

Chapter Profile

Chi Phi, Theta Chapter

Spring 2022–Fall 2022

1981 and 1985 15th Street, Troy, New York 12180
RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

PREPARED BY: Shankar Veludandi & Jay Gaiardelli, Public Relations Chairmen

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REVIEWED BY: Jared Zornitzer, President, Alexander Liu, House Manager & Avery Montembeault, Alumni Advisor

SUMMARY

Located on the corner of Sage and 15th Street, Chi Phi is a convivial and diverse group of Brothers who take pride in their values: Truth, Honor, and Personal Integrity. As a

Brotherhood, we love enriching our local community, forging lifelong connections, and building better men. Since 1878, The Theta Chapter of Chi Phi remains the gold standard for Greek life and shines as the paradigm for a fraternity with excellent commitment and leadership.



ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

Chapter Size	20 Members
New Members	3 Members
Average Cumulative GPA	3.30
EHS Safety Score	88% and 96% Fall 2022
Philanthropy Dollars Raised	\$14,500
Community Service Hours	5.6 per Member
Live-In Capacity	44 Members
Majors	
School of Business	3 Member
School of Engineering	8 Members
School of Science	9 Members
Cohorts	
Undergraduate, Class of 2025	1 Member
Undergraduate, Class of 2024	10 Members
Undergraduate, Class of 2023	8 Members
Graduate	1 Member

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

PREPARED BY: Alexander Liu, House Manager

Academic excellence is a hallmark of the Theta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity. While maintaining our historically high grades, Chi Phi promotes academic development within the Brotherhood through a study hours program and an academic support program (Appendix A.1). By inviting faculty guest speakers to hold talks at the house, we cultivate a strong connection between our members and professors which allows members to gain valuable insights academically and professionally from the faculty's perspective.

The first and foremost component to our academic program is study hours. The Scholarship Chairperson hosts study hours twice per week for two hours each session, where Brothers work on their assignments, complete projects, and study for exams together. Before the Fall 2022 semester, study hours traditionally took place in the dining room. A change that was made this past year is to make the location of study hours flexible. Instead of having to come to the dining room to participate in group study sessions, members can opt to study in their own space. The rationale for this change is that some people work better individually and do not receive the same benefits from group discussions as others do. By allowing the flexibility in the location of study hours, members can tailor the study hours program to fit their personal study style and optimize efficiency. Nearly all Brothers have attended at least one study session during both the Spring and Fall 2022 semesters, making the participation for the study hours program remarkably high.

Besides being a time for Brothers to study, study hours also serve as a time where members can tutor one another or offer help to our new members. For every member being tutored, the Scholarship Chairperson creates a personalized tutoring schedule for them that fits in with their class schedule at RPI. This academic collaboration amplifies the bonding among Brothers and familiarizes new members to the Brotherhood, while helping to balance their coursework with other responsibilities as a new member of Chi Phi.

Similar to tutoring, we create an office hours program during the Fall 2022 semester. Brothers with confidence in teaching certain subjects, such as Physics, Math, and Computer Science, give their time to assist younger Brothers taking lower level courses. This also allows Brothers who are taking the same classes to come together for a specialized subject and collaborate on work for those classes. At the beginning of each semester, these confident Brothers sign up for a time slot to hold such “office hours” for the Brotherhood. This seemed to work great during the Fall 2022 semester and we plan to continue this program in the future.

In addition to study hours, the Scholarship Chairperson works closely with Brothers whose GPA in the previous semester fell below a 3.0 to create individualized academic support programs that ameliorate their academic performance (Appendix A.2). At the beginning of each semester, the Scholarship Chairperson checks in with every member who unfortunately fell into the aforementioned criteria, discuss their course outline for the current semester, and suggest concrete actions they can take to improve academically, such as attending study hours, ALAC tutoring, office hours, and optimizing time management. Throughout a given semester, academic check-ins continue on a bi-weekly basis. As a result, all Brothers who were on the academic support programs learned practical study habits and

gained soft skills. Many expressed that they are making considerable progress in their courses.

The chapter invited two faculty guest speakers to the house during the Spring 2022 semester, Dr. Kristen Bennett and Professor Holly Traver. Dr. Bennett presented her research experiences and past projects at the Rensselaer IDEA, as well as data science research opportunities at RPI. Brothers were genuinely impressed with the profound impact that data science and analytics are making across campus and in the world. Immediately after the seminar, multiple Brothers reached out to her regarding opportunities for future projects.

Professor Traver came in towards the end of the Spring 2022 semester, a time when students tend to be overwhelmed with assignments. Many members raised questions about maintaining their well-being during demanding times. With her expertise in positive psychology, Professor Traver offered numerous pieces of advice related to mental health. Members were enlightened with practical stress management skills after attending the seminar.

Although we had great attendance for both of these faculty guest speakers in the Spring, we had 0 faculty guest speakers in the Fall. Our biggest downfall was not keeping in touch with these professors that only some of our Brothers are close with. When Brothers graduate or stop keeping in touch, then we lose the opportunity to keep learning and speaking with these faculty. In order for us to consistently keep in touch with these professors, we plan to make a master sheet of all our contacts, allowing us to keep in touch and hold more of these sessions throughout the year.

Brothers are also involved in a myriad of on-campus academic organizations. Many Brothers are members of honor societies that require

strong academic profiles to qualify, such as Upsilon Pi Epsilon, Pi Mu Epsilon, Tau Beta Pi, and Eta Kappa Nu. These organizations in turn help Brothers expand their professional network and gain extra involvement within the greater RPI community. Furthermore, many Brothers serve as mentors and TAs in computer science, math, and engineering courses, where they can assist other students with their expertise in the subject.

Last but not least, our chapter owns an extensive back work drive that contains previous materials from numerous courses at RPI (Appendix A.3). At the end of each semester, Brothers upload lecture slides, back exams, and study materials to the server for future references. The back work drive is an invaluable study tool, and there are countless testimonies by our members to the academic accomplishments that they were able to attain with the help of this server.

As a testimony to our commitment to academic success and the programs we held, here are quotes from two of our Brothers:

“As a new member, it helped me greatly to utilize the study hours program and the pseudo office hours that Brother’s held.” - Brother Nick Antsos. A younger Brother studying Biomedical Engineering.

“I’ve always gone to study hours whenever I had the time and became Scholarship Chairman to influence other Brothers to strive for their best as well.” - Brother Aadith Ratish. An older Brother studying Physics.

While Chi Phi is a social fraternity, striving for academic excellence remains the top priority for us as students at RPI. With the balance of social life and academics ingrained in our culture, the Brotherhood will provide its members with all possible resources and support to achieve continuous academic success.

MORAL & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY: Jay Gaiardelli, Public Relations Chairman

The Chi Phi Fraternity is committed to continuously developing our member's morals, leadership skills, and cultural awareness (Appendix B.1). We teach our new members Chi Phi's national and local history to stress our historical value. We give the opportunity for all of our members to be in a leadership role, many of which are elected by the Brotherhood. We celebrate many different cultures shared between our Brothers or with outside organizations.

The Chi Phi Fraternity, originally founded on December 24th in 1824 is the first and oldest collegiate social fraternity. Likewise, the Theta Chapter has a long and storied history in the Troy community. It is one of the oldest Fraternities on campus having been first chartered on May 25th in 1878, making it the 5th oldest fraternity at RPI. Hailing from the Chapter are many notable alumni of the Rensselaer community including George Washington Gale Ferris Jr. (the inventor of the Ferris Wheel, Class of 1881), Frank and Kenneth Osborn (who designed and built Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, and Tiger Stadium, Class of 1890 and Class of 1908), George Wallace (who Founded the Denver Technology Park, Class of 1940), and James Peterson (Forbes 30 under 30 in 2016 for founding Vital Vio, Class of 2012). Chi Phi was the first fraternity at Rensselaer to have a Chapter House. Originally the Chapter owned a house in downtown Troy (Appendix B.2). When fires in downtown Troy forced RPI to rebuild, they moved up the hill. The Brothers of Chi Phi purchased a land plot at the corner of 15th Street and Avenue B

(Sage Avenue), and construction of the new house was completed in 1912-1913 making it the oldest facility still in use built for Rensselaer students on the hill that is still standing (Appendix B.3). This history is cherished by the Brothers and taught diligently to make sure that we continue to remember our roots.

We teach this as a part of our new member process so all of our new members understand our origins and how Chi Phi came to be. Along with this national and local history, we also teach our new members how to be gentlemen and provide them with leadership opportunities. New members can hold one of four possible positions: New Member Alpha, New Member Epsilon, New Member Social, and New Member Philanthropy. Each of these positions provides our New Members with the chance to work closely with a certain aspect of the Brotherhood and lead the other New Members. Similar to how our officers are elected, New Members give a platform to their fellow New Members, who then discuss and vote on which member should be elected to a certain position. All of this gives our New Members a closer look into what it means to be a Chi Phi Brother.

As a Brother, you have many more chances to be a leader with our 24 different positions, 15 of which are elected by the Brotherhood (Appendix B.4). We emphasize holding a position as a Brother in order to learn how to be a better leader, and in turn how to be a better person. We give almost all of these positions a committee which the Vice President determines. With their committee, an officer can delegate different tasks, giving younger Brothers more experience about what each officer deals with on a daily basis (Appendix B.5). New Members are taught the importance of our committee structure during the New Member process.

While providing Brothers the opportunity to be leaders in the Fraternity, we still educate the Brothers on many different important topics.

Our appointed Total Membership Educator organizes and holds events for Brothers to learn about these different topics. A few topics that our Total Membership Educator might choose from are alcohol and drugs, health and safety, cultural development, or professional development. This past year, we held events for all three topics. Concerning alcohol and drugs, one of the Brothers held a “How to correctly administer Narcan” educational session. For health and safety, we always give Brothers an overview of what’s inside our first aid kits and teach everyone the basics of how to deal with small injuries. To continue our cultural development, many Brothers brought in many different foods from their cultures for an “Around The World” type event. To develop our Brothers professionally, we hold a professional development workshop where Brothers and alumni help each other with their resumes (Appendix B.6). We are looking to continue these development operations for this upcoming year. One event we were looking into hosting is teaching Brothers to administer CPR.

Here's a testimony from Brother Jared Zornitzer about our professional development workshop: "Chi Phi has connected me to a tremendous network of alumni who go out of their way to help me professionally. Last year, my big brother in Chi Phi helped me secure a Summer internship at his company, General Dynamics Electric Boat, by helping me through the interview and job application process. I am on a professional path that I certainly would not be had I not joined Chi Phi."

Many of the Brothers also celebrated different holidays throughout the year. We consistently have the local Jewish Rabbi come inside our house and celebrate Jewish holidays with the Brothers (Appendix B.8). Whether a Brother was Jewish or not, many of us got together to sing with the Rabbi and share traditional Jewish food. We tend to play games with the Rabbi, competing against each other or against other Fraternities in simple games the Rabbi makes up to make celebrating the Jewish holidays more exciting.

We also had almost all the Brothers participate in a secret santa gift giving event towards the end of 2022 where Brothers bought a gift for a randomly selected Brother. This was a great experience for us to all connect and be together to celebrate Christmas. A few of us even went up to Montreal at the end of 2022 to celebrate the holidays with each other in Canada.

The Theta Chapter also began connecting with other cultural organizations on campus to learn about their cultures. During the Fall semester, we connected with RPI's African Student Association. We held a bonfire and a nice social gathering between our organizations where we learned much about what each organization does and what we all have to offer each other. This was a great chance for Brothers to learn about African culture and for students in the African Student Association to learn about greek life at RPI.

We plan to continue working with RPI's African Student Association this year and hopefully other similar organizations on campus. Although we are currently only in contact with one of these cultural organizations, we plan to reach out to others and host similar events. There is always more to learn about and interact with concerning these different cultures and bringing the Fraternity to be more aware will bring upon a greater sense of respect for each of these cultures.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PREPARED BY: *Jared Zornitzer, President*

Philanthropy is one of the core values of the Chi Phi Fraternity. This value is instilled in our Brothers when they go through the new member process, and Brothers continue to service the community during their tenure at RPI. Our philanthropic efforts range from helping combat hunger in the local community to raising money to fund essential childhood cancer research. Additionally, we hold numerous events throughout the year which are open to members of the RPI community and which we believe to enhance everyone's experience at this school. Chi Phi Brothers play an active role in supporting others' welfare from the local Troy community to the rest of society at large.

The Theta Chapter has established lasting relationships with several local volunteering groups. These organizations include the Regional Food Bank in Latham, His Table at Victorious Life Christian Church in Troy, and Provisions Food Pantry in Troy. Brothers devote a significant amount of their time each semester towards volunteering at each of these three locations (see Appendix C.1). In doing so, Brothers help address issues of food insecurity and inaccessibility in the Capital Region of New York. Our impact is evident through this testimony from Pastor Tim Stockwell; our liaison at His Table, taken from his letter of recommendation on our behalf for a Community Service Award through our National Organization (see appendix C.2 for the full letter of recommendation):

"I am recommending the Theta Chapter for the Outstanding Community Service Award. The Theta Chapter has been a huge help to our His Table community meal in downtown Troy. His Table has served free dinners to those in need in downtown Troy just about every Wednesday for 32 years... We have a great team of volunteers who cook, prep, and serve the meals. By the time we finish serving, our small volunteer team is no doubt tired and ready to call it a day. However, there's a lot of cleanup - especially in our kitchen - that needs to get done before we can leave.

The Theta Chapter has graciously sent us 2-3 volunteers two Wednesdays per month to do the kitchen cleanup! This has allowed our other volunteers - some of whom are older with physical ailments - to go home as soon as they're done serving while volunteers from Chi Phi take over with cleanup. I've personally been so thankful for this, and furthermore - our other volunteers and church staff always express to me just how impressed they are with the character and kindness of these young men." - Pastor Tim Stockwell, His Table at Victorious Life Christian Church

Volunteering at these local food organizations has been enriching to our Brothers as well as the local community. One area in which the Chapter hopes to improve is in consistent attendance at our volunteering sessions. There have been a few occasions where Brothers had to cancel attending a volunteering session at the last minute due to a schedule conflict. Additionally, we have sometimes struggled with getting Brothers to sign up for volunteering sessions to begin with.

To address these issues, our Philanthropy Chairman plans on creating an organized volunteering schedule at the start of future semesters, which gives the brotherhood time to view all volunteering opportunities and sign up for ones which fit in their schedule. This should mitigate the issue where Brothers back out of volunteering at the last minute, since they will be well aware of their schedules and availability ahead of time. On top of that, giving Brothers ample time to sign up for volunteering should ensure that we have volunteers for every session.

Last Spring, we were thrilled to bring back our St. Baldrick's fundraiser for childhood cancer research after a two year interim due to COVID. The St. Baldrick's Foundation collects money to go towards research aimed at curing various pediatric cancers. In order to help this mission, the Chapter organized a campus-wide fundraiser to gather money to be donated towards this charity. In the weeks leading up to the in-person event, Brothers and members of other Greek organizations at RPI did their part to raise as much money as possible towards the fundraiser. In March, we hosted the fundraiser in the Student Union Games Room. This event was open to all members of the RPI community, and many came to show their support. Courageous Brothers led the way for over 30 members of the community to shave their heads or dye their hair to stand in solidarity with children battling cancer. The event also featured live music, a raffle and food for the enjoyment of all who came. See appendices C.3-C.4 for pictures from the event. In total, we raised over \$14,000 for this fundraiser (see appendix C.6 for a breakdown by organization). We plan on holding this fundraiser every Spring in the future in order to extend a helping hand to children who unfortunately suffer from cancer. Raising money towards research to cure their ailments is the least that we can do to help their plight.

All in all, the Chapter did a great job raising money for the St. Baldrick's foundation. The vast majority of the Chapter attended the event (see appendix C.7 for a list of attendees). Moving forward, we hope to engage other fraternities and sororities at RPI to a greater extent in our fundraising efforts. Brother Jared Zornitzer enlisted the help of fraternities at an IFC general body meeting about a month before the fundraiser. He also met with the Philanthropy Chair of the Panhellenic Council a month before the event to discuss ways that sororities could join in and fundraise. To get greater engagement from the RPI Greek community, we hope to give other

organizations more time to fundraise by notifying them of the event at least two months in advance.

Furthermore, we hope to engage more members of the RPI and Troy communities in our next St. Baldrick's fundraiser, since anyone is capable of contributing towards our mission of raising money for childhood cancer research. To accomplish this, our St. Baldrick's planning committee will spend time visiting local businesses in the months leading up to the event. At each business, we will request any help (monetary donation, donation to our raffle, or members' presence at the fundraiser) that they are capable of providing. We will aim to advertise the event more effectively to other members of the RPI community by posterizing around campus and posting information about the event in various group chats and discord servers.

Besides for the above forms of philanthropy, the Theta Chapter holds various events throughout the year for the welfare and betterment of the RPI community. For example, last year we created our new, popular campus fundraiser called Casa de Quesadillas. For four hours on a Friday or Saturday night, we make homemade quesadillas in our house and Brothers deliver them to anyone who orders food anywhere within Troy. All profits from these fundraisers are donated directly to RAINN; the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. In Spring 2022 and Fall 2022 we donated nearly \$500 in profits towards this charity (see appendix C.9 for a breakdown of how much money was raised each semester). The intention behind this fundraiser is to benefit victims of rape, abuse and incest, but it also benefits the RPI community. Each semester, we have fulfilled over 125 orders, giving upwards of 200 students satisfying meals for them to enjoy with their friends. Our semesterly Casa de Quesadillas fundraiser is a proven way that we engage with the RPI community and promote the welfare of those who the RAINN charity supports. Our Brothers love participating in this fundraiser

as well; see appendix C.10 for a list of how many hours each Brother has spent helping to run the fundraiser.

The only obstacle which we have faced each time we host our Casa de Quesadillas fundraiser is that we run out of food too quickly! To remedy this, we will definitely purchase more supplies before the event so that we can make more quesadillas, fulfill more students' orders, and continue delivering quesadillas later into the night.

Lastly, in April 2022 we brought back another one of our Chapter's favorite community events; Dog Days of Finals. This event took place during reading days, and we worked with two other Greek Chapters on campus to create a stress-free environment where RPI students could come and play with therapy dogs in order to take a study break and remain mindful during one of the most stressful times of the year. We hosted this event at our Chapter House and also barbecued food for all to enjoy. At Chi Phi, we have a passion for creating campus events and collaborating with other student groups in order to promote all students' well being. We believe that Dog Days plays an essential role in supporting students' mental health while they prepare for final exams. This event, like those previously described, had excellent attendance from the brotherhood (see appendix C.12 for a list of attendees).

We learned a lot as a result of our Dog Days event last year. First, if we choose to partner with other Greek organizations again for the event, we need to establish better lines of communication with them leading up to the event. We did not communicate with the fraternity and sorority who we partnered with effectively, which resulted in a few logistical challenges. If we communicate in a more timely and open manner, then we believe that our next Dog Days of Finals event will be even greater than the last.

In conclusion, Brothers of the Theta Chapter are upstanding citizens and take many steps to enhance the lives of those around them. We spend time volunteering with several philanthropic organizations, and we host fundraisers of our own to donate towards charities which advocate for those who face some sort of challenge in their life. Furthermore, we host many events at our Chapter House which allow members of the RPI community to enjoy their college experience. Community engagement is at the heart of Chi Phi's mission and core values.

HUMAN CONNECTION

PREPARED BY: *Shankar Veludandi, Total Member Education Chairman*

At Chi Phi, we foster interpersonal connections by strengthening the bond of brotherhood between members and building relationships with members of the Rensselaer community. The Theta Chapter entrusts these responsibilities to our Social, Brotherhood, and Philanthropy Chairmen who provide and facilitate events for Brothers to engage in internal and external relations. These opportunities allow Brothers to diversify their interests, discover new passions, and enrich their college experiences.

The Brotherhood provides a strong support system that helps members overcome challenges more easily and maintain a state of mental well-being. This system is developed and bolstered through Brotherhood events that encourage bonding and genuine interactions. Brothers had the opportunity to connect with both each other and nature when we hiked the Lemon Squeeze Trail in Harriman State Park to de-stress from finals week. At the summit of a mountain, Brothers triumphantly took a picture together with the flag of Chi Phi that commemorated Brothers achieving a difficult task together (see Appendix D.1). Throughout last year, the Theta Chapter hosted movie nights and watch parties for popular TV-shows that created shared social experiences and resulted in entertaining reactions and interesting conversations that strengthened brotherly ties. Brothers also enjoyed attending a Superbowl watch party and March Madness marathons to kick back, relax, and talk sports; spurring a sense of camaraderie and light-hearted rivalries that united Brothers. Sports are a significant part of the Brotherhood that promote mutual trust and friendship in pursuit of a shared

goal. The Theta Chapter's Sports Chairman is responsible for creating intramural club teams so that Brothers can continue cultivating a culture of athleticism and healthy competition while having fun. Last semester our volleyball and soccer teams made it all the way to the playoffs! Not only did Brothers have a blast that played in the games; but we also had a substantial crowd of Brothers in the stands cheering each other on. Our Chapter leadership has found that these events have significantly improved the Brotherhood's overall mental health and helped many cope with the stresses associated with difficult coursework and challenging times.

As for our intra-university involvement, the Theta Chapter hosted numerous social events throughout the past year. To begin, we hosted several rush events each semester including a casino night where we offered prizes and played games like poker and black jack. We also held an event called Lobsterfest where we offered fresh Maine lobster to members of the RPI community (see appendix D.2)! All these events were open to anyone on campus and as a result we got a broad span of people walking in the door who we engaged with. As for social events with other members of Greek Life, we hosted a pizza-making event at the Chapter House in collaboration with Pi Beta Phi sorority. Brothers and Sisters made homemade pizzas together while socializing in our dining room. We also hosted a social mixer with the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority where we separated into groups and had icebreakers, fun activities, and got to know one another better. Moving forward, we hope to continue organizing events with sororities in order to build connections with other Greek-affiliated students at RPI.

In the past, we have struggled with building relationships with other fraternities on campus. This is something which we hope to work on next year. For example, we would like to plan joint philanthropy, sports and social

events with other fraternities which would help Brothers from both organizations make new friends and build lasting ties.

Furthermore, the Theta Chapter strives to stay active in the Rensselaer community by getting involved with philanthropic events as much as possible. Last year we raised money for St. Baldrick's by hosting an open event in the Student Union where we shaved our heads to raise money for childhood cancer research (see appendix C.3-C.7). We also ran an event called Casa de Quesadillas where we delivered late night quesadillas to any students on campus and in Troy with all profits going to RAINN (see appendix C.8). Besides those events, we volunteered at the Regional Food Bank, Provisions, and His Table to help out those in need in our community. Through volunteering and raising money for charity, our Brotherhood is able to create positive and long-lasting relationships with members of our community and encourage Brothers to participate and take part in connecting and working together with people for a greater common cause. We have productive relationships with members of each of these three volunteering organizations which allow us to consistently make an impact, as illustrated by Pastor Tim Stockwell's willingness to recommend us for an Outstanding Community Service Award (Appendix C.2).

At Chi Phi, we value our alumni as those who paved the way for us to enjoy the privilege of being Brothers of this wonderful fraternity. With COVID-19 restrictions lifted, we were finally able to host events that our Alumni base could attend in person. During our Spring 2022 Alumni Weekend, we spent one night getting to know each other, sharing funny stories, and knocking down pins while bowling at Uncle Sam's Lanes in Troy. See Appendix D.3 for a list of attendees at our Spring 2022 alumni weekend. We also had the privilege of hosting alumni at a cabin trip in Margaretville, NY after finals in Spring 2022. We enjoyed the hikes with incredible views and the most breathtaking waterfalls the Catskill Mountains

had to offer. At night, we enjoyed a barbecue cookout and spent leisure time playing games and conversing with each other. Furthermore, we send an alumni newsletter to our network of alumni each semester which updates them on the current state of affairs of the active Chapter (See Appendix D.4). This has proven to be a great way of staying in touch with alumni and keeping them involved in the Brotherhood. Alumni relations are an essential part of the Brotherhood as they provide active members with relevant advising in matters related to both the Fraternity and the workforce as they build successful careers in their respective fields.

Chi Phi, America's oldest social fraternity, maintains a rich tradition of developing men and expanding their worldview by giving our members novel experiences that they may have never had otherwise and that they will keep for the rest of their lives. We seek to culture our Brothers through engaging and diverse programming that sophisticates the individual, forges well-rounded men, and prepares them to be cognizant, productive members of society. We build better men.

BEHIND THE SCENES

PREPARED BY: *Jared Zornitzer, President*

The Theta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity is a proud recipient of many distinguishing accolades from our National Organization. We are consistently awarded for our due diligence in fostering a culture of public health and risk management awareness, philanthropic service to the Troy community and greater Capital Region, and strong camaraderie among members of our Brotherhood. Each Brother of the Theta Chapter strives to maintain the safe, healthy, and fervent environment shaped by our values and to enrich the Rensselaer community through involvement in campus activities and organizations.

Each year, the Theta Chapter is consistently among the most decorated Chapters at Chi Phi Congress. Last year, the Theta Chapter won three national awards—one of them being the *Thomas Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence*. Our Chapter was truly humbled to receive this award for the sixth year in a row as we have tried our hardest to uphold our high standard of excellence. Only a select few Chapters are awarded this most prestigious award from our National organization, and it recognizes Chapters who exemplify Chi Phi's core values and dare to raise this standard.

Another award that we proudly received last summer was in recognition of our philanthropic efforts; we were awarded the *Outstanding Philanthropic Achievement Award*. Nationally, we were the only Chapter to receive this award. Philanthropy is one of our core values and something

which Brothers engage in on a weekly basis. Our most notable philanthropic endeavors last year include our successful St. Baldrick's fundraiser, and our two Casa de Quesadillas fundraisers. We will continue to embrace our all-in attitude towards philanthropy and community service, and we aim to receive this award next year as well.

Lastly, the Chapter received the *Outstanding Communications and Public Relations Award*. We received this award due to our excellent social media presence and online platforms accessible to anyone interested in learning more about the Theta Chapter (see Appendix E.2 for links to our social media platforms). Additionally, this award recognized our campus presence at RPI, which we build by hosting the aforementioned events in previous essays as well as fostering relationships with RPI faculty, students, and local Troy residents.

One award which the Chapter hopes to earn in an upcoming year is the Most Improved Recruitment Practices Award. Recruitment was the area where the Chapter performed the worst in 2022 since we only managed to get three new members. However, members of our executive board as well as the Chapter as a whole are already implementing new ideas and practices which we believe will rejuvenate our recruitment efforts in 2023. Specifically, we plan on inviting potential new members over to the Chapter House more often outside of formal events to watch or play sports, or hang out in Brothers' rooms so that both parties get to know each other better than is possible within the confines of a rush event. Similarly, we hope to go on fun outings with potential new members, such as to restaurants, out on hikes, or to attend sporting events in order to demonstrate the vast interests of the Brotherhood and find other members of the RPI community who share in these interests.

Despite receiving these national awards, our Brothers maintain a humble, hard working attitude at all times. We recognize that there is always room for improvement in all aspects of our Chapter operations. For this reason, we are active participants in our National organization's programming on a yearly basis, which aims to teach Brothers valuable lessons which they can take back with them to their Chapters. Starting in January 2022, Brothers Jared Zornitzer and Noah Prisament attended Alphas and Thetas Academy in Atlanta, Georgia in order to gain leadership skills relevant to their new positions on the Chapter's executive board. See Appendix E.3 for an image of our Brothers with the Grand Alpha (President) of the Chi Phi Fraternity at large; Brother Steven Hopkins.

Furthermore, during the Spring 2022 semester, our entire executive board attended an online Regional Leadership Alliance, which included seminars where Brothers learned how to be successful in their respective positions. During this semester the majority of the Chapter (see appendix E.4 for a list of attendees) attended a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion seminar led by our National organization. This taught us the importance of being inclusive, upstanding members of the RPI community and seeking out new members who have unique interests and backgrounds. Our Brotherhood is very diverse as it stands, and we plan on welcoming more members from all around the world and different cultures in the future.

Lastly, in Summer 2022 Brothers Jared Zornitzer and John Cohen attended Chi Phi Congress in Philadelphia. They received additional leadership training, and also participated in committees as they worked to update our fraternity's policies to the current campus climate felt at colleges nationally. This was also a wonderful opportunity for our Brothers to get to know other Brothers from around the country, share experiences, and learn from each other.

What distinguishes the Theta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity? Ask any of our Brothers this question, and without fail they will say our commitment to excellence, to bettering ourselves in any way possible, and constantly learning ways in which we can improve and optimize our operations. We celebrate these awards which we have been given by our National Organization, and they remind our Brothers that their hard work is worthwhile and that it will be recognized. We may receive awards one day, but you can be sure that the next morning our Brothers wake up with a positive attitude and are ready to get back to work so that we receive more awards next year. This mentality is characteristic of all of our Brothers in all of their endeavors - academics, career searching, and human interaction - and is a foundation of the Chapter which we will build into the future.

Appendix

PREPARED BY: *Jared Zornitzer, Jay Gaiardelli, Alexander Liu, Shankar Veludandi*

Appendix A: Academic Excellence

Item A.1



Line chart of the Chapter's average cumulative GPA from Fall 2016 through Spring 2021.

Item A.2

Steps Taken to Support Struggling Brothers:

- The Academic Chair has met with brothers and new members who fall below standards in order to develop individual goals and requirements for the semester.
- The Academic Chair has met with brothers and new members who fall below standards to discuss good study habits and academic skills that may help them.
- The Academic Chair has met with brothers and new members who do not meet standards to discuss resources on campus such as our faculty advisor, school tutoring sessions, academic skills seminars, class deans, and professor office hours that can further help them in their academic pursuits.

Members Below the Academic Standard:

General Guidelines:

- GPA below 2.0: 4 hours supervised study per week, recorded under study hours held by the Academic Chair, ALAC Tutoring Center (or approved ALAC Success Lab), or Office Hours (2 hours must be ALAC, or Office Hours); one monthly meeting with Academic Chair. Required to attend at least 6 Student Success Labs offered by ALAC as required by institute
- Cumulative GPA below 2.5: 4 hours supervised study per week, recorded under study hours held by the Academic Chair, ALAC Tutoring Center, or Office Hours (2 hours must be study hours); Required to attend at least 2 Student Success Labs offered by ALAC.
- Cumulative GPA below 2.8: 4 hours supervised study per week, recorded under study hours held by the Academic Chair, ALAC Tutoring Center, or Office Hours.
- Cumulative GPA below 3.0: 2 hours supervised study per week, recorded under study hours held by the Academic Chair, ALAC Tutoring Center, or Office Hours.
- Constant failure of a Brother to satisfy his Academic plan will result in a mandatory meeting with the Academic Chair and Beta to discuss changes.

Additional Guidelines:

- Members cannot be in office or be a committee chair if their cumulative GPA falls below a 2.5.
- Members cannot vote during chapter meetings if their cumulative GPA is below a 2.0.

Strategies to connect new members and brothers to academic resources on campus:

- The Academic Chair must meet with faculty advisor beginning every semester to discuss resources available to the chapter.
- The Academic Chair must announce information and contact for resources on campus (such as ALAC).

Strategies to connect the chapter to the faculty advisor:

- Hold one student success lab at the beginning of the semester and at least one other throughout the semester with a faculty advisor.
- The Academic Chair must give brothers campus resource information and give out contact information for faculty advisors.

General academic plan for struggling Brothers

Item A.3

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<input type="checkbox"/>	 ARTS	...	4.4 GB	6 months ago
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<input type="checkbox"/>	 BIOL	...	6.5 GB	2 months ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	 BMED	...	542.2 MB	6 months ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	 CHEM	...	868.6 MB	4 months ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	 CHME	...	1.1 GB	10 months ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	 CIVL	...	151.5 MB	2 years ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	 COGS	...	4.9 GB	a month ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	 COMM	...	13.9 MB	2 years ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	 CSCI	...	131.4 GB	a month ago

Example of some of the folders we have in our back work drive. These folders open up to contain more specific classes under those subjects which then contain even more specific information.

Appendix B: Moral & Cultural Development

Item B.1

Creed of Chi Phi

I believe in the Chi Phi Fraternity. From its triple origin, Chi Phi sets forth and maintains values that others in society have dared to compromise. Truth, Honor, and Personal Integrity are the foundations upon which Chi Phi is built. A man's word is his bond. Chivalrous behavior crosses the ages to touch the heart of Chi Phi.

I believe in the friendship of Chi Phi. Whether on the road or in the Chapter house, the hand of Brotherhood is always extended. The strength obtained from the union of congenial minds is the backbone of the Fraternity. Our founders sought for nothing less.

Finally, I believe in the future of the Chi Phi Fraternity because I believe in myself. When I put forth my best effort and combine that with the strength of my Brothers, we can achieve the victory of continual existence.

As long as the Almighty permits, I will strive to better myself through the teachings of my Fraternity. Being a more aware citizen, a more able person, and a stronger Chi Phi shall be my reward.

The Creed of the Chi Phi Fraternity. In it are our three core values: truth, honor and personal integrity.

Item B.2



Photo of the original Chapter House in downtown Troy.

Item B.3



THETA, RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
Troy, New York



Photos of the current Chapter House on the corner of 15th Street and Sage Avenue.

Item B.4

Executive Board Positions	Additional Elected Positions	Appointed Officers
Alpha - President		Scholarship Chairman
Beta - Vice President	Social Chairman	Alumni Relations Chairman
Gamma - Secretary	Steward	Wiring Chairman
Delta - Treasurer	Philanthropy Chairman	Brotherhood Chairman
Epsilon - House Manager	Public Relations Chairman	Sports
Zeta - Historian	Live-In Advisor	Total Membership Educator
Eta - Risk Manager	Judial Board	Face of Rush
Theta - New Member Educator	New Member Alpha	Social Media
Iota - Recruitment Chairman	New Member Epsilon	IFC Delegate
	New Member Social	
	New Member Philanthropy Chairman	

List of all current executive board positions, additional elected positions, and appointed positions.

Item B.5

Section 7: Epsilon Committee

Committees

1. Gamma
2. Delta
3. Epsilon
4. Zeta
5. Eta
6. Theta
7. Iota
8. Social
9. Steward
10. Philanthropy
11. Public Relations
12. Wiring

1. The Epsilon Committee shall consist of the Epsilon, who shall serve as chairman and an additional number of members to be decided by the chairman and the Beta.
2. It is the responsibility of the Epsilon Committee to:
 - 2.1. Sign all house residents to a housing contract with the House Corporation.
 - 2.2. Assign damage deposits and control the Chapter maintenance fund.
 - 2.3. Maintain upkeep of the house and lands by posting an alternating duty assignment schedule and issue appropriate punishments for those who are derelict in these duties.
 - 2.4. Submit a proposed budget for all house improvements and routine maintenance costs.
 - 2.5. Stay in close contact with the House Corporation, submitting to it future major improvements.
 - 2.6. Declare work parties, oversee them and issue appropriate punishments for those who are derelict in these duties.
 - 2.7. Make the house as comfortable and attractive as possible.
 - 2.8. Enforce quiet hours.

List of all current committees along with a committee charter from the Chapter Bylaws as an example.

Item B.6

- Draft Kings
- Anheuser-Busch
- GenNext
- Exxelia
- Lockheed Martin
- IBM
- York Exponential
- Sensata Tech
- Tesla
- Mathworks
- Bristol Myers Squibb
- Biomerics

- Moog
- Smiths Medical
- IDP Inc.
- Mission Mentor (Acq.)
- Google
- Plug Power
- General Dynamics Electric Boat
- UPS

List of the companies Brothers have acquired internships or full-time positions at recently.

Item B.7



Photo of Chi Phi's Newly Initiated Members from Spring 2022.

Item B.8



Photo taken of Rabbi Morrison and many Brothers celebrating a Jewish holiday in the dining room.

Appendix C: Community Engagement

Item C.1

Brother Name	Hours spent volunteering at the Food Bank, His Table, and/or Provisions in 2022
Aadith Ratish	2
Aaron Rice	4
Alex Liu	4
Daiki Sai	4
Ethan Fovel	1
George Apessos	2
Jared Zornitzer	4
Jay Gaiardelli	3
John Cohen	4
Matt Fluker	1
Matthew Auffarth	2
Noah Prisament	2
Noe Horowitz	3
Omri Maor	4
Patrick Best	5
Richard Gonzalez	2
Sean Rufus	4

Shankar Veludandi	4
Soulaymana Barry	6
Trenton Squires	3

Item C.2

To Whom It May Be Concerned:

My name is Tim Stockwell, and I am an Associate Pastor with Arise and Build Community Ministries in Troy, New York. I am writing to you today regarding the Theta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity, which is based at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy.

I am recommending the Theta Chapter for the Outstanding Community Service Award. The Theta Chapter has been a huge help to our His Table community meal in downtown Troy. His Table has served free dinners to those in need in downtown Troy just about every Wednesday for 32 years, the last 19 of which have been based out of Victorious Life Christian Church. We typically serve over 100 meals per week in an indoor, community setting. We have a great team of volunteers who cook, prep, and serve the meals. By the time we finish serving, our small volunteer team is no doubt tired and ready to call it a day. However, there's a lot of cleanup—especially in our kitchen—that needs to get done before we can leave.

The Theta Chapter has graciously sent us 2-3 volunteers two Wednesdays per month to do the kitchen cleanup! This has allowed our other volunteers—some of whom are older with physical ailments—to go home as soon as they're done serving while volunteers from Chi Phi take over with cleanup. I've personally been so thankful for this, and—furthermore—our other volunteers and church staff always express to me just how impressed they are with the character and kindness of these young men.

In addition to volunteering during the regular school year, this "Summer Arch" semester of 2022 marks the first time that the Theta Chapter is continuing to send us volunteers between May and August! This has been especially helpful since we've lost many of our other, regular volunteers due to students graduating, going home for the summer, going on summer internships, etc. The Theta Chapter is helping to fill a huge void here, and I'm so thankful for them!

I strongly recommend the Theta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity for the Outstanding Community Service Award! If you have any questions, you can reach me at 518-378-8226, or t.stockwell@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Pastor Tim Stockwell
Arise & Build Community Ministries

Pastor Tim Stockwell's letter of recommendation on our behalf to receive a community service award with our national organization.

Item C.3



Photo of all the Brothers who shaved their heads at our St. Baldrick's Fundraiser.

Item C.4



Photo of Brothers of Chi Phi and Sisters from several sororities who got involved in the St. Baldrick's Fundraiser.

Item C.5



Flier from our St. Baldrick's fundraiser.

Item C.6

Organization	Money Raised For St. Baldrick's Foundation
Chi Phi Fraternity	\$10,700.32
Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity	\$835.72
Panhellenic Council	\$628.11
Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity	\$223.30
Psi Upsilon Fraternity	\$100

Money raised for St. Baldrick's event, sorted by organization. Note that some donations were received in cash or check on the day of the event. To visit our fundraiser website, go to <https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/thetaofchiphi#content>.

Item C.7

List of Brothers that attended our St. Baldrick's event:

- Aadith Ratish
- Aaron Rice
- Alex Liu
- Daiki Sai
- Ethan Fovel
- George Apessos
- Jared Zornitzer
- Jay Gaiardelli
- John Cohen
- Matt Fluker
- Matthew Auffarth

- Noah Prisament
- Omri Maor
- Patrick Best
- Richard Gonzalez
- Sean Rufus
- Shankar Veludandi
- Soulaymana Barry
- Trenton Squires

Item C.8

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 weatha@rpi.edu



Casa de Quesadillas

Hosted by the Chi Phi Fraternity

Saturday 4/16
10 PM – 2 AM

Order by Calling:
(862)–485–6988

or by filling out the Google Form:



(Google form linked in our Instagram Bio @chi_phi_rpi)
Preorders are welcome

All deliveries will be fulfilled
within 45 minutes

Flier for our Casa de Quesadillas fundraiser.

Item C.9

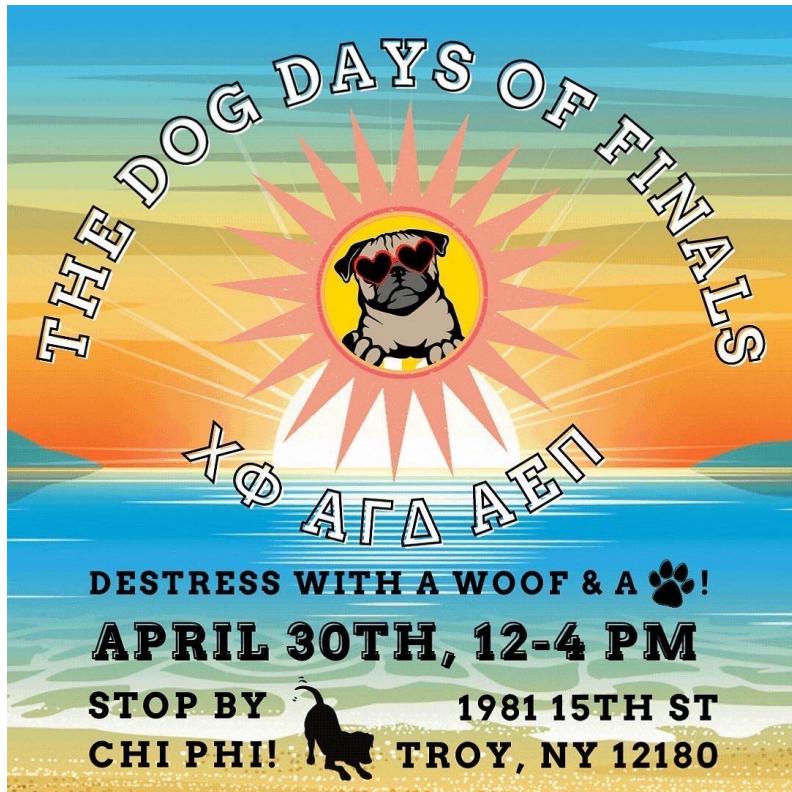
Semester	Amount of money donated to RAINN (profits from Casa de Quesadillas fundraisers)
Spring 2022	\$186
Fall 2022	\$300

Item C.10

Brother Name	Total hours spent volunteering to run our Casa de Quesadillas fundraisers (Spring 2022 + Fall 2022)
Aadith Ratish	2
Aaron Rice	4
Alex Liu	4
Daiki Sai	2
Jared Zornitzer	12
Jay Gaiardelli	6
John Cohen	4
Matt Fluker	2
Matthew Auffarth	2
Noah Prisament	10
Omri Maor	2
Patrick Best	2

Richard Gonzalez	4
Sean Rufus	4
Shankar Veludandi	4
Soulaymana Barry	2
Trenton Squires	12
Connor Hanggi	6
Daniel Klee	6
Marcello Degani	6
Christian Winicki	3
Aidan Weathers	6
Michael Liu	2
Joel Foley	2

Item C.11



Flier for our Dog Days event.

Item C.12

List of Brothers that attended our Dog Days of Finals event:

- Aadith Ratish
- Aaron Rice
- Alex Liu
- Daiki Sai
- Ethan Fovel
- George Apessos
- Jay Gaiardelli
- John Cohen
- Matthew Auffarth
- Noah Prisament
- Omri Maor

- Patrick Best
- Richard Gonzalez
- Sean Rufus
- Shankar Veludandi
- Soulaymana Barry
- Trenton Squires
- Aidan Weathers
- Daniel Klee
- Marcello Degani
- Connor Hanggi

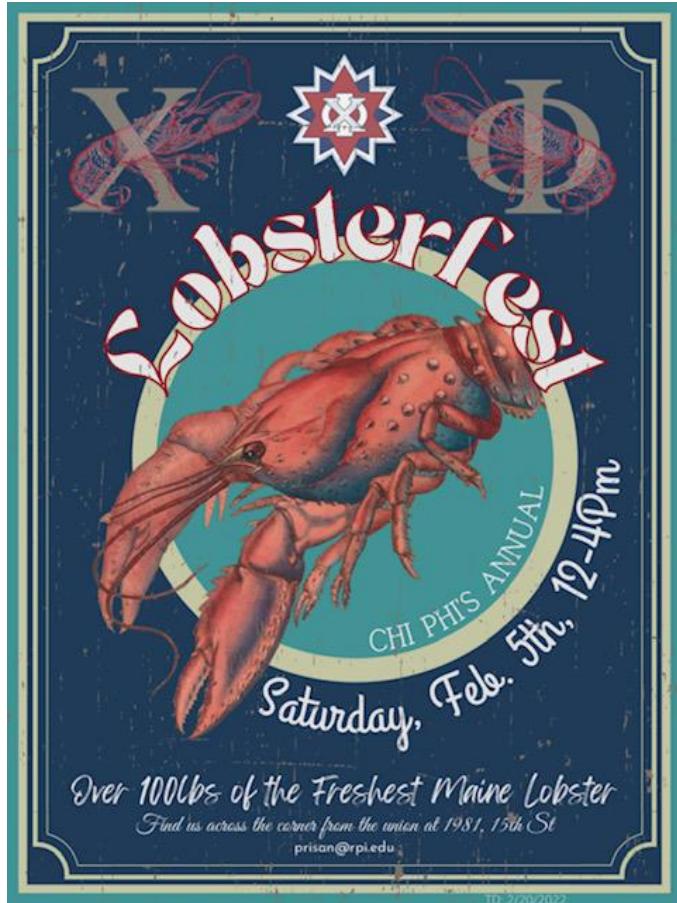
Appendix D: Human Connection

Item D.1



Brothers atop a mountain in the Catskills!

Item D.2



Flier from our Lobsterfest event in Spring 2022.

Item D.3

Brothers that attended Spring 2022 Alumni Weekend:

- Aadith Ratish
- Aaron Rice
- Alex Liu
- Daiki Sai
- Ethan Fovel
- George Apessos
- Jared Zornitzer
- Jay Gaiardelli
- John Cohen

- Matt Fluker
- Matthew Auffarth
- Noah Prisament
- Omri Maor
- Patrick Best
- Richard Gonzalez
- Sean Rufus
- Shankar Veludandi
- Soulaymana Barry
- Trenton Squires
- Christian Winicki
- Daniel Klee
- Marcello Degani
- Connor Hanggi
- Anton Kapitman
- Zachary Burpee

Alumni that attended 2022 Alumni Weekend:

- Samuel Atkinson
- Thomas Baken
- Mike Brown
- Daniel Celic
- Anthony Chiaramonte
- Benjamin Crevier
- Paul DeBassio
- Nico Feraco
- Ryan Fishbein
- Peter Gramenides
- Hunter Hoffman
- Majid Javed
- Fred Jia
- Paul Kluppel
- Nick Laferriere
- James Loveland
- Joe Loveland

- Ian Marshall
- Michael Pesanello
- Kevin Porrecca
- Nathan Rosengrant
- Carlos Salgado
- Cameron Scott
- Lucas Sheldon
- Nick Sirano
- Brian Sposato
- Edward Swan
- Jacob Szottfried
- Justin Underwood
- Brian Vivolo
- Jake Weingard
- Eddie Weisser
- Kent Worden

Item D.4

SPRING 2022

THE THETA RECORD

Official Newsletter of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi Fraternity

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RPI Relations	1
Updates from the Brotherhood	2
Senior Spotlights	4
Chapter Operations	5
Chapter Growth	8
National and Alumni Relations	9
The Chapter Eternal	10
Message from the TAA	11
Theta Excellence Fund	12
Chapter Donations	12
Chapter Contacts	12



Cover page from our Spring 2022 Alumni Newsletter.

Appendix E: Behind the Scenes

Item E.1



Brothers Jared Zornitzer, John Cohen, and Kevin Porrecca at Chi Phi Congress in Philadelphia, PA in Summer 2022. The Theta Chapter was awarded its sixth straight Thomas A. Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence, along with the Outstanding Philanthropic Achievement and Outstanding Communications & Public Relations Awards!

Item E.2

Chapter Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/chi_phi_rpi/

Chapter Website: <http://www.thetaofchiph.org/>

Item E.3



Brothers Jared Zornitzer and Noah Prisament with Brother Steven Hopkins
at Alphas and Thetas Academy in January 2022.

Item. E.4

List of attendees to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Seminar:

- Aadith Ratish
- Aaron Rice
- Alex Liu
- Daiki Sai
- Ethan Fovel
- George Apessos
- Jared Zornitzer

- Jay Gaiardelli
- John Cohen
- Matthew Auffarth
- Noah Prisament
- Omri Maor
- Patrick Best
- Richard Gonzalez
- Sean Rufus
- Shankar Veludandi
- Soulaymana Barry
- Trenton Squires
- Christian Winicki
- Daniel Klee
- Marcello Degani
- Connor Hanggi
- Anton Kapitman