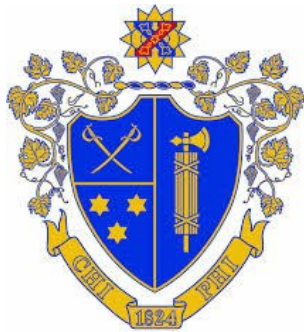


# THE THETA RECORD



## Continual Existence and Excellence

As the Spring 2018 Semester comes to an end, I am incredibly excited about the achievements that the Theta Chapter has accomplished. Our goals for this semester set out to improve the lives of our community and increase the longevity of our Chapter as a whole. Some of these goals included a complete revision of the by-laws in order to reflect current times, develop an action plan for Summer-Arch, establish a staple philanthropy/community service event during the fall semester, and to continue our excellence in the St.Baldricks Foundation. This past weekend at the 26nd annual Rensselaer Greek Awards, the Theta Chapter had a very good showing. The Theta Chapter received an award for Excellence in Greek Relations, and Honorable Mentions in 7 other categories. This is over half of the awards given out at the banquet, and we are confident that we will achieve much more next year. We are currently waiting to hear back about our score from 5-Star.

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Our biggest obstacle at the moment is the introduction of Summer Arch. Some of the biggest challenges this presents are leadership positions and finances. We currently have a committee dedicated to Summer-Arch and researching how it will affect us as a Chapter. Myself and the Delta, Brian Vivolo are running meetings in order to run scenarios for finances in order to make sure we are prepared for having a summer budget; also to be ready for the decrease in revenue from many Brothers not being active during a certain semester. Officer transitions have also been a major talking point for issues with The Arch. Our plan to tackle this issue is to create an under-study for key positions, so if that officer is leaving campus their second semester in that position, the under-study is ready to take the role of the officer. We will have a formal plan written up and voted upon next semester that will be in place as long as Summer-Arch is active.

This semester also offered an another amazing St.Baldricks. One of our goals for this St.Baldricks was to try and include as many Fraternities and outside organizations as possible. In total we had 8 other Fraternities involved for a total of over 50 community leaders who shaved their head in honor of the research of Childhood cancer. As a community we also raised a total of \$20,004.00, with over \$10,000 coming from our team. We achieved this amount through generous donations from family and friends, and also creative labeling functions. I am extremely proud of the work we did with this event, almost doubling the amount of money we raised from the year before, while having almost half of the Brotherhood shave their head.

The Chapter was Accredited with National for the Fall 2017 semester. At the moment we are also applying for the annual Chi Phi Awards. We are applying for many national awards including The Gehring Award and the Philanthropic Achievement Award. We believe that we qualify for all of the awards we are applying for, and we will hear back at Congress, June 22nd-24th located in Atlanta, Georgia.



*Br. Sposato*

We are always improving as a Chapter and I am proud of how much we have accomplished this past semester. We will continue to strive for excellence in everything we do, and do so with a detailed plan. I am thrilled to see what we will achieve in the future, and the outstanding effort by all of our Brothers will push us not only to be an example for Fraternities on campus, but for Fraternities nationwide.

Fraternally,

Br. Brian Sposato '20

Alpha

# THE THETA RECORD

## From the Beta's Desk

The Spring 2018 semester saw a large shift in leadership. Our executive board this semester is made up of a majority of brothers in their first important leadership position. We all hope to uphold the ideals set forth before us, continue improving our chapter, and set the precedent for the future leaders of this house.

My goals as Beta were to assist the Alpha as effectively as possible while also making major decisions considering the best interests of every brother. Often times I would act as the liaison between brothers and officers, making sure everyone's opinions were considered. This lined up well with how Br. Brian Sposato and I wanted to run our positions of Alpha and Beta. We thought that the best way to balance the positions were to have the Alpha deal with external matters, and the Beta deal with internal affairs. This included watching over all of the non-executive board chairmen. I believe that this is a great way to run both positions and we plan on keeping this strategy going into the Fall.

Another concern of mine was to encourage committee use to give brothers experience in positions they were interested in and to alleviate chairmen of some work. I plan to encourage further participation next semester by being an active member of every committee.



*Br. Weingard*

Continuing on committees, the formation of ad hoc committees has increased this year. We have committees that focus on summer arch, external social relations, and making improvements to our house; to name a few. Many brothers agree that the use of these committees increases involvement and interest overall, and assists in the application of such goals.

Many of the strategies I plan on implementing were taken as suggestions from our national representative Jordan Fuqua. We were lucky enough for him to come and meet with all of our officers. He provided a lot of advice and insight. He held many positions when he was a brother of his chapter, including Beta, so he was especially helpful in our meeting. Overall, he was pleased with how our chapter ran and he was able to help us improve further.

I look forward to my future as Beta, and the future of our executive board. What we have accomplished is the beginning. Now that we have all settled into our positions, we can really make positive change in this house.

Fraternally,

Br. Jake Weingard '20

Beta

## Footnotes by the Gamma

During my first semester, I have put in all my time and effort on learning everything I need to be a strong and efficient Gamma. Not only was this my first semester in the position, it was also my first semester serving as an officer for our chapter, which taught me a lot on how to have a strong voice and presence in our house.

It has also been very helpful having my big brother, Br. Legatt, to guide me and teach me the ins and outs of this position with his knowledge as a former Gamma. This semester I've strived to improve our out-of-house relationships by making thoughtful and creative gifts for the on-campus sororities. I'm happy to say the gifts have all been a hit, and I truly believe that our relationships with all the other Greek organizations are improving. I'm looking forward to continue my duties as Gamma next semester, taking every chance I can to improve on my role as an officer of our house.

Fraternally,

Br. Carlos Salgado '20

Gamma



*Br. Salgado*

# THE THETA RECORD

## Seeing Green

The house is doing quite well as far as finances go. We have recently had a healthy influx of funds due to decently sized pledge classes in recent semesters and few seniors having left in the same time frame. Budgets have been as usual with extra money being given to the Rush Chair, Philanthropy Chair, and House Manager. It was decided that these positions could use the funds to improve the house and its standing on campus. No major changes have been made to the Treasurer Position since Brothers Marshall, Atkinson, and Crevier took it on. Weekly budget updates were sent out to the active brotherhood throughout the semester so everyone knows where our funds are going and anyone can voice their opinions if needed. One issue the house must still deal with is the City of Troy still does not pick up the fraternity's trash due to confusion in how it is seen as a type of property and organization. While we are resolving this issue with the city, we periodically rent a box truck and haul our trash to a dump ourselves. The Summer Arch program is also on the horizon. We are developing a plan with our finances to deal with an increase of brothers on campus during the summers and a decrease of brothers in the fall semesters. We are looking at gradually increasing dues and leaving a larger portion of funds to be used in the summer months by brothers at the school. In lighter news, the Theta Chapter has big plans this fall for raising funds to improve the physical well-being of our house. While we recently decided to get our floors professionally redone, the foundation and sewage system needs work with which we will be calling on our alumni to graciously assist. In the meantime, I will be promoting the fraternities CEF account and making it more accessible to any alumni who wish to donate. This account is strictly for the betterment of the house with small withdrawals at a time unless given guidelines are met. We greatly appreciate all donations big and small as they allow us to both improve and thrive past our normal operations. The fraternity is in a good place financially and has seen strong growth in recent semesters. I am very excited for the future of this fraternity, knowing we will continue the trend and push through all concerns we currently face as well as those looming ahead of us.

Fraternally,  
 Br. Brian Vivolo '19  
 Delta



*Br. Vivolo*

## Improving Risk Management

Sparked by some long standing issues uncovered during the bi-annual Fire and Life Safety Inspection, several long term improvement plans have been put in place throughout the semester. These plans include the replacement of all nine-volt battery powered smoke detectors with ten-year lithium battery powered detectors and all incandescent exit sign bulbs with LED bulbs over the next two to three years. Another plan is the replacement of the sober driver phone with a free IOS and Android application called Google Voice, eliminating the inconvenience of an extra phone and the need to buy airtime. These plans should cut down budgeting requirements and make future risk managers' jobs easier. Other Long standing issues are being discussed currently with Housing Corp and will be fixed by the next inspection.

In terms of guest safety, the brotherhood has done an excellent job taking care of guests during social events. I feel that the new members have been given very good examples of risk management during the semester and I am very optimistic about the future state of risk of the house.

Looking towards the future I am very optimistic. Continuing to improve our score in fire inspection and continuing to educate brothers on different safety protocols will further our efforts to not only improve the house, but our overall image on campus.

Fraternally,  
 Br. Justin Frazier '20  
 Eta



*Br. Frazier*

## THE THETA RECORD

### Restoring the Chi

This year has been a period of continual improvement for the Chapter property. The spring semester kicked off with a successful work weekend which saw a variety of projects get completed. A few of the notable ones include the back-door of the Main house getting sealed, a burst pipe getting replaced, a dedicated electrical line getting ran to the stove hood, and the dumpster sheet metal getting replaced, with thicker, more weather-proof metal now covering the lids. The shed that Br. Carmody started and Br. Meaden carried on has had windows installed and a double barn-style door put in as well. The only thing left now is a fresh coat of paint and the interior built up.

Smaller projects throughout the semester have also aided in the improving of the houses.

We cut the A1 Bathroom mirror and mounted it, getting the bathroom closer and closer to being completed. Various holes in the drywall have been patched, cleaning up the appearance of the walls throughout the houses. The basement of the Annex has been cleaned up and inventoried, making it easier for Brothers to work on projects and find tools. We have also replaced two of the older couches in the Main house with one large sectional couch.

The issue with the City of Troy not collecting our trash on a weekly basis continues to persist, causing the house to make periodic trash runs to the local dump. We have contacted City Council, and are in the process of remedying the situation, however we will continue to need to make trash runs until the issue gets resolved.

In the future, I want to make a few changes to the Epsilon position. Two important ones relate to house education and improvement, and the others are managerial. The first one is implementing monthly workshops where a certain DIY skill is taught such as how to use a power saw or how to patch drywall. The goal of this is to develop the skills of the house to the point where any brother feels comfortable repairing the house. The second is the start of monthly work parties to continually improve and repair the house. This is so we can upgrade the house on an ongoing basis, and involve the house in the development of both the house and brothers skill sets. I will also be making a few changes to the way my committee is utilized to make the Epsilon position more effective and capable.

look forward to implementing the changes mentioned above, and to further work on improving the Chapter house.

Fraternally,

Br. John Farrell '20

Epsilon



*Br. Farrell*



***Br. Sasakura being taped to a wall to raise money for St. Baldrick's Foundation.***

# THE THETA RECORD



## Let's Mix it Up

Coming in this semester I looked to accomplish many goals: improve our mixer events, practice fiscal responsibility with my budget, improve our campus image, and make great events for our brotherhood.

With our mixers, I took opinions from the brotherhood and we came up with two ideas that both went smashing for all that attended. Our first mixer was with the RPI Women's Rugby Team and had a Bob Ross theme. Brothers and Women shared canvases and painted whatever they desired. This got us the brotherhood much more involved with our guests than the typical mixer, and the result was a very fun time. Furthering Br. Peterson's success, we've continued our organized Chi Phi Fridays, taking all the necessary safety precautions. With these events, we hope to reach out to new individuals and show them a taste of what Chi Phi has to offer. I have also been working with our appointed Brotherhood Chair Br. Anthony Chiamonte to make new and exciting events for all the brotherhood to partake in. As a Fraternity, we've gone to the Bowling Alley, Driving Range, and we even all went to see Br. Ethan Hill tryout for Albany's new arena football team, the Empire. Our last social event of the semester will be hosting a campus barbeque during our therapy dog philanthropy event. With this, we hope to alleviate the stress that so many students face as the semester comes to a close.

Fraternally,  
 Br. Majid Javed '19  
 Social Chairman



*Br. Javed*

## Giving Back

This semester was once again an outstanding semester for the Theta chapter of Chi Phi. We have co-hosted two events on campus, the first being a blood drive with RPI's improvisation group, Sheer Idiocy, and the second being our annual Saint Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser with multiple other fraternities including Ski Lodge, SAE and AEPi.

To kick off this semester we partnered with the American Red Cross in hosting a blood drive to help with emergency relief. This drive was particularly important as it took place right after several back to back snow storms, which prevented any donations from being collected for some time. We were successful in getting the campus highly involved and collected almost 100 blood donations in a single day.

Later in the semester we held our annual Saint Baldrick's fundraiser leading multiple houses on campus to raise over \$20,000. As a house we had a total of 20 members shave their heads to stand in solidarity with children suffering from cancer and raised over \$9,400, an increase from last year of roughly \$4,200. In the process of raising money for this event the brotherhood spent many hours tabling on campus in various ways. Cookies, fried Oreos and various beverages were sold over the course of two weeks to aid in the fundraising efforts.

Yet to come we will be co-hosting a stress relief event on our front lawn with the AGD sorority as well as the AEPi fraternity. This event, Doggy Days, will allow any stressed students to come relax in the sun with a group of therapy dogs provided by Therapy Dog International.

Fraternally,  
 Br. Cameron Scott '20  
 Philanthropy Chairman



*Br. Scott*

# THE THETA RECORD

## Meet the Gamma Tritons

At the start of this semester, the chapter identified several issues that had become apparent during our pledging process because of our increasing size. Changes that were made to reflect this include spreading the interview process over the entire semester with only those who want/are eligible to have a little be interviewed in the first half and the remainder interviewed in the second half of the semester. Weekly written quizzes were replaced by oral reviews at the start of each meeting. These oral reviews put more emphasis on retaining the knowledge throughout the semester instead of for the weekly quiz. The pledging process was shifted to focus heavily on the significance of being a brother and the responsibility to the brotherhood.

This semester the Theta Chapter welcomed three new brothers into our fraternity on April 28, 2018. Their information can be found below

Matthew Ryan Fluker was this semester's pledge class alpha. Matt is originally from Alexandria, VA and is studying to be an aerospace engineer. Matt enjoys playing soccer.

Hunter Michael Hoffman is originally from South Salem, NY and is studying to be a Mechanical Engineer. Hunter is an avid skier and loves music.

Thomas Neuman is originally from Ft. Lauderdale, FL and is studying to be a chemical engineer. Tom is also a pitcher on RPI's varsity baseball team.

It is encouraging to see this house continue to grow. With each link that is added to the chain of brotherhood our goal of continued existence is achieved.

Fraternally,

Br. Nathan Rosengrant, '18

Theta (New Member Educator)



*Br. Rosengrant*

## Relating Publically

This semester our chapter has continued to work towards our goal of accreditation with distinction and 5-star status. This past week, we were honored by Rensselaer with the award for Excellence in Greek Relations along with 7 other honorable mentions. We are confident that this award, along with our hard work throughout the semester, will come to fruition as we await the response to this year's 5-Star report.



*Br. Atkinson*

As the Accreditation rubric continues to undergo changes such as the shift to a yearly submission, we have continued to adjust and streamline the submission process. After receiving the Thomas Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence this past year, we are ever more dedicated to ensuring our accreditation report and award submissions are representative of the Chapter's Achievements.

While Brother Atkinson's experience as Public Relations Chairman will be missed in the coming semester, we are confident that his extensive contributions will help guide the chapter to new and sustained heights, locally and nationally.

We look forward to seeing the chapter continue to improve through the combined efforts of the brotherhood.

Fraternally,

Marc McDonald '20  
Samuel Atkinson '18

Public Relations Chairmen



*Br. McDonald*

# 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. With the help and guidance of the previous Iota, Br. Carmody, I was able to construct and execute a plan for rush that would help the house recruit quality men. There were some new events added to the rush calendar this semester, such as ice skating in Albany, that proved to be effective in our recruitment. More traditional events, such as Casino Night, Surf & Turf Dinner, and Sushi Night also brought many new faces to the house. A new dormstorming policy with assigned dates and time slots for each fraternity helped us to spread word about events and distribute calendars to potential new members. 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 just as important as fall rush, so a cabin trip to Lake Placid was planned for this semester in order to give potential members a more substantial rush experience. Rush ended with fourteen bids being extended, four of which were signed for this 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 especially recognize Br. Joseph Loveland '19, Br. John Farrell '20, Br. Marc McDonald '20, Br. David Nice '20, Br. Carlos Salgado '20, Br. Brian Sposato '20, and Br. Jacob Weingard '20 for going above and beyond the call of duty. I hope this rush is 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.



*Br. Legatt*

Fraternally,  
 Br. Jake Legatt '19  
 Iota (Rush Chair)

## Improving Academic Incentives

This semester, we worked to rewrite a new academic program for the chapter, primarily focusing on assigning personalized academic plans for each brother to go by to create a more academically focused house for current and future members to follow. These plans will require brothers to attend study hours that are held at the house or in classrooms reserved with the registrar in order to get away from any distractions and focus on succeeding in brothers' given tasks.

Ways to encourage aiding one another in academics are through review sessions held by older brothers who can go over material for the house's more populated courses and answer questions, as well as one-on-one tutoring, which both award brothers based on the point system. Brothers are strongly encouraged to attend ALAC Drop-In Tutoring and Success Labs which give helpful advice regarding

motivation, organization and finals preparation. In addition to providing these academic resources, there is still an emphasis on rewarding academic improvement and excellence. Our goal will be to increase academic performance above the All Men's Average and by implementing these programs, and providing tools to encourage academic success, we hope to create a long standing tradition as one of the most academically prominent houses on campus.



*Br. D'Arcangelo*



*Br. Celic*

Fraternally,  
 Br. Matthew D'Arcangelo '18  
 Br. Daniel Celic '21  
 Academic Chairman

## THE THETA RECORD

### Looking Forward to History

As the Zeta, I have been focused on cleaning and restoring our ritual equipment to their former glory, while also doing a complete overhaul of the current point system. At the beginning of the semester, we were still relying on the original point sheet created almost 5 years ago. Because of our reliance on this dated document, there was no easy way for the Zeta to have the points updated and available for the brotherhood's viewing. There was also no easy way for officers to report their points to the Zeta. To fix this, I created an entirely new sheet with the idea that future officers will be able to use this same sheet for years to come. I will continue to work with the Brotherhood to ensure this new sheet is easy and accessible, and as an e-board, we hope to make changes in the coming semester to the point values to ensure a balanced and rewarding system.

This semester I met with a representative from Chi Phi's national headquarters. After a long and meaningful discussion with him about our chapter's history and our fraternities rituals, I was able to glean important information to ensure our rituals meet the standards of the brothers that came before us. I have dedicated my time to cleaning our ritual space and other equipment to make the experience more enjoyable for the brotherhood.

Throughout the next months of my tenure, I plan to continue my efforts to clean and repair any necessary ritual equipment, while also acquiring anything we may be missing. In addition, I have set my attention to a handful of past neglected plaques to ensure that they are fully up to date for the coming semester. Overall, I am pleased with the progress I have made on these projects so far, as well as those that remain to be completed.

Fraternally,

Br. Jacob Bartles '19  
Zeta



*Br. Bartles*



***Chi Phi Brothers posing in the dining room after shaving their heads.***



# 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. Rouhani got a job at Visual Concepts Entertainment and will be working at their Orange County studio in California.