

Winter 2025

THE RATTLE

OF THETA CHI FRATERNITY



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FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

The Brotherhood Journey

Brothers:

It has been said that “brotherhood is not a destination, but a journey.” Our collegiate members might think of that journey as a four-year experience that concludes with graduation, but, of course, our alumni can certainly attest that the brotherhood journey is ongoing. Vive le Theta Chi!

In October, I was reminded of this brotherhood journey—both literally and figuratively—as I traveled with two of my chapter brothers and our wives to Europe. For 10 days we saw new sights and made new memories, but throughout we reminisced about old memories—some more “memorable” than others! As collegians we were each from different cities and, with different majors, our only opportunity for connection was through Theta Chi. And that connection—that journey—continues today.

This issue features similar brotherhood journeys, such as the group of Zeta Rho/Kentucky brothers traveling to Alaska. Like my recent visit to Europe, these trips are built upon years and even decades of brotherhood. But the brotherhood journey is not just about vacations and travel.

Also within this issue, there are stories of heroism in World War II, growing up in 1950s Vermont, helping a motorist in need in Des Moines, and the Griffin family at Alpha Phi/Alabama, and each provide moving examples of the journey of brotherhood. In particular, Gabe Griffin is a heroic young man who responded to tremendous challenges by becoming a dogged advocate for treatments and legislation for those who share his condition and similar illnesses. Gabe’s efforts, and his triumphs, epitomize the “Assisting Hand.” Further, for his new chapter brothers—and as the article eloquently states—Gabe is a testament that brotherhood “transcends walls, rituals, and even physical limitations.”

All of these men of Theta Chi have enriched our brotherhood as it continues on its journey ahead. There will be trips together, and there will also be moments of need and support, and, along the way, the brotherhood of our Fraternity will make those journeys all the better.

I believe in Theta Chi!

Fraternally,

Tobin (Toby) Roth
International President
troth@capitolresourcesllc.com



Toby Roth



A brotherhood journey to Europe.

on the cover

In September, Gamma Tau’s **Mitch Skoczylas** (2026) waves the Fraternity flag during formal recruitment at Drake University. Later that month, Gamma Tau brothers jumped to provide assistance at the scene of a car crash near their chapter house. A note from one of the drivers sent to the International Headquarters describes the “Assisting Hand” in action.



Theta Chi Fraternity International Headquarters
P.O. Box 503
Carmel, IN 46082

I would like to send some good news to the International Headquarters of Theta Chi Fraternity regarding the quick and caring actions of your members in the Gamma Tau Chapter at Drake University in Des Moines, IA.

On the evening of September 10, I was driving westbound on Forest Avenue which is on the north side of their fraternity house. Another driver failed to yield to a stop sign on 34th Street and she crashed into my vehicle. Members of your fraternity immediately came out into the street to our cars. Some of the members went right up to her car window and others came right up to my window to check on our physical conditions.

One of your members asked me if he could call the Police as he could see that I was pretty shaken up and wasn't sure if I could make the call. I certainly appreciated that as I knew he had a calm voice and could report the location of the accident and the need for my vehicle to be towed.

At the same time these members were assisting us drivers, I noticed another member was directing other traffic around the lanes where the crash had stopped normal flow of traffic on the street. Next, a few members brought a large trash container and brooms to sweep up the debris so others would not drive over it once our vehicles were moved out of the street.

Theta Chi members assisted as I put my car in gear and slowly drove it off the street and into their driveway. Your members let me use their restroom and then they stayed with me through the process of filing the police report.

Though it was a difficult process for me, your members were so helpful and reassuring to me that evening. I know I was lucky to not be seriously injured and I was even more fortunate to be right in the neighborhood of the Theta Chi house when the accident happened. Those young men helped me when I was in a time of need. I have thanked them by writing directly to Gamma Tau Chapter, but I also want Theta Chi Headquarters to know they were truly the "assisting hand" to me on the evening of September 10, 2025.

Sincerely,

Peggy Aerisolphal
Peggy Aerisolphal



Awards



Alumni News

inside

- 4 FEATURE: We Belong
- 6 FEATURE: The Initiative Academy
- 8 2024/2025 Awards
- 12 FEATURE: The Last Frontier
- 14 From the Foundation Chapter
- 25 Chapter News
- 28 Alumni News
- 36 Chapter Eternal

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GAMMA TAU/DRAKE



We Belong

BY GREG RUSH, ASSISTANT EDITOR

On a warm spring evening in Tuscaloosa, the courtyard of the Alpha Phi Chapter House at the University of Alabama buzzed with quiet anticipation. More than 100 brothers stood shoulder to shoulder, forming a living wall of support around their home. The doors then opened for **Gabe Griffin** (2025), who was accompanied by his brother, **Cooper Griffin** (2026), Alpha Phi's Chapter President.

What Gabe didn't know was that this was no ordinary visit. That night, the chapter welcomed him as one of their own through a special initiation into Theta Chi Fraternity. It was a moment marked by smiles, tears, and the kind of brotherhood that transcends walls, rituals, and even physical limitations.

Gabe Griffin is no stranger to challenges. Living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, his life has been defined by resilience and perseverance. Yet instead of turning inward, Gabe has chosen to dedicate himself outwardly. In Washington, D.C., he has become a powerful advocate for those living with chronic and terminal illnesses. His work focuses on expanding access to experimental drugs and treatments that often represent the only hope for families navigating life-threatening diagnoses. He has testified, met with

legislators, and given a voice to those who too often go unheard.

Despite his personal battles, Gabe chooses to live life purposefully—the hallmark of a Resolute Man. In 2014, a cyclist launched a multi-state awareness ride in Gabe's name. In 2015, Alabama passed the Gabe Griffin Right-to-Try Act, opening Phase-I-cleared treatments to terminally ill patients. By March 2016, the Griffins were on Capitol Hill pressing for a federal pathway. At home, the family matched policy with practicality. In 2018, they adapted—not uprooted—their Chelsea house so daily life could continue on every floor by widening halls and doorways, constructing a roll-in shower, and installing an elevator. Gabe helped commence the renovations with the first hammer swings. Local builder Wayne Scotch coordinated the project at cost, and community gifts covered about \$40,000 of the \$50,000+ total. The goal wasn't charity; it was continuity—keeping a tight family in the home they love as Gabe's needs changed. It was resolve in action: advocacy, follow-through, and a life built to lift others.

Theta Chi's connection to Gabe runs through his brothers, **Turner** (2022) and **Cooper**. Turner, as the older brother, faced challenges as he watched Gabe grow up and receive different treatments, know-





ing the prognosis. Despite that prognosis, it was always vital for Turner to remain strong for his brother. Though Gabe often described his older brother as his hero, Turner remarked, “I don’t think he’ll ever truly understand how much [Gabe] is my hero and my biggest inspiration.” Cooper has shown and proven his own leadership style: steady, others-first, one rooted in accountability, shaping the culture that made this night possible. For years, the Griffin family hoped Gabe could share in aspects of Turner and Cooper’s college experience, especially the sense of belonging and purpose a strong fraternity can provide.

As the Griffins’ bond at Theta Chi deepened, so did the chapter’s awareness of Gabe’s journey. The men of Alpha Phi admired Gabe’s courage and work and felt a kinship in how he carried himself—always focused on what might help the next person in line. The idea began to take shape: what if Theta Chi formally welcomed Gabe into the brotherhood?

The conversation moved from “What if” to “Let’s do this right.” The chapter’s Executive Board ensured Gabe’s initiation wouldn’t just be a symbolic gesture; it would be a true welcome—one that affirmed Gabe’s character and acknowledged his impact beyond campus.

Cooper’s role was both personal and presidential. As a brother, he wanted Gabe to feel what he felt: the easy shorthand of shared ideals and the calm confidence of not having to face life alone. As Chapter President, he wanted Alpha Phi to model true leadership—thoughtful, inclusive, and prioritizing real action over simple words.

Gabe was presented *The Manual of Theta Chi*, and the Badge, with its timeless symbolism, was placed over his heart with resolute care. The moment was formal but not stiff; sacred without being distant. If Gabe felt nervous at first, that melted under the sound of thunderous applause. He proudly joked that he now had “secrets” he couldn’t share—an understanding that every fraternity man knows and every family member knows not to ask about (well, at least the non-members!).

There were hugs—big, genuine, shoulder-shaking ones. There were photos—Gabe and his family, the Executive Board, and the whole sea of brothers who surrounded and celebrated their most recent initiate. And there was a look on Gabe’s face that said it all: not “I’ve arrived,” but “I belong.”

Fraternity is easy to misunderstand, but nights like this make it plain. Brotherhood, at its best, is not performative or exclusionary; it is proximate and protective. It is men choosing to say, “You are seen. You are valued. We’ve got you.”

Gabe’s life work, pushing for access, championing the vulnerable, refusing to accept “That’s just how it is,” deeply aligns with Theta Chi’s definition of a Resolute Man: admirably purposeful and unyielding in the face of adversity. Resilience and leadership aren’t measured only in wins; they are measured in the willingness to stand in the gap until the win arrives. That’s what Gabe has done in



Proud parents Scott and Traci Griffin join Cooper (2025) in celebrating Gabe's special initiation into Theta Chi Fraternity.

policy halls and hospital corridors. It’s what the brothers of Alpha Phi demonstrated in their courtyard: showing up, shoulder to shoulder.

Turner shared, “Proud is an understatement. Happy to call you my brother twice over now! Love you buddy.” Cooper said, “This will be the best memory of my time at UA. I could not think of anyone more deserving than him. He is the embodiment of courage and bravery, and I am so proud to call him my brother. Congrats G!”

For the Griffin parents, the night carried the weight of years. They had watched both Turner and Cooper grow into leaders and Gabe grow into a force for good; now all those paths intersected. Seeing Cooper preside with calm assurance while welcoming his brother didn’t just make them proud—it crystallized what this Fraternity has meant to their family: a network that amplifies love and helps the hard days soften.

Gabe left the house with hundreds of new brothers in Tuscaloosa, and tens of thousands more across North America. The circle widened, and with it, the responsibility that Theta Chi men accept: to extend an Assisting Hand.



The Initiative Academy

Theta Chi's Initiative Academy is an opportunity for collegiate brothers to work in a cohort group to focus on brotherhood, professional networking, and growth as a leader. A staff member, a volunteer, and a collegiate brother share their reflections on this special leadership experience.

"Incredible. Inspiring. Two words that always describe Initiative Academy. For 15 years, we have brought collegians to IU to live in the chapter house and engage in discussion, reflection, and intentional activities. The young men who attended were involved, excited, and wanted to talk about how to improve themselves and organizations they lead. In addition, we were supported by alumni volunteers who gave their time, talent, and energy as faculty. Over 150 collegians participated in Initiative Academy this summer. That's more than 150 young men who have committed themselves to being better leaders for themselves and others." –Sr. Director of Chapter Development Jimmy Cox





“Why are you still involved with your fraternity? Trying to relive the glory days?”

It’s a question I get more often than you’d think—usually from those who never experienced Greek life. And while I could respond with a snappy comeback, I usually just smile, because the truth is: it’s not about college nostalgia or holding onto the past. It’s about giving forward.

As a volunteer faculty member, I have the privilege of mentoring and facilitating leadership development for our collegiate brothers. It’s one of the most fulfilling roles I get to play—part mentor, part coach, always a brother.

Throughout my own journey, I’ve been fortunate to receive guidance, support, and encouragement from people who had nothing to gain by helping me. They did it because they cared. Those acts of generosity shaped me, and I consider it a personal responsibility—and honor—to pay it forward.

During Initiative Academy, I watched young men challenge themselves and lift each other up. It reminded me how hungry this generation is for purpose, community, and connection. Brotherhood—real brotherhood—offers all of that.

We often talk about giving our time, talent, and treasure to the causes we believe in. For me, the Fraternity checks all three boxes.” –Devin Cooley (Alpha Rho/Washington 2010)



“During Initiative Academy, Clay Richardson (2027), Miguel Diaz (2028), Gunner Rice (2028), and I were given the opportunity to stay at the Alpha Iota Chapter House at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. We met brothers from all over the nation, acquired useful knowledge and leadership skills, and earned the Resolute Man distinction! We were honored to be able to represent Eta Gamma Chapter at such a great event and to share some eastern Kentucky culture with brothers from all over.” –Caleb Smith (Eta Gamma/Morehead 2026)



Distinguished Achievement Awards

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. The following brothers were honored during Delta Beta/Georgia's 75th Anniversary Celebration.



#93 Brent D. Layton
(Delta Beta/Georgia 1989)

Brent Layton has built a distinguished career as a leader in healthcare and digital health innovation. He currently serves as chief executive officer of Sharecare, a leading digital health company, and sits on its board of directors. Previously, Layton was president and COO of Centene Corporation, where for over two decades he helped grow the enterprise from \$300 million to \$144 billion in annual revenue. He also founded and managed multiple healthcare companies, including Avesis and Absolute Care Medical Centers. Today, he serves as chairman of Homeward, a public benefit corporation reimagining healthcare in rural America, and on the board of City of Refuge, a nonprofit serving Atlanta communities. A generous supporter of the University of Georgia, Layton and his wife Kelly established the largest endowment in its graphic design program's history.



#94 Armistead B. Whitney
(Delta Beta/Georgia 1991)

Armistead Whitney is a serial entrepreneur whose career has been marked by founding, leading, and scaling innovative companies. Most recently, he founded Apttega, a cloud-based cybersecurity compliance platform named to the INC 5000 list of fastest-growing U.S. companies and served as CEO through its acquisition by Mainsail Partners in 2022. He previously founded Preparis, Inc., a global leader in business continuity solutions, guiding it from start-up to acquisition by LLR Partners. As CEO of Nexidia, he drove an 800% revenue increase before its acquisition by NICE Systems. Whitney also co-founded Sekani, which became the largest privately held Internet stock footage licensing business before its acquisition by Corbis. A dedicated supporter of Delta Beta Chapter, he served as lead donor in its recent capital campaign, continuing to exemplify Theta Chi's values of leadership and loyalty.

#95 Hon. Christopher M. Carr
(Delta Beta/Georgia 1995)

Chris Carr serves as the current attorney general of Georgia, first appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal in 2016 and subsequently elected to full terms in 2018 and 2022. Carr earned his B.B.A. from the Terry College of Business in 1995 and his J.D. from the University of

Georgia School of Law in 1999. His career includes practicing law with Alston & Bird, serving as vice president and general counsel of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, and six years as chief of staff for U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson. From 2013 to 2016, he was commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Carr served as Delta Beta Chapter President, was part of the inaugural Deranian Presidents Conference, and has remained engaged as an alumnus and a Convention speaker.



#96 Hon. Allen B. Keeble
(Delta Beta/Georgia 1967)

Allen Keeble served as a senior superior court judge in Georgia for 25 years, from 1986 until his retirement in 2012, making him one of the longest-serving judges in state history. Before his superior court appointment, he presided over state and juvenile courts in Troup County. A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law and admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1969, Keeble served three years as a captain in the JAG Corps of the U.S. Air Force before entering private practice in 1972. Widely respected by colleagues, he was praised as "one of the finest judges in the state." A devoted Theta Chi, Keeble is the father and grandfather of legacy members and supported the renovation of Delta Beta's historic chapter house.



#97 Hon. Arch W. McGarity
(Delta Beta/Georgia 1974)

Arch McGarity dedicated more than two decades to serving the people of Georgia through his distinguished legal and judicial career. After earning his law degree from Mercer University and being admitted to the bar in 1977, McGarity began his practice alongside his father, a former Henry County solicitor general and state legislator. He later entered private practice before being appointed to his first judgeship in 1995 by Gov. Zell Miller. Over the years, McGarity has been a respected leader in Georgia's judiciary, including service as president of the Council of Superior Court Judges, where he played a role in shaping legislative policy. Known for his integrity and dedication, McGarity has served his community with honor and distinction for the last 24 years.





Distinguished Service Award

Authorized and established by the Grand Chapter on December 17, 1938, the **Distinguished Service Award** is the highest award Theta Chi Fraternity may confer upon a member. By means of this award, the Fraternity is able to show its official appreciation and to publicly recognize and properly honor those alumnus members of the Fraternity, who by reason of outstanding International service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions to the lasting good and general welfare of Theta Chi Fraternity. At no time can the total number of awards presented exceed the number of years in age of the Fraternity.



2025: International Historian

#150 James J. McMahon

(Zeta Epsilon/Long Beach State 1979)

Thriving under the tutelage of many of the giants of our Fraternity, Brother McMahon has spent his lifetime paying it forward by serving and leading Theta Chi throughout California and at the International level. Collegiate and alumnus brothers have enjoyed his quick wit and benefitted from his thoughtful wisdom. He has extended a Helping Hand to countless brothers as a collegiate officer, Field Representative, Chapter Adviser, Regional Counselor, and member of the Grand Chapter. His prudent mentorship of future generations and his passionate work to develop the Theta Chi Archives have preserved the history and Spirit of Theta Chi.



1979: Field Rep

#98 Alec L. Poitevint, II

(Delta Beta/Georgia 1969)



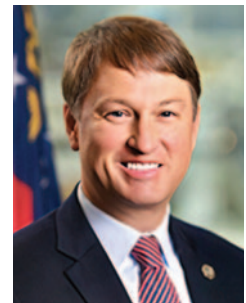
Alec Poitevint has built an extraordinary career in business, civic leadership, and public service. He is president and chairman of Southeastern Minerals, Inc. and its affiliated companies, headquartered in Bainbridge, GA, and has served on numerous corporate boards, including Forbes, First Port City Bank, Virbac Corp., and United Insurance Holding Corp. A respected leader in the agricultural industry, Poitevint is past chairman of both the American Feed Industry

Association and the National Feed Ingredients Association, and has represented U.S. agriculture internationally, including as a delegate to the World Food Summit in 2002.

In 2010, Poitevint was named chairman of the Georgia Ports Authority after earlier service as a board member. He has also been deeply engaged in politics, serving as chairman of the Georgia Republican Party, treasurer of the Republican National Committee, and as manager of the 2012 Republican National Convention. Currently Georgia's Republican National Committeeman, Poitevint continues to serve at the highest levels of national leadership while remaining a devoted supporter of Delta Beta Chapter.

#99 Padgett R. "Pat" Wilson

(Delta Beta/Georgia 1996)



Pat Wilson has dedicated his career to advancing economic growth and opportunity in Georgia. Since 2016, he has served as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), leading the state agency responsible for job creation, international trade, tourism, and the film and digital entertainment industries. Under his leadership, Georgia has been ranked the No. 1 state in the nation to do business for a record 10 consecutive years by Area Development magazine and eight consecutive years by Site Selection. GDEcD has also been recognized by the International Economic Development Council as the nation's top state-level organization.

Wilson previously served as GDEcD's COO, deputy commissioner for global commerce, and executive director of Georgia Allies. Earlier, he represented the state's interests in Washington, D.C., as director of federal affairs, following roles with Gov. Sonny Perdue, U.S. Sen. Paul Coverdell, and U.S. Rep. Nathan Deal. A proud Georgia native, Wilson continues to exemplify leadership, vision, and service as a Resolute Man.

All Distinguished Achievement Award recipients are enshrined in the Fraternity's Hall of Honor at the International Headquarters. To date, out of our 200,000+ brothers, only 100 have received the award. Brothers are welcome to visit the Theta Chi Museum and Hall of Honor. Call 317-848-1856 for hours.



Louis R. Gilmore

2024/2025 Reginald E.F. Colley Award

THE HIGHEST HONOR BESTOWED UPON A COLLEGIATE MEMBER

Louis R. Gilmore

(Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan 2025)

Brother Gilmore, served Gamma Phi Chapter as Brotherhood Chairman, Treasurer, and President. Under his leadership, Gamma Phi won the Alter Award, became the top Greek donor to the campus food pantry, and posted one of the highest GPAs in chapter history.

Beyond his chapter, Gilmore served as Chairman of Theta Chi's Chapter Presidents Advisory Council, as the Presiding Delegate during the 168th Anniversary Convention, and earned his Resolute Man distinction in 2025.

On campus, he served as IFC vice president of public relations and as vice president. He was recognized by his peers as the 2024 Chapter President of the Year and was also awarded the Greek Campus Impact Award.

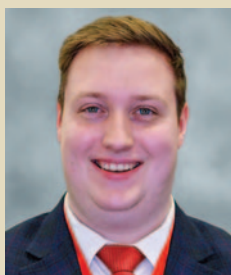
A tireless servant leader, Gilmore was elected Student Body vice president and later president where he served as a Student Governor on NWU's Board of Governors. Outside student government, he co-founded both the campus water polo club and chess club, served as a student orientation leader, and captained the university's varsity swim team, helping lead them to a conference title and setting a school relay record.

Gilmore helped coordinate philanthropic events benefiting the USO, volunteered with the Nebraska Special Olympics, Tabitha Assisted Living, and local highway clean-up efforts, and served as a high school swim coach in his hometown. His consistent leadership and compassion earned him both the Campus Impact Award and the 2025 Student Life Leadership Award.

Gilmore maintained a 3.73 GPA as a financial planning major with a minor in accounting. He was inducted into Blue Key Honor Society, Order of Omega, and received the Van C. and Georgia L. Duling Scholarship for Emerging Leaders. He also earned two Academic All-Conference honors as a student-athlete and appeared on the Dean's List for six semesters.

Gilmore is Gamma Phi's **sixth** Colley Award recipient and **marks the very first time in the history of the Fraternity** that **three consecutive brothers from the same chapter** have received the Fraternity's highest collegiate honor!

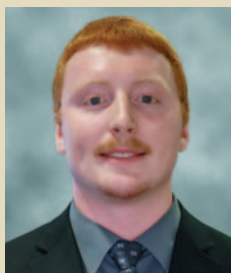
1st Runner-Up



Jacob D. Nelson

(Delta Omega/Ripon 2025)

2nd Runner-Up



George S. Forsmann

(Epsilon Kappa/Idaho 2025)



THREEPEAT: Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan's 2023–2025 Colley Award recipients (L–R) Michael Biertzer (2024), Kyle Goodban (2023), and Louis Gilmore (2025).



2024/2025 Awards

Distinguished Service Award

(See page 9.)

Distinguished Achievement Award

(See pages 8–9.)

Earl D. Rhodes Theta Chi for Life Award

William A. "Tony" Tetley
(Epsilon Phi/Central Missouri 1967)

James R. Thompson
(Beta/MIT 1979)-posthumous

Howard R. Alter, Jr. Award for Chapter Excellence

Epsilon/WPI
Zeta/New Hampshire
Alpha Xi/Delaware
Beta Theta/Drexel
Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan
Epsilon Kappa/Idaho
Epsilon Rho/Rider
Zeta Alpha/Slippery Rock
Iota Lambda/Longwood

Grand Chapter Scholarship Award

Epsilon Mu/Eastern Michigan (3.458 GPA)

James M. Holland Award

Alpha Lambda/Ohio State (72 initiates)

1st Runner-Up:

Alpha Iota/Indiana (71 initiates)

Phil S. Randall Success in Recruitment Award

49 chapters initiated 25+ men

Henry B. Hersey Significant Increase in Membership Award

Alpha Rho/Washington
(135%—from 17 to 40 members)

Honorable Mentions:

Zeta Alpha/Slippery Rock
(116%—from 19 to 41 members)
Eta Alpha/Clemson
(116%—from 32 to 69 members)

David L. Westol Sacred Purpose Award

Gamma Delta/Florida Southern

Most Improved Chapter

Gamma Delta/Florida Southern

Operation Military Red

USO Service Award:

Eta Kappa/James Madison (2,500 hours)

USO Fundraising Award:

Gamma Rho/Florida State (\$32,774)

2024/2025 "Shug" Jordan Award

THETA CHI'S TOP SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Jacob M. Balfany

(Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan 2025)

Brother Jacob Balfany, graduated in May 2025, majoring in biological sciences with a 3.81 GPA. He is a recipient of NWU's Board of Governors Scholarship, the Duling Scholarship for Emerging Leaders, and was named to the Dean's List four times. He earned recognition on the American Rivers Conference Spring All-Academic Team in 2023 and 2024, and was named to the CSC Academic All-District Team 2023–2025. He was inducted into Order of Omega, Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society, Blue Key Honor Society, and Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society. Within the chapter, he served as Social Chairman, Recruitment Chairman, and Vice President. He was twice recognized as NWU's Most Philanthropic Greek Man and was named 2024 Greek Man of the Year.

As a four-year captain of the varsity tennis team, Jacob distinguished himself as both a leader and competitor, earning All-Conference Honorable Mention recognition and serving as his team's representative on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee for four years. On the court, he compiled an accomplished career and as a senior, he appeared in 36 matches, finishing 7 and 10 in singles play and 10 and 9 in doubles. His achievements on the court continued the tradition of excellence established by his mother, Amy, who also played on the Wesleyan tennis team!



Jacob M. Balfany





The Last Frontier

Several brothers recently found their way to Alaska and relayed their adventures.

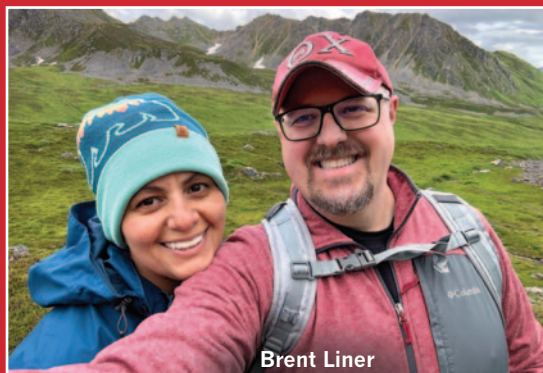


In August 2024, a group of brothers from Zeta Rho/Kentucky assembled during their cruise around Alaska with their wives. (L-R): **Kevin Petit** (1980), **Pat Payne** (1978), **Zach Elkin** (1978), **John Hinkel** (1977), **Ken Fister** (1977), **Ralph Meadows** (1978), **Pat Boggs** (1978), **John Schrader** (1976), **Steve Haggard** (1977).



Glen Teager

August 2024: Eta Gamma/Morehead Chapter Adviser **Glen Teager** (2011) took a cruise with his family and caught a new friend.



Brent Liner

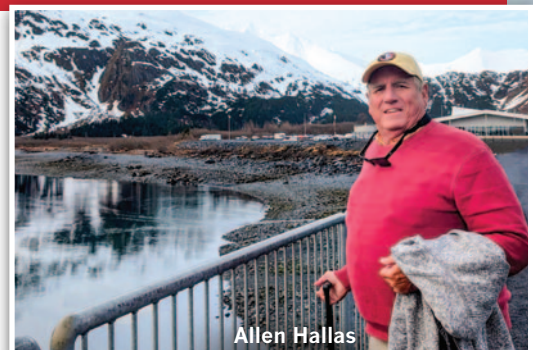
Former Leadership and Education Consultant **Brent Liner** (Iota Alpha/UNC-Wilmington 2003) and his wife, Nancy, moved to Anchorage in 2024 when he started as Senior Fiduciary Officer at Peak Trust Company. He was happy to decorate his new office with some fraternal reminders.



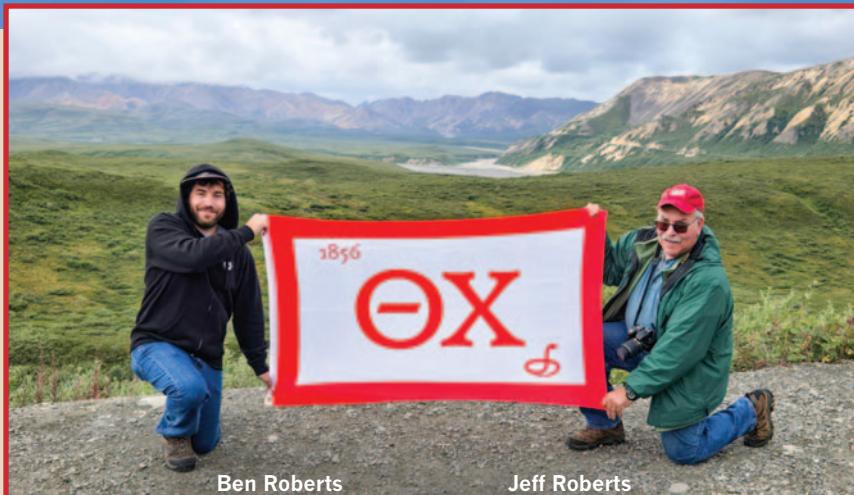
Patrick Doctor

Patrick Doctor (Iota Nu/South Florida 2015) lives and works in Skagway—a long way from the alma mater in Tampa, FL!

In April 2025, former Field Representative **Allen Hallas** (Gamma Rho/Florida State 1975) and his wife cruised Alaska and made a stop in Skagway and other sites.



Allen Hallas



Ben Roberts

Jeff Roberts

While touring Alaska in August/September 2025, Alpha Tau/Ohio father and son **Jeff** (1978) and **Ben** (2016) **Roberts** bumped into **Glenn Lintz** (Zeta Omicron/Shippensburg 1988) and **Vance Hinton** (Alpha Delta/Purdue 1980) and took a photo with the flag at Denali National Park and at the Mendenhall Glacier. *[Editor's Note: More on Vance on page 33!]*



Vance Hinton



Glenn Lintz



Ed Jacobson

In August 2025, Former Traveling Secretary and Past *Rattle* Editor **Ed Jacobson** (Sigma/Oregon State 1967) and his wife, Sandy, toured Ketchikan and visited old friends, including chapter brother **Alan Rockwood** (1967), whom he hadn't seen for over 50 years! He revealed that Alan served in the Navy and met his wife while stationed in Japan, later moving to Ketchikan to supervise logging crews harvesting timber from islands in the area. In addition, Brother Rockwood was recognized by the Alaska State Legislature at the Ketchikan Rotary in 2024 for his many years of service, compassion for others, respect, and devotion to continuing St. John's

Episcopal Church's Lord's Table ministry, which provides a multi-course meal every Sunday afternoon to anybody who wants to come, with no restriction.



Alan Rockwood



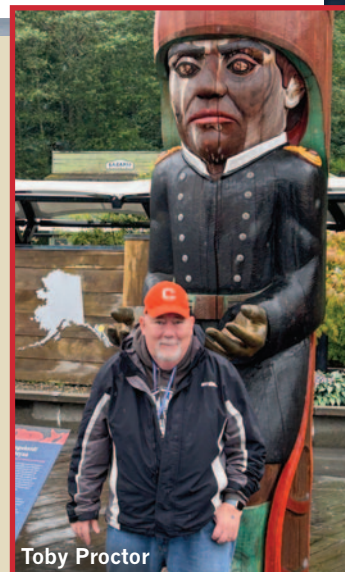
Jeff Gilstrap

Eta Alpha/Clemson brothers traveled north in August/September 2025: **Toby Proctor** (1981) visited Alaska by rail and cruise ship in August 2025. At the same time, **Jeff Gilstrap** (1982) toured Anchorage, Seward, the Harding Icefield Trail, and Denali National Park.



Frank Bouknight

A few weeks later, **Frank Bouknight** (1975) and his wife had a great trip and made some new friends in the wilderness.



Toby Proctor

Dear Brothers,

We are excited to announce a new way to recognize our loyal Theta Chi donors: the **Resolute Circle**. The **Resolute Circle** is the Foundation Chapter's premier annual leadership giving club and recognizes all brothers who contribute at least **\$1,000** during one fiscal year (July 1–June 30). Brothers in the Resolute Circle receive exclusive opportunities to enjoy invitation-only events with the Foundation Chapter and Fraternity leaders as well as:

- Recognition at our biennial Convention, Fraternity events, and receptions.
- Annual membership recognition coin uniquely designed for Resolute Circle members
- And more to come



John M. Berghoff



Brothers who have given or exceeded **\$25,000** over their lifetime will be automatically inducted as lifetime members of the Resolute Circle.

We could not do the work that we do without loyal Theta Chi brothers like YOU! As I reflect on my own Theta Chi journey, I am reminded of our ideals:

We believe in the traditions and ideals of Theta Chi and the vision of our Founders, which are:

True Friendship; we extend an “Assisting Hand” to one another, we seek to exact harmony and prevent strife among our members;

The primacy of Alma Mater; we are loyal students and alumni;

We are promoters of knowledge and advancers of culture;

The virtues of Truth, Temperance, and Tolerance; we are Resolute Men, we are builders of character;

The usefulness of our Fraternity; we seek the mutual benefit and improvement of all of our members;

Service to our God, our country, and our fellow-man; thereby increasing our influence and accomplishments.

Over the years, the Assisting Hand has helped so many brothers and it will continue to do so in the future as long as our alumni brothers continue their support. Can you commit to a yearly pledge of \$1,000? To kick off this campaign, I will be the first to participate in honoring my lifetime commitment to Theta Chi. Will you?

We thank you for your continued support of the Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi!

John M. Berghoff

John M. Berghoff
Chief Development Officer

Monthly installment pledges can be set up at www.thetachi.org/give.

If you need more information, please contact Jill Zager, Director of Annual Giving, at jzager@thetachi.org.

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Support for the Foundation Chapter is vital to the development of our brothers throughout North America. **Your gifts provide scholarships to collegiate and graduate students and fund many of our leadership education programs.** This listing reflects gifts received between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. Please join thousands of other Theta Chis in supporting our brothers by making a gift at www.thetachi.org/give. You can also mail a check with the envelope included in the center of this issue. Thank you for your Helping Hand!

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Executive chairman emeritus of Dollar Tree Bob Sasser (Gamma Rho/ Florida State 1973) recently concluded his term on the Foundation Chapter. He was presented the Foundation Chapter Service Plaque in recognition of his eight years of service on the board. Thank you for your Helping Hand and thoughtfulness you provided throughout your two terms!

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The **Foundation Chapter** provides scholarships to brothers seeking undergraduate or graduate degrees who demonstrate outstanding academic performance, service to the Fraternity, school, and community; leadership abilities; financial need; and other clear personal and career goals and objectives.

This year, **\$289,000** in Sherwood and Janet Blue Memorial Scholarships was awarded to brothers pursuing a wide range of studies. The Victor Simon Memorial Scholarship awarded **\$45,000** to brothers majoring in engineering.

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Theta Chi for Life isn't an empty phrase. The example we set with our giving, by returning for events, through volunteering our talents, and by establishing traditions is vital for the next generation of brothers. See page 34.

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of America
Charities Aid Foundation
of America c/o
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Resolution

WWII Hero Found and Medals Conferred to the Daughter He Never Met

BY ADAM NADIFI (BETA ALPHA/UCLA 2026), HOWARD K. ZHANG (BETA ALPHA/UCLA 2026), AND WILLIAM W. PALMER (BETA ALPHA/UCLA 1985)

On December 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, 56 members of the Beta Alpha Chapter at UCLA met and voted unanimously to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces. Legend has it that following the vote, the brothers tacked a note on neighbor and rival ΣAE's door that simply said, "Take care of our house, we're going off to win the war."

The brothers served dutifully and valiantly in both Europe and the Pacific throughout the duration of the war. Sadly, seven brothers never returned. One of the seven, **Wesley W. Williams** (1944), who married his college sweetheart before he left for war, was badly wounded during the Battle of the Bulge and died in a prison camp. His body was buried in an unmarked grave.

On April 5, 1945, French prisoner of war Joseph Pesin wrote to the International Red Cross about a highly decorated, badly wounded American soldier who died by his side while holding his hand in a German prison camp (Stalag IX). This soldier was Lt. Williams, whose last words were of his young wife and the unborn child the couple expected.

After 80 years, UCLA military historian Bill Biegel obtained the declassified military records for Brother Williams' Silver Star which read, in small part: "Lt. Williams, at great risk of his life, and while completely exposed to enemy fire... organized a defensive position and directed the evacuation of the wounded."

Unknown to Pesin during his lifetime was that his kind letter would lead to a military investigation and the discovery of the remains of 21 Allied soldiers—French, British, American, Dutch, and Czech—including Lt. Williams. For his act of gallantry, Lt. Williams was supposed to be honored with the presentation of a Silver Star and a Purple Heart for his wounds. Brothers of Beta Alpha Chapter closed the historical record with the assistance of Congress by completing these awards for heroism and asking that they be conferred to his only child, Diana (Williams) Klopfenstein, now in her 70s.

With the assistance of Chapter Treasurer Howard Zhang, and support from Chapter President Adam Nadifi and Past International Vice President Bill Palmer, a formal event was arranged on Veterans Day 2024 on UCLA's campus to publicly reveal Lt. Williams' story and heroism and to formally present his daughter, Diana, with his decorations. The circumstances were placed into the Congressional Record of the United States to honor the two brave men—French Pvt. Pesin and Lt. Williams—by U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu. Also attending were Deputy Consul General of Germany Danijel Skerlja and Cultural Affairs Representative for the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles, Benoit Labat. The presentation concluded with a prayer for "Unity and Peace" led by Rabbi Abraham "Abe" Cooper (Simon Wiesenthal Center), Imam Mahomed Akbar Khan, and Rev. Adam L. Dawkins, St. Alban Episcopal.

The flag of our grateful country was presented to Diana by a military honor guard to remember her father's selfless actions during the Battle of the Bulge. The men Lt. Williams saved in his platoon later went on to liberate the Dora-Nordhausen Concentration Camp.

Beta Alpha Chapter was aided by several friends at UCLA including military historian Bill Biegel; dean of social sciences Abel Valenzuela; associate vice chancellor Michael "Mick" Deluca; assistant dean of development, division of social sciences Peter Evans; history department chair Kevin Terraciano; and director of development for student affairs Dervla McDonnell.



2/19/1943: Patricia and Wesley Williams.



Beta Alpha/UCLA brothers honor the late Lt. Wesley W. Williams and his daughter, Diana. Inset above: Lt. Williams. Inset right: French POW Joseph Pesin.



CHAPTER NEWS



CHI/AUBURN's Vincent Visser (2027) wins \$10,000 at Auburn's Tiger Cage business competition for Polar Docks, a startup he co-founded that cools overheated docks with built-in misting systems. His innovative pitch stood out among six student-led finalists.

ALPHA SIGMA/OREGON has several brothers who spent the summer on the front lines—earning EMT certifications, serving with local EMS, deploying on wildland fire crews, and advancing their skills through ROTC training.

ALPHA PSI/MARYLAND receives the award for Most Improved IFC Chapter at UMD's Greek Ceremony. Their alumni were also presented an award for Outstanding Alumni and/or Family Engagement Programming.



BETA NU/CASE WESTERN was recognized at the Greek Life awards with the Safety & Wellness Award; **Jake Bridge (2027)** received the Outstanding New Member Award; **Ezekiel Stahl (2025)** was presented the Glenn Nicholls Character of Distinction Award, the second highest award that can be presented to a member of the Greek community; and **Zachary Baldrige (2025)**, immediate past chapter president, was presented the Fraternal Legacy Award, the highest award that can be presented to a member of the Greek community.

Ege Dalcan (2026) was recognized by the CWRU physics department with the James C. Wyant Award for research accomplishments outside the senior project. Dalcan's research is helping develop test equipment to compare data between high energy astroparticle detection arrays.



BETA NU/CASE WESTERN's Noah Mollerstuen (2025) helps the CWRU Robotics team win the Marine Technology Society's MATE ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) World Championship. The CWRU team faced off against 26 other university teams from around the world!



IOTA ETA/PACIFIC marked the 20th anniversary of our Installation with a backyard barbecue, a meet-and-greet at a local bar, and a Red Carnation Ball fundraiser that treated alumni to a formal dinner and raffle baskets.

KAPPA THETA/SUNY-GENESEO had the privilege of volunteering with the Geneseo Women's Soccer and Best Buddies at Geneseo for the Geneseo Lives Program, the college's initiative supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



(L-R) Beta Nu Chapter Adviser John Cleaver (2012) is joined by Beta Nu brothers Ezekiel Stahl (2025), Ben Creiner (2026), Zachary Baldrige (2025), Adam Hutchings (2026), and co-Adviser Dr. Richard Drushel (1984).



BETA SIGMA/LEHIGH brothers participate in the Travis Manion Foundation's 9/11 Heroes Run, honoring the lives and legacy of 9/11 while supporting their families. Standout finishes included **Alex Hume** (2027) (5th overall; 1st in 20–29), **Josh Berdon** (2026) (9th overall), **Jacob Larabee** (2027) (12th overall), and **Jovan Viñas** (2028) (3rd in 19 & under).

DELTA PHI/NORTH TEXAS' **Ben Wilcox** (2026) launches a website to help fellow UNT students plan their degrees more efficiently. Inspired by his own challenges navigating course availability, Ben built a tool that tracks when classes are historically offered—saving students time and stress.



DELTA PSI/KANSAS brothers recruit their largest pledge class in over two decades and now have more than 1,000 total initiated brothers after initiation in November.

ZETA KAPPA/OHIO NORTHERN provided an Assisting Hand to the village of Ada by picking up trash alongside the highway into Allen County.



ETA GAMMA/MOREHEAD brothers mobilize relief efforts after an EF4 tornado devastated London and Somerset, KY, in the spring. Brothers were on the ground assisting affected residents, and the chapter coordinated a donation drive to support recovery.



ETA OMICRON/NORTHWESTERN STATE takes the Assisting Hand to new heights by helping with setup and take down for the Natchitoches Balloon Festival.



Putting Me on the Right Track

BY CHUCK PERKINS (DELTA NU/VERMONT 1954)



[Editor's Note: The Summer-Fall 2024 issue of The Rattle featured a story on Chuck Perkins. We received a message from Brother Perkins who wanted to pass along a few more memories. He also confirmed that he still skis, rides his Harley, and travels with his wife, Jann. They are planning their 70th wedding anniversary celebration for August 2026.]

Theta Chi Fraternity has always had a special spot in my heart. It was definitely my social life all through college.

I lived in Burlington, just two blocks from the University of Vermont (UVM), so there was no reason for me to live in a dormitory. However, I had no social life living at home, and when rush started, I knew that I wanted to join a fraternity.



170 Spruce Street

Theta Chi wanted me and I wanted Theta Chi, and I found my new home there. The chapter house was located at 170 Spruce Street.

One thing that was important to me was the Theta Chi basketball team. I was 6'3" and basketball always seemed to be my sport. I was the manager of UVM's varsity basketball team, so I had an opportunity to travel and be with the team, but my playing came mostly with the Theta Chi team.

Another important part was UVM's Winter Carnival. Each fraternity presented a pair of dancers to compete in the main competition, and I'll never forget the year that Theta Chi won. We had a rousing party that night!

Another segment of the Winter Carnival was presenting a candidate to be named King, and a Theta Chi won it one year, which was a great honor for the Fraternity.

Ice sculpting was another segment, and, again, we came in first one year. The competition was fierce, but we had a great group of guys, and we held our own at all levels of competition.

Many Saturday nights we had parties and we would invite one of the sororities to join us. The parties were a lot of fun and an opportunity to meet female students from UVM.

Whenever one of our brothers gave his Badge to his girl, it was like a pre-engagement move, and all of the brothers would go to wherever she lived. While the brother held his girl, we would all sing "My Dear Little Girl of Theta Chi." The song was first published in 1951, and it was a hit.

I gave my Badge to my girl, Jann, to whom I have now been married for 69 years. She still has it and we both treasure it highly.

There are so many memories that still bring a smile to my face. I used to come into the slanted driveway at the house sometimes a little too fast in my 1947 Chevrolet convertible, and my brothers would tell me that the front wheels would come right up off the ground. I also remember one cold winter night when we had a sleigh ride with our gals to a destination about 10 miles from where we started. I had a bottle of friendly Schenley with me, and neither of us minded the cold at all that night.

For most of my life, Jann and I owned and ran a ski shop in South Burlington, VT, called the Alpine Shop. Many of our employees were college students and we have always felt close to the college world.

Jann and I were inducted into both the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, as well as the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. We were also inducted into the New England Ski Representatives Hall of Fame. They are some of the greatest honors we could ever receive.

Theta Chi has had a tremendous influence on my life and who I am today. I have so many happy memories of all of my fraternity days and experiences. Without Theta Chi, I would have missed out so much on furthering my education for my life after college. I learned a lot about life and about living by being a brother of Theta Chi Fraternity.

My memories of my fraternity days will remain with me for the rest of my life. I am 93 years old now, but it seems just like yesterday. For all of the good things that have happened in my life, and there have been many, I definitely feel that I have Theta Chi to thank for putting me on the right track.

Chuck and Jann Perkins' generous gifts to various snowsport museums and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame highlight their commitment to preserving the history of snowsports globally. The Perkins have supported ski films, ski manufacturers and apparel companies, expeditions, museum displays, memorial statues, youth/collegiate ski and educational programs, and more.



Lake Tahoe Hosts 44th Ski Trip

BY JAMES J. MOYLAN (GAMMA LAMBDA/DENVER 1969)

The 44th Annual David E. DeVol Memorial Alumni Ski Trip was held (as it always is) on the last weekend in February. This year the Ski Trip was held Thursday, February 27 through Sunday, March 2, at the Heavenly Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe on the California/Nevada border.

Hats off and a big “Thank You” to **Tyson Lai** (Theta Iota/UC-Santa Cruz 1990) who served as the organizer and lead on the 44th Annual Ski Trip.

Most of the brothers stayed at Harvey’s Lake Tahoe Resort and Casino, including (in addition to Brothers Lai and Moylan) **Warren Schwartz** (Gamma Xi/San Jose State 1991), **Dave Young** (Theta Iota/UC-Santa Cruz 1989), **Robert Welch** (Beta Theta/Drexel 1986), and **Rob Lietch** (Eta Beta/Eastern Kentucky 1996). Two trip rookies, Theta Iota/UC-Santa Cruz’s **Carl Steiner** (1988) and **Brad Brack** (1989), joined us for Thursday night and Friday on the slopes.

After dining together at Stateline Brewery and Restaurant and enjoying each other’s company, the brothers called it a night.

On Friday, brothers enjoyed a perfect day of skiing on the mountain under clear, sunny skies and then reconvened at the resort for libations before dinner at Gordon Ramsay’s Hell’s Kitchen. Then all assembled at Tyson and Dave’s hotel room for more tall stories and lots of laughter.

The skiers hit the slopes again on Saturday and had a full day of good skiing. As became our tradition, we met for drinks before dinner on Saturday evening and then headed to the Saltgrass Steak House. As creatures of habit, we returned to Tyson and Dave’s hotel room for an instant replay of Friday night.

On Sunday, brothers met to bid each other a fond adieu before heading home, eagerly awaiting next year’s Ski Trip. The 45th Annual DeVol Ski Trip will be held at Steamboat Resort in Steamboat Springs, CO, February 26–March 1, 2026. Contact Jim Moylan for information at jjmoylanlaw@gmail.com.



Ski Bums 2025 gather at Saltgrass Steakhouse in Lake Tahoe for dinner and to tell tall tales about the day’s activities on the slopes and speculate the whereabouts of Al Zale.



Inaugural Medallion Weekend

Past International Vice President Brian Hall writes: On Founders Day weekend 2025, 20+ brothers traveled to San Antonio to reunite with fellow past board members, former staff members, and other dignified volunteers.

When one or more brothers gather, the awesomeness of our shared oaths to serve our Fraternity is a just reward. A reward celebrated through shared stories, unconfirmed tall tales, cheers, toasts, laughter, tears, remembrances, legacies, and impact. It is indeed Great to be a Theta Chi and this weekend was truly a gift.

Join us April 10–12, 2026, in Milwaukee!

Write brian.hall@shell.com for info.



Alpha Tau Celebrates 100 Years in Athens

BY ART KRASILOVSKY (ALPHA TAU/OHIO 1978)

In the spring of 2025, the brothers of Alpha Tau gathered in Athens, OH, to celebrate a century of brotherhood. It was more than just a reunion—it was a journey across time.

On Thursday evening, laughter echoed in Nelson Commons as generations of brothers and their families shared their first meal together, some staying in the dorms for a nostalgic touch. Friday brought friendly rivalries on the golf course, spinning wheels along the bike trails, and a lively dinner “uptown.” For some brothers, it was the first time back in Athens in over 40 years. We caught up on life, sharing laughter and, yes, some tears.

Saturday carried the heart of the celebration. At the Donor Recognition Brunch, **John Dent** (1971) was honored for his generosity and **International Vice President Alan Copeland** reminded everyone of the meaning behind their shared bonds. Later that day, the Baker Center Theater darkened and a 35-minute film, 100 Years of Alpha Tau, lit the screen. Faces of icons—**Thor Olson** (1925), **Edwin L. Kennedy** (1926), **Kermit Blosser** (1932), **Sammy Kaye** (1932), **George Starr Lasher** (Alpha Gamma/Michigan 1911)—smiled from the past, reminding everyone of the shoulders they stood on.

That evening, Centennial Chair **Pete Hackman** (1988) welcomed over 150 attendees in the Baker Center Ballroom for the grand banquet. Athens County Commissioner **Lenny Eliason** (1977) challenged all to live by the Creed, serving others and community. **International President Toby Roth** presented a resolution from the Grand Chapter marking the milestone, while alumni were recognized with awards bearing the names of George T. Kilavos and David E. DeVol. Over 10 Golden Guard awards were distributed and eight of those brothers were present for our 50th Anniversary! This followed with over 10 Silver Legion awards presented to brothers who had taken their oaths to Theta Chi over 25 years ago. OU Sorority and Fraternity Life Director Chris Medrano Graham, honored with the Red Carnation Award, spoke about the strong partnership that had grown between our chapter and the university. Fundraising Chair **George Vanderbilt** (1990) spoke about the need for our chapter house to remain competitive with the other fraternities on campus by major renovations of the third floor. Chapter Adviser and former House Corporation officer **Art Krasilovsky** (1978) invited brothers to give back to Alpha Tau by serving either on the House Corporation or the Chapter Advisory Board.

By Sunday, the pace slowed with brunch, a brewery bus tour, and stories flowing as freely as the taps. On Monday, the final chapter closed with a hiking tour of the North Greens, brothers walking together one last time before parting ways.

It wasn't just a celebration of the past 100 years—it was a pledge for the next 100. Follow updates about Alpha Tau and its alumni on our private Facebook group. Donations are always welcome on www.oxat.com.



International President Toby Roth and International Vice President Al Copeland present a Centennial Resolution to Alpha Tau Chapter President Jacob Dorony (2026).





IOTA/COLGATE



Green Bay Packers' CEO Emeritus **Mark Murphy** (1977) joined the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's athletic office to assist with fundraising and mentorship.

NU/HAMPDEN-SYDNEY



Project Manager at the Department of State at Eagle Harbor Solutions **Brian Stevens** (2001), recently graduated from the Koniag Government Services Leadership Program, completing a

year of professional development alongside colleagues from across KGS.

TAU/FLORIDA

Ryan McCarthy (2009), a partner at his firm, has been selected for membership in the prestigious Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court.

This invitation-only group of judges, lawyers, and legal professionals meets monthly to advance professionalism and mentoring within the legal field.



CHI/AUBURN

Former Auburn IFC President **Eddie Seay** (2016) played a key role in developing the mobile app for Chick-fil-A—one of the most widely used food service apps in the country.

He has been with Chick-fil-A since 2016.



ALPHA ZETA/ROCHESTER



Chris Boehning (1987) was elected to the board of trustees at the University of Rochester. He has served on the board since 2017. He is currently a partner in the litigation department at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind,

Wharton & Garrison LLP.



ALPHA PHI/ALABAMA
Chad Dolan (2014) was named on Merrill's 2025 "Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors Best-in-State" list for Alabama.

CJ Pearson (2024), a 22-year-old political strategist and content creator, was named to *TIME*'s 2025 *TIME*100 Creators list, recognizing influential digital voices shaping culture and conversation online.



ALPHA PSI/MARYLAND's 2025 Fishing Away Weekend in Ocean City is another successful event. More than 40 brothers from the '70s, '80s, '90s, and '00s gathered in exciting locales like Fager's, Teasers, Seacrets, Saad's house, Bourbon Street, and, of course, the boat and the beach! It was an amazing weekend, and it looks like they're gonna need a bigger boat!

GAMMA XI/SAN JOSE STATE



Al Saunders (1969) was honored by the NFL in conjunction with Gilman Gear as the name-sake for the annual Tight End position "Coach of the Year" award. The inaugural recipient of the award for 2025 was

Luke Steckel of the Las Vegas Raiders.

GAMMA RHO/FLORIDA STATE

FLYR Hospitality chief commercial officer **Andrew Rubinacci** (1991) was inducted into the Dedman College of Hospitality Hall of Fame at FSU.



GAMMA TAU/DRAKE

Past Colley Award recipient **Michael Elston** (1991) was appointed vice president, labor relations for the U.S. Postal Service. He has been with the USPS since 2010. In addition, he was inducted as the 121st President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.



EPSILON ZETA/TAMPA

Status Coup News CEO **Jordan Chariton** (2008) published *We the Poisoned: Exposing the Flint 'Water Crisis Cover-Up and the Poisoning of 100,000 Americans*.

Now available on Amazon.



Three **BETA SIGMA/LEHIGH** Alumni Corporation Presidents recently gather for brunch: **James McQuade** (1984) and wife Diane, **Gary Tilles** (1967), and Susan with her husband, former Theta Chi Funds President **Neil Volant** (1980).

EPSILON SIGMA/WAGNER

Brian O'Neill (1996) was promoted to battalion chief in the FDNY. [Editor's Note: Our apologies for using the wrong photo last issue!]



EPSILON PHI/CENTRAL MISSOURI

Head coach for Northwest Missouri State Bearcats' tennis **Mark Rosewell** (1977) was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.





Alpha Chi/Syracuse: Embodying “Theta Chi for Life”

BY ROB BORIS (ALPHA CHI/SYRACUSE 1991)

Theta Chi Fraternity has a long and proud history of fostering brotherhood and lifelong connections. The Alpha Chi Chapter at Syracuse University is a shining example of how to embody the “Theta Chi for Life” mantra.

Brothers from the late '80s to mid-'90s stayed close for decades thanks to some traditions both old and new. **Dave DeVito** (1994) and **Rob Boris** (1991) helped lead the charge.

Recently DeVito hosted a holiday steak dinner with 21 brothers who gathered in New York City. It was the 25th year of the long-standing event that has become known as “Chowfest.”

While the event started with a few brothers in the NYC area 25+ years ago, it's grown to attract brothers from all over the country who fly from California, Texas, Michigan, and Colorado.

“It all started with just a few of us a couple years after graduation who splurged at Smith and Wollensky one night,” DeVito said. “We had a great time, and we all agreed we should keep it going. I never thought it would last this long or get this big.”

“It's a great way to see guys you can't see as often,” DeVito added. “Beef, beverages, and brothers are a great draw.”

Chowfest is even expanded to more markets, as **Jason Topercer** (1993) started “Chowfest South” in the Miami area a few years ago.

DeVito, a career sales guy who loves keeping people connected, has become an unofficial “alumni social chair” for Alpha Chi alumni from the late '80s-early '90s.

When COVID put a brief hiatus on Chowfest, DeVito put together a virtual Zoom cocktail ‘meeting’ and 47 brothers and friends from around the world attended the first event. The get-togethers lasted nine weeks.



“There were guys on that Zoom who hadn't seen each other in over 30 years,” DeVito said. Alpha Chi also started a Friday Zoom Poker more than four years ago that is still going strong.

Brother Boris, who serves on the Alpha Chi Alumni Advisory Board, has led the charge gathering brothers for 'Cuse sports events. He put together a group who bought season tickets together for Orange football and also organizes outings for basketball. Boris' son and daughter also attended Syracuse, which further motivates him to head back to campus.

In the spirit of travel, this past October, Boris got several brothers together in a suite at Allegiant Stadium in Vegas when Syracuse took on UNLV in a thrilling 44–41 OT win over the Rebels. It also served as a bachelor party for **Kevin “Skip” Hennessy** (1994), who had recently gotten engaged.

Though our chapter may soon be a century old, Theta Chi and its brotherhood are very much alive!



ZETA EPSILON/LONG BEACH STATE



Frank Nunez (1978) published his second book, *The Yawning Hill to Heaven*, which tells the story of how his parents met, served in, and survived the Korean War. Now available on Amazon.

Troy Marino (2021) turned a garage startup into one of the nation's fastest risers. His company, Elevate Cycling, debuted on *Inc. Magazine's* fastest growing privately held business list at No. 395 overall; was ranked No. 1 fastest-growing retailer in California, and is the top-growing cycling company in the U.S. In just four years, Marino has scaled Elevate Cycling to two warehouses, a 12-person team, and thousands of customers.



ZETA TAU/MICHIGAN-FLINT

Former Flint City Councilman **Santino Guerra** (2020) was appointed to the Mott Community College Board of Trustees, filling a vacant seat until December 2026.



ETA KAPPA/JAMES MADISON



Ryan Tamborini (2007) was named CEO of Opus Medical. (above left)

Matt Harrell (2018) began a new role as coordinator for VCU Transform at Virginia Commonwealth University. (above right)



ETA PI/ EAST STROUDSBURG

John Creighton (2000) was named Athletic Director of the Year for PA State Athletic Director's Association Region 1.

ETA RHO/CENTENARY

After several years as a writer for *The Daily Show*, **Josh Johnson** (2012) has been added to the host rotation.



Vance Hinton (third from right) is joined by many of his Alpha Delta chapter brothers at the premiere screening of *The House of Abraham* in Indianapolis.

Fabricating Excellence

Vance Hinton (1980) graduated from Purdue with a Bachelor of Science in electrical technology. An accomplished entrepreneur, he created numerous successful electrical manufacturing companies and branched out into other enterprises.

In 1995, Hinton and his partners started Powerohm Resistors, Inc. and, with the assistance of their team, Powerohm became the largest manufacturer of power resistors in North America, and one of the largest in the world. In 2014, Powerohm was sold to Hubbell, Inc. and Hinton teamed up again with one of his partners and additional electrical engineers to establish Load Banks Direct, LLC (LBD). LBD quickly emerged as the quality leader in the load bank industry, and it was acquired by Trystar in 2020. After the LBD sale, Hinton gathered a team of former Powerohm managers and additional support to create K-T Fab, Inc in 2021. Nine months later, Hinton and K-T Fab were able to purchase Andrews Fabrication, and one year later, Andrews increased production, product quality, and its sales by 89%, setting a new historic sales level for the business. Hinton continues to serve as president of K-T Fab/Andrews Fabrication.

In addition to his electrical and fabrication endeavors, he owns and manages a diversified real estate and investment portfolio. He also restored the historic Faust Hotel (prior to selling in 2022), had a successful 16-year run with Faust Brewing Company, and is a co-owner of the Black Whale Pub, all located in New Braunfels, TX.

His newest fabrication involved teaming up with his wife Priscilla to serve as executive producers of *The House of Abraham*, a film about a woman who, seeking an end to her suffering, checks into a sanctuary and soon discovers not all is as it seems.

Originally from Frankfort, IN, Hinton was among the 15 inaugural inductees into the Frankfort Hot Dogs Alumni Hall of Fame.



60 Years at “The Beach”

BY RICK ROBBINS (ZETA EPSILON/LONG BEACH STATE 1981)

Our festivities started on Friday with over 70 stopping by Joe Jost’s in Long Beach, with brothers coming from Northern California and as far as Colorado, Texas, Washington, D.C., and Florida! Our group then moved on campus to the Nugget with over 100 gathering, including several past presidents.

During Saturday evening’s banquet, guests of honor included eight current and former members of the Grand Chapter and we were also joined by Charter Members **Terry Cunningham** (1965) and **Roger Ernest** (1968) as well as Past Grand Chapter member **Ron Ramos** (Gamma Theta/San Diego State 1968), who served on the Chapter Installation Committee.

Alumni Corporation President **Bill Kessler** (1999) served as emcee and began the program with a recorded greeting from **Bill Hembree** (1966), who was the Colony President at the time

of our Installation. **International President Toby Roth** gave a state of the Fraternity address; Chapter President **Christopher Carrillo** (2025) provided collegiate updates; Long Beach State Greek adviser Nate Ferrell spoke about campus perception; **Dave Schmitt** (2009) and his wife Courtney shared their story of Charlotte’s Cure, the efforts to help their daughter and her struggle with ataxia-telangiectasia, and Theta Chi’s Helping Hand in action; and Alumni Corporation Treasurer **Jason Stone** (2005) discussed our financial status.

Several awards were presented, including the George T. Kilavos Alumni Award to Jason Stone, **Mena Iskander** (2010), and **Tyler Whaley** (2006); the Golden Guard to 13 brothers; the Silver Legion to 22 brothers; and a special surprise presentation of the Fraternity’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, to our very own **Jim McMahon** (1979), who is currently serving as International Historian. *[Editor’s Note: See page 9.]* Jimbo is Zeta Epsilon’s second “DSA” recipient, following **Don Fine** (1963).

A shocked and humbled Jimbo McMahon and our Chapter Advisor **Kirk Lindbeck** (2024) then described and made the inaugural presentation of the Nash/Fine Scholarship, named in memory of **Ross Nash** (1980) and Don Fine. The scholarship is presented to collegiate brothers who have proven to be most like brothers Nash and Fine in serving Theta Chi. The \$750 scholarships were presented to **Aharon Villegas-Resendiz** (2028) and **Saul Barcelo** (2026).

A silent auction, pledges, and other gifts raised over \$10,000 to support the chapter.

The banquet ended with all singing “Dear Old Theta Chi,” led by **Stan Mayer** (1977).



Kilavos Alumni Award recipients with Grand Chapter members Copeland and Santoriello.

Traditions

BY INTERNATIONAL COUNSELOR RICH SANTORIELLO

For over 35 years, a small group of brothers from Epsilon Sigma Chapter at Wagner College have held onto a tradition that reminds me every year why Theta Chi is more than just a fraternity—it’s family. Each December, eight of us—**Mike Shannon** (1987), **Rich Cecchi** (1987), **Ray Menna** (1988), **Brian Meyerberg** (1986), **Matt Byrne** (1986), **Jeff Witte** (1988), **John Mattheson** (1988), and **I** (1987)—together with our significant others, gather to celebrate Christmas and our lifelong friendship.

The tradition begins on Friday when I fly from North Carolina to New York and stay with Rich Cecchi, who generously opens his home each year, as he has done for decades. By Saturday, the others begin to arrive, and the weekend quickly takes on a familiar rhythm of brotherhood and camaraderie. Saturday evening is our highlight: the group heads to dinner, where laughter and storytelling carry us late into the night. More often than not, we close the restaurant, retelling the same stories we’ve shared for decades. They never grow old nor lose their charm; in fact, each retelling reinforces the depth of our brotherhood.

Sunday morning continues the tradition with a shared breakfast. These moments are filled with updates on children and now, grandchildren—a reminder of how far we’ve all come since our college days. After breakfast, most of us start the journey home while on Monday morning, I board my flight home to North Carolina with a full heart, already anticipating next year’s gathering.

These weekends are more than just reunions. They are proof that the bonds we built as young men—sharing the same ideals and Ritual—have only deepened with time. I want to encourage all alumni to reconnect, whether through weekend trips, reunions, small gatherings, a simple meal together, or through Zoom. The joy of reliving memories while creating new ones is truly priceless. Staying connected matters! Brotherhood matters and it is one of Theta Chi’s greatest gifts—don’t let it fade my brothers!



ETA OMEGA/ CHICO STATE

Qualcom's **Don McGuire** (1988) has been named to the 2025 *Forbes* World's Most Influential CMOs list—his fourth consecutive year receiving the honor.



THETA NU/ROWAN

Former Chapter President **John Mattaliano** (2023) launched JOHNVINCENT Productions which focuses on music composition and sound design. John contributed music and sound design to *Wicked RP*, which won the 2025 People's Voice Award Webby in the category of Advertising, Media and PR: Game or Application.



IOTA LAMBDA/ LONGWOOD

After seven years at the *Washington Post*, **Travis Lyles** (2015) assumed a new role as Director of Social at Function Health.



IOTA PSI/RIT

Dr. Reginald Rogers (2021) has been honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award as part of the inaugural Mizzou Alumni Association Gold Standard Awards.



ETA PI/EAST STROUDSBURG's Randy Maugle (1978) and his wife Valerie complete a remarkable journey this past June in Rio de Janeiro: running a half-marathon on all seven continents, timed with their 45th wedding anniversary. In 2018, the couple ran full marathons on all seven continents.



International Counselor Rich Santoriello and Delta Rho/NC State's **Ken Updegrave** (1990) and **Smokey Hay** (1979) present a Citation of Honor to David Powers for his assistance in passing Harrison's Law, an anti-hazing law in North Carolina named in memory of Harrison Kowiak, who was pledging Theta Chi at the time of his passing. Powers leads a government relations firm in Raleigh and did the work pro-bono.



Former Grand Chapter member **Herb Morgan** (Theta Iota/UC-Santa Cruz 1988) reconnects with Gamma Xi/San Jose State's **Alex Alanis** (1990) at the California state capitol in Sacramento. The two met as collegians, and when Herb reached out for advice on running for statewide office, Alex, highly respected in government relations, was happy to extend a Helping Hand.

Beta Nu Acquires New House

BY LOUIS CAMPBELL (BETA NU/CASE WESTERN 1999)

The Beta Nu Housing Corporation is pleased to announce that it has purchased a new house. This will be the 11th house the chapter has called home and marks the first time since the 1960s that the brotherhood will own its house.

There are mixed feelings about moving out of the university-owned house that had served the chapter well since 1986. It was a beautiful building that many generations of brothers have called home but the university's decisions to defer needed maintenance meant that the chapter needed a new home and soon.

Case Western Reserve is in metro Cleveland, where suitable housing for a fraternity chapter is rarely on the market and there are not really any empty lots to build a new house. But the chapter lucked out when a beautiful 1910-era three-story 6,800 sq ft house just down the street hit the market in 2024. A group of local alumni quickly pulled together enough money to enable the house corporation to buy the house.

We are now in the process of renovations to bring the house up to code and make it more suitable for a fraternity chapter. We plan to have the house ready for move-in spring 2026.

We are also currently running a capital campaign to raise \$500,000 toward this project and we're about 25% of the way to our goal. Interested alumni are encouraged to email capitalcommittee@betanualumni.org or visit 10819magnolia.betanualumni.org to learn more.

We are planning a house dedication ceremony and alumni can contact the capital committee for information. As always, alumni are welcome to visit the new house whenever their travels bring them to Cleveland!





CHAPTER ETERNAL

We share the names of our brothers reported to the International Headquarters between April 28, 2025, and October 10, 2025, as passing to the Chapter Eternal.

ALPHA

Norwich

Everett A. Mack (1961)

BETA

MIT

William R. Freeman, Jr. (1951)

DELTA

RPI

Charles W. Meier (1958)
David H. Steele (1962)

EPSILON

WPI

Frank D. Manter (1967)
Richard D. Willett, Jr. (1991)

ZETA

New Hampshire

James E. Hellen (1957)
Dr. Richard F. Hood (1950)

THETA

Massachusetts

Albert J. Russo (1965)

IOTA

Colgate

Robert S. Wittmann (1997)

LAMBDA

Cornell

Howard E. Jensen (1952)

MU

California

John K. Jess (1953)

NU

Hampden-Sydney

John E. Anfin (1965)
Robert M. Knapp (1969)
James F. Parkinson, III (1970)
Warren M. Shaw, Jr. (1969)

XI

Virginia

Mark A. Duffy (1989)
Neeley C. Lewis (1968) +

PI

Dickinson

Bishop Herbert A. Bevard (1968)
George E. Martinelli (1957)
David A. Nickey (1951)
Harry B. Packard (1963)
Bruce L. Smith (1961)

RHO

Illinois

William D. North (1952)

SIGMA

Oregon State

James R. Mori (1957)

TAU

Florida

Harrison W. Ambrose, Jr. (1939)
Ivan F. McMullen (1962)
Kevin F. Reilly, Jr. (2008)
John S. Sherman, Jr. (1952)

PHI

North Dakota State

Allan W. Arneson (1950)
Robert E. Bergan (1945)
Harry A. Binford (1943)
Paul M. Brostrom (1945)
Warren R. Bruskrud (1944)
Alfred M. Call (1943)
Reo N. Carr (1943)
Carl W. Goulden (1945)
Anton I. Gunderson (1956)
Elder A. Haugen (1939)
Paul E. Huss (1943)
Charles R. Keefe (1941)
Steven D. Kersten (1971)
A. A. Keyes (1936)
David D. King (1944)
Oliver C. Lindaas (1942)
Jerry W. McInnes (1975)
Robert E. Miller (1940)
Patrick L. Morrissey (1945)
Roy C. Pederson (1941)
Don E. Peterson (1947)
Merlin E. Rudrud (1949)
James G. South (1946)

Gilbert D. Spooner (1946)

Wesley D. Tobin (1944)

Thos K. Woods (1943)

CHI

Auburn

Robert L. Bragg (1959)
Bobby N. Flint (1954)

PSI

Wisconsin

Jackson R. Horton, Jr. (1974)
Rolland E. Otto (1968)

OMEGA

Penn State

Paul D. Faircloth (1981)
George F. Keller (1953)
Anthony C. Richards (1955)

ALPHA BETA

Pittsburgh

Richard D. Murphy (1956)

ALPHA DELTA

Purdue

Donnas E. Allen (1933)

ALPHA ZETA

Rochester

John G. Cartledge (1973)

+ Past Regional Counselor

ALPHA IOTA

Indiana

Ross A. Bogue (1981)
Robert W. Bork (1952)

ALPHA MU

Iowa State

James T. Birkett (1959)
John M. Tiffany (1951)

ALPHA NU

Georgia Tech

Robert W. Lee (1970)

ALPHA XI

Delaware

Matthew P. Carracino, Jr. (1979)

ALPHA OMICRON

Washington State

Douglas L. Potter (1978)
Robert B. Prescott (1954)

ALPHA PI

Minnesota

Walter J. Dustrud (1959)
Thomas H. Swain (1942)

ALPHA RHO

Washington

Kevin F. Laird (1970)



Past Colley Award Recipient

KEVIN F. REILLY, JR. (TAU/FLORIDA 2008)

May 23, 1986–May 12, 2025

As a collegian, Kevin served as Chapter President and was elected Student Body President of the University of Florida. He was named the 2007/2008 Reginald E.F. Colley Award recipient.

His service continued as an alumnus, both on Tau Chapter's Alumni Corporation and as a volunteer in a number of capacities within the International Fraternity. At Fraternity

events, Kevin went out of his way to meet and befriend brothers from all chapters and impart wisdom, best practices, and words of encouragement. In addition, he also served on the Fraternity/Sorority Political Action Committee Board.

Kevin's passion was politics, and he served within the state of Florida and beyond as a legislative assistant, as legislative affairs director, as deputy staff director, and as chief of staff.

Within Theta Chi, there are always a select few brothers who stand out amongst all the other faces and personalities. After meeting Kevin Reilly, you knew and realized you had just met someone of importance and significance. It was no surprise that Kevin was a chapter officer. Hearing that Kevin was elected student body president was not

astonishing news to anyone; it was expected. Kevin was one of those brothers, without any doubt, who would eventually become governor of Florida, or a U.S. Senator, or perhaps even move into that home at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. He was someone we all saw, at some point, serving on one of Theta Chi's International boards, if not as our International President. We saw him in his professional career behind the curtain playing the kingmaker, but we knew it was just a matter of time before Kevin himself became the king.

But it was not meant to be.

The pain of those dreams unfulfilled is nothing compared to the loss of our very dear friend.

Despite his greatness, Kevin was one of us. His humility and ability to build intentional teams and consensus—all in an atmosphere of fun—created the fraternal bond. His integrity earned our respect. His strategic mind, quick wit, kindness, ability to see potential, and unending work ethic made him our leader. His welcoming presence, listening ear, and genuine compassion made him our lifelong friend.

When Kevin ran for student body president, his campaign slogan was "Tomorrow Starts Today."

Tomorrow will be less bright without you, Kevin, but we will never forget you as we follow your example and try to begin anew—today.

**ALPHA SIGMA***Oregon*Michael B. Clark (1977)
John K. Colman (1964)**ALPHA UPSILON***Nebraska*

Ryan J. Bostok (2013)

ALPHA PHI*Alabama*Michael R. Campbell (1980)
Jackson P. Cunningham
(2026)
Harold B. Edwards (1963)
Daniel G. Gammage, D.D.S.
(1969)
Gary E. Holland (1985)
John P. Logan, Jr. (1950)
W. Bryan McPherson, Jr.
(1951)
William W. Warren (1946)**ALPHA CHI***Syracuse*

Arthur G. Dillon (1974)

ALPHA PSI*Maryland*Edward T. Barrett, Jr. (1980)
Steven J. Gillberg (2001)**BETA ALPHA***UCLA*Dr. Richard W. Getzinger
(1960)
Wilfrid B. Harrison (1944)
Robert E. Hird (1952)**BETA GAMMA***North Dakota*Marvin F. Dietrich (1961)
Gerald R. Smith (1967)**BETA DELTA***Rutgers*

Donald M. Simone (1957)

BETA EPSILON*Montana*

Ivan L. Oneil (1950)

BETA ZETA*Michigan State*

Patrick W. Benedict (1965)

BETA THETA*Drexel*

Edward S. Pietrzak (1957)

BETA KAPPA*Hamline*Dr. George L. Redman
(1963)**BETA LAMBDA***Akron*

Bill M. Kotsatos (1992)

BETA NU*Case Western*Salvatore Cicirello (1947)
Paul M. E. Franceus, Jr.
(1986)
Patrick Petroff (1947)**BETA XI***Birmingham-Southern*

Dr. John C. Mathison (1968)

BETA PI*Monmouth*

Jerome C. Tovo, Jr. (1958)

BETA RHO*Illinois Wesleyan*Dr. Steven R. Eckhoff (1975)
William P. LaBounty (1952)
William H. Mundt (1975)
William E. Stancl (1975)**BETA SIGMA***Lehigh*

Gary Yasumura (1964)

BETA TAU*Southern California*

Barry M. Paquette (1965)

BETA PSI*Presbyterian*Michael P. Cannon (1990)
Michael G. LeFever (1969) +**BETA OMEGA***Susquehanna*

Robert B. Hofmann (1964)

GAMMA ALPHA*Chattanooga*

William J. Wiggins (1953)

GAMMA ETA*Bucknell*

Karl F. Mallory, Jr. (1956)

GAMMA THETA*San Diego State*

Daryl A. Mason (1969)

GAMMA LAMBDA*Denver*

Rowland S. Harden (1962) +

GAMMA MU*Bowling Green*James D. Crawford (1969)
Thomas E. Dalton (1965)
Robert Fedorcheck (1960)
Eugene W. Kallay (1954)
Richard E. Meyer (1951)**GAMMA NU***New Mexico State*

Wesley A. Menefee (1957)

GAMMA XI*San Jose State*

John T. Osorio, Jr. (1953)

GAMMA OMICRON*Wake Forest*Dr. Charles N. Dempsey
(1959)
James E. Hill, Jr. (1968)
Dr. Bruce R. Pulliam (1963)**GAMMA PI***Buffalo*Richard D. Gibson (1953)
Lawrence L. Hall (1946)
Gordon E. Snyder (1947)**GAMMA RHO***Florida State*Thomas A. Pisinski (1962)
Augustus B. Reid, Jr. (1971)**A Life of Service and Brotherhood****THOMAS H. SWAIN** (ALPHA PI/MINNESOTA 1942)*July 4, 1921–March 1, 2025*BY PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT PAUL NORSTREM
(ALPHA PI/MINNESOTA 1986)

Tom Swain, a leader in Minnesota's public, business, and civic life for more than 70 years, passed away at the age of 103.

Swain grew up with a spirit of independence that would shape his century-long journey. He joined Alpha Pi Chapter at the University of Minnesota in 1942, following in his father's footsteps. That same year, he graduated with a business degree and soon entered the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving 1943–1946, including 10 months in Okinawa.

World War II profoundly marked his life. His closest friend in Theta Chi, **Donald Garniss** (1943), was killed in combat after asking Swain to care for his wife, Arlene. Tom later married Arlene, honoring his promise and his brother's memory. With Garniss' father, Tom secured a memorial plaque for Alpha Pi brothers lost in the war—a tribute still displayed in the chapter room today.

Swain returned from service to begin an extraordinary career. At the University of Minnesota, he became the first academic advisor for student-athletes in 1946, later serving as athletics ticket manager, president of the Alumni Association, trustee of the University Foundation, and twice as Vice President for University Relations. He considered the University "the state's most important public institution" and remained a passionate supporter of Gopher athletics throughout his life.

His public service extended to the highest levels of state government. Swain served as senior staff to three Minnesota governors, led the Statehood Centennial Commission, and twice served as mayor of Lilydale—first elected at age 85.

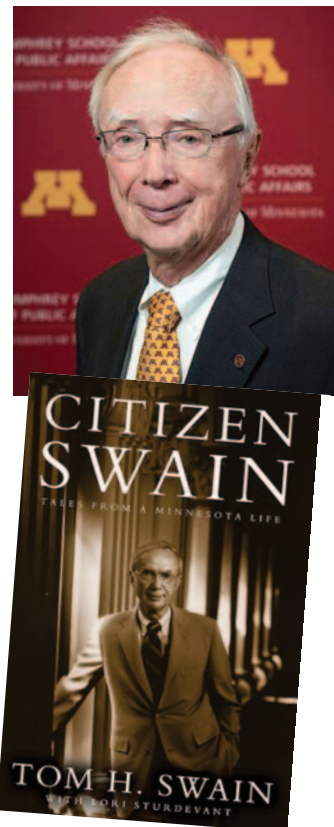
In business, he rose to Executive Vice President of the St. Paul Companies (now Travelex), while also giving time to countless nonprofit and civic organizations. In 2004, he established the Swain Fellowship in Public Leadership at the Humphrey School, supporting more than 80 mid-career public affairs students. Even as a centenarian, he championed climate action and mentored young leaders.

Swain also showed courage within his Fraternity. In the 1950s, he was among the many brothers who challenged membership restrictions that existed at that time within the National Constitution, standing firmly for fairness and inclusivity. He later served Alpha Pi as Alumnus Adviser and House Corporation President and was an honored guest at the chapter's 2013 Reinstallation. At age 100, he attended a large Founders Day celebration with his brothers.

His contributions earned wide recognition, including an Honorary Doctor of Law and Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota, induction into the Gopher Athletics M Club Hall of Fame, the Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award, and national honors from civic organizations.

Yet those who knew him remember something simpler: his generosity, humility, and daily practice of citizenship. As he wrote in his 2015 memoir, *Citizen Swain*, "When one cares about a cause, one ought to work to build support for it."

Farewell, Brother Swain. You leave behind a chapter room filled with memory, a state enriched by your service, and a Fraternity honored by your example.





Community Leader

HON. JOHN F. BRISCOE, JR. (ZETA EPSILON/LONG BEACH STATE 1975)

November 4, 1952–May 16, 2025

John served on the board of trustees for the Ocean View School District in Orange County from 2006-2022. His bipartisan efforts and determination helped to raise awareness on key issues to help and protect children. Briscoe sued the city on various issues and always won, including the largest lawsuit in the district's history over concerns about a disposal site's impact on students at a nearby elementary school. He also helped to pass a \$169-million bond measure that led to the modernization of several elementary and middle schools in the district.

John held senior-level positions at Kraft/General Foods Inc., Mars Inc., The Hain-Celestial Group Inc., and Keebler/Bakeline Inc. and also earned state of California license recognition as a broker and opened Crestwave Property Management in partnership with his wife in 1991.

John was involved with Rotary, Boy Scouts, PTA, AYSO Soccer, Little League, School Site Council, and Grace Church. He also served as an adjunct professor at Long Beach State. Determined to help others, he ran for Congress on two occasions and also for a state senate seat this past year.

Within Theta Chi, he had served as Chapter President (1972/1973) and provided Zeta Epsilon Chapter with a rental house for the past 20 years and never once raised the rent. John and his wife Debbie also held an annual Theta Chi alumni Christmas party for over 30 years. He cared deeply for the Fraternity and remained in contact with brothers, always offering advice, counsel, and a Helping Hand.



GAMMA SIGMA

Duke

George J. Bennett (1970)
Shaun McArdle (1957)

GAMMA TAU

Drake

C. Jason Thiss (2002)

GAMMA UPSILON

Bradley

Steven T. Bartlebaugh (1984)
John P. Goeke (1987)
Eugene C. Plozay (1954)

Ronald E. Sanders (1965)
Jonathan E. Thomal (2010)
Michael B. Unruh (1957)

GAMMA PSI

Puget Sound

Gary E. Snyder (1961)

GAMMA OMEGA

Vanderbilt

Sovern J. Larkins, Jr. (1952)

DELTA BETA

Georgia

Thomas T. Hendrick (1970)

DELTA ZETA

Nebraska-Omaha

Henry C. Annis (1978)
Daryl A. Mason (1969)
Michael F. Swinarski, Jr. (1987)
Dean P. Thompson (1957)
Thomas L. Upton (1966)

DELTA THETA

Toledo

Craig R. Thompson (1964)

DELTA XI

Valparaiso

Brian J. Healy (1999)

Jack W. Lawson (1958)
Brian D. McKinley (1981)

DELTA OMICRON

Gettysburg

George G. Young, III (1983)

DELTA PI

Indiana State

Larry J. Andrew (1965)
Justan W. Paddock (2019)

DELTA SIGMA

Clarkson

Rodney A. Engle (1961)
Anthony J. Fraoli (1958)

DELTA TAU

Kent State

Kenneth J. Wilson (1953)

DELTA PHI

North Texas

William M. Harter (1962) +

EPSILON BETA

Lycoming

David F. Bonsick (1989)
James D. Elliott (1957)

EPSILON DELTA

Youngstown State

James G. Bogoeff (1979)
Ralph N. Fabrizio, II (1972)
David N. Stolic (1980)
Gary D. Swanson (1962)
James E. Ward (1965)

EPSILON ETA

IUP

Gerald E. Federinko (1977)
Michael T. McGrath (1977)
William A. Smith (1975)

EPSILON IOTA

East Carolina

Louis M. Larson (1966)
James T. O'Brien (1967)

EPSILON OMICRON

Waynesburg

Harold B. Edwards (1963)
Paul F. Taylor (1972)

EPSILON RHO

Rider

Paul E. Marrandino (1967)

EPSILON TAU

Stephen F. Austin

J. Eddie Gray, Jr. (1983)

EPSILON PHI

Central Missouri

William H. Gabel (1963)
Glen D. Heldenbrand (1975)

+ Past Regional Counselor



Jack Shivetts (Zeta Alpha/Slippery Rock 1983) shares, "In July, several brothers traveled to Ted DiSalvo's (1985) Celebration of Life to pay our respects to a wonderful brother. As our group entered the reception, we noticed an older woman who was wearing a Theta Chi shirt—one that our chapter had made about eight years ago. We were immediately drawn to her and wanted an explanation. We soon learned that she was Lorri Ondercin (née Kurczyk), Ted's mother-in-law, and that she was wearing Ted's shirt. She then explained that she was a Theta Chi Dream Girl for Gamma Mu Chapter at Bowling Green State University in the 1960s! When she heard there were going to be several Theta Chi sweethearts coming, she wore Ted's letters! Lorri was a total sweetheart and was a silver lining for us on a difficult day."

**EPSILON OMEGA**

Sacramento State
Dieter K. Mueller (1968)

ZETA ALPHA

Slippery Rock
Timothy C. Aldom (1982)
David M. Grabosky (1985)
Glenn R. Jones (1975)
Richard C. Rowland (1980)

ZETA BETA

Adrian
William M. Holdsworth, Jr.
(1961)

ZETA DELTA

St. Cloud State
Brian P. Travers (1997)

ZETA EPSILON

Long Beach State
Hon. John F. Briscoe, Jr.
(1975)
Ralph B. Burris (1967)

ZETA THETA

Troy
John P. McKeown (1984)

ZETA IOTA

Dickinson State
Donald M. Haugenoe (1971)

ZETA MU

American International
Christie Serino (1971)

ZETA OMEGA

West Chester
Dr. Charles S. Moll (1971)

ETA LAMBDA

Virginia Tech
Zachary M. McCann (2013)
Dennis C. Stevens (1976)
Nasser S. Zaki (1998)

ETA NU

Alma
William E. Lauppe (1971)

ETA TAU

CSU-Stanislaus
Gregory P. Burns (1981)
Robert L. Lampkins, Jr.
(1984)
Bruce J. Mahan (1978)

ETA CHI

George Mason
Thomas B. Baird (1981)

THETA EPSILON

Kennesaw State
Zachary S. Peters (2007)

THETA OMEGA

Appalachian State
Hedrick T. Sykes, III (2003)

IOTA ALPHA

UNC-Wilmington
Phillip D. Mason (2002)

KAPPA GAMMA

North Florida
Aidan T. Maybury (2025)

A Tribute to Brotherhood**RALPH B. BURRIS** (ZETA EPSILON/LONG BEACH STATE 1967)

October 16, 1944 – June 1, 2025

BY GORDON T. HUGHES (ZETA EPSILON/LONG BEACH STATE 1966)



Ralph Burris was a great friend, fraternity brother, confidant, and much, much more. We met back in 1964 when he and **Chuck Hays** (1965) rushed me for Theta Chi. They closed me, too.

Ralph was a bundle of complexities and contradictions. He was very conservative, and he and I were members of the Young Republicans on campus and believed in our intervention in Vietnam. However, Ralph was also embracing the social changes in campus life as things were changing quickly in the mid-'60s. His taste in music was moving from the Beach Boys to the Byrds and Jimi Hendrix Experience. None of the brothers had really any knowledge of those groups, but we still loved him.

Ralph went on to become our President and was in that role when Zeta Epsilon Chapter was formally installed on May 8, 1965. He was always fair and reasonable and never tried to recruit any of the brothers to his way of thinking. The same could not be said of our co-ed guests, however; Ralph was quite the ladies' man.

I recall Ralph met up with some fun kids in Huntington Beach one afternoon and invited them to a party at our house in Seal Beach. That night, when things were in full swing, a bus pulled up and a very handsome, bearded, well-built young man who introduced himself as the "Merry Prankster" said his pals in the bus were ready to play music for the party if we would give them free beer. Ralph, with his devilish smile, said, "You bet," and thus the Grateful Dead played their first Southern California gig at the Theta Chi house in Seal Beach.

Ralph wrote a scrapbook novel in which I played some fun roles as did Chuck Hays, **Roger Ernest** (1968), Misha Kessler, **Pete Alexander** (1969), and, of course, **Steve Spielberg** (1969). Ralph and Steve were roommates and business partners during their early days in the motion picture industry. Ralph served as a producer on Steve's seminal film, *Amblin'* and went on to work as a production manager and assistant director on a number of films.

I will always remember him as impish, smart, talented, crazy fun, and as a brother and a friend.

How it Really Happened

by Ralph Burris (Zeta Epsilon/Long Beach State 1967)

I was a senior at Long Beach State, Chapter President, and at the top of my game. The chapter was holding a rush party on campus, and things were rolling right along. I was an English major heading for law school, and **Chuck Hays** (1965) was in communications. Chuck had met some kid in a TV class who was from Arizona and brought him over as a prospective pledge.

"You look like a producer," said this gawky kid standing in front of me. He was wearing a rumpled shirt, wide wale corduroy pants, and a gold cardigan sweater.

"What's that?" I responded. Well, it turns out that he was a budding filmmaker who was hanging around Universal Studios most of the time, and there was a group of studio coordinators (sort of in-house producers) who were wearing seersucker jackets that summer, just like the one I had on at this rush party.

"What's your name," I asked.

"Steve Spielberg."

I didn't give it much thought at the time, but it burrowed deep into my psyche. Nice kid. We let him in.



Ralph Burris

Steve Spielberg

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



170th Anniversary Convention and 42nd School of Fraternity Practices

SAN ANTONIO!

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

LEARN MORE AT [THETACHI.ORG/CONVENTION](https://thetachi.org/convention)