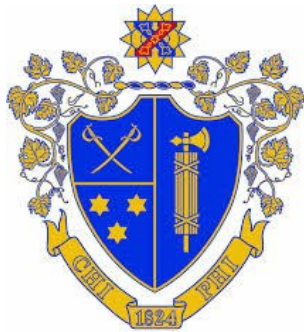


THE THETA RECORD



Building Towards a Better Future

As the Fall 2017 Semester comes to an end, I am thrilled with the achievements Theta Chapter has accomplished. I know we would not be in the position we are without the leaders that have come before us. While at Congress, Theta received several awards including Outstanding Philanthropy Award, Outstanding Alumni Event, and the Thomas A. Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence. In addition, the Theta chapter had a very good showing at the Greek Award Ceremony hosted by RPI. We either won or were nominated for awards in over 50% of the categories. Competition for these awards was steep with 29 IFC recognized fraternities vying for these awards. The chapter received awards for Excellence in Housing, Excellence in Community Engagement, and Excellence in Electronic and Other Media. However, despite these achievements there is always room for improvement and I believe we can continue with the momentum we have built over the past few years.

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During the spring semester we increased our GPA from 3.07 during the fall to 3.15 overall GPA. This placed us in the top third of fraternities and above the All-Fraternity Average (3.08) and All-Greek Average (3.12). However, we fell short of the All-Men's Average (3.16). I believe we will continue this increasing trend as Br. Matthew D'Arcangelo has done an excellent job this semester with organizing weekly study rooms in the Union where brothers can attend to study, tutor others, or be tutored in subjects they are struggling in.

I am thrilled with the efforts Br. Ethan Carmody has done these past two semesters by recruiting 17 new members over the academic year. On December 2, we will be welcoming 11 new brothers into the Chapter.

The Chapter was Accredited with Nationals for the Spring 2017 semester. The house received 4 stars from the school for the 2016-2017 academic year. Br. Sam Atkinson has been instrumental in organizing both Accreditation and 5 Star for the house. I know his efforts will ensure the house will achieve its goal of being Accredited with Distinction and receiving a 5 star rank.

The Chapter has continued to improve over the past few years and I am certain that path will continue. We will strive to continue to raise our GPA through a stricter academic policy. The active chapter will continue to aim for excellence in recruitment. Theta will continue to take an aggressive approach towards philanthropy and is determined to continue the level of success set this semester. With the continued efforts of all brothers we will become the exemplary chapter we are meant to be.



Br. Rosengrant

Fraternally,

Br. Nathan Rosengrant '18

Alpha

THE THETA RECORD

From the Beta's Desk

While I only assumed the position of Beta at the beginning of this semester with the resignation of Br. Pisansky due to a co-op position, the fraternity has been running smoothly since my start. Committees have been heavily utilized this semester, showing progress on Br. Pisansky's committee organization plan.

Our recent receipt of the Thomas Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence has put the brotherhood in a great position, and I believe it has helped motivate brothers in external-facing activities including philanthropy events and recruitment.

This semester, the fraternity is again hosting a faculty dinner for professors and administrators at Rensselaer. We invited over 30 faculty members and are hoping for high attendance at the dinner in the coming days. The bi-annual dinner has proven to be a great way for brothers to show off the chapter house and get to know their professors. RPI administrators have praised the event in the past and we are looking forward to another successful evening with the faculty.

With the accreditation deadline approaching in the coming weeks, I am working with the public relations chairman to streamline the process for our officers and submit a quality report. This semester, we have added a new position – the Total Membership Education Chairman. The position was added in response to some new requirements for accreditation, including organizing at least one educational presentation for the brotherhood per semester.

At the end of the semester approaches, I look forward to working with the Beta-elect, Br. Jake Weingard, to begin the transition process and keep the fraternity running smoothly internally. I am proud of the progress the fraternity has made over the last few semesters and I am excited to see the house continue to excel.

Fraternally,

Br. Samuel Atkinson '18

Beta



Br. Atkinson

Footnotes by the Gamma

During my second semester as Gamma, I have been putting in hours of work in order to better the house as much as I can as the Gamma. By utilizing the resources of the two past Gammas, both Br. Javed and Br. Loveland, I have been able to maintain the Chi Phi Wiki and better both in- and out-of house relationship. This semester we have been bettering out-of-house relationships by making and giving out creative sorority gifts to all the sororities on campus. The gifts have been a hit and I truly believe that our relationships with the sororities are improving. I look forward to continue to better the house as Gamma for the rest of my term.

Br. Salgado has been elected to serve as the next Gamma and I plan on teaching him all the traditions required for him to become the best Gamma yet. Having a strong Gamma is essential for this house, and I feel that we are in good hands with the new elect and believe that we will continue thriving with Br. Salgado on board.

Fraternally,

Br. Jake Legatt '19

Gamma



Br. Legatt

THE THETA RECORD

Fraternal Finances

This semester the finances have been mostly as expected. I have continued to handle the delta position in the same manner that it has been handled in the past few years by Br Marshall and Br. Atkinson. I have been sending out a weekly budget update with a graph of all the officer spending, for maximum transparency on the fraternity's money.

One setback we experienced this semester is that the City of Troy decided that they will not pick up our trash anymore. We have been renting a trailer, and hauling the trash ourselves while we look for a more permanent solution. We are currently uncertain of the ongoing cost of this, but it is definitely a small setback.

As I am finishing up my term as delta, one of the last things I plan to work on is utilizing the alumni donations account more, and setting up a means for alumni to easily donate. I want to make sure that there are official rules for what the account will be used for, so that the alumni can be assured that their donations will be going towards things that truly benefit the chapter. I will be working on this as I leave office, and will work with the next delta to make sure the plans are seen through.

The house's finances are sound now, but looking forward an impending problem for the house is the summer arch program. This program will force the junior class to take classes during the summer after their sophomore year, and go away from school for a semester of their junior year. This will have a large impact on the money the house gets from dues, and from housing. I plan to assist the next delta in setting up measures to prevent summer arch from hurting our finances.

As I begin the Delta transition process with Br. Vivolo, I am excited to see the continued growth of the fraternity. Even though we are nearing a time of uncertainty with the most recent pledge class being the first to have mandatory participation in the summer arch, I am confident that we will be able to find solutions to the problems of the future, and continue as a strong fraternity. Finally thank you to Br. Quon and Br. Lafferriere for your donations to the house this semester.

Fraternally,

Br. Benjamin Crevier '19

Delta



Br. Crevier

Solving Problems Before They Arise

The house has been doing a great job in keeping a safe and healthy environment this semester. This is evident from the semesterly Fire and Life Safety Report, on which we performed very well. I would like to thank all of the active brothers for their cooperation and hard work related to this, it truly made the inspection a success. It is impossible to be perfect, so in the weeks to come I will be working closely with the Epsilon, and our respective committees to resolve the issues that were pointed out. On November 8th, the brothers and new members received a By-stander Intervention training. This training is a newly implemented program by RPI, which will eventually be mandatory for all Greek life, and then all students. By running this training for the house, we are ensuring that our house has the required percentage of members that are alcohol-risk-management trained in order to host social events. Lastly, I will be working with the new Eta-elect to make for a smooth transition process. I am confident in our future officers, and am optimistic about the state of risk management in the house. If we keep up the attitude we currently have, we will never have a serious problem that we cannot handle.

Fraternally,

Br. Aidan Curtin '18

Eta



Br. Curtin

THE THETA RECORD

Patching Up the Chi

This year we have continued to repair old issues around the house as well as fielding many new challenges. The shed has nearly been completed, only needing paint and the installation of doors and windows. At the start of this fall, a plumber was able to send a camera down the sewer access finding the root of our problems. The fence gate on the west side of the main house which was damaged has been repaired. The cottonwood tree that was cut down has been largely split into firewood and stacked also allowing us to get the ice racer and trailer off of the property. The sheet metal to repair the dumpsters has arrived so in the remaining weeks of the semester I intend to not only resurface the sheet metal but also to install the last part of the ceiling on the first floor of the Annex.

This semester's biggest problem now and going forward is resolving the trash conundrum. At the beginning of this fall semester we began having issues with the City of Troy collecting our trash. As a result we have spent large amounts of money on dumpsters and taking trips to the dump ourselves. We have been searching for a third party company that does curbside bag pickup in Troy.

Another large issue that was explicitly uncovered this semester came from the plumber visit. The main cause of issues in our sewage line is grease buildup, not damaged pipes. As a matter of fact, the pipes do not look damaged, but have large deposits of grease along the walls in several places. In the interest of preventing further buildup I have been researching grease trap options which could be installed under the cleaning sinks in the kitchen. Fortunately, the Epsilon committee has been revamped to now have responsibilities assigned to each member which takes less pertinent tasks like making sure the assigned brothers finish a shift off of the Epsilon, allowing more time for resolving issues like those mentioned above and organizing the further repairs and renovations of the house. By also sharing the responsibility of making sure things get done, there have been fewer instances of missed shifts across the board.

I look forward to aiding my relief, Br. John Farrell, in his endeavors as the Epsilon Elect and in continuing to reform the committee. As I transition out of my position, I hope to better fit the committee's duties to the needs of the Epsilon and to improve the documentation on transitioning between Epsilons.

Fraternally,
Br. Benjamin Meaden '19
Epsilon



Br. Meaden



A lovely sorority gift made by Br. Legatt and his committee

THE THETA RECORD

Let's Get Social

This semester, the house has been active in its involvement on campus, and we are actively strengthening our relationship with the Rensselaer community. We have implemented a more formal and structured series of Chi Phi Fridays, and I have been working closely with the Greek Dean to coordinate these events in a safe and responsible manner. The events have been a huge success in improving on-campus relationships as well as prepping for a strong upcoming Spring Rush. In an effort to bolster our connections with Rensselaer's Greek Life, the house hosted a barbeque with the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. The brothers visited the sorority's house to help them prepare for their formal Fall recruitment, which was followed by an afternoon barbeque on the lawn of Chi Phi. Additionally, we hosted an alumni barbeque for Alumni Weekend, as well as one for parent's weekend. It is our hope that we are able to continue these efforts and strengthen bonds with the Rensselaer community. We are always striving to improve in every way we can, and I look forward to seeing what the next social chair, Br. Majid Javed can bring to the table.

Fraternally,

Br. Michael Peterson '18

Social Chairman



Br. Peterson

Giving Back

This semester the Theta Chapter participated in a wide variety of philanthropic activities with the goal of raising at least \$500 this semester for philanthropic causes and maintaining at least 8 average hours per active brother. We continued with our routine projects such as participating in the New York State Adopt-a-Highway program where we do routine clean ups along Route 7. The chapter also capitalized on our relationship with the local Troy Boys & Girl Club in which we hosted a Halloween Party for over 75 local students ages 8 - 12. Over a quarter of all brothers were involved in the event, which lasted four hours and involved pumpkin carving with food catered by Dinosaur Barbecue. Every week, brothers were also given shifts to tutor children at the Boys & Girls Club. These opportunities have allowed Chi Phi to solidify its relationship with the local community and have a lasting impact on the lives of local children.

The Chapter also accomplished its goal of expanding and retaining its presence within the Greek community as a prominent leader in philanthropy on campus and throughout the fraternity. Thanks to the efforts of former Philanthropy Chairperson Matthew Feid '19 in organizing St. Baldrick's last semester, Chi Phi was awarded the Outstanding Philanthropic Service Award at the 152nd Chi Phi Congress, the highest honor given to a chapter for philanthropy. Continuing on this fervor, the Chapter embarked on a campaign for the World Wildlife Foundation called 'Save the Bees' in an effort to raise at least \$500 for wildlife research. Through involvement in Greek Greeks, numerous brothers also assisted the Urban Beekeeping Club in building beehives for local preservation and research efforts.

Lastly, the Chapter participated in numerous other local events. We had 12 brothers during the first two days of work week help freshmen move into their dorms.

The Chapter also participated in Pi Beta Phi's Wingfest, which raised funds for First Book, a local literacy initiative. At the end of the semester, the Chapter also intends to Adopt A Family through the Salvation Army to purchase toys and food for local families.

Fraternally,

Br. Peter Gramenides '20

Philanthropy Chairman



Br. Gramenides

THE THETA RECORD

Meet the Beta Tritons

This semester we initiated 11 new members at Theta Chapter. Their names are listed below along with their hometowns:

Ryan Cappadona	Norwalk, CT
Daniel Celic	New Hyde Park, NY
Yash Joshi	San Jose, CA
Anton Kapitman	Brooklyn, NY
Michael Miller	Clarence, NY
John Owens	Plymouth, MA
Shin Sasakura	Mount Kisco, NY
Jacob Szottfried	Marblehead, MA
Justin Underwood	Los Angeles, CA
Matthew Vogus	Springfield, VA
Zachary Ward	Belle Mead, NJ

A few more potential new members had initially signed their bids, but changed their minds and plan to pledge in the spring. We have been in contact with them since and we should have a strong core to the spring pledge class. As far as the newly initiated brothers go, we couldn't be happier with their progress throughout the new member education process. The house should be proud to have gained such a strong and well-rounded group of young men.

Fraternally,
 Br. Ethan Hill '18
 Theta



Br. Hill

Chapter of the Year

This semester our chapter was proud to be honored with the Thomas Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence. This award recognizes chapters which "exemplify the characteristics that define the standards by which other Chapters should be evaluated," according to the Chi Phi national office. We are incredibly proud of our progress over the past several semesters and are working to continue our progress as a successful fraternity.

Interestingly, our chapter was again accredited without distinction this past semester, even after being labeled Chapter of the Year by the national office. This semester, we are working towards accreditation with distinction and are striving to further meet the requirements of the national organization.

This semester we also received a 4-star ranking from Rensselaer. While the 5-star rubric was misleading at times in terms of actual evaluation scoring, we are still working towards achieving a 5-star ranking in the coming semester.

I am looking forward to working with our next Public Relations chairman next semester as we strive to perfect our accreditation and 5-star reports. I know that we can be recognized as the successful fraternity we are with a better report, and I am excited to show off the chapter's success in the coming semesters.

Fraternally,
 Samuel Atkinson '18
 Public Relations Chairman



Br. Atkinson

THE THETA RECORD

Rush Report

This fall rush was the most successful in New Theta history due to the overwhelming participation and support from the Brotherhood. There were some new events added to the rush calendar this semester and some traditional events that were reinvented. New events included a Valley-cats baseball game and going downtown for ice cream at The Dutch Udder. Casino Night became Blackjack & BBQ with the addition of a full roast pig. Unfortunately, the river tubing event that was started last fall and the baseball game event were both canceled due to inclement weather. Lobster Fest and Wingstock went phenomenally this year and were by far our most successful events for bringing rushees to the house.

All throughout rush, Brothers were motivated to spend time with rushees outside of events in order to strengthen personal connections. The cabin trip was back in Vermont this year and will hopefully remain so in the future. The cabin itself was unique and roomy, while the surrounding area offered much to do for day trips. Rush ended with 30 bids being extended, 19 of which were signed for this semester. An additional bid was signed and is being held for the spring semester.

I am extremely proud of these gentlemen whom I call my Brothers. We could not have organized and executed this rush so well without everyone's best efforts being put forth. I would like to specially recognize Br. Samuel Atkinson '18, Br. Jacob Legatt '19, Br. David Nice '20, and Br. Jacob Weingard '20 for going above and beyond the call of duty. I will work with the next lota to ensure that the level of commitment displayed by the fraternity during the last two rushes is normalized for years to come. With the effects of Summer Arch looming in the future, we must continue to recruit young men of Chi Phi quality in order to achieve the victory of continual existence.

Fraternally,

Br. Ethan Carmody '18
lota



Br. Carmody

Improving Academic Performance

This semester, my goal as scholarship chair has been to provide brothers with opportunities to improve their study habits, encourage academic progress and success, and create a more structured scholarship plan. This semester, we have implemented a study plan that increases the incentive to work and study together. One example of this is by both brothers being rewarded an appropriate amount points for setting up tutoring appointments. These occur on their own time, and as a result can be tailored to each of the brothers. Designated study times are also still provided for work, which take place in the student union or in the dining room. This allows brothers to have a more reliable place to get away from distractions and succeed in their tasks. In addition to providing academic resources, there is still a large emphasis on rewarding academic improvement and excellence. By implementing these rewards, and providing tools to encourage academic success, I hope to create a long standing tradition of remaining one of the most academically prominent houses on campus.

Fraternally,

Br. Matthew D'Arcangelo '18
Academic Chairman



Br. D'Arcangelo

THE THETA RECORD

Looking Back on History

The Chapter's rituals have been running smoothly over the course of my term as Zeta, and I expect that they will continue to do so in the future. For the past two semesters I have been using a "Band-Aid" solution to the cluttered points system, tracking individual semesters to better record points at the present. Not only do I have the utmost faith in Zeta-elect Br. Bartles, but I also plan on working closely with him as he strives to merge all of the data from my recordings with all of the digitally recorded points from past semesters into a newer, more effective system.

Alumni Association President Br. Mazza has brought to my attention the possibility of the addition of a report by said President. I believe this idea is an excellent addition to the newsletter, and hope that it carries on in future semesters whenever pertinent Alumni Association news arises.

As the end of the semester nears, I would like to work with Beta-elect Br. Weingard to help future Zetas to better take advantage of their committee. Overall, I am pleased with the progress the Chapter has made over these last two semesters, and am proud to document its accomplishments in this newsletter.



Br. Perkins

Fraternally,

Br. William Perkins '19
Zeta

From the Alumni Association

Brothers,

I am incredibly proud to announce that the Active Chapter has won the Thomas A. Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence. This award speaks volumes to the work that the Actives have done to become a cornerstone of the Greek Community. In a time of transition on the RPI Campus, Theta has proven that they are Men of character and conviction. I recently attended an Alumni Inter-Greek Council Meeting and was told that there are 9 Fraternities on campus that are currently suspended or under investigation in the Judicial Process. Our Active Brothers have proven that the Chapter is in great hands. I would like to call to attention the newly developed SummerARCH program. This program is designed to include an internship or co-op as a component of the graduation requirements of the students. While this represents a positive step in the academic development for the Students, it has the potential to negatively impact the Greek System. Currently, there are restrictions in place that will prevent Greeks from living in their Chapter houses during the summer semester that they will be on campus prior to going on co-op. The Greek Alumni at large are monitoring this situation closely and will do everything in their power to ensure the best interests of the Greek System are well served.

Additionally, the Theta Chapter will celebrate the 140th Anniversary of its Charter in the Fall of 2018. The Theta Alumni Association intends to kick-off a capital campaign at this event to raise money for some much needed improvements to our 105 year old Chapter House. More information will be forthcoming.

If you wish to be added to the TAA Mailing list, please contact the Alumni Relations Chair at relationstheetaofchphi@gmail.com

Fraternally,

Br. John Mazza '10
Theta Alumni Association President

THE THETA RECORD

Theta Excellence Fund

With the Theta Excellence Fund active our first goal is to provide an annual scholarship in honor of Brother Andrew Colditz, who passed away in 2005. The scholarship is for a new member in each pledge class who was found to best represent the values of Chi Phi, and met a minimum GPA requirement. The scholarship fund has been so successful we have been able to establish a second scholarship for leadership in honor of Stephen "Rusty" Gordon. This scholarship is for any brother showing leadership through his activities with the house.

If you would like to help the chapter through donating directly to the Theta Excellence fund please follow the instructions below:

Your Return Address	Postage
Chi Phi Educational Trust 1300 Sixth Avenue Columbus, GA 31901 Fax: (404) 237-5090	

Pay To: <u>Chi Phi Educational Trust</u>	\$ Amount
<u>Amount in Dollars</u>	
<u>Theta Excellence Fund</u>	

↑
Important

Alumni Updates

- Br. John Mazza is expecting his first child
- Br. Pete Skinner is engaged to be married
- Scott Hounsell is engaged to be married
- Br. Aaron Ide has wed Samantha Ligouri
- Br. Isaiah Legare has gotten married

Name AVERY MONTENBEAULT

Date 12/1/17

Signature 