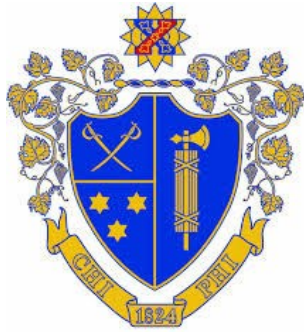


THE THETA RECORD



The State of the Chi

Brothers,

As the Fall 2018 Semester comes to an end, I am thrilled with the achievements Theta Chapter has accomplished. I know we would not be in the position we are without the leaders that have come before us. While at Congress, Theta received several awards including Outstanding Community Service Award, Outstanding Participation with The Boys and Girls Club of America, and the Thomas A. Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence. This is the second year in a row that Theta chapter has been honored to receive The Gehring Award, and we would not have been able to do it without the amazing leadership in the house.

Inside this Issue:

Alpha	1
Beta	2
Gamma	2
Delta	3
Eta	3
Epsilon	4
Social	5
Philanthropy	5
Theta	6
Public Relations	6
Iota	7
Academics	7
Zeta	8
Educational Trust	9

Greek life at RPI this semester has been under extreme scrutiny. The Greek Life Task Force was created by Dr. Jackson in order to evaluate Greek life at Rensselaer. Theta has been an exemplary chapter for all Fraternities on campus and has been aiding in the revitalization of Greek life. I have been working hard with the Interfraternity Council in order for the IFC to have more power and allow our Greek community to hold ourselves more accountable. We held a special Presidents meeting at our Chapter House with all IFC Presidents, IFC Executive Board, and Panhel Executive Board in order to draft a proposal with concrete points on how we will strengthen our Community. The proposal was sent to the Task Force and was regarded as a wonderful addition to the proposal that will be sent to Dr. Jackson in this upcoming week.

Despite hard comings in recruitment for all Fraternities, thanks to the help of Br. Legatt, we were able to recruit 10 amazing New Members. That was a large hit in recruitment numbers across the board, but we were able to overcome the circumstances and have a great Fall class.

This past Spring semester we achieved a 4-Star distinction through the school Accreditation process. We improved our overall score from 873 to 893, and we were 7 points away from a 5-Star awarding. At the Greek awards for RPI, we were honored with receiving Excellence in Greek Relations, along with getting awarded runner up for 6 other categories.

The Theta Chapter is continuously improving and I am very excited to see what the next Executive Board will be able to accomplish. Despite the negative stigma surrounding Greek life, The Theta Chapter has, and will continue to not only be one of the best Chapters at RPI, but one of the best in all of America.

Fraternally,

Br. Brian Sposato '20
Alpha



Br. Sposato

THE THETA RECORD

From the Beta's Desk

My second semester as Beta was just as successful as I hoped it would be. Many of my goals and wishes from last semester were reached by the brothers in leadership positions.

I continued my goal of assisting the Alpha and other chairmen in all of their responsibilities to the best of my abilities. Originally I said that we wanted the Alpha to handle external matters while I focused internally on the chapter's workings. We continued that plan with continued success. There were many times that I noticed leadership lacking in some way, and it was my plan to address those and continue improving our chapter. I often times said that when I address an issue, it is not me acting as Beta, it is out of my own interest to improve our brotherhood. My interest lined up with responsibilities and goals perfectly, making my time as Beta very enjoyable. I plan to encourage the future Alpha and Beta to handle the positions the same as we did, and also to ensure new officers are trained as efficiently as possible.

Another part of my plans was to bring committee use up. I believe that this semester has had some of the most committee use and initiative that I have seen in my time as a brother here. Admittedly, it did take a few pushes for the brotherhood to get to this point, but now we are in a good place. I hope to see the next Beta encourage everyone to continue this committee use and to improve upon my progress.

My time as Beta was slightly unique because I held another position on another executive board at the same time. During part of last semester and this semester I was the Vice-President Social for the Interfraternity Council. This allowed me to connect with other chapters at RPI and with the rest of campus, including a school administrators. These connections ultimately benefited the chapter by making us more well known in the community while also improving our relations with the school.

In closing, I really enjoyed my time as Beta. My goal for this chapter and for this brotherhood is continued improvement. I think this e-board really accomplished a lot during our time. I look forward to seeing the end of leadership, seeing the next positions take our places, and to continue helping the chapter in any way I see.

Fraternally,

Br. Jake Weingard '20

Beta



Br. Weingard

Footnotes by the Gamma

During my second semester as Gamma, I have been putting in hours of work in order to better the house as much as I can as the Gamma. By utilizing the resources of the past Gamma, Br. Legatt, I have been able to maintain the Chi Phi Wiki and improve both our in and out of house relationships. This semester we have been bettering out-of-house relationships by making and giving out creative gifts to all the sororities on campus. The gifts have been a hit and I truly believe that our relationships with the sororities are improving. I look forward to continue to better the house as Gamma for the rest of my term. Br. Sheldon has been elected to serve as the next Gamma and I plan on teaching him all the traditions required for him to become the best Gamma yet. Having a strong Gamma is essential for this house, and I believe that we are in good hands and will continue thriving with Br. Sheldon on board.

Fraternally,

Br. Carlos Salgado '20

Gamma



Br. Salgado

THE THETA RECORD

Fraternal Finances

Our bank account is healthy, bills are paid, and the budget is being followed. All is well for the house financially. The rush budget was adjusted to reflect the school's new rush schedule and sanctions on fraternities. With a shorter time to rush leading to fewer rush events, not as much money was needed to fill rush with quality events. With this cut, the extra cash was channeled into the epsilon, brotherhood, and gamma budgets. Epsilon was able to make some interior improvements and is planning more, brotherhood is planning more substantial events like a cabin trip and poker tournament, and gamma is buying/creating more high quality sorority gifts.

As Summer Arch approaches with the possibility of an increased number of brothers on campus in the summer, we are continuing our discussions about instituting summer dues as well as gradually increased semester dues to compensate for a reduced number of actives.

Unfortunately, we were not able to institute a fundraising campaign for the renovation of our foundation and sewage system. The late rush and sanctions on fraternity houses on campus conflicted with how we wanted to conduct the kick-off. It will be delayed until next fall, which also allows for further fleshing out of details and more time to increase awareness. In the meantime, all donations of any size are welcomed and appreciated, and they greatly improve day-to-day operations.

All in all, the house is doing very well and has a promising future.

Fraternally,

Br. Brian Vivolo '20
Delta



Br. Vivolo

Preventive Measures

The state of the house has improved immensely from last semester. This may not be evident from the semesterly Fire and Life Safety Report, on which we performed slightly worse. However, we believe this is exclusively due to the inspectors arbitrarily raising objections that were not brought to our attention last semester, and our central fire system inspection company being nearly impossible to contact. There is nothing anyone could have done about this and all we can do now is prepare for next semester's inspection with the knowledge we have now in order to make it a success.

In the weeks to come I will be working closely with the Epsilon, and our respective committees to resolve the issues that were pointed out. As a part of the semesterly risk management program the brothers and new members will receive a Bystander Intervention training during the week after Thanksgiving Break. By running this training for the house, we are ensuring that our chapter has the required percentage of members that are alcohol-risk management trained in order to host social events in the coming semesters. We have not had to deal with this problem in the present semester as the current sanctions against Greek Life prevent us from having any alcohol within the house whatsoever.

Lastly, I will be working with the new Eta-elect to make for a smooth transition process. I am confident in our future officers, and am optimistic about the state of risk management in the house. If we keep up the attitude we currently have, I believe we will bounce back from the current situation and emerge as a truly improved chapter.

Fraternally,

Br. Justin Frazier '20
Eta



Br. Frazier

THE THETA RECORD

Restoring the Chi

The last few months have seen the houses change dramatically. Over the summer, Br. Rosengrant and his family generously refinished the floors of the Main house. The ground floor, the staircase, and hallways all look brand new now. The Fall workweek was very successful, and saw the fence around the house and the window trims getting a fresh coat of paint, the interior paint got touched up in spots, and the storage shed in the backyard has been painted and shelving installed. The attic of the Annex has been gradually getting cleared out to make room for future improvements. As a part of that, we hosted a neighborhood yard sale with the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority which helped some of the more forgotten items in the attic see new life.

We now have a permanent trash solution as well, which is a welcome update from last newsletter. We are partnered with Republic Services to provide weekly dumpster services for the next three years. So far, they have been much easier to work with than the City of Troy. Unfortunately, at the end of the summer a pipe burst in the boiler room damaging the water tank. It has since been replaced however, and the main house water temperature has yet to be an issue.

As I end my term as Epsilon, I am starting to implement a 4-stage process to modernize and update the interiors of both houses. The first stage includes repainting and redoing the trim around the hallways. This includes adding a chair rail, updating the molding, and updating the color scheme. The second stage involves remodelling the bathrooms. As the semesters progress, the bathrooms have been getting neglected and are in dire need of a modernization. The third stage of my plan involves redoing the common areas. This includes the ground floor and basement of the main. We will be updating the trim and paint of all areas. The fourth and final stage will be to incrementally upgrade individual rooms of the houses. I see this being the most difficult and time consuming stage.

Furthermore, I will be updating the officer transition binder to allow the next Epsilon, Br. Marc McDonald '20, to be more effective as he transitions into taking on the responsibilities of Epsilon. This will include detailed instructions on common tasks, locations of important information, and resources to help with unforeseen events.

I look forward to working with Br. McDonald to make the transition as smooth as possible, and look forward to seeing the state of the Chapter house continuously improve.

Fraternally,

Br. John Farrell '20

Epsilon



Br. Farrell



A picture of the refinished floors done by Br. Rosengrant and his family.

THE THETA RECORD



Giving Back to Our Community

This semester's philanthropy has been very successful for our chapter. We started off the semester strong by co-hosting a yard sale with AGD. The money we raised was for the Troy Unity House and AGD's National Philanthropy. We have also been heavily involved with helping the Troy Boys and Girls Club. Lastly, there is a new weekly event on campus called Greektown that we have been an active participant in from the beginning.

Almost every week this semester we have had brothers going to the Troy Boys and Girls Club to help the kids with their homework. The brothers are helping them with their basic reading and writing skills, and also with their math homework. On Halloween Day, we participated in the club's Halloween party by bringing pumpkins for the children to carve. It was a great day that was very fun for the kids as well.

Greektown, as I mentioned before, is a new weekly gathering of 3 or 4 fraternities outside of Sage Dining Hall. Each fraternity sells some kind of food or drink. We have been selling hot chocolate and coffee from 7:30 to 10 AM. All of the proceeds go to the Troy Boys and Girls Club as well.

In the near future we have 2 events coming and a new dog park in the works. The first event that is being planned is an Adult Spelling Bee that we are co-hosting with Sheer Idiocy. The members of Sheer Idiocy will be emceeing the event. The second event in the works is a Dessert Delivery Service with the Hong Kong Student Association. The desserts will be made by the HKSA and delivered by the brothers. The last big thing that we are planning is to build a dog park in Beman Park on 15th St. This is a great way to connect with the community and help brothers get philanthropy hours.

Don't Stop The Party

With the school's new sanctions it affected most aspects of our regular social events. Since there were no parties this semester I chose to focus more on mixers. Luckily with our continued relationship with sororities and other fraternities, The Chi Phi brothers have been able to have a fun semester.

With our mixers this semester, I took opinions from the brotherhood and we came up with two ideas that both went smashing for all that attended. One of our mixers with the Alpha Phi was Bob Ross themed. Brothers and sisters shared canvases and painted whatever they desired. This got us talking in a more private and fun manner. Needless to say, Alpha Phi is welcome back any time. In our first mixer, we helped the women of Alpha Gamma Delta to practice their recruitment. The brothers and the sister had a great time getting to know the sisters and the sister had a blast at the after practice cookout. I have also been working on our Appointed Brotherhood Chair Br. Jake Fegatt to make new and exciting events for all the brotherhood to bond in.

Fraternally,
Br. Majid Javed '19
Social Chairman



Br. Javed

Fraternally,
Br. David Nice '20
Philanthropy Chair



Br. Nice

THE THETA RECORD

Meet the Delta Tritons

Despite rush being much later than usual this year we still managed to get 8 great new members. Here are their names and hometowns:

Connor Hanggi; Woodbury, CT
 Daniel Klee; Half Moon Bay, CA
 Edward Swan; Ogdensburg, NY
 Edward Weisser; Marshfield MA
 Kai Hagmann; Petaluma, CA
 Kevin Porrecca; Collegeville, PA
 Marcello Degani; Pittsfield, NY
 Ryan Fishbein; Wolcott, CT

Because rush was pushed back to October this semester, the new member education schedule has had to be shortened. The rest of the brotherhood and I are working hard to make sure that the new members will still be instilled with our values, history and the necessary knowledge for brotherhood despite the shorter time frame. I believe in these new members, and think they will prove a great asset to the fraternity.

Fraternally,

Br. Benjamin Crevier, '18
 Theta (New Member Educator)



Br. Crevier

Keeping a Positive Image

This semester our chapter is once again proud to have been honored for the Thomas Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence. Additionally, we were honored with awards for Outstanding Community Service and Outstanding Service with the Boys and Girls Club. We are incredibly proud of our chapter's hard work and dedication to excellence and look forward to the continued success of the chapter for many years to come.

This semester also marks the first yearly submission of Accreditation under the new rubric. While the new rubric further streamlines the process, it was accompanied by an earlier due date of Nov 11th. It is this earlier due date which has created the necessity to mail the newsletter earlier than usual. In spite of this and other setbacks associated with the delay of rush, we have continued to excel beyond the requirements of the rubric and eagerly await the results of this most recent Accreditation.

Unfortunately, we were 7 points short of receiving 5 stars for our most recent 5-star submission. While this shortfall can be attributed to continued inconsistencies between the provided rubric and grading, we will continue to strive for 5 stars and local recognition as we begin preparing for the spring 2019 submission.

I am looking forward to preparing and working with next Public Relations Chairman this coming semester. Together, we will continue to perform and expand beyond the duties of the position to provide the most accurate depiction of our chapter, both locally and nationally.

Fraternally,

Marc McDonald 20'

Public Relations
 Chairman



Br. McDonald

THE THETA RECORD

Rush Chi Phi

This fall rush the Brotherhood showed true perseverance and dedication as we had a successful, even with all the restrictions the school had put in our way. This degree of success would not have been possible without the overwhelming participation and support from the Brotherhood. There were some new events added to the rush calendar this semester and some traditional events that were reinvented. New events included Subs and Clubs, where we ordered several 6 foot sub sandwiches from Deli and Brew and went to the driving range afterwards, as well as Thursday Night Football, where we enjoyed the Thursday NFL game, pizza, and pool. Anderson Field Day became the Meet the House BBQ with the addition of yard games and a barbecue. Wingstock and Lobster Fest went phenomenally this year and were by far our most successful events for bringing rushees to the house. All throughout rush, Brothers were motivated to spend time with rushees outside of events in order to strengthen personal connections. Rush ended with 15 bids being extended, 10 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 specially recognize Br. Ben Crevier '18, Br. Peter D'Almeida '19, Br. Brian Sposato '20, Br. John Owens '20, Br. Dan Celic '21, Br. Matt Fluker '21, Br. Thomas Neuman '21, and Br. Justin Underwood '21 for going above and beyond the call of duty. I plan to work with the next lota to ensure that the level of commitment displayed by the fraternity during the last two rushes is normalized for years to come. With the effects of Summer Arch looming in the future, we must continue

to recruit young men of Chi Phi quality in order to achieve the victory of continual existence.

Fraternally,
Br. Jake Legatt '19
lota



Br. Legatt

Focusing on Academics

This semester, we worked to implement a new academic program for the chapter, primarily focusing on assigning personalized academic plans for each brother 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 class-rooms reserved with the registrar in order to get away from any distractions and focus on succeeding in brothers' academic endeavors. Study hours are now held more frequently so Brothers with demanding and differing schedules have more opportunities to come.

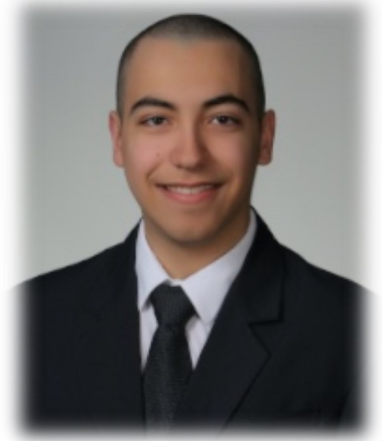
Ways to encourage aiding one another in academics are through review sessions held by older brothers who can go over material for the house's more populated courses and answer questions, as well as one-on-one tutoring, which both award brothers based on the point system. Brothers are strongly encouraged 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. We have been steadily increasing the house GPA and our goal will be to

increase our academic performance above the All Men's Average. Providing tools to encourage academic success, we hope to create a long standing tradition as one of the most academically prominent houses on campus.

Fraternally,

Br. Daniel Celic '21
Br. Peter D'Almeida '19



Br. D'Almeida



Br. Celic

THE THETA RECORD

Looking Back

In my time as Zeta, I have continued to learn about our Fraternity's rituals and the meanings behind them. All of the Chapter's rituals have been operating without setbacks, and I expect this success to continue for the rest of my term. There are two new plaques hanging in the Chapter Room of the Fraternity, one to recognize Br. Nathan Rosengrant and his family for their amazing job refinishing of the floors. The second plaque is to recognize Br. Paul Kluppel for his generous donations to have the Chapter House's curtains cleaned and fire-proofed. It is magnanimous contributions like these that push the Chapter towards continual improvement.

The new and improved point sheet I created last semester has been working flawlessly for the brotherhood. The transition for the new officers was much easier, as they already had point sheets made for them. With the old system, new officers needed to create their own point sheet to share with the Zeta after every election. Now all the point sheets are in one place for the entire brotherhood to see.

I have the utmost confidence in Zeta-elect Br. Peter Gramenides. He has shown so much interest in the position over the years, and his interest has only grown in his time as a brother. I plan to work closely with Peter to help him transition into the position and ensure that our Rituals are held to the same great standard for years to come.

Fraternally,

Br. Jacob Bartles '19

Zeta



Br. Bartles



Chi Phi Brothers cleaning up Hoosick Street for Adopt-A-Highway



Br. Scott carving pumpkins with the Troy Boy's and Girl's Club

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>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
<u>Amount in Dollars</u>	
<u>Theta Excellence Fund</u>	
↑	
Important	

Alumni Updates:

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