driving force behind #GivingTuesday's success. They greatly expanded the reach of the Foundation's messaging by sharing Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter posts. Some of them even went as far as emailing, calling, and texting brothers, asking them to make gifts in support of our collegiate members. We want to sincerely thank each of them for their assistance:

Ryan Andrews	Layton Cox	Cole Hanson	Nicholas Osenberg	Patrick Reagan
Austin Cariveau	Jace Duhon	Jason Howeth	Dan Lepper	Eric Shapiro
Jordan Carter	Corey Esquenazi	Justin Jones	Cory Loveless	Kevin Stolecki
Jimmy Cox	Kyle Griffis	Darien Key	Brandon Majmudar	
		Travis Medlin	Roman Peterson	

If you'd like to volunteer or learn more about being a Foundation Ambassador, then please contact Director of Development Joe Macko at 317-848-1856 or [jmacko@thetachi.org](mailto:jmacko@thetachi.org).

## Collegians Thank Alumni Donors

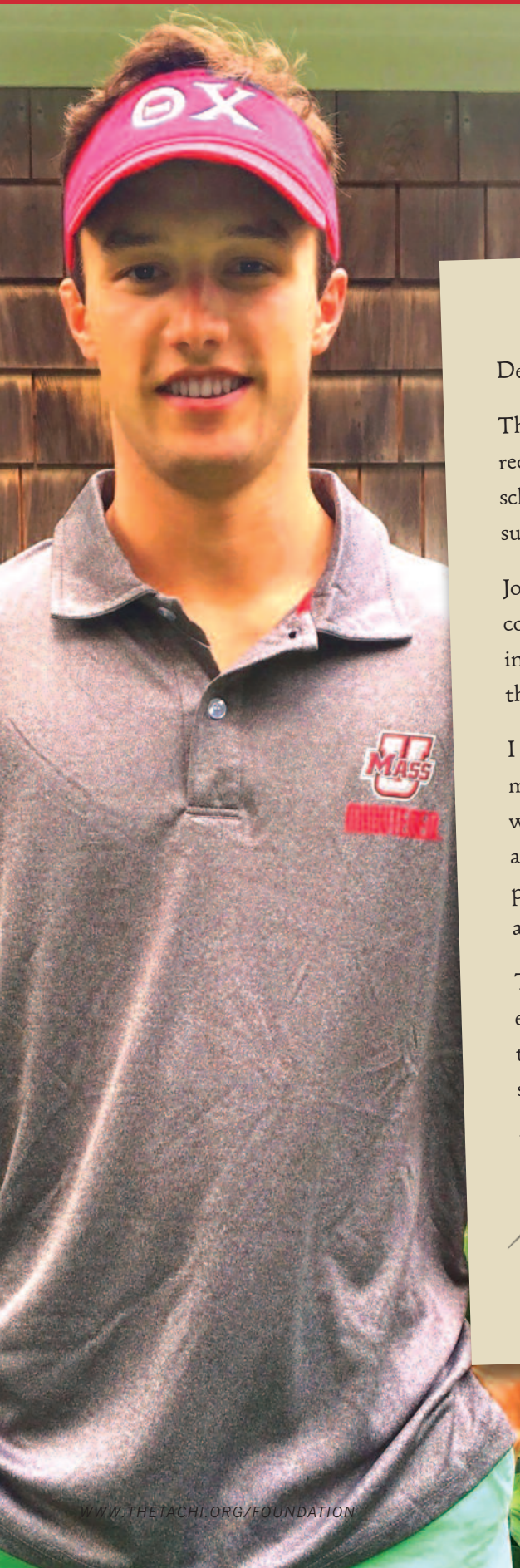
Following the close of each calendar year, The Foundation Chapter selects interns to serve as student callers in a January Thank-a-Thon. The event involves collegiate brothers calling every donor from the previous calendar year to thank them for their giving. The collegians gladly give up several of their winter break evenings to express their gratitude to our gracious donors.

This year's Thank-a-Thon participants made over 2,000 phone calls to show donors gratitude.

Our alumni love hearing from brothers who are benefitting from their generosity. The phone call allows the donor to know exactly where their contributions are being utilized, and lets them reminisce on their college experience. Most importantly, they hear how their gifts are making a difference directly from a collegiate brother.



*Student callers at IHQ for the January 2018 Thank-a-Thon.*



Dear Donors,

Thank you for graciously giving to The Foundation Chapter so I could receive a scholarship. This award will reduce the financial burden of medical school, making it easier for me to achieve my dream of becoming a pediatric surgeon.

Joining Theta Chi is one of the greatest decisions I've ever made. The connections and friendships I've formed within this brotherhood are invaluable to me. I've met my best friends and many other brothers across the nation.

I attribute much of my extracurricular success to Theta Chi, as it helped me realize my potential as a leader. I served my chapter as Vice President, worked as a teaching/research assistant on campus, and volunteered to be a Big Brother and Board Member at Big Brothers Big Sisters. These experiences have helped me grow into the innovative student, creative leader, and passionate philanthropist I am today.

The generosity of Theta Chis never fails to amaze me. Again, I cannot express how grateful I am for your open-hearted altruism. I look forward to one day extending a Helping Hand to brothers who follow in my footsteps.

Fraternally,

Kaeden McClintock (Theta/Massachusetts 2018)





FEATURE

# RESOLUTE

## Our



*Rob Guardiola (Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan 2020) flies the flag on a brotherhood hike on Wildhorse Mountain at Flathead Lake in Montana. He will take his Theta Chi experience to the next level: He has signed up online and started the process to become a Resolute Man.*



# MAN Greatest Accomplishment

BY MITCH NOLAN, FIELD EXECUTIVE



I began my journey to become a Resolute Man five years ago and I didn't even know it at the time. I pledged Theta Chi at our Delta Psi Chapter at the University of Kansas in fall 2013 and became entirely enthralled with the possibilities that not only my university, but newly found organization would bring. I knew that Theta Chi would serve a great purpose in my life and that I had joined something that is larger than me and larger than my campus.

Resolute Man was first announced during my junior year at KU. I first learned about it during the 2016 Sasser Presidents Conference and it completely resonated with me. While I flipped through the gleaming red booklet that contained a list of what initially seemed like intimidating requirements, I began to envision what this initiative could do for me. This recognition was something that I was determined to achieve, so I started to plan for it. I began checking off the items I had already accomplished, and highlighting those I still needed to complete.

I realized that because of my involvement at KU, in the community, and in my chapter, I was already accomplishing things that would later count as components towards this recognition. I had served as Chapter President for two consecutive terms, was a Senator in Student Government, held a position on the Homecoming Steering Committee, attended personal and professional development seminars, obtained a cumulative GPA higher than the all men's average, educated myself and my chapter on topics coinciding with the Sacred Purpose Movement, sat in on sessions of state and local government, joined Theta Chi's Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Society, and more. The opportunities that are offered because of the Resolute Man initiative are endless and have given me the most preparation I could have asked for while transitioning from my university to the so-called "real world".

On May 7, 2017, I received the Resolute Man distinction alongside my chapter brother, Tyler Holcom (2017). I consider this one of my greatest accomplishments as a Theta Chi to date.

As a Field Executive, I've had an amazing experience traveling the country and working with our Fraternity's chapters. I have seen







## RESOLUTE MAN



*Delta Psi/Kansas brothers celebrate at the 160th Anniversary Convention in Atlanta, GA: (l-r) Eliot Alpert (2017), Mitch Nolan (2017), Tyler Holcom (2017), Tres Cantrell (2018), and Evan Burkett (2019).*

I believe in  
Theta Chi and  
I believe in the  
Resolute Man.



*Delta Psi/Kansas' Mitch Nolan (2017) (l) and Tyler Holcom (2017) (r) take the Oath of the Resolute Man.*

Resolute Man being widely implemented in our chapters and colonies. Men at the local level are beginning to go above and beyond with their educational programming. I have seen chapters host dress for success seminars, alumni networking events, chapter-wide goal setting retreats, etiquette sessions, and much more. The Resolute Man has taken Theta Chi by storm and is setting a standard for other fraternities across the nation.

This initiative has been widely successful in recruitment as well. I have been a part of two of Theta Chi's expansion projects: the recolonization at Zeta Alpha/Slippery Rock and redevelopment at Delta/Iota Northwestern. Men who have never heard of Theta Chi or the Resolute Man were drawn to our Fraternity because they truly see the value in this initiative. It makes our organization look more attractive to potential new members, and will make them better men because of it. I urge all brothers to use Resolute Man to market your chapter to potential new members, because implementing this at the local level can truly give them a more substantial college experience.

Why consider the Resolute Man? Why am I writing about the amazing influences that this Fraternity can have on your life? It's because it matters. By participating in this unique initiative, collegiate members can finish their time in college being able to say that they received the most out of their Greek experience and have firmly developed leadership and life skills to help them in their future professional careers and private lives.

I urge all alumni to get involved with the Resolute Man. Collegians across the country are looking for mentors for this program. You can provide a direct impact on the lives of our men. By mentoring them throughout their time in college, you will help our brothers achieve this great distinction and help them understand that Theta Chi is truly for life.

The Resolute Man holds our brothers to a higher standard than the average collegian—and the average fraternity man. It cultivates a well-rounded college experience. It makes our brothers better men. I challenge you to step up—because more now than ever before, I believe in Theta Chi and I believe in the Resolute Man.

**For more information on The Resolute Man, visit [www.thetachi.org/resoluteman](http://www.thetachi.org/resoluteman)**



ALPHA RHO/Washington



ALPHA PSI/Maryland

Jake Bernardi (left) is awarded a pilot slot, Elee Johns (above) brings home the gold, and Ross Huges and Jonathan Nickas (right) are tapped into Florida Blue Key.



TAU/Florida

ZETA/New Hampshire



BETA OMICRON/Cincinnati



### ZETA/NEW HAMPSHIRE

In December, we held our second annual polar plunge at Hampton Beach and raised more than \$2,000 for the USO.

### TAU/FLORIDA

Ross Huges (2018) and Jonathan Nickas (2019) were tapped as members of the Florida Blue Key, the oldest and most prestigious leadership honorary in the state of Florida.

### PHI/NORTH DAKOTA STATE

We hosted "A night to remember," which was an alcohol-free party designed to educate the NDSU student body on sexual assault prevention and the dangers of alcohol abuse.

### OMEGA/PENN STATE

We initiated our 1,500th member during the fall 2017 semester.

### ALPHA IOTA/INDIANA

We contributed more than \$26,000 in donations towards the \$4.2 million raised by the campus through IU Dance Marathon, which benefits Riley Children's Hospital. We won

the inaugural Legacy Cup (a 24-hour fundraising challenge held the week prior to the event) by raising \$6,000.

### ALPHA PI/MINNESOTA

As part of the Warrior Week to benefit the USO, brothers assisted the Fremont Community Clinic in assembling resource kits for underprivileged families, joined People Serving People in helping out with some building beautification, and packed meals to feed more than 70 children.

### ALPHA RHO/WASHINGTON

Jake Bernardi (2019) was awarded with a pilot slot from the Air Force. As a member of the AFROTC, the pilot slot will allow him to continue pursuing a career as a fighter pilot and brings him closer to being assigned a jet.

### ALPHA PSI/MARYLAND

Elee Johns (2018) took home gold in the junior 93kg division at the USAPL (USA Powerlifting) Terrapin Open. He totaled 1,410 lbs. between bench press, squat, and deadlift.



BETA PHI/RENO, NV raised more than \$9,000 for the USO through their week-long G.I. Theta Chi event. In March, the brothers teamed up with Kappa Alpha Order, Zeta Psi, and Kappa Sigma to give back to the Reno community by handing out over 500 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the homeless.

### BETA OMICRON/CINCINNATI

Austin Baker (2019), pictured above, was tapped into Phi Rho Chi, a local honor society for fraternity men at the University of Cincinnati. Con-

sidered by many to be the highest honor for Greek men at the University of Cincinnati, Phi Rho Chi recognizes fraternity men who excel in leadership, pride, and ambition.





**EPSILON DELTA/Youngstown State**

**GAMMA THETA/San Diego State**



## BETA OMICRON/CINCINNATI

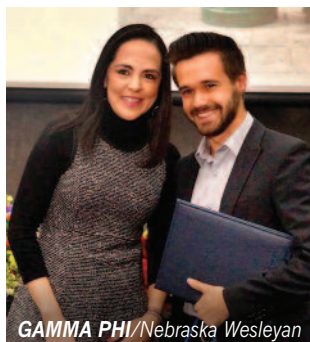
**Michael Hoffmaster** (2019) was tapped into the Men of Metro, an honorary service group at the University of Cincinnati. Founded in 1946, Men of Metro serves to advance school spirit and morale through student activities sponsored by the University of Cincinnati.

## GAMMA ZETA/ OKLAHOMA STATE

**Tim Neary** (2019), **Joshua Randolph** (2019), and **Zack Smith** (2018) made the Dean's List and **Sam Brander** (2019) made the President's Honor Roll for the fall 2017 semester. A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher to make the Dean's List, while a student has to receive a semester GPA of 4.0 to make the President's Honor Roll.

## GAMMA THETA/ SAN DIEGO STATE

Two brothers were elected to the San Diego State University IFC: **Victor Todor** (2018) as President and **Nick Wohlman** (2019) as Vice President.



**GAMMA PHI/Nebraska Wesleyan**

## GAMMA PHI/ NEBRASKA WESLEYAN

**Nathan Kramer** (2018) received third place in a photography contest he entered while studying Spanish at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Querétaro, Mexico.

## GAMMA CHI/ RANDOLPH-MACON

In October, we collaborated with the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter on a fundraiser to benefit the Hanover Humane Society. Dozens of students came out to play Spikeball, a modified version of volleyball, and over \$300 was raised during the event.

## 2018 Northeast Greek Leadership Association



Collegians and alumni professionals gathered together for a photo during the 2018 Northeast Greek Leadership Association (NGLA) Conference. Top (l-r): **Tyler Robertson** (Kappa Beta/Long Island-Post 2020), **TCNJ Director of Student Involvement Dave Conner** (Alpha Xi/Delaware 2003), **RIT Associate Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life Eric Pope** (Eta Zeta/Edinboro 2003), **Rutgers Graduate Intern for Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Taylor Sevik** (Iota Sigma/Towson 2015), **Arjun Mithal** (Beta/MIT 2019). Bottom (l-r): **Garrett Deyle** (Beta Omega/Susquehanna 2020), **Matthew Lewis** (Epsilon Eta/IUP 2019), **Dylan Cohen** (Beta Theta/Drexel 2021), **Brandon DePaul** (Beta Theta/Drexel 2020), **Robert Mfon** (Beta Theta/Drexel 2018).

PHOTO BY DAVE CONNER



**GAMMA TAU/DRAKE** brothers participate in a community service project this past November with the greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity, where they help build a house for a family in need.



## Alpha Tau Revival

BY JOHN JAROSIK (ALPHA TAU/OHIO 2020)

“Ours is an organization founded on brotherhood, loyalty, and respect for our fellow man.” —Cameron King (Alpha Tau/Ohio 2020), Chapter President

I am currently a sophomore at Ohio University and I joined Alpha Tau Chapter my first semester on campus during a chapter redevelopment effort led by Field Executives from the International Headquarters. After three semesters in the Fraternity, it's strange to think that I came to school with no plans whatsoever of joining one.

I learned of the opportunity to join Theta Chi when a group of guys on my dorm floor met in the room next to me and

decided to talk about being a part of the group to re-establish Theta Chi at OU. At first, I was skeptical because I still wasn't sure whether I wanted to join or not. I also wanted to see how many of these guys would actually go through the interview process with the Field Executives.

After a week, I discovered that all of them had interviewed and received a bid to join. I realized that I had to start taking this seriously, so I reached out and went through the interview process with the Field Executives. Ultimately, I was one of the final members to receive a bid and joined the group that would be charged to re-establish Alpha Tau Chapter.

From that point on, everything went really fast. In a matter of a few weeks, we went from being pledges, to initiated brothers, and had to pick up what being in Theta Chi Fraternity was all about.

With the majority of us being freshmen at the time (and none of us really knowing how to run a fraternity), we had a lot of growing pains and frustration within our first few weeks. From writing bylaws, to getting our name out in the Greek Community, to holding everyone accountable, to recruitment, it was a lot on our plate for a bunch of kids who had not even been in college for two full months and really did not know each other.



*The men of Alpha Tau gather for a group photo following a chapter meeting.*

After two semesters of hard work and dedication, I think we are finally there. We are trending in the right direction thanks to the dedication and work of our brothers and alumni.

We've made grades, had date parties, fostered a positive relationship with the Greek community, and are starting to function like a fraternity should. There's a sense of excitement when we do things now. From brotherhood events, to intramural games, to even cleaning on Sundays, there's just a sense of pride when we say we are part of Theta Chi. Our work is finally starting to pay off for us and we have plans in place to try and double our chapter size next semester.

Despite the heavy workload, we knew as a chapter that we could only go upward from where we started. We discovered that with hard work and dedication, we could achieve our goals. Alpha Tau Chapter came a long way since the start of this redevelopment. We have all resolved to continue our rebuilding process and become the best fraternity at Ohio University.

Though I may only be a sophomore, I believe that joining Theta Chi was the best decision I have made at college and am grateful for the opportunities I've had thus far.





**ETA PHI/Oakland**



**DELTA GAMMA/WV Wesleyan**



**ZETA BETA/Adrian**



**EPSILON IOTA/East Carolina**



**ZETA ALPHA/Slippery Rock**

*Eta Phi* brothers make PB&J sandwiches for the homeless. *Delta Gamma's* Zach Abbott and John Harvey are recognized for having a 4.0 GPA. *Zeta Beta's* Aaron Ellis (2018) is crowned homecoming king during Adrian's 2017 homecoming weekend. Brothers from *Epsilon Iota* win the four-on-four intramural basketball championship at East Carolina and *Zeta Alpha* receives Slippery Rock's award for academic excellence.

## **DELTA GAMMA/ WV WESLEYAN**

Zach Abbott (2018) and John Harvey (2020) were recognized by West Virginia Wesleyan for having a 4.0 grade point average during the spring 2017 semester.

## **DELTA ZETA/ NEBRASKA-OMAHA**

Jacob Albrecht (2020) was elected Vice President of Communications for IFC.

## **DELTA ETA/COLORADO STATE**

We held "Ending the Stigma," an event open to the entire campus to raise awareness about mental health. The event consisted of a panel of mental health experts answering audience questions and providing thoughts on various issues surrounding mental health.

Ty Fiero (2017) was recognized as Chapter President of the Year and Brayan Montes (2019) received the FSL's Award for Social Justice and Inclusion.



**DELTA OMEGA/Ripon**

## **DELTA OMEGA/RIPON**

Bradley Drew (2018) received the Greek Man of the Year Award.

## **EPSILON DELTA/ YOUNGSTOWN STATE**

We were crowned Greek Week champions during the fall 2017 semester.

## **EPSILON KAPPA/IDAHO**

We had the highest grade point average (GPA) amongst all fraternities for the fall 2017 semester. This is our second straight semester with the highest fraternity GPA at the University of Idaho.

## **EPSILON MU/ EASTERN MICHIGAN**

For the fall 2017 semester, we had the highest GPA of all IFC fraternities (3.11) and won the intramural basketball championship.

Kayne MacCallum (2018) won the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Wrestling Championship for the 184 lb. division. He was also crowned the winner of Mr. Greek, a competition organized by Delta Zeta Sorority. He won in part by raising over \$1,100 for the Starkey's Hearing Foundation, which supplies hearing aids to children in need.

## **EPSILON SIGMA/WAGNER**

Richie Spinosa (2019) was accepted into Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society that strives for excellence in leadership and character development.

## **EPSILON TAU/ STEPHEN F. AUSTIN**

Three brothers were selected to be a Jack Camp Counselor: Cole Albritton-Felts (2019), Ben Nguyen (2021), and Victor Torres Herrera (2020). As Jack Camp Counselors,

they will be helping to lead a three-day extended orientation to incoming students.

## **ZETA ALPHA/SLIPPERY ROCK**

We received the Academic Excellence Award during Slippery Rock's Fraternity and Sorority Life Celebration of Excellence.

## **ZETA KAPPA/ OHIO NORTHERN**

We were recognized as a Gold Chapter during the 2017 Standards of Excellence Program. To be recognized as a Gold Chapter, a group must attain 90% of the possible points. We also took home awards for Most Improved Grade Point Average, the President's Award for Highest Chapter GPA, Outstanding Faculty Member, and Nick Pesetsky (2020) was recognized as Greek Man of the Year.

## **ZETA SIGMA/ WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS**

During the 2017 holiday season, we packed over 30 meals for Feed My Starving Children, a non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food



## Iota Mu leads on IFC

BY JOHN COVENEY (IOTA MU/MISSOURI 2021)

Throughout 2017, two brothers from Iota Mu/Missouri vastly improved their own chapter and the entire University of Missouri fraternity system. Through their work with IFC, Theta Chi's reputation with administration has been greatly strengthened. Their dedication to advancing the Mizzou community has been truly inspiring to experience. They strive to be Resolute Men and exemplify our maxim, Alma Mater first and Theta Chi for Alma Mater.



University of Missouri IFC



**Stephen Ruiz** (2019) served as IFC's Vice President of Recruitment where he aided with Mizzou's formal recruitment process. Within Iota Mu he was Pledge Class President, Philanthropy Chairman, Social Chairman, and liaison for every Homecoming and Greek Week since his initiation. Steve shared, "Having such a large responsibility at such a young age was very overwhelming at first, but before I knew it the position was growing me in ways I never imagined possible. Looking back on it, I'm extremely grateful to have been able to organize the process that led hundreds of men into Greek life and it is a profound experience that will stick with me for the rest of my life."

**Caleb Wilson** (2018) served as VP of Member Development and concentrated on creating programs to ensure the continual development of scholarship, leadership, service, and brotherhood within Mizzou's fraternities. In our chapter, Caleb served as Vice President and maintained a 4.0 GPA. Caleb said, "Working on IFC came with its challenges, but all in all it was a blast. The other board members became some of my best friends and we had some incredible accomplishments. We established a community service award that provides \$2,000 to the fraternity with the best idea to help the Columbia community. We also established the first new member educator development program at Mizzou. I'd highly recommend anyone considering running for IFC to go for it—it was hands down one of my best experiences at Mizzou."



to people in developing nations. We also won the coveted intramural broomball championship.

### ZETA PSI/WESTERN ILLINOIS

**Tony Madrigal** (2018) was elected President of IFC.

### ETA PHI/OAKLAND

We completed 30 days of service where at least one brother volunteered for at least one hour every day during the month of November. The projects included making sandwiches for Grace Centers for Hope and doing yardwork for Reroot Pontiac.

### ETA PSI/UAB

**Nicholas Arnold** (2020) was elected as the Assistant Director of Funding for the Undergraduate Student Government Association and as Vice President of Communication for IFC.



ZETA TAU/Michigan-Flint



Zeta Tau/Michigan-Flint brothers receive a certificate of recognition from the city of Flint, MI for their efforts in community service. Santino Guerra (2020), right and above, is elected to the Flint City Council at the age of 19, making him the youngest person ever elected to Flint's city council.





## CHAPTER NEWS



**IOTA THETA/Central Florida**

**IOTA THETA/Central Florida** brothers volunteer for Buddy Up, a high-energy, adaptive tennis and fitness program for children and young adults with Down Syndrome. **IOTA PHI** wins the fall 2017 fraternity intramural softball championship at South Carolina. **KAPPA ALPHA** brothers assist Habitat for Humanity. **IOTA OMEGA's** Andrew Clark plays with children orphaned by the earthquakes in Mexico. **ETA OMEGA's** Michael Sunia volunteers to help fight the wildfires in California.



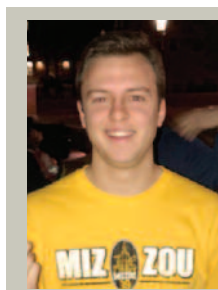
**ETA OMEGA/Chico State**



**IOTA PHI/South Carolina**



**KAPPA ALPHA/Spokane, WA**



### **IOTA MU/MISSOURI**

**Cole Stoecklein** (2018) was awarded the Mizzou '39 Award. Presented by the Mizzou Alumni Association Student Board, this award is given to 39 seniors each year who are chosen for their academic achievement, leadership, and service to Mizzou and the community.

### **ETA OMEGA/CHICO STATE**

During the California wildfires this past October, **Michael Sunia** (2019) volunteered as a firefighter to help fight the flames.

### **THETA EPSILON/ KENNESAW STATE**

We won the intramural fraternity league basketball championship. **Steve Kim** (2019) was elected the 2017 Homecoming Prince.

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

**Brandon McCoy** (2018) received the 2017-2018 Citizen Scholar Award, presented by the Board of Governors for Missouri State

University. The Citizen Scholar Award is given to students who have contributed to the university, advanced the university's public affairs mission, and have been significantly engaged in extra-curricular accomplishments and/or in significant service activities in the community. He is the fourth Iota Beta brother to receive this award since 2007.

### **IOTA GAMMA/ GRAND VALLEY STATE**

This past October, we held a campus-wide canned food drive and were able to donate 277 pounds of canned goods to Feeding America West Michigan.

### **IOTA LAMBDA/LONGWOOD**

Three brothers were elected to the IFC: **Zach York** (2019) as President, **Nick Costa** (2019) as Vice President of Community Relations, and **Patrick Martin** (2019) as Vice President of Scholarship. **Josh Darst** (2019) was elected Student Government President, **David Gills** (2019) was elected Senior Class President, and **Tom Lewis** (2021) was elected Sophomore Class Treasurer. A Theta Chi has been SGA President for 9 of the past 13 years! Three additional brothers were elected as SGA Senators and five brothers were appointed as Peer Mentors.

### **IOTA OMICRON/FIU**

**Michael DiBono** (2018) was elected President of IFC and we were awarded Chapter of the Year!

### **IOTA TAU/ NORTHERN KENTUCKY**

During Northern Kentucky's Fraternity and Sorority Life Awards banquet, we received awards for Outstanding Achievement in Unity, Inclusiveness, Service, Integrity, Fellowship, Scholarship and Leader-

ship Awards, the Chapter Excellence Award, and the New Member of the Year Award.

**Ethan Poweleit** (2019) was crowned homecoming king and **Jake Wietmarschen** (2019) was crowned homecoming prince.

### **IOTA UPSILON/TEXAS STATE**

**Seth McNeill** (2020) was elected to IFC as Vice President of Operations.

### **IOTA PSI/RIT**

During the fall 2017 semester, we took home the intramural championships in basketball and soccer. During our Bleacher Bash event, we raised over \$400 for The Center for Youth, which specializes in comprehensive programs and development opportunities.

### **IOTA OMEGA/ SUNY CORTLAND**

**Andrew Clark** (2020) recently spent time in Mexico visiting children from an orphanage that is still recovering from an earthquake that took place September 2017.





IOTA OMEGA/SUNY Cortland

**KAPPA ALPHA/SPOKANE, WA**

Brothers volunteered for Habitat for Humanity in Deer Park, WA. We also participated at The Lands Council's Reforest Spokane Day at Kendall Yards. This project aims at planting trees on the land that runs along the Spokane River, which will help restore the local vegetation and ecosystem.

**KAPPA ZETA/ARKANSAS**

During fall 2017, we cleaned up trails at Mount Sequoia in Fayetteville, AR. During the Fayetteville Dogwood Festival, we hosted the Miss Dogwood Pageant and raised \$1,000 for the USO.

**CSU-SAN MARCOS COLONY**

As part of the Surfrider Foundation Beach Cleanup during November 2017, our members helped to clean up over 35 pounds of trash along the beaches of San Diego.

**We'd love to hear from you!**  
Send Chapter Updates to  
[rattle@thetachi.org](mailto:rattle@thetachi.org).

## Extra Innings

BY NICK HOKE, ASSISTANT EDITOR

Guinness World Records was established in 1954 to track the most unusual, random, and impressive acts that mankind has ever seen. Since its inception thousands of records have been set or broken. In October 2017, Iota Beta Chapter at Missouri State University etched its name in Guinness' record book.

With the help of FIJI's Missouri State chapter, an idea was hatched to break the record for the world's longest continuous baseball game, which was then at 74 hours. However, the meaning behind the game was more than just breaking a world record. In the process, both chapters agreed to raise funds for the United Service Organizations (USO), a national philanthropic partner for both Theta Chi and FIJI.

Iota Beta Chapter President (and Missouri Student Government Association President) **Brandon McCoy** (2018) partnered with FIJI's Blake Kobel and Zac Fletcher and applied to Guinness to break the world record. Guinness required them to have umpires, scorekeepers, two witnesses, and video evidence throughout the entire game. With the help of volunteers, mainly from the Missouri State Greek community, they were able to fill all of the necessary roles.

The ceremonial first pitch was thrown out by University President Clif Smart, who vowed to donate \$800 if the game made it to 80 hours. Both teams were eager to hold him to his word.

"Play Ball!" was announced on Wednesday, October 11 at 7 p.m. To help keep players fresh, Theta Chi rotated three teams of nine players who played for three hours then would rest for six hours, while FIJI opted to field two teams who played 3-6 hours at a time.

Weather played a larger than expected role at the beginning when the teams were met with extreme fog. Days later, a torrential downpour left the teams running through mud for the rest of the game.

The game officially concluded on Sunday, October 15 at 2:30 a.m., setting the new world record for longest continuous baseball game at 80 hours, breaking the old mark by six hours. Through ticket sales, sponsors, and donations, the two chapters raised more than \$20,000 for the USO. Even though players left aching and tired, there was a definite sense of gratification and satisfaction in the air.

"You don't get a lot of sleep and it's a lot of physical exertion, so 80 hours felt longer," stated **Tim Weber** (2020). "Now that it's over, it's great that we did it."

Iota Beta Philanthropy chair **Abdillahi Dirie** (2020) underscored the greater importance of their combined feat and how this game supported the USO. "[It] will 'affect a lot of people and last more than just 80 hours.'"

Though FIJI led with the score at 13-5 after nine innings, Theta Chi won the 248 inning game, 569-412.

PHOTO BY MEGAN BURKE







# Sailors Watch Newest Star Wars Film (Thanks to a Helping Hand!)

*U.S. Navy story by USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) Public Affairs (December 16, 2017) Reprinted with permission*

ATLANTIC OCEAN — The crew of USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) received a surprise advance screening at sea of the latest installment of the Star Wars saga, “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” in the ship’s hangar bay Dec. 15, 2017.

Disney’s Senior Vice President of Distribution, **Kenneth Caldwell** (Zeta Psi/Western Illinois 1978), arrived via SH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter with the disc in hand.

The screening was kept a surprise from the crew, which was assembled in the hangar bay that morning for an All Hands Call.

Capt. Richard McCormack, Ford’s commanding officer, joked with the crew, asking them if they knew the reason they were assembled, before handing the mic to Caldwell to “confirm or deny” the rumors that were going around.

When Caldwell confirmed that they were about to see a screening of “The Last Jedi,” the crew erupted into shouts and applause.

Many Ford Sailors had grown up watching the films, and felt deep connections to the saga.

“When I found out they were going to play ‘Star Wars’ I started freaking out,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate Third Class Tyanna Fitzmier, from Maize, KS. “This is amazing! I’ve been watching ‘Star Wars’ my whole life with my father. I even have tattoos of a death star and an imperial TIE fighter on my bicep. The fact that they are doing this for us is a big morale booster.”

“Going out to sea already makes me feel like I have goals to accomplish, and waking up to this news today makes me feel even better about all the work that I do,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate [Handling] Third Class Andrew Yanez, from Chicago. “This event alone is a great morale booster. The last time I felt the morale go this high was probably our first underway.”

*Disney Sr. VP Ken Caldwell confirms the rumors are true: a Star Wars screening on the USS Gerald Ford.*

A short “Star Wars” trivia contest followed Caldwell’s announcement, with crew members pitting their knowledge of the movies against each other.



*The USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)*

Following the trivia contest, Caldwell thanked Ford Sailors for their service, stating that while many movies are filmed about heroes, “you’re the real heroes, believe me. I thank you for your dedication, for your service, and I just want to say, ‘God bless you all’. Get home safe . . . and let’s roll this film.”

The surprise cinema-at-sea was held in the ship’s hangar bay, with the video projected onto the ship’s hangar bay doors. Refreshments and light boxed lunches were provided by the Ford’s supply department.

Reactions to the screening generated an enthusiastic response from the crew.

“It was an amazing movie, but being able to see it at sea made it even more memorable,” said Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Kris Ruiz, from Kansas City, MO. “This is the first time I’ve ever seen a special screening. It was definitely a surprise, and everyone had a good time watching the movie as a crew.”

“Once I heard [the announcement] with my own ears my heart dropped,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate Airman Marc Cirocco. “I’ve seen all the films, I’m a huge fan. This just goes to show how much our command cares about us Sailors.”





**ALPHA XI/DELAWARE** **Shaun Savage** (2006) is the founder and CEO of GoShare. GoShare connects truck and van owners with people and businesses who need to move or deliver large items on demand; The press has referred to his company as “The Uber For Trucks.” GoShare has been recognized by the University of Delaware twice, most recently as a “Most Promising Startup.” GoShare has created more than 1,200 jobs for truck and van owners in San Diego, Los Angeles, Miami, Atlanta, and Jersey City, NJ. Savage has raised over \$1.2 million in venture capital and was recognized by the *San Diego Business Journal* as a “Most Admired CEO” and *Pacific Magazine’s* 30 under 30ish.

**ALPHA DELTA/PURDUE** Police Officer **Travis Neal** (Alpha Delta 2003) designed a new police vest with better placement for important items and a front panel that can easily be changed out depending on the situation or assignment. Since the origination of his idea three years ago, the vest has evolved to become more versatile and can now be purchased through Focus Tactical Design.



### BETA/MIT

**Henry Aspegren** (2017) was awarded a 2018 Schwarzman Scholarship and will begin postgraduate studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing this fall. Recipients of this scholarship are chosen based on demonstrated leadership qualities and potential to bridge and understand cultural and political differences. These scholars will live in Beijing for a year of study and cultural immersion, attending lectures, traveling, and developing a better understanding of China.

on leadership and public service to the University of Florida and the state of Florida.

### UPSILON/NYU

**Cory Johnson** (1989) has left Bloomberg TV to become chief marketing strategist for Ripple, the majority owner of XRP, a digital currency along the lines of bitcoin and ethereum. The company's hold-

ings are currently worth \$49 billion and Johnson will work with Ripple CFO Ron Will on messaging to investors.

### CHI/AUBURN

**Pat O'Connor** (1978) was named the winner of the State Bar of Georgia's 19th Annual Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service for the state's District I. The award recognizes lawyers who continue to value the tradition of community service and who measure their successes in ways other than financial gain.



**Rob Turner** (Chi/Auburn 1995) ran the Chattanooga 100-mile trail run this past December and raised nearly \$5,000 for the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House. Rob currently serves on the Atlanta RMH Board of Directors.

### DELTA/RPI

On February 5, 2018, the NFL's Detroit Lions named **Matt Patricia** (1996) as their next Head Coach. Patricia was hired over from the coaching staff of the New England Patriots, where he had been since 2004 and won three Super Bowls.

### TAU/FLORIDA

**Dakota Wöhl** (2016) was installed as the Vice President of External Affairs for the Florida Blue Key. The oldest and most prestigious leadership honorary in the state of Florida, the Florida Blue Key focuses



*Matt Patricia (Delta/RPI 1996), Head Coach of the Detroit Lions.*

### PSI/WISCONSIN

EnsoData, a Madison, WI, startup that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to detect potential sleep disorders, says it will double its staff and develop new types of health care software products now that it has secured \$1.5 million in funding. The company, whose co-founders include **Brock Hensen** (2012) and **Chris Fernandez** (2014), created the software EnsoSleep, which analyzes streams of data generated by more than a dozen sensors attached to

patients who undergo sleep studies. Since EnsoSleep was cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in April 2017, more than 50 sleep clinics around the United States have started using the software.





## Brotherhood: More Than Just Skin Deep

BY CHRISTOPHER GORDON (ZETA TAU/MICHIGAN-FLINT 1999)

When most people reach middle age, they usually do something extravagant like buying a sports car, taking an expensive vacation, or starting a new hobby to recapture their youth. Me? I got me some flesh-eating bacteria, a.k.a. necrotizing fasciitis (NF).

While you might think I'm lucky, let me tell you: it actually wasn't that great. First, my right arm ballooned to such a degree that I looked like the Hulk in mid-transformation. Then I spent 65 days at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, getting filleted like a trout at a fish fry and discovering that there is such a thing as too many protein shakes. Finally, I worried many of my friends and family. While it was nice to learn that they cared, I'm sure a Facebook post would've sufficed.

It was that last detail that made all the difference. A week before I became ill, I ran a 5K under 19:20. When I finally awoke from my five-day medically induced coma, my right arm was in a gargantuan splint, my left thigh had knobs sticking out of it, and I kept hearing the "Macarena" (thanks to Ketamine, which REALLY screwed with my head). I was not in prime form that first day.

In all, I experienced more than a dozen surgeries, had the skin on my right arm, shoulder, chest, and back removed and replaced with skin grafts taken from my legs and back, and even had a flap of skin taken from my left thigh and attached to my right forearm. I am thankful that my family and friends quickly helped me gain perspective and mentally prepare for my recovery.

Many of my Theta Chi brothers from Zeta Tau Chapter offered their financial and verbal assistance. **Scott Cookenmaster** (1995) connected via phone and Facebook, stressing concern over my mental state. He wanted to make sure that I would stay positive and not fall into a depression; many people who survive NF can develop anxiety and PTSD, depending on the severity of the situation. He even sent me a USA running shirt to motivate me to get back into running (a sport that I love).

**Dave White** (2000), my best friend in the Fraternity (and one of my roommates in the chapter house), and his wife Beth flew in from Montana to visit me for a weekend. Even before I saw Dave, I heard him in the hallway. When we were roommates, I would start every morning with Cap'n Crunch and Metallica. Fast forward about 20 years: Dave blared "Enter Sandman" on his iPhone speakers as he and Beth entered my hospital room. They (along with my father-in-law

Bill) took me to my first restaurant visit since my admission. I lasted 45 minutes.

Despite that initial outing, Dave and I have re-solidified our friendship, making sure we reconnect at least once a year. In short, our friendship exemplifies Theta Chi for Life.

I have chosen to use my ordeal as a motivator and to challenge myself. Since my discharge, I've set new personal records in the 5K, 20K, and half marathon distances, helped my Ragnar Ultra team finish 17th overall and first in our age division, and have earned my Red belt in Tae Kwon Do. I have started doing motivational and informational speaking engagements in my area and I'm looking to do more.

I'm motivated to use this second chance to improve as much as I can in all areas of my life and my goal is to inspire others to work hard and conquer challenges. Since my Theta Chi brothers helped me when I needed it the most, I wanted to share my story to provide a dose of inspiration to other brothers who could use some as they face their own personal challenges.



Chris (r) and Dave Skiing at Buck Hill, Burnsville, MN



### ALPHA PHI/ALABAMA

**Dr. Wesley K. Wicker** (1979), along with his fellow principals and partners of Columns Fundraising, negotiated a deal to acquire Palmetto Grants Consulting, doubling the size of their firm.

Dr. Wicker, a past President of The Foundation Chapter and current Treasurer of the Norwich Housing Corporation, also bumped into country music star **Phil Vassar** (Eta Kappa/James Madison 1984) at a recent show in Atlanta. (Left) Vassar signed his copy of *The Rattle* and Wicker gave him a Theta Chi hat.

### GAMMA RHO/ FLORIDA STATE

**Bob Sasser** (1973) was named to the Hampton Roads Business Hall of Fame. Brother Sasser is the Executive Chairman for Dollar Tree, Inc., and with his leadership, it has grown to a Fortune 150 Company with nearly 180,000 employees and more than 14,500 stores. Bob serves on The Foundation Chapter Board of Directors for Theta Chi Fraternity.



### GAMMA PHI/ NEBRASKA WESLEYAN

**Dave Rippe** (2004) was selected to be the director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development by Governor Pete Ricketts. Rippe took over as director on December 18 after serving as the Executive Director of the Hastings Economic Development Corporation.





*Breaking (Bad) Out: Chris Gordon makes a dramatic exit from the hospital.*



*Patrick Connell (L) and his brother Matt are rabid UGA fans.*

#### DELTA BETA/GEORGIA

**Gary Giesler** (1995) recently went on a hunting expedition to Argentina with **Jack Small** (1995), **Spencer Shell** (1995), **Mike Gelfond** (1995), and **Scott Scheves** (1994).

After receiving Rose Bowl tickets from his brother, attorney **J. Patrick Connell** (2000) made headlines in December when he filed an emergency motion to postpone his trial. When accepting the tickets, Connell realized that he was due in court to argue a bench trial the same day as his return flight from Pasadena. Connell cited the historic nature of the game and the team's many accomplishments, along with a personal connection to Coach Kirby Smart (their parents worked together at Bainbridge High School). The judge granted the request but noted that if Georgia lost, Connell would have to appear at a hearing on the morning of Jan. 3 to "show

cause as to why he should not be held in contempt for failing to secure a Bulldog victory through his presence in Pasadena."

#### DELTA GAMMA/ WV WESLEYAN

**Alan Crise** (2017) was named the new head coach of the West Virginia Wesleyan College cross country programs. Crise was previously serving as an assistant coach for the Bobcat's track programs and was an all-conference athlete while a collegian at WV Wesleyan.



*Four Theta Chi alumni team up to raise funds for the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge program: Front, standing first from right: Mike Kamm (Delta Theta/Toledo 1994); Back, second from left: Vince Crawford (Zeta Beta/Adrian 1988); Back, fifth and sixth from left: Mark Taft (Alpha Zeta/Rochester 1981) and Jeff Malish (Gamma Kappa/Miami (OH) 1991).*

## Kick'N Asphalt for Hope

*by Vince Crawford (Zeta Beta/Adrian 1988)*

During summer 2017, four Theta Chi alumni extended the Helping Hand by participating in the Pan Ohio Hope Ride. This event raises money for the American Cancer Society Hope Lodges which provide free housing to patients who are receiving treatment for cancer. Many times people have to travel to distant hospitals to receive the best treatment available which adds another burden to this already difficult time in their lives. The four-day ride helps fund the free nights for these families along with transportation services, counseling, and support. The ride covers 328 miles starting in Cincinnati, OH and finishing in Cleveland, OH. About 350 riders participated this year and raised a total of \$864,222 to help the families in need.

A group of friends from northern Ohio, South Carolina, and Florida, including four Theta Chi alumni, participated on Team "Kick'N the Asphalt out of Cancer." Theta Chi was represented by **Mark Taft** (Alpha Zeta/Rochester 1981), **Vince Crawford** (Zeta Beta/Adrian 1988), **Jeff Malish** (Gamma Kappa/Miami (OH) 1991), and **Mike Kamm** (Delta Theta/Toledo 1994). The team raised \$52,747 with financial support coming from Theta Chi brothers from all over the country. Mark Taft ended up as the top fundraiser on the team and was the 4th highest of all 350 participants.

#### DELTA KAPPA/BALL STATE Mitchell

**McKinney** (1992) was promoted to the rank of Captain by the Fort Wayne Police Dept. in Fort Wayne, IN.



#### DELTA PI/INDIANA STATE

**John Sare** (1997) was named Alumni Adviser of the Year by Indiana State University during the annual fraternity and sorority life awards event.

#### DELTA TAU/KENT STATE

**Robert Melchioris** (1990) was inducted into the Massage Therapy Hall of Fame at the 2017 World Massage Festival. He was celebrated for his outstanding contributions which include working at Ground Zero as part of the relief effort after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, being part of the official Winter Sports Massage Team at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, and being an elite core member of the medical staff at the action sports Dew Tour competitions.





Lt. Col. James "Maggie" Megellas (Delta Omega/Ripon 1942) is among the inaugural class of the 82nd Airborne Division's All American Hall of Fame. "Maggie" is the most-decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne.

#### DELTA UPSILON/ ARIZONA STATE

**Jason Tortorici** (1993) will be featured in the 2018 edition of *Top 100 Lawyers*. Brother Tortorici is a shareholder of Schilleci & Tortorici, P.C. and managing partner of the firm's California office. He represents business owners and individuals in litigation arising out of the operation and management of commercial venues.



#### DELTA OMEGA/RIPON

In January 2017, **Henry "Max" Kelln** (2004) was promoted to partner in Faegre Baker Daniel environmental law practice. Faegre Baker Daniels is one of the United States 75-largest law firms with over 750-plus legal and consulting professionals throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia.

#### EPSILON ETA/IUP

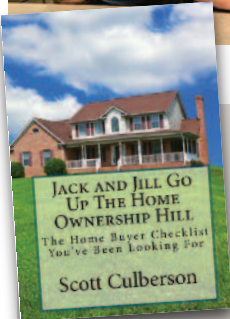
**Michael Driscoll** (2017) was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

#### ZETA BETA/ADRIAN

**Ronald Batory** (1971) was sworn in as the Administrator for Federal Railroad Association. Batory has



ETA DELTA/Babson alumni volunteer at Rosie's Place.



#### THETA ETA/SAM HOUSTON STATE

**Scott Culberson** (1992) has authored a new book to assist first time home buyers. *Jack and Jill Go Up The Home Ownership Hill: The Home Buyer Checklist You've Been Looking For* is now available on amazon.com.

worked in the rail industry over the past 45 years. Prior to his FRA nomination, he served as president of Conrail Inc., the eighth-largest freight railroad in America, since 2004.



#### ZETA PI/OLD DOMINION

Our chapter held the 12th Annual Helping Hand Golf Tournament, consisting of 88 golfers and 120 participants at the banquet after the tournament concluded. The events raised over \$5,000 for Zeta Pi's scholarship fund.

**Mike Henry** (1990) was recently featured in ODU's alumni magazine for his work in the field of politics. He was the deputy manager for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2008, Tim Kaine's successful campaign for Governor of Virginia in 2005 and for the Senate in 2011, and worked on Bono's The ONE Campaign, helping to organize grassroots support and programs for the organization, which seeks to end poverty in developing countries. He has served as Kaine's chief of staff since 2012 and is a member of ODU's Board of Visitors.



#### ZETA UPSILON/HARTFORD

**Angel Munoz** (2017) ran NBC's insert studio for social media stories during the 2018 Olympic Winter Games held in PyeongChang, South Korea. Before these games, he helped with the NBC broadcast of the 2016 Olympic Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, while a collegian at the University of Hartford.

#### ETA GAMMA/ MOREHEAD STATE

**Jim Tom Trent** (1990) formally announced his re-election campaign for Mayor of the city of Morehead, KY. Trent has served as mayor since 2014.

#### ETA DELTA/BABSON

As part of Babson's Month of Giving, alumnus brothers volunteered at Rosie's Place, whose mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that helps poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives.

#### ETA KAPPA/JAMES MADISON



**Kirk Cox** (1979) was elected as the 55th Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates by a vote of 98-0. Elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1989, he served as House Majority Whip

from 2004-2010 and as House Majority Leader since December 2010.

#### ETA OMICRON/ NORTHWESTERN STATE



**Van Erikson** (2011) was sworn into the Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

#### IOTA LAMBDA/LONGWOOD

**Brett Winston** (2011) is an instructor in the Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies, and assistant clinical education coordinator of the athletic training program at Springfield College. He currently serves on the Young Professionals Committee for the Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts (ATOM).

#### IOTA XI/GEORGIA COLLEGE

Professional singer/songwriter **Ben Provencial** (2015) was featured in Georgia College's "Under 30," which recognizes alumni who have attained early success in their career fields.

#### IOTA SIGMA/TOWSON

**Kevin Ames** (2016) was featured in *Chesapeake Bay Magazine* for his work on Chesapeake Collection, a clothing company he recently started with a friend based on the Chesapeake Bay lifestyle. Along with selling shirts, the company has given back to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay.





## Fifty Years of Theta Chi—Celebrating a Legacy

BY PETER SWANSON (ZETA XI/UC-DAVIS 2018)



*David Blakeney (Zeta Xi/UC-Davis 1981) (l) and Andy Perea (Zeta Xi/UC-Davis 1982) (r) celebrate 50 years with Zeta Xi Charter Member Ralph Miller (1967).*

On November 18, 2017, Zeta Xi alumni and collegiate brothers gathered in downtown Davis for a 50th anniversary banquet to commemorate their chapter's legacy. The evening was dedicated to Theta Chi and exemplified just how much the Fraternity has positively impacted the lives of its brothers.

Since its installation in 1967, Zeta Xi Chapter has shaped hundreds of lives. As many realized at the banquet, those lives are intimately intertwined. Some shared memories of living in the chapter house owned since 1970, others of their collegiate experience. It was evident that night that throughout generations, the brothers of Theta Chi at UC-Davis shared many of the same traditions, values, and ambitions.

Zeta Xi Chapter was honored to celebrate this milestone with International President Joseph Couch, Chief Development Officer Philip Thornton, and other attendees from chapters across California. It was a special and moving night in large

part because of those who chose to attend. Our thanks to House Corporation President **Seaver Klug** (2013), **Andy Perea** (1982), and **Bill Palmer** (Beta Alpha/UCLA 1985) who were integral in planning the event.

Perhaps most moving of all were the speeches given that night by Charter Members **Ralph Miller** (1967) and **Hal Bartholomew** (1968). Ralph was among the inaugural group pledged by Field Secretary **LeRoy Smith** in fall 1965 and Hal was instrumental in purchasing the chapter house. Ralph recalled that when he and Hal were collegiate members in the chapter they could never have imagined that 50 years later it would be so important to so many people.

Following our event Brother Miller shared, "Allow me to express my thanks and appreciation for the experience of a lifetime at the 50th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday night. It was overwhelming. And humbling. The Brothers made me feel like my life has counted for something, and at age 73, that means a lot to me."

Ralph's realization that his choice to establish Theta Chi at UC-Davis made such an impact is a moving revelation. It reminds us all that Theta Chi allows us to make a powerful difference in the lives of our brothers and the people around us. One can only hope that at the end of their life they are given a chance to see their own legacy and everything they have worked for. We're thankful the 50th anniversary let our alumni see their Theta Chi legacy at UC-Davis.



*Zeta Xi Chapter gather to mark 50 years at UC-Davis. Special thanks to **Vostok Bernal** (Zeta Xi/UC-Davis 2018) and **Bill Palmer** for the photos.*





We are honored to call these men our brothers. The condolences of Theta Chi's extended worldwide family are offered to the family and friends of our departed brothers. This listing includes all deaths reported to the International Headquarters between September 25, 2017 and April 10, 2018.

Our sincere apologies and "Welcome Back" to Brothers Malcolm W. Gray (Epsilon Iota/East Carolina 1996), James F. Green (Epsilon Eta/IUP 1988), Michael W. Holycross (Eta Phi/Oakland 1993), John D. Kelly, Jr. (Beta Delta/Rutgers 1963), and Lee A. Snortland (Phi/North Dakota State 1973), who were erroneously listed as joining the Chapter Eternal in the previous issue. To report the accurate news of a brother who has passed on to the Chapter Eternal, email [ihq@thetachi.org](mailto:ihq@thetachi.org) or call 317-848-1856.

### ALPHA

#### Norwich

John L. Costello (1954)

### BETA

#### MIT

Ted W. Bush (1973)  
Leonard F. Glaeser (1957)  
Potter Hanson (1946)  
Norman Kneissler (1960)  
Paul L. McGill (1951)  
Edward A. Ort (1951)  
Dr. Dean F. Smith (1964)  
Stanley A. Tirrell (1941)

### GAMMA

#### Maine

Roger E. Murray (1961)

### DELTA

#### RPI

Douglas W. Ronaldson (1940)  
Michael A. Skibo (1966)

### EPSILON

#### WPI

Edward H. Dion (1949)  
William R. Higgins (1941)  
William F. Paulsen (1941)  
Richard C. Valinski (1954)

### ETA

#### Rhode Island

Arne Johnson, Jr. (1982)  
Kenneth A. Peckham (1958)

### THETA

#### Massachusetts

Robert E. Berretta (1954)  
C. William Hilliard (1960)  
Stuart W. Lindquist (1958)

### IOTA

#### Colgate

Myron C. Peck (1960)  
Douglas G. Perry (1962)

### KAPPA

#### Pennsylvania

Cpt. Edward C. Kline, Jr. (1955)

### LAMBDA

#### Cornell

Rear Adm. Robert C. Munson (1951)

### MU

#### California

Gregory A. Eckman (1969)  
William L. Withuhn (1963)

### OMICRON

#### Richmond

Sterling Y. Carneal (1959)  
Scott S. Fricker (1991)  
Wilbert S. Hodges, Jr. (1957)  
Samuel W. McEwen (1958)  
James R. Phipps (1946)

### PI

#### Dickinson

George Padjen (1956)  
Joseph J. Razzano (1958)

### RHO

#### Illinois

Don W. Pranke, M.D. (1942)  
Lynn J. Snyder (1964)

### SIGMA

#### Oregon State

Hollis D. Brown (1939)  
Thomas A. Dupree (1976)  
Gilbert F. Gwilliam, Jr. (1949)  
James C. Makarounis (1985)  
James F. Rice (1956)  
Willard E. Salmon (1950)

### TAU

#### Florida

Jeffrey J. May (1965)  
Kenneth S. Shaffer (1956)

### PHI

#### North Dakota State

Joe D. Meier (1979)

### CHI

#### Auburn

Arthur F. Smith, III (1954)  
Norman A. Wiley (1970)

### PSI

#### Wisconsin

Thomas J. Conway (1970)  
Lorenz F. Happel (1955)  
Stanley S. Smith (1955)

### OMEGA

#### Penn State

Norman S. Allan (1964)  
William M. Blakely (1962)  
Michael F. Passaro (1965)  
Gerard C. Siaton (1995)

### ALPHA DELTA

#### Purdue

Beresford N. Clarke (1945)  
Dr. Jack R. Fenwick (1960)  
John A. Martin (1975)  
G. Wesley McKinney (1967)  
Thomas Storey, Jr. (1954)

### ALPHA ZETA

#### Rochester

C. Diehl Ott (1952)  
George M. Rentoumis (1943)

### ALPHA IOTA

#### Indiana

Dennis L. Checkley (1972)  
James E. McClusky (1954)

### ALPHA LAMBDA

#### Ohio State

Kenneth E. Walter (1952)

### ALPHA MU

#### Iowa State

Loree A. Paulson (1953)

### ALPHA XI

#### Delaware

John B. Allen (1953)  
Ralph B. Palmer (1949)

### ALPHA OMICRON

#### Washington State

Owen T. Hendricks (1945)  
Robert J. LeCount (1959)  
Robert W. Pirie (1940)  
Robert J. Roach (1948)

### ALPHA PI

#### Minnesota

Robert B. Kiske (1970)

### ALPHA RHO

#### Washington

Leighton C. Rice (1949)  
Donald R. Westlin (1949)

### ALPHA SIGMA

#### Oregon

Dr. James Brooks (1959)  
Thomas D. Kabler (1966)  
Philip B. Putnam, Jr. (1944)

### ALPHA TAU

#### Ohio

David S. Meeks (1986)  
George M. Sarkes, Jr. (1960)

### ALPHA PHI

#### Alabama

Melford T. Cleveland (1956)  
Herbert E. Gay, Jr. (1959)  
Cpl. John R. Jordan (1958)  
David D. Onosko (1980)

### ALPHA CHI

#### Syracuse

Walter B. Grader (1950)

### ALPHA PSI

#### Maryland

Robert W. Richins (1958)

### ALPHA OMEGA

#### Lafayette

Amos C. Carey (1946)  
Alan R. Lakin (1971)

### BETA DELTA

#### Rutgers

Frederick B. Lacey (1941)  
Howard R. Marran (1960)

### BETA ZETA

#### Michigan State

Everett S. Thompson (1950)

### BETA ETA

#### Washington (MD)

Robert N. Cleaver (1958)

### BETA THETA

#### Drexel

John F. Coneys (1947)  
Karl F. Schaeffer (1953)

### BETA LAMBDA

#### Akron

Evan W. Owens (1958)  
Clyde W. Roth (1952)

### BETA NU

#### Case Western

David C. Grigsby (1961)  
Edwin A. Kennedy (1953)  
Robert A. Park (2019)

### BETA OMICRON

#### Cincinnati

Neal B. Steube (1955)

### BETA RHO

#### Illinois Wesleyan

Donald M. Forkner (1958)  
William L. Pollock (1976)

### BETA SIGMA

#### Lehigh

Dr. James A. Cross (1955)  
David K. Davies (1946)  
Brooks W. Dorn (1959)  
Milton H. Hendricks (1959)  
Donald L. Huth (1966)  
Daniel G. Ritter (1958)  
Curtis L. Shollenberger (1958)  
James F. Stine (1972)  
Harold M. Vanschaik (1956)  
Sanford W. Wilson, III (1972)  
Ross G. Wittermann (1951)

### BETA CHI

#### Allegheny

Dr. Horace A. DeWald (1944)  
Dr. Joseph F. Hakas (1953)  
George M. Hartung, Jr. (1947)

### BETA OMEGA

#### Susquehanna

James R. Allen, Jr. (1970)  
Larry A. Wingard (1960)

### GAMMA DELTA

#### Florida Southern

Laurence B. Upham (1957)

### GAMMA THETA

#### San Diego State

David W. Noe (1951)

### GAMMA IOTA

#### Connecticut

Ronald N. Glatz (1958)

### GAMMA LAMBDA

#### Denver

Harvey J. Robbins (1963)

### GAMMA MU

#### Bowling Green

Steven T. Rudoni (1982)

### GAMMA XI

#### San Jose State

Gilbert K. Chesterton (1955)  
Robert T. Murphy (1962)  
John G. O'Neill (1959)

### GAMMA SIGMA

#### Duke

John W. Kinney, Jr. (1964)  
Scott P. Mendenhall (1997)

### GAMMA UPSILON

#### Bradley

John M. Farrell, Jr. (1951)  
Richard J. Heller (1962)  
James N. Kosmond (1956)  
Sam L. Piunti, Jr. (1957)  
Ronald H. Snyder (1958)  
David D. Tauer (1961)  
Kevin M. Yndestad (2015)

### GAMMA PHI

#### Nebraska Wesleyan

James E. Lightbody (1954)

**GAMMA CHI**

*Randolph-Macon*  
Luther J. Derby, Jr. (1950)

**GAMMA PSI**

*Puget Sound*  
David C. Nicholson (1957)  
David S. Quilici (1965)  
Frank L. Springer (1951)  
David W. Wood, Jr. (1960)

**DELTA ALPHA**

*Linfield*  
Marvin A. Becker (1955)  
Earl W. Cory, Jr. (1957)  
Charles E. Grossman (1953)

**DELTA GAMMA**

*WV Wesleyan*  
Franklyn F. Dezendorf (1952)  
James D. McKita (1952)  
Alton H. Taylor (1955)

**DELTA THETA**

*Toledo*  
Donald B. Cherry (1958)

**DELTA IOTA**

*Northwestern*  
Robert C. Willeumier (1962)

**DELTA KAPPA**

*Ball State*  
Wallace S. Gartee (1956)  
Malcolm L. Heuss (1949)  
Alan R. Seville (1981)  
Larry B. Wilber (1960)

**DELTA OMICRON**

*Gettysburg*  
Donald G. Doll, Jr. (1968)  
Rev. Donald J. Ely (1955)  
James R. Farrar (1964)

**DELTA RHO**

*NC State*  
Bayne G. Steele (1963)

**DELTA TAU**

*Kent State*  
James L. Badertscher (1957)

**DELTA UPSILON**

*Arizona State*  
Michael P. Grieve (1987)  
Travis M. Provost (1989)

**DELTA PHI**

*North Texas*  
William D. Polly (1978)

**DELTA CHI**

*Lenoir-Rhyne*  
Rev. Timothy H. Glenham (1970)

**DELTA OMEGA**

*Ripon*  
Col. David Chase (Ret.) (1958)  
Neil M. Gundermann (1955)

**EPSILON DELTA**

*Youngstown State*  
Edward J. Kresovsky (1968)  
Ronald P. Sergi (1965)

**EPSILON ETA**

*IUP*  
Dr. Thomas G. Crane (1959)  
George L. Spinelli (1968)

**EPSILON MU**

*Eastern Michigan*  
James E. Campbell (1969)

**EPSILON XI**

*Clarion*  
Ronald K. Carrick (1967)

**EPSILON PI**

*Northern Illinois*  
Thomas G. Koenigsberger (1969)

**EPSILON RHO**

*Rider*  
Vincent A. Benedetti (1991)

**EPSILON PHI**

*Central Missouri*  
Kenneth L. Johnson (1984)  
Gene A. McFarland

**ZETA ALPHA**

*Slippery Rock*  
James B. Gendimenico (1984)  
David W. Waugh (1988)

**ZETA BETA**

*Adrian*  
Ray W. Halberstadt (1956)

**ZETA DELTA**

*St. Cloud State*  
Dennis G. Hines (1974)  
Gary S. Kephart (1975)

**ZETA EPSILON**

*Long Beach State*  
Ross A. Nash (1980)

**ZETA UPSILON**

*Hartford*  
Jerry D. Ingalls (1965)

**ETA ALPHA**

*Clemson*  
Collings S. Davis, Jr. (1973)

**ETA KAPPA**

*James Madison*  
Robert P. Craft (1972)

**ETA LAMBDA**

*Virginia Tech*  
Kenneth L. Bohannon, Jr. (1981)  
David P. George, Jr. (1980)

**ETA MU**

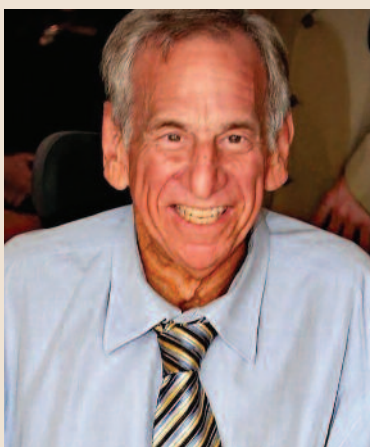
*Findlay*  
Anthony T. Drago, III (1985)  
Joe E. Hunt (1984)

## The Spirit of Theta Chi

### Ross A. Nash (Zeta Epsilon/Long Beach State 1980)

January 29, 1955–April 26, 2018

BY JIM MCMAHON (ZETA EPSILON/LONG BEACH STATE 1979)



My old roommate Ross grew up in the Huntington Beach area of Southern CA. He was a tireless planner, worker, and recruiter. He was the very epitome of brotherhood, going out of his way to mediate disputes and to smooth over bad feelings after elections or conflicts. He did this in spite of a noticeable speech impediment. In fact, his forthrightness in dealing with his communication challenges endeared him to us even more.

As an alumnus, Ross truly rose above the rest. Every meeting. Every event. Every newsletter. Every regional conference.

Every Founders Day. Every Convention. Events at other chapters. Rush. Road Trips. Installations. Colonizations. You name it, Ross made it.

In the early 1980s, he was diagnosed with adult-onset Tay-Sachs disease, a genetic, degenerative neuromuscular disease. Having no cure or much in the way of treatment, he was told to keep moving as much and as long as possible, and to have a positive mental attitude. Though he went on full disability, it was only a technical definition, because a disabled Ross still got five times as much done as most able-bodied people do.

Inspired by his efforts, the Grand Chapter created the Ross A. Nash Spirit of Theta Chi Award in 2006 to recognize brothers who overcome tremendous personal hardships and adversity, remain active and committed, and make a positive contribution to the Fraternity. Ross was the first recipient on Founders Day in 2007.

Despite challenges with mobility, he continued physical therapy and wheelchair surfing and was a fixture on the Huntington Beach Pier. He attended events sponsored by the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America, Fireman's Association fundraisers, and charity and community events of all kinds.

Ross never quit. No matter the circumstance, he never grumbled. He never complained. He always extended a Helping Hand. He always reminded us to "Keep in Touch" and I know we always will, thanks to him. Ross Nash truly is The Spirit of Theta Chi.

Ross' life was celebrated on June 3 at the Huntington Beach Pier by more than 150 people, including 40 brothers from Zeta Epsilon Chapter. Visit #celebraterossnash on Facebook for photos and videos.

**THETA DELTA**

*Santa Clara*  
Michael J. Zareski (1993)

**THETA EPSILON**

*Kennesaw State*  
David W. Whitaker, Jr. (1984)

**THETA IOTA**

*UC-Santa Cruz*  
Matthew E. Ward (2006)  
Alexander L. Beletsis (2020)

**THETA LAMBDA**

*Bloomsburg*  
James M. Velgus (1995)

**THETA RHO**

*McNeese State*  
M. Jason Miller (2003)

**BK FRATERNITY**

Robert H. Joyce



Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc.  
PO Box 503  
Carmel, IN 46082

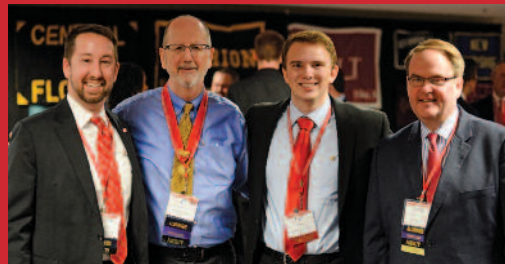
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**PARENTS:** This magazine is sent to your son's home address while he is still in college; we hope you enjoy reading it before he does. If he has left college and is not living at home, please send us his new permanent address. (Please refer to the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



**We are the Helping Hand.** Our collegiate brothers need your help. The Helping Hand Initiative is a nationwide alumni engagement effort with the goal of engaging new alumni in actively supporting Theta Chi. No matter where you are, or what stage of life you are in, there are three key areas where brothers can extend a Helping Hand to Theta Chi:

### TIME.



**Volunteer** to serve on a chapter advisory board, house corporation, or at an International event.

### TALENT.



**Mentor** a collegiate brother to help him start on his career path.

### TREASURE.



**Make a Gift** to support brothers through scholarships and leadership education.

The Helping Hand comes in many forms, but all are necessary for the success of Theta Chi.

**We are the Helping Hand — Be the Helping Hand.**

For more information visit [www.thetachi.org/helpinghand](http://www.thetachi.org/helpinghand)