

The Theta Record

From the Desk of the Alpha

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Alpha	1
Beta	2
Philanthropy	2
Delta	3
New Member Educator	3
Epsilon	4
Eta	4
Gamma	5
Social Chair	6
Zeta	6

It has been another great semester this fall for the Theta Chapter here at RPI. This fall saw new changes for the house and the brotherhood as well as some continued traditions. The Theta chapter celebrated the centennial of our house this past fall. The celebration was a great success and the house gladly welcomed back many alumni during the weekend of October 21st. We were lucky to have such a high turnout. This made for a great reunion and also allowed the actives to build new connections with the Theta chapter.

As a whole, Chi Phi is currently a 5-star house, with much due to the work of our Public Relations Chairman, Br. Michael Pawlak '12. In terms of academics, Chi Phi has again made "Dean's List" for the second consecutive semester. The house currently boasts a grade point average of 3.05, topping both the All-Fraternity and All-Greek averages.

The Theta chapter has also done a great job remaining proactive in the community. Brothers have put

many hours into the after-school LEGO Mindstorms program, helping kids from the Capital Region learn programming and have fun after school. In addition, the brotherhood, led by Br. Josef Saltz '12, sponsored a blood drive with the Red Cross this semester, setting a campus record for the amount of blood collected, exceeding our goal by 40%! Our Philanthropy Chairman, Br. Eric McCurry '12, put together another successful Chi Phi Live which displayed live music from local bands including a newly formed in-house band.

On a fun note, the Theta chapter has created a new "Ice Race Team". The brothers worked all semester to fix up a car for racing during the current season. This project is open to all brothers who wish to participate, no experience necessary. What is great is that not only is this a fun activity for us, but also a great learning experience for everyone involved. Alumni are invited to help contribute or support our team.

Two brothers returned to RPI this

semester from co-ops. Br. Michael Pawlak '12 and Br. Brandon Kennedy '12 rejoin us for the spring semester. The brotherhood is also proud to have initiated 6 new members this fall. We are assured that these new men bring with them exceptional character, values, and talents. I have no doubt that the Theta Chapter will continue upon its current successes and strive to improve itself throughout the spring semester and into the coming school year.

Fraternally,

Br. Scott Hounsell '14

Alpha



From the Beta

With a new year, IFC's new executive board begins their office term. The enthusiasm from this new executive board is inspiring, organizing various meetings with every chapter and separately with each respective president and e-board to discuss the upcoming year and any potential collaborations between the chapter and IFC. IFC is also looking to increase the presence of Greek organizations such as Green Greeks (advocate of recycling/less wasteful practices) and Greek Spectrum (LGBT and allies), granting them delegates for IFC. They are also working hard on re-vamping the Risk Management position to turn it into more of a "Membership Development" position. Unfortunately though, in only the first few weeks the new Executive Vice President decided to step down and after a short nomination/election period we replaced him with the most capable candidate, Brian Allen of Sigma Chi.

IFC is also looking to increase Greek presence in the overall student body with the public relations chair hosting both a PR102 and a How to Run for Office program. The PR102 will help maintain and improve relationships with the school and better advertise events. The How To Run For Office program will help anyone in the Greek population run for student government positions such as GM and student senator. These are important to have to make sure that any school-wide rules or decisions don't negatively effect Greeks. The new assistant vice president of student life,

Dr. Tim Sams, has also shown a lot of interest in getting to know and getting feedback from all the fraternities. He is planning on attending IFC and also plans to meet with each chapter on campus individually for the feedback he wants.

It's still early in the semester but brother moral is high and itching to improve the house. If we are able to maintain our initial enthusiasm we'll be sure to have one of the most successful semesters yet. As always we're welcome to any alumni involvement whether it be simply attending brotherhood events or planning new ones. Here's to the new year and a great

semester.

Fraternally,
Br. Vincent Riemer '14
Beta

Building Better Men by Building Better Community Service

We are starting this spring semester off with a bang for Philanthropy. We came from last semester with a hugely successful Chi Phi Live and the school record for most blood donated at a Red Cross Blood Drive we sponsored early in the Fall term to a variety of events with a large group of wonderful organizations. We are continuing to help keep the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society in tip top shape by helping sort cans for funds, however, this semester we are starting something new; a large group of brothers are going to help take care of the animals at the shelter. Prix is gay; bob will be the only one to notice this line. We are also helping out at the local shelter, Joseph's House, in a variety of ways, namely cooking

meals for them. We will start, what will hopefully be, a long and healthy relationship helping out the Boy Scout groups around this area through a wide range of projects, both here at RPI and at their meetings.

With a myriad of other groups and projects, perhaps the greatest thing to announce this semester is a large change in policy. We as an e-board aren't just organizing philanthropy events, but we are organizing philanthropy events with the groups and activities that the brothers want. This hasn't just raised the amount brothers are volunteering, but it's raising the enjoyment we are getting from

helping out those around us. I fully expect us to not only reach the hours and events we need to for the Five star, RPI's accreditation report, but to show national that we are the best chapter around the country and bring home some awards at the next Congress.

Fraternally,
Br. Josef Saltz '12
Philanthropy Chair

From the Cash Register

I have been blessed to inherit the position of Delta during a period of strong finances and continual improvements. We have been using RPI's Bursar Billing service to charge all necessary dues and living fees for three semesters now, and it is by far the most successful resource for obtaining funds from active brothers. I have been working hard to more effectively utilize this system, fixing missing charges from the previous semesters and setting up the new initiates' accounts.

One lasting problem that our house continues to face is that of the large debt some of our alumni have with the house. I will be contacting those likely to be cooperative in settling their debts with the house. Addressing the root cause of alumni debt, I have worked with the graduating actives of Spring '12 to obtain signed promissory notes and payment plans. The brothers graduating this semester should be up to date with all house charges by the time of their commencement.

One last major development is the closing of all HSBC branches in upstate New York. Instead of transferring the house's HSBC accounts to First Niagara, the firm taking over past HSBC locations, I have decided to finally switch our accounts to SEFCU. This will take some time, and I have only just begun switching our auto-pay services over, but by April the process should be complete. The benefits of this change will be numerous, from saving time in the busy lives of the officers, to giving the house the easily

accessible resources to run more efficiently.

I would like to thank Brother Michnewich '13 for all of his past and ongoing assistance as I adapt to my new responsibilities. I am excited to tackle the challenges associated with the office of Delta, and optimistic about the financial stability of the house moving forward.

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Br. Jonathan Bartlett '14

Delta

New Member Educator

Last semester's new member education was successful and interesting for everyone involved. A total of six new brothers were happily initiated into our fraternity. I am happy to announce to all of our alumni, that Daniel Campos, William Kucharczyk, Nick Marton, Nicholas LaFerriere, Drew Mitchell, and Ben Governali have all been initiated into our fraternity. I'm proud of all of these new Chi Phi gentlemen, and look forward to seeing what they accomplish as brothers.

Fraternally,

Br. Joseph Tufano '12

New Member Educator



From left: Br.s: Drew Mitchell '14, Will Kucharczyk '14, ,Nick LaFerriere '14, Candidate for Membership Andrew Shapiro, and Br.s Daniel Campos '14, Nick Marton '14, Benjamin Governali '14 lift their New Member Educator Br. Joseph Tufano '12 into the air.

Shaking Things Up

The spring 2012 semester was started off with a work day to help clean up after winter break and to set about making repairs and improvements. We worked to replace insulation around many of the doors to improve heating efficiency, repaired the basement side room's drop ceiling, and made a number of electrical fixes. Later this semester, we will be replacing our 15-year-old chest freezer with a more energy-efficient (and much nicer-looking) model. We are also working with Housing Corp. to replace our walk-in refrigerator this summer, along with other larger projects during the year. Together with the THC we also plan on remodeling another Main House bedroom this summer to include better insulation, add new wiring, and significantly improve aesthetics.

Aside from projects planned for this year, I have made a number of changes to other Epsilon-related tasks. Cleaning duties have been altered in a number of ways to hold people more accountable for their own shifts, utilize multiple-person shifts to make each shift less tedious, and to teach new Brothers proper methods. This semester, we're starting to have monthly work days to help keep the houses in better condition and so that the fall Work Week can be used to focus on larger and more time-consuming projects.

Fraternally,

Br. Dana Schnabel '12

Epsilon



Br. Harrison Bond '14 removing a fallen tree branch.

Keeping Chi Phi Safe

The semester has been calm so far. A successful rush has just ended and we are now getting ready for fire inspection next month. Thanks to the work of previous Etas the house is in good shape for inspection. In the past two doors in the annex could only be opened from one side, this has since been fixed in accordance to fire code. Hallways have also been cleaned to ensure easy exit.

Most of what needs to be done is simple maintenance such as checking batteries on smoke detectors and replacing lights on exit signs. Snow has been light so far during the semester so sidewalks have been kept clear. A new item this year is loft standards. While most of

the house's lofts meet specifications, a few might need some modification for lack of guardrails and having freestanding ladders. Overall, the house should be completely within code by fire inspection.

A new safety measure the house has implemented this semester is a large increase in the number of monitors during social events. During parties about half the house will be assigned various positions throughout the house to make sure order is kept. This helps insure Brothers stay responsible for the people they admit to the house. We instituted this policy during the recent formal and everything went smoothly. One last thing being looked into is

a unified phone number for drivers during the weekend. Soon, only one number will have to be called in order to connect to the current driver. With these new policies in place we are looking forward to continuing a safe semester.

Fraternally,

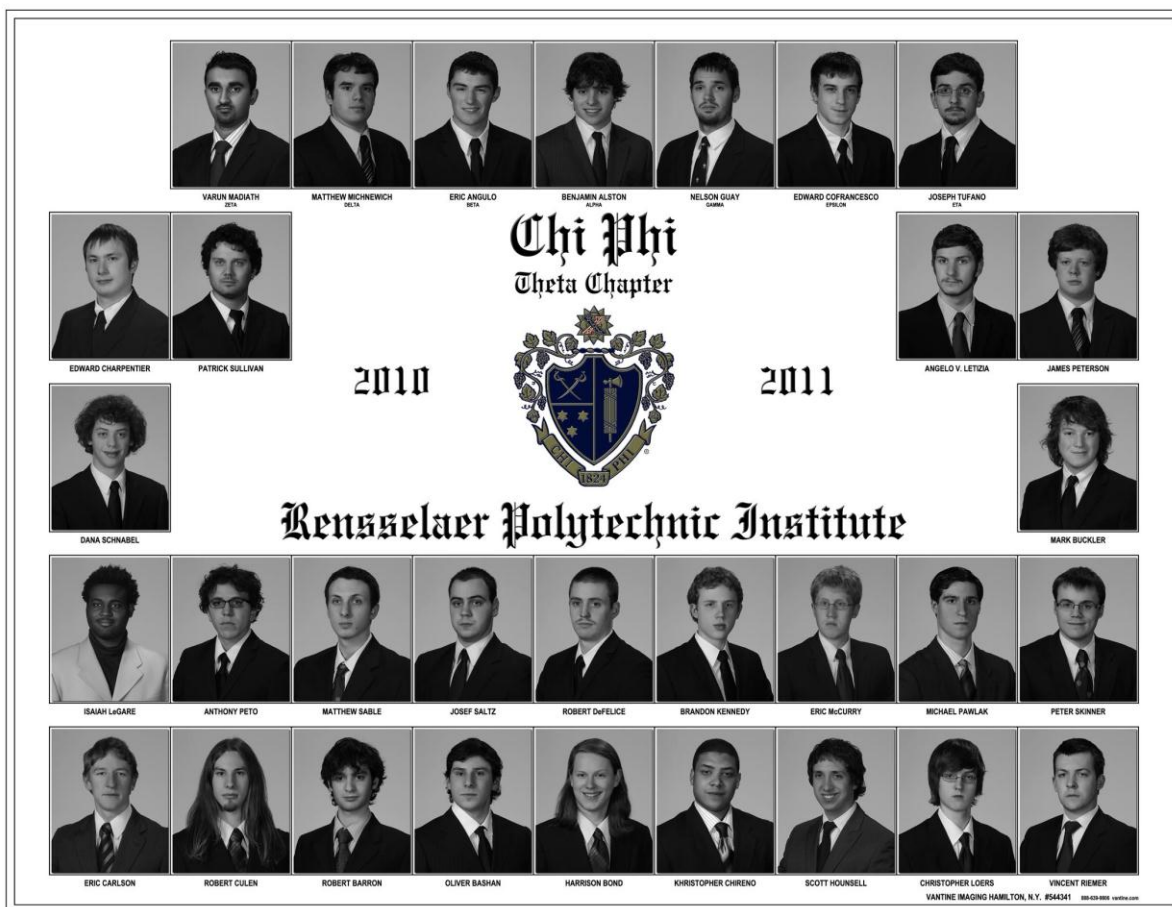
Br. Robert Barron '14

Eta

With the new year, our new executive board takes over. As the newly elected Gamma, I'm ready to step up to the duties of taking minutes, submitting reports, and managing our email list. We're currently in the process of adding a dedicated Academic Chairman position in the house, separate from the Gamma. This position could provide the brotherhood with the resources we need to raise our GPA even higher. An Academic Chair will also expand on our plan for an incentive system to

Another RLA is being hosted nearby this semester, providing our house with a chance to meet other chapters and educate our younger members. I'm expecting that a large number of brothers to attend, especially the latest pledge class. I'm hoping that in the future all incoming pledge classes will attend an RLA, which is a goal we can easily achieve.

Fraternally,
Br. Christopher Loers '14
Gamma



Being More Social

I have been gunning for the position of Social Chair ever since I joined the house. Suffice to say, I was quite ecstatic when I had learned I was elected. This position, unlike many others in the house, is more of a 24/7 job. It is my responsibility to inspect every avenue I can to put our house in a positive light. This, however, is a responsibility I am more than happy to oblige.

Last year, we had a significant lull in social activity. With only two social events, and no mixers, I have a lot to catch up on during my tenure as Social Chair. I am putting forth all possible effort to increase relations between us and the sororities on

campus. Spring formal this year proved to be a success, despite being scheduled quite differently than previous years. For dinner, we ate a fun and lively meal at a nearby Japanese steak house, which was a nice change of pace from the type of venues we usually choose.

I've decided to spend my term as Social Chair by focusing on implementing several new risk management policies into the way we run our social events. These policies will not only help our house become a safer environment in which to socialize, but will also help me sleep better at night.

Since I've been in this

house, I've seen a strong positive trend with how social the new members we intake are. This pleases me greatly, as I am excited to see what the future of our fraternity will hold. As our presence on campus continues to improve, we must not lose focus and become lazy, lest we fall into the same trap of apathy that plagues many chapter houses nationwide.

Fraternally,

Br. Harrison Bond '14

Social Chair

Trying New Things

I have always known that I would like to hold a position of the executive board of this house, and when my chance came to become the Zeta, I decided to embrace it. So far this semester, the Stephen "Rusty" Gordon plaque has been mounted in the foyer, and I have begun to catalogue the materials that we found in the attic while cleaning last semester. It seems that some of the materials may date to as far back as the founding of our chapter!

In other news, the decision has been made to attempt a different tactic for the newsletter this year. In an attempt to spend the Zeta budget frugally, the decision has been made to distribute the newsletter via e-mail this semester. Distribution of the newsletter next semester will be dependent on the reaction that this newsletter receives. If the alumni of the chapter have a preference for the distribution method, I would be delighted to accommodate that preference.

I'm sure that the rest of this

semester will remain very productive, and that we will continue to make memories and stories to share with the brothers that will follow in our footsteps.

Fraternally,

Br. Robert Lundin '14

Zeta

Brothers and dates at the annual Christmas party.



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Theta Excellence Fund

With the Theta Excellence Fund active our first goal is to provide an annual scholarship in honor of brother, Andrew Colditz, who passed away in 2005. The scholarship is for a new member in each pledge class who was found to best represent the values of Chi Phi, and met a minimum GPA requirement. Also 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 would be 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.

<p>Your Return Address</p> <p>Chi Phi Educational Trust 1300 Sixth Avenue Columbus, GA 31901 Fax: (404) 237-5090</p>	<p>Postage</p> <p>Pay To: <u>Chi Phi Educational Trust</u> \$ Amount <u>Amount in Dollars</u></p> <p><u>Theta Excellence Fund</u></p>
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Brothers and Candidates for Membership at Spring 2012 Formal.