

THE THETA RECORD



The State Of The Chi

With the end of 2016 rapidly approaching, the Theta Chapter has been steadily improving and meeting the goals that were set at the beginning of the year. The largest of these goals included developing a stronger relationship with RPI administration and faculty, building on our academic program, becoming more involved in the local community, continuing to recruit men that will improve the house, and improving the view of the fraternity throughout campus. I can very confidently say that we have made great progress in achieving these goals, as well as meeting other short term goals.

Improving our relationship with the faculty, staff, and students has been one of the major goals this year. To accomplish this, the chapter has hosted a faculty dinner both semesters, and both dinners were extremely successful in developing a relationship with RPI faculty and administration. Along with the dinners, the chapter has been inviting campus faculty to speak on topics which they have expertise in, to both educate the chapter, as well as improve the relationship we have with them. Such guests include CCPD staff, Public Safety, and other campus faculty. We have also asked local businesses to help offer prizes to people who donate to one of our large fundraising campaigns that takes place in the spring semester, St. Baldrick's. This has helped to develop a relationship with a lot of the local businesses in downtown Troy. This specific fundraiser was also featured in the Chakett for the Spring '16 semester.

We were once again accredited with distinction the last semester, the highest award that can be given to a Chi Phi chapter. There are improvements that can still be made to increase our score, and Br. Notley, Br. Avsyuk, and I have been improving our accreditation submission with these improvements. For the year of 2015, we also received a ranking of 5 stars from the university, which is the highest ranking that can be achieved. We have reviewed the problem areas in our previous application, and have made an active effort to improve chapter operations to satisfy the requirements of the application throughout the semester. As such, I am very confident that we will achieve a 5 star ranking for the 2016 year as well.

The chapter has also been working to further improve the academic plan in order to further increase our GPA, and provide a better support network for brothers. We have gone through efforts to recognize brothers that have improved throughout the semester, as well as consistent high achievers. Br. Pisansky has also been making an effort to reserve study rooms on campus for brothers to study together, and continue to work together to better themselves.

With everything that we have accomplished over the past year, I am happy to say that I am extremely proud of the steps that all of us have taken to further improve the chapter. I can also confidently say that we will continue to grow and improve because of the enthusiasm of the chapter, and the incoming pledge class. I believe that the newly elected officers will continue to lead this house to becoming a top fraternity on campus.

Fraternally,

Br. Matthew D'Arcangelo '18
Alpha



Br. D'Arcangelo

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From the Beta's Desk

Over these last two semesters, I am proud to say we have continued our upward momentum and have seen quite a lot of improvement in the house, both quantitatively and in the general atmosphere.

As of the spring semester, I am proud to say that the Theta Chapter has become nationally accredited with distinction and is now ranked a 5-star fraternity by the administration at RPI. The spring introduced officer obligation checklists, managed jointly by the Alpha, Beta, and PR chair, so that each officer has a more clear-cut idea of exactly what metrics they are expected to maintain in their terms in order to meet all of our national and school requirements. This increased organization will hopefully help us to maintain and expand upon our success in satisfying all of our quantitative goals.

The fall semester saw the first trial runs of a more structured system of officer-committee meetings. This system requires officers to have monthly meetings with their committees in order to determine what short-term goals they have and how they plan to accomplish these goals. These will be refined over the coming semesters and will hopefully allow officers to more effectively use their committees to distribute responsibility more evenly in the house and reduce the number of obligations that fall squarely on the shoulders of the officers.

Overall, I have seen such a difference in the house atmosphere and quality of work that is done over the course of the year. I am proud of the progress we have made and I am excited to see what else can be accomplished.

Fraternally,

Br. Stephen Notley '18
Beta



Br. Notley

Footnotes by the Gamma

After taking over for Br. Javed's leave to New York City for the fall semester, I have managed to assist the fraternity as much as I can as the Gamma. I have been putting in hours of work in order to better the house in a way only the Gamma can. Both in- and out-of-house relationships have constantly been improving. Sororities have been given gifts. The Chi Phi Wiki has never looked better. We have not missed a deadline on reports for as long as I have been Gamma and I plan to keep it that way for the rest of my term.

Br. Legatt has been elected to serve as the next Gamma and I plan on teaching him all the tricks and traditions of the position to have him be an even better Gamma than I ever was. Having a strong Gamma is a necessity for this house, and I think that we are in good hands with the new elect and believe that we will continue thriving with Br. Legatt on board.

Fraternally,

Br. Joseph Loveland '19
Gamma



Br. Loveland

THE THETA RECORD

Savings, Insurance, and Wifi

The state of the house finances continues to improve as the trend set by Br. Marshall continues. This semester, we were able to increase our budgets in rush, social, and wiring while still aiming for the high standard of placing 15% of our semesterly income into savings. The actives' savings account continues to grow and no withdrawals have been made from the account during my term.

For the past 11 months as Delta I have been as transparent as possible with the brotherhood and especially E-Board, sending out budget updates on a weekly basis and putting together a comprehensive chart so that everyone can see how and when officers decide to spend their budgets. While alumni debt continues to be a challenge, we have made significant progress as we opened a new alumni debt and donations bank account. It has not been utilized much yet, but we plan to send email updates to alumni notifying them how we are using their funds to further improve the house.

I am also happy to report that the house has been able to make some larger purchases to improve living conditions over the past year with the help of the wiring chair. We were able to purchase a new speaker system for the dining room with house funds as well as overhaul the aging Wi-Fi setup with the help of Br. Ide, Br. Laferriere, and the Chi Phi Educational Fund.

Our new insurance company continues to be a great fit for us, as we recently passed our inspection with flying colors (again). The inspector had only good things to say and we are in good standing with the company. Contrasting from a little more than a year ago when the chapter's previous policy was terminated by the insurance company, we have made great progress and are in a stable state as we approach the end of the year.

As Br. Crevier and I start the Delta transition process at the end of this semester, I am excited to see the house continue to improve financially. We are in great shape to make some major house improvements in the coming years as the savings account grows, and we continue to improve each semester as an active brotherhood at RPI.

Finally, on behalf of the all the actives I would like to thank Br. Shapiro, Br. Ulin, Br. Laferriere, Br. Madiath, and all of the alumni that chipped during the recent alumni weekend. Your generosity is highly appreciated and your donations to the fraternity have allowed us to continue to improve and do what we do best.

Fraternally,

Br. Samuel Atkinson '18
Delta



Br. Atkinson

Staying Alive

No news is good news as the risk manager, and it sure has been quiet. I'm proud of the house's efforts to maintain a safe environment throughout the semester. The fire inspection from RPI went very well, and the school's representative repeatedly noted that we've made significant improvements over the last year. There are still a few areas they'd like to see improve that we will continue to work towards, including clutter in storage areas. Thanks to the hard work of Br. Carmody, a shed is currently being built behind Stroud Hall that will help address this issue.

For the remainder of the semester, I will be working with Eta-elect Br. Curtin on the transition process, because if he succeeds, we succeed. We will be working on the organization of the Eta guide and binders so that future Etas will have an easy time staying on top of everything. We will also schedule a seminar on emergency situations, as well as work on an updated, more specific crisis management policy in order to ensure the house is always prepared.

Fraternally,

Br. Anthony Chiamonte '18
Eta



Br. Chiamonte

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Patching Up the Chi

The Brotherhood has put in a lot of work and has had many accomplishments throughout 2016. We made necessary and valuable improvements to both houses. It has been a pleasure to work with these fine gentlemen and see Brothers' respect and commitment toward working on the house grow.

In the spring semester, the attic and basement were reorganized during work weekend and Brothers had the opportunity to make improvements on their rooms. Two emergency leaks, one in each house, were quickly fixed soon after the semester started with the help of Br. Underwood. Once spring finally came, the gardens in front of both houses were completely dug up, new flowers, shrubs, and Japanese maples were transplanted, and the beds were mulched. We also planted roses and marigolds in front of the white picket fence. Br. Underwood and Br. Meaden built a raised, framed vegetable garden bed in the Annex front lawn and Br. Baken helped seed and water the garden into the summer. Towards the end of the summer, one washing machine and one dryer were replaced after approximately 9 years of hard use.

The beginning of the fall semester also brought many great improvements due to a productive work-week. Br. Sherbourne headed beautification of the property by replacing the annuals in the front garden with fresh mums, preparing the lawn for the fall, and reducing clutter in the backyard. Br. D'Arcangelo led the effort in repainting the basement walls with a dark gray and Br. Curtin worked on repainting the A2 porch. Sweetheart Duongtran also painted an amazing mural of the Chi Phi crest in the main house dining room. Br. Rosengrant made many needed repairs on various items around the property, including the backyard gate, furniture around the firepit, and floors in the attic. Br. Pisansky learned how to drywall and spackle by finishing the walls in the Annex stairwell and patching holes within both houses. I personally led the project of building a shed in unused space in the backyard. Many brothers have put in hours helping me complete the shed and it is now protected and usable for storing equipment over the winter.

Throughout the semester, I have implemented work-weekends bi-weekly, in which volunteers and my committee have continued to make improvements and prepare the houses for inspections. Br. Meaden and I replaced both the keyless lockset and door closer on the main house front door. Electrical work was also done on the lighting panel for the basement and multiple breaker boxes throughout the houses. Drop ceilings were also installed in both Annex bathrooms and now require only minor finishing touches for completion.

In the future, I plan to work with the next Epsilon, Br. Meaden, and Br. Worden on projects around the property, as well as guide Br. Meaden into a successful term. I am

honored to have served as Epsilon of Theta Chapter for three semesters, and I cannot wait to see the younger Brothers begin to hold positions within the house and continue to improve on the work of those who came before. I expect everyone to do their part for Chi Phi and for each other. If any alumni would like to donate your time or resources, or would like to give a suggestion for improving the image of Chi Phi, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Br. Ethan Carmody '18

Epsilon



Br. Carmody



The new shed, a work in progress

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So Many Ceremonies, So Much Time

In my time as Zeta, I have continued to learn about our fraternity's rituals and the meanings behind them. This summer, Br. Stephen Notley, Br. Tyler Quon, Br. Nicolas Sirano and I attended the first ever Regional Ritual Retreat, hosted by Psi chapter at Lehigh University. Not only were we told interesting stories about the origins of Chi Phi, but we were taught ways to refine our technique in executing rituals as well as ways to improve the overall experience of each ritual we perform. Following this experience, I contacted the Grand Epsilon, Br. Matt Scheller, and received a comprehensive list of all equipment needed for Chi Phi's rituals and ceremonies. My committee (Br. William Perkins and Br. Nicolas Sirano) and I have been working on acquiring all unowned items on this list.

Theta chapter once again hosted Chi Phi's Lambda Theta chapter from UMass Dartmouth, allowing them to use our house for the initiation of their new members. We look forward to the continual growth of an already strong bond with this chapter.

The points system continues to improve through small changes. This semester, we have added incentives for tutoring brothers and new members, as well as for holding an IFC position on campus. In the future, I plan to work with Zeta elect Br. Perkins and the rest of the house on making more significant changes to this system, so brothers are further encouraged to go above and beyond in contributing to the house.

I am proud of all that was accomplished in 2016, and look forward to a smooth transition into 2017 so the house can continue to improve.

Fraternally,

Br. Ethan Hill '18
Zeta



Br. Hill



Brothers taking on their professor in foosball after the faculty dinner

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Meet The New Guys

This semester we initiated 9 new members at Theta Chapter. Their names are listed below along with their hometowns and major:

Brian Sposato: Carmel, NY, Nuclear Engineering

John Farrell: Burke, VA, Computer Science/Business

Marc McDonald: McLean, VA, Mechanical Engineering

Lucas Sheldon: Washington D.C., Math

Paul LaRue: Pensacola, FL, Electrical Engineering

Jake Weingard: Tiverton, RI, Biomedical Engineering

Matthew Weinstock-Collins: Lancaster, PA, Math/Computer Science

Peter Gramenides: Queens, NY, Computer Systems Engineering

David Nice: Wayne, PA, Mechanical Engineering

We began with 12 signing their bids. Two of them were unsure about joining in the first place and after trying pledging out for a week, decided that Greek life was not for them. Separately, one decided to take an extra experimental class this semester which caused him to fall behind in his commitment to pledging and decided to drop due to the lack of time. However, we have been in constant contact with him and he is expected to pledge again this spring. I firmly believe that all of these new members will be a great asset to our fraternity and help us to continue our recent successes.

Fraternally,

Br. Paul Kluppel '16
Theta



Br. Kluppel

Rushed Report

This year's rush was filled with new experiences, some quality lessons to think about in the future, and twelve wonderful rushees singing their bids to join our house. Lobsterfest and Wingstock were wildly successful as usual. As usual, thank you to Br. Bartlett for once again coming through with the cheap lobster hook up! Being able to acquire the amount of lobster that we do for the price we get makes this event possible. In addition to some of the more familiar events, we tried some new stuff! First off, we hosted a Bagel Breakfast on campus, where we got bagels from Psychedelicatessen, a cafe in downtown Troy. The bagels were delicious, but unfortunately we did not give away as many as we hoped. However, since it was a new event, we learned how to make it better should a future rush chair hope to try this event again. A tremendously successful new event was River Tubing. For this event, we grabbed about 50 tubes from our local Walmart and lazily floated down a calming river. Everyone had a blast! Thank you to Br. Ethan Carmody for suggesting the event, and helping plan the event. Our final event was quite a change in scenery, but still the same old trip into the great outdoors. For our invite only trip, we managed to find a cabin in the Adirondacks. While everyone had fun, we were forced to leave a little bit before our scheduled departure due to a miscommunication with the owner. The following week, our bid dinner went off without a hitch, and many of our quality new members signed on the spot!

Fraternally,

Br. Lyndon Pisansky '18
Iota



Br. Pisansky

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Let's Get Social

This previous fall semester has allowed the house to engage in several events on campus. The house hosted several social events including three mixers with Alpha Gamma Delta and one with Alpha Phi, due to time constraints we were not able to host an event with Pi Beta Phi. We also hosted a barbecue for alumni during the Alumni Weekend and a meet and greet session for parents during Parent's Weekend. The house continues to improve on campus relations by participating in both on campus and private events. We are striving to continue our positive trend and I look forward to see what the next social chair, Br. Nico Feraco can bring to the table.

Fraternally,

Br. Nathan Rosengrant '18
Social Chairman



Br. Rosengrant

Mission Accomplished

I am very proud to say that the chapter has finally achieved the long sought goal of Five Stars for the 2015 calendar year. We also once again achieved a ranking of Accredited with Distinction for the Spring 2016 semester. I am very happy with all of the work that everyone in the house has put in towards achieving these goals, and of the turnaround from three stars and unaccredited statuses that we had just a couple of years ago.

We have continued to use the grading rubrics for both of these ranking systems to plan out our semester and yearly activities, as suggested by Br. Mazza a couple of years ago. Recently Br. Notley helped improve this system by sitting down and creating spreadsheets for each officer which go over in detail what is expected of them every semester for both Five Star and Accreditation. Now, each officer has quick and easy access to all of the information that they will need to ensure a high Accreditation and Five Star score.

Since we have finally achieved the goals that we set for ourselves a couple of years ago, it is now time to focus on even greater things. The next step for PR is to submit the Fall 2016 accreditation to national, and to start planning for the Five Star submission which will be sometime in February. A new goal for the chapter should be to focus on winning awards, both nationally and through the school. I am very excited to work alongside Sam Atkinson, the new Public Relations Chair, to continue and improve on the success that we have achieved so far.

Fraternally,

Br. Greg Avsyuk '17
Public Relations Chairman



Br. Avsyuk



Chi Phi Brothers and New Members Making Christmas Ornaments with Alpha Phi

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Giving Back

This semester, the house participated in a wide variety of philanthropic events. We continued with our routine projects such as can sorting for the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society and the cleaning of Rte. 7 for the Adopt-a-Highway program; while also doing some new events for the first time like our Halloween Party at the Troy Boys & Girls club. One of our primary goals for this semester was to further strengthen our relationship with the Troy Boys & Girls Club. Instead of having them come to our house, we decided to go to them this semester by throwing a Halloween party in their gymnasium. We had 15+ brothers go there from 2:00-5:30 on that Monday to host a variety of games and activities for the kids to do. We had sack races, bingo, ring toss, arts & crafts, soccer, and a haunted house! The event was catered by Dinosaur BBQ and throughout the 3 hours we were there, we saw over 60 kids come and go. It was a really special opportunity to be able to spend Halloween with these kids and make a lasting impact on the community.

Another goal for this semester was to improve the image of the house in the eyes of the greek community, while also increasing our overall campus image. The brotherhood participated in several events that achieved this goal. We started off philanthropy this fall by helping with freshman move-in. We had 12 brothers over the course of the first two days of work week help freshman move into their dorms. We also participated in Pi Beta Phi's Annual Wingfest where we won "Best Wing" with our famous Chi Phi Classic wings! This was an event where a number of fraternities and sororities sold chicken wings to raise money for First Book. The house is also currently participating in a can recycling completion for the Green Greeks club, which is run by Br. Grigory Avsyuk. It is a competition between all on-campus Greek organizations to see who can recycle the most cans, and the winner gets to choose a charity to receive a donation in their name.

Lastly, the house continued to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program by cleaning Rte. 7 twice this semester. The section of Rte. 7 that we adopted starts at the Brunswick town line and continues for two miles until Duncan's Dairy Bar. We will continue to clean up this section of the road for the next year, helping to clean up our community. The signs have been placed on route 7, so passing cars and pedestrians will be able to see Chi Phi whenever they drive on route 7.

Fraternally,

Br. Jacob Bartles '19
Philanthropy Chairman



Br. Bartles

Rewarding Academic Excellence

This semester, my goal as scholarship chair has been to provide brothers with opportunities to improve their work habits, and to encourage academic progress and success. We have had many of the same opportunities available as previous semesters, however, brothers have also had the option to attend study halls in a study room in the union at least once a week. By providing an area specified for work, brothers have a more reliable place to get away from distractions and succeed in their tasks.

In addition to providing academic resources, I have made it a point to reward academic improvement and excellence. An "Achievement Chart" has been created to publicly praise brothers who improve or perform in the classroom. Brothers earn stickers on the chart by increasing their grade on a test or project, outperforming their peers, or attending tutoring sessions and study halls. At the end of the semester, the stickers will equate to a number of raffle tickets the brother gets. These tickets will be used to raffle off various prizes. By implementing these rewards, and providing tools to encourage academic success, I hope to create a long standing tradition of remaining one of the most academically prominent houses on campus.

Fraternally,

Br. Lyndon Pisansky '18
Academic Chairman



Br. Pisansky

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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 | |

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

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Important

Alumni Announcements

- Br. Daniel Campos' wedding was this year.
- Br. James Peterson was included in Forbes' 30 under 30 list for his work at Vital Vio.
- Br. James Loveland will be taking the New York Police Department test.
- Br. John Bartlett will be getting married soon.