

# Chapter Profile

## Chi Phi, Theta Chapter

Fall 2021

1981 and 1985 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Troy, New York 12180  
RENSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

***PREPARED BY:*** Richard Gonzalez & Zachary Burpee, Public Relations Chairmen

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***REVIEWED BY:*** Noah Prisament, President & Avery Montembeault, Alumni Advisor

### SUMMARY

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Located on the corner of Sage and 15th Street, Chi Phi is a convivial and diverse group of Brothers who take pride in their values: Truth, Honor, and Personal Integrity. As a Brotherhood, we love enriching our local community, forging lifelong connections, and building better men. Since 1878, The Theta Chapter of Chi Phi remains the gold standard for Greek life and shines as the paradigm for a fraternity with excellent commitment and leadership.



## ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

<b>Chapter Size</b>	32 Members
<b>New Members</b>	7 Members
<b>Average Cumulative GPA</b>	3.30
<b>EHS Safety Score</b>	78% and 86% Fall 2021
<b>Philanthropy Dollars Raised</b>	\$644.17
<b>Community Service Hours</b>	10.08 per Member
<b>Live-In Capacity</b>	44 Members
<b>Majors</b>	
School of Business	2 Member
School of Engineering	17 Members
School of Science	14 Members
<b>Cohorts</b>	
Undergraduate, Class of 2024	11 Members
Undergraduate, Class of 2023	7 Members
Undergraduate, Class of 2022	9 Members
Undergraduate, Class of 2021	1 Member
Graduate	4 Members

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Score: 3.8 / 4

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**PREPARED BY: *Jared Zornitzer, Scholarship Chairman***

Academic excellence is a hallmark of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi Fraternity. Brothers' average cumulative GPA last Spring semester was 3.30 and Chi Phi consistently ranks among the top Greek organizations each semester (Appendix A.1). We strive to raise this standard every semester by pushing each other to receive outstanding grades. Furthermore, Chi Phi promotes academic development through our immersive tutoring program and through the diligence of the Scholarship Chairman.

One essential part of our academic programming is study hours. The Scholarship Chairman hosts study hours twice per week, for two hours each session. These occur in our dining room, which has ample space for Brothers to study. The Chapter also has a library containing textbooks from many classes at Rensselaer for Brothers to utilize. Study hours are a place for Brothers to work on their assignments, complete projects, and study for exams. In addition, Brothers who are in a class together collaborate and learn from each other while completing coursework. Attendance at study hours this semester has been remarkably high; 80% of Brothers have attended at least one study session.

Besides being a place to study, tutoring often takes place during study hours. Brothers who have completed a course and received a high grade in it frequently tutor other students (both Brothers and other community members). In fact, this semester we implemented a tutoring program for our New Members as soon as they entered the New Member Education Process. Not only does this serve to acquaint New Members with the

Brotherhood, but it also helps them to balance their coursework with their responsibilities as a New Member of Chi Phi. For every person being tutored, the Scholarship Chairman creates a personalized tutoring schedule for them that fits in with their class schedule at RPI. Brothers of our Chapter feel an innate duty to help fellow students in need of academic assistance.

One useful resource which the Chapter has is an extensive back work drive, containing back work from hundreds of courses at Rensselaer. At the end of each semester, Brothers upload old homework, tests and quizzes to this server for future reference by other Brothers. The back work drive is an invaluable study tool, and there are countless testimonies by Brothers to the successes that they have achieved with the help of this server.

On top of tutoring, the Scholarship Chairman works closely with Brothers who are struggling academically to help set them on a track towards success. The Scholarship Chairman creates an academic program for any Brother who has fallen below the Chapter's academic standards or whose grades have recently slipped. Brothers with below a 2.5 GPA are no longer in good standing and are put on Academic Probation if they are not keeping up-to-date with and following their academic program. When necessary, Academic Probations are enforced by the Chapter's President and Judicial Board. Brothers on academic programs must log four hours of studying per week with the Scholarship Chairman. These hours can be achieved by attending study hours, attending professors' office hours, or going to ALAC drop-in tutoring. In addition, the Scholarship Chairman meets with Brothers following academic programs monthly to check-in, monitor their grades, and assist however is deemed appropriate. The Scholarship Chairman also seeks to build these Brothers' study habits and time management skills during one-on-one sessions so that they can thrive in their future classes. Academic programs play an integral role in the

academic experience at Chi Phi; the Brothers who follow them have improved their grades dramatically.

Furthermore, the Chapter invited Dean Louis Trzepacz, the Dean of Student Success at RPI, to our house this semester to lead a seminar about academic resources at RPI. Dean Trzepacz illustrated how we can utilize student success labs, ALAC drop-in tutoring, and the Center for Global Communication and Design to enhance our educational experience at RPI. He also discussed the importance of meeting with faculty or hub advisors whenever questions or concerns relating to academics arise. An overwhelming 94% of Brothers and New Members attended this seminar. All who attended learned something about academic resources at Rensselaer which they will use to gain more from their time spent at the Institute (Appendix A.2).

The Chapter strives to recognize the academic achievement of its members. Each semester, the Brothers with the highest GPA and most improved GPA are awarded by the Chapter and recognized at a house meeting. Likewise, all Brothers that have achieved a spot on the Dean's Honors List are awarded and recognized by the Chapter as well; 44% of our membership this Fall achieved this honor in the Spring 2021 semester. Brothers that excel in their academics, leadership, involvement, community service, and philanthropy can apply for and be awarded scholarships each year from the Chi Phi Educational Trust. In 2021, the Theta Chapter had 4 Brothers awarded with Educational Trust Scholarships (Appendix A.3). Lastly, every year over the summer, Chi Phi Educational Trust awards the Brother from each Chi Phi Chapter who achieved the highest scholastic standing for that year with the Sparks Memorial Medal to signify their accomplishment.

Brothers of the Theta Chapter are involved in a plethora of on-campus academic organizations. We have Brothers who are Computer Science and

Calculus I Mentors. Some Brothers are also Teaching Assistants for Engineering and Science courses. Brothers have a tremendous drive to utilize their knowledge and expertise in order to help other students in need. Moreover, Brothers are also a part of academic honor societies, such as Upsilon Pi Epsilon, Pi Mu Epsilon, Tau Beta Pi, and Eta Kappa Nu, which require members to have strong academic achievements. These organizations further help their members with networking while serving the RPI community academically.

In conclusion, academic excellence is ingrained in our culture at Chi Phi. We work together to help each other and to raise our average cumulative GPA every semester (Appendix A.4). Our duties as students at Rensselaer come first and foremost, and we provide our members with the resources and guidance to succeed during their time here and beyond.

# MORAL & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Score: 3.7 / 4

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**PREPARED BY: Daniel Klee, Member of the Judicial Board**

The Theta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity is devoted to the moral and cultural development of its members. In order to do this, we strive to uphold our core values—truth, honor and personal integrity—in each and every one of our thoughts and actions (Appendix B.1).

The Chi Phi Fraternity, originally founded on December 24th in 1824 is the first and oldest collegiate social fraternity. Likewise, the Theta Chapter has a long and storied history in the Troy community. It is one of the oldest Fraternities on campus having been first chartered on May 25th in 1878, making it the 5th oldest fraternity at RPI. Hailing from the Chapter are many notable alumni of the Rensselaer community including George Washington Gale Ferris Jr. (the inventor of the Ferris Wheel, Class of 1881), Frank and Kenneth Osborn (who designed and built Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, and Tiger Stadium, Class of 1890 and Class of 1908), George Wallace (who Founded the Denver Technology Park, Class of 1940), and James Peterson (Forbes 30 under 30 in 2016 for founding Vital Vio, Class of 2012). Chi Phi was the first fraternity at Rensselaer to have a Chapter House. Originally the Chapter owned a house in downtown Troy (Appendix B.2). When fires in downtown Troy forced RPI to rebuild, they moved up the hill. The Brothers of Chi Phi purchased a land plot at the corner of 15th Street and Avenue B (Sage Avenue), and construction of the new house was completed in 1912-1913 making it the oldest facility still in use built for Rensselaer students on the hill that is still standing (Appendix B.3). This history is cherished by

the Brothers and taught diligently to make sure that we continue to remember our roots.

The Theta Chapter has always held the development of its Brothers in high esteem. One prominent way through which Brothers develop their character is by holding leadership positions within the Chapter. The Chapter holds elections twice a year and currently has nine executive board positions, five additional elected positions, nine appointed positions, and four judicial board positions (Appendix B.4). By taking on these leadership positions, Brothers mature into more responsible, able individuals. Officers have ample opportunities to hone their time management, delegation, and communication skills. Most of the elected positions are committee chairs and have their own committee; Brothers who do not hold an elected office are required to participate on two committees which helps to prepare them to hold higher positions in the future while assisting the chairmen in their responsibilities (Appendix B.5). Committees are created based on the interests of the active Brotherhood to ensure that committee members will be dedicated to its mission and feel rewarded by the work they put into the Chapter. Brothers are encouraged to hold as many positions as possible throughout their time at Rensselaer, which brings a diversity of opinions to the Chapter and Executive Board. Heterogeneity in thought is important for considering new ideas and approaches to making our Chapter operations a success.

To help educate all Brothers and New Members in the tenets of Chi Phi and professional success, the Theta Chapter has a Total Member Education program. This program is led by a Brother, the Total Member Educator (TME). Depending on the nature of the event, the TME will bring in a professional from the field who can provide Brothers with relevant anecdotes and advice; when possible the TME finds Brothers with important skills to give presentations to the Brotherhood. Programs offered include



professional development, resume building, mental health awareness, handiwork, and life skills. The overarching goal of these events is to build better men through engaging activities. The Chapter believes that education is a continual process and tries to educate Brothers in a variety of fields.

The hybrid environment has enabled alumni to interact with the Brotherhood remotely through these educational events. Recently, Alumni have sponsored events on behalf of their employers—most notably MathWorks and IBM. These professional Alumni events have helped our graduating seniors find employment and begin their careers. We have begun hosting professional development nights where Brothers gather virtually to apply to internships together and give each other feedback on career application materials such as résumés and cover letters (Appendix B.6). Due to the success of these events, the Theta Chapter has incorporated such events in the recruitment programs. The Theta Chapter takes pride in our Total Member Education program, as it is the cornerstone piece of the infrastructure installed to develop Chi Phi gentlemen for life and hone them to the best they can be.

The Theta Chapter has made a tremendous effort in attempting to educate their New Members. The Chapter believes in educating the New Members on topics such as our National Fraternity and Theta Chapter's history, Chapter leadership, risk management, and philanthropy (Appendix B.7). But they also believe in the moral development of each one of their New Members into Chi Phi gentlemen. To help guide New Members, the New Member Educator holds weekly meetings where he discusses topics of the Brotherhood (Appendix B.8). Each New Member class elects officials of their class that are tasked with specific jobs to keep the New Member process cohesive and enjoyable. These positions also serve as leadership experience and give New Members an idea of what it is like to lead in the Brotherhood. These positions are President, Project Manager, Philanthropy

Chair, and Social Chair. While the Brotherhood looks to the New Member Educator to make sure the New Members have the material they need each week, the Brothers are also heavily involved in the development of the New Members. It is with the Brothers' full support that the Chapter strives to produce ethical, dedicated young men who will continue building upon the foundation built at Chi Phi throughout their time at Rensselaer and beyond (Appendix B.9).

It is the rituals and traditions that the Theta Chapter practices that keep them tethered to the long-standing Brotherhood of Chi Phi that has been in existence for generations. These rituals and traditions are the most critical and most precious elements of our Fraternity. These rituals help to remind us of what brings us together and why we took the vows that we did. These traditions will remind us today, tomorrow, and in the years to come what it means to be of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi.

Through our events and traditions, Chi Phi strives to make this Fraternity as culturally aware and diverse as possible. For instance, Brothers cook six nights per week as part of our meal plan. On any given night, the Brotherhood enjoys dishes from a variety of global cuisines and family recipes. In addition, the Chapter has a tradition of inviting Rabbi Morrison, a local Rabbi in Troy, to the house for Rosh Hashanah, Tu Bishvat, and Hanukkah celebrations (Appendix B.10). This semester we also held a Diwali celebration, where Brothers provided traditional Indian foods and enjoyed festivities. Furthermore, the Chapter organized a Thanksgiving dinner for the Brotherhood to spend time together and enjoy delicious foods. Overall, we embrace our cultural plurality as a Fraternity and celebrate the backgrounds of all of our individual members.

The Brothers of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi understand that their dedication to their fraternity and to academics is more than just a facade.

They work hard for themselves and for each other to achieve the goal of continual existence. To make sure that no Brother's hard work goes unnoticed, Brothers are commended for when they go above and beyond the call of duty in community service, academics, etc. Overall, through the requirements and teachings of the Fraternity, the Theta Chapter is successful in promoting the cultural and moral development of its members in the community and on campus at Rensselaer.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *Score: 3.9 / 4*

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**PREPARED BY: *Trenton Squires, Philanthropy Chairman***

The Chi Phi Fraternity always prioritizes philanthropy and community service. We pride ourselves on our strong commitment to giving back to Troy, the community that we are privileged to be a part of. As the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic began to wane, we were able to interact with the Troy and greater Capital Region communities more in-person. As such, we diversified our volunteering efforts and looked for new opportunities in the Capital Region. All throughout, we continued to maintain social distancing and wear masks in order to do our part in limiting the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the welfare of our Brotherhood.

Over the duration of this semester, the Chi Phi Fraternity provided service to multiple organizations in the Capital Region, including the Regional Food Bank, with which Chi Phi has had a long-standing relationship. The Regional Food Bank is an organization that seeks to reduce food waste and provide nourishment to those who are less fortunate in the Capital Region community. Brothers volunteered there multiple times a week, both individually and through the Chapter, to help combat the perpetual problem of food waste and hunger within the community (Appendix C.1).

Additionally, the Chi Phi Fraternity helps to combat food waste by helping out at food pantries in Troy such as His Table at Victorious Life Christian Church and Provisions Food Pantry. His Table acts as a weekly soup kitchen that feeds the local Troy community at no cost. At His Table, Chi Phi Brothers helped with clean-up twice a month by mopping the floors,

cleaning dishes, cleaning tables, and doing anything else they could to make operations continue to run smoothly at Victorious Life Church. Provisions Food Bank provides groceries to families in need. Here Chi Phi Brothers volunteered once a week by gathering food from the pantry into individual bags and handing it out to underprivileged families. As COVID-19 is still a risk, volunteers like Chi Phi Brothers, rather than individual patrons, continue to gather the food to hand off to families to reduce any crowding within the food pantry and the risk of COVID-19 spreading. Both of these food pantries allow us to maintain our close connection to the community, and we plan on building off of these relationships in future semesters.

This semester, we began fostering a relationship with the Boys & Girls Club of Albany. Notably, we were able to participate in a large volunteering effort for their “Spooktober” event, which occurred during the weekend of Halloween (Appendix C.2). Brothers dressed up in costumes, participated in a haunted house, and handed out candy. Events like these strengthen our relationship with the community and are also fun for the Brothers.

Our national official philanthropic effort is RAINN, or the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, which is America’s largest anti-sexual violence organization. Chi Phi held two large events this semester to raise money for RAINN. The first event we held was a yard sale in which all proceeds went directly to RAINN. The items in this yard sale included quality items donated to the house by alumni and items in the house that were no longer needed. The sale resulted in proceeds of over \$150 donated to RAINN. The yard sale was very successful in both raising money for RAINN, strengthening our ties with the immediate community around our house, and helping to clean up unused items (Appendix C.3).

The second and largest event we held this semester for charity was an event which we called “Casa de Quesadillas” (Appendix C.4). The event

involved the cooking and delivery of quesadillas and side dishes for four hours on a Friday night. We had five main types of quesadillas, including a vegan option, as well as tortilla chips, salsa, sour cream, and homemade guacamole. This event was wildly successful - an emergency supply run had to be made when we sold over half of our supply only an hour into the event. We ended up selling well over a hundred quesadillas and selling out our entire supply. This was the inaugural semester for “Casa de Quesadillas,” so we were very happy with the outcome and look forward to hosting this event in the future. We made profits of nearly \$500, which were donated directly to RAINN.

On top of our philanthropic endeavors, we host events open to the RPI campus community at large each semester. At Wingstock, Brothers cook chicken wings with a variety of sauces and serve them to guests. Likewise, Lobsterfest has been an iconic Chi Phi event for years, where Brothers boil fresh Maine lobsters along with complementary sides. Chi Phi’s Surf & Turf Dinner is another popular event, at which visitors can help themselves to seafood and steak dishes prepared by Brothers. These three events are just a few examples of how we are eager to engage with fellow members of the RPI community (Appendix C.5).

In future semesters, we plan to continue our community service and engagement efforts. Additionally, the Chi Phi Fraternity also wishes to return to fundraising for the St. Baldrick’s foundation in the Spring of 2022, which has been put on hold in the last two Spring semesters due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Appendices C.6, C.7 and C.8). With the success of “Casa de Quesadillas”, the Fraternity will likely make this event an annual occurrence, scaling it up now that we have a better idea of the demand. Overall, the Theta Chapter has been successful in servicing our local community and is planning to expand its outreach in the upcoming Spring 2022 semester.

# HUMAN CONNECTION

Score: 3.6 / 4

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**PREPARED BY: Zachary Burpee, Public Relations Chairman**

One of the Theta Chapter's overarching goals is to promote diversity amongst its members. Brothers are welcome to put forth ideas and give input with regards to what they think might make for quality and fun Brotherhood events. Each one of these events is designed to give Brothers the opportunity to enhance their development as Chi Phi gentlemen, promote their connection to Rensselaer, and enrich their college experience overall. The Theta Chapter elects Brothers to be our Social and Brotherhood Chairmen to plan the aforementioned events that will strengthen the sense of Brotherhood between our members. All of these events will help foster long-lasting relationships between Brothers while ensuring that the Brotherhood stays safe by adhering to the Rensselaer Health and Safety Protocol, as well as guidelines set forth by The Alumni Fraternity and Sorority Council, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New York State Department of Health, and the Rensselaer County Department of Health.

A sampling of the favorite events that our Brothers attended this semester were hikes throughout New York State's Mountains (Appendix D.1). These hikes provided our Brothers with the opportunity to connect with nature and experience all the beauty that comes with getting outside! Additionally, another favorite event that our Brothers took part in was experiencing some of the local sights in our hometown—Troy, New York. Nights spent bowling at Uncle Sam Lanes, partaking in scavenger hunts to

find little-known historical spots, and sampling the wide cuisine, truly lives up to the motto “Enjoy Troy.”

As for our intra-university involvement, the Theta Chapter has taken part in friendly sports competitions hosted by both intramural sports and other Greek Life organizations on-campus. Organized by our appointed Sports Chair, the Brothers took part in Alpha Phifa - a knockout soccer event hosted by Alpha Phi that promotes awareness and raises capital for women’s heart health. This semester, we were lucky to participate in a Potluck dinner with the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. Brothers and Sisters from both organizations prepared dishes to be enjoyed by all who attended this social event. Similarly, we hosted a pizza-making event at the Chapter House in collaboration with Alpha Phi. Brothers and Sisters made homemade pizzas together while socializing in our dining room. Moving forward, we hope to continue organizing events with sororities in order to build connections with other Greek-affiliated students at RPI. Furthermore, this past semester Brothers volunteered at freshman move-in by expediting the move-in process and helping carry dorm supplies to first-year students’ rooms. This volunteering helped to make incoming students feel welcomed at Rensselaer while lessening the mental stress and physical strain of the move-in process. In past years, the Chapter has been a staple in IFC and Panhel programming such as the annual Greek Week event (Appendix D.2).

Additionally, the Brothers have hosted many friendly competitions within the house. For example, cornhole tournaments, ping pong championships, and weekend morning Formula One racing viewings have all contributed to strong Brother relationships while adhering to COVID-19 protocols. Each one of these events promotes and bolsters the mental health of our Brothers - especially when coping with difficult classes and the continued worldwide struggle of COVID-19.



Due to the unprecedented public health crisis the world is continuing to suffer from, the Theta Chapter has taken many procedures to still have in-person events and sustain relationships between Brothers, alumni, and the Rensselaer community. Each one of these events must follow the outlined Theta Chapter of Chi Phi COVID Action Plan, Institute Health and Safety Protocol, and local COVID-19 guidelines. As a result, the Theta Chapter is proud to announce that since the inception of COVID-19, we have not had a single case outbreak from any of its active Brothers. All the while, we have been able to service the community through philanthropy, host a full in-person rush season, and have Brothers live amongst each other in the house.

At first glance, one might think that COVID would create a divide between the active Brotherhood and our alumni base. On the contrary, we have grown very close with recent alumni through four consecutive online Alumni Weekends. During this semester's Alumni Weekend, Brothers met virtually with alumni to discuss the status of house projects and so that alumni could check in on the overall well-being of the Chapter. Programming for the virtual reunion also included professional development sessions where alumni gave Brothers advice on resumes and job applications. Furthermore, we send an alumni newsletter to our network of alumni each semester which updates them on the current state of affairs of the active Chapter (See Appendix D.3). This has proven to be a great way of staying in touch with alumni and keeping them involved in the Brotherhood. At Chi Phi, we value our alumni as those who paved the way for us to enjoy the privilege of being Brothers of this wonderful Fraternity. We are thrilled that despite the obstacle of having to interact with them virtually, we have continued to improve our relationship with them over this past semester.

In accordance with public safety and general cleanliness, the Theta Chapter holds firm in maintaining sanitary, clean, and well-kept living

quarters. Groupings of Brothers are assigned to care for the bathrooms and hallways of the floor that they live on in our Chapter Houses. This system has indirectly led to the development of floors with their own “personalities” and cultures, establishing smaller communities within the house where Brothers hold each other accountable for making sure their living spaces are kept in superb condition.

All members of our Brotherhood are obligated to complete an assigned cleaning shift at least once a semester that rotates on a weekly basis, regardless of whether they are living in or out of our Chapter Houses. The institution of these cleaning shifts strengthens the feeling of shared responsibility that our Brothers perceive for our home away from home. Additionally, we have communal whiteboards and chalkboards that all of our active Brothers can use to express their thoughts, share memes, encourage each other, and reflect on memorable moments that occurred during our events. This medium allows Brothers to have fun together, make each other laugh, and keep a lighthearted atmosphere in our community in between classes or the lulls of everyday life.

Chi Phi, America’s oldest social fraternity, maintains a rich tradition of developing men and expanding their worldview by giving our members novel experiences that they may have never had otherwise and will keep for the rest of their lives. The Theta Chapter is unique in that we offer a more holistic approach to new experiences through our events as opposed to other on-campus special interest clubs that solely host affairs related to one specific topic. Our dynamic style of keeping active Brothers, those taking their Arch away experience, and alumni connected through the Chapter Discord allows for meaningful relationships that will last. We seek to educate our Brothers through engaging and diverse programming that can help active Brothers find professional opportunities and foster professional connections to ignite successful careers. The Chi Phi Fraternity Brotherhood

ultimately sophisticates the individual, forges well-rounded men, and prepares them to be cognizant, productive members of society.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

Score: 1.6 / 2

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**PREPARED BY: Richard Gonzalez, Public Relations Chairman**

The Theta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity is a proud recipient of many distinguishing accolades from our National Organization. We are consistently awarded for our due diligence in fostering a culture of public health and risk management awareness, philanthropic service to the Troy community and greater Capital Region, and strong camaraderie among members of our Brotherhood. Each Brother of the Theta Chapter strives to maintain the safe and healthy environment shaped by our values and to enrich the Rensselaer community through involvement in campus activities and organizations.

This year, the Theta Chapter won four awards—one of them being the *Thomas Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence*. Our Chapter was truly humbled to receive this award for the fifth year in a row as we have tried our hardest to uphold our high standard of excellence. With the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States making it exponentially difficult to safely continue servicing our local community, the Theta Chapter had to quickly adjust its approach to operate with caution given the changing global circumstances (Appendix E.1).

Another award that we proudly received this Summer was for our outstanding community service. The Theta Chapter has always sought to do whatever is in its means to help improve the surrounding community; the reception of this award merely underscores the veracity of this mission. In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic's hold on society, our Chapter continues to

help improve our surrounding community through our volunteerism at the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and the local Victorious Life Church (Appendix E.1).

Individual awards were given to our Brothers in honor of their leadership, commitment, and service to the Theta Chapter and our National Organization's mission. Brother Daniel Celic '20, '21 was awarded the *Carl J. Gladfelter Leadership Award*. Celic was instrumental in planning and executing the 2019 Chi Phi St. Baldrick's Event which raised \$20,000 for childhood cancer research. He also established and strengthened the Chapter's relationships with Victorious Life Christian Church and the Regional Food Bank, and overhauled evergreen documents laying out the Theta Chapter's COVID-19 policies and procedures. On top of that, Brother Celic was an influential Alpha who navigated the Chapter through the implementation of the Summer Arch program by stimulating necessary policy changes and restructuring house operations. Celic's impact is still felt within the Chapter after his graduation, including his visionary ideals surrounding our core values of friendship, responsibility and philanthropy (Appendix E.1).

Brother Trenton Squires '22 received the *Ben Wayne Greig, Jr. Award for Outstanding Chapter Scholastic Chairman*. Squires held virtual study hours, as half of the active Brotherhood studied online during the Fall 2020 semester, and provided Brothers with one-on-one academic support or put those seeking assistance with difficult courses in contact with Brothers who succeeded in those courses. All of his hard work paid off when the Theta Chapter ranked third among the fraternities in term GPA for the Fall 2020 semester. The Theta Chapter also managed to surpass the all-Greek and all-campus average, increasing our average GPA from 3.26 to 3.32 (Appendices A.4 and E.1).

The Theta Chapter enthusiastically participated in events hosted by the Chi Phi National Office to better prepare our Chapter's leaders and learn from the experiences of our Brothers. Our Executive Board, consisting of nine Brothers, attended virtual webinars where they further developed their leadership skills through team-building exercises and learning modules in lieu of any in-person programming. Brothers Noah Prisament '21, '22 (The Chapter President) and Christian Winicki '22 (The Chapter Vice President) attended Chi Phi Congress this past Summer, the first one held in two years due to the pandemic. At this Congress, the aforementioned Brothers also worked to pass a resolution for Congress in the Summer of 2028 to be hosted in Albany, New York for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Theta Chapter! In addition to all of this, there were many updates regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion including the replacement of the term Colony with the term Associate Chapter in the Chi Phi Constitution (Appendix E.2).

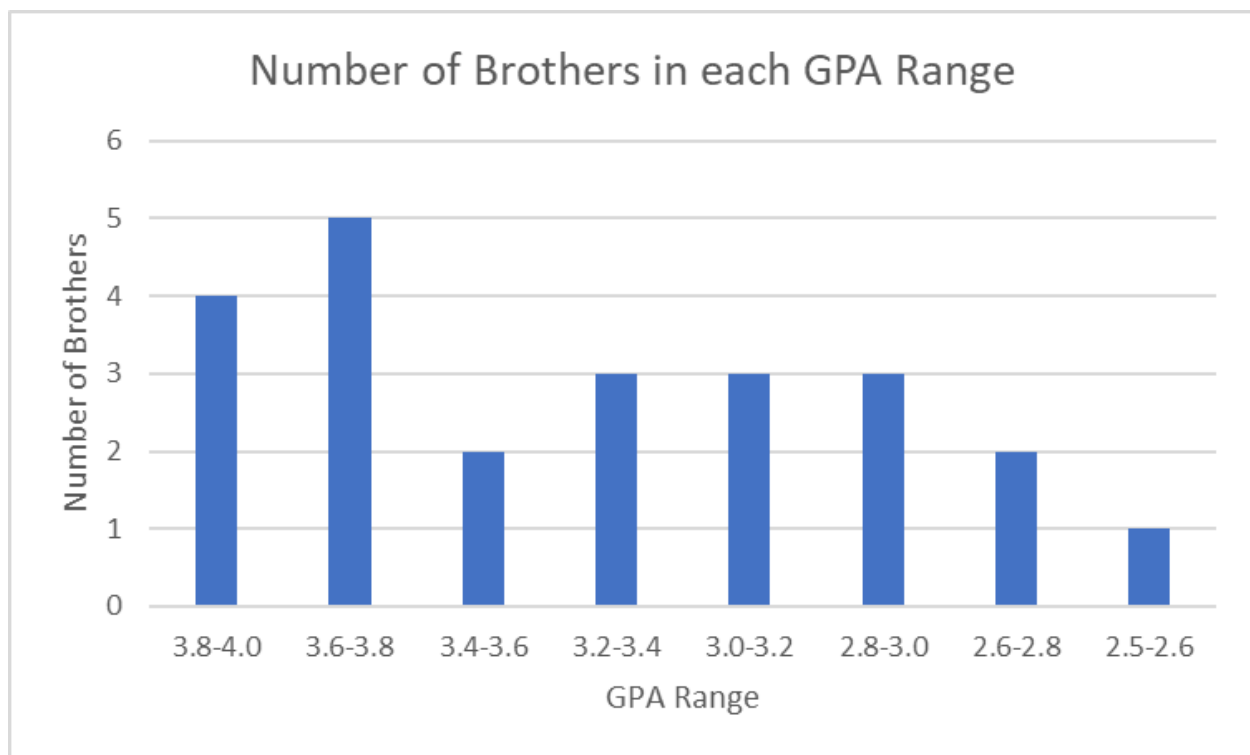
The Theta Chapter keeps close ties with our National organization and stays informed on local, regional, and national events through its involvement with the Chi Phi National Fraternity. Our Brothers take great pleasure in connecting with Brothers from across the country and forging strong bonds with other Chapters. This semester, the Chapter had the pleasure of hosting Brother Derrick Hinton II (Iowa State University, Class of 2016), from the National Fraternity Office. This was a great opportunity to connect with our National Headquarters after several semesters of being unable to do so. Brother Hinton met with every officer and provided invaluable insight into how they can better fulfill their responsibilities and set SMART goals for the future.

# Appendix

PREPARED BY: *Jared Zornitzer, Alexander Liu, Barry Soulaymana, and John Cohen*

## Appendix A: Academic Excellence

Item A.1



A bar chart illustrating the number of Brothers in each GPA range. Brothers of the Chi Phi Fraternity prioritize academics and perform extremely well in their classes. *Note that these grades are as of Spring 2021.*

## Item A.2

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

- RAs, LAs, Brothers, upper-class students
- Drop in Tutoring offered via ALAC
- Tutoring offered through your school
- The Arch
- Academic Advising
- DSS
- Faculty
- TAs
- Academic Discord Channels
- Class Deans
  - NE Grades
  - Excused Absences
  - Academic Probation Support
- Student Success Labs
- Academic Policies (drop class, PNC)

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GHI Fall Presentation 4 11/21/21

PERSONAL RESOURCES

- Counseling Services
- Online SHC resources
  - anxiety, depression, eating, perfectionism, relationships, sleep disorders, substance abuse
- Online mental health screenings
- Casual Adult
- Disability Student Services
- Faculty, friends, brothers, etc.
- Class Deans
  - Connections and referrals to resources

Rensselaer

GHI Fall Presentation 5 11/21/21

Slides from Dean Trzepacz's academic seminar which he gave to the Brotherhood. The primary takeaway from the presentation was how to utilize all of the academic and personal resources available to students at RPI.



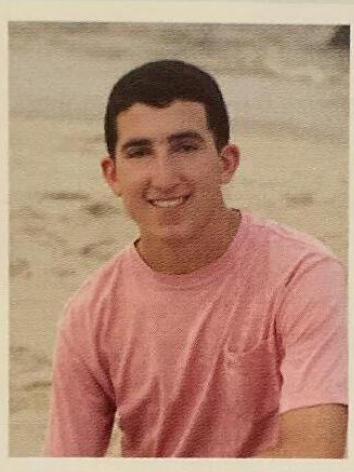
Item A.3



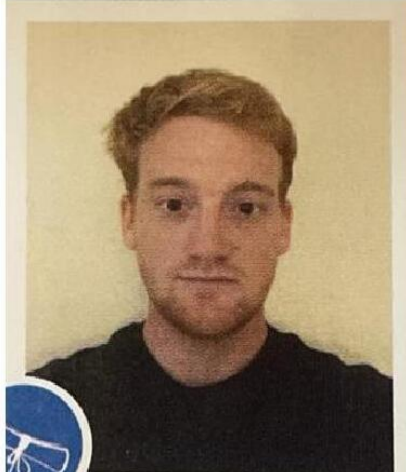
**Noah Prisament**  
Theta 2021  
Educational Trust  
Scholarship



**Connor Hanggi**  
Theta 2022  
Richard Taylor and  
Educational Trust Scholarship



**Jared Zornitzer**  
Theta 2024  
Educational Trust  
Scholarship



**Daniel Klee**  
Theta 2022  
Spaur Scholarship

Pictures from the Fall 2021 edition of the Chi Phi Chakett Newsletter honoring the Theta Chapter Brothers that were awarded Chi Phi Educational Trust Scholarships.

## Item A.4



Line chart of the Chapter's average cumulative GPA from Fall 2016 through Spring 2021.

## Appendix B: Moral & Cultural Development

### Item B.1

#### Creed of Chi Phi

I believe in the Chi Phi Fraternity. From its triple origin, Chi Phi sets forth and maintains values that others in society have dared to compromise. Truth, Honor, and Personal Integrity are the foundations upon which Chi Phi is built. A man's word is his bond. Chivalrous behavior crosses the ages to touch the heart of Chi Phi.

I believe in the friendship of Chi Phi. Whether on the road or in the Chapter house, the hand of Brotherhood is always extended. The strength obtained from the union of congenial minds is the backbone of the Fraternity. Our founders sought for nothing less.

Finally, I believe in the future of the Chi Phi Fraternity because I believe in myself. When I put forth my best effort and combine that with the strength of my Brothers, we can achieve the victory of continual existence.

As long as the Almighty permits, I will strive to better myself through the teachings of my Fraternity. Being a more aware citizen, a more able person, and a stronger Chi Phi shall be my reward.

The Creed of the Chi Phi Fraternity. In it are our three core values: truth, honor and personal integrity.

### Item B.2



Photo of the original Chapter House in downtown Troy.

Item B.3



**THETA, RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE**  
Troy, New York



Photos of the current Chapter House on the corner of 15th Street and Sage Avenue.

## Item B.4

### **Executive Board Positions**

Alpha - President  
Beta - Vice President  
Gamma - Secretary  
Delta - Treasurer  
Epsilon - House Manager  
Zeta - Historian  
Eta - Risk Manager  
Theta - New Member  
Educator  
Iota - Recruitment  
Chairman

### **Additional Elected Positions**

Social Chairman  
Steward  
Philanthropy Chairman  
Public Relations Chairman  
Live-In Advisor

### **Appointed Officers**

Scholarship Chairman  
Alumni Relations Chairman  
Wiring Chairman  
Brotherhood Chairman  
Sports  
Total Membership Educator  
Face of Rush  
Social Media  
IFC Delegate

List of all current executive board positions, additional elected positions, and appointed positions.

## Item B.5

### Committees

1. Gamma
2. Delta
3. Epsilon
4. Zeta
5. Eta
6. Theta
7. Iota
8. Social
9. Steward
10. Philanthropy
11. Public Relations
12. Wiring

### Section 7: Epsilon Committee

1. The Epsilon Committee shall consist of the Epsilon, who shall serve as chairman and an additional number of members to be decided by the chairman and the Beta.
2. It is the responsibility of the Epsilon Committee to:
  - 2.1. Sign all house residents to a housing contract with the House Corporation.
  - 2.2. Assign damage deposits and control the Chapter maintenance fund.
  - 2.3. Maintain upkeep of the house and lands by posting an alternating duty assignment schedule and issue appropriate punishments for those who are derelict in these duties.
  - 2.4. Submit a proposed budget for all house improvements and routine maintenance costs.
  - 2.5. Stay in close contact with the House Corporation, submitting to it future major improvements.
  - 2.6. Declare work parties, oversee them and issue appropriate punishments for those who are derelict in these duties.
  - 2.7. Make the house as comfortable and attractive as possible.
  - 2.8. Enforce quiet hours.

List of all current committees along with a committee charter from the Chapter Bylaws as an example.

## Item B.6



Collage of many companies that Brothers have acquired internships or full-time positions at recently.

## Item B.7

### What is the New Member Education Program?

The program has three main purposes:

- To Educate new members about the workings of the local chapter
- To Educate new members in the history and traditions of Chi Phi
- To Expose new members to each other and fraternity life

A screenshot from one of the first handouts in our New Member Education Program. Chi Phi's New Member Education Program develops New Members into culturally aware, upstanding young men.

## Item B.8



Theta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity  
Week 0: Syllabus

Week #	Date	Subject	Activity/Guest	Assigned	Location and Time
1	Oct 10	Introduction / What is Brotherhood? Chi Phi Risk Management Policies IFC Risk Management Policies NME and Chi Phi Expectations	Pledging Ceremony and debrief	GreekLifeEDU Part 1	Chapter House @ 9pm
2	Oct 17	What is a Chi Phi? A Wink and a Nod The Chi Phi Creed, Mission and Vision	Alpha, Beta, Delta Pledge Class Elections	Big Brother Choices	Chapter House @ 9pm
3	Oct 24	Chapter Organization Chapter Operations Local Chapters The Chi Phi Prayer	Gamma, Epsilon, Scholarship, Steward Big Ceremony	Shift Shadows	Chapter House @ 9pm
4	Oct 31	National Organization Academic Resources	Eta, Iota, and Zeta Gather Brothers	Pledge Paddles Part 1	Chapter House @ 9pm
5	Nov 7	National History	Wiring and PR	Pledge Paddles Part 2	Chapter House @ 9pm
6	Nov 14	Local History	Philanthropy, Sports, and Brotherhood	Pledge Boxes Part 1	Chapter House @ 9pm
7	Nov 21	Chapter Designations	TME, Alumni Relations, and J-Board Triple Origin Ceremonies and Debrief	Pledge Boxes Part 2 GreekLifeEDU Part 2	Chapter House @ 9pm
8	Nov 28		Big/Little Jeopardy Initiation		

The New Member Education Syllabus with listed meetings, meeting topics, and assigned projects.

Item B.9



Photo of Chi Phi's Newly Initiated Members from Fall 2021.

Item B.10



Photo taken of Rabbi Morrison and many Brothers singing “Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel” on a Hanukkah night.



## Appendix C: Community Engagement

### Item C.1



Brothers Noah Prisament '21, '22 (back row, second to the left) and Connor Hanggi '22 (back row, rightmost) volunteered at the Regional Food Bank with the Order of Omega. This event was in addition to the twice weekly volunteering sessions hosted by Chi Phi throughout many weeks of the semester.

### Item C.2



Chi Phi Brothers, along with other volunteers, volunteered at the Albany Boys and Girls Club's "Spooktober" event this Fall!

Item C.3



Brother Anton Kapitman '21, '22 posing at the yard sale we hosted - where all proceeds went to RAINN.



Advertisement from our philanthropic Yard Sale event.

Item C.4

<p><b>KEVINDILLA</b></p> <p>Sirlain Philly Cheesesteak, Provolone, Bell Peppers, Sautéed Onions \$7</p> <p><b>THE GEORGIAN</b></p> <p>BBQ Pulled Pork, Veggie Slaw, Sautéed Onions \$7</p> <p><b>THREE CHEESE</b></p> <p>Traditional Mixture of Cheddar, Pepper Jack, and Monterey Jack \$5</p> <p><b>VEGGIEDILLA</b></p> <p>Bell Peppers, Onions, Black Beans, Corn, Vegan Jack Cheese, Lime Aioli \$6</p> <p><b>QUESADILLA DE POLLO</b></p> <p>Seared Chicken Breast, Peppers, Onions, Monterey Jack \$7</p> <p><b>SIDES</b></p> <p>Tortilla Chips \$1.00 Homemade Guacamole \$2.00 Salsa \$1.00 Sour Cream \$1.00</p> <p><b>RAINN</b> All profits go to RAINN</p> <p>TDD 11/21 zornj@rpi.edu</p>	 <p><b>Casa de Quesadillas</b> Hosted by the Chi Phi Fraternity</p> <p><b>Friday 11/19</b> <b>10 PM - 2 AM</b></p> <p>Order by Calling: (862)-485-6988</p> <p>or by filling out the Google Form:</p>  <p>(Google form linked in our Instagram Bio @chi_phi_rpi)</p> <p>All deliveries will be fulfilled within 30 minutes</p>
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Flyer from the “Casa de Quesadillas” Philanthropy event.

Item C.5



Flyers from the Wingstock, Lobsterfest, and Surf & Turf Dinner events.

Item C.6



Photos of the Brotherhood after the St. Baldrick's events in 2016 and 2019, respectively.

Item C.7

Year	Money Raised For St. Baldrick's Foundation
Spring 2016	\$4,304
Spring 2017	\$22,287
Spring 2018	\$21,088
Spring 2019	\$19,129
Spring 2020	\$4,381

Money raised for St. Baldrick's event, Spring 2016 through Spring 2020. The Spring 2020 event was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the money that had been raised was still donated to the foundation.

Item C.8

Year	Money raised for Unity House of Troy Fundraiser
Spring 2021	\$1,050

Money raised for our Spring 2021 Unity House of Troy Fundraiser. We did this fully virtual fundraiser in place of our typical St. Baldrick's Spring Fundraiser.

## Appendix D: Human Connection

Item D.1



A picture of Brothers hiking in Minnewaska State Park, in New Paltz, New York.

Item D.2



Greek Week team banner making in Fall 2019.

## Item D.3

SPRING 2021

# THE THETA RECORD

Official Newsletter of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi Fraternity

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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THETA RECORD

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

 <p>Brother McDonald will be continuing his job search and working on launching a startup company.</p> <p><b>Br. Marc McDonald</b> BS Mechanical Engineering, MS Business Administration</p>	 <p>Brother Celic will be working at Pfizer in Andover, MA, as a senior associate scientist. He will be in charge of downstream/purification process development.</p> <p><b>Br. Daniel Celic</b> BS Chemical Engineering, MS Supply Chain Management</p>
 <p>Brother Miller is working at Moog Space and Defense Group in Buffalo, NY. He will be working as a system design and controls engineer.</p> <p><b>Br. Michael Miller</b> Mechanical Engineering</p>	 <p>Brother Sasakura will be working as a full-time system engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat.</p> <p><b>Br. Shin Sasakura</b> Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering</p>
 <p>Brother Underwood will be continuing his job search in the Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering fields. His work organizing our St. Baldrick's fundraiser will continue to be appreciated.</p> <p><b>Br. Justin Underwood</b> Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering</p>	 <p>Brother Ward is returning to NetApp in Boulder, CO, after his internship. He will be working as a software engineer specializing in web development.</p> <p><b>Br. Zachary Ward</b> Computer Science</p>
 <p>Brother Hoffman will be continuing his search for employment as a Mechanical Engineer.</p> <p><b>Br. Hunter Hoffman</b> Mechanical Engineering</p>	 <p>Brother Fishbein will be working at RBC Bearings in Oxford, CT as a Manufacturing Engineer Trainee.</p> <p><b>Br. Ryan Fishbein</b> Aeronautical Engineering</p>
 <p>Brother Hagmann will be pursuing a Masters of Science in Aerospace Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.</p> <p><b>Br. Kai Hagmann</b> Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering</p>	 <p>Brother Porrecca will be continuing his search for employment as a Software Engineer.</p> <p><b>Br. Kevin Porrecca</b> Computer Science</p>
 <p>Brother Weisser will be working at Aplyam Pharmaceuticals as an Associate Scientist.</p> <p><b>Br. Eddie Weisser</b> Biomedical Engineering</p>	 <p>Brother DeBassio will be attending Physician Assistant School, a three-year program in partnership with Harvard School of Medicine.</p> <p><b>Br. Paul DeBassio</b> Biology and Pre-Medical Studies</p>

Pictures from our most recent alumni newsletter. The Alumni newsletters get sent out to alumni once per semester. These can be found at <http://www.thetaofchphi.org/alumni.php>.

## Appendix E: Behind the Scenes

### Item E.1



Photo of four awards won by the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi: *Thomas A. Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence*, *Carl J. Gladfelter Leadership Award*, *Outstanding Community Service Award*, and *Ben Wayne Greig, Jr. Award for Outstanding Chapter Scholastic Chairman*.



Item E.2



Photo of Brother Noah Prisament '21, '22, President and Brother Christian Winicki '22, Vice President at Chi Phi Congress this year.