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THE Rattle OF THETA CHI

SPRING 2015

Bob Sasser
CEO, Dollar Tree

Is Leading Theta Chi Forward in the Cornerstone Capital Campaign

See page 10

Our Band of Brothers

Theta Chi salutes our WWII Veterans: An interview with Easy Co.'s Ed Shames

See page 20



Pam and Bob Sasser

VOLUME 95, NUMBER 1 SPRING 2015

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

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FRATERNITY COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION
North-American Interfraternity Conference

Defining Leadership



National President Dick Elder enjoys talking with Chapter Presidents during lunch break at the Presidents Conference.

Dear Brothers and Friends:

I have often tried to define the word leadership. It is not an easy task but one which requires individual solace and concentrated thought. I believe leadership is capacity to translate vision into reality. Within the halls of Theta Chi Fraternity, this has been our constant objective for nearly 160 years.

So "how" does this happen? "Where" does it happen? "When" does it happen? The answer for many of our undergraduate leaders is Theta Chi's Presidents Conference held in Indiana each year. This weekend conference brings ALL of the Fraternity's resources together at one time to equip the highest officer at each of our chapters and colonies throughout North America with the tools, the insights, and the wisdom of those who have preceded them to this position of leadership. This conference is the Cornerstone of our undergraduate leadership initiatives.

Throughout the pages of this issue of *The Rattle* you will hear from many of those individual brothers whose lives have been positively impacted by their attendance and active participation in the Presidents Conference. I'm sure their stories will be both intriguing and inspiring.

The opportunity and honor to have been elected President of my undergraduate chapter at San Diego State University is among a very short list of "life events" that have truly made a difference in my life. The lessons learned there in leading people… solving problems and issues… in working together with a group to reach a common goal… are priceless. Many of those "life" lessons and communication practices have been applied over and over by me as a father, a husband, a businessman, a volunteer, and as a citizen of my community. These lessons are not taught in the classroom… they are taught in the home… and in the hallways of our great Fraternity. It is here that for many of us the application of those skills is first explored, implemented, and refined.

As you will learn in this issue, we are undertaking a major step in ensuring that these "lessons in leadership" are FOREVER a part of the Theta Chi experience. Our Cornerstone Capital Campaign is launching a "new" era in the history of our Fraternity by fully endowing the Presidents Conference. The successful completion of this endeavor will allow EVERY Chapter to send EVERY President EVERY Year to attend and participate in this extraordinary leadership experience.

I want to thank ALL of the brothers and friends of the Fraternity who have already taken a position to "STAND UP AND LEAD" by supporting this initiative and contributing to our Cornerstone Capital Campaign. I also want to encourage each of you who have yet to do so to join me in supporting our efforts to truly enhance the Theta Chi experience.

It continues to be difficult to put into words the gratitude I have for all of the tremendous work and of the giving of time, talent, and treasure from our dedicated volunteers and Headquarters staff in making TODAY an extraordinary time in our history… It truly is "A GREAT TIME TO BE A THETA CHI."

Warm Fraternal Regards,

Richard D. Elder
National President



Sacred Purpose
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Theta Chi's Newest Homes
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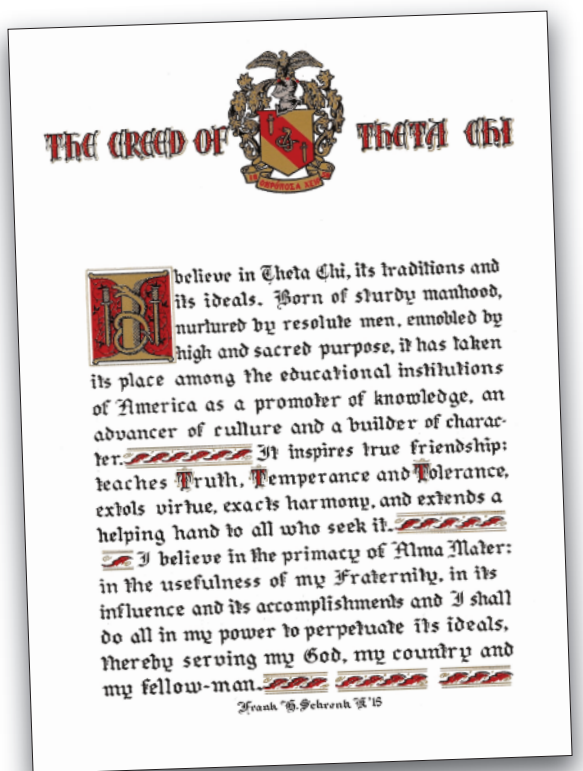
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Chapter News
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On the Cover: CEO Bob Sasser (Gamma Rho/Florida State 1973) is joined by his wife Pam in ringing the Opening Bell at Nasdaq on March 12, 2015 to celebrate Dollar Tree's 20th Anniversary as a publicly-traded company. Read more about Brother Sasser and his wife and their support of the Cornerstone Capital Campaign **on Page 12.**

Corrections from Fall 2014: Our apologies on the omission of Bradrick S. Burk from The Foundation Chapter 2013/2014 donor list. Brother Burk is a Bronze level member of the Crossed Swords Society for his annual gift and his lifetime giving level is Chase Council. Thank you to Brother Burk and all contributors to The Foundation Chapter!



THE CREED OF THETA CHI

I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose, it has taken its place among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advancer of culture and a builder of character. It inspires true friendship: teaches Truth, Temperance and Tolerance, exhols virtue, exacts harmony, and extends a helping hand to all who seek it. I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater: in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country and my fellow-man.

Frank G. Schrenk K '15

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20 **OUR BAND OF BROTHERS**/Easy Company's Ed Shames joins Theta Chi and shares his recollections about World War II and thoughts on leadership.

50 **CHAPTER ETERNAL**/Theta Chi bids farewell to those brothers who have joined the Chapter Eternal, including a past staff member and other notable alumni.

From the Editor



Many years ago as I traveled the country as a Leadership and Education Consultant (now Field Executive, see page 4), I was always pleased to hear nearly every chapter that I visited recite our Creed with the same pride and accuracy as I had experienced during my undergraduate days at James Madison University.

Hearing the Creed so many times, I thought back to elementary school and all the way to high school and how each and every school day started with us standing to put our hands on our hearts to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Did we ever stop to think about what we were saying? Did we actually say it? Did we mean it? Do they even still say it in classrooms?

I challenged chapters to think about The Creed in the same context and to ultimately live out our Creed—not just recite it. Frank Shrenk's words echo as hollow unless the actions of Theta Chi's members bring them to life. I guarantee that the phrase "Serving my God, my country and my fellow-man" will take on new meaning after reading about our World War II heroes and our new initiate, Col. Ed Shames of *Band of Brothers* fame on page 20.

I now challenge each of us as alumni to live out the words of our Creed. We have an opportunity to "do all in [our] power to perpetuate its ideals…" The Cornerstone Campaign will truly secure Theta Chi's future by providing leadership education to all of our Chapter and Colony Presidents—now and, presumably, for all time.

Take a look at the campaign featured in this issue and extend your Helping Hand as you are able. Your brothers are counting on you.

—Ben Hill



Dear Brothers:

As you review this issue of *The Rattle*, it will be difficult to miss the dominant theme: our Cornerstone Capital Campaign in support of Theta Chi's Chapter Presidents Conference. We were very intentional with this focus because the training of our Presidents is of critical importance to the future of our Fraternity.

Our Chapter Presidents are CEOs of corporations with annual budgets in the tens-of-thousands of dollars, sometimes even topping $100,000. They serve as managers, coaches, and mentors. They must maintain rapport while also remaining firm in holding their peers accountable. Presidents are called to motivate and to be fair. I can think of no other student leadership role on college campuses today that is as challenging and educational as that of the Chapter President.

As a graduate of Theta Chi's President's Conference, I know the value of the educational experience provided both as an undergraduate leader and throughout life. Today, I still apply the leadership skills I learned through its rigorous curriculum in my professional, community, and family life. It is an important educational experience that is not being matched anywhere else on campus.

For that reason, I am proud to join the roll of contributors to the Cornerstone Capital Campaign and would ask you to consider making a gift as well. You can rest assured that your contribution will go to supporting countless generations of young men who seek to follow in our footsteps by doing all in their power to perpetuate our ideals.

Michael Mayer
Executive Director
317-848-1856
mmayer@thetachi.org
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Field Staff Updates

In the summer of 2014, Executive Director Mike Mayer announced the retirement of the titles "Leadership and Education Consultant" and "Recruitment and Expansion Specialist." Members of our field staff are now referred to as Field Executives. The change has been made primarily to better convey the actual job function of our field staff and the expectations of their role within the organization. In December 2014, **Zack Brown** (Eta Beta/Eastern Kentucky 2014) was hired as a Field Executive and traveled throughout spring 2015. He will continue on staff throughout 2015/2016.

At the conclusion of the 2014/2015 academic year, we will bid farewell to these members of our field staff, who traveled throughout North America to assist our members and chapters. These men truly extended an Assisting Hand to their brothers and are owed gratitude from Theta Chi Fraternity:

Chris Barker (Epsilon Zeta/Tampa 2013) – 2 years of service
Corey Esquenazi (Iota Theta/Central Florida 2011) – 1.5 years of service
Darien Key (Gamma Theta/San Diego State 2014) – 1 year of service
Sean O'Donovan (Zeta Upsilon/Hartford 2014) – 1 year of service
Tom Sisco (Gamma Rho/Florida State 2013) – 2 years of service

The staffing structure at the International Headquarters has recently been revised.

In December 2014, we bid farewell and said job well done to two-and-a-half year Field Executive **Alex Nunchuck** (Iota Theta/Central Florida 2012) and wish him well as he pursues law school at the University of Miami. (More from Alex on page 6.) We also say thank you and farewell to **Monroe Caper** (Theta Chi/GC Honorary 2014), who had provided assistance with our events and with the Foundation Chapter. In April 2015, Monroe secured a full-time position as a loan officer with ITT Tech and expressed his immense gratitude for the support the Fraternity has given him.



Alex Nunchuck



Monroe Caper

We also wish to say farewell and thank you to **Shawn Bennett** (Gamma Tau/Drake 1992), who had served as Director of Health and Safety Programing and aided in the launch of Theta Chi's Sacred Purpose movement. Originally serving as a consultant and a director in the early 1990s, Shawn returned and served on the staff for this second time since May 2009, providing support to our leadership events. Shawn has returned to school, this time to seminary to pursue a calling to the ministry. (See Shawn's letter on page 5.)

Field Executive **Brandon Younkin** (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg 2014) was promoted to Director of Education to handle all educational and programmatic elements of our regional and national leadership events and has absorbed many of Shawn Bennett's day-to-day job functions and will lead our Sacred Purpose movement by coordinating and training our Vice Presidents of Health and Safety.

Sr. Director for Recruitment and Expansion **JD Ford** (Beta Lambda/Akron 2005) accepted the new position of Sr. Director for External Relations. In this role JD will develop strong, lasting relationships with college and university administrators, representing Theta Chi's interests and educating all

of Theta Chi's stakeholders on the value of Theta Chi Fraternity through communication, advocacy, and outreach.

Director of Standards **Justin Jones** (Iota Pi/LSU 2013) has filled JD's vacancy and now serves as Director of Recruitment and Expansion. In order to fulfill the job duties of the Director of Standards, part-time receptionist **Tara Dunn** has been promoted to Assistant Director for Collegiate Services. Tara will promote our standards, manage probation chapters, and assist with preliminary work regarding chapter situations. She will also support the field staff and expansion/installation-related items. Tara is an alumna of Alpha Gamma Delta and had served its national office as a traveling consultant.

Administrative Assistant **Amber Ray** has been named as our full time receptionist. Amber has served Theta Chi since 1990 and will continue to share her reliability, experience, and knowledge of our volunteer base. She will also provide administrative support to the Foundation Chapter.

After a 14-year career, Office Manager **Cindy Billman** has left the staff. Her greatest accomplishment was coordinating our recent move to 865 W. Carmel Drive. We are enormously grateful for Cindy's years of service to the Fraternity and will miss her. The staff held a farewell party to thank her for her service.

Sr. Director for Member and Event Services **Joel Wendland** has been promoted to Sr. Director of Administration. Joel will maintain his current duties and his department will absorb the office manager responsibilities. Joel has hired **Lindsay Davenport** to assist as Office Operations Coordinator.

Jordan Carter (Iota Beta/Missouri State 2015) and **Terrell Mizell** (Zeta Pi/Old Dominion 2015) have been hired as Assistant Development Officers at the International Headquarters to support the work and mission of The Foundation Chapter.

The following members have been hired for the 2015/2016 Field Staff:

Jeff Cusick (Iota Sigma/Towson 2015)
Taylor Dahlem (Zeta Rho/Kentucky 2015)
Bob Eberling (Iota Beta/Missouri State 2015)
Bryce Ellis (Alpha Rho/Washington 2015)
Nick Hoke (Alpha Iota/Indiana 2015)
Joseph Longo (Iota Zeta/Radford 2015)
Will Maher (Delta Eta/Colorado State 2015)
Jordan McGee (Iota Beta/Missouri State 2015)

A full list of IHQ directors and staff can be found at www.thetachi.org/staff-members/



Shawn Bennett's leadership with Sacred Purpose has placed Theta Chi as a leader in health and safety programming in the Greek World.

I Believe in Our Sacred Purpose

It has been an honor to serve Theta Chi during the last five-and-a-half years. I have experienced the joy of working with our talented undergraduates and our loyal alumni. In departing, I offer some final thoughts about my experience.

I believe in Theta Chi. I always have. But, I believe in it more now! In launching the Theta Chi Sacred Purpose movement, the Fraternity has taken a bold and pioneering step. We have decided that there is nothing more important than caring for the men we call brother. Of course, that's not a new idea, but we are boldly working to be better at it. Other Greek organizations have been astounded that we would courageously change our leadership structure and Ritual in order to inspire a deeper sense of commitment to one another. It was the right decision at the right time.

A year after launching Sacred Purpose, we know that this movement is more than an idea. Sacred Purpose is alive and well. Our men have worked very hard since its inception. They have embraced a vision and executed exceptionally well. I am especially proud of our Vice Presidents of Health and Safety who powerfully lead the way. Our results were nothing but exceptional during this first 12 months:

Campus-wide programs 243
Guest speakers 444
Health and Safety Advisors 79

Well done, brothers! Especially by a group of men who were the first to serve in this essential role.

Beyond the data and accomplishments, I sense there is something even deeper happening in Theta Chi. I have seen and experienced a greater attention and caring for one another. Our members are learning to better recognize when a brother is in need of help. But, we aren't stopping there. We are learning to take action. We are learning what to say and what to do. And, we are doing it! There is a renewed understanding that our brothers are our Sacred Purpose. We are learning that the essence of Theta Chi is living for one another. We are learning how to be a brighter light for one another and for campuses and communities.

Indeed, I believe in Theta Chi! It has been a joy to serve you.

—Shawn Bennett

To learn more about Sacred Purpose visit sacredpurpose.thetachi.org

THOUGHTS FROM A FIELD EXECUTIVE

During the last two months of my time on staff I struggled to sleep.



BY ALEX NUNCHUCK, IOTA THETA/CENTRAL FLORIDA 2012

It was not the memory of my accident on I-90 on that Montana road, nor was it the fact that on its anniversary I would be driving down icy roads again for that same destination: Indianapolis.

It was not thoughts about the events in Ferguson, the Keystone Pipeline, ISIS, or the state of varied equalities in America. While national controversies are present in my day-to-day life, they are not what kept me up at night.

Five years ago I left my small town to attend the second largest school in the nation. Late night high school escapades and closing shifts at Staples were traded for job hunting and walks around a huge campus. This second largest university, so quiet at midnight, belonged to my brothers and me.

I graduated and now found myself in Indianapolis and at schools from Tallahassee to Newark, Minneapolis to Lubbock, and San Diego to Edmonton. I taught the responsible talk, but carried the ideals of a traveling beatnik. I still felt that rush of youth and fraternal mischief. Fascinated with Kerouac, I questioned what it meant to live, what it meant to be, and what it meant to have worth. What is citizenship? What is happiness? What is good, what is evil?

Did you know that in San Diego you can walk across the border into Mexico and you won't be checked for a passport? But it will take you at least three hours on foot to get back into the U.S. if you want to get back before rush hour… Or that Flint, Mich. is supposedly one of the deadliest areas in the country? Or that in the rolling hills of Oregon there are statues of dragons beside the highway, with no explanation? Did you know that a 15-minute cab ride at midnight on Halloween in Los Angeles would cost at least $100, or that in Oklahoma, the fields regularly burn from dehydration, to no concern from locals, because it "just happens." I touched the Pacific for the first time in Santa Cruz. I rode the DC Metro from College Park, Md. to Alexandria, Va. At every stop I've grown a new person within myself; lived another extension of my life. I have lived over 50? 60? lives—I stopped counting. I've loved and lost every stop of the way. The ideas, situations, the considerations are too many now. How many hotels, houses, guest beds and couches have I called home?

What had I gained from all this time—all these lives lived? Chapter problems were no longer unique because they were not chapter problems. I believe they are individual issues. The reason a brother from Radford can relate to a brother at Northern Arizona is that we are all facing the same struggle: growing as a young man through college. How do I make myself socially competitive while maintaining my academics, how do I benefit my community while enjoying myself? How do I help my friends and intervene in abusive or insensitive activities? There will always be chapter conflict as men come into themselves, but that should not be shied away from as it often is, it should be embraced. We must trust in the Fraternity.

There is a fraternal restlessness amongst us that keeps us going. We will always have to defend ourselves to the media, the school, our peers. We have to continue to justify the existence of our happy brotherhood. I struggled to rest because I struggled to let myself move on to my own life and watch the younger staff members replace me, as any senior would as he prepares to graduate. Realizing their skill and talent, I trust them and I sleep easy now in my newest life in Florida. Looking back, I shared my university with my chapter, but I share the road with the IHQ staff. For that I could never be grateful enough for this opportunity to serve Theta Chi. I am reminded of a quote by Edwin Markham, usually associated with Brother Dale Slivinske. "There is a destiny which makes us brothers; none goes his way alone. All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own." Be vigilant my brothers, for yourselves and the greater Fraternity, but rest easy knowing that you are not alone in your care. ■

NHC
The Norwich Housing Corporation

Construction, Renovation Funds to Loan

BY DR. WESLEY K. WICKER, ALPHA PHI/ALABAMA 1979

The Norwich Housing Corporation currently has $2,688,000 available to loan for chapter house renovations and new construction projects.

Chapter house loans are only made to incorporated house corporations, or alumni associations that own the land for a new project, and those who legally own a current chapter house. No loans are made directly to an undergraduate chapter.

We advise house corporations to seek private funding first, then utilize funds from Norwich as a second mortgage or as a back-up lender to a primary financial institution.

Examples of new chapter houses include the newly opened Tau Chapter at the University of Florida and Gamma Theta at San Diego State University, currently under construction.

Often, chapters are able to secure local financing at better rates than the Norwich Housing Corporation can make. For instance, Psi Chapter at the University of Wisconsin circulated a Request for Proposal and landed a local financial institution that offered a low, attractive rate for their new house. Psi Chapter owns the lot on which the new house was constructed. You can read about Psi's house on page 36.

Some universities will actually finance fraternity houses, if the house is constructed on the university's property, as was the case with Alpha Phi at the University of Alabama (featured on page 37).

The Norwich Housing Corporation maintains a secondary fund and offers lower than market short-term loans to improve the health & safety of an existing chapter house. Most importantly, the volunteer officers of the Norwich Housing Corporation are here to help you and our local chapters in any way possible.

Members of the Norwich Housing Corporation are elected to five-year terms. It is a self-perpetuating board, meaning that the current board members elect new members, rather than being appointed or elected at National Convention.

Current board members include:
President, Mike Kistler (Epsilon Upsilon/Central Michigan 1973)
Vice President, Paul Norstrem (Alpha Pi/Minnesota 1986)
Treasurer, Jim McEachern (Beta Psi/Presbyterian 1982)
Secretary, Wesley K. Wicker (Alpha Phi/Alabama 1979)
Counselor, Joe L. Clack (Eta Sigma/Arkansas Tech 1980) ■

If your chapter is interested in a renovation project, health and safety improvements to the house, or construction of a new facility, please contact Director of Housing William Toothaker at 317-848-1856 or via e-mail at *william@thetachi.org* to discuss your project and to begin the application process.



Tau TV room at the University of Florida.



Above: Rendering of Gamma Theta house at San Diego State. Below: Actual construction.



Reinstallations at Western Illinois and Texas A&M



Zeta Psi alumni join with undergraduate Rechartering Members to celebrate Theta Chi's return to Western Illinois.

Zeta Psi/Western Illinois

Reinstalled: October 25, 2014

BY NICK RUBINO (2015)

In September 2013, Recruitment and Expansion Specialists Jeffrey Draluck and Scott Turk started a project to recolonize the Zeta Psi Chapter at Western Illinois University. Scott and Jeffrey contacted many of us about this great opportunity. Many of our men were referred from the dean's list and multiple sororities on campus. We were selected because of our grades, our leadership skills, and our ambition to grow as individuals. When we were first contacted, many of us were skeptical about pursuing this journey. Many of the men did not picture themselves going Greek and had a negative connotation of fraternities in general. However, the way in which these staff members presented Theta Chi's objectives, traditions, and ideals changed our minds almost instantaneously. We enjoyed hearing about what Theta Chi stands for and how it is a non-hazing fraternity. We were also informed that Theta Chi was one of the oldest men's fraternities and strives for quality men who want to be leaders. We were told this opportunity would be very rewarding during our college years and after graduation.

We started with a strong group of 13 and grew from there. On October 26, 2013, 26 men made their pledge to Theta Chi during our Recolonization Ceremony. We were convinced as a colony that we could be the core group of guys to reinstall Zeta Psi Chapter.

With the help of our alumni, we have been able to do many things: They have helped us with financial struggles, but most importantly, they helped us build confidence in one another. When we struggled, our alumni took time out of their schedule and talked to us about their Theta Chi experience and why it was so special to them. They encouraged us to take charge and make history at Western Illinois.

With additional advice and guidance from International Headquarters staff, we were able to form strong bonds and began to grow beyond our 26 men. Recruitment and campus involvement improved and our morale was high. It was truly a great feeling to have both alumni and International Headquarters in our corner.

We ended spring 2014 on a very positive note and all were excited to get back from the summer break so we could get to work in the fall. Once everyone returned in fall 2014, brothers contributed significantly—from recruitment events, to brotherhood events, campus involvement and beyond.

The week of October 20, Field Executive Corey Esquenazi came to Western Illinois to conduct our Initiation Week activities. He led us through a week of amazing events that culminated on October 25, 2014 when 34 men were initiated and Zeta Psi was officially reinstalled.

Our ultimate goal was to get Zeta Psi reinstalled. With that now complete, our new ultimate goal is to build Theta Chi's foundation at Western Illinois University. As an official fraternity on campus, we must continue to grow and share why being a Theta Chi is so special. It is like the shot of a pistol at the beginning of a race, we have just begun. Our plan is to come back many years later to WIU and see Theta Chi, Zeta Psi still active and dominating campus!

Eta Upsilon/Texas A&M

Reinstalled: November 22, 2014

Originally installed during the 124th Anniversary Convention held at New Orleans in August 1980, Eta Upsilon was active for nearly 13 years until closing its doors in March 1993. Two decades later, an inquiry was received from Texas A&M student Paul Kelsch to learn how to become a part of Theta Chi Fraternity. Kelsch and his group were seeking a brotherhood that they had not experienced to the extent they desired.

Over the next few months, that group would receive advice from national volunteers and staff members and on Sept. 28, 2013, 13 Texas A&M students pledged Theta Chi in a recolonization ceremony held at Memorial Student Center.

The men began their push into Greek life, participating in events such as Theta 5K, AXΩ Paint War, Kappa Kook-out, and more. In an

attempt to foster good relationships with the sororities on campus, the members delivered flowers to each sorority house on their founding date. The colony hosted its first mixer with Delta Sigma Phi and Alpha Delta Pi.

Eta Upsilon members were involved in Student Senate, American Society of Civil Engineers, Aggie Disc Golf, Aggie Transition Camps, Aggie Recruitment Committee, Pre-Vet Society, Fish Camp, Geology & Geophysics Society, Professional Association of Industrial Distribution, University Orchestra, Texas State Teachers Association, American Medical Student Association, Pre-Med Society, Leadership Learning Community, Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Freshman Leaders in Progress, Aggieland Yearbook, Horticulture Club, Christian Engineering Leaders, Honor Council, Off Road Club, Sports for Kids, A&M Water Polo Team, Fishing Team, Powerlifting Club, Freemasons, Future Farmers of America, and in A&M's Corps of Cadets.

On November 22, 2014, 53 men were initiated and Eta Upsilon Chapter was reinstalled in a ceremony held at the Hildebrand Equine Complex. National Secretary Doug Miller presided and was assisted by Sr. Director for Recruitment and Expansion JD Ford, Sr. Director for Development Philip Thornton, Field Executive Chris Barker, and former IHQ staff member Brad Vance.

Theta Chi in the state of Texas was present except for one chapter. Two alumni, Carl Harding (1991) and Blake Garner (1990), represented the original Eta Upsilon Chapter and were joined by their former Chapter Adviser, Neeley Lewis (Xi/Virginia 1968). Six additional Theta Chi chapters were represented, including both coasts of the United States: The West by Kia Sepassi (Beta Iota/Arizona 2001), who serves as Chapter Adviser for Gamma Theta/San Diego State and the East by two brothers from Epsilon Psi/NJIT.

At the reception that followed at Pebble Creek Country Club in College Station, Eta Upsilon Chapter President Cole Ziegler, Doug Miller, JD Ford, Chris Barker, and Neeley Lewis provided appropriate remarks.

A Texas A&M flag signed by all Eta Upsilon brothers was presented to several Theta Chi alumni for their guidance and support. Theta Chi Citations of Honor were presented to Chris Barker, Patrick Lathrop, Neeley Lewis, Doug Miller, and Tom Sisco.

President Zeigler noted, "We all started as cautious individuals, most of whom never pictured ourselves in a fraternity. This group quickly grew to become friends. Together, through hard work, difficult times and a love for Theta Chi, we have grown to become more than just a group of friends; we are a brotherhood." ■

Recent (Re)Installations

Iota Phi/South Carolina (March 21, 2015)
Iota Chi/Binghamton (April 18, 2015)
Iota Psi/RIT (April 25, 2015)
Iota Omega/SUNY Cortland (May 2, 2015)
Zeta/New Hampshire (May 2, 2015)

Current Expansion

Alpha Sigma/Oregon
Epsilon Eta/IUP
Epsilon Pi/Northern Illinois
Theta Tau/Western Michigan
Theta Psi/Wisconsin-Oshkosh
Long Island University-Post
Theta Chi Colony of Spokane, WA
University of Texas-El Paso

If you are interested in assisting as an adviser for any of these projects, know young men whom you could recommend to join or are aware of other expansion opportunities, please contact Director of Recruitment and Expansion Justin Jones at *JJones@thetachi.org*.



Eta Upsilon's Rechartering Members at Texas A&M.

Will YOU be a Cornerstone?

Introducing the Capital Campaign to fund Theta Chi's annual Presidents Conference

Leadership is the cornerstone of our Fraternity. It is through leadership that our chapters flourish and our brotherhood grows. It is leadership that provides the pathway for true brotherhood during our college years. It is leadership that inspires our alumni to serve as mentors, chapter advisors, and alumni corporation officers. Leadership inspires our men to serve in their communities, across the nation, and around the world. Without leadership, the friendships we cherish from our college years would not have the support needed to thrive.

Leadership begins at the top. Our Presidents set the tone for the chapter and lead our men to success. When you were in school, times were much simpler. Today, our Presidents are leading chapters larger than ever before with pressures from social media, increased oversight from university administrations and an increased presence in the court of public opinion. These factors make the role of the Chapter President even more challenging. We now have chapters with budgets over $100,000 and chapter houses with real estate values in the millions of dollars. We need to be sure Every Chapter, Every President, Every Year has the skills and training necessary to succeed in today's college environment.

When you consider the task facing our Chapter Presidents, they are essentially CEOs of small businesses with real decisions to make and men to lead. We are training our Chapter Presidents, but we are also equipping them with the skills to become husbands, fathers, and leaders in their communities and across the nation.

For the past twenty years our chapter leaders gained tremendous experience from our annual Presidents Conference, but the biggest challenge for our members is funding. In the past, each President paid a registration fee, airfare/mileage, food and lodging often in excess of $1,000. We believe this conference is so important that we cannot allow our men to be financially burdened with these costs, or worse, that they cannot participate because they cannot afford it. The annual cost of the Presidents Conference is approximately $90,000 and it is critical to create a permanent funding solution for the future success of Theta Chi Fraternity.

We all gained so much from our undergraduate time in Theta Chi. The friendships we cherish, the brotherhood we enjoy, the leadership lessons we hold dear—it all accompanies us through our everyday lives. As alumni, we have an opportunity to ensure our brotherhood lives on for generations to come through financial support of the Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi.

We invite you to join us in support of the Cornerstone Capital Campaign!



Former Congressman Dennis Cardoza (Alpha Psi/Maryland 1981) addresses the Presidents on leadership and managing teams to success. Brother Cardoza, a Past Chapter President himself, was excited to present this topic, as he wished he had this level of formal training during his undergraduate years. Dennis has been a regular speaker at Theta Chi educational events and is a donor to the Cornerstone Capital Campaign.

Leadership Team

This is the first-ever national capital campaign conducted by the Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc. A project of this magnitude is not entered into lightly. We have decided to move forward in this important fundraising endeavor with the full support of the Grand Chapter and Norwich Housing Corporation. The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc., leadership includes:

President, Carlton Bennett (Zeta Pi/Old Dominion 1972)
Vice President, M. Lindsay Olsen (Delta Psi/Kansas 1983)
Secretary, Mark Hillis (Gamma Rho/Florida State 1964)
Treasurer, Michael Roe (Alpha Upsilon/Nebraska 1986)
Director, David May (Zeta Sigma/Wisconsin-River Falls 1970)
Director, Kirby Montgomery (Alpha Phi/Alabama 1975)
Director, Patrick T. O'Connor (Chi/Auburn 1978)
Director, Joshua Palleon (Theta Psi/Wisconsin-Oshkosh 1999)
Executive Director, Michael Mayer (Epsilon Phi/Central Missouri 2004)
Sr. Director of Development, Philip Thornton (Gamma Theta/San Diego State 2005)

$1,106,905

in gift commitments raised as of April 24, 2015!





We need Theta Chi alumni to invest time, talent, and treasure to ensure the success of our brotherhood.





The Presidents Conference helped me succeed by clarifying my roles and responsibilities as President. It helped me understand what to expect, thus, allowing me to step into my position with confidence. The Presidents Conference was also very inspiring and made me extremely proud to be a Theta Chi. Seeing 150+ Chapter and Colony Presidents in one room was incredible, and I was able to form connections with other Presidents and learn what works best in their chapters. During the conference, I had the opportunity to listen to Father Phil Bowers speak. He reminded us of the importance and significance of The Ritual and how it should not only guide everything we do as a Fraternity, but also direct how we act as individuals. I came back with a much stronger passion and understanding of our Ritual, and, as President, I was able to instill this within my own chapter. I am thankful I had the opportunity to attend, and I left feeling much more prepared for the position than when I arrived.

—Zachary Yarnell, Delta Eta/Colorado State

In the modern economic climate, the cost of higher education has skyrocketed and the job market has become more competitive than ever. Accordingly, Theta Chi and its members face new challenges that our Founders could not have imagined. Never before has Theta Chi's mission of preparing our young men to be leaders been more important. And, never before has the Foundation's case for supporting that mission been more compelling. The greatest need facing Theta Chi today is funding our leadership education programs. Leadership education is the key to our success. We must train our members to succeed in today's complex college environment. In 2014, Theta Chi educated more than 2,000 men in formal leadership training programming. Factoring in four-year membership cycles and repeat attendees, more than 50 percent of our undergraduate membership has received formal leadership training at any given point in time.



Bob Sasser (Gamma Rho/Florida State 1973)

CEO, Dollar Tree



Cornerstone Visionary and Honorary Campaign Chairman leads the campaign with an historic $250,000 gift.

Pam and Bob Sasser have taken an historic role in leading Theta Chi forward with the Cornerstone Capital Campaign. The Sassers recently made the largest cash gift in the history of the Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity. The $250,000 gift will ensure the leadership training of our Chapter Presidents is first and foremost in our brotherhood.

Brother Sasser has served as Chief Executive Officer of Dollar Tree Inc., since 2004, after joining the company in 1999 as Chief Operating Officer. Sasser has been featured on the Forbes list of "Best Bosses in America," managing more than 5000 stores and 87,000+ employees across North America. He recently completed an $8.5 billion merger with Family Dollar, making Dollar Tree a Fortune 200 company and one of the largest retailers in the world.

Brother Sasser earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Florida State University, where he joined the Gamma Rho Chapter of Theta Chi.

"It was the first time away from home," Sasser said. "I had a friend who was a Theta Chi and he brought me over to the house. I liked the people there, I liked the brothers, and I liked the atmosphere. They were my friends and I was invited to pledge Theta Chi."

While Sasser has a strong love for his Fraternity and his brothers, he said he was always most focused on furthering his education.

"I wasn't particularly a leader [in the chapter]," he said. "I was there, number one, to get an education, and number two, I was growing up. My senior year I was Secretary, but mostly I was one of the brothers."

Throughout the years, Sasser has always had a special place in his heart for the Fraternity.

"It is a phenomenon and my wife comments on it every time we get together [with my brothers]," he said, "The group I was part of in that period of time, whenever we get together at a reunion—it is remarkable that I have not seen people in 40 years but it is as if we've never left. Pam is amazed by the bond I have with my fraternity brothers, it's as if we've talked every day for the past 40 years."

Sasser recalled one of his favorite memories from his years at Florida State: "We would go out serenading the sororities and one time one of our brothers had his own rock 'n' roll band. He pulled the band together in the middle of the week and loaded all the equipment on the back of a flatbed truck. Then he drove it over to sorority row, parked it in the median, set it up, and started playing."

"All the sororities came out and it was an instant party," he said. "It was all good clean fun until all the house mothers decided it was time for the ladies to come home as it was the middle of the week."

The Sassers' gift will support The Presidents Conference of Theta Chi, which has emerged as the pre-eminent leadership school of our Fraternity. The Presidents Conference educates our men on the ways to lead their chapters to success, making ethical decisions in today's challenging college environment, and ensuring our men uphold their oaths and the ideals of Theta Chi.

"As I talk about leadership in Dollar Tree I really speak more about the values of our company," Sasser said. "It's easy to do the right thing when it's easy to do. Doing the right thing for the right reason when it may not be popular is a key value. As we talk to our leaders here at Dollar Tree, or as we talk to our leaders at Theta Chi—young men who are leading their chapters—I think we should be talking about values. They make us who we are."

He continued, "As we discuss leadership and our Presidents Conference—bringing our young men together to talk about what drives us, what defines us, what makes us who we are, the principles that we hold high, the Helping Hand—I don't think I could support a better initiative, frankly."

As Theta Chi Fraternity works toward 160 years of brotherhood, we need to adapt to the challenges of today. Leadership education is the key to our success. We cannot risk a Chapter President missing out on the experience of the Presidents Conference because he cannot afford it. The Cornerstone Campaign will ensure our men are not burdened with the costs to attend the conference.

"Pam and I are very happy to endow the Presidents Conference," he said. "I think it can be and should be one of the most important things this Fraternity can do."



Bob and Pam Sasser pose in Times Square as they celebrate Dollar Tree's 20th Anniversary as a publicly-traded company.

"My time in Theta Chi while going to school was just some of the best years of my life and I wouldn't take anything away from that experience. The friends we make during college can be carried with you the rest of your life." — Bob Sasser



Theta Chi has provided me with countless opportunities in the brief time since I became a brother, including being elected President and subsequently attending the Presidents Conference. I understand that our alumni brothers are responsible for my being able to attend the conference, and I want to personally thank them for that opportunity. I met many dedicated young men like myself who are, even now, working tirelessly to better their brothers and their chapters. The conference definitely set me off on the right foot, and I owe Theta Chi alumni a great debt.

—Richard Dillon Bechtol, Alpha Mu/Iowa State



In my first weeks of college, I didn't plan on joining a fraternity. I made the decision two days into rush week, but I didn't realize how important that choice would be. Not only am I a sophomore, but I'm a Charter Member, and now President of my chapter. Theta Chi has opened doors I never realized existed. I've attended Recruitment Bootcamp, Mid-Year Leadership Conference, Initiative Academy, and now the Presidents Conference, all within my first three semesters of college. This Fraternity has changed me into a man who can stand up and lead.

—Tyler Mogus, Iota Tau/Northern Kentucky

Chapter Challenge

We recognize the chapters that are leading Theta Chi in the Cornerstone Capital Campaign. These chapters are making an impact on the future of our Fraternity. In July 2016, we will honor the chapters whose donors have collectively committed $10,000 or more at the 160th Anniversary Convention in Atlanta, Ga. Will you and your chapter brothers lead Theta Chi?

$261,100
Gamma Rho/Florida State

$75,500
Zeta Pi/Old Dominion

$41,685
Beta Alpha/UCLA

$35,000
Theta Iota/UC-Santa Cruz

$30,000
Delta Psi/Kansas

$25,000
Alpha Psi/Maryland
Alpha Omega/Lafayette
Beta Chi/Allegheny

$22,500
Epsilon Phi/Central Missouri

$20,500
Gamma Theta/San Diego State

$20,000
Gamma Upsilon/Bradley
Theta Psi/Wisconsin-Oshkosh
Chi/Auburn

$19,750
Beta Iota/Arizona

$19,000
Rho/Illinois

$17,500
Alpha Phi/Alabama

$16,000
Gamma Kappa/Miami (OH)
Delta Phi/North Texas

$12,500
Eta Omicron/Northwestern State
Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg
Alpha Pi/Minnesota

$12,000
Omicron/Richmond

$11,000
Alpha Iota/Indiana

$10,000
Phi/North Dakota State
Alpha Delta/Purdue
Alpha Mu/Iowa State
Beta Lambda/Akron
Beta Phi/Nevada
Zeta Beta/Adrian

(as of 4/24/15)

To see the most current Chapter Challenge list, please visit *www.thetachi.org/cornerstone/chapterchallenge*





To the alumni who gave their time and money to help us attend the Presidents Conference, I would like to offer the greatest amount of thanks. At the Presidents Conference I learned about not only how to be the leader of my chapter, but a leader in the community. Only God knows that I would not have had the means to pay for the round trip flight and hotel arrangements, but Theta Chi alumni from near and far made that possible and I couldn't be more grateful. This is an opportunity that so many wish to have, and for our esteemed alumni to help us reach this is awesome.

—Jermaine M. Merritt, Epsilon Tau/Stephen F. Austin

Pledges to the Cornerstone Campaign can be fulfilled through gifts of cash, appreciated property and appreciated securities.

The Presidents Conference taught me things about Theta Chi that neither I, nor the members of my chapter, had ever been informed of. It gave me the information that I needed to run a fraternity correctly.

—Jacob Southerland, Eta Iota/Newberry College



Cornerstone

Every Chapter • Every President • Every Year



The Presidents Conference made me brave. I can honestly say that when I was first elected, so many times I thought to myself, "What did I get myself into?" I knew I had what it'd take to be who my Fraternity needed me to be and yet I was so worried about failing that it was clouding the bright future ahead of me. The Presidents Conference restored my confidence by giving me the tools and encouragement I needed to succeed and a band of brothers in the same position as me to learn from. Thank you to everyone who made it possible for us to attend. It was nothing short of amazing!

—Jamarius Williams, Eta Omicron/Northwestern State





Dear Brothers,

I'm excited to share with you the Cornerstone Capital Campaign for the Presidents Conference of Theta Chi. This Campaign is of special significance to me, as the Presidents Conference was launched during my tenure as National President of the Fraternity in the 1990s. Now we have the opportunity for this valuable leadership experience to come full circle and have a permanent place in Theta Chi.

We are asking you to consider what the Fraternity has done for you, how it impacted your life, and to give back to Theta Chi for future generations. We need brothers to consider a meaningful, generous gift commitment to support the Cornerstone Capital Campaign. I believe educating our leaders is critical to the Fraternity. I hope you will join me in making a gift commitment to the Cornerstone Campaign.

Fraternally,

Carlton Bennett

Foundation Chapter President

Giving Levels

Cornerstone Visionary
$100,000+

Cornerstone Architect
$25,000+

Cornerstone Designer
$10,000–$24,999

Cornerstone Surveyor
$5,000–$9,999

Cornerstone Builder
$2,500–$4,999

Cornerstone Supporter
$1,000–$2,499

We ask our brothers to consider a meaningful, generous gift in support of the Cornerstone Campaign. To be recognized as a donor, we ask the minimum contribution of $1,000 as a one-time gift or multi-year commitment.



Cornerstone donors *(as of 4/24/15)*

The following brothers have taken a leadership role in the Cornerstone Capital Campaign by making their pledge commitments. Theta Chi owes its success to its alumni who strive to better the Fraternity. Will you join these men in supporting the future of our brotherhood?

Douglas Allen (Delta Beta 1990) $2,500
Jeffrey Anderson (Beta Alpha 1987) $5,000
Creig Andreasen (Alpha Pi 1990) $1,000
Kenneth Arena (Gamma Pi 1968) $250
Carlton Bennett (Zeta Pi 1972) $25,000
Ketan Bhirud (Beta Alpha 2003) $1,200
Thomas Bongi (Zeta Phi 1989) $1,000
Khaatim Boyd (Delta Omega 2006) $5,000
Jay Bradshaw (Zeta Pi 1998) $15,000
Chance Brown (Theta Eta 2000) $5,000
Darick Brown (Eta Gamma 1989) $5,000
Bradrick Burk (Delta Kappa 1991) $1,000
Al Calarco (Eta Pi 1978) $5,000
Dennis Cardoza (Alpha Psi 1981) $25,000
George Caspar (Sigma 1957) $3,000
Frederick Cimaglio (Epsilon Pi 1963) $5,000
Joe Clack (Eta Sigma 1980) $7,500
Robert Cleaver (Beta Eta 1958) $1,250
David Clonts (Alpha Nu 1987) $2,500
Joseph Couch (Chi 1996) $10,000
Jack Cowan (Gamma Psi 1966) $5,000
Layton Cox (Beta Iota 2013) $1,000
William Dahlgren (Beta Lambda 1955) $10,000
Joseph D'Amore (Eta Pi 1977) $5,000
Walt Davis (Delta Upsilon 1965) $10,000
Sean DonCarlos (Gamma Upsilon 2003) $10,000
Dick Doyon (Gamma 1979) $5,000
Kelly Dunn (Alpha Pi 1978) $1,250
Dustin Dwyer (Iota Lambda 2008) $1,500
Zachary Edwards (Theta Kappa 2003) $5,000
Richard Elder (Gamma Theta 1971) $11,000
Lucas Elgie (Alpha Phi 2005) $5,000
David Farmer (Zeta Pi 1972) $200
Isaac Figueroa (Beta Iota 2012) $2,500
Michael Friedel (Zeta Nu 1971) $5,000
Fred Friswold (Alpha Pi 1958) $10,000
Rayburn Fulks (Delta Phi 1963) $5,000
Mark Geenen (Eta Omega 1983) $5,000
Ryan Gerstner (Delta Psi 2001) $5,000
Joseph Gilbert (Alpha Delta 1993) $5,000
Gary Gildersleeve (Alpha Omega 1975) $100
John Girardi (Omicron 1966) $10,000
Christopher Graham (Zeta Epsilon 1969) $1,000
Jereme Grinslade (Delta Kappa 1999) $2,000
Edward Gschneidner (Alpha Mu 1983) $5,000
Christopher Hackett (Theta Iota 1989) $5,000
Christopher Hage (Rho 1994) $1,000
Arnold Hansmann (Beta Phi 1966) $10,000

See the video at www.thetachi.org/cornerstone





See the Presidents Conference for yourself!

"The skills I learned as Chapter President are the same skills that I use today in leading people."
—National President Dick Elder

"Being a Chapter President is the greatest internship of my life."
—Sam Harper, Gamma Rho/Florida State



A video of the 2015 Presidents Conference can be found at *www.thetachi.org/Cornerstone*

Jim Hardwick (Phi 1987) $5,000
Randy Harrington (Gamma Phi 1997) $1,000
Nate Hibben (Alpha Mu 2004) $5,000
Mark Hillis (Gamma Rho 1964) $6,000
Warren Hoffman (Alpha Iota 1976) $5,000
Ric Holderith (Gamma Kappa 1963) $1,000
Jason Howeth (Delta Phi 2012) $1,000
James Hunt (Zeta Pi 1969) $300
Carl Johnson (Zeta Epsilon 1975) $5,000
Michael Kistler (Epsilon Upsilon 1973) $5,000
Richard Knapp (Alpha Delta 1978) $5,000
Art Krasilovsky (Alpha Tau 1975) $1,000
Tyson Lai (Theta Iota 1989) $5,000
Richard Leland (Eta Pi 1968) $2,500
Sean Lloyd (Delta Rho 1996) $5,000
Robert Lockwood (Beta Xi 1992) $4,000
Kevin Mack (Zeta Pi 1989) $10,000
Stephen Macri (Alpha Omega 1982) $25,000
Jeffrey Mahony (Beta Alpha 1989) $25,000
Tait Martin (Eta Omicron 1997) $10,020
Vance Maultsby (Delta Phi 1974) $10,000
David May (Zeta Sigma 1970) $5,000
Michael Mayer (Epsilon Phi 2004) $5,000
James McEachern (Beta Psi 1982) $5,000
Douglas Miller (Zeta Beta 1990) $5,000
Kirby Montgomery (Alpha Phi 1975) $10,000
Herbert Morgan (Theta Iota 1988) $25,000
Gary Mouden (Gamma Phi 1962) $2,500
James Moylan (Gamma Lambda 1969) $5,000
Peter Mulvihill (Epsilon 1978) $5,000
Dru Neikirk (Gamma Upsilon 1988) $10,000
Don Nesbitt (Beta Iota 1967) $1,250
Patrick O'Connor (Chi 1978) $5,000
Lindsay Olsen (Delta Psi 1983) $25,000
Joshua Palleon (Theta Psi 1999) $5,000
William Palmer (Beta Alpha 1985) $5,000
Philip Pappas, II, Ph.D. (Beta Chi 1979) $25,000
Scott Passmore (Rho 1992) $5,000
David Poteat (Theta Psi 1997) $5,000
Ronald Ramos (Gamma Theta 1968) $3,500
Donald Ramsden (Gamma Rho 1959) $5,100
Kevin Reilly (Tau 2008) $2,500
Brian Rinker (Rho 2001) $8,000
Douglas Robbins (Beta Alpha 1989) $5,485
Michael Roe (Alpha Upsilon 1986) $5,000
Thomas Rossley (Gamma Tau 1982) $5,000
Tim Sanders (Epsilon Phi 1971) $5,000
Bob Sasser (Gamma Rho 1973) $250,000
Douglas Schemenauer (Epsilon Phi 1989) $7,500
Colin Schulte (Beta Kappa 2008) $1,000
David Scotto (Eta Omega 1989) $2,500
Kia Sepassi (Beta Iota 2001) $10,000
Richard Shirley (Alpha Iota 1986) $5,000
Clifford Simpson (Delta Pi 1981) $2,000
Robert Stine (Delta Kappa 1986) $1,000
Gates Stoner (Beta Iota 1965) $5,000
Harry Strack (Chi 1965) $5,000
Chad Strelow (Theta Psi 1999) $5,000
Craig Strelow (Theta Psi 2001) $5,000
Buzz Stroud (Delta Alpha 1971) $1,000
James Sun (Beta Alpha 1992) $5,000
William Suter (Beta Delta 1943) $5,000
Joel Swank (Eta Lambda 1972) $2,500
Tony Tetley (Epsilon Phi 1967) $5,000
Thomas Thompson (Rho 1998) $5,000
Philip Thornton (Gamma Theta 2005) $5,000
Thomas Van Cleave (Beta Rho 1972) $5,000
Brad Vance (Zeta Beta 1998) $5,000
Raymond Vanlanot (Alpha Iota 2008) $1,000
Charles Vanstrom (Gamma Epsilon 1981) $10,000
Christopher Vesy (Gamma Kappa 1988) $15,000
Vernon Vikingson (Alpha Rho 1947) $1,500
John Vispo (Zeta Pi 1972) $25,000
Dennis Vonasek (Phi 1987) $5,000
Murray Wachtel (Zeta Sigma 1972) $2,500
Tyler Whaley (Zeta Epsilon 2006) $1,000
Wesley Wicker (Alpha Phi 1979) $2,500
Gregory Wilson (Beta 1979) $500
Kris Wolfe (Iota Beta 1999) $5,000
Bobby Woods (Eta Omicron 2010) $2,500
Roy Young (Omicron 1963) $1,000
Albert Zale (Gamma Theta 1954) $1,000
Randy Zimmerman (Delta Iota 1973) $5,000
John Zydron (Omicron 1970) $1,000

To see the most current list of donors, please visit *www.thetachi.org/cornerstone/donors*

Cornerstone

Every Chapter • Every President • Every Year



The Presidents Conference was not only an avenue for meeting the 150+ Chapter Presidents, it was a forum for new ideas, solving recurring issues, and soldering mutual success in all chapters. From the wisdom I gained at the Presidents Conference, I eliminated any insecurity and skepticism about my leadership role, knowing I had a strong net of Past Presidents, National Officers, and, above all, friends behind me.

I learned how to solve many of the most pervasive issues and actually implement the strategies in my own chapter. From the moment I returned, I saw improvement; and I was able to continually drive for more in order to ensure that my chapter continued on the path to be the best that it could be.

It is quite comforting to know that there are others in your shoes and others who have been there and overcome similar challenges. The Presidents Conference instilled the confidence to lead effectively by presenting the leadership strategies and models to adapt to any situation and stay calm and collected in the times it mattered the most.

—Naveen Chandran, Alpha Nu/Georgia Tech





The Presidents Conference is the most important event for an undergraduate leader to attend. The sessions were informative, required active participation, and allowed us to voice concerns about becoming President. It is incredibly frightening to know you are the person responsible for an entire chapter succeeding or failing, and the skills and lessons learned at the Presidents Conference prepare you for success. I defined myself as a leader there, and it energized me to return and produce active change in my chapter.

One of the best parts of the conference was seeing two other brothers, Shaun Hamlin (Zeta Xi/UC Davis) and Jack Forney (Gamma Xi/San Jose State), whom I had met at the 2014 National Convention, become President of their respective chapters. On a personal level, we were able to bond further, strengthen our brotherhood, and prepare ourselves for the real world job of presidency—all made possible by the Presidents Conference.

—Matt McClure, Eta Phi/Oakland

My Chapter is closed, why should I support the Presidents Conference?

A challenging point in a brother's life is if his home chapter becomes inactive. Many in our brotherhood have faced this issue, but understand that they are a Theta Chi for Life and part of a larger brotherhood outside of their home chapter. Many brothers from inactive chapters have served as advisers, corporation board members and even as National President!

For those from inactive chapters who wish to see them return, your support of the Cornerstone Campaign demonstrates your passion for Theta Chi and assists us in deliberations with your alma mater when trying to negotiate our return. It is far easier to convince a school to allow us to recolonize when our alumni have demonstrated a commitment to educating undergraduate leaders.

By supporting the Cornerstone Campaign, you are extending your Helping Hand to Theta Chi's undergraduate leaders who are in need of guidance. By supporting the Presidents Conference, you are living our Creed by "perpetuating our ideals" and allowing us to educate future generations of Theta Chis and, indeed, showing them that Theta Chi is for Life and an International brotherhood beyond the confines of their own campus.







I would like to thank the alumni who donate to the Foundation. You are a prime example of living out our motto, "An Assisting Hand." I feel that the conference definitely made my transition to President much smoother. The assistance from the Foundation made my trip possible and I'm truly thankful for that. I encourage you to continue any assistance you can, because you are positively impacting brothers like myself across the nation.

—Austin Nolan, Iota Beta/Missouri State

Theta Chi brothers have pledged $1,106,905 in support of the Presidents Conference but there is more to go. Will YOU be a Cornerstone? (*as of 4/24/2015)*









Can we count on your support?

If you can look back at your college career and say to yourself, "Theta Chi played a part in my personal development and success," you have an opportunity and an obligation to ensure another brother receives the same opportunity you did. I spent two and half years of my college career on the chapter executive board, with one of those years as President. I am forever grateful for my fraternity experience, as it was Theta Chi that gave me my first taste of leadership and inspired me for the rest of my life.

For those of you, like me, who have given to Theta Chi's Annual Fund for years, we ask that you consider an increased gift/pledge commitment to support this historic endeavor. For those brothers who are considering their first gift, we hope this is a first step in establishing a life-long relationship with the Foundation Chapter.



Philip Thornton, Senior Director of Development

We ask you to consider a meaningful, generous gift to the Cornerstone Capital Campaign.

Prior to the Cornerstone Campaign, I typically donated $100 a year to the Foundation. After understanding the magnitude of what Theta Chi will accomplish with an endowment for the Presidents Conference, I wanted to have a greater impact. I've realized I can have a major impact on this campaign by giving $84 a month. By giving $84 a month for five years, I have made a $5,000 pledge commitment to Theta Chi.

I know firsthand how valuable the Presidents Conference is, as I attended the Presidents Conference held in 2003. At the time, there was very little financial assistance for conference attendees. After buying a plane ticket from San Diego to Indianapolis, plus the registration fee and other costs, I had spent nearly $1,000 at 20 years old to attend the event. I want to make sure all the future Presidents of Theta Chi do not have to shoulder this burden. I hope you will join me in my commitment.

Do you have further questions about giving to Theta Chi? Do you need more information about the Cornerstone Campaign? Do you need help in determining the right gift amount for you? Let's talk. Please reach out to me at 317-848-1856 or email (*philip@thetachi.org*) and we can set up a time to talk.

I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope we can count on your support for the Cornerstone Capital Campaign.

Fraternally,

Philip Thornton,
Senior Director of Development

ΘX ESC. 1856 **Cornerstone**

Every Chapter · Every President · Every Year

Many alumni have never made a gift to Theta Chi because they've simply never been asked. Today, the Fraternity is asking for your Helping Hand to establish a legacy of leadership education.

Cornerstone

Every Chapter • Every President • Every Year



Our Presidents believe in the Cornerstone Campaign and have collectively committed more than $65,000. Will you join them in making a gift?



The Deranian Society



Brother B. Nelson Deranian (Alpha Iota/Indiana 1931) was one of the first philanthropic leaders of the Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi. Brother Deranian loved Theta Chi and knew the best way to support it was to provide financial resources for our undergraduates. In honor of Brother Deranian's leadership, the Foundation Chapter developed the The Deranian Society, the exclusive giving society of our undergraduate Chapter Presidents. The Deranian Society is our path to creating the next generation of donors to Theta Chi by asking our Chapter Presidents to make a pledge commitment to the Fraternity upon graduation. Our Chapter Presidents understand that the incredible experience afforded them at the Presidents Conference is due to the generosity of Theta Chi alumni. We ask our Presidents to pay it forward for their future chapter brothers to attend for free. The Deranian Society asks our Presidents to commit to giving $100 a year for five years, a $500 pledge commitment, to begin upon their graduation. Brothers joining the The Deranian Society will be honored annually at the International Headquarters, and membership is only available to our Chapter Presidents. Our undergraduate men are committed to supporting the Cornerstone Campaign, will you join them in supporting the future of Theta Chi?



Formerly known as the One Purpose Campaign, the goal for the Cornerstone Capital Campaign is to raise $1,500,000 in pledge commitments from Theta Chi alumni. The funds raised will be used towards the establishment of an endowment covering the cost of the Presidents Conference or other leadership initiatives as determined by the Foundation's Board; operating in accordance with the spending, investment, and administrative fee policies as determined by the Foundation's Board, as amended from time to time. The remaining gifts, and any gifts raised beyond the campaign goal, will be allocated as unrestricted gifts to support the mission of the Foundation Chapter. The administrative costs of the Cornerstone Capital Campaign will be paid for through the proceeds of the campaign, and are not to exceed 15% of all campaign gifts received.

OUR BAND OF

May 8, 2015 marks the 70th Anniversary of V-E Day. A few months later on September 2, the world will note the anniversary of Japan's formal surrender aboard the USS Missouri.

More than 70 years ago, Theta Chi undergraduates and alumni rose to the challenge and served abroad and on the homefront. Our members were deployed and served courageously on battlefields throughout the world: from the loss of **Ens. Robert Sinclair Booth** (Alpha Psi/Maryland 1936) on December 7, 1941 aboard the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor; to Theta Chi's own Doolittle Raiders **Capt. C. Ross Greening** (Alpha Omicron/Washington State 1939) and **Lt. Harold F. Watson** (Alpha/Norwich 1940); to **Col. Richard Amoroso** (Alpha/Norwich 1918), **Capt. Lloyd Baker** (Alpha Omicron/ Washington State 1939), **Lt. William H. Marvel** (Alpha Xi/Delaware 1938), and Beta Kappa Fraternity's **Lt. Robert W. Hey**, who each remarkably survived the March of Death in Bataan; to **Lt. Edwin B. Olson** (Phi/North Dakota State 1941) commanding tanks during Operation Torch and meeting General George S. Patton; to **Col. Benjamin H. Vandervoort** (Beta Eta/ Washington (MD) 1938), who participated in landings in Italy and later jumped into Normandy and continued to command despite a broken ankle; to **B. Nelson Deranian** (Alpha Iota/Indiana 1931), who, while serving with the Office of Strategic Services, evacuated several hundred airmen from a prison camp near Bucharest; to **Lt. George W. Martin** (Eta/Rhode Island 1942), who acted quickly to reorganize naval gunfire to assist the invasion of Iwo Jima; to our Medal of Honor recipients: **Capt. Harl Pease, Jr.** (Zeta/New Hampshire 1939) and **Capt. James M. Burt** (Alpha/Norwich 1939); and also our civilians, **Crawford Greenewalt** (Beta/MIT 1922) and **Owen Chamberlain** (Alpha Theta/Dartmouth 1941), who worked on the Manhattan Project.

More than 90 percent of Theta Chi undergraduates served in the military during World War II. More than 400 members of Theta Chi Fraternity made the ultimate sacrifice during the war.

As Theta Chi aggressively expanded to new campuses following the war, we discovered new heroes such as **Lt. Col. James Megellas** (Delta Omega/Ripon 1942), the most-decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne Division.

As their stories have been reported in previous issues of *The Rattle*, we find it fitting to share the story of one of our "newest" war veterans to celebrate and honor Theta Chi's service in World War II.



BROTHERS

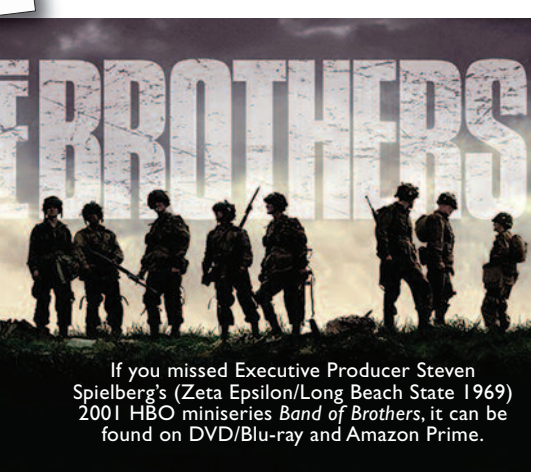
BY BEN HILL, EDITOR

On November 15, 2014, Zeta Pi Chapter initiated **Col. Edward D. Shames**, cousin of **Harold Winer** (Zeta Pi/Old Dominion 1971). Shames started his service in I Company, 3rd Battalion, of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division and was later re-assigned to E Company, 2nd Battalion, which gained fame as the titular *Band of Brothers* featured in the book by Stephen Ambrose and later televised as a miniseries on HBO. Shames' military service took him from the Appalachian Mountains of Camp Toccoa, Georgia to the Bavarian Alps that served as home for Hitler's Eagle's Nest.

Col. Shames possesses a strong memory and sat down with *The Rattle* to share his recollections about the war, his opinions on *Band of Brothers,* and his thoughts on leadership. He made it clear that he is "no hero; that he was just doing his job."

***The Rattle*: Tell us about coming to Toccoa.**

Col. Ed D. Shames: There were 7,000 of us who came to Toccoa to join the 506th. They lined us up for physicals and IQ tests: Over 20% didn't pass and were rejected. We had to dwindle down to around 2,800, which is regimental size.



If you missed Executive Producer Steven Spielberg's (Zeta Epsilon/Long Beach State 1969) 2001 HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*, it can be found on DVD/Blu-ray and Amazon Prime.

I got assigned to 3rd Platoon of "I" Company, Third Battalion on September 1. The first morning after falling out and forming ranks, they told us to look up at Currahee, the last mountain of the Appalachian range. The mountain is three miles up and three miles down, plus the distance from the camp. Our orders were to run that mountain, and if we stopped to walk or stopped running, we were no longer in the 506th. They had spotters along the way watching us. Fifteen-18% were disqualified after this first day. How I did it, I do not know. I was determined and I wanted it…of course, that's what the others wanted, but maybe they weren't as fit or determined as I was.

We had a running camp. We doubled time everywhere on camp. If you were caught walking, you were punished with 100 push-ups or a run up and down Currahee, and that eliminated a lot of people. The idea was elimination, because we could only take 2,750 to jump training at Ft. Benning… and they almost killed us doing it.

We had an obstacle course that was inhumane…we complained so much that after two weeks, Col. [Robert F.] Sink called his buddy from [Parris Island] to send a company of Marines to show us how to run it. We saw them come in on trucks and they all got out. Later, we found out that the officers had a meeting and, instead of running the obstacle course, they got back in their trucks and turned around and went back to South Carolina. They had told our officers that we were crazy and they were not going to subject their people to get hurt on this crazy obstacle course to prove a point.

More people were injured on that obstacle course more than anything we had ever done—jumping off 25+ foot towers into straw. There were so many people in neck braces, on crutches and with casts that Toccoa looked like a farm for wounded people.



Alumnus Initiate Ed Shames discusses his experiences during World War II during lunch at The Route 58 Delicatessen near his home in Norfolk, VA.

R: Looking back to Toccoa, do you think you would have survived the war if you had not had that experience?

EDS: I have no idea. Of course, I know that Toccoa was mighty damn good to me. We had a tough going, especially in Bastogne—Bastogne was the ultimate as far as training was concerned. We relied on our training. I don't think we could have managed [Bastogne] unless we had Toccoa behind us…Even my longevity (and most of our longevity in the 506th that were left after the war) was because of Toccoa.

R: Would you say the camaraderie started at Toccoa?

EDS: Oh absolutely, without question. I developed a friend at Toccoa, Joseph P. "Shorty" Madona. He got killed in Bastogne, and I honor him as close as my own brother.

R: Tell us about leaving Toccoa.

EDS: The 2nd Battalion formed with too many men. They marched from Toccoa to Atlanta in full gear and packs—119 miles in three days, which helped to weed men out. Our 3rd Battalion also had too many men, so we were taken by train to Ft. McPherson in Atlanta and marched 149 miles to Ft. Benning

Ed Shames' Cousin: Zeta Pi's Harold Winer

Harold Winer (Zeta Pi/Old Dominion 1971), is Ed Shames' cousin. When Ed was five years old and his father passed away, Harold's father helped to raise him. Harold has the distinction of being the Big Brother of Past National President Carlton Bennett. Harold hosts an annual Zeta Pi reunion for his classmates around July 4, and introduced Ed to a number of alumni who were present during this most recent reunion. Harold invited Ed to join Theta Chi, and shared,



Harold Winer stands in the exact spot in the Littlecote House in England where his cousin Ed Shames received his battlefield commision in 1944.

"Eddie Shames is my first cousin, even though I am about the age of his two sons. In addition, he's my good buddy. He is also my hero.

My wife and I have met Eddie and his wife Ida for dinner at least once a month for many years now. We talk often about our family connections, and those connections have been strengthened further by two trips my wife and I made in recent years, one to Paris and one to London. From Paris, we took a train to Normandy, where a friend of Eddie's met us and spent the day showing us the exact spot in Carentan where Eddie landed in his parachute in the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, and the bridge site that Eddie and his men defended to keep German reinforcements from getting to Omaha Beach. On our trip to London, I stood in the exact spot for the ceremony where Eddie received his battlefield commission for action in Normandy.

Trips to Europe have many thrills, but some of the greatest thrills of my life were being in those places, in those exact spots, places 70 years ago my first cousin, my buddy, my hero, and now my Brother in Theta Chi stood proudly. Eddie is exactly the kind of man we in Theta Chi strive to be, and I am so glad he accepted an invitation to be initiated."

in full equipment and packs also in three days. Crazy. We did it, just about the same hours that the 2nd Battalion did theirs, but we ruined a lot of good men. They decided to make a nice display and made us run the last half-mile into Ft. Benning after walking 148 ½ miles. They had signs that welcomed us: "Long walky. Big talky. No Jumpy. Welcome to Ft. Benning."

After jump training at Ft. Benning and additional training at Camp McCall in Ft. Bragg, we were attached, not assigned, to the 101st Airborne. During the Tennessee Maneuvers we had a GHQ patch on our shoulder to identify us. During our training…we were given assignments that were practically impossible. We not only showed them that we could handle it, but we tore them apart. Finally they sent us back to Ft. Bragg to await our orders to go overseas. That's when we were finally assigned to the 101st Airborne and got the Screaming Eagle patch.

R: Tell us about Normandy. You assisted in making sand tables to provide intelligence to the paratroopers about their objectives. Did you think the invasion plan would work?

EDS: Of course, that's why we set them up. But no one hit their mark. One plane out of 47 hit the target the night of June 5. Of that plane, half were murdered and half were captured, including my commanding officer, Col. Wolverton. I was supposed to be on that plane. By chance, a newspaper reporter took my seat.

R: You're on the plane to Normandy—what are you thinking about?

EDS: Thinking about getting killed. Scared to death, like the rest of them.

R: Is it silent? Are guys talking or…?

EDS: Yes. Very silent. Deep within their own thoughts, like me.

When we finally got word to stand up and hook up, and move to the door—when the green light went on to clear the plane, the guy in front of me dropped and fell down. He was carrying a mortar; I was loaded up with 80–90 pounds of stuff plus my maps and my M-1 rifle. I had to pick him up and by the time I jumped out we must have gone 4–8 miles past where I was supposed to be.

When I got out of the plane, I was by myself and jumped into a bunch of cows and didn't know where I was. I knew I wasn't where I was supposed to be. I was in a compound with a bunch of cows and they were mooing like hell, and of course I started mooing too, because I figured the Germans thought I was a cow.

After collecting some additional paratroopers, I consulted with a farmer and discovered we were in Carentan…the home of two German armored corps… (I had put a sign on the sand table on the church steeple: "Avoid at all Cost")…It was time to leave.

We picked up additional men and went to our objective—defending two bridges and that started at about 3 a.m.

R: Tell us about your battlefield commission.

EDS: Capt. Shettle, our operations officer, mentioned it briefly that morning [June 13] and Col. Sink called for me after the Battle of the Bloody Gulch and said, "Shames, you know you're going to be an officer. I'm telling you now, you're the first battlefield commission in the Division. You're probably the first one in Normandy." Of course I was elated, on cloud nine. Then he said, "We cannot formally commission you because we have no facilities, but I'll let everyone know that you are an officer and, as soon as we get back to England, you will be formally commissioned."

Word got out; it was still my birthday. That night, Lt. [Jim] Morton came by and offered me the opportunity to serve as his 1st Sergeant—until I could be formally commissioned. So I became a 1st Sergeant and an officer on the same day, which has never happened before to anybody in the United States Army, ever.



A shadowbox of medals and honors received by Col. Ed Shames. Navy veteran Frank DeAngelis prepared shadow boxes for all members of Easy Co. and a replica for the unit is on display at the Army and Navy Club in Washington, D.C. Mr. DeAngelis has most recently prepared shadow boxes for the families of the men and women who gave their all in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We got back to England, and after waiting two weeks for General Bradley to commission me, they got Col. Sink and General Taylor to do the job. The thing that concerned me most is that I had to leave the 506th. The unwritten law was that you could not stay in the same division where you were an enlisted man. After the commissioning, Col. Sink gave me a lecture about being an officer, and he asked if I still wanted to stay in the 506th, (which made me very happy) but I had to remember that I could have no social understanding with my former colleagues at all. General Taylor said the same thing and the Army gave me $500 to go to London to get my uniforms.

R: What happened after your commission?

EDS: I was assigned to battalion headquarters as assistant operations officer. The operations officer of the 2nd battalion [Nixon] was a total 100% drunk. But he happened to have been the son of the third richest family in America. And he was absolutely worthless. He did nothing but stay drunk all the time. Nobody could touch him.

I stayed with him for about 10 days until I couldn't handle it anymore. I went over the commanding officer's head to Col. Sink to request a transfer. That's when Col. Sink asked, "You think you're the meanest son of a bitch in this outfit, don't you?" I said, "No sir, I don't think I'm the meanest. I don't like mean, because I've seen a lot of your mean officers turn yellow. I think I'm the toughest son of a bitch in your outfit." That's when he told me, "Go back to the adjutant's room and I'll let you know what I want to do with you."

Later, Col. Sink told me, "I have got a job for you. I'm going to make you patrol platoon leader of the regiment. We found out that we could use a patrol platoon." It was a new concept, of course, with Normandy and so forth. So I asked him, "You mean you're going to make me assistant platoon leader?" Col. Sink said, "You can't understand English, Shames? I said 'Platoon leader.'" I said, "Sir, I'm a 2nd Lieutenant…" and that's when he blew his stack—he told me to get my ass out of there before he throws me out. And he said, "You're never gonna get an assistant platoon leader because I don't know of an officer in the world that can work with you! Now go to work."

R: When you joined Easy Company, were they accepting of you?

EDS: No sir. This [assignment] happened just prior to Market Garden. So, it was too late for me to take over the platoon then. After things settled down and we had to get out of the area of where we jumped—Eindhoven area—we went up to the island near Arnhem and Nijmegen. Just before I was getting ready to go over and pick up my platoon, I passed into I Company, and was told by my buddy, "Shorty" Madona, that, "The word is out that some hard-ass 1st Sergeant is going to take over the platoon."

I met the E. Co. 3rd Platoon Sergeant and later dismissed him for failing to follow my orders in setting up a meeting. I told the [E Co. 3rd Platoon], "Look, I didn't come here to be loved. You love your mama, your daddy, your brother, your sister, your girlfriend, or your wife if you have one. I came here to be respected—if I earn it. I don't want to be loved. I want your respect, if I earn it. If I don't earn your respect, you're out of here now. You're going to be the patrol platoon. You're going to know everything there is to know and you're going to know it backwards and forwards and you know what your man next to you is supposed to do and know what you're supposed to if he gets knocked off. You're going to know everything. It's going to be crammed down your throat, because #1: To obtain our objective and #2: to bring you home."

From then on, we had the finest platoon that's ever been in the history of the United States military. One man got killed in that platoon. We brought more men home from that platoon than any of the other 500 platoons in the division! That's what I'm proud of more than anything else. That's all. That's the only thing that I really did in the military—bring those men home.

R: At Bastogne, you were frozen; 17 degrees below zero for 29 days. What kept you from breaking?

EDS: My mind. I have a very sharp mind… Am I bragging when I say that? I'm highly intelligent. Is that a crazy answer?



On July 14, 2014 in Norfolk, VA, Ed Shames was awarded France's highest medal, the French Legion of Honor, by NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, General Jean-Paul Palomeros.

R: Have you spoken about your time at the concentration camps?

EDS: Are you aware that I was the first American officer in Dachau? We didn't liberate one of the camps…nobody liberated them. They were gone when we got there… The Holocaust is [a] thing I didn't want [my family] to know because I saw it every night of my life. What I saw—I didn't want to infect them with it—it's enough that I have it. I never talked about the Holocaust until two years ago.

R: Why did you start to talk about it?

EDS: Two years ago, I was invited by the City of Chandler, Ariz. to be a keynote speaker for their new Holocaust Memorial. I appreciated the request, but didn't wish to speak about that topic. I said "Thank you very much and good night." Just after that call, I was on the computer—providence, what have you—one of the pop-ups: [Arthur] Jones is running for Congress from the southern part of Illinois. Who's [Arthur] Jones? A rabid Anti-Semite…[Neo-Nazi], a group that celebrates Hitler's birthday. I see this and I said, "My God, what the hell's going on in this world?" So I called them back and agreed to speak. I talked to 2,000 people in Arizona. And I hit a home run there in my talk. And since then, I've done three or four more, that's all. 'Cause I…you know, it's one thing that I don't…It cuts me up when I talk about it. I still think about it every night.

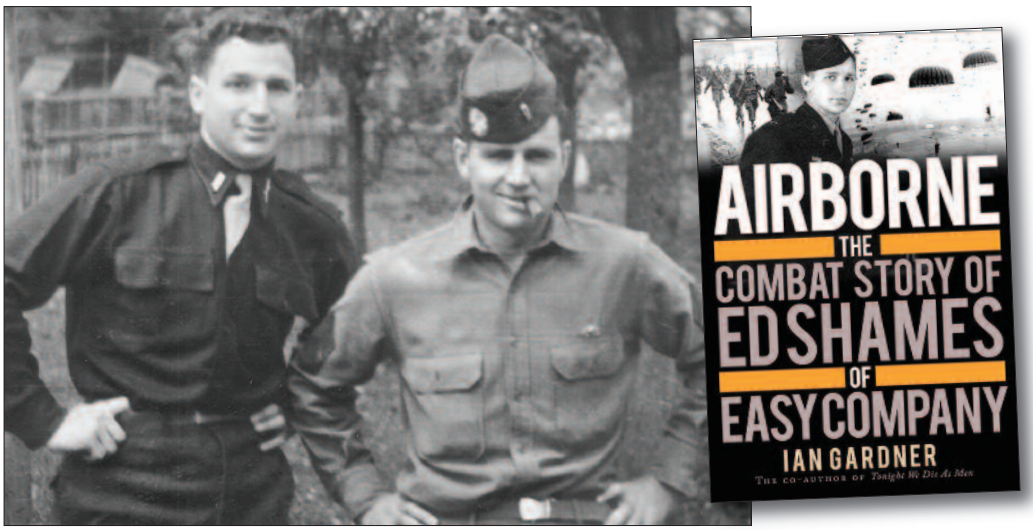
R: If you had to sum it up in one word, what you saw at the camps, what would you say?

EDS: There's no such thing. There's no such thing…what I saw…It's not only unbelievable, but it's so much unbelievable, it's incredible and any words that you could possibly…I'm not smart enough to coin a word for it.

R: Later, you were at Berchtesgaden and at Hitler's Eagles Nest. What can you share from that experience?

EDS: I helped myself to a monogrammed bottle of Hitler's cognac, which I opened many years later for my son's Bar Mitzvah. We also found Hitler's Mercedes at the Berghof and took turns shooting at its bulletproof windows. It was later pushed off a cliff, and I believe it's still right where we left it on the mountain…

Later I was called on to accept the surrender of a German officer. I disarmed this officer who spoke better English than I did. I later found out that it was Field Marshall Albert Kesselring. I still have his Czech pistol; it wasn't a Luger, because he said they had jammed up on him.



2nd Lt. Ed Shames (l) and one of his heroes, Sgt. Paul Rogers in a photograph taken at Saalfelden, Austria in 1945. As a joke, Paul is wearing Ed's cap to show who really wore the trousers in E Co.'s 3rd Platoon. (Karen McGhee via Sara Shames Ehret and Ian Gardner)

R: In your opinion, who was Easy Company's best commanding officer?

EDS: Easy Company's best commanding officer was Ronald Spiers. It was not Dick Winters by any chance. That's *Band of Brothers* crap.

R:What made Spiers an effective leader?

EDS: Spiers because he was effective. He was honest. He was a true solider. Where Winters was a diplomat. Quite a bit of difference. And the diplomat shows in this *Band of Brothers* crap they came up with.

R: Who was the Company's best leader overall?

EDS: Best leader overall was Paul C. Rogers, platoon sergeant of the 3rd Platoon. He was made platoon sergeant during Bastogne. He was the finest soldier—if I were considered half the solider that he was—and I was a pretty damn good soldier—I'd be satisfied. That's how much I thought about him.

R:What made him a strong leader?

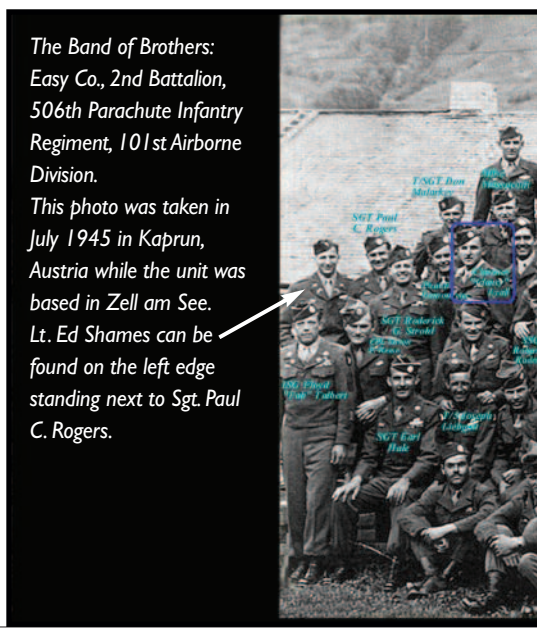
EDS: I couldn't tell you. It was natural. Where I had to command by maybe yelling quite a bit, he didn't have to yell. There was something about him that just gelled with anybody. And he knew his stuff. He learned. He wanted to know. He was anxious to know. He was anxious to do right.

R: Do you believe leaders are born or they can be made?

EDS: Leaders are made, they're not born. They're made by hard work, trying to do what they're supposed to and dedication. And ***Want***. You desiring something is fine…unless you really *want* it and you work for it.

R: What are some of your opinions after reading and watching *Band of Brothers*?

EDS: I would not watch the entire series because it's full of bull, it's filthy. Now, the kind of language they had in that film…I detest four-letter words and we did not use those words every other sentence that we spoke. The series is garbage because stuff in there never happened. It was a good novel. It's a good story.



The Band of Brothers: Easy Co., 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. This photo was taken in July 1945 in Kaprun, Austria while the unit was based in Zell am See. Lt. Ed Shames can be found on the left edge standing next to Sgt. Paul C. Rogers.

R: So your opinion is that *Band of Brothers* may not have necessarily been historically accurate?

EDS: Very little, but it was a very good story. And the ego is where most of this garbage came from, and there may have been some embellishment.

In fact this guy that I said was the best company commander, Spiers. This stuff they had in the book and the series about him running around…that never happened. And not only that, about Winters—my men never saw him in Bastogne. I'm sure he was there somewhere.

I have two men from my platoon that are still alive that were at Toccoa: Paul Rogers and Roderick Strohl. They will tell you exactly what I'm telling you, about the book and the series and Winters. [Editors Note: Sadly, Paul Rogers passed away March 16, 2015 at the age of 96.]

R: Did you have any discussions regarding historical accuracy with the author prior to the book's publication?

EDS: [Ambrose] sent me [and the other platoon leaders] his book galley and I commented many times and told him there were several very blatant lies. On top of that, there were others that said the same thing. He told me, "What the hell do you know about writing a book?" And he's right. I didn't know anything about writing a book. He wrote a novel—and that was his business.

R: What is your opinion of all the attention that the unit's received?

EDS: Oh yes, it brought the attention, no question about it. I'd be the first to admit it. It certainly did bring attention to World War II. Incidentally, this is what we got from the series and the book. [*Points to his jacket.*] HBO made a lot of money off of the book and the series, and there were several of my men in my platoon that could have used some of that money, more than a jacket and dinners at our reunions. HBO would have never missed that money.

R: Why did you offer to assist with *Tonight We Die As Men?* Was it to set the record straight a little bit more or just to tell the true story?

EDS: The authors got in touch with me, they wanted the true story. And they got the truth: Roger Day and Ian Gardner went to Normandy 51 times—I repeat 51 times—to write the book, *Tonight We Die As Men.* They broke themselves, going back and forth across that ferry—before the chunnel was built—to write their book…Incidentally, in my opinion, I don't believe Dr. Ambrose went to Normandy one time before he wrote his book.

R: What is your definition of brotherhood and a true friend?

EDS: If you were in Virginia—or anywhere— and someone asked you to go to California or somewhere else—if you were a brother and a true friend, you would not ask "Why?"; you'd instead ask, "When do you want me to leave? When do you need me to be there?" That's what I think of brotherhood and true friendship.

R: Who would you say are your heroes?

EDS: Paul Rogers, Roderick Strohl, and Buck Taylor. I remember the night—"Hell Night"—when the Germans gave us an ultimatum:





Zeta Pi's Jack Dempsey (center) and John Teeuwen (left) meet Ed Shames and share their stories on pages. 25–27.

Meeting Ed Shames—Jack Dempsey (1972) shares:

"I attended New Mexico Military Institute, where I prepared a dissertation on the invasion of Normandy and learned about the 101st Airborne. A few years later in 1971, I was in Vietnam, serving in Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry of the 101st Airborne [Airmobile] Division; the same unit that Ed Shames helped make legendary as 'Easy Company.' I was not going to miss the chance to meet this man.

During a luncheon held following his initiation, I offered to buy Ed a cocktail. He said he would accept, but only if the extra dry martini was made to his exact specifications. He is easy to connect with and has a great sense of humor: He asked me why I had 'chicken' on my [Screaming Eagle] lapel pin just to judge my response!

During that luncheon, I sat next to Ed and listened to some of his extraordinary war experiences. One gets the sense that he knows the right thing to do, how to do it, and when to do it. There does not seem to be any gray areas for a man of his caliber and leadership ability. He would only have to tell me what to do once—I would not dare to ask why! I was struck by his deep sense of loyalty to his soldiers and concern for their safety. Although my military service greatly pales in comparison to Ed's achievements, it is gratifying to know that I have even a remote connection to him."

Europeans honored their liberators: In Normandy, a stained glass window was placed in a chapel in Sainte-Mère-Église depicting the landing of the paratroopers. Theta Chi's Col. Benjamin H. Vandervoort (Beta Eta/Washington (MD) 1938) received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in the capture of the town. (Right): Brother John Teeuwen shares stories and memories from his father who grew up in The Netherlands during the war and witnessed Operation Market Garden.





Allied troops move through Eindhoven.

Meeting Ed Shames— Zeta Pi Alumni Corporation President John Teeuwen (1992) shares:

"My parents both grew up during World War II. My father was from The Netherlands and my mother from Germany, so I was privileged to hear many stories and had an unusual perspective of hearing about both sides of the conflict.

My father's family is from Eindhoven, North Brabant, The Netherlands. The family business was a greenhouse operation situated along the main roadway, which included the family house.

The Germans invaded The Netherlands on May 10, 1940, my father's fifth birthday. The Dutch were ill prepared for war and the country fell to German occupation within days. The occupation by the Germans was quite brutal at times and thus hated by the Dutch. Everything you can imagine was in short supply, especially food. Many people in other parts of Holland were starving to death. My family was lucky enough to be able to grow some food in the greenhouses and have rabbits and chickens in the courtyard.

My dad told me that my grandfather hid a shortwave radio in the basement to be able to listen to the Dutch BBC broadcasts to get information on the war developments. If he had been caught with such a radio, it would have meant prison, a work camp, or even a swift line-up of a firing squad. One day in September 1944, my grandfather came from the basement in tears and when asked what was wrong, he said, 'Niets, Ze Komen!, Ze Komen!' (Nothing… They're coming, they're coming! The Americans and Allies!)

During Operation Market Garden my father was nine years old. He recalled that it was a bright day… until they came… there were so many paratroopers and airplanes in the air that the sky turned black! The Allied air drop was the first of a series of operations that were being done in and around Eindhoven in order to push the Germans out of The Netherlands and then thrust into the German homeland.

As the Allies advanced through Eindhoven, my father recalled that it took more than a week for them to move all the supplies, vehicles and personnel. He recalled that they all passed right by their home and that it was an unbelievable sight. He also shared that my grandparents used their attic to house Allied pilots who had been shot down and other troops en route to England. My father recalled that they were all so very friendly and nice to the family.

My father died of cancer in July 2014 at age 79. I miss him dearly and also miss our great conversations and learning about his childhood and the war.

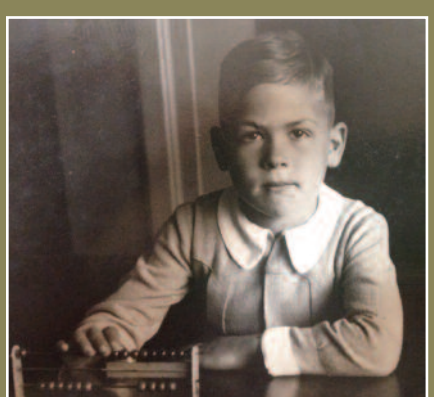
A few months later, I met Ed Shames during his initiation into Theta Chi. Ed's stories of the war and Operation Market Garden were something I had a great connection to through my own father's stories. In a way, it was like I was speaking to a person who had a real connection to my father.

When Ed asked me, 'What street did your dad live on in Eindhoven?' I thought to myself, 'What difference could that make?' I said, 'Well you probably don't know it, but it was Blaarthemseweg.' Ed looked at me, eyes wide-open, and said, 'You know that street is only called that name on a few blocks of the main roadway going through Eindhoven. I was on that street during Market Garden. I fought down that street. I know that area and remember it like yesterday. You will even see that street named in my book!'

It was unbelievable. I thought about all the stories my father shared about the liberation of The Netherlands—about him looking out the window of his house as a boy seeing all of the Allied troops moving through the city in pursuit of the German troops…and now I had Ed Shames in front of me talking about the same time and events my father had told me about my whole life. Who knows? Maybe my father saw Lt. Ed Shames walking down the street?

It is amazing that my new Theta Chi brother (and chapter brother!) is one of the people who ended the hardship in The Netherlands and helped end World War II! Brother Shames is one of the many whom my father idolized for the gift of freedom they brought and is surely a person that my father would have liked to have met and thank.

My dad is no longer here, but I can say it for him: Thank You Brother Ed Shames. You've shown so many the true meaning of Extending a Helping Hand!"



John's father, Gerald Teeuwen, as a boy in Eindhoven.

"Surrender or Die." That was perhaps the worst night, except Bloody Gulch. Bloody Gulch was…nothing can compare to that one, what they put on us there. But that night, Hell Night, a lot of guys got wounded and killed and Paul Rogers and [James] Alley and I were the only three people on top of the ground catering to the wounded. And they didn't hesitate one second. It was the thing that they had to do…and they wanted to do it. And I think if I weren't there, they would do the same thing. I may not have done it if they weren't there, put it that way.

R: Why do you continue to speak and serve on these panels and do these interviews?

EDS: Because they asked me. I make no money. All the talks that I've given, all the panels I've been on, never collected a dime. When I go to these Wounded Warriors things, I do it because I'm asked to do it. Now, they pay my expenses most of the time, sometimes not. And the stuff that I get at home for signatures, pictures and so forth—every day I get a stack of some kind of letters asking me to sign something. A lot of them don't have return postage, but I always send them back because they're interested…And, you ought to know the reason I'm so popular is that I'm the only [officer] left! [*chuckles.*]

R: Why did you choose to join Theta Chi Fraternity?

EDS: My cousin [Harold] is one of the most honorable guys that I know of and I figured if he is in that Fraternity, that it's got to be honorable, because his father is one of the most honorable people that I've ever known; he helped raise me. My father died when I was five years old. And [Harold's] a good guy, finest of the finest, and if I say so, you can put it in the bank. Trust me.

R: Why are you proud of your Theta Chi membership?

EDS: Because of the people that are in it, whom I've met, like our friend, Carlton [Bennett].

R: What advice would you give to young Theta Chi brothers today about leadership?

EDS: Leadership is something that you ***want***; it's not something you desire. If you ***want*** it bad enough, you will attain it by hard work and study! Period.

R: Do you have any comments about Theta Chi's national partnership with the USO?

EDS: I think it's a good idea. People at the USO need some of [Theta Chi's] advice and actions, it would be wonderful. If the USO wanted me to give a lecture, I'd be delighted. My platoon members and I have been asked to do things for the USO in the past, and I'd be glad to assist and hope to have the opportunity if I'm available.

R: If you had a message to share with the readers of the magazine, your new brothers, what would you say to them?

EDS: Learn. Learn everything you can possibly learn, about everything. Be well-rounded. And whatever you want to do, continue doing it right. Now there are two kinds of people in this world: leaders and followers. There is nothing wrong with being a follower—if you're a good follower. And if you are a leader, you've got to know what you want to do and ***want***. Just desiring will not make it. You've got to ***want*** to do it and ***do it***. And Work. Strive.



You can read more about Ed Shames in the following books written by Ian Gardner: *Tonight We Die As Men* (co-written with Roger Day); *Deliver Us From Darkness;* and *No Victory in Valhalla.* His biography, *Airborne: The Combat Story of Ed Shames of Easy Company*, is now available. All of Brothers Shames' portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project and The Fisher House Foundation.

Theta Chi Fraternity salutes Col. Ed Shames and all of our World War II heroes. Thank you for your service. ■

Lending a Helping Hand through Dental Care

BY F. BARRY NELSON, UPSILON/NYU 1965







Robert P. Renner, DDS (1964) has devoted his nine years since retirement to providing pro bono preventative and emergency dentistry to tens of thousands of impoverished children in Third-World countries. Bob received the Columbia University Humanitarian Award in 2010 for his pro bono dental work. In 2014, he led his first dental mission to Mongolia.

A life devoted to pro bono dental work for deprived children in Third-World countries is unusual. But it's no surprise that Brother Renner is working hard to do good works.

As an undergraduate, Bob served as Treasurer and participated in multiple extracurricular activities, even though he toiled every weekday morning as a teller at the Broadway Savings Bank. He had to achieve a sufficiently high grade-point average to gain admission to the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. While many liberal arts students struggled with the mandatory foreign language requirement, Bob majored in German.

Bob didn't merely parrot the Theta Chi slogan of Θηρόποεα Χειρ, a "Helping Hand." His achievements have exemplified the Fraternity maxim. Bob has set an example of a happy, exciting and successful life.

As a dental student, Bob developed an interest in remote Native American communities in the United States, and this led to pro bono dental work that eventually extended around the world after Bob retired from the Stony Brook University College of Dental Medicine, where he had served as a professor and founding faculty member.

While most of his peers from classes in the 1960s have settled down to lives of leisure in retirement, Dr. Renner spends nine months of the year abroad—often in the world's poorest countries—where he utilizes his dental skills to serve Kids International Dental Services (KIDS), which he founded in 2007. KIDS is an entirely voluntary charity with no administrative expenses. All donations go to providing dental care for impoverished children. KIDS missions are staffed solely by volunteer dentists and support personnel.

Providing dental care to children who are at the bottom of the social scale is exceptionally challenging. When Bob was in private practice on Long Island, he treated perhaps 10 patients a day. In contrast, KIDS serves thousands of children in facilities that typically lack electricity, running water and heat.

According to Bob's wife, Dr. Purobi Phillips-Renner, who serves as President & CEO of KIDS, the organization's volunteers, "treated 8,085 children in Cambodia, the Philippines, Mongolia, and Guatemala in 2014. They have extracted 5,161 teeth and restored 572 teeth under conditions that most Western dentists would find totally unacceptable to even spend two minutes, let alone work all day and day after day."

There's a big payoff to the children who have no access to dental care, who are unfamiliar with such basics as brushing teeth, and who often drink sugar-laden beverages that cause much more tooth decay than was prevalent in past generations.

Bob led KIDS' first mission to Mongolia in May 2014, with a team of 15, including his wife, other dentists and support personnel recruited from the US, UK, and Japan. KIDS had been invited to treat school children in the "city" of Uliastai (population 24,000) after a preliminary visit to the area in 2013. The group departed from San Francisco—where Bob lives—on a flight to Seoul, South Korea, followed by a second flight to Ulaanbaataar, the capital of Mongolia. Upon arrival in Ulaanbaataar, the KIDS team's anesthetics were confiscated by customs. Fortunately, KIDS was able to buy anesthetics in the Capital (apparently wiping out the entire local stock). Next, the group flew on a turboprop airplane to Uliastai, in an area Bob calls the "Wild West of Mongolia." The KIDS team stayed at a top local hotel, but the rooms had only intermittent water and lacked showers.

Unlike the reception in the Capital, KIDS was warmly welcomed in Uliastai. Although conditions in Mongolia are primitive by First-World standards, the parents, teachers and children were wonderful. The dental care was administered in schools for six consecutive days, and Bob observed that, "the parents and the teachers were totally involved in supporting the dental mission." Every day, 300–400 children were examined, followed by fluoride applications, 1,220 extractions and 64 fillings—performed without dental drills. A total of 2,126 children were treated. "This was the first time in Mongolian history that a dental team came to help their children!"

Dental care is particularly important for the children of Mongolia, because of exposure to sugar in the contemporary diet. Bob explained, "After I examined a 10-year old who had multiple cavities, the child's mother said, 'I didn't have candy as a child but now that we have money, I can get a lot of candy.'" Dr. Renner added that, "Cheap Chinese candy has been ruining the teeth of these children for several years…and they have no dental care. Education in the schools and with parents is the only way to combat this scourge." KIDS teaches children to use a toothbrush for the first time in their lives. And KIDS educates the children and their parents on the dental consequences of various foods.

The KIDS group was feted by the Mayor of Uliastai, who treated the volunteers to a traditional Mongolian dinner. After the dental mission was completed, the group visited the high desert for some rest and recreation that included riding camels and wild horses, and enjoying a Mongolian feast in a traditional "ger."

KIDS makes every effort to return to the same villages year after year, and KIDS plans to return to Uliastai in 2015, in keeping with its approach of providing ongoing improvement in the dental health of the children.

On the way home to San Francisco from Mongolia, Dr. Renner and his wife passed through his hometown of New York City, and his presence inspired a gathering of six brothers from Upsilon/NYU 50 years ago for a luncheon at the home of **Barry Nelson** (1965) on Long Island. Attendees were **Gerald Lundgren** (1966), **John Beardslee** (1964), **Peter Derrick** (1965), and **Richard Rohrssen,** (1963). Brothers Beardslee and Rohrssen traveled to New York from Texas and Virginia, respectively. This assembly of six Upsilon/NYU alumni is particularly noteworthy, since these brothers represent half of the 12 actives that constituted Upsilon Chapter in the mid-1960s. Although Bob moved away from the New York City area when he retired a decade ago, he has always kept up with Theta Chi affairs and has maintained contact with his chapter brothers.

Bob's wife, Dr. Purobi Philips-Renner—who earned a Ph.D. in Physics at Dartmouth and had a notable career in physics and management—demonstrated her culinary skills by preparing a delicious multi-course meal of vegetarian foods from India and other countries known for exotic cuisine. Perhaps this gathering can be repeated and expanded the next time Bob and Purobi visit New York City.









Dr. Bob Renner and the Kids International Dental Services team extend a helping hand in Mongolia. Following his trip to Mongolia, Dr. Renner caught up with Upsilon/NYU Chapter brothers on Long Island.

Leaders at Home and Abroad

Delta/RPI

Patriots Defensive Coordinator **Matt Patricia** (1996) helped New England secure their victory during Super Bowl XLIX. He has been with the Patriots since 2004 and has also worked at Syracuse University and Amherst College.

Omicron/Richmond

Longwood University recently dedicated the Otis Brown Commons at Lancer Park. Omicron's **Otis Brown** (1956) has served Longwood University as the former Vice Chairman of the Board of Visitors and President of the Real Estate Foundation.

Mu/California

Critica, a web app with timed discussions, was developed by **Jason Huertas** (2010). Huertas, along with **Alex Zaslavsky** (2012) and **Bryan Cheng** (2013), are working to change the dynamics of how identities affect discussions on the web. Critica allows posts in a discussion to be anonymous while the discussion is taking place, allowing participants to post without inhibitions. The identity of each post is not revealed until the end of the discussion.

Rho/Illinois

Marcin Kleczynski (2012) is the current CEO for Malware Bytes. His entrepreneurial efforts as CEO have earned him recognition in *Forbes Magazine* as one of their "30 Entrepreneurs under 30" after raising $30 million to fuel his company operations. He was also named Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Tau/Florida



Jack Kenworthy (1965) was featured in a *Florida Today* article announcing his new book, *People Who Knew Jack*. The book is an autobiography and tracks Jack's life from a kid in small-town Massachusetts, through his 30 years as a baseball coach and physical education instructor, and as an exercise fitness club floor instructor, and recollections of those he met along the way.

2008 Colley Award Winner **Kevin Reilly** (2008) was featured on Saint Peters Blog as one of the rising stars of Florida politics. Reilly is currently the legislative affairs director for the state Parole Commission.

Alpha Phi/Alabama

Huntsville Attorney **Derek Simpson** (1992) was featured in the news following the Super Bowl this past February. Simpson serves as agent for New England Patriots rookie corner Malcolm Butler, who made the game-saving interception near the end of the game.



As seen on Sigma/Oregon State's Facebook Page: The photo of Portland Police Sgt. Bret Barnum (1991) hugging 12-year-old Devonte Hart went viral last December.

Beta Delta/Rutgers

For the 33rd year, brothers of Beta Delta gathered at Rutgers Golf Course to reconnect and raise funds for the chapter house. This year the brothers sold out all 48 player slots and set a new record collecting $5,200.

Beta Zeta/Michigan State

Former Executive Director **Dave Westol** (1973) was named a 2014 recipient of Delta Gamma Fraternity's Compass Award. The Compass Award is presented to a non-member of Delta Gamma who has made a significant contribution to their fraternity and/or the interfraternal movement.

Beta Iota/Arizona

Layton Cox (2014), the 2014 Colley Award First Runner Up, was recently featured on the Investment News website for his work on a soon-to-be-launched digital platform, My Pathway. The online platform will offer advice to young investors and those with smaller sums to invest.



Beta Upsilon/Fresno State

California State Supreme Court Justice **Marvin Baxter** (1961) recently retired and concluded 24 years on the Supreme Court and 32 consecutive years of public service.

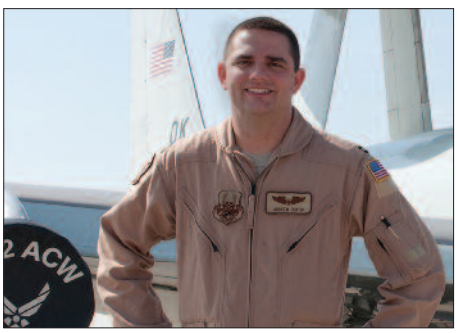
Gamma Nu/New Mexico State



New Mexico State honored **John Kramer** (1987) with the Distinguished Alumni Award for his contributions to NMSU's scholarship programs and lectures on public relations tactics. Kramer has been actively working to recolonize Gamma Nu Chapter.

Gamma Rho/Florida State

Capt. Andrew Curtis (2007) surprised the International Headquarters with the gift of an American flag that had flown over Afghanistan on a combat mission for Operation Enduring Freedom on Dec. 25, 2012. The package also contained a Certificate of Authenticity signed by Capt. Curtis and Lt. Col. Peter P. Mykytyn.



Gamma Rho's Capt. Andrew Curtis (2007).

Gamma Sigma/Duke

Congressman **Mo Brooks** (1975) won re-election to a third term as the U.S. Representative for Alabama's 5th Congressional District.

Delta Alpha/Linfield

Jeff Owens (1979) was a 2014 inductee into the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame. Owens had a four-year football career that included career scoring records and conference and national recognition. As a fullback, Owens scored 30 touchdowns, and totaled 1,745 yards of offense—records that stood for 17 seasons. Owens was a two-time Northwest Conference performer and an NAIA All-American.

Delta Beta/Georgia

Tobin Carr (2000) was named associate vice president for government relations and director of state governmental relations at the University of Georgia. Carr currently serves as planning director for the Georgia Department of Transportation, where he has led a team of 30 planning professionals in guiding strategic planning and project budget documents that



Jim Alfieri (far left in black), with his TNT team, and honorees for the 2014 Monterey Bay Half Marathon.

On the Run

BY ALLEN LEVESQUE, EPSILON/WPI 1959



Jim Alfieri (1959) is still "on the run" for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and the Team-In-Training (TNT) program in northern California. It all began in June 2000 when Jim ran in the annual Mayor's Marathon in Anchorage, Alaska, to raise funds for LLS. His personal honorees in that race included his brother-in-law, John Duff, who was suffering with Multiple Myeloma. Since that time, John has passed away, but Jim has continued to lend his time and expertise to his TNT team. Over the years, he has completed dozens of full and half-marathons, primarily on the West Coast, serving as participant, mentor and team captain.

In early 2011, Jim was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and took a brief break from running to undergo treatment, but he was not out of action for long. Six months later he was back fundraising and training with his team. Jim is proud of TNT's record of support for LLS, including generous contributions by many Theta Chi brothers. Since 1988, TNT has raised more than $1.4 billion for LLS Research and Patient Services, supporting the great progress made by LLS in helping to save the lives of blood cancer patients. Jim finished 2014 by running the Berkeley Half Marathon, along with his oldest son James, and is looking forward to marking his 15th year with TNT in June 2015.

Jim had a long career with the State of California Highway Division, including responsibility as supervising engineer for many projects on the Golden Gate Bridge. He is currently a consultant for Caltrans in Sacramento, and he and his wife Janet continue to live in Santa Rosa. Another of Janet's brothers, **Jim Duff** (1957) passed away in 2011.

direct state and federal resources to fund transportation projects.

Delta Iota/Northwestern

In August, NBTY, Inc., a global manufacturer, marketer, distributor and retailer of vitamins and nutritional supplements, named **Steven Cahillane** (1987) Chief Executive Officer. Prior to this new role, he served as President of Coca-Cola Americas.

Delta Kappa/Ball State

On Oct. 11, 2014, the brothers of Delta Kappa Chapter recognized **Charles Ray** by naming an award in his honor. Ray was a member of Delta Kappa's first pledge class in 1952. As an undergraduate, Ray was instrumental in introducing **Duane Deal** to our chapter. Deal was a long-standing chapter adviser for 49 years. Ray served as President of the Delta Kappa Alumni Association for 13 years, and during his leadership tenure, helped to secure the property where the Delta Kappa Chapter house sits at 1100 W. Riverside Ave. in Muncie, Ind. As Alumni President, Ray also witnessed Delta Kappa winning the Alter Award, Theta Chi's highest undergraduate honor. It was because of Ray's infectious engagement, leadership, positive spirit and love for helping others that Delta Kappa has remained a great chapter at Ball State. With that same spirit, the Charles Ray Award was presented to Brother **Larry Ottinger** (1963) for his continued support of Delta Kappa Chapter.



Larry Ottinger (1963) (right), Delta Kappa's inaugural recipient of the Charles Ray Award, poses with its nameake, a true Theta Chi for Life.



Members of Theta Chi at Ball State were known as "The Red Coats," because they wore their red coats across campus. Brother Charles Ray, a member of Delta Kappa's first pledge class, recently donated one of the famed red coats to be displayed in the Delta Kappa Chapter House.



Dennis and Yvonne Dilworth

Gamma Theta Brother Donates $100,000 to Theta Chi

BY PHILIP THORNTON, SR., DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Dennis Dilworth (1956) and his wife Yvonne recently made a $100,000 gift to the Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi to support Gamma Theta's Chapter Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to Gamma Theta undergraduate members each year.

Dennis has great memories of his time in Theta Chi and SDSU, though interrupted by his service in the military. Dennis and Yvonne were married after he returned from the service to complete his degree.

"My wife's family was still complaining about all the expenses from her sister's wedding. So when we were thinking about getting married, we figured it would be best to just do something simple and not tell them. My folks knew what we were going to do and had no problem with it," said Dennis. "Our witnesses were Chapter Brother **Jim VanNatta** (1956) and his wife-to-be, Edna. Another brother, **Bill Coops** (1956), took pictures. The chapter surprised us afterwards with a reception at the first Hardy Avenue fraternity house with cake and champagne. Many of the brothers were there," he said.

While a married student, Dennis served as Chapter President from 1956–1957 and worked 20 hours a week at Convair, earning $1.75 an hour. Reflecting back on their college years, Dennis and Yvonne made their gift to Theta Chi to help out future Theta Chi brothers. Dennis also notes that his gift was inspired by fellow Gamma Theta **Dean Strasser** (1957), who also made a $100,000 gift to the Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi in 2003.

"Because of the Fraternity, I have brothers for life," said Dennis. "I want to support a brotherhood that was a big part of my college life," he said.



March 9, 1956: The recently wed Dennis and Yvonne Dilworth (center) along with witnesses Jim VanNatta (left) and his soon-to-be wife, Edna (right).



Rechartering Members of Gamma Lambda Chapter at the University of Denver held a reunion at a Colorado Rockies game in Denver on Saturday Aug. 23, 2013. Spouses and children, who got to hang out with Rockies infielder Josh Rutledge, came out as well. Photo courtesy of Greg McBoat.

Gamma Lambda/Denver Recharter Members Reunion

BY JASON EVANS, GAMMA LAMBDA/DENVER 1998

"Don't worry, I've got a few of those, too," a Gamma Lambda alumnus jokingly confided upon seeing his fellow brother's grey hairs.

Though some had not seen each other in more than 15 years in some cases, the camaraderie has not receded (like hair lines tend to do).

In August 2014, a reunion was held for Rechartering Members of Gamma Lambda Chapter.

The brothers, now accompanied by spouses, children, and yes—some aging follicles, got together at Coors Field to watch the Colorado Rockies play. But watching baseball on a beautifully clear night was only a small part of the story.

"Very, very little has changed, it makes me feel good to be able to see someone I haven't seen in 10 or 15 years, to pick up where we left off," said organizer **Bryan Benbow** (1998).

Although these members have kept in contact over the years, sadly this was the first formal reunion for the group since they accepted their diplomas and moved on.

The re-establishment of Theta Chi at Denver was one of the success stories for the Fraternity in the 1990s. Sports marketing executive, **Michael Kohler** (Theta Sigma/UC-Santa Barbara 1995) was a Leadership and Education Consultant for the Fraternity during that time, and was tasked with getting Theta Chi back on campus.

DU already had a large Greek system: 25 percent of the school's 2,800 students were in fraternities and sororities. Still, Kohler saw an opportunity to do something different: "It was ripe for a new group to come in and target good students who were looking for something bigger to be involved in," said Kohler.

Those good students wasted no time in setting new benchmarks for academics and campus involvement. The group was reinstalled in 1997 and is still there today.

Those now-grown campus leaders have maintained their passion for fraternity.

Paul Broussard (2000) made the trip up from Colorado Springs to see his brothers again.

"While we may not see each other every day like we used to, I think for all the important activities or events in our lives, we're always still there for each other," said Broussard.

Just about equally as excited was Alison Betts, whose college boyfriend and now husband **Thomas Betts** (1999) was a Re-Chartering Member. She's had a front-row seat over the years to watching her spouse and others graduate from rush shirts to power ties.

"Watching him and some of the other guys, it was just a great foundation for having a base of people to rely on for a support system, but really these have turned into some really great guys," Alison said.

Benbow meanwhile is anxiously looking forward to future reunions.

"I still have a really powerful connection to the brotherhood of our chapter; those guys are still my best friends, still the people that I count on if I'm going through hard times; they've always been there for me," Benbow said.

Nearly 20 years after Gamma Lambda was reinstalled, and 159 years since our beloved Theta Chi came into existence, the foundation for true brotherhood established by Frederick Norton Freeman and Arthur Chase is a light that refuses to dim. If the rigors of present-day life have prevented you from reconnecting with your brothers, I challenge you to go out and find that time to see each other. I predict you'll discover, like I did, that although your life as a whole may have changed tremendously, your strong fraternal bonds have not.

Delta Omicron/Gettysburg



Shawn Prohaska (1989) was nominated as one of the Top 10 Associate Members by the Building Industry Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania (BIA). Prohaska was also featured in an article on the Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) website as a result of his nomination. Prohaska is president of Invisible Fence of Northeast Pennsylvania.

Delta Pi/Indiana State

"Voice of the Pittsburgh Steelers" **Tunch Ilkin** (1979) and Damian W. Williams, along with Mark A. Miner, have written a new book, *Forged in Steel: The Seven Time-Tested Leadership Principles Practiced by the Pittsburgh Steelers*. The book is intended to help readers tap into the values that make the Steelers great.

Delta Phi/North Texas



Jeff Kline (2009) was named a Forty Under 40 recipient for community and business leaders by the *Oklahoma Gazette* and *OKC.Biz Journal*. Additionally, he was named a Thirty Under 30 recipient by *Ion Oklahoma Online*. Kline is an associate attorney at Bays Law Firm, P.C., where he assists clients in family law matters, bankruptcy, adoptions, and criminal defense cases.

Delta Omega/Ripon

David Mirisch (1959) has moved his offices to Westlake Village, Calif. Mirisch has been involved in more than 2,500 celebrity fundraising events throughout the United States and in seven foreign countries and has helped raise $35 million. In May 2015, he assisted Beta Alpha Chapter at UCLA as they put on their golf tournament at The Encino Golf Course.



David Mirisch

Epsilon Eta/IUP Alumni Honor the Past and Establish its Future

BY MICHAEL McGRATH, EPSILON ETA/IUP 1977

On the weekend of September 26–27, 2014, alumni of Epsilon Eta Chapter reunited on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania campus to celebrate. Brothers from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s joined together to celebrate awarding the first Theta Chi Fraternity Heroes Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship was created to honor and memorialize two brothers: **1st Lt. James Flannery** (1969), killed in action in Vietnam, awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart; and FBI Special Agent **Gregory Spinelli** (1971), who was shot and killed in the line of duty in Charlotte, N.C. in 1973.



Five decades of Epsilon Eta/IUP alumni gather in Indiana, Pa. for golf, to award the first Heroes Memorial Scholarship, and to participate in their chapter's Recolonization Ceremony.

The scholarship is awarded annually by Epsilon Eta alumni to a deserving IUP ROTC cadet who best exemplifies the legacy of Honor, Service, and Love of Country of our fallen brothers. More than 100 Theta Chi brothers, family, and friends attended the Saturday, Sept. 27, ceremony.

The weekend celebration was kicked-off by the first Theta Chi Open Golf Tournament, held at the Indiana Country Club on Friday, September 26. The Ryder Cup format pitted the Red Team vs. the White Team for the bragging rights.

On Saturday following the Scholarship Awards ceremony, the brothers gathered to participate in the Recolonization Ceremony for Epsilon Eta, where 10 of IUP's best young men were pledged, signaling the return of Theta Chi to IUP.

The Saturday celebration continued with the Induction of **Jerry Clark** (1969) into the IUP Sports Hall of Fame at a ceremony held by the university in the Kovalchick Sports & Convention Center. Jerry was a two-sport athlete at IUP, and excelled on both the football field and the baseball diamond.

A lively Tailgate Party and IUP football game concluded the fantastic weekend celebrating the best of ΘX Brotherhood.

Plans are already in motion for next year's Theta Chi Fraternity Heroes Scholarship Presentation!

Epsilon Zeta/Tampa

Jordan Chariton (2008) has joined TheWrap as media reporter. Prior to this, he had served as editor at Mediabistro's TVNewser.com and LostRemote.com and had spent four years working at Fox News, Fox Business, and MSNBC.

Epsilon Iota/East Carolina

Timothy Gomez (1992), chief executive of Dixon Ticonderoga, the world's largest pencil company, has donated enough pencils and other school supplies to fill the backpacks of 2.8 million children attending Title I schools through a partnership with the Kids in Need Foundation. Dixon Ticonderoga donates an average of $1.5 million a year to Kids in Need.



Epsilon Tau/Stephen F. Austin

James Jenkins' (2009) Farmer's Insurance Agency was awarded Farmer's New Business Award for Outstanding Quarterly Performance and for their contributions to the success of Farmer's Insurance.

Brandt Silvi (2012) was recently awarded 2014 Airman of the Year and was named an Honorary Public Affairs Member for 2014. Silvi, who is an active duty member of the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, better known as The Thunderbirds, also received the Airman of the Year award in 2013.

Zeta Kappa/Ohio Northern

Brit Rowe (1993), associate professor of art & design at Ohio Northern University, was tapped to present at the 13th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, January 10–13 in Honolulu, Hawaii. His presentation titled, "Grafik Intervention: Sparking Urban Revitalization



Lt. Colonel Greg Moseley, commander of the USAF Thunderbirds (left), presents Airman Brandt Silvi the 2014 Airman of the Year Award and the Honorary Public Affairs Member of 2014 award. Silvi runs show center operations during the air shows.



Epsilon Phi members gather for homecoming in Warrensburg, Mo. and pose with a set of new wooden letters.

Epsilon Phi/Central Missouri gather for Homecoming

BY GLEN HARCKUM, EPSILON PHI/CENTRAL MISSOURI 1985

During our homecoming in October, an enthusiastic group of more than 60 Epsilon Phi members gathered at Hidden Pines Country Club in Warrensburg, Mo., to play golf, socialize and reminisce about the good ole days.

The golf outing was the highest attended in recent memory, with National Historian **Tom 'Bo' Tinnin** (1984) and Executive Director **Michael Mayer** (2004) making the journey to catch up with old friends. It would be fair to say that most did not hit the ball long or straight, but a good time was had by everyone regardless of the scores.

More alumni, active members and other Theta Chi friends joined us for the social in the clubhouse afterward. A big Theta Chi thank you goes out to **Matt Lotspeich** (2005) for coordinating the event. In honor of the golf outing, attendees finished out the round of golf with a group photo with the new wooden letters, constructed and donated by **Glen Harckum** (1986). The group accomplished what they had come for—enjoying the camaraderie, friendship and their fraternity experience as Theta Chi brothers at 'The Burg'.

Efforts through Graphic Design," described how graphic designers can use their skills and knowledge to draw attention to—and invoke a solution to—the problem of urban decay.

Zeta Lambda/Westminster

Charter Member **Mark Fowler** (1967) completed the requirements for his degree this past December, more than 50 years after entering WC as a freshman. After joining the Marines and serving two tours in Vietnam, Fowler worked in the food service industry for 25 years. Since retiring, he volunteers with Meals on Wheels and has kept busy going back to school.

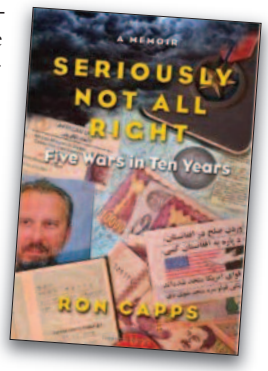
Zeta Pi/Old Dominion

David Lindhjem (1969) was recently inducted into the ODU Sports Hall of Fame. Lindhjem earned All-American honors for the Monarchs' wrestling team in 1967, when he placed fourth at the NCAA College Division National Championships. At 145 pounds, Lindhjem had a 19–2 record with five pins. He also qualified for College Division National Championships in 1968 and 1969, and was a three-time Mason Dixon Conference Champion, winning titles in 1967, 1968 and 1969. In 1969, Lindhjem was presented the ODU Scholar Athlete of the Year award, and he went on to win the State AAU tournament in the early 1970s.



David Lindhjem (Zeta Pi/Old Dominion 1969) was inducted into the ODU Sports Hall of Fame on Nov. 8, 2014.

On Veteran's Day, Brother **Ron Capps** (1985) was invited by the ODU Alumni Association and Veterans Services to read from his book, *Seriously Not All Right: Five Wars in Ten Years*. Capps, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserve, and a combat veteran of Afghanistan, is the founder of Veterans Writing Project, a nonprofit that offers free writing courses for current and former service members and publishes their work in a literary review called *O-Dark-Thirty*. Capps' memoir provides a unique perspective of his life as a soldier who suffers from PTSD, his recovery, and his role as founder and teacher of the Veterans Writing Project.



Stephen Murphy (2000) was recognized by LEAD Hampton Roads, a leadership program that allows local business people from the Hampton Roads area in southeast Virginia to come together to for sustainable discussion about regionalism. As part of the recognition, Murphy will be a component of local board work over the next year.



Arya Aminrazavi (2014) has landed a job as a clearance production assistant for a new MTV reality show. As a clearance and release production assistant Aminrazavi works closely with the production crew to make sure anyone and everyone who interacts or appears on camera has given permission to use their image on television.



Eta Kappa/James Madison

Bill Dunn (1971) was featured last fall in *Madison Magazine* for attending 40 straight homecoming games.

Matt Rinaldi (1997) was elected to the Texas House of Representatives for District 115.

Eta Nu/Alma

Brian Bartes (1987) was recently presented the George Herbert Service Award for his loyalty and service to his alma mater and the Alumni Association at Alma College. Bartes is the CFO of Wolverine Packing Co.

Eta Omicron/Northwestern State

Dr. Luke Dowden (1999) was the inaugural recipient of the Bruce N. Chaloux Award for Early Career Excellence in Online Education. The national award recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in the field of online education early in one's career. Dr. Dowden heads online education at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



Former IHQ staffer Dwayne Jones has an important role in the Special Olympic World Games in Los Angeles 2015.

Former IHQ staff member **Dwayne Jones** (1996) accepted the position of Vice President of Special Events and Entertainment for the Special Olympic World Games Los Angeles 2015. In addition to overseeing the receptions and marketing events leading up to the Special Olympics World Games, Jones will be responsible for the execution of the Games-time programs, including two Special Olympics Festivals to be held on the USC and UCLA campuses, Special Events and Receptions for Sponsors and Honored Guests, as well as Fan Experience and Sport Production engagement opportunities throughout the games.

Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg

On the morning of Jan 1, 2015, **Adam Quinones** (2000) and fellow officer Michael Maio noticed smoke coming from a house while on patrol in North Amityville, N.Y. The two officers pulled 82-year-old James Brown to safety, and then went back inside for his 13-year-old grandson. Brown and his grandson were not seriously hurt.



The alumni of Eta Delta Chapter host a Bone Marrow Drive during the Babson College Homecoming game September 20, 2014. Front Row (L–R): Adam Sachs '93, Ralf Riehl '90, Chris Sherman '93, Kerry Sherman, Be the Match Volunteer Virginia Ferreira, James Cacace '90. Back Row (L–R): Dan Nelson '93, Jay Robinson '97, Marc Siegel '74, Keith Patriquin '86, John Ricciardi '92, Parker Ricciardi (Babson undergrad, John's Son), Bill Leahey '72, Rock Roan '72, Rob Diccianni '94, Dave Gottlieb '94, Kyle Erickson '94, Ken Stacey '95, Dave MacDonald '78, Dave Rosenthal '72, David Spinney '93, Matthew Cotty (Babson Administration Advisor), Thom Deutsch '74, and John Fridholm '84 (Theta Chi Field Rep '84–'86).

Eta Delta/Babson Alumni Urge Others to 'Be the Match'

For the second consecutive year, Eta Delta alumni held a Bone Marrow Drive during homecoming weekend. The difference this year—**Christopher Sherman** (1993) was assisting them with the enrollment.

Last July, Sherman was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. His only chance of survival was to find a bone marrow donor match in the Be the Match Registry, because neither of his biological siblings were a match. Last homecoming, the alumni of Eta Delta Chapter were hosting the Bone Marrow Drive in Sherman's honor.

Brother Sherman did find his match and is once again healthy. He and his wife Kerry and their three sons are planning a cross-country trip next year.

This year, the Eta Delta alumni registered 50 new bone marrow donors during the drive. For more information about the Be the Match Registry, how to donate, or how to become a donor, visit *http://bethematch.org/*

Eta Chi/George Mason

Luke Hancock (2011) has agreed to play in the Greek Basket League club, Panionios. The Greek Basket League is considered to be one of the best pro leagues in Europe.

Theta Eta/Sam Houston State

It was a Facebook photo that inspired **Jason Ashford** (2000) to host a fundraising benefit for the mother of his chapter brother, **Bobby Hart** (2004). Hart's mother, Chris Black, had been diagnosed with Stage 4 throat cancer. Ashford put a plan in motion to host a "Brush Away Cancer" paint night event to raise money for Black's treatment. Attendees of the event painted the Theta Chi Coat of Arms. Since the event, more than $2,700 has been raised for Black's treatment. ■

Photo by Kyle Weaver



Sean Devine (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg 1997), (second from left) earned seventh place with his quartet, Throwback, at the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Quartet Contest last July, in Toronto. Devine is already a past International Quartet Champion, singing lead with his quartet, OC Times.

Theta Chi's Newest Homes in the Big

BY KELLY JONES, ASSISTANT EDITOR

We are proud to provide two stories announcing the completion of two of Theta Chi Fraternity's newest homes: Psi/Wisconsin and Alpha Phi/Alabama. A job well done to all of the tireless alumni involved with these projects. They are truly labors of fraternal love. Many thanks are also due to the alumni who financially supported the bricks and mortar for these projects that provide housing for generations of brothers yet to come. Let's take a tour:









ABOVE: The Fraternity letters were added to the dry wall by Psi's contractor. TOP RIGHT: Entry to Psi's new home. RIGHT: Psi's Great Room contains a donor recognition wall and trophy case.



ABOVE: The service bar uses materials from Psi's orginal house. A Coat of Arms gifted to Psi from Alpha Phi/Alabama hangs in the alcove.
LEFT: Built on the site of its former home, Psi's new 21,000 sq. ft. home cost $5 million and houses 47 members of the chapter.

Brothers of Psi Chapter moved into their new chapter house at 210 Langdon on August, 15, 2014. The 21,000-square-foot residence cost $5 million and houses 47 members of the chapter.

As you enter the home from the wrap porch, the first room you will see is the spacious living room with stone fireplace, big screen TV, leather furnishings, and the donor wall.

The basement includes a distinct sublevel room dedicated to bike storage with a ramp that includes easy movement in and out of the room. It also includes a dining room that can seat more than 100 guests just outside a commercial kitchen. Nearby is the laundry area and a service bar that was built with recycled materials from the former chapter house. It features an ice machine, milk machine and beverage dispenser, and is made from cedar planks that were in the living room of the former house, and a knotty pine façade that was also salvaged from the old stairwell. The alcove of the service bar has a bronze Coat of Arms gifted to Psi from Alpha Phi Chapter at Alabama and bricks salvaged from the former

Ten and SEC









TOP: Alpha Phi's new 24,000 sq. ft. home houses 49 members. ABOVE LEFT and RIGHT: Alpha Phi's sound-proof library named in honor of Col. Larry Kloess, Jr.

chapter houses in the wall. The locked trophy case in the first floor Great Room contains an Old South Barracks brick mounted on a wooden base.

The three floors also have sleeping areas for the brothers. The 19 double rooms and nine single bedrooms include hardwood floors; twin XL beds; a study desk with chair, dresser, and a walk-in closet with an organizer. There are 15 bathrooms for the residents and several other public restrooms throughout the house. There are also study areas on each of the floors, and the third-floor study has the added benefit of a larger conference room that offers a view of Lake Mendota.

Other features of the home include two decks on the second floor—one which features a fireplace—Internet telephone, and commercial Wi-Fi that was donated by an alumnus and is said to be the best on campus.

"The old house was great in the sense that it was our first opportunity to live together as brothers, as well as having the experience to live in a house that had held years of tradition," said Chapter President Chris Andrews (2014). "However, by the time we had moved in (Fall 2011), there were a lot of issues with the physical condition of the house that became problematic. The new house has continued to exceed my expectations for every second I have lived in it thus far. The house looks absolutely gorgeous and has so many wonderful amenities to offer. We are a truly lucky chapter to have been blessed with such a nice house donated by Psi Alumni. The house has gone beyond just acting as a physical place to reside, it has also reinvigorated our brotherhood, and I am excited to see what great things this year shall bring for our chapter," he added.

The house was formally dedicated during Homecoming weekend on Oct. 24–25, 2014. The positive response generated from the dedication has prompted Psi alumni to once again invite all Theta Chi members to Madison for an Open House during Wisconsin's Homecoming next fall on October 17, 2015. Save the date and contact Brother Jon Graan for more information at *jgraan@sbcglobal.net.*

On September 6, 2014, Alpha Phi Chapter dedicated its new chapter house at 1110 University Boulevard. More than 500 guests were in attendance for a cocktail reception, buffet dinner and ribbon-cutting ceremony following the football game vs. Florida Atlantic.

Guest speakers for the event included: Dr. Judy Bonner, President of the University of Alabama; National President Dick Elder; Executive Director Michael Mayer; Dr. Richard A. Thigpen, Past Chapter President, Colley Award Recipient, and Past President of the University of Alabama; and Dale Taylor, former Executive Director and three-term National President.

Following the ceremony, a reunion concert was presented by Theta Chi alumni bands Pure & Simple, playing music of the '70s, and Instant Karma, with its sounds of the '80s. Guests also toured the $7.2 million, 24,000 square foot stately colonial home that features

a grand foyer open to the second floor, formal and informal living spaces, an elegant dining room with seating for 140 guests, a kitchen, a sound-proof library, and social fellowship room.

The second floor offers a brothers' lounge, balcony area and full laundry. The dorm area of the house offers 49 bedrooms and multiple baths for its 49 residents.

The new house features several unique historical displays, including the 55-pound 3-foot tall Coat of Arms, removed from the gable of the former house. It was reportedly a gift from an alumnus of Alpha Nu Chapter, when Alpha Phi's second house was dedicated in 1962. The Coat of Arms has been mounted on the wall of the new patio. Also on display on the patio are bricks taken from the first two Alpha Phi Chapter houses, as well as a brick from the Old South Barracks at Norwich University.

A portrait of the chapter's first house (1926–1961) is prominently displayed in the living room, painted by Sherrill Mitchell (1926), a charter member of the chapter and a prominent theatre and show set designer and artist.

The library of the house is named in honor of Col. Larry Kloess, Jr. (1954), the founding Secretary of the Alpha Phi House Corporation. Brother Kloess has three sons who are all proud members of Alpha Phi Chapter, and they contributed funds in order to name the library in honor of their father.

The dining room was named by Thomas Howard (1993), Past President and Colley Award recipient, in honor of Dale Taylor (1969), another Past President and Colley Award recipient. Dale is the only Theta Chi in the history of the Fraternity to have served as Executive Director and President of all three of the National Fraternity's boards (Grand Chapter, Norwich Housing Corporation, and the Fraternity's Foundation).

A portrait of Dale and Fulton Hamilton (1972) are displayed in the dining room. Fulton also served as a Chapter President, and is a Past National Treasurer on the Grand Chapter and a Past President of the Norwich Housing Corporation.

The dining room also features six stained-glass paneled doors with the Fraternity's Coat of Arms, Badge, and the University of Alabama logo prominently displayed.

When I graduate this May, I will have logged three years in our chapter house," said David Harris. "Two years during both my sophomore and junior year in the old house and now this year as a senior in the new house.





TOP: Named after Past National President Dale Taylor, Alpha Phi's dining room can fit nearly 150 members. ABOVE: Stained-glass doors in Alpha Phi's dining room. BELOW: The sitting room.

I feel privileged to have been a member of the Alpha Phi Chapter during these times, having experienced the old house, its traditions, and and having talked to several alumni who came through reminiscing on their 'good 'ole days,' but I feel equally honored to be involved in starting new traditions and memories for the new house," he said.

"The nicest thing about the new house is just that. It's a new house," Harris continued. "All of the amenities from the air-conditioning to the Internet are pristine and modern. The difference between a home built in the '60s and one built in 2014 is pretty incredible as one can imagine. One thing that hasn't changed is the brotherhood that living in the house fosters. Through living in the house, my friendships with the other brothers in the house have always grown tighter and stronger. Some of my best friends have been those who have lived with me in the past and I already



feel closer to the younger guys in the new house," he added.

"I would love for us as a chapter to do things for the new house that will still be here when we come back as alumni. I want to come back and share stories of my good 'ole days with the next generation of Alpha Phis," Harris said. ■

New Homes Get Ready For Fall Move-In

The generosity and tireless efforts of the alumni of the following chapters (coincidentally all installed in the late 1940s) helped to fund and build new houses. Each project is nearing completion and each intend to house their undergraduate members starting this fall. We'll have more on these homes in future editions of *The Rattle*.

Gamma Theta/San Diego State is nearing completion on its $4 million, 24,000 sq. ft. chapter house, which will be the largest chapter house on the west coast, and will house 38 members. The Spanish Revival style architecture with red tile roofs, arches and colonnades will also feature underground parking, a TV game room and library, a catering kitchen, dining hall and six private suites for chapter officers. (Additional photos on pg 7.) Alumni will dedicate the new home on August 15, 2015.



Gamma Tau alumni hosted a ribbon-cutting and walk-through on April 25, 2015.

Gamma Tau/Drake alumni held a preliminary ribbon cutting ceremony on April 25, 2015 during a mass gathering of undergraduates, alumni, guests and friends who were in Des Moines for Drake Relays weekend. Guests were able to don commemorative hard hats and tour the nearly completed $2.4 million, 11,000 sq. ft. facility which will house 30 members, provide full food service, and living quarters and office space for a housemother/father/graduate assistant.

Gamma Chi/Randolph-Macon will move into their new home this fall. The new 2,900 sq. ft. house replaces their former house lost to a fire in September 2012. Following the fire, Gamma Chi alumni partnered with their alma mater which obtained the property and financed the $1 million cost of the new build. The eight bedroom house was completed in April 2015 and houses 14 members. Each bedroom will include a suite-style bathroom, cable and Wi-Fi. The new house includes a kitchen, a chapter and ritual room, and a wrap porch. The front foundation of the new house features bricks that had been saved from Gamma Chi's former house.





ABOVE: A rendering of the back of the Gamma Theta house at San Diego State, showing the underground parking. LEFT and BELOW: Gamma Chi's new home at Randolph-Macon.



Gamma Chi's new home at Randolph-Macon.

Additional Renovations and Remodels

Delta/RPI replaced stairs to the basement and renovated both guest bathrooms in the party room downstairs. They also painted the walls and replaced all of the windows in the party room.

Iota/Colgate had carpeting removed from the second and third floors of the chapter house and new tile floors installed. The dining room floor was also replaced.

Phi/North Dakota State refinished the front door to create a more inviting entrance. Additionally they gave several rooms a facelift with new paint.

Omega/Penn State had the basement tile floors professionally removed and installed French doors. In the kitchen area, loose and damaged tiles were replaced, and in the entryway between the kitchen and dining room the tiles were totally replaced with ceramic tiles.

Alpha Psi/Maryland renovated the chapter room and installed church pews for a more formal look. Several rooms and hallways throughout the house were painted. A mural of the Maryland State flag and an outline of the state were painted on a wall in the living room, along with additional improvements in the basement. The alumni also built a new room in the basement for large gatherings.

Beta Alpha/UCLA completed Phase I of their renovation project with a facelift for their house. New colored stucco was applied to the exterior and trim and stair lines were painted. New windows were put in and new air conditioning units were installed in bedrooms and the chapter room. New exterior lights were added and new brass lettering was placed above the main entrance. The goal of Phase II is to add more curb-appeal, completely gut and renovate the kitchen, and make the whole interior of the house look new.

Delta Psi/Kansas has done approximately $90,000 in renovations to the house. The work includes refinishing all the wood floors, replacing all the carpet, painting the rooms and installing new doors. "We are very proud of our alumni support that has allowed us to update the house in such a complete manner," said Matthew Stratemeier, Housing Corporation President-elect.

Epsilon Iota/East Carolina has replaced the kitchen cabinets, stove and countertops, replaced damaged sections of the ceiling in the party room, added a pool table and accessories, replaced the outdoor lighting fixtures, had the hardwood floors in the house sanded and refinished, purchased a portable grill and installed a new privacy fence. ■



Phi refinished the front entrance to make their house more inviting.



Omega installed French doors (above) and updated the porch (below).



A new mural on the wall at the Alpha Psi house.





Beta Alpha brothers show off the new stucco on their house after completion of Phase I of their renovations.

Updates From the Undergraduates



Brothers of Gamma Chapter win first place at the Greek Week tug of war. Pictured from left to right: Aron Nichols, Steven Utecht, Nicholas Jandreau, Maxx Buffone, and Matthew Eaton.

Beta/MIT

John Graham (2016) participated in a study abroad at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. We also held a philanthropy event for the Wounded Warriors Project.

Gamma/Maine

We dominated Greek Week, earning first place out of 17 other fraternities on campus. The events of the week included a talent show, a tug-of-war challenge, a family-feud challenge and a boat-capsizing competition. After the announcement that Theta Chi had won by a landslide, Greek Advisor Katherine Pezzella commented, "The Gamma men are like 'the little engine that could' and nobody could have seen that coming." We also hosted the "It's Not Okay to Touch Flag Football Tournament" on Oct. 23 to raise awareness for sexual assault and what it means to give consent. The event raised $500 through tournament entrance fees, which was donated to Rape Response Services located in Bangor, Maine.

Delta/RPI

On Oct. 11, 2014, we hosted our annual Wingfest. More than 15 fraternities and sororities from RPI competed in categories of best wing, hottest wing, and other prizes. It was a successful day, with $500 raised for Sunnyside Daycare in Troy, N.Y. On Oct. 31, the brothers traveled to Sunnyside Daycare to throw a Halloween party.

Eta/Rhode Island

We had 20 members with over a 3.0 GPA and 11 of those members made the dean's list. In intramural sports, Eta earned the title of champion in spring of 2014. The chapter also raised more than $500 for the USO. The brothers also held a banner signing stage outside the union and collected 100 signatures to send overseas to the troops who protect our great country. We participated in URI's Philanthropy Week to raise money for baby Violet Graney, who was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer.

Theta/Massachusetts

We supported **Garrett Shetrawski** (2016) as he ran for Massachusetts State Representative in Worcester's Second District. It was a tight race and Shetrawski was just shy of the 34 votes he needed to win the election.



Iota/Colgate

We hosted a benefit concert for the American Cancer Society, as well as a dinner and "Party for the Brave," benefitting the Wounded Warrior Project. Iota Chapter is also in the process of securing a faculty advisor and has made some significant house improvements.

Xi/Virginia

When **Corey Bothwell** (2017) learned that his father, Stu Bothwell, was going to be deployed to Kuwait, the brothers of Xi Chapter decided that they wanted to do something special for Corey and his dad. The brothers had met Stu during the Family Weekend event that they held, and Stu really liked Theta Chi. The brothers got together and took a photo of the chapter and had it framed to give to Corey and Stu to let them know that the brothers were there for them. The photo was presented to Corey as a surprise, and when Corey went home to spend time with his family before his dad deployed, he presented the photo to his dad, who was also surprised that the brothers had done this for him.

Rho/Illinois

Campus involvement has been the core of Rho Chapter's existence at the University of Illinois. Highlighted by Rho's annual fundraising event, GI Theta Chi, where the proceeds are donated to the Bob Woodruff Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping service veterans. We also participated in SHARE events with a sorority on campus, visiting a nearby foster farm to work with rescued horses. Rho also volunteers for Books for Prisoners and helps package books for Illinois prison inmates. We also participate in weekly highway



To show they were there for them, the brothers of Xi Chapter gather for a group photo to present to Brother Corey Bothwell and his father, Stu Bothwell, before his father deployed to Kuwait.



On Oct. 18, 2014, Alpha Mu Chapter at Iowa State University hosted a GI Theta Chi 5K run to benefit the USO. More than 40 runners turned out for the event and $750 was raised for the USO.

clean-ups and host blood drives each semester. In the last two semesters, Rho has garnered 590 service hours. Rho has also been involved in intramural sports, taking second place in the division in flag football and basketball. We also participated in Kappa Alpha Theta's Theta Hoops basketball tournament for CASA.

Tau/Florida

We collected 915 pounds of food during the University of Florida's Stop Hunger competition.

Phi/North Dakota State

We currently have six of the re-founding members of Order of Omega. The brothers are also participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Last semester we participated in Days of Giving, an annual event that includes a week-long campus and highway clean-up, and a blood drive. Phi also hosted Days of Champions, a fun-filled day of friendly competition to benefit Special Olympics.

Chi/Auburn

Eddie Seay (2015) was elected IFC President and **William Ball** (2015) was awarded the 2014 Joel Hatcher Outstanding Fraternity President Award. Chi was presented the 2014 James E. Martin Large Fraternity Risk Management Award for promoting safety and well-being in all of its fraternity operations.

Alpha Zeta/Rochester

Our brothers participated in the annual Shamrock 5K for Prevent Child Abuse America on Sept. 20, 2014. They also held a successful Meliora Weekend in October, welcoming brothers and their families to the chapter house. We hosted Alpha Zeta alumnus **Pierce Day** (1946), who spoke about his work in Optics at the Eastman Kodak Company during the Alumni Lecture Series. In November, the chapter house was covered in lights and black and gold balloons as the brothers held our annual "New Year's in November" celebration. Our annual Turkey Bowl was also a success raising money for the Boys and Girls Club and, along with Delta Gamma and the USO, the brothers wrapped gifts for the families of U.S. soldiers for the holidays.



Alpha Kappa Chapter at West Virginia University recently adopted Stewart Street in Morgantown and conducted a clean-up before leaving for fall break. A sign will be placed on the street with the Fraternity's name.

Alpha Iota/Indiana

We placed second in this year's Big Man on Campus event by raising more than $5,000 for breast cancer research through ticket and t-shirt sales, and online donations. Alpha Iota also participated in and won a campus-wide energy challenge, and the brothers participated in and raised $41,000 for the Indiana University Dance Marathon to benefit Riley Hospital for Children.

Alpha Mu/Iowa State

We hosted a GI Theta Chi 5K run on campus to benefit the USO. The brothers also



Alpha Pi's fall pledge class volunteered at Second Harvest Heartland Oct. 4, 2014, and helped pack 4,326 pounds of pasta to be delivered to various local food shelves, shelters and soup kitchens.



Eight Alpha Pi brothers ran in the annual Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon Oct. 5, 2014. All eight brothers finished in less than five hours. Prior to the marathon, the runners raised $3,630 for Team World Vision.

hosted comedian **Evan Wecksell** (Epsilon Theta/Tufts 2001) for a USO benefit show.

Alpha Omicron/Washington State

We teamed up with our neighbors at Alpha Gamma Delta to raise money for ΑΓΔ's Foundation for Diabetes. Participants in the event paid $5 for two chances at bouncing a basketball off the roof of the ΑΓΔ's sun porch and into a basketball goal in Alpha Omicron's backyard. One participant was able to make the shot, and $500 was raised.

Alpha Pi/Minnesota

On Oct. 4, 2014, our new members volunteered at Second Harvest Heartland and helped pack 4,326 pounds of pasta that will be delivered to local food shelves, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior community centers and children's after-school programs. On Sunday, October 5, 2014, eight Alpha Pi brothers ran in the annual Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon. All eight brothers finished in under five hours, with brother **Zack Coffel** (2016) finishing in just 3 hours and 43 minutes. Prior to the marathon, the runners and two additional brothers from the chapter raised money to benefit Team World Vision, a charitable organization providing clean water in underdeveloped countries. In total, these brothers raised $3,630.

Alpha Phi/Alabama

Hundreds of Alpha Phi alumni turned out last April to celebrate the final Homecoming at the Jefferson Ave. chapter house. In October, following the loss of our brother, **Parker Jordan**, we led hundreds on an Out of the Darkness Community Walk to raise funds for suicide prevention. In total, we have raised more than $30,000 for suicide prevention.



Brothers of Alpha Chi/Syracuse come together during their Street Soccer event to benefit the USO. In spite of the weather, the brothers were able to raise more than $400 for the USO.

Alpha Chi/Syracuse

In spite of the bad weather, eight teams turned out for our Street Soccer event to benefit the USO. Burgers, hot dogs and warm apple cider were served to the nearly 100 guests who braved the rain to attend. More than $400 was raised for the USO. Brother **Colby Liermer** (2015) was inducted into Syracuse University's Order of Omega.

Alpha Psi/Maryland

U.S. Army Student Veteran **Mingjie Feng** (2016) was presented the Robin and Tom



Alpha Psi/Maryland's U.S. Army Student Veteran Mingjie Feng stands with Dr. Terry Zacker after receiving the Robin and Tom Portman Scholarship.

Portman Scholarship for $5,000. Feng is currently attending UMD on full scholarship using the post-9/11 GI Bill. In addition to being a member of Theta Chi, Feng is also a member of Terrapin Veterans, Asian American Student Union and Catholic Terp. Feng is a two-time recipient of the scholarship.

Beta Delta/Rutgers

Dan English (2015) was crowned Greek God during Greek Week for his duet with a Sigma Kappa sister. Beta Delta finished second in fundraising for the Dance Marathon with a total of $22,000, and also raised $2,000 for the USO at their GI Theta Chi event. We placed third in the Keller Interfraternal Sports League, and placed first in dodge ball, hand ball and dragon boat racing. Most importantly, we raised more than $7,000 for our brother, **Nexhmi Klobucista**, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer last spring and lost his fight in August.

Beta Eta/Washington (MD)

Connor Harrison (2015) was crowned Homecoming King.

Beta Iota/Arizona

The men of Beta Iota Chapter have had a busy semester that has included several brotherhood bonding opportunities—one of which included a hike up Picacho Peak. We have also been active in intramural sports and defended our Indoor Soccer Title with a 4-2 win in the championship. Beta Iota also hosted a family weekend, participated in the Sam Hughes Neighborhood Cleanup, and participated in a tailgate with the sisters of Gamma Phi Beta.

Beta Lambda/Akron

Living out Sacred Purpose, we hosted the President of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Survivors of America, Erin Maynard, to address the topic of PTSD, its causations and symptoms, the potential for recovery and the role of PTSDSOA in bringing about a better understanding of this complicated disorder. Maynard's presentation was very informative and left many people walking away with a new understanding of what PTSD really is and how it affects more than individuals in the military.

Beta Nu/Case Western

Beta Nu held its first Mental Health Awareness Week. Under the guidance of Vice President of Health and Safety, **James Fitzpatrick** (2016), the weeklong event raised awareness and funds for mental health issues and supported the Greater Cleveland chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Events of the week included decorating the Spitball statue on campus with uplifting mental health statements; a speech by Dr. Sellers of Undergraduate Counseling Services; an Open Mic Night, where students could speak freely; an Ultimate Frisbee tournament; and a charity dinner that featured speakers from NAMI. In all, more than $1,000 was raised for NAMI. In turn, NAMI presented a certificate to us for their appreciation.



In October brothers of Alpha Psi/Maryland volunteered at at the DCSCORES Fall Frenzy.



Beta Delta/Rutgers highlights: ABOVE: Winners of the Keller Interfraternity League —Beta Delta's first-place flag football team. RIGHT: Dan English was crowned Greek God during Greek Week 2014.



Beta Omicron/Cincinnati

Beta Omicron held a fundraising event at Mio's Pizzeria to benefit the USO.

Beta Rho/Illinois Wesleyan

Beta Rho held the Theta Chi ALS Ice Bucket Challenge on Sept. 25, 2014. All of the brothers volunteered to sit in a dunk tank filled with ice water, while students on campus paid to dunk them. The chapter raised about $150 for ALS research. We also held a Breast Cancer Awareness BBQ. The brothers gave



The brothers of Beta Iota/Arizona held a brotherhood hike up Picacho Peak.



Beta Rho Chapter hosted their own version of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge Sept. 25, 2014. Instead of dumping a bucket of ice water on their heads, the brothers allowed participants to take a chance at sending them plunging into a dunk tank filled with ice water.

out ribbons and cooked burgers and hotdogs in their backyard.

Beta Chi/Allegheny

The artwork of **Chris Muise** (2015) was on display at the Doane Gallery in December 2014.



Brother Michael Flint (Beta Psi/Presbyterian 2015) proudly holds the Best Ranger trophy he was awarded after competing in the Best Ranger Challenge at Fort Pickett, VA in October.

Beta Psi/Presbyterian

In October, **Michael Flint** (2015) competed in the Best Ranger Challenge at Fort Pickett, Va. and won. During the week, Flint worked with a team of 11 men and women and competed against 37 other teams in events like shooting, obstacle course, land navigation, weapons assembly and crossing a one-rope bridge. Overall, Flint's team came in second and he received an individual award for Best Ranger.



Brother William Phillips, Gamma Omicron/ Wake Forest University 2017, hugs a puppy during one of the chapter's Rent-a-Puppy events. For a small fee, participants rent a time slot and are able to cuddle with a puppy during that time. Proceeds benefitted Forsyth Humane Society.



RIGHT: Gamma Theta Chapter received the IFC Dean's Trophy recognizing them as SDSU's top fraternity.

Gamma Theta/San Diego State

Gamma Theta hosted our first Family Weekend Oct. 17–18. A weekend of bowling, construction tours and chapter house tours, tailgating and football were on tap for the 198 visitors who attended. We also received the



Delta Psi/Kansas wins the "Canstruction Competition" for United Way of Douglas County.



In October brothers of Epsilon Sigma/Wagner drove to Arlington National Cemetery to visit the grave site of Medal of Honor recipient, Edward Bancroft Williston (Alpha/Norwich 1856). Afterwards, the brothers toured Washington, D.C., and visited brothers at Alpha Psi Chapter at the University of Maryland.

highest GPA on campus with 3.21, and tied for first place in Student Life and Leadership accreditation. The brothers have partnered with Running Reader and visit various schools and afternoon programs to read to children. Every two weeks, the brothers lend a hand to the local USO to help stock the shelves with the food donations that they receive.

Gamma Kappa/Miami (OH)

We hosted Heartfelt Halloween with the A Kid Again Organization. During the event, brothers were able to connect with children who have terminal illnesses through activities such as face painting, corn hole, pumpkin picking, hayrides and corn mazes.

Gamma Xi/San Jose State

We raised nearly $1,400 for the USO through their GI Theta Chi philanthropy. We also won Delta Zeta's Turtle Bowl.

Gamma Tau/Drake

Jonathan Kusnierz (2018) was elected IFC President and we hosted GI Theta Chi in November to benefit the USO.

Delta Beta/Georgia

We hosted an Old Glory Weekend during the fall semester that consisted of a barbecue dinner, live band and a relay race to benefit the USO. We co-hosted "Beat Box," a benefit concert with Sigma Delta Tau. Sam Burchfield of "American Idol" fame performed. We adopted Bloomfield St., which is located behind the chapter house and also participated in the UGA Heroes student run to benefit the lives of children in Georgia with HIV/AIDS.

Delta Eta/Colorado State

In September, we hosted our first Bocce Ball and Croquet Tournament to benefit the USO. We had a great turn-out and raised nearly $400 for the USO's Denver Office. On Oct. 30, we hosted our second annual Theta Chi Haunted House, also benefitting the USO, raising approximately $1,000. Brothers also participated in Fall Cleanup on Nov. 1, 2014.

Delta Iota/Northwestern



William Xiao (2017) was featured on the Northwestern Engineering website for his smartphone app, Pocket Lock, which has received more than 40,000 downloads and had been featured on sites such as Lifehacker, Digital Spy, Gizmodo, Android Community and Kim Kimando.

Delta Pi/Indiana State

On November 15, we held our inaugural Sycamore World Cup to raise money for the USO. We appreciated all the organizations that provided an assisting hand to our soldiers. Soccer is not often done on our campus and participants really seemed to enjoy doing something a little different from the norm. Our event helped to raise more than $600 for the USO.

Delta Psi/Kansas

We placed third overall at homecoming while partnering with Alpha Delta Pi. We also won a canned food drive competition that benefited the United Way of Douglas County by donating the most cans of food, as well as a people's choice Facebook like competition by having the most number of "likes" on a picture of the "Canstruction Competition" that the brothers created.

Delta Omega/Ripon

In September, several brothers participated in the Pierce 9/11 Stair Climb at Lambeau Field. The event benefitted the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The brothers raised more than $1,200 during their 36th Annual Frisbee Golf event to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The brothers also hosted a casino night event and a Halloween lounge party.

Epsilon Gamma/Widener

We hosted Chi Hop and a pancake breakfast to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. For $5, guests could consume all of the pancakes they cared to eat. More than $500 was raised for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Epsilon Theta/Tufts

Five brothers volunteered at the AstraZeneca Hope Lodge in Boston and baked brownies for the patients that live in the facilities while receiving intensive treatment care from Boston medical providers. Many of the guests at the Hope Lodge travel from



Five brothers of Epsilon Theta Chapter at Tufts University volunteered at the AstraZeneca Hope Lodge in Boston on Oct. 11, 2014, and baked brownies for the patients while they were there.

other parts of the country and even the world to receive health treatment by the health professionals in Boston. On Dec. 4, 2014, the brothers of Delta Theta held their OXMAS Bake Sale to benefit Relay for Life.

Epsilon Iota/East Carolina

Andrew McNeil (2015) and **Hansel Rodriguez** (2016) were recipients of the Brian K. Pulliam Scholarship. We also hosted a Toys for Tots event and raised more than $300 and collected more than 100 toys for a local Learning Center. Due to the success of the event, the brothers plan to make it an annual philanthropy. The brothers also hosted a cookout for Special Olympics and were able to raise $500. The brothers also partnered with Habitat for Humanity for a fundraising event. The brothers sold 750 boxes of doughnuts. The brothers raised $300 for Habitat for Humanity and another $700 to complete a fence project at their chapter house.

Epsilon Pi/Northern Illinois Colony

We hosted a packing event for Feed My Starving Children at the Aurora facility. Several NIU Greek organizations and Morgan Brickley, NIU Associate Director of Student Life, packed food for the children. In total, nearly 200 cases (40,000 meals) were packed. Epsilon Pi Colony raised more than $3,000 to provide meals to be packed.

Epsilon Psi/NJIT

On Sept. 24, 2014, the NJIT Police Department hosted its annual Public Safety Meet and Greet with the students of NJIT. The officers served food and challenged the students to play their life-sized Jenga game. Psi Upsilon provided musical entertainment for the event, and the Resident Hall Association served cotton candy, popcorn and snow cones.

Zeta Upsilon/Hartford

We were named University of Hartford's Chapter of the Year. Zeta Upsilon's Founding President, **Sheldon Yarmovsky** (1969), and one of Zeta Upsilon's first members, **Robert Guyon** (1969), came to visit the chapter and assisted with our Alumni Ceremony. The chapter also held a successful Alumni Weekend.

Eta Kappa/James Madison

Christopher Scroggins (2015) was selected to participate in the NO MORE campaign on the JMU Campus in September. NO MORE is a campaign to help raise awareness about sexual assault and domestic violence in order to hopefully end both.

Eta Mu/Findlay

We collected 2,000.6 pounds of food for the Helping Hands Food Drive—the most of any team participating. In all, 44,082 pounds of food were donated.

Eta Phi/Oakland

We hosted an Alcohol Awareness Day, where the brothers simulated drunk driving with beer goggles and remote control cars. A speaker from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers presented a virtual bar and provided factual



Brother Tyler Sirles (Zeta Pi/Old Dominion 2017) won the Virginia State Motocross Championship in both the 250B and Collegeboy classes in September.

information for students about drunk driving and alcohol intoxication. The week before finals, the brothers gave away more than 300 stress balls with the motto, "Relax, Breathe, Conquer today," printed on them. Representatives from Suicide Prevention, the Counseling Center, and the Campus Health Center were also on hand to talk with students. Eta Phi has cemented a relationship with Brooksie Way and donated more than 100 hours to help their cause and support groups.

Eta Chi/Georga Mason

We joined with Delta Chi and Chi Omega to host Chi Fest, a clothing drive and veterans barbecue that benefitted American Bombshells Patriotic Services. In all, 42 bags of clothing were collected.

Eta Psi/UAB

Last November we held "Casino for a Cause." Guests were in black tie apparel, and the night consisted of blackjack, Texas Hold 'em Poker, and a variety of other card games. The grand prize for the event was an iPad mini, and more than $500 was raised for the USO. In addition, we won Homecoming for the third time since our reinstallation in 2011.

Theta Xi/VCU

We hosted a GI Jane event, where the captains of sorority teams led their teams through various competitive activities. The week culminated in a pageant and lip sync competition. More than 300 guests attended the pageant, and we raised $4,633 for the USO.



During Alcohol Awareness Week the brothers of Iota Delta/Southeastern Louisiana partnered with Alpha Omicron Pi sorority for the campus-wide Mocktails event, where their non-alcoholic "Love Potion" booth display earned them a second place in the competition.



Brothers at Iota Beta Chapter win the IFC Flag Football Championship at Missouri State University.



Iota Beta/Missouri State

Slayton Boone (2015) was crowned Homecoming King and **Zachary King** (2016) won the Big Man on Campus competition. We also won the IFC Flag Football Championship.

Iota Delta/Southeastern Louisiana

Leland Yates (2016) is currently serving as Vice President of IFC at Southeastern Louisiana University, was recently elected President of Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, and was a member of Homecoming Court. The brothers held a GI Theta Chi event and raised $600 for the USO. During Alcohol Awareness Week, we partnered with Alpha Omicron Pi sorority for the campus-wide Mocktails event. In October, we held our Theta Chi Jail Bail event and raised $200 for the Richard Murphy Hospice Foundation. The brothers also volunteered at the Hammond Fraternal Order of Police Annual Chili Cook Off and the Hammond Regional Arts Center's annual festival, and they invited a guest speaker from Southeastern's Health Studies department to offer tips and strategies for dealing with and managing stress.

Iota Theta/Central Florida

Scott Benton (2017) won the Mr. DeeZirable competition. In late November, we held our inaugural OXMAS fundraiser for the Greater Orlando Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. During the event, participants decorated the chapter house, bought and wrapped gifts, sold ornaments, attended an ugly sweater party, and were informed by a guest speaker from Children's Miracle Network. Prizes were presented for best decorations, and nearly $5,000 was raised.

Iota Sigma/Towson

During the summer, **Taylor Mulkerin** (2015) biked across the entire United States, from Baltimore to Oregon, to raise money for the 4K for Cancer program. In September, brothers of Iota Sigma volunteered to make and deliver 308 sandwiches to the Our Daily Bread Organization in Baltimore, a local food bank. In October, we held our first GI Theta Chi event, which consisted of a Banner Making Competition, a Rope Course Competition, Field Day, an Operation Shoebox event, and wrapping up the week

LEFT: Brothers of Iota Eta/Pacific show off their new haircuts after their Cut-the-Chi philanthropy event. The brothers auctioned off their hair for bids, and the bidder was able to have that brother's hair cut any way they desired. Iota Eta raised $1,400 for the USO.



Aaron Bethencourt (2013) is crowned Homecoming King during Florida International's Homecoming game. Iota Omicron Chapter was also named FIU Homecoming Champion.

was a cookout and concert. The brothers raised nearly $12,000 for the USO.

Iota Upsilon/Texas State

We partnered with Chi Beta Delta for homecoming and participated in the Delta Gamma Anchor Splash. We also collected canned goods and money for the Hays County Food Bank.

RIT Colony (now Iota Psi Chapter)

When the members of our colony learned that parents of two of our members had been diagnosed with cancer, the brothers took their inspiration from Psi/Wisconsin and put together a "Shave for Cancer" event where brothers pledged to shave their heads for a monetary donation. At the event, 13 members shaved their heads and more than $2,500 was for the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center.

SUNY Cortland Colony (now Iota Omega Chapter)

We participated in the Crop Walk—Stop World Hunger event and, not only had the largest turn out of any other fraternity, but made the largest donation of any fraternal organization for the second year in a row, donating $485. We also achieved the highest overall GPA among fraternities for the fall semester, which we have achieved each semester since being on campus. ■



The Omicron Charter Members, 100 years ago.

Omicron/Richmond

Omicron will mark 100 years since their installation at the University of Richmond on May 29, 2015. Omicron alumni are making plans to celebrate their centennial during Homecoming this fall.

Zeta Gamma/Alberta

February 20, 2015 marked the 50th Anniversary of Theta Chi as an International Fraternity. Our very first chapter outside of the United States was installed in our neighbor to the north. On February 20, 1965, Zeta Gamma Chapter was installed at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta in the Dominion of Canada.

In January 1963, Theta Chi's then-Executive Director George Chapman received messages from the University of Alberta requesting that Theta Chi consider a potential opportunity to expand. After a bold presentation to the Alberta IFC by National Vice President Mark McColm, Theta Chi was selected to expand on campus and later that year, Executive Assistant J.C. Byrd was dispatched to begin recruiting members.

Coincidentally, Don Wismer, an initiate from Beta Chapter at MIT, transferred to the University of Alberta. Upon learning that Theta Chi was attempting to form a colony, he enthusiastically contacted and assisted J.C. Byrd with the recruitment of interested Alberta students. When Byrd left campus, a group of 22 men had joined the colony. After two years of continued growth and influence from Brother Wismer, the names of 39 men appeared on Zeta Gamma's Charter—and they pledged an additional 16 men that spring.

In recognition of Zeta Gamma's place in Theta Chi Fraternity's history, the Grand Chapter is making plans to hold their next meeting in the Province of Alberta in June 2015.



Zeta Gamma receives Charter on February 20, 1965 (l-r): Executive Director George Chapman, National President Howard Alter, Beta/MIT transfer brother Donald Wismer, and National Vice President Mark McColm. McColm had traveled to Alberta at the request of George Chapman in February 1963 to meet with Alberta administrative officials and the IFC.

We are honored to call these men our brothers. The condolences of Theta Chi's extended worldwide family are offered to the family and friends of these deceased brothers. This listing includes all deaths reported to the International Headquarters between June 13, 2014 and February 28, 2015. To report news of a brother who has passed on to the Chapter Eternal, e-mail ihq@thetachi.org. We would also like to offer our apologies and say, "Welcome Back!" to Alan R. Phillips, Gamma Pi/Buffalo 1972, who was incorrectly listed as a member of the Chapter Eternal in the Fall 2014 issue.

Farewell to Mr. Rutgers

Floyd H. Bragg, Beta Delta/Rutgers 1936

October 25, 1915–August 22, 2014



Floyd Bragg, known to many as "Mr. Rutgers," lived his life as a business leader, educator, community leader, fundraiser, and philanthropist.

At Rutgers he joined Beta Delta Chapter, the Cap and Skull Honor Society, student council, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper. He graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration in 1936 and joined The Prudential Insurance Company of America as a claims trainee, serving until he was drafted in 1941. Before the war, he met his wife, Helen, and they were married 71 years prior to her passing in 2013.

During World War II, he achieved the rank of Major in the Army Air Forces and was honorably discharged in March 1945. He returned to The Prudential, working for 44 years in various capacities such as Vice President (1965); President of Canadian Operations (1967) and North Central Operations (1972); Sr. Vice President (1979); and retired as Sr. Vice President for Public Affairs (1980). He also served as Chairman of the Board of the Prudential Growth Fund; President of The Prudential Fund Management in Canada; and Chairman of the Board of The Prudential Foundation.

Bragg lived our maxim at Rutgers where he served as President of the RU Alumni Association, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Chairman of the Board of Overseers (the Rutgers Foundation). He chaired the first major university-wide capital campaign for Rutgers, raising $165 million. He funded the Helen and Floyd Bragg Endowed Scholarship to support Rutgers athletes. He received virtually every award from Rutgers, including the first Walter H. Seward Rutgers for Life Award and was named as a Loyal Son of Rutgers.

Floyd served the N.J. community as a member of the NJ Economic Development Authority, the NJ Board of Higher Education, and the Bernards Township Board of Education. He also raised funds to build the St. James Roman Catholic Church in Basking Ridge and to rebuild the famous Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. He consulted on the Civil Service System and personnel policies for Governor Meyner and the organization and administration of NJIT for Governor Kean.

In a Fall 1993 *Rattle* interview, Bragg said, "I believe that fraternity living helps one learn about oneself and how to relate to others. The ability to work cooperatively with others is vital to success in the business world."

BETA
MIT
Fred W. Aldrich, Jr., 1948
Christopher Ishii, 1968

GAMMA
University of Maine
William J. Dinsmore, III, 1967
Paul R. Lynch, 1953

DELTA
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
George P. Carpenter, 1948
J. C. Eosefow, 1979
Jacob H. Lindemuth, Jr., 1937
Henry B. Merritt, 1951
John R. Meyer, 1945
Lawrence A. Paine, 1954
C. S. Roberts, 1948
William P. Westlake, 1951
James F. Wueste, 1934

ZETA
University of New Hampshire
Theofelos A. Aliapoulios, 1950
Ira H. Freedman, 1957

IOTA
Colgate University
Dean M. Hatheway, 1942

MU
University of California-Berkeley
John F. Adam, Jr., 1950
W. R. Carrothers, 1950

XI
University of Virginia
Robert D. Forrest, 1988

RHO
University of Illinois
Ryan J. Clark, 2012
Vicente Mundo, 2016
Albert H. Wohlers, 1939

SIGMA
Oregon State University
Donald W. Bailey, 1938
Clyde H. Boehm, 1940
Collier Buffington, Jr., 1944
David B. Day, 1961
William F. Forrest, 1932
Cecil R. Fuller, 1924
Jack F. Groce, 1943
Marion G. Hoskins, 1938
Jason F. Jensen, 1993
Kaye H. Kelley, 1949
James E. Kimble, 1950
David S. Lofts, 1950
Allan E. MacHell, 1970
Courtney C. McCarthy, 1991
James S. McClelland, 1956
Norbert A. Miksche, 1945
William M. Newman, 1972
David E. Niskanen, 1968
John C. Rawlings, 1949
Jerry Shields, 1955
Beverly M. Smith, 1932
Kermit H. Smith, 1951
Lawrence L. Smith, 1957
Donald Snyder, 1938
John G. Struve, 1962
Chester O. Tate, Jr., 1951
Marshall R. Turner, 1946
Arlen R. White, 1957
William E. Young, 1950

PHI
North Dakota State University
Charles C. Finnegan, Jr., 1951
Helmuth O. Froeschle, 1941
Randall K. Morris, 1971
Roger H. Steiner, 1970

CHI
Auburn University
Edward S. Bolen, 1960
Michael W. Malone, 1993

PSI
University of Wisconsin
Thomas L. Osborne, 1959

OMEGA
Pennsylvania State University
Thomas B. Kinney, 1970
James T. Nelligan, 1961

ALPHA BETA
University of Pittsburgh
Paul T. Harnack, 1951
Edgar F. Jones, 1942

ALPHA GAMMA
University of Michigan
John W. Ackenhusen, 1945

ALPHA DELTA
Purdue University
Larry L. Cain, 1957
James G. Clark, 1950
Daniel W. Mellinger, II, 1976

ALPHA ZETA
University of Rochester
Theodore R. Whitney, 1942

ALPHA ETA
University of North Carolina
W. B. Duke, 1951

ALPHA IOTA
Indiana University
Jeffery M. Deeter, 1993
William K. Schellenberg, 1953

ALPHA KAPPA
West Virginia University
Bernard B. McNeely, 1955

ALPHA LAMBDA
Ohio State University
Lowell D. Ferguson, 1958
James E. Sondles, 1951

ALPHA MU
Iowa State University
Gene C. Porter, 1957

ALPHA NU
Georgia Institute of Technology
Fredrick A. Ethridge, 1956
Charles F. Jerabek, 1967
Robert E. Wiley, 1962

ALPHA OMICRON
Washington State University
Karl J. Clark, 1964

ALPHA PI
University of Minnesota
Dennis M. Corcoran, 1965
Michael L. Fedie, 1968
Vern D. Matheny, 1960
Andrew E. Olson, 1958
James A. Russeth, 1959
Roger E. Spease, 1956

ALPHA RHO
University of Washington
Allan J. Callahan, 1958
William A. Smith, 1934

ALPHA SIGMA
University of Oregon
John F. Williamson, 1974

ALPHA TAU
Ohio University
Daniel I. Lechner, 1953
Larry L. LevKoy, 1971

ALPHA PHI
University of Alabama
Parker A. Jordan, 2015
Jimmy M. Wall, 1951

ALPHA PSI
University of Maryland
Gordon R. Irwin, 1949

ALPHA OMEGA
Lafayette College
David W. Lewis, 1952

BETA ALPHA
UCLA
Norman A. Cox, 1951
Richard A. Donnelly, 1953
Ralph E. Gain, 1933
Dennis J. Mikolich, M.D., 1974
Allen J. Repashy, 1955
Robert M. Shirilla, 1971
Jonathan C. Tengco, 2008
William C. Walters, 1944

BETA GAMMA
University of North Dakota
Marlow W. Jasper, 1950

BETA DELTA
Rutgers University
Floyd H. Bragg, 1936
Fred L. Ditmars, 1954
Charles S. Gould, 1945
William A. King, 1954
Thomas M. Valega, 1959

BETA ZETA
Michigan State University
Marion D. Bohnstedt, 1958
James M. Livingston, 1984

BETA KAPPA
Hamline University
Joseph W. Hutton, Jr., 1950
Lester I. Wickstrom, 1942

BETA LAMBDA
University of Akron
William M. Foltz, 1949

BETA OMICRON
University of Cincinnati
Everett S. Tichenor, 1965

BETA PI
Monmouth College
Andrew J. Urie, 1959

BETA RHO
Illinois Wesleyan University
E R. Morrow, 1941

BETA SIGMA
Lehigh University
Lynn W. McQuade, 1949
Leonard W. Stafford, 1952

BETA TAU
University of Southern California
Larry C. Peterson, 1965

BETA PHI
University of Nevada
Charles W. Fulkerson, 1958

BETA CHI
Allegheny College
Daniel T. Kuehl, 1971

GAMMA DELTA
Florida Southern College
Charles G. Senger, Jr., 1953

GAMMA ZETA
Oklahoma State University
Bob B. Winborn, 1952

GAMMA THETA
San Diego State University
Edward J. Philbin, 1957
Brian M. Pinder, 1981

GAMMA IOTA
University of Connecticut
Randal B. Hathway, 1949
Daniel J. Lizdas, 1961

GAMMA KAPPA
Miami University
John D. Hart, 1955

GAMMA MU
Bowling Green State University
John P. Twitchell, 1964

GAMMA NU
New Mexico State University
Jim G. Brown, 1953
Therman C. Perkins, 1942
James R. Sloan, 1953
Merlon T. Tomson, 1976

GAMMA RHO
Florida State University
Mark W. Sturge, 1988

GAMMA UPSILON
Bradley University
Erick J. Anderson, 1973
Lawrence E. Himmel, 1968
Paul Kuyoth, 1951
James B. Siegle, 1958

GAMMA PHI
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Keith L. Berryman, 1954
Joe S. Peterson, 1971
Harold K. Slagg, 1950
Kenneth W. Willoughby, 1958

GAMMA OMEGA
Vanderbilt University
Robert A. Wheeler, 1960

DELTA ALPHA
Linfield College
Philip P. Comfort, 1954
Herman L. Crisp, 1951
Laverne E. Davis, 1958
Mark W. Garvey, 1989
Robert T. Hufford, 1959
Charles R. Johnson, 1972
Thomas G. Knight, 1956
Douglas F. Sage, 1962
Keith A. Shriver, 1970
Robert F. Utter, 1952
Wayne H. Voth, 1968
Ronald A. Workman, 1957

DELTA THETA
University of Toledo
William F. Collins, 1963
Eric S. Schneider, 2015

Past Field Staff



Jimmy M. Wall, Alpha Phi/Alabama 1951

August 20, 1926–November 20, 2014

Jimmy Wall graduated from W.S. Neal High School in 1943 and enlisted in the Navy, proudly serving his country during World War II. He entered The University of Alabama in 1947 on the GI Bill and pledged Alpha Phi Chapter. After graduating with a double major in Chemistry and Biology, he served as a Field Secretary for Theta Chi, traveling to almost every state in the nation opening new chapters.

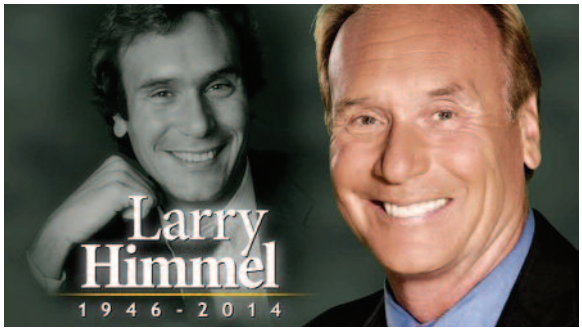
Returning to Tuscaloosa, he began a career with the VA Hospital, serving as Chief of Building Management. After his retirement in 1998, Jimmy joined the department store Parisian as a sales consultant for men's suits, a job he thoroughly enjoyed for 22 years.

Jimmy Wall was truly a Theta Chi for Life and remained engaged with the affairs of Alpha Phi Chapter. Alpha Phi alumnus Wes Wicker noted, "This past Homecoming it struck me that alumni from every decade—from the '60s through the 2010s—knew Jimmy and talked about Jimmy's positive influence on them."

Reporter/Broadcaster

Lawrence E. Himmel, Gamma Upsilon/Bradley 1968

June 13, 1946–November 5, 2014



Larry Himmel, a beloved reporter and broadcaster for CBS News 8's KFMB-TV station in San Diego, CA, died following a battle with cancer at the age of 68.

A Chicago native, Himmel, attended Bradley University and joined Gamma Upsilon Chapter. He stayed at Bradley to obtain his master's degree in speech communications and then pursued a career in broadcasting, deejaying at radio stations in Illinois and Indiana.

After a visit to San Diego, Himmel fell in love with the city and decided to stay. In 1977, he worked as emcee at The Comedy Store in La Jolla, where he was later noticed by a KFMB-TV executive producer. He was hired by the station in 1979, beginning a 35-year career.

He later produced "Larry Himmel/San Diego at Large," a series of humorous and human interest stories from the local community. He starred in the comedy sketch, "Biff and Skippy" and continued with other news stories and pitched-in where needed at the station, doing the weather and sports. He covered the Padres and the Chargers and became an adored local celebrity in the San Diego community.

Himmel is well-known to many for reporting on the wildfires near San Diego in 2007. He received an Emmy Award for his live report outside his own home in October 2007 as it went up in flames on a Rancho Bernardo ridge during the Witch Creek fire. *The Rattle* featured his story in the Spring 2008 issue.

CBS News 8 dedicated and renamed their newsroom in Larry Himmel's honor. The plaque bears his quote, "My purpose on the news, on a daily basis, is to make people feel better about this place they call home."

He is survived by his wife and son.



Brother Versage made this cross for a friend from the remains of an I-beam from the World Trade Center.

9/11 Hero

Patrick A. Versage, Epsilon Sigma/Wagner 1990

May 19, 1968–October 3, 2014



Patrick A. Versage (known by his friends as Patso), of Toms River, N.J., passed away on Friday, October 3, 2014. He was 46. Patrick attended Wagner College and received degrees in Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Patrick was a retired Port Authority Police Officer from the Emergency Services Unit. In 1998, he made headlines and the cover of the *New York Post* when he rescued two men from jumping from the Bayonne Bridge mere hours apart on June 12.

Patrick was an active firefighter with Station 29 in Toms River and was a first responder during 9/11. He then worked as part of the NY/NJ Port Authority Police ESU team at Ground Zero for a year and a half, assisting with the recovery efforts.

Patrick was also a member of the PBA, Seaside Heights and Silverton Fire Companies and also coached Lacrosse in Toms River, NJ for LAX Club. Patrick loved spending time with his boys outdoors.

Surviving are his wife and two sons; his mother and her husband; his brother; his sister and her husband and a niece.

DELTA IOTA
Northwestern University
Thomas A. Groceman, 1973

DELTA OMICRON
Gettysburg College
George D. Kegerreis, 1959

DELTA PI
Indiana State University
Floyd E. Dominick, 1968

DELTA SIGMA
Clarkson University
Paul J. Reilly, 1973
William T. Tiger, 1971

DELTA UPSILON
Arizona State University
Col. James W. Beasley, Ret. 1958

DELTA PHI
University of North Texas
Herbert L. Scott, 1954

DELTA CHI
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Carl S. King, 1955
Scott F. Piercy, 1990

EPSILON ETA
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Richard T. McQuown, 1996
James W. Shugart, Jr., 1974

EPSILON OMICRON
Waynesburg University
Roger A. Bush, 1968

EPSILON PI
Northern Illinois University
William S. Aspengren, 1964
Richard L. Betz, 1962
Raymond L. Bujak, 1962
Edward M. Bulow, 1980
David R. Garrison, 1967
David K. Hamilton, 1969
Robert L. Immekus, 1967
Frank H. Mervis, 1979
Wayne P. Wade, 1968
Brian D. Winer, 1972

EPSILON SIGMA
Wagner College
Patrick A. Versage, 1990

EPSILON UPSILON
Central Michigan University
Joel B. Liggett, 1979

EPSILON PHI
University of Central Missouri
James D. Fisher, 1976
Keith C. Nelson, 1974
Scott E. Sharkey, 1987

ZETA BETA
Adrian College
Donald L. Fackler, 1972

ZETA PI
Old Dominion University
Daniel E. Milligan, 1989

ZETA RHO
University of Kentucky
Christopher Clarkson, 1972
James H. Despain, 1971

ZETA SIGMA
Univ. of Wisconsin-River Falls
David E. Krech, 1969

ETA ALPHA
Clemson University
James T. Lanier, 1977

ETA GAMMA
Morehead State University
James R. Miller, Jr., 1968

ETA DELTA
Babson College
Glentworth B. Ream, 1975

ETA OMICRON
Northwestern State University
Mark W. Jensen, 1983

ETA PI
East Stroudsburg University
Paul B. McGarvey, 1977
Willard R. Stem, 1976

ETA PHI
Oakland University
James E. Green, 1982

THETA RHO
McNeese State University
Harold L. Wallis, Jr., 1998

IOTA ALPHA
University of North Carolina-Wilmington
Samir A. Bassiouni, 2002

IOTA PI
Louisiana State University
Toby M. Leblanc, Jr., 2019



Save the Date!

160th Anniversary Convention

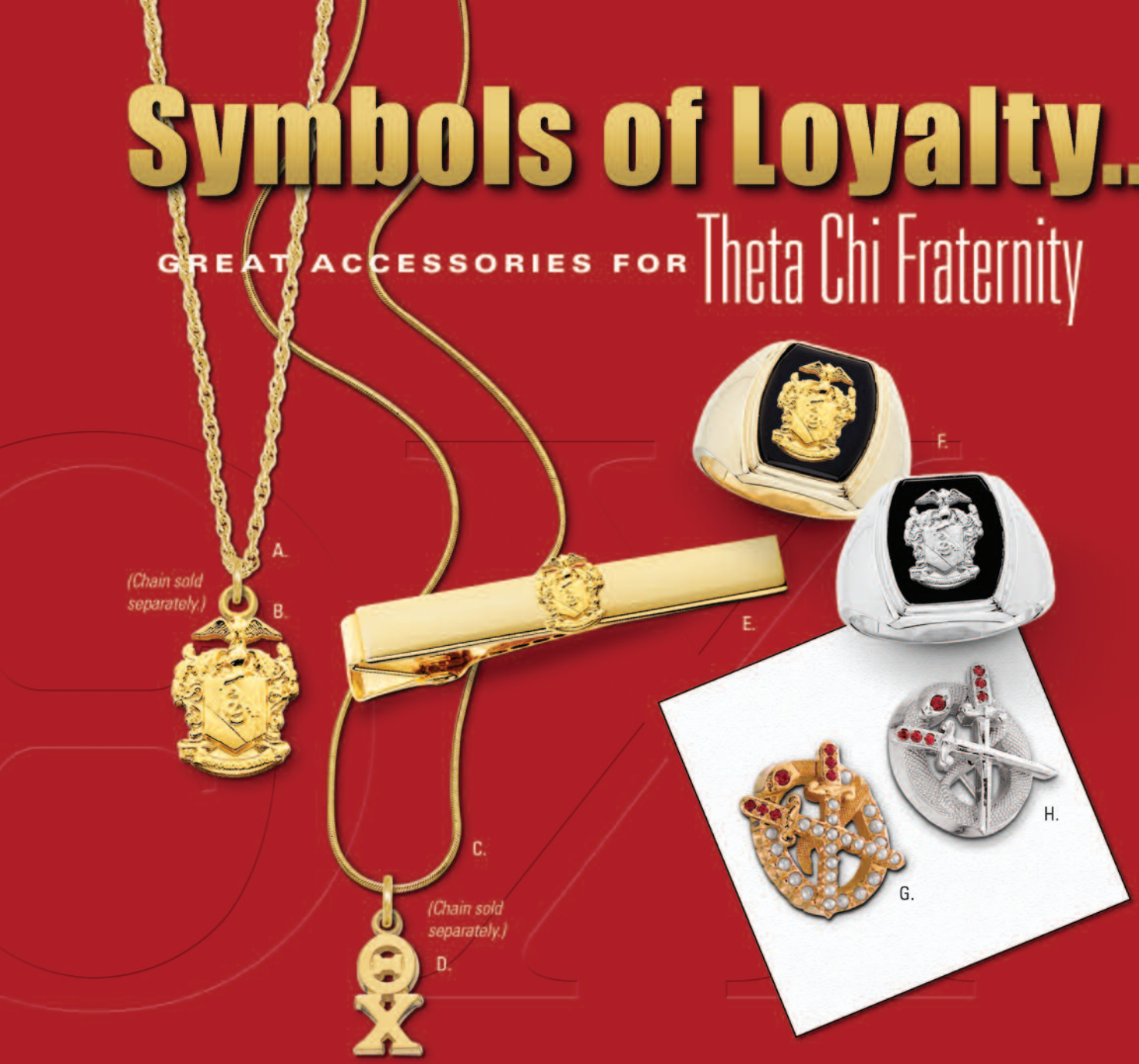
July 22–25, 2016

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www.thetachi.org/convention

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