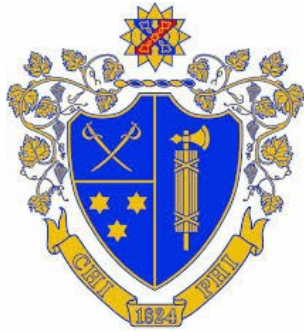


THE THETA RECORD



Building Towards a Better Future

As the Spring 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. However there is always room for improvement and I believe we can continue with the momentum we have built over the past few years.

During the fall semester we obtained a 3.07 overall GPA placing us in the top half of fraternities and above the All-Fraternity Average. However, we fell short of the All-Greek (3.08) and All-Men's averages (3.12). I will personally work with the Academic Chair moving forward to ensure our GPA increases above these thresholds. Br. Lyndon Pisansky and Br. Matthew D'Arcangelo have both done an excellent job this semester with organizing weekly study rooms in the Student 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 shown this semester by recruiting the second largest spring new member class in New Theta history with a total of 6 New Members. On April 30th, we will be welcoming Cameron Scott, Justin Frazier, Joshua Scalli, Peter Stribik, Carlos Salgado, and Brendan Lathrop into the Chapter. Theta has initiated 15 new brothers in the 2016-2017 academic year. Looking forward, Theta will strive to initiate 25 members during the 2017-2018 academic year to offset the loss of the Upsilon Deuteron pledge class upon graduation.

The Chapter was Accredited with Nationals for the Fall 2016 Semester. In the past, the Chapter has been Accredited with Distinction. Br. Sam Atkinson and Br. Greg Avsyuk have both been instrumental in organizing both Accreditation and 5 Star for the house. I know their efforts will ensure the house will achieve its goal of being Accredited with Distinction and receiving a 5 star rank.

This semester, our Philanthropy Chair, Br. Matthew Feid, orchestrated one of our most successful events in history. His dedication and perseverance saw the chapter host an event that raised over \$22,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a charity that raises money for childhood cancer research. This event will become a staple for future spring Philanthropy Chairs. Br. Feid's commitment to helping those touched by cancer is unparalleled. All brothers should strive to meet his level of dedication.

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.

Fraternally,

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Br. Rosengrant

THE THETA RECORD

From the Beta's Desk

The spring 2017 semester has provided us with many things to work on in the near future. Unfortunately, I will have to step down after the semester ends to go on co-op. I will continue to work with the next Beta, Samuel Atkinson, to make sure everything that needs doing gets taken care of.

When I came into office, my goal was to change the way committees are organized. After several discussions with nationals and meeting with the committee chairman I have developed a plan for the coming semester, should the next Beta choose to adopt it. The idea is to give committee members a responsibility, such as planning an event or sending weekly updates. This will hopefully lead to committees becoming more utilized, more brothers actively becoming involved, and an overall increase in pride in the house. This will also lead to the chairman having to take on more of a managerial role, and the committee members getting more direct planning and task management experience that they can use to obtain officer positions in the future. This plan has a lot of potential, and I am looking forward to see how successful it is as it is carried out.

All over campus, Greek Organizations and clubs have been discussing how the new Summer Arch program at RPI will affect their organizations. Myself, along with many other brothers, have also been concerned about the changes coming. As a result, a "summer arch task force" committee has been formed to tackle potential issues within our fraternity. Such problems include leadership positions, housing, and recruitment. After reviewing these issues, the by-laws will need to be updated to reflect changes in the house that will be necessary. Since summer arch is only happening on a trial basis for the next two summers, many changes in the way it's run will likely occur, so our task force will be ever watchful to enable a smooth transition period.

This spring semester, ten brothers attended RLA at Hobart & William Smith College. Two executive board members - the Alpha and Beta - were among those who attended. With them, eight newly initiated members attended. Many topics were covered, and it was a very productive RLA. Some important things we learned about were looking after your brother's mental health, sexual assault awareness, leadership skills, and how to effectively engage with alumni. The new members were also given the opportunity to network with brothers from other chapters for one of the

first times. They gained valuable experience and knowledge that will help them in any officer positions they may be interested in. The executive board members were also given an opportunity to talk with other chapter's Executive Board members to discuss ideas. Overall, it was a great learning experience for both the new and older brothers.

Fraternally,
Br. Lyndon Pisansky
'17
Beta



Br. Pisansky

Footnotes by the Gamma

During my first semester, I have taken the time to learn the ins and outs of what it takes to be a strong Gamma by utilizing the resources of the two past Gammas, both Br. Javed and Br. Loveland. 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 next semester.



THE THETA RECORD

Fraternal Finances

The state of the finances this semester has been good and steady following the trend set by the most recent past Delta's Br. Marshall and Br. Atkinson. We have been able to continue the steady increase of our savings, while maintaining the traditions of brotherhood that are so dear to us. As my first semester as Delta is coming to an end, I hope next semester to leave the house in a good position to continue it's growth. This semester I continued running the houses finances in the proven way that Br. Atkinson handled them for the past two semesters. Thanks to the budgeting skills of the officers, and the transparency that the graphic budget updates give to the house's finances, the house's money has been handled responsibly. In the coming semester, I plan on standardizing the way each of the big budget positions in the house manages their budgets. This would assure that every officer would always know the amount remaining in their budget, and never depend on the Delta's reports for updates on their own budgets. One of the problems we face in the near future is the summer arch, which will have close to half of the junior class away from the house each semester. Myself and the E-board are currently searching for solutions that would leave the house in a financially sound state when all of these changes occur. I hope to leave this house in a place where it will be able to continue to grow, and fund all of the events and programs that the brotherhood loves. The next few years will be a time of change, with the summer arch threatening to change the way things have been handled in the past few years, but with the continued effort of the brotherhood we will be able to overcome these changes and continue as a strong fraternity.

Fraternally,
Br. Benjamin Crevier '19
Delta



Br. Crevier

Managing Risk

Throughout the semester the house has done much to maintain and improve it's state of risk. The bi-annual Fire and Life Safety Inspection was passed with little issues. This success is due to hard work and continued improvement from the previous officers, as well as the cooperation and effort of the entire brotherhood to fix the persistent issues that have caused problems in the past. Among the issues that were resolved was the continued problem of the Protection One Fire System. After wading through much bureaucracy and confusion, the issue was fixed and the houses were then both fully protected. With continued effort and the will to improve, the house can easily continue to pass their inspections with little to no issues.

Furthermore, steps have been taken to provide all brothers with tools to use in adverse situations. A comprehensive, easy to follow procedure of what to do in the case that someone is found with alcohol poisoning was created, with the help of the Rensselaer Health Center, and distributed to the brotherhood. In general, the brotherhood has more of a sense of responsibility in all situations, ensuring our continued success during any event.

Looking towards the future I am very optimistic. Continuing to improve our score in fire inspection and continuing to educate brothers on emergency procedures will put our house in a great spot as long as we never stop striving to improve.

Fraternally,
Br. Aidan Curtin '18
Eta



Br. Curtin

THE THETA RECORD

Patching Up the Chi

This year continues to be an incredible time of improvement around the house. Under Br. Carmody we started the construction of a shed to store larger equipment and supplies from the basement of the annex. With his help we will be finishing the shed during the summer this year. This semester we also rebuilt the benches in the dining room, they now have thicker, softer foam. We also replaced the motors in the exhaust hood and heater fan in the kitchen. With the help of Br. Underwood we were able to resolve a hot water fiasco in the main house. We have cleared much of the old unusable items from the basement and attic of the annex to make space for the completion of projects that need attending to.

In the coming semester I will be refurbishing the dumpsters. The sheet metal has become jagged and torn around the edges, so fresh metal will be put on to keep brothers from cutting their hands. I will also be rebuilding the gate between the main house and Anderson Field. The gate's latch and frame around the latch has splintered and no longer holds the gate shut. I will consider a new design around that area in hopes of improving its durability. The bathrooms have a few finishing touches for aesthetic purposes that are also on the slate for my term.

Work on the shed will resume shortly after this semester comes to a close and will continue through the summer until completion. Once done we will be able to store our lawnmower, weedwacker, and other similar supplies and equipment. Br. Rosengrant has also discussed with his father about redoing the M1 floors. As many may know the floors have received a significant amount of damage in a short time to the finish. Br. Rosengrant's father has given us an estimate on price and we will set a timeframe soon.

Finally I will be working with the Beta to reform the way my committee is utilized. This will reduce the number regularly repeated tasks that the Epsilon performs. To start, I will divvy up the simple tasks like checking that shifts are done well, snaking the drainage if it gets clogged, etc. I will then implement more projects that those individuals on the committee will lead and execute with the help of the brotherhood. The end result being that we will increase our regular maintenance and improvements around the house.

I greatly look forward to carrying out these reforms and bringing projects to fruition in my term. If any alumni wish to share ideas for improving the house, I encourage you to reach out to me.

Fraternally,

Br Benjamin Meaden '19

Epsilon



Br. Meaden



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

THE THETA RECORD

Let's Be Social

This year I am interested in improving safety measures as well as maintaining strong relationships with other organizations. This semester we have implemented new protocols for registered parties. By adding additional shifts to each event it is easier to maintain communication and cut down on altercations. In an effort to continue positive relations with Rensselaer's Greek Life, the house hosted a barbeque with sorority Alpha Gamma Delta. The event was held on GM day and was a great way to enjoy the start of spring with one of our favorite sororities. We also helped fund and host a large outdoor spring-fling on RSE's property. Next semester we are looking to establish stronger relationships with fraternities. I have already begun reaching out to houses such as RSE, AEPI and SAE and am confident that we will be co-hosting events in the future. The increase in social awareness on campus will surely lead to increased philanthropic and recruitment opportunities for the house. The more involved we can be on campus the better!

Fraternally,
 Br. Nico Feraco '19
 Social Chair



Br. Feraco



**Brothers, along with New Members
 Cameron Scott and Brendan Lathrop,**

Brave the Shave

This semester we strived to have a greater involvement on the RPI campus through hosting philanthropy events. We co-hosted two events on the RPI campus. The first event we co-hosted was a St. Baldrick's Foundation event in the RPI Student Union Games Room with the Theta Chi Fraternity. The second event we co-hosted on campus was an American Red Cross blood drive with the improv group called Sheer Idiocy. Additionally, we also continued our clean up on Route 7 which we did twice this semester. We averaged over 9.8 hours per brother this semester.

Our big event in the spring was our campus wide St. Baldrick's Foundation Event that we co-hosted the Theta Chi Fraternity. St. Baldrick's Foundation is the largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants. Since 2005, St. Baldrick's has granted more than \$200 million to find cures for kids with cancer. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-powered charity known for their head-shaving events. While these events are a lot of fun, the real goal is to raise money to fund research that saves kids' lives. Previously, we have participated in the Park Pub Event for St. Baldrick's the past two years. This semester we made the decision to co-host the event and we had twelve fraternities and sororities participate in our event. As a RPI community, we raised over \$ 22,000 and had over 50 volunteers to shave their heads standing with those who have had cancer. The Theta chapter raised over \$ 5,000 and we had 17 members shave their heads. We are planning that this will become an annual event that we host on campus every spring.

The success we had with philanthropy events this semester benefited our charities and the community and was personally rewarding for every member of Chi Phi.

Fraternally,
 Br. Matthew Feid '19
 Philanthropy Chair



Br. Feid

THE THETA RECORD

New Member Education

This past semester saw the Omega Deuteron Pledge Class, consisting of 9 members, initiated to the Theta chapter. These driven new members take great pride in their work and are already beginning to take on leadership positions in the house, as well as significantly contributing to rush and other house events. I am proud to have them join the Theta chapter, and I look forward to seeing how they help define this house in the future. Congratulations to these newly initiated brothers!

This Spring, we have 6 new members currently undergoing the new member process as part of the Alpha Triton Pledge Class. These young men are taking to heart the lessons we have to offer and display great determination in traversing the path to brotherhood. I am greatly anticipating what these gentlemen have to offer our house and how we can help them to be better men in return.

Fraternally,

Br. Stephen Notley, '18



Br. Notley

Theta (New Member Educator)

All the Way Up

This semester our chapter has continued working towards our goals of Five Stars and Accreditation with Distinction. We achieved Five Stars for the 2015 calendar year and are currently awaiting results for the 2016 submission. We are all confident that our efforts in the past year will pay off and we will once again achieve Five Star status.

Last semester, the Chi Phi Accreditation rubric underwent large changes, leading to another result of Accredited without Distinction. Although we scored well above average, the chapter is pushing to adapt to the new rubric and once again achieve Accreditation with Distinction. We recently met with a Chi Phi National representative who helped us understand the changes and we are confident that our score can be improved in the upcoming submission.

We continue to create detailed requirement spreadsheets for each officer during Accreditation and Five Star submissions. This has streamlined the process of collecting necessary materials and also helps distribute the submission workload. In the coming weeks, we will be sending our Accreditation and Awards submissions to Chi Phi National. We are applying for several awards and hope to be recognized for this semester's efforts.



Br. Atkinson

We look forward to continuing the chapter to improve through the efforts of the tire brotherhood.

Fraternally,

Br. Sam Atkinson '18

Br. Greg Avsyuk '17



Br. Avsyuk

for-see-
con-
ef-en-

Public Relations Chair-

men

THE THETA RECORD

Rush Report

This spring rush was one of 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, such as snow tubing and a brunch and billiards Sunday, that proved to be effective. More traditional events, such as Casino Night and Surf & Turf Dinner also brought many new faces to the house. A new dormstorming policy with assigned time slots for each fraternity helped us to spread word about events and distribute calendars. Newly-initiated Brothers were also highly encouraged to invite their freshman peers to events personally in order to get word out through more organic means. The Brotherhood wants spring rush to become more important, so a cabin trip was revived for this semester in order to give potential members a more substantial rush experience. Rush ended with twelve bids being extended, seven of which were signed for this semester. An additional bid was signed and is being held for the fall 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. However, I hope this rush is just the start of many involved and successful recruitments. 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



Br. Carmody

Iota (Rush Chair)

Improving Academic Performance

In the Fall 2016, we had an overall member GPA of 3.07. We just missed beating the All-Greek GPA of 3.08, but beat the all fraternity GPA of 3.04. We will continue to strive to increase our GPA to above the All-Men's Average, which was a 3.12 this past semester. After all, academics are why we are here! To try to reach this goal, this semester we really wanted to try to provide everyone with the opportunity to succeed. All semester we had two study halls every week that took place in a reserved room in the Student Union - one on Monday evening, and one on Tuesday evening. Brothers were able to get points for attending as long as they were being productive and not distracting. Having a reserved room in the Union allowed brothers to get away from the many distractions in the house. We have also been focusing on improving individual grades by meeting one on one with brothers to develop personalized goals, come up with academic plans, and work on scholarship skills necessary to succeed. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we hope to move this house towards being one of the most academically prominent houses on campus.

Fraternally,

Br. Lyndon Pisansky '17

Br. Matthew D'Arcangelo '18

Academic Chairman



Br. D'Arcangelo

THE THETA RECORD

Looking Forward to History

Over the course of my first semester as Zeta I have learned a lot; not only about the history of the chapter and how it works, but also about what could lie ahead. So far, I have focused on better organizing the cluttered system used to record points, and I have set my attention to a handful of past neglected plaques to ensure that they are fully up to date. Upon meeting with a representative from Chi Phi's national headquarters, I was able to glean important information about certain rituals. This includes the timing of some rituals that are intended to educate new members, as well as active brothers. Hopefully I can use this information to better organize the schedule of our rituals. Throughout the next months of my tenure, I plan to continue the acquisition of some unowned ritual equipment started by the previous Zeta, Br. Hill. In addition, I also have plans to assess the current state of all displayed composites, and attempt to repair any cracks or scratches that exist. Also, I would like to work with Beta-elect Br. Atkinson to better utilize my committee members. Overall, I am pleased with the progress I have made on these projects so far, as well as those that remain in the near future.



Br. Perkins

Fraternally,

Br. William Perkins '19
Zeta



Chi Phi and Theta Chi Brothers and New Members posing with an Honor

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

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

- **Brother Grigory Avsyuk will be working in Boston at United Health Group**
- **Brother Tyler Quon will be working at ZS Associates in Princeton**
- **Brothers Shapiro, Dunn, Loveland, Baken, and Marton moved to an apartment in Queens, NY.**

Upcoming Event Calendar

- **September 1st, 2017 - Fall 2017 Rush Begins**
- **October 12-15, 2017 - Alumni Weekend**

4/29/2017

To Whom it May Concern,

I hereby confirm that the Spring 2017 Theta Alumni Newsletter has been distributed to Alumni via an Alumni email group. The newsletter was distributed on April 26, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Avery Montembeault', written in a cursive style.

Avery Montembeault