



# The Theta Record

Theta of Chi Phi

Volume XII, Issue I

April 2008

## We're Back—Spirits Stronger Than Ever!

I am proud to announce that the Theta Chapter is once again fully functional as of February 2008. Our reinstatement is subject to certain terms which will be further discussed in this article.

In April 2007, a brother was taken to Samaritan Hospital for an alcohol related incident, the brothers left their contact information and requested to be notified of the patient's condition—instead, the call was received at the Dean of Students Office. As an immediate consequence, the chapter was given a one year suspension.

At the beginning of the Spring semester I met with the Greek Dean to discuss our suspension. After some negotiation and a petition of reinstatement, the chapter is once again recognized by RPI and on active status. There are two terms associated with reinstatement: The Chapter is subject to a five-year alcohol ban effective immediately, and the option of a permanent live-in advisor or a random check policy by the Greek Life Office beginning in the Fall 2008 semester.

## Success in the Face of Adversity.

As a result of our situation we had no formal rush last semester, however we were still able to find six awesome guys to join our house. Their names are: Andrew Biro, Steve Chao, Robert Garstka, John Mazza, Ed Pomfred, and Matthew Scoffone. Most of the individuals listed above were already friends or on good terms with most of our

ter.

Since our reinstatement the chapter has been actively engaged in repairing our image as well as the working of the house. To improve our house on leadership, risk management and recruitment several of our brothers—including myself, have traveled to Lehigh University for the annual RLA conference. Needless to say how much useful information we obtained from this successful trip. Rocco Carnivale—our current Grand Alpha expressed personal interest in getting our chapter back on track.

This year several of our brothers and active alumni will be attending the national congress in New Orleans, Louisiana. I am encouraging everyone to attend.

Regardless of the situation, the chapter wishes our graduating seniors success and good luck in their future endeavors. Brothers Patrick Carey and Robert Woodfield have graduated last Fall, In the Spring we will be saying good bye to Kirk Hallonquist, James Johnson, Germain Nicholson, Trevor Housten and

brothers, so inviting them over was not unusual. Following our reinstatement the house decided nearly unanimously to give each person a bid.

So far, the pledges have been very good in their studies of the history, chapters and the house functions. By now they have completed their paddles and

Robert Denz. I wish them all the best of luck and hope to see them again down the road.

Br. Aaron Cooper '09 (Alpha)



Our letters-back up, our strength and pride unhurt!



The Annex Letters

pledge boxes as well as attending the big/little philanthropy project at WMHT. We have planned the initiation for the two reading days; May 1st and 2nd.

The pledges are a great addition to the house, and I personally cannot wait until I call them my brothers!

Br. Andrew Shamyler '10  
(Pledge-Educator)

### Inside this issue:

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### Special points of interest:

- June 20-22—Congress in New Orleans.
- August 9—Alumni Deep Sea Fishing Trip. (pg 5)
- August 18—The Workweek coincides with an important deadline. (pg 2)



## Maintaining the House-Day by Day.



The new lock is bulletproof, let's see how it stands up to students...

*"Besides the plethora of typical problems, which are merely fun, me and my committee have done, and are currently in the progress of doing several major projects"*

*- Epsilon*

As usual, the house has been a handful this semester—especially for a new Epsilon. I quickly adjusted to the position and learned how to tackle the common problems. I have designed a quicker, more efficient method of snaking clogged pipes, discovered a way to adjust the basement door so the crash bar latch, well—latches!

Besides the plethora of typical problems, which are merely fun, me and my committee have done, and are currently in the progress of doing several major projects.

We finally replaced the mechanical combination lock to the Annex with a brand new heavy duty Kaba Ilco digital unit; this unit makes changing the combination a three minute job, and cuts the unexpected maintenance costs which used to be around \$300 with the mechanical lock. This is an industrial unit which should hold up to years of abuse.

Another important project was the restoration and the reinstatement of the letters on our houses. We picked up the best paint we could find, so no longer will the letters turn pink and baby blue! Our pledges did most of the restoration work, at which point Greg "Wheels"

Russell '07 took the liberty of affixing the letters to the house in his typical fashion—drill torque set to "annihilate". They are not going down in our lifetimes!

One of our current projects is improving the energy efficiency of both of our houses. We are replacing all incandescent bulbs with brighter-energy efficient fluorescent type. These bulbs use 75% less power, and do so without getting hot—Two unburned thumbs up!

Another ongoing project is a total reworking of the entrance-way to the main house. We are looking to go back to the original specs of the house and install a 42" wide door. We went on a trip to The Historic Albany Foundation Salvage Warehouse in hopes of finding a new but very old replacement door. Unfortunately the trip was relatively unsuccessful—nevertheless we expect to have a new front door installed by the end of the semester.

Finally, some future projects. The Zeta and I have collaborated, and the impossible will happen—We are going to clean the attic of the Annex while looking for worthwhile historical contents. "Whoa—what did he say? There's no way!" - well, we

are so serious, we are even setting a deadline for getting anything belonging to you out of the attic. The attic has become a complete mess in recent years, some corners are completely monopolized by inactive brothers others by rats bigger than NYC subway rats—well, I may be exaggerating a bit, but we need to take care of the infestation, and we need space. If you are an inactive brother, **you must have all your stuff out of the attic before workweek 2008.** This gives you more than four months to get your belongings out of the attic. As of now, there is hardly enough space for the actives to store their items, we tolerated the mess for enough time—it's time to take measures. We will dispose, sell, donate anything that is unclaimed.

Another future project will be replacing the windows in the Annex with double panel energy efficient windows to minimize heat loss during the winter. This project is funded by the Housing Corp and is slated for workweek 2008. we strongly believe that the efficiency of the windows will make up the cost of the windows in one year.

Br. Ian Davison '10 (Epsilon)

## Philanthropy Changes to Make a Difference.

For the Spring 2008 semester I was selected as the Philanthropy Chair, which in my opinion should be renamed to Community Service Chair because money is not all we give; our volunteering efforts exceed the value of any monetary donation.

This year's pledge philanthropy project took place on March 19th and 20th at WMHT non-profit television studios. Our role this year was to answer

telephones for a pledge drive—it turned out to be a lot of fun. Our Pledge Educator, Drew Shamy '10 participated in a televised interview, in which he was asked questions about our fraternity. WMHT provided us with dinner and snacks.

This is it for the current semester, however the positive feedback from the first event has energized us to do more for the community.

We are currently working in collaboration with the Bray Residence Hall led by our brother Justin Barozie '10, to collect donations for the upcoming Relay for Life. We will also be going back to WMHT, volunteer tutoring the PS2 middle school students, and collect donations for the Troy Bike Rescue.

Br. Christopher Steven Sammut '10 (Philanthropy)





## Renewing Tradition at Theta

It's hard to write about the Beta stuff. I mean seriously, you can't write about half the things you do. So...do I write about sitting in front of the house, or saying the prayer at each meeting? Not too much changes in the Beta department except when National decides we're being too traditional to attract new members.

One of the perks of this position, - at least at the Theta Chapter, is serving as a delegate to the Inter-fraternal Council (At least I think the acronym IFC stands for). In general it is a rule of thumb to ignore most things that happen at the meetings; for instance, at the last meeting me and Aaron Cooper '09 derived a

mathematical equation in which a sad, lonely man combined with a very big can of a certain something that is bubbly and tasty equates to a not so sad or lonely man surrounded by women wearing mini-skirts and sombreros-wielding "man replacements". We defend our thesis at the end of the semester.

Only rarely do we get a heads-up to some upcoming change or policy here at RPI which is actually in any way useful to us. Even so, I have heard from good sources that the current Executive board of IFC seems to have more focus than the previous ones. In truth, they do have some honorable goals in mind, as well as methods with which they

expect to achieve those goals—these goals are mostly oriented around improving the image of the Greek fraternities, thereby attracting more people to the Greek life—however, confusion dominates over any prospective accomplishments.

I am certain that bringing back long forgotten traditions will-in the long run benefit us as a brotherhood; So far I have reintroduced one new event this past semester and received only positive feedback. Basically, We're not sitting around doing nothing...

Br. Edward Charpentier '10  
(Beta)



Here's our favorite Beta :)

## Official Gamma Business.

In my first semester as Gamma I've learned that the position is more than just recording meetings and brother of the week nominations—there's paper-work, and lots of it! Whether it requires me filling something out, or just distributing the incoming mail, it's fairly time-consuming. On this note, we are getting a whole lot of mail for recent alumni which stockpiles in a corner (the alumni mailbox is long since packed)-so if you are a

recent alumnus, please do yourself and me a favor by changing your address accordingly.

The new member reports are in, scholarship, awards and initiation papers are nearly complete. Pretty much everything is on time and getting effectively processed on my part.

During the upcoming workweek, I plan to participate in the Zeta/Epsilon attic cleanup-I will be reorganizing the library. There

are many multiple copies of outdated books, most of which have been considerably damaged by time and poor conditions. I intend to remove the useless books so we can use the extra space for more recent additions. If you wish to keep your older books, please pick them up along with anything else from the attic by workweek.

Br. Nick Curran '10 (Gamma)

*"We're not sitting around doing nothing-well, maybe the EMAC's are..."*  
- Beta

## The Financial News Report.

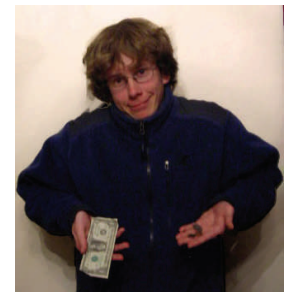
The Theta finances remain in a transitional stage. While collecting from active brothers is successful, alumni debt still exceeds \$100,000! While this is a big step in the right direction from just a few years ago, we still have a long way to go before all is sound. I would encourage all alumni owing money to work with me to set up a flexible payment plan, or at-least contact me and discuss your options. Al-

though we are still able to pay our bills this money would be an extra cushion for unexpected expenses or a financial emergency,

On behalf of all our brothers I would like to thank all alumni who have made donations towards the house this semester. This money can be used for anything from new furniture to necessary supplies for smooth operation.

Please feel free to contact me at  
[gallit@rpi.edu](mailto:gallit@rpi.edu)  
(976) 505-9036

Br. Timothy Galligan '10 (Delta)



The Delta is down to his last \$1 and 36 cents





## Brothers of Theta. (Pledges in first row)



## Pledges of Theta.



## Brother Visits Westernmost Chapter



View of the Oregon chapter

Over the summer alumnus Jim Hanley '06 was working on the road at an industrial site out west. He was fortunate to work in the town of Albany, Oregon where he instantly became a celebrity for being from the "real" Albany. Remembering that the Epsilon Delta Chapter at Oregon State was just down the road in Corvallis, he took to the road for a quick visit.

On campus he met with the brothers from that chapter, who showed him around their home. Jim found striking similarities to the Chi back at home. Jim's only regret was that only a few of the brothers were present at the time of his visit since this was a week prior to the start of the semester.

Br. Gregory Feklistov '10 (Zeta)

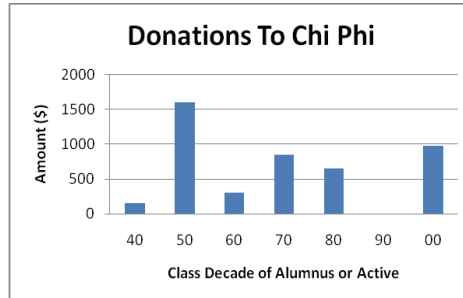


## The Theta Excellence Fund

This year our chapter has proven itself as one of the top chapters for the donations to the Chi Phi Educational Trust; both by number and amount of the donations. Donations from alumni and actives from our chapter totaled almost \$5000. An estimation showing the breakdown by class years demonstrates how alumni from all eras contribute to this outcome.

The Theta Chapter Excellence Fund (CEF) which is within the Chi Phi Educational Trust saw some increases as well. In proportion to the amount of donations to the trust, the amount allocated to our CEF has been fractional. Although the Chi Phi Educational Trust is a worthy organization-with over 70 chapters and colonies nationally, only a portion of the contributions makes it to the chapter.

Money earmarked for the Theta CEF



allows our alumni association to award scholarships and grants to the brothers in our chapter, and since the Theta CEF is within the Chi Phi Educational Trust 501©(3) organization, all donations are eligible for tax deduction (*Please consider talking to your employer to see if they offer a contribution matching program as many will accept 501©(3) organizations*).

Thanks to the generosity of a group of alumni from the 1950's, the CEF is nearly ready to begin showing benefit to the chapter once the Theta CEF becomes active. The first semesterly scholarship has been established in honor of Brother Andrew Colditz, who passed away in his freshman year in 2005. The scholarship will be awarded to a new member in each pledge class who meets a new minimum GPA requirement, and was found to best represent the values of Chi Phi.

If you would like to help the chapter through donation to the Theta Chapter Excellence Fund, please fill your checks according to the sample diagrams provided below.

Br. James Hanley '06

YOUR RETURN  
ADDRESS

CHI PHI EDUCATION TRUST  
ATTN: MANDY OBRIEN  
1160 SATELLITE BLVD  
SUWANEE, GA 30024



Pay to: CHI PHI EDUCATIONAL TRUST  
AMOUNT DOLLARS

\$ AMOUNT

THETA EXCELLENCE FUND



IMPORTANT

## Deep Sea Fishing Trip

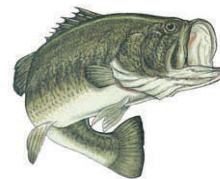
This year due to popular demand, the Theta Alumni Association will once again be setting sail on a Saturday of deep sea fishing. The trip will depart from Niantic, CT in the early morning of August 9th.

The plan: Set sail for the best Blue Fish and Bass fishing areas. The boat has a good reputation for successful catches—especially in mid August.

If you are interested, please contact Jim Hanley at [james.j.hanley@gmail.com](mailto:james.j.hanley@gmail.com) or by phone at (732) 995 - 3234.

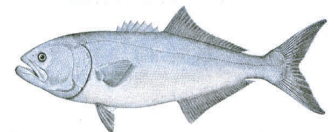
**Spots are limited, so RSVP promptly.**

Br. James Hanley '06



### Largemouth Bass

Avg. Adult Length: 16-22 in  
Average Weight: 5-10 lbs  
Skill Level: Moderate



### Blue Fish

Avg. Adult Length: 32 in  
Average Weight: 3-15 lbs  
Skill Level: Low



## Save the Year: Chi Phi Reunion & Birthday Party

During the 2011/2012 school year, our beloved chapter house: The Chi, will be turning 100 years old! As many know, The Chi was built specifically for the purposes of our chapter, and many brothers have worked hard to maintain it over the years.

To celebrate it's 100 years of service, the Theta Alumni Association has voted to organize an event to mark the occasion. We hope this event will act as a great reason for brothers to return to campus and reunite with each other. Some of the events that are considered will include a brother banquet, golf outing, family picnic and other family friendly events. More information will be available with the formation of the committee;

*"Our beloved chapter house: The Chi, will be turning 100!"*

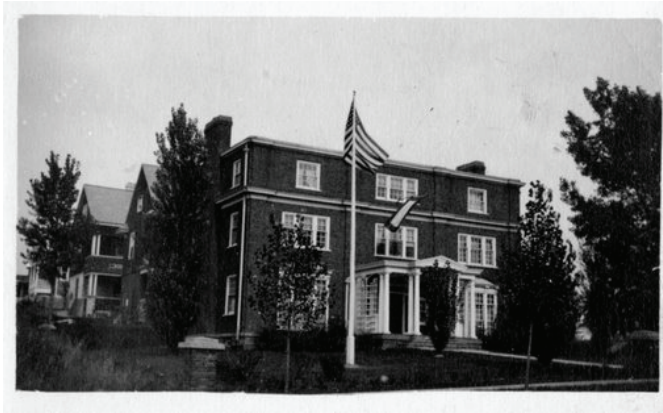
suggestions are always welcome!

If you would like to help contact brothers from your class years or if you have any suggestions, please contact the committee chairman:

Br. Paul Polichronakis

Pablo@chiphil.org

(516) 315 - 1684



## Chi Phi Alumni Networks

This past May, at the 142nd Chi Phi Congress, the Brothers have challenged the National office to work on building our Chi Phi Alumni Network. Through the network, the National office is helping to expand the number of Chi Phi Clubs in our metropolitan areas. A Chi Phi Club is a business networking and social organization consisting of Chi Phi's from various chapters across the country who now live within the club's region. The missions of Chi Phi Clubs is to:

- Provide Chi Phi Brothers with the opportunity for business networking and spending time together in a social setting.
- Assist local Chapters and Colonies, as well as their individual members in coordination with their alumni associations and housing corporations.
- Encourage members to support the Chi Phi Fraternity and Chi Phi Educational Trust.

There has been great success with the Chi Phi Club of Atlanta (see [www.chiphicclub.com](http://www.chiphicclub.com)) and new clubs are being formed as we speak. Currently, events are being planned for the NYC club which may include local sporting events, cocktails, and dinner at a city museum, and networking lunch series. We will be making a conscious effort to maintain a family-friendly calendar so that your significant others and children will feel comfortable participating in the events. Brothers in NYC tri-state area, contact :

Br. Paul Polichronakis

(see previous article for info)





## Alumni Page

### '86 Peter Sachs

Still married (22 years); still live in Maine (10 years); still 3 kids (17, 13, 9); Oldest entering college in Fall; new dog (Max); still Jewish (last I checked); still the funniest guy ever in the Chi (and best P. Steward); largest Coefficient of Expansion (rivals Joe Christian). Lastly: Where the hell is Frank Snyder?

### '96 Ellery Wong

Married in 2005 to Rebecca Bettin from Honeoye Falls, NY (St. Bonaventure Alumn) and currently still working at Xerox for ~10 years as a Sr. Systems Engineer in Product Development for the Production Systems Group here in Rochester, NY. Currently finishing my Masters in product Development at RIT in November 2008.

I am still mentoring the Xerox/Wilson HS FIRST Robotics Team for almost 10 years and have served as the MC in 2007 at the FIRST Finger Lakes Regional Robotics Competition.

### '96 Stephen Hamm

Stephen Hamm is in Davie, Florida. He will be finishing law school in May, studying in June, taking the Bar exam in July, recovering in August, and finally getting on with his life in September.

### '96 Timothy Janas

Still in Austin with Deb. No kids, yet... Now 5 years at BearingPoint, currently managing vehicle inspection program for Texas.

### '98 Art Sedighi

Brother Sedighi recently started his own company in the New York City area with engineering offices in Tel-Aviv and Philly. SoftModule just closed the seed round of financing and is in the process of Product Development. For more information please contact: [sediga@alum.rpi.edu](mailto:sediga@alum.rpi.edu) or [art@softmodule.com](http://art@softmodule.com)

### '02 Kris and Justin Yee

Kris and Justin Yee are currently in San Jose, CA, building computers, fixing motorcycles, making music, and breaking hearts. Drop us a line if yer in the area. :) :)

### '02 Paul Polichronakis

I just recently received my MBA from RPI this past spring and have rejoined the workforce again. This time I am working for a company called Production Resource Group in a field known as "Architainment" (combining architectural and entertainment technologies to enhance one's experience.

Besides that, I am currently looking to relocated to the NYC area where I am working to help the RAA club of NYC and also working to start the tri-state Chi Phi club. I am still the Northeast alumni coucilor, soon to be doing chapter visits as time permits and I have been asked to return as a member of the Grand Alpha nominating committee.

### '03 James Knochel

Still living in Arizona at the moment, but I haven't hypnotized anyone for quite a while now.

### '04 Desh Nandedkar

I'll be graduating from the Boston University School of Medicine and starting my residency in Internal Medicine at the Washington University in St. Louis program at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. (Yeah, the school's name is "Washington University in St. Louis"). Hope things are well with you.

### '05 Greg Polins

Left New York city and moved to Plainville, CT to work for ESPN. At first opportunity, Greg plans to trip Chris Berman and laugh as he falls flat on his face

### '06 Gabe Mulley

Gabe accepted the position of Electrical Engineer at Continuum in Boston, MA. The design firm hired him to write firmware for medical, consumer, and industrial embedded systems. He is now living in Somerville, MA.

### '06 Michael Eilenberg

I'm still at MIT, finishing up my masters in mechanical engineering, and I plan to stay for a PhD, continuing research on

active prosthetics. That means I'll be here another n years, where  $n > 3$ .

### '06 James Hanley

I relocated back to Albany, NY for a new career opportunity with Evergreen Engineering. I've been doing industrial and semiconductor work all over the country. I'm hoping to purchase my first house in the near future. It's good to be home.

### '06 Sunny Khemlani

On the professional side, I have a new publication out on moral reasoning; it's in the journal of Judgment and Decision Making. I'll also apparently have a Master's degree by the end of the summer, but it's a Master of Arts, so I don't think it really means anything. On the social side, I hung out with Greg and Tim in NYC a couple months ago and they were both doing well. Also, I split a donut with Bill Richardson and a beer with Mike Huckabee when I was volunteering for the New Hampshire primary a few months ago.

### '07 Patrick Carey

Engaged to marry Rachel, my high-school sweetheart. We're planning a big outdoor wedding for late summer in central Massachusetts. I'll send an invitation to anyone who can make it through the email lists when we finalize a date. I'm working for a small custom hydraulics company near Syracuse and loving it. Riding every day and planning to hit the bike racing hard this summer.

### '07 Adam Federschneider

Adam is currently living in MA working for VistaPrint as a software engineer.

### '07 Jimmy Hon

Jimmy lives in Endicott, NY and works at Lockheed Martin as a software engineer. He's considering going to school again and getting a Masters.

### '07 Kevin Rhoads

I am presently still gainfully employed with Lockheed Martin in Moorestown NJ and we still need people.

### '07 Perry Laskaris

Perry is currently living in Green Island, NY, and working as a sports information assistant in the RPI Athletics office down in Troy.

### '07 Timothy G. Zander

I'm a proud uncle and continuing to work in Norwalk, CT at FactSet as a security engineer.

To send a note to the newsletter for the next publication, please email Jim Hanley at Send a note to the newsletter:

[james.j.hanley@gmail.com](mailto:james.j.hanley@gmail.com)

Or mail the note to:

Jim Hanley

20 Glennon Rd.

Latham, NY, 12110

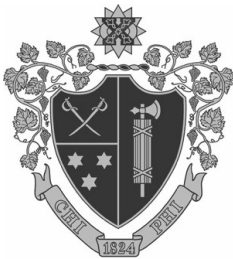


## Theta of Chi Phi

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Theta of Chi Phi Fraternity



[www.thetaofchiphi.org](http://www.thetaofchiphi.org)

**Are you receiving updates** from the Alumni Association in your home email? Make sure to join our group mailing list for the latest information about meetings, events and news about Theta Brothers. Visit the Theta Alumni Association web site at <http://www.ThetaOfChiPhi.com> for more instructions on how to join the alumni association mailing lists or email [pablo@chiphi.org](mailto:pablo@chiphi.org) for more information.



## Last but not Least

Being elected to any position in the house was the least expected turn of events for me—not to mention to the position of Zeta! I never doubted my abilities, but I never saw myself as a leader, or an organizer (especially considering that English is not my first language). Nevertheless, regardless of how unexpected this was to me, I am loving every minute of my job. So far, I have accomplished and exceeded in many of my responsibilities and continue to do so despite my time consuming major (Chemical Engineering).

I am extremely proud of having the opportunity to communicate, verbally and in person, with the alumni of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi. I learn new things about the house, the people who lived in it—and surprisingly, even

about myself, on a regular basis. For instance, I had no idea how my Russian accent would affect the conversations with the alumni—no one knows until they stop worrying and just do their functions; the response is only positive, in fact, it is my very accent that spices up any conversation enough so that it never gets boring.

I like to get things done, and so far I had not been a disappointment. I have successfully organized an alumni meeting at Rensselaer, provided the alumni with entertainment (tickets to the Big Red Freakout hockey game), and feedback.

This newsletter has been a monumental success on my part. I have never been placed as a leader of a large group of people,

but my intuition guided me to a revolutionary new method of inspiring people to write the articles for this newsletter. From theory to practice, the size of this newsletter speaks for itself!

If you're reading this newsletter, then it came packaged together with the Chakett. This is a radical improvement over the old method. This is the first year for the new poly bag subscription and I am proud to be introducing something brand new to the traditional functions of Zeta.

Please feel free to contact me though email, or in person.

Br. Gregory Feklistov '10  
(Zeta)



### Contact Info:

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(718) 216-2797

Annex 2nd floor room 5