

THE THETA RECORD

Official Newsletter of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi Fraternity

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RPI RELATIONS

Coming off of a difficult semester in the Spring, the Theta Chapter has been working to improve internal operations and relations with Fraternity and Sorority Commons (FSC) this Fall. The support plan to wrap up the action items from our suspension is complete. We sent it to FSC at the beginning of the semester after having it reviewed by some members of our National Fraternity and some of our Alumni. Secondly, our National Chapter Manager, formerly called a Chapter Leadership Consultant, joined us during a house meeting to discuss Chi Phi's values. Thirdly, we held our semesterly Casa de Quesadillas early in the semester and donated over \$200 to RAINN. Lastly, a reminder that we were suspended in the Spring of 2023 due to violations of the RPI recruitment policy regarding Freshman class members in the Fall of 2022. However, our probationary status will end on December 31st, 2023, concluding the action items from RPI's judicial case.

There have been a couple of changes to the FSC administration, which has caused a much stronger presence from the FSC to hold events and meetings within the Greek Community and a stricter enforcement of the rules. Two new Assistant Greek Deans, Mel Daley and Lezlie Blair, have been added to the FSC staff. All three Greek Deans have been assigned a subsection of the Chapters on campus. We are managed directly under Ethan Stubbs.

One of the most prominent new rules is the new Social Operating Procedure (SOP), a revitalization of the existing but outdated policies requiring all Chapters to register organized non-alcoholic and alcoholic events. However, this is all with what we understand to be good intentions, as the more evidence FSC has of Chapters following the rules, the more FSC and President Marty Schmidt can convince the rest of the administration to transform RPI for the better. FSC is also revising the School's Accreditation, previously known as Chapter Profile. There is little transparency on this revision, as opposed to the student and alumni-driven transition to Chapter Profile in 2020. However, no Accreditation will be due to FSC in Spring 2024.

Some commendable events held by the FSC include the IFC Block Party and a Narcan training session. The Block Party got much more attention this semester than last year's as FSC placed all the Chapters closer together, and it occurred during RPI's Parents Weekend. The Narcan training sessions were formative and provided us with about eight Narcan kits afterward.

From an Interfraternity Council perspective, we are proud to have two Brothers currently serving on the executive board. Congratulations to Br. John Cohen on being elected IFC President and Br. Soulaymana Barry on being elected IFC VP of Community Relations. Mel was pleased to have Chi Phi represented on IFC, and we share that sentiment in recommitting to our historically strong presence on IFC and in FSC.

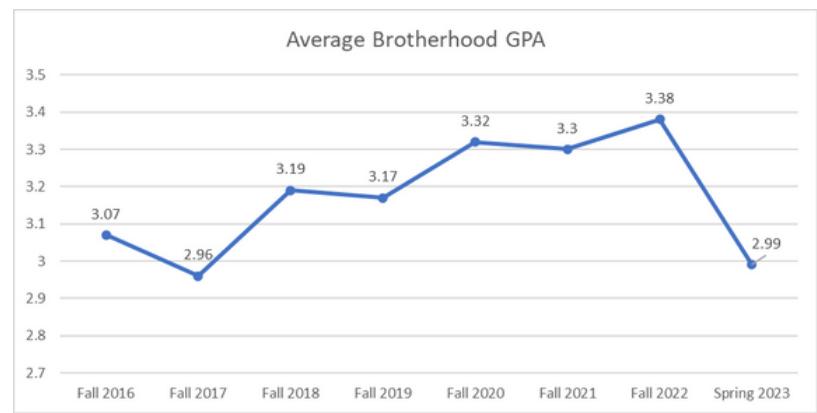
Along with the changes in the FSC, there were multiple major changes to the Student Handbook this past Spring which were spearheaded by Br. Noah Prisament during his time as IFC Executive VP. These include an expansion of RPI's Good Samaritan policy to include organizations meaning that RPI will not impose punitive actions on Chapters seeking medical help for students affected by alcohol or other drugs. Likewise, there were clarifications to appeals in the judicial process, a much clearer and more equitable definition of organization hosted events and a removal of the mandatory two year minimum suspension for infractions under the Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy.



UPDATES FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Academics and Member Education

The Brotherhood has experienced a setback in maintaining its high academic performance standards this Fall. The current value of the cumulative GPA of the active Brotherhood in the Spring 2023 semester was 2.99. This resulted from multiple confounding factors including Brothers with higher GPAs graduating, New Members joining with lower GPAs, and other Brother's GPA's faltering.



The Scholarship chair introduced a new program using the available Alumni network to gain further support. This program allowed for easy access to request help while allowing older Brothers and Alumni familiar with the subject to connect with the person needing assistance. Following the implementation of Brother office hours for new members, a plethora of Brothers took advantage of this Alumni network, who mentioned that the assistance helped lessen the overall difficulty of the coursework. We expect an improvement in the cumulative GPA of the active Brotherhood next semester. Finally, we are proud to say that Br. Jason Gaiardelli is researching Nuclear Fusion Divisions at Fratatome in the following semester.

Staying Social

With the recent changes in the updated policy for social events on campus, we decided to strengthen our Brotherhood through a focus on internal events this semester. Br. Aaron Rice served as Brotherhood Chair and planned and executed events that helped the Brotherhood grow closer together. These events included karaoke nights, football watch parties, a Halloween movie night, a trip to an Islanders game at UBS Arena and a hiking trip to Moxham Mountain in the Adirondacks. We also planned a successful cabin trip in Warrensburg, NY, which gave the Brothers and new members a great time to have fun and unwind. This semester has been a challenging yet rewarding time, with us continuing to grow our internal bonds and external connections.



Brothers on a Hike at Mt. Greylock, MA



Brothers at an Islanders game at UBS Arena

Sports

The Brotherhood had another successful sports season. We did not forfeit a single intramural game this semester as we gathered enough Brothers, Potential New Members, and friends of the house to attend every game. Involving PNMs and friends interested in sports and our fraternity gave the Brothers an excellent opportunity to actively learn about and connect with them. The Brotherhood continues to participate in fantasy football and basketball leagues this season. Like many semesters prior, we played intramural flag football, volleyball, and indoor and outdoor soccer.

Philanthropy



KEVINDILLA
Sirloin Philly Cheesesteak, Provolone, Bell Peppers, Sautéed Onions \$7

THE GEORGIAN
BBQ Pulled Pork, Veggie Slaw, Sautéed Onions \$7

THREE CHEESE
Traditional Mixture of Cheddar, Pepper Jack, and Monterey Jack \$5

VEGGIEDILLA (V)
Bell Peppers, Onions, Black Beans, Corn, Vegan Jack Cheese, Lime Aioli \$6

QUESADILLA DE POLLO
Seared Chicken Breast, Peppers, Onions, Monterey Jack \$7

SIDES
Tortilla Chips \$1.00
Homemade Guacamole \$2.00
Salsa \$1.00
Sour Cream \$1.00

V = Vegan Option

RAINN
All profits go to RAINN

TOD 4/17 weather@rpi.edu

This is a Rainn fundraiser flyer. It lists various quesadilla options with their descriptions and prices. It also includes a section for sides. A note at the bottom indicates that V stands for Vegan Option. The word "RAINN" is prominently displayed at the bottom, with the tagline "All profits go to RAINN". At the very bottom left, there is a small circular icon with a person symbol.

This semester, the Brotherhood has shown its consistent dedication to Philanthropic service by logging over 100 hours thus far. We participated in community service opportunities across various organizations, including those organized by IFC, such as freshman move-in day and a Prospect Park cleanup. We have also continued relations with Victorious Life Christian Church by helping clean up at His Table, a soup kitchen in downtown Troy. Our most successful event was our semesterly fundraiser, Casa de Quesadillas, where we served over 100 quesadillas, raising over \$200. We also co-hosted a tabling event with AGD, where we sold hot chocolate and donated \$350 to Chi Phi's national charity, RAINN.

Service is an essential part of our new member process and is thoroughly stressed. Each of our new members dedicated over four hours to the Albany Boys and Girls Club through their annual Halloween Haunted House.

As the next semester approaches, we hope to continue our history of Philanthropic significance as we look toward planning our annual St. Baldrick's fundraiser in the Spring.



Brothers and AGD Sisters tabling in the Student Union

SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



Br. Matthew Auffarth
BS Business Analytics
MS Quantitative Finance

Matt has served as Delta, Alumni Relations, and Brotherhood Chair. He is continuing his job search in Corporate Banking in the Finance industry.



Br. Trenton Squires
BS Mechanical and
Aeronautical Engineering
MS Mechanical Engineering

Trenton has served as Eta, Philanthropy Chair, Scholarship Chair, and Judicial Board member. He is set to work in the Engineering Development Group at Mathworks.



Br. George Appessos
BS Aeronautical Engineering

George has served as Theta, Gamma, Steward, and Judicial Board member. He is currently working as an Independent Trader while searching for opportunities in the Finance Industry.



Br. Richard Gonzalez
BS Electrical Engineering

Richard has served as Zeta, Public Relations, and Judicial Board member. He will be pursuing a MS in Manufacturing and Mechanical Systems Integration at Rochester Institute of Technology while also working as a Controls Engineer at General Motors.



Br. Noe Horowitz
BS Computer Science

Noe has served as Beta and Delta. He will continue working at Guidance Analytics where he leads their engineering department as the CTO.



Br. Omri Maor
BS Cognitive Science

Omri served as Steward, Social, and a Judicial Board member. Omri hopes to pursue a job in the field of Cognitive Science in the near future.

CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Wiring and Communications

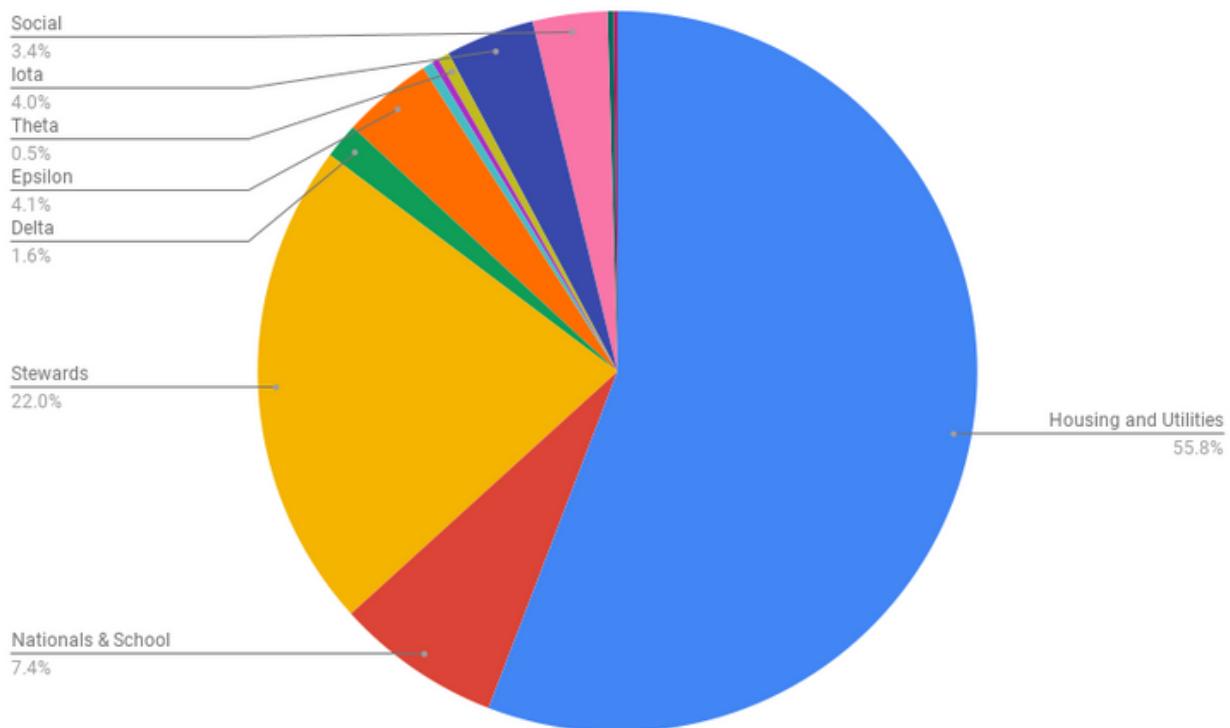
This semester, the Wiring Chair moved The Unifi network control and management system from a defunct Raspberry Pi to a repurposed rack-mounted DVR server, which has proven to be much more reliable and offers enhanced versatility and scalability. Additionally, we had Spectrum replace our aging modem and router, enabling more reliable internet service that didn't have random cutouts during peak demand. Lastly, we got a working, high-resolution, color laser printer, alleviating the need to buy pricey and short-lived ink cartridges and enabling higher volume print jobs in the future, such as Rush calendars or flyers.

Finances

The goal of this semester was to replenish our savings. With an expected income of \$104,000, we budgeted for \$100,000 in expenses. This semester's total income was \$111,000, resulting in a projected surplus of about \$8,000, with \$103,000 in expenses. The Delta has reported that our total budget utilization remained around 80%, providing a good safety margin as we enter 2024. Our assets currently amount to \$69,000, with remaining bursar disbursements pending to the Chapter.

The Delta filed Taxes this year; however, some work correcting overreported assets from last year's tax document proved necessary. The budget for Spring 2023 and the accompanying graphic breaks down the projected expenses from this semester. Our Treasurer had the foresight to allocate half of the Spring insurance costs in the Fall.

Additionally, we are utilizing Wave online bookkeeping services to automate a significant portion of the accounting process. Instead of menial tasks like bookkeeping and reimbursements, we can focus more on strategically and financially supporting other officers to excel in their positions.



Bylaws and Chapter Organization

This semester, we have passed a few essential bylaws, reflecting our ongoing commitment to improving fraternity operations. The Judicial Board amended sections 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 of the bylaws detailing deadlines for when Officer and Chapter retreats should happen and specifics on who should attend these retreats. To enhance organizational efficiency, we've introduced Notion as a tool for aligning our officers. The Alpha and Beta are actively involved in updating this platform, ensuring a clear and consistent flow of information. Notion has proven effective in maintaining officer accountability and viewing our weekly tasks and responsibilities. This step towards better organization is a positive stride for our fraternity, aligning with our goals for structured and efficient management.

Housing

This semester's goals were to clear out spaces and maintain general upkeep. At the beginning of the semester, we held our usual work week, where we completed several projects. The bigger projects include stripping and repainting the fence, clearing out the attic, reorganizing the shed, and returning the kitchen to a usable space after the stove and metal surfaces started rusting after the summer semester. Smaller projects were repainting the Chi Phi sign on the Annex and finishing the reconstructed bar. A big thank you goes out to the housing corp for taking on the larger project of replacing the back stairwell of The Chi. It came out looking amazing, so thank you guys once more.

Throughout the semester, several work parties have been held. During this, we accomplished tasks such as replacing damaged or missing hallway trim on the M3, M2, A1, and A2. We also replaced damaged or missing door trim for M25, M32, and A26 and replaced smoke detectors in M33 and M34.

While getting the Annex inspection ready, we found some electrical issues in A26, A25, and A24. With that knowledge, we hired an electrician to take a look; as a result, we were able to fix the problems in A26 and A25 because they were connected, but as far as issues in A24, they required a whole rewiring of the room which will have to be tackled in the future.

Another accomplishment worth noting is an improvement in Epsilon and Housing Corporation relations. We plan on continuing to meet every other week with the Housing Corp., giving bi-weekly reports on the house and gaining feedback on future projects to take on.

Future projects for next semester include scraping and repainting the outside trim of windows for both houses, fixing Annex's front and back doors, filling in the holes in the kitchen as well as replacing trim in there, repouring concrete in the front of Main, and connecting downspouts of Main to drains to help with mitigating any water that floods into the basement.



Repainted Fence



Repainted Chi Phi on Annex



Cleaned out Attic



Cleaned out and Reorganized Basement

Risk Management

We are happy to report that in the semesterly fire inspection with the school, we received a score of 440/520 (85%) for The Chi and 470/515 (91%) for The Annex, with only minor infractions noted. These violations included missing trim around doors and accumulated bagged waste in the attic. The waste is a result of the gradual disposal of waste in the attic after the cleanup over the work week. The active Brotherhood and the new members promptly and properly mitigated the violations. The Eta hopes to improve inspection scores next semester to impress the school and FSC administrators and ensure a safer and cleaner living environment for those living in-house. Half the active Brothers attended a Narcan training hosted by the school with a licensed pharmacist and Narcan expert. This training was instrumental in educating us and members of other chapters in using and applying the medicine in worst-case scenarios.

CHAPTER GROWTH

Rush

Although this rush did not get as many people walking in through our door, every Brother in the house was able to connect with rushees on a more personal level. We started rush with river tubing in Battenkill River as a welcome-back event for Brothers and rushees. The Pizza Making and Taco Bell Tuesday events got fewer people than we expected. However, Wingstock was a great success; the number of people coming to eat was reminiscent of Fall 2022. This positive outcome allowed the house to get several contacts. Brothers and PNMs had a fantastic time at the Yankees game, where we were able to pre-close on several rushees who showed a lot of interest.

A key difference implemented in our rush this semester was that the fraternity focused on holding more invite only events so that we could grow stronger connections and build better bonds with our PNMs. This semester, IFC has been very strict with hosting large external events such that social events hosted by other Fraternities on campus were shut-down immediately. Therefore, we decided to account for the lack of external social events by focusing on smaller, more intimate interactions outside the official rush calendar. Some of these included a Casino Night, a Bonfire, and a Hike near Lake George. The constant contact we have had with the Freshmen who come to these events has been massive for the potential growth of the fraternity for next semester. These PNMs will return next semester for Spring Rush, and we hope to have them join our fraternity when they are eligible.



Brothers and Rushees at Wingstock



Brothers and PNMs at Yankee's Game



Brothers and Friends of the House after
River Tubing in Batenkill River, NY



Brothers and PNMs on a Hike near Lake
George, NY

New Members

The Chapter is thrilled to welcome our eight new members this semester. We doubled down on our efforts to get to know and assimilate our new members into the Brotherhood to ensure we admit quality members to our organization. We are confident that all eight members will quickly impact the Chapter. Six were "hold-overs" from last Spring when we could not initiate or educate our new members due to the Suspension. Although, unfortunately, they could not join then, this made them even more motivated to join Chi Phi, and all eight have exhibited immense enthusiasm throughout the process of becoming Brothers. All eight new members were eager to grow and adopt our core values of truth, honor, and personal integrity. Highlights from this semester's new member process included lots of informal brotherhood events such as hikes and movie nights, a new member retreat, and 100% new member attendance at the cabin trip. We would also like to share our new members from previous semesters that we have not had the chance to highlight yet. These six members have already become an integral part of chapter operations and continue to contribute their time and effort in a meaningful way.

Mu Tritons Pictured (front to back, left to right)

- Julian Fong-McAdams - Mechanical Engineering - San Francisco, CA
- Ryan Snell - Geology - Tiverton, RI
- Paul Lea - Physics - Dallas, TX
- Denis Koslov - Computer Systems Engineering - Glenn Dale, MD
- Jordan Lewenthal - Computer Science - Queens, NY
- Michael Samir - Biomedical Engineering - Merrick, NY





- Nu Tritons Pictured (front to back, left to right)
- Kyle Palsson - Computer Science - Atlanta, GA
 - Arsal Zafar - Mechanical Engineering - Bellmore, NY
 - Arthur Armstrong - Nuclear Engineering - West Point, NY
 - Talon Carsto - Electrical Engineering - Tarrytown, NY
 - Samar Dhoat - Computer Science - Pittsburgh, CA
 - Noah Johnson - Aeronautical Engineering - Suwanee, GA
 - Edoardo Gallazzi - Chemistry - Alessandria, Italy
 - James Cangialosi - Chemical Engineering - Middletown, N

NATIONAL AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

National Relations

Regarding national-related affairs, National Accreditation is in the process of revision, and our very own Nathan Rosengrant and Noah Prisament are on the committee to help revise it. The revision was decided at the most recent Congress, resulting in no National Accreditation submission for 2023. Secondly, Nathan Gibson will be our new National Chapter Manager after our previous Chapter Manager, Jon Arthur, found a job as a teacher. Nathan stopped by for a Chapter visit in mid-November to meet with all the outgoing and incoming officers. These meetings all went well, and we learned more about what National is trying to do, such as creating courses for all the officers and revising the schedule for Alphas and Thetas.

Upcoming Events

There will be an Alumni Weekend planned for the Spring 2024 semester and we encourage everyone to attend! Details will be sent in the email chain once they are finalized. If you are not currently on the email chain, contact the current Gamma at gamma.theta.chiphi@gmail.com or via the discord server to be added.

ALUMNI UPDATES

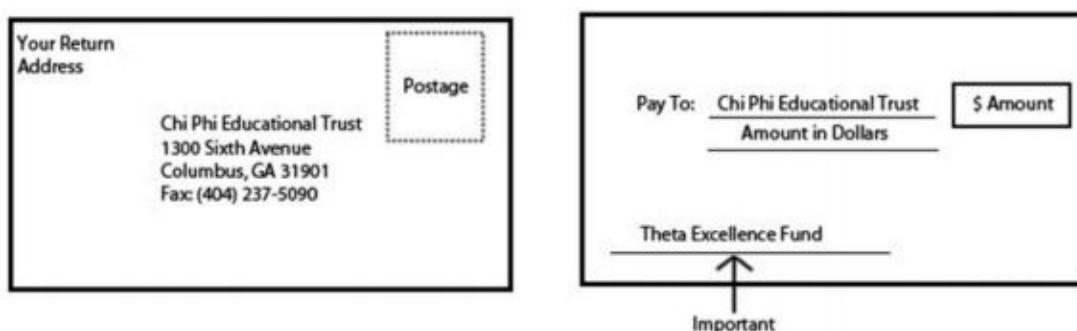
Brother Brian Sposato
was married to
Mannion O'Connor on
March 21st, 2023

Brother Aaron Ide and
his wife Sammie had a
baby named Miriam
Jeanette Ide on June
17th, 2023

Brother John
Underwood was
married to Christine Ya
on June 10, 2023

THETA EXCELLENCE FUND

With the Theta Excellence Fund active, our first goal has been 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 represent the values of Chi Phi best and met a minimum GPA requirement. A second scholarship for leadership, in honor of Stephen “Rusty” Gordon, was established. This scholarship is for any Brother showing leadership through his activities with the house. If you would like to help the chapter by donating directly to the Theta Excellence fund, please follow the instructions below:



CHAPTER DONATIONS

Want to have a direct impact on the chapter?

Please contact the 2024 Alpha (alpha.theta.chiphi@gmail.com), Brother Ryan Snell, or Delta (delta.theta.chiphi@gmail.com), Brother Paul Lea, to discuss room dedications and contributing to housing renovations in the Chi or Stroud Hall.

All donations from alumni towards housing renovations are honored with plaques and room dedications for contributions and generosity. Get involved and invest in the future of our chapter!

CHAPTER CONTACTS

SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage you to follow the Theta Chapter on social media for more frequent updates on the chapter and events we are hosting.



@chi_phi_rpi



@chiphiaatrpi



@chiphiaatrpi

CHAPTER WEBSITE AND DISCORD

<http://www.thetaofchiphi.org/>
<https://discord.gg/Wepf99Q>