

HOWARD R. ALTER, JR. AWARD FOR
CHAPTER EXCELLENCE APPLICATION
2016-2017

BETA NU CHAPTER
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY



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Introduction Letter

Dear Howard R. Alter Jr. Award Selection Committee,

In the Fall of 2016 and the Spring of 2017, Beta Nu has continued its upward trend started in the previous two years. We, as a chapter, have worked to make the time of our undergraduate members as meaningful and as fulfilling as possible. The brothers of Beta Nu have recruited men who share our values and will one day lead our chapter. This application will walk you through the accomplishments of our chapter, the effort we have made to improve our alma mater and continued love we share for each other. In addition, any auxiliary information required will be included in the appendix.

The Beta Nu chapter hosted the third annual Mental Health Awareness (MHA) Week, which has become a main stay of the chapter and has become an identifying event for the chapter. Leveraging the overwhelmingly positive campus response from last semester, we raised over two thousand dollars for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), more than double what we raised last year. Additionally, the awareness created by our programming has directly facilitated the founding of a local NAMI chapter on campus as well as peer to peer care programs in other Greek Organizations. As you will read, the brothers of the Beta Nu have done our best to embody the principles of our Sacred Purpose both within our chapter and throughout our alma mater as a whole.

Compared to the previous few semesters, the academic achievements of Beta Nu have greatly improved. Our GPA has been steadily around 3.1 for last few semesters, and we are happy to report for the Fall of 2016, our GPA was 3.268, which is .021 less than last Fall, which points to a stabilized, largely due to focus on improving our internal scholarship programming. While slightly below the all mens average on campus of a 3.34, we are happy to see improvement and we hope to continue to improve in the coming semesters.

Perhaps what we are most proud of this academic year is the formation of Chapter Advisory Board (CAB). Spearheaded by former chapter president and Colley Award winner Daniel Neumann, Beta Nu has a fully staffed CAB with an adviser for each executive position. We are happy to say that each adviser is a local alumnus, all together representing over 40 years of our chapters history.

Overall, the last two semesters have been successful ones for our chapter. While we may not fully meet every pillar of the Alter Award, we are excited to share our accomplishments with you and look for points of improvement.

Love and Respect,
David Lance
President, BN of ΘΧ

Jackson Kishbaugh-Maish
Secretary, BN of ΘΧ

Chapter 1

Scholarship Programming

Our chapter is committed to bringing excellence in scholarship. Our fraternities motto of “Alma Mater first, and Theta Chi for Alma Mater” is a testament towards the devotion we have for our studies. Our scholarship program sets high goals and challenging standards. Beta Nu lives by a motto of proud but not satisfied—we are always trying to improve ourselves as men and scholars. In Fall 2014, our average GPA was a 3.07. Through our scholarship programs and personal efforts, our Fall 2016 GPA was a 3.268. Our goal for next semester, Fall 2017 will be to exceed the All-Mens average, which is about a 3.30, and then to exceed other benchmarks, like the All-Undergraduates and All-Greek GPAs, which are at about 3.34 and 3.42 respectively.

This has led to a variety of efforts to promote high achieving academics including: setting personal and chapter goals at the semester retreat, announcing the number of classes missed during roll call at chapter, creating individualized grade improvement plans, and creating scholarships for brothers, as well as potential new members.

In the past, the house was not a productive place to work; it was loud, with no place to study without people socializing around you. To remedy this, signs are posted throughout the house reminding brothers to keep good on their studies. We have a dedicated study room, hold study tables, and enforce quiet hours.

Scholarship Plans and Contracts

Each semester, the Scholarship Chair drafts a scholarship plan detailing the academic goals and responsibilities of the chapters members. We have attached the scholarship plan from Fall 2014 as a sample. For those brothers whose GPA falls under a 3.0, and those who desire mentored help, the Scholarship Chair drafts a contract detailing the requirements a brother must perform in order to maintain good standing with the chapter. Specifically, brothers under a 3.0 are required to adhere to the contract lest consequential action be taken.

These contracts are typically made in the first week of the semester, with the scholarship chair meeting with the brother in question. They then discuss what happened the previous semester, what were the root causes of academic issues, and from there draw up an individualized contract to help them improve.

Current projects include legislation that will require scholarship contracts for all candidates, regardless of their prior semester performance. We want to promote the idea that Beta Nu is an organization that cares about scholarship from the start, and ensure that the people we are bringing into the fraternity have the skills and ability necessary to succeed in their academic affairs.

Study Tables

Each weekday between 6:30-8:30pm, we enforce quiet hours around the study room in the house. This space is hosted by one of the members of the scholarship committee, and it helps change the environment of this part of the house from a social place to one where brothers and friends can work and focus. Depending on a brothers scholarship contract, they may be required to attend a certain number of hours of these a week in addition to other requirements.

Additionally, during Finals Week, the house is in continual quiet hours. On one of the reading days, the scholarship chair hosts a study party, where if you study for a prescribed amount of time, he takes you out on a free dinner.

Study Rooms and Quiet Hours

In addition to the regularly scheduled hours for study tables in the living room, we have dedicated a room to be a 24/7 individual study place. The room is kept clean, and noise level must always remain low. If brothers have a group assignment, a second room, the so-called War Room, is then commandeered as a study space. Additionally, if the study room becomes full, the War Room also becomes a study room with the same enforced rules. The house as a whole also has quiet hours. On weeknights- that is, Sunday through Thursday, the house goes into quiet hours from 11pm-8am. During that time, no one is to be playing loud music, and volume is to be kept to a minimum.

Scholarship Banquets

Scholarship programming is not solely about rules, requirements, or focusing on the negatives. We also like to celebrate high achievement. To do this, every semester we host a banquet, inviting professors to either our house or a campus ballroom. At these banquets, we give recognition to our brothers who have excelled and improved scholastically. We invite professors and faculty who have made an impact on our academic journey. Typically, our Fall banquet is held with another organization as we believe it is important to help other greek chapters to succeed academically. For Fall 2016s banquet, we co-hosted the event with the sisters of Pi Beta Phi.

Professor Meals

This year, our scholarship chair, Ryan Hawtof, has continued with a newer program where we can develop relationships with our professors and engage them more. Once or twice per semester, we will invite a professor to the house where we sit down with them for a meal and have a discussion. These events have been well received, and we are excited to continue the program in the future. The event planned for this semester was with a Professor from our schools Chemistry department who participates in large amounts of research on campus.

Resolute Man Scholarship

At the end of the summer/beginning of each academic year, an email is sent out to the new freshmen informing them of scholarship opportunities. We are proud to bestow the largest fraternity scholarship-\$1000, to any unaffiliated undergraduate male. They fill out an application, come to the house for an interview with the scholarship chair and chapter president, and then attend a educational session during rush that celebrates scholarship and other achievements. We view it as a tool to demonstrate and promote our values while giving us an opportunity to meet stellar students who could be potential new members.

Scholarship Endowment

This year we are working on developing our endowed Chapter Specific Scholarship fund for brothers. Through the Foundation Chapters fund, we were able to award one \$500 scholarships, and we look forward to engaging with alumni to grow this fund. Scholarships are awarded based on contributions to the chapter/and or university, academic performance, and financial need. A committee of BN alumni will select the recipients, who are awarded the scholarship on Founders Day.

Scholarship and Suspension Roundtables

Scholarship and Suspension roundtables are designed as a forum for brothers to discuss the standards which we abide by as they relate to scholarship. These standards include cumulative GPA, prior semester GPA,

chapter involvement while struggling with academics, and how much information we should gather from struggling brothers. Grades are a sensitive issue and our goal is to pulse the chapter and understand the standards we want to hold each other by. When standards are not met, we discuss the process and procedures for suspending brothers. We want to be cognizant of external issues that contribute to difficulties in scholarship, but not at the expense of maintaining an academic culture. These roundtables have even led to proposals of new legislation in the recent semesters.

Chapter 2

Recruitment Programming

The Beta Nu Chapter had a reasonably successfully year of recruiting. In Fall 2016, we initiated 6 brothers under Marshal Nikhil Edward. In the Spring of 2017, under Marshal Chris Brace, we were able to initiate 6 new brothers. There were two others who began the candidate process, but dropped out due to personal reasons. We expect that both of this years classes to take on leadership roles in the coming semesters. These classes bring our current chapter size to 38 members, which is slightly above average for the university.

Rush

At Case Western Reserve, the Greek community spends the first two weeks of each semester recruiting new members. As such, Beta Nus Recruitment Committee spends the previous semester preparing a rush calendar of events as drafted by the Recruitment Chair. The committee meets every two weeks, where they plan out and draft a rush calendar. Each event during rush is led by one captain: usually an older member of the chapter who is in charge of running the event, and a lieutenant: usually a younger member who is tasked with learning about the event and how to run it smoothly. In addition to classic favorite events, such as Havana Nights and ΘX Cafe, the committee reviews how events went during previous years, changing or revamping them as need be.

365 Recruitment

The Recruitment Committee also plans continual 365 recruitment events. These allow us to continue advertising Theta Chi to other Potential New Members (PNMs), give us opportunities to keep in touch with people we liked during rush, and build relationships with people in a way that the two week rush process does not always allow. This year, our recruitment chairman has attempted to improve our ability to recruit upperclassmen by hosting more 365 events. This semester, we held a Local Area Network gaming party, and plan to turn our end-of-the-year Damage event into a more recruitment-focused event. We hope that this will help us recruit upperclassmen in the coming recruitment season, and we intend to have one event per month in the upcoming fall season.

Recruitment Workshops

Recruitment workshops are held once a semester by the Recruitment Committee, and these workshops highlight the recruitment values of ΘX. Highlights of the workshop include discussions on how prospective members approach Greek life in general, as well as the pressures they may face to join Greek Life or not. Beta Nu strives to create comfortable and approachable environments during recruitment. These workshops help us to better interact with prospective members. The Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 workshop were presented by Brother Richter.

Needs and Thoughts for Improvement

Due to the setup of rush at the university, as well as the number of Greek organization on campus, it is unusual for us to be able to initiate more than seven new brothers in a semester. We do not believe that we deserve recognition in recruitment due to the relatively small number of candidates.

In general, our chapter has been good at finding people whom we think would fit in, both during rush events and during general campus life. Once identified, these individuals are added to a names list, with whatever contact information we can muster for reference. Unfortunately, we seem to sometimes have an issue with

turning people into the names list into people who show up to events and eventually accept bids. This is partly an issue with brothers not being responsible with staying in contact with their PNMs, but partly also simply due to the nature of people who would join the Beta Nu chapter people who are often busy, and arent always able have recruitment events as a first priority.

We have begun to address this issue by attempting to pre-close people whom we thought were likely to accept bids. To pre-close a PNM is to have a brother close with a PNM whom we expect to receive a bid and ask them if they had any particular questions about the chapter, as well as ask what potentially would prevent them from accepting a bid, so that we can address issues such as time balance and finances if it could be what stops someone from accepting a bid.

Part of our attempt to improve our recruiting ability is to host more recruitments events. This semester, that has taken the form of 365 events, but for the coming semester, the recruitment chair is hoping to also organize a monthly small event, such as a board game night, Magic tournament, movie night, or video game party.. This should allow us to invite PNMs to come to house on a more regular basis, so that when a brother meets someone who might be a good fit, they arent waiting until a 365 event or rush to start meeting people. While we believe that this could do a lot to help recruit upperclassmen and spring recruitment, we are a bit concerned about finding the manpower to run this. However, by assigning a few brothers to plan these events well in advance, and assigning volunteers on a week-by-week basis, we can alleviate this issue by ensuring that no one has to commit to anything more than a week in advance, so they can volunteer around long-term plans, but plan their lives around it.

Over the next two semesters, we hope to recruit about 20 new brothers. Due to the large number of graduating seniors this year, we intend to fill their place with a slightly higher than average number of new brothers in order to maintain our chapter size. However, we have no desire to lower our qualifications for our brothers - we will continue to look for good scholars, involved campus citizens, and outstanding gentlemen to recruit to the chapter. This is a delicate balance that we will have to find, but we believe that it will be better to prioritize quality over quantity.

Chapter 3

New Member and Member Education

Candidate Education

Our Candidate Education program is lead and executed by the Marshal of the chapter. Upon the beginning of the semester, the Marshal submits a “Marshal Plan” to be carried out for the education of new members. Events are planned for the candidates so that they may gain familiarity with the chapter and its members. Specifically, a service and social event are planned in addition to plaque organization, which is led and completed by the candidate class. The fall 2016 candidate class organized a social event to allow brothers and candidates to get to know each other better, while the spring class planned a philanthropy event with Community Greenhouse Project, a nonprofit urban farm that supplies locally grown food at low cost to Cleveland residents.

Candidate education meetings occur throughout the candidate process, and numerous topics are discussed and shared. One meeting is devoted to chapter history, and the organization of the fraternity is discussed. This Spring, our chapter invited alumnus members to give presentations on how Beta Nu of Theta Chi's identity has changed over the years, and what public ritual means to them. Another meeting invited brothers to share with candidates their positions in the chapter and what they do; afterwards, the chapter typically participates in more free spirited activities, such as making SMores and doing “Meet a Brothers”, in which candidates can spend time getting to know brothers they otherwise might not meet. Still other candidate education meetings include more somber events, such as Death of a Fraternity and the Flag Drop. Flag Drop invites brothers to share weaknesses they have seen in the chapter, and it challenges members to improve themselves lest the chapter fail. Meanwhile, Death of a Fraternity is an event led by a storyteller who shares with candidates how Sigma Beta of Michigan State University failed, so that they might better understand the warning signs should they ever appear.

Big Brother Program

Toward the middle of the candidate process, candidates compile a ranked list of brothers they feel who would be excellent mentors in the chapter. The Marshal and past Marshals then convene and determine an appropriate Big Brother for the new members. The charge of the Big Brother is to facilitate the smooth transition of the Little Brother into the chapter. Bigs support their “littles” with everything from homework help to life advice; they play an essential, yet often underappreciated, role in our chapters survival. Once candidates are assigned their Big Brother, a ceremony is held to commemorate the event. Littles are then offered the opportunity to live in the house for a week before initiation, while the Big moves out of his room to reside somewhere else in the house. The goal is for Littles to gain an understanding of day-to-day chapter life and further immerse themselves in the brotherhood. Without a doubt, Brotherhood Week is one of the most anticipated events, and truly cements the sense of shared community between brothers and soon-to-be brothers.

Member Education

Once candidates become members, our Ritual charges us to ensure that members are continually advanced in academic and personal education. Our chapter has endeavored to expand the usefulness and frequency of member education events through the work of the Membership Development Chair (MDC). These include both Resolute Man goals, and separate events designed to foster chapter unity and growth. The VPHS is now working on integrating the Resolute Man Program into our chapter activities, with the help of the Marshal and MDC. Some of the membership development efforts in our chapter have included field trips, mini-education sessions taught by brothers, and the creation of a chapter history museum. Staple member

education events continue to thrive. Our chapter holds regular brotherhood roundtables, where the Chaplain hears concerns and facilitates conversation about chapter and university issues. Some recent roundtables have concerned updated scholarship bylaws, attendance policies and Resolute Man compliance. A major development in member education is the creation of a house museum. The museum, which was assembled under the guidance of our chapter Historian includes two display cases consisting of old memorabilia from when our chapter was Alpha Nu of Beta Kappa, national awards, old financial ledger books from when our chapter was Sigma Tau Delta (a local fraternity at the old Case School of Applied Science), and a plethora of pictures and mementos from our early history. Specifically, pictures from 1909 when our Sigma Tau Delta chapter was formed to the present now line the staircase in the form of a timeline, with the base of the stairs being the earliest pictures of our brotherhood, and the top being the most recent. Pictures continue to be added to our timeline, and the museum now stands as a proud record of our history both as a local chapter and nationally.

Chapter 4

Community Service and Philanthropy Programming

The brothers of Beta Nu engage in a broad variety of service and philanthropy efforts. Service plays an important part of the culture of Theta Chi. It starts at the New Member Education program, where the candidates are required to plan a service or philanthropy event. It then continues throughout our time as brothers, whether it counts towards Case Greek Life requirements or not. We believe in serving the communities we are a part of, which is why you can see so many of us work on major volunteer projects during the summers as well the the school year. Service is part of daily life at Theta Chi, with the Service Chair providing service opportunities every chapter meeting for brothers. Recently, we have implemented a service leadership plan, which will be included in the additional documentation.

By The Numbers

In the past year, we have completed 1007.0 hours of officially documented service, a remarkable 57.9% increase from the 637.5 where we were last year, and a 194.4% increase from the 342 the year before. This puts us at 116.4% of our service goal for the year, which when you add an estimated 100 or so hours being processed, puts us on track to clear our Greek Life Office expectation with ease. We are also already at 210% of our philanthropy goal of \$1,000, with \$2,100. We are proud of this progress.

Our Service Pursuits

Our service pursuits include but are not limited to the following:

1. Sierra Club: Throughout the summer, a brother helped the Sierra Club (an environmental association) by organizing documents and events, as well as teaching others about environmental policies.
2. Camp Kesem: Throughout the summer, a brother served as a camp counselor for Camp Kesem. The goal of this organization is support children whose parents have developed cancer.
3. Replay for Kids: In this event, brothers help modify electronic toys so that children with disabilities can still enjoy them. This event has become a staple of our Spring recruitment, often being used as a service event that is accessible to potential new members on campus.
4. Gray's Armory Museum: After being invited to help by an alum, brothers help restore and repair The Cleveland Gray's Armory and Museum in the heart of Cleveland. This generally results in repainting walls, tearing down dilapidated portions of the building, and restoration.
5. Graveyard Charge: In the fall, brothers come together to beautify The East Cleveland Township Cemetary. Given that this takes place in the fall, brothers are tasked with raking leaves and reassuring that the cemetary remains clean. Additionally, this will be happening again in in the spring after the application to beautify the cemetary before the summer season.
6. Church of the Covenant Saturday Tutoring: Most Saturdays, a brother would tutor Geometry, alongside other technical subjects, to students at The Church of the Covenant.
7. Science Olympiad: The Science Olympiad is a competition of sorts, where students from high school and middle school test their knowledge of different aspects of science. Brothers aided the organizers of this event by overseeing the event, as well as being judges.
8. Cleveland Food Bank: Brothers helped prepare and package food for the less fortunate.

9. FIRST Robotics: A few brothers volunteered at the FIRST Buckeye Regional Competition. High school students spend six weeks building a robot, learning teamwork and engineering skills to solve complex problems, and then at the end of the build season get to compete at these events.
10. Vex Robotics Scholastic Competition: A few brothers volunteered at the Vex Robotics Competition. High school students build a robot, learning teamwork and engineering skills to solve complex problems, and then at the end of the build season get to compete at these events.
11. Teach Kids Code: Brothers travel to a local elementary school to teach younger students introductory concepts of coding / programming. This is done through the Java programming language.
12. Saturday of Service: Once a semester, on a specific date, most brothers sign up for several hours of service. This is known as the Saturday of Service. Generally, most brothers sign up for Kids Against Hunger, where they package prepared meals for the less fortunate.
13. Kids Against Hunger Cleveland: After founding the organization, one brother is now the advisor, helping them serve over 300,000 meals to those in Cleveland and an additional 20,000 around the world.
14. MedWish: a not-for-profit organization that saves lives and the environment by repurposing discarded medical supplies and equipment to provide humanitarian aid in developing countries.
15. NextGen Climate Change: acts politically to prevent climate disaster and promote prosperity for every American.
16. Cleveland Environmental Action Network: works to benefit the environmental advocates in the Greater Cleveland area.
17. Alpha Phi Omega: is a national coeducational service organization founded on the principles of Leadership, Friendship and Service.

Our Philanthropic Pursuits

Our philanthropic pursuits include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Coordinating/running Mental Health Awareness Week (See Sacred Purpose).
2. Active Involvement in Relay for Life: We walk in remembrance of cancer victims and raise funds for the American Cancer Society.
3. Marfan Foundation: We have donated to them through supporting Alpha Phi Omega.
4. The V Foundation: Supporting it by helping out Delta Chi's on campus
5. Our participation in other Greek Fraternity/Sorority philanthropic events, including Mr. CWRU, KATWalk, Anchor Splash, Dash for Domestic Violence Awareness, and much more.

Our Leadership in Service and Philanthropy

Our brothers go beyond just serving in service pursuits. They lead in making an impact throughout CWRU and even the USA. We have brothers who, this past year...

1. Discussed and engaged with complexities in topics ranging from the environment to corporate finance, serving as VP of finance managing budgets, participating in a variety of events put on by the Global Ethical Leaders Society, working closely with the Inamori Center for Ethics and Excellence at CWRU.
2. Attended a summit of youth organizations going to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to help those who were going to the conference work on their policy

3. Ran a week long camp serving children whose parents have cancer
4. Coordinated the CCEL Scholars Program, the Center from Civil Engagement and Learning
5. Helped create a survey on mental health at CWRU to reach the entire student body that will lead to mental health policy reforms in the CWRU administration
6. Lead service workshops for Replay for Kids for all CWRU students.
7. Lead a week long campaign on Mental Health (See Sacred Purpose).

Chapter 5

Sacred Purpose

Sacred purpose embodies the care and heart we show for one another through all of our actions and deeds. The new position of Vice President of Health and Safety has revolutionized our chapter's identity and our programming. We couldn't be more thankful for this new initiative that IHQ has started.

In specific, sacred purpose has given us an identity that extends beyond an organization of collegiate men. In our previous and current semesters, we have accomplished all of the following:

1. Mental Health Awareness Week (MHA Week)

The week long event rallied the campus community to challenge the stigmas associated with talking about mental health. By the end of the event, we had received overwhelmingly positive feedback from professors, students, and the broader CWRU community. A picture is worth a thousand words, and we hope you have a chance to peruse our appendix. Here is a summary of some of the accomplishments of the week:

- (a) We raised over \$2,000 for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), similar to last year.
- (b) Hundreds of students shared their struggles with us in safe environments.
- (c) Our community learned about various campus resources to combat depression and other mental illnesses through resources like counseling services.
- (d) The campus chalked the Spitball Statue, located in the heart of campus, with motivational messages.
- (e) We passed out over 1000 green ribbons that students proudly wore.
- (f) The community heard from speakers from NAMI of Greater Cleveland and the University Hospitals Mood Disorders Program
- (g) Students were able to discover and connect with the variety of campus advocates from all the student organizations through our mental health fair
- (h) Ran a "Smashing the Stigma" event where we had people pay to smash pumpkins and donate the money to NAMI, given it was during the Halloween season.

Since we held MHA Week our first MHA Week, new organizations have formed to address mental health on campus. This includes NAMI at CWRU, which has taken off, raising at least another \$10,000 on its own in its first year. There has been a university sponsored Mental Health Alliance, to bring mental health advocates together to coordinate efforts, as well as a student driven Mental Health Policy Reform Committee. Our action has brought on change, with others now trying to address the issues. One of the big changes moving forward that has been discussed in the chapter is the idea of moving MHA more towards an Awareness focus and move our philanthropic efforts towards USO. We have been looking into partnering with other chapters in the community for this to combat the overprogramming problem that exists on our campus.

2. Seminar Series

Under the guidance of Sacred Purpose, our VPHS has planned several presentations and discussions that will improve the knowledge of health and safety within the chapter. This semester, the following topics have been discussed:

- (a) Healthy Eating: This semester, our chef discussed the means of how to eat healthy. He then provided a demonstration by cooking a healthy and simple dish
- (b) Mental Health: Delegates from NAMI at CWRU will be bringing a discussion-based seminar regarding recognizing signs of mental health issues, as well as mental health in general. This is scheduled for April 14th.

- (c) Alcohol Safety: Delegates from the Students Meeting About Risk and Responsibility Training (SMARRT) will provide a discussion-based seminar on alcohol safety. This is planned for late-April.
- (d) Men's Sexual Health: Although the date is yet to be determined, SMARRT leaders will also be bringing a discussion on men's sexual health.
- (e) ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Training: Officers from the CWRU PD came to our house and gave us a training session on how to prepare for an active shooter scenario

3. Suggestion Box

- (a) The submission box is a publicly available private box that is only checked by the VPHS. It serves as a means to reach out, warn, and suggest things.
- (b) The box is in the mail closet for easy access and has helped in anonymous informing of brothers' mental health.

Chapter 6

Alumni Programming

The Alumni Relations Committee is responsible for the organization and administration of alumni programming and outreach. Its primary tasks include organization of alumni-involved parties, such as the Christmas Party in the Fall Semester and the Founder's Day Party in Spring Semester. It also keeps the alumni database up to date and coordinates news releases with our semester alumni newsletter.

ΘX Roast

Over the past year, we have held a number of alumni oriented events with strong alumni participation. The largest of these was our annual ΘX roast. This year had the one of the best attendance we have ever received, in large part due to the work of our last ΘX Roast chair, who contacted alumni often and early- not just through the email list, but also by mailing letters to all we had valid addresses for, this was due to its success last year. The event takes place during homecoming where we showcase the chapter accomplishments from the past year with parents, alumni, and a representative from IHQ. This year we had the pleasure of hearing Brother Tait Martin, International Vice President, speak. In addition, during ΘX roast we held our big brother ceremony and the OX memorial ceremony. Both of these ceremonies allow us to share more public traditions with our significant others, alumnus brothers, and friends.

Other Alumni Events

We also held a number of smaller events. We continued our annual celebration of the Christmas season with a joint Christmas party. The house is decorated in the style of holiday spirit, with a festive tree and a Secret Santa Exchange.

We celebrate our Founders Day every year with a sit down dinner with our alumni. Beginning last year, we found a manuscript of a radio play describing the first chapter meeting with Frederick Norton Freeman and Arthur Chase. We performed it in a manner that made it feel like a traditional radio drama, and we intend to continue it this year and in future years.

Alumni Communication

The main method of communication between the active chapter and alumni is our alumni email list. This keeps alumni informed of all chapter events. The list contains roughly half of the chapters alumni, and we use it to communicate with our alumni, and the alumni use it to communicate with each other.

Over the past year, alumni have shared some amazing news, including the introduction of several adorable children, and shared with the actives some fantastic advice on how to get a job. The chapter also publishes a yearly newsletter, maintains a website, and Facebook page. These are used to publish news of upcoming events.

Alumni Board

Our chapter advisors serve as an integral part of our chapter having been established last year. As officers are:

1. Chapter Advisor - Daniel Neumann
2. Vice President Advisor - Dan Okienko

3. Health and Safety Advisor - JJ Moffitt
4. Secretary Advisor - Aditya Rengaswamy
5. Financial Advisor - John Boyer
6. Member Education Advisor - Dan Snow
7. Recruitment Advisor - Matt Richter
8. Faculty and Scholarship Advisor - Rich Drushel
9. Member-at-Large - Walt Mahovlich

Attached are bylaws for the Alumni Board. For the Beta Nu Housing Corporation, alumnus Robert Divincenzo serves as President, meeting with the House Manager regularly and ensures the chapter house stays in working order and works with the University. Additionally, we have a Legal Advisor, alumnus Dan Myers.

Alumni Engagement

Our alumni have been extremely active in our ritual ceremonies, with quite a few showing up to both the public and private events and initiation ceremonies. In addition to alumni attending our Initiations, alumni ceremonies, and other public ceremonies, we have had alumni actively attend and participate in our Candidate Education Program and Member Development Program. Our alumni have provided excellent advice on topics such as personal finance, tax filing, and creating resumes. Our alumni also provide sound advice, assistance and service in other aspects of chapter operations. For example, Brother Daniel Neumann assists with the operation of the chapter web site and Brother Moffitt has helped Beta Nu engage with a variety of initiatives that Greek life as a whole has adopted.

Our alumni are integral to our success, and we make every effort to recognize them. New initiatives we plan on starting include sending them hand written thank you cards each summer. Their efforts have helped us thrive and we look forward to many more years with them by our side.

Chapter 7

Chapter Finances

Beta Nu's finances have remained strong. Omega Fi's billing and collections services have allowed exact record keeping, account management, and easy member payment. Coupled with our own locally maintained records of income and expenses, Beta Nu is able to plan out its budget each year and predict the necessary adjustments.

Financial Statistics

This has allowed the chapter's finances to continue to prosper. The chapter has had a 94.2% collection rate (Fall 2016) including brothers on payment plans who complete their payments over time. Each year, our collection rate from active brothers ranges anywhere from 95-100% (since Spring 2011- until Fall 2016). With our housing lease costing us around \$84,000 each semester, we must be vigilant in collecting money and paying off all bills.

At the present time, the chapter checking account contains \$13,200.21 with \$3672.23 kept in an emergency fund (4% of our total net income needed). In late 2013-2014 our financial advisor, John Boyer, suggested that the amount of money in the account at the time (90k+) was too large. Accordingly, he encouraged us to make capital purchases to improve the house. We have been looking to refinish the kitchen.

Assets

Our housing corporation has dollar amounts in the upper six figures, and they will cover any shortcomings and needs that the chapter isn't able to fund in the foreseeable future. Right now, our chapter is in excellent fiscal health, but if there is ever a rainy day, we have the alumni support and commitment to protect us. An additional asset that we have is our chapter specific scholarship fund, managed by IHQ, with \$14,000 as of last September. As mentioned in the scholarship section of this application, we are awarding scholarships to brothers for the first time in at least a few years. We now have an excellent grasp of all our assets.

Budgeting

Budgeting and Billing is planned for every academic year. The budget is comprehensive, covering all anticipated expenses for the next fiscal year. Every Spring, the Treasurer chairs the Financial Committee, and together they formulate a budget. When creating this budget, the committee examines all historical information (we keep the previous seven fiscal years worth of data), which includes prior budgets and bills, and forecast any changes that will affect the budget for the upcoming year. Once completed, the Treasurer presents the budget to the Chapter Financial Advisor, Alumni Corp. Treasurer, and the chapter as a whole for approval. The budget from the 2015-2016 school year is attached, as is the approved budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Treasurer uses the budget and provides the chapter with a schedule of charges for the upcoming semester that breaks down the rent, dues, and meal plan, as well as the billing due dates for the semester. There are three bills issued each semester, each four weeks apart. The first bill covers one half the total cost, the second one quarter, and the third one quarter. Any miscellaneous debits or credits are added throughout the semester after the credit or debit is incurred.

Fiscal Responsibility

The Beta Nu chapter has continued its culture of fiscal responsibility. Every member is still expected to pay their bills on time, and many do without reminders from the Treasurer. If a member is unable to pay, he must submit a detailed deferment with a payment plan to the Executive Council for approval. Any member who does not submit a deferment, or who submits an invalid deferment, is placed on financial probation. This results in a suspension of all social and voting privileges. After a week, financial probation leads to a suspension trial. Members who are deferring more than \$1,000; deferring for periods of time when school is not in session (e.g. summer); or are graduating must fill out and sign a promissory note to ensure that the debt is properly recorded in a legally binding manner.

The Treasurer is responsible to maintain the strong financial base for the chapter. The Assistant Treasurer acts as an aid in these matters and as an extra set of eyes over the finances. The Treasury pays all debts and bills in a timely manner to maintain the chapter's good name and credit. There are a wide variety of costs, including insurance, the annual membership fee, semester IFC Dues, rent, meal plans, utilities, and all other bills received. Where possible, automatic online payments have been scheduled and maintained to ensure payment. Before each payment is made, the Treasurer examines the invoice, ensuring that it is correct and that the chapter checking account will not overdraw. The Treasurer may cancel any payment if necessary.

Officers are given a budget from which they may draw aid to fulfill their duties. Some examples include the Social Chair using his budget to host mixers with other Greek organizations, the Service and Philanthropy Chair giving reimbursing attendance and philanthropy events, and the Alumni Chair to create a newsletter. A meticulously itemized record of all expenses and receipts are kept locally and online. In addition, we follow the reimbursement policy to ensure we follow all financial guidelines for maintaining our 501C(7) status.

The chapter has a culture of financial responsibility that starts from the candidate process. The Treasurer explains all of the proper procedures for paying or deferring bills and claiming receipts during the Marshal process. The penalties for not paying that include probation, suspensions, and eviction. These potential consequences are explicitly stated. It is made very clear that the payment of bills is an absolute requirement of every brother. To make sure that all brothers have a reference for interacting with the Treasury, an online "Treasury 101" document was created that all members have access to that describes everything the member needs to know.

To foster financial responsibility among the chapter, the Treasury operates with complete transparency. At any time, a brother can see the current state for the chapter finances. The reports that a brother can see include any chapter budget and an itemized record of all purchases and receipts issued, including what was purchased, by whom, what budget it came out of, and how much it was. This does not include individual members' accounts. Any other aspect of the chapter's finances, such as collections rate, bank account balance, invoices, or anything a member can think of is available at a moment's notice. The chapter protects itself against embezzlement using the International Headquarters recommendations, including not having a chapter credit card, the avoidance of a petty cash system, and requiring two signatures on every check signed by the chapter. By custom, the President, Vice-President, or Secretary will provide the second signature. Additionally, all actions the Treasurer takes are reviewed by the President and the chapters financial advisor, especially when financially significant.

Overall, our finances are in a great state and we have the safeguards and strategies in place to ensure we survive as a chapter even if we face problems in the future. Our alumni support is a major part of this safety net through the housing corporation, as is our auxiliary savings accounts.

Officer Card

Recently we got one of the OmegaFi officer cards, which has been overall covering larger expenses and as a result decreasing turn around time with regards to receipts.

Chapter 8

The Ritual

The Beta Nu chapter takes great pride in the ritual of Theta Chi, striving to practice it in our everyday lives both individually and as a group, our formal chapter programming, and our attitude on campus.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Coming with the beginning of the Sacred Purpose movement, our chapter and VPHS thought about what issues were most important to us and how we could better lend an assisting hand. We identified mental health as a major issue that has affected many campus members, friends, and on a more personal level, our brothers. Largely ignored as a campus issue, we instituted a Mental Health Awareness Week- a weeklong set of programs to help people realize that if they were suffering, they were not alone. If they needed help, that there are campus resources out there for them. We helped people realize how common mental illness is, that they very likely have friends suffering from it, and that it should not be stigmatized. Lastly, our programming has helped raise money for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Greater Cleveland. In the first year- 2014, we raised \$1000. Last year, we are proud to say that we doubled that to \$2000. This year, we raised \$2100. Because of our efforts, there has been a major shift in campus culture, with new student organizations popping up to address the gap of mental health advocacy, and mental illness is now a prominent part of campus conversation.

Awards

In addition to the numerous awards and endowments given to us by IHQ, our own Greek Life Office at Case Western has recognized our efforts in ritual practice. The Agnar Pytte Cup annual chapter development evaluation and interview process found Theta Chi to demonstrate Excellence in the Ritual pillar, with specific laudations towards Alumni Relations, Membership Development, and Incorporation of Purpose.

Ritual Traditions

Ritual Minute

The Beta Nu chapter realizes that Ritual is something that is not to be practiced once a semester, as Initiation approaches, but must be discussed and well considered for us to gain the most out of it. Therefore, we hold a ritual minute during each of our chapter meetings. Similar in style to the Critics Report, each week the President appoints someone to give next weeks Ritual Minute. During this time, a brother presents to the chapter his interpretation and application of a portion of the ritual, providing valuable perspective on a regular basis. A sample ritual minute is attached for reference.

Ritual Reviews and Brotherhood Week

In the weeks approaching Initiation, we begin holding Ritual Reviews; all actives are required to attend at least one. Those with specific roles in the Initiation Ceremony will attend more. These are held by the Marshal, the Chaplain, and the First Guard. These involve readings of the ritual and discussions of its history and significance. The Chaplain and First Guard are always in attendance to ensure the protection and secrecy of the ritual materials. We take very good care of our ritual materials. Everything provided to us by IHQ is in pristine condition, and we have made improvements to other chapter ritual materials, which can be shown or described upon request to initiated brothers. In the week preceding Initiation, the

candidates are invited to move into the chapter house, where they take the bed of their Big Brother. We hold a number of events based on chapter tradition. This includes Flag Drop, Death of a Fraternity, the Candidate Exam, and beginning this year, a final Meet-a-Brother meeting. This culminates, of course, with Initiation.

The Flag Drop involves brothers holding up the fraternity flag and dropping it on account of a lack of brotherhood participation. Each brother in succession then picks up the flag on the promise to be a better brother. Death of a Fraternity features a story following the disintegration of the Sigma Beta Fraternity at MSU. The final “Meet-a-Brother” meeting consists of the candidates individually being led to a room where they shall meet their last brother, which they discover is them in a mirror. Initiation itself is held at a private location. All active brothers are required to attend, barring special circumstances. We are fortunate to have notable alumni and brothers of other local chapters in attendance.

Ceremonies

In addition to Initiation, we hold a Big Brother Ceremonies, New Member Ceremonies, and a Memorial Ceremony. The Fall Big Brother Ceremony is traditionally held at our annual ΘX Roast along with the Memorial Ceremony for fallen brothers. The Spring Big Brother Ceremony is held at the house. We take pride in our public ritual ceremonies, which frequently have many non-brothers in attendance.

Projects

From time to time, a brother becomes inspired to go about a project to bring honor to our traditions and ideals. In the past, this included investigating the history of the chapters houses and miscellaneous moves over time. It has included poring over chapter minutes going back to the 60s, speaking with many brothers, to be able to construct a “Brotherhood Tree” that shows the relations of bigs/littles for everyone in the chapter- which is maintained still.

Chapter 9

Chapter Operations

The Beta Nu Chapter has an extremely well organized and documented program for chapter operations. All of our executive officers, elected or appointed positions, and committee description resources are posted on our shared Google Drive for public chapter use.

Elections and Appointments

Beta Nu's elections take place over the course of three weeks. During the first week, nominations are accepted for all elected positions. During the second week, Executive Council elections are held, while non-executive positions are elected in the third week. Before every position is elected, the floor is opened for nominations one final time. During the election, every candidate has a set speaking and question-answer time. Our bylaws stipulate a minimum time, and by custom the candidates are limited to:

- President 7 minutes to speak, 5 minutes to answer questions. All unused speech time can be used for questions.
- Other EC Positions 5 minutes to speak, 4 minutes to answer questions. All unused speech time can be used for questions.
- Non EC Positions 3 minutes to speak, 2 minutes to answer questions. All unused speech time can be used for questions.

After each candidate speaks, the candidates withdraw while the chapter has discussion. Once again, the bylaws give minimum times for discussion, and by custom discussions are limited to 15 minutes for President, 10 minutes for other EC positions, and 5 minutes for non-EC positions. Votes are done via a secret ballot collected by the Second Guard and the Chaplain. Any brother interested in holding an appointed position is asked to submit a letter of intent to the President detailing his plans for the position and any qualifications. The President then selects who he wants to fill the position - in conjunction with the Executive Council - and the chapter approves it during the final chapter of the semester. Installation of officers is held during the final chapter of the semester.

That is not to say the chapter room is the only place for election discussion: many conversations take place outside chapter, with candidates providing ideas and platforms, answering concerns and questions. It is generally expected of officer candidates to have met with those who have previously held the office, and have a good understanding of what the position demands.

Executive Council

The Executive Council is composed of the President, Vice-President, Vice President of Health and Safety, Secretary, Treasurer, Marshal, Recruitment Chair, Scholarship Chair, and EC Member at Large. The Member at Large is a non-voting member of EC who has previously held an EC position; he is the only appointed member of the EC. The Council meets once a week to discuss matters of chapter operations including scholarship, finance, ritual activities, goals, and standards. EC has broad powers to take matters into their own hands, but everything must be approved by the chapter at the next regularly scheduled chapter meeting.

President

The President's main role is to function as the external face of the chapter. The President is responsible for all lines of communications with the Greek Life Office, IFC, and other chapters. Within the chapter the President is responsible for big ideas and plans pushing the chapter as a whole using the Executive Council to accomplish such goals. Lastly, in case of emergencies he is the first in line to deal with issues.

Vice President

The Vice President's main roles are internal. He heads both our Executive Council and Committee Chair Committee meetings every week. The primary purpose of the Vice President is to relay information about chapter progress to the President and to respective chairs when needed.

Vice President of Health and Safety

The Vice President of Health and Safety has two major roles, one functioning as the internal monitor of each brothers health, both physical and mental, and two serving as the public coordinator for Sacred Purpose events for the greater community.

Secretary

The Secretary's primary duties are to record the actions of the chapter, facilitate communication to the brothers, and handle all communication to the Grand Chapter and CWRU's Greek Life Office. During chapter, he records the minutes and attendance. Additionally, he receives and organizes officer reports, excuses, and other information/communication requests. He performs a broad array of organizational maintenance, including the mail closet, Google Drive, and the "God Calendar"- so named because if an event isn't on the God Calendar, it doesn't exist.

One of the programs our Secretary has continued is TWIOX- "This Week in Theta Chi". This is a newsletter that is sent out to the email list that collects and details different chapter happenings and brotherhood events during the next week. The newsletter often contains humorous additives.

Treasurer

The role of our Treasurer is very traditional. He manages the budget, communicates with the chapter Housing Corp., and any entity the chapter deals with on a financial basis. He, in tandem with the chapter, sets the budget, along with prices for dues and rent. He oversees payment from each brother, utilizes OmegaFi, and he handles any payment deferments that brothers request. He ensures our taxes are paid accurately and in a timely manner, and he keeps an emergency fund in the case of unforeseen events.

Marshal

The Marshal's job is to introduce each new candidate class to the fraternity, teach them our ways and history, and make them into men who are capable brothers and leaders. Each Marshal has substantial preference in how he chooses to run the position. Every semester, the Marshal writes up a plan which the chapter then reviews and votes on.

Recruitment Chair

The Recruitment Chairman's main role in the chapter is to plan and execute Rush as well as organize 365 recruitment events. With the ideas of deferred recruitment possibly coming to CWRU he has taken up to a more active maintenance of a names list and inviting them throughout the semester to alleviate the reliance on the rush period itself.

Scholarship Chair

The Scholarship Chair works to aid the academic success of brothers - particularly those who are struggling - as well as celebrate those who are doing well.

He enforced the study room as a dedicated academic space rather than simply another room for people to socialize.

Each semester, the Scholarship Chair holds a scholarship dinner. During the fall, we hosted the dinner where we invited professors, and celebrated the brothers who have performed exceptionally. In the spring, the dinner is traditionally held at the house, which is coming up soon as of the writing of this award application.

The Scholarship Chair puts brothers below the 3.0 standard on scholarship contracts, giving them individualized requirements. These requirements can include mandatory study hours, weekly reports on grades/progress, and a maintained calendar of assignments.

Other Officers

The other elected officers are the Historian, Chaplain, First Guard, Second Guard, and the Standards Board Justices. Our appointed positions include the Social Chair, Alumni Relations Chair, Member Development Chair, House Manager, Assistant House Manager, Detail Manager, Philanthropy and Service Chairmen, Public Relations Chairman, Risk Manager, IFC Representative, Librarian, ΘX Roast Chair, Greek Week Chair, Food Steward, and the Athletics Chair. Appointed positions may be created at will by the President to accomplish certain tasks.

Local Bylaws

Beta Nu's local by-laws are stored on the publicly shared Google Drive our chapter uses for data management. We have held several by-law revision roundtables to facilitate the relevancy of these documents.

Goals and Retreats

Chapter goals are set by the chapter during the semesterly retreat. During the Retreat, topics ranging from recruitment advice to chapter finance management are discussed.

During the spring Executive Board retreat goals were set for the Executive Council to work to accomplish in the coming year.

- Leadership: More Effective Leaders
 - Generate documentation templates
 - Develop leadership skills within committee chairs
 - Utilize Chapter Advisory Board more effectively
 - Better Leadership mentorship. For example: Candidates shadowing ec members, and avoiding having brothers cover multiple positions
 - Have EC delegate things to other brothers
 - Utilize Standards Board
 - Have generic minutes for closed EC topics to promote transparency
 - Revisit goals regularly throughout semester
 - Improve communication between officers
- Citizenship: Meaningful Service
 - Improve median service hours
 - Continue to have good attendance at other Greek organizations' philanthropies
 - Investigate joint philanthropies

- Decide Mental Health Awareness Week’s objective (awareness, raising money, assisting individuals).
- Continue the service leadership plan
- Get involved in GLO restructuring plan
- Have a USO philanthropy event
- Ritual: Recognize Ritual vs. ritual
 - Bring new public rituals
 - Have closed roundtables to discuss ritual
 - Increase communication with alumni
 - Membership Development execution of Resolute Man Program
 - Involve ourselves in chapter traditions (ex. caroling, Greek Week, Homecoming Parade)
 - Establish relationships with new sororities on campus
 - Encourage culture of care with brothers
- Scholarship: Holistic Scholarship & Culture of Care
 - Move programing aspect to Membership Development
 - Better records for holistic events
 - Organizing scholarship discussion with candidates during bid discussion
 - Holistic scholarship within Rush/recruitment
 - More professors at scholarship dinner
 - Follow the new changes to the bylaws

Committee

Beta Nu has three different committee types: Operational, Standing, and Ad-Hoc committees.

Standing committees meet every other week and consist of the Recruitment Committee, PR Committee, Service Committee, and the Social Committee. Operational committees meet monthly and consist of the Alumni Relations Committee, Membership Development Committee, and Scholarship Committee. Ad-hoc committees meet as necessary, and include such things as the budget setting committee, and bylaws revision committies. All committee chairs meet weekly for the Committee Chair Committee, which is headed by the Vice-President, in order to discuss the weeks progress and to collaborate with each other.

1. The Recruitment Committee is chaired by the Recruitment Chair, and it assists him in planning recruitment for the next semester. This includes 365 recruitment events, the recruitment calendar, PR plans, and planning recruitment workshops.
2. The Public Relations (PR) Committee is chaired by the PR Chair and assists in planning PR campaigns for our events. They are also in charge of managing our brand on campus.
3. The Philanthropy and Service Committee helps the chair organize and plan service events for the semester.
4. The Social Committee helps the chair organize social events. They work closely with the PR committee to advertise events, the Recruitment Chair to plan 365 events, and the Service Committee to plan service mixers.

5. The Alumni Relations Committee is headed by the Alumni Relations Chair and is responsible for alumni outreach. This includes organizing the annual Christmas party, Founders Day celebrations, and the newsletter. It is largely through their efforts that the chapter has such a strong showing in the Roster Book Rally.
6. The Membership Development Committee, headed by the Membership Development Chair, is in charge of planning membership development mini-sessions in chapter and hosting a variety of programs to help brothers become better men.
7. The Scholarship Committee is focused on chapter grades. They assist the Scholarship Chair in providing help for struggling members. They also help plan the scholarship recognition dinner, and invite campus resources to speak with the chapter.
8. The Health and Safety Committee is focused on planning Sacred Purpose events around campus and most importantly Mental Health Awareness Week in the fall.

Standards Board

The chapter maintains a fully functional Standards Board that consists of an Arbiter, Scribe, Parliamentarian, and seven Justices. Justices cannot be members of the Executive Council.

The role of Standards Board is to ensure compliance with the International Bylaws, Local Bylaws, Ritual, and campus rules. Any brother may bring any other brother to Standards, at which point the Board mediates the dispute and issues sanctions with an eye toward helping to resolve strife rather than perpetuating it.

Far more commonly, the Standards Board is used to recognize brothers. They meet at least monthly to issue awards such as Brother of the Month, Officer of the Month, and Alumnus of the Month. These awards recognize the brothers who have made outstanding contributions to the chapter and exemplify the ideals of Theta Chi. Others awards may be given at the discretion of the board. A copy of our local bylaws is included within the appendices.

Documentation and Transitions

When transitioning, every incoming officer is required to meet with their predecessor to discuss the specific details of the position, set goals, and get any tips. Both officers then meet with the Vice-President where they discuss their transitions. Every officer also has a notebook that is passed down that details the day to day minutia of the officers. Officers also keep any documents relevant to their position in the Google Drive. Every relevant document going back as far as 2001 is kept on this Google Drive for future usage.

Internal Communications

The chapter maintains an email list that all brothers are a part of. Reminders and announcements are sent to this list, and it is integral to our chapter operations. We also keep an online calendar lovingly called "The God Calendar." All brothers can create or edit events. Common events include chapter meetings, campus events, and so on. Additionally, the Secretary continues to send out TWIOX- *This Week in Theta Chi*. We believe a major reason for the improvement in attendance of a variety of events is due to TWIOX.

The chapter also maintains a website known as the Dashboard which stores a variety of chapter information such as contact information for all brothers and is also used to handle excuses. Many officer positions also have their own page on the Dashboard where they can preform chapter functions relevant to their position.

Chapter 10

Internal Cooperation

The past two semesters, we have seen an increase in Beta Nus endeavors to reach out and involve itself with International Headquarters and local chapters.

Conferences

Among the staple conferences are our chapter endeavors to attend, such as the Sasser's Presidential Conference and Theta Chi University. Our chapter has sent brothers to several local and international conferences. Our chapter president, David Lance, attended Sasser's while our whole EC made it to this year's Theta Chi University at The Ohio State University. CWRU's fall semester Greek Life Academy program featured a training program for Case Greek Life members; two brothers attended- Robert Park and Chris Brace. Meanwhile, our chapter will be sending several brothers to Theta Chi's Initiative Academy. We value the leadership development opportunities these conferences can provide, as many of those who attended are now elected officers for the chapter.

We looked forward to hosting a field exec, but was never reach out to by one and was sadly unable to reap those benefits.

Finally, we plan on continuing the success of our alumni relations event that involved the international fraternity, ΘX Roast. We hosted Tait Martin, current International Vice President at our ΘX Roast. In the past, we have hosted the Secretary, President, and several notable speakers.

Local Cooperation

Our chapter has made it a point of pride to maintain close relationships with the Beta Lambda chapter of the University of Akron and the Delta Theta chapter of the University of Toledo. In the past, we have frequently attended Beta Lambda's initiation, and they have done the same for our initiation. With their chapter's rebooting, we made ourselves available to them, attending one of their philanthropy events in support of the new brothers. We have been heavily involved in the recolonization of the Youngstown State Chapter as one of our brothers transferred there, Mark Reinke.

With the assistance of our chapter advisor Daniel Neumann, Beta Nu has finally built up enough money in the Chapter-Specific Scholarship Fund that we were able to award one \$500 scholarship this year.

Chapter 11

Campus Involvement

Our brothers are leading and participating in a variety of initiatives throughout campus. Though a large amount of our involvement throughout the campus has been highlighted in other sections, the following list summarizes more of what we do. A superscript “1” denotes that brothers have one or more leadership positions within an organization. A superscript “2” denotes that our brothers either founded the organization or are active as a president of the organization. For some organizations, we have included a short description.

Performance Groups

1. Case Men’s Glee Club¹
2. Case University Circle Symphony Orchestra
3. Speakeasy Acapella
4. Case Symphonic Winds
5. Concert Choir
6. Footlighters Musical Theater¹
7. Marching Band

Professional Groups

1. Student Turning Point Society - Leadership Honors Society for top 1% of students
2. Gamma Sigma Alpha - Greek Scholars Honors Society
3. Beta Alpha Psi - Accounting Honors Society
4. Phi Beta Kappa - Liberal Arts Honors Society
5. Phi Delta Epsilon - Pre-Medical student Society
6. Phi Alpha Delta - Pre-Law student Society
7. Eta Sigma Phi - Classics Honors Society
8. American Medical Student Association
9. Society for Biomaterials
10. Case Engineering Council¹

Religious Groups

1. Chabad at CWRU¹
2. Cleveland Hillel
3. Cru- Campus Crusade for Christ

Service and Advocacy Groups

1. National Alliance on Mental Illness at CWRU¹
2. Lambda Eta Mu - Greek Service Honors Society
3. Student Sustainability Council
4. Order of Omega- Leadership Honors Society
5. Alpha Phi Omega- International Service Organization
6. Active Minds
7. Undergraduate Student Government¹
8. Ohio Sierra Club¹
9. Camp Kesem¹
10. Cleveland Clinic
11. Advocates for Cleveland Health

Athletic Groups

1. Archery Club¹
2. Fencing Team¹
3. Judo Club
4. Running Club
5. Badminton Club
6. CWRU Ultimate Frisbee Team

Other Groups

1. IFC Judicial Board¹
2. Consulting Club
3. Mock Trial²
4. Magic:The Gathering Club²
5. Atlantis Classics Club¹
6. Philosophy Society
7. The Works Museum
8. Robotics Club
9. Smash Club
10. Esports Club
11. Juggling Club
12. Anime Club

13. Case Origami Club²
14. Campus Research Positions
15. Case Amateur Radio Club¹
16. Big Games Club¹
17. Medieval Combat Club¹
18. Role Playing Games Club¹
19. Physics and Astronomy Club²
20. Hackers' Society¹
21. HackCWRU planning committee¹
22. Undergraduate Student Government¹

We have a rich variety of involvement, and we encourage our brothers to continue exploring our campus. We look forward to continuing to make an impact at CWRU. The listing above does not encompass the variety of conferences and initiatives that we have been involved with through Greek Life and outside of it. Ultimately, many of our involvements stem from philanthropic and service pursuits that we enjoy.

Chapter 12

Risk Management Practices

At the Beta Nu chapter, we recognize that there are many personal risk factors, in addition to those that cause major chapter problems. Mental health problems are extremely common on college campuses, and even more so at CWRU. There are a number of steps that the chapter has taken to mitigate these risks and to promote good mental health among the members. First and foremost is the how the chapter has expanded the role of Chaplain. The Chaplain operates as a mediator and a counselor in conjunction with the Vice President of Health and Safety.

All brothers are expected and required to do the following:

1. Know and obey FIPG Guidelines, ΘX Risk Management Protocols, and CWRU Housing regulations.
2. How to prevent an emergency. lz
3. How to respond to an emergency.
4. How to recognize and report any hazing on campus.
5. Minimize risk to the house, chapter, brothers, and non-members.
6. Follow all local, state, and federal laws.

One of the most important aspects of risk management is that we voluntarily operate an alcohol-free house and host alcohol-free events. We began doing this in 1990, and it has become an integral aspect of our chapter. More than membership though, being dry conveys an attitude. The house is a safe place to rest, relax, and study. It is not a place for parties. Having dry events also conveys an attitude that these events are for everyone to participate, not for half the chapter to have fun and the other half to watch over them. We want to ensure our living environment, where we spend the majority of our time studying/resting, is held to a high standard.

In regards to emergency preparedness, the Risk Manager is in charge of making sure that the fraternity is properly prepared to respond to an emergency situation. This includes making sure fire evacuation instructions are posted and that the emergency response guide and emergency contact list are posted by every exit from the house and by every house phone. He is also in charge of coordinating preparedness training such as SMARRT meetings. This preparedness paid major dividends all of last year. For instance, earlier in the spring semester the ceiling in the kitchen had a leak, which brought up possible asbestos risk. With the help of the Greek Life Office on campus we were able to relocate brothers to the otherside of campus while the issue was addressed, all of this happened during rush and were able to make things work for the remaining events.

Another major effort Beta Nu has been active in is the CWRU Greek Life Sexual Misconduct Prevention plan. None of our brothers prompted a campaign to tackle this campus-wide issue, but we are now active in learning about bystander intervention and assisting our Greek community. The attached plan was developed, in part, by our brothers. We are proud of this contribution and the continued work our members put into developing strategies to make Greek life as a whole safer for everyone involved inside and outside of it.

Finally, it would behoove us to not reiterate our Mental Health Awareness Week. This embodiment of the sacred purpose has done wonders to support the morale of our campus community and of our brothers. We know that “you are not alone”, no matter the struggles one faces in college. We talk more about this week in the sacred purpose section, but ultimately championing mental health awareness is a great way to prevent mental health problems and destroy the stigmas that surround it.

Chapter 13

Social Programming

Beta Nu has sought to improve the way it both plans and executes social events this past year through building connections with other campus organizations as well by revamping our documentation process. Furthermore, we have attempted to foster an improved campus image by encouraging members to join and achieve leadership positions in various campus organizations.

Greek Week

Every year, Beta Nu has a blast participating in CWRU's Greek Week. From the Variety Show, Greek Sing, Pyramid, Rope Pull events among others, we enjoy the opportunity to grow closer as a chapter through the time-consuming yet fun competition. We continue our partnership- known to campus as the Unholy Alliance- with the Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity. Last year, we coordinated with each other's Variety Show, cheered each other on at the competitions, and so far this year have had instruction on how to better perform at Rope Pull. Additionally, this year we coordinated our t-shirt designs, and made an "Unoly Alliance" flag to bring to events.

Mixers

We continued building closer relations with other Greeks through a number of new and old mixers. For one of the sororities with which we are very close, Phi Sigma Rho, we had our 16th annual Iron Chef cook-off this Spring. We continued the tradition of sharing Thanksgiving dinner with the sisters of Alpha Phi for approximately its 32nd year.

In the Fall semester we had a movie night with Sigma Psi. Where they came over to watch a movie in our theater room with food as a welcome back to campus event.

Another mixer held in the Spring semester was with Sigma Psi a local sorority chapter at Case Western Reserve. We had them over for a joint Murder Mystery event with dinner and socializing. This was a play on our event last semester, mentioned below.

Finally, before the end of the semester we will be having a Trivia night mixer Sigma Sigma Sigma at an undecided location with one of our brothers and one of their sisters coming up with the questions.

Damage

For the past 20+ years on the weekend before spring finals, the brothers of Beta Nu have hosted Damage. At this event, we invite the CWRU community to our front yard to blow off steam and smash some cars. We buy two junker cars, have them prepared by a third-party company to be made safe for public destruction, and let the campus have at them with sledgehammers (after signing safety waivers, given instructions, time limits, etc, of course). This event regularly draws hundreds of students as well as many of our alumni to the house, and is an event we are proud to be continuing.

4th of July BBQ

Brothers who stayed in the house for the summer held a 4th of July party, barbecuing in the side yard, bringing out our speakers, inviting a few dozen friends, and watching fireworks shows as night fell.

Formal

Each spring, we hold our formal- this year to the Cleveland Museum of Art- taking brothers and their dates. This provides us a way to enjoy ourselves before gearing up for that last string of exams and finals, and gives us an opportunity to get together as a chapter outside of the chapter room and get off campus, eat, and dance.

Candidate Social Events

As part of the new member education program, the candidates are supposed to plan and hold a social event. For the Fall pledge class, they hosted a "Cupcakes and Catan" event, where brothers, candidates, and friends got together in the house to eat cupcakes and play board games.

Murder Mystery Party

For the second year in a row, brothers planned a Murder Mystery party. This event continues to be a success, bringing people from other greek organizations and the campus as a whole together to solve a mystery, which is acted out by brothers.

Chapter 14

Resolute Man

The Resolute Man membership development program is similar to an idea that our past president, Kris Sabatini, had drafted up to benefit our brothers throughout their career as undergraduates. In order to start us off on the right foot during our Spring 2017 retreat all brothers started their Resolute Man application and it was explained to them what was explicitly required of them.

Marshal Process

At the start of the Marshal process when the Marshal is signing up the candidates for OmegaFi he also signed them up for Resolute Man as of the Spring 2017 semester. Using the Resolute Man program as a guide the Marshal leads the candidates through the knowledge of ΘX and explains the values of the program. In essence the Marshal process is the first stepping stone in the career as a ΘX .

Membership Development Chair

In previous years the Membership Development Chair has not had a ton of guidance as to what events to run and how to best help the brothers, but the Resolute Man program has changed that. The Membership Development Chair, Jeremy Zalles, has been using the checklist as a outline for what he should be coordinating throughout the semester. With that in mind we have been able to run events that fit the needs of the majority of brothers and focusing specifically on brothers shooting for the award.