

Theta of Chi Phi
1981 15th St.
Troy, NY 12180

THETA EXCELLENCE FUND AWARDEES

BR. ANDREW SPENCER COLDITZ
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
NICHOLAS LAFERRIERE

BR. STEPHEN "RUSTY" GORDON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
JOHN BARTLETT

With the Theta Excellence Fund active our first goal is to provide an annual scholarship in honor of Brother Andrew Colditz, who passed away in 2005. The scholarship is for a new member in each pledge class who was found to best represent the values of Chi Phi, and met a minimum GPA requirement. The scholarship fund has been so successful we have been able to establish a second scholarship for leadership in honor of Stephen "Rusty" Gordon. This scholarship is for any brother showing leadership through his activities with the house.

It is my pleasure to announce the two scholarship winners for 2012. The winner for the Andrew Colditz memorial scholarship is Brother Nicholas Laferriere.

The winner for the Stephen "Rusty" Gordon scholarship is Brother John Bartlett. If you would like to help the chapter through donating directly to the Theta Excellence fund please follow the instructions below.

Your Return
Address

Chi Phi Educational Trust
1300 Sixth Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
Fax: (404) 237-5090

Postage

Pay To: Chi Phi Educational Trust
Amount in Dollars

\$ Amount

Theta Excellence Fund

↑
Important

The Theta Record



THETA OF CHI PHI

Fall 2012

A State of Affairs

The Theta Chapter is still going strong, and continues to improve with every semester. We have seen improvements in recruitment, academics, and even at the national level.

While the spring semester came to a close, the chapter chose to elect two new Recruitment Chairmen, unlike in past years. The house recognized this rush as a critical one, since the 2012 year has two large graduation classes. After initiating two new members in the spring and six the previous semester, Theta welcomes a pledge class of ten as we enter the fall semester.

Academically, Theta has seen a marked improvement. While placing on "Dean's List" for the third consecutive semester, the chapter has raised our grade point average to a 3.15, beating not only the All Fraternity and All Greek averages, but surpassing the All Men's and Non-Greek Men's averages. The chapter is proud to boast a grade point average even above the All Campus average as we strive for a higher standard.

To coincide with this improvement and help to continue it, Theta has created the position of Scholarship Chairman. The goal of this implementation is to promote improved academic performance and to help those who

may be struggling or need assistance with their studies.

Overall, the house has once again achieved 5-Star status with RPI. Additionally, Theta is succeeding on a national level. Last fall was the inauguration of a new Chapter Accreditation process started by the national fraternity. The results are in for the first two semesters of the program (last fall and this past spring) as we work on this semester's report. In the inaugural fall semester, Theta was one of only 13 accredited chapters of 53 in total. In the spring, we again achieved accredited status, as one of 27. We plan to reach the same level of recognition this fall, and we look beyond that to achieve "Accreditation with Distinction".

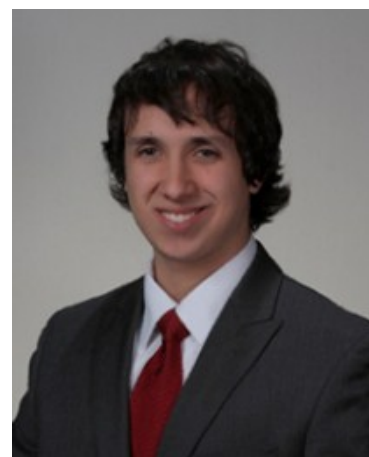
In other news, one brother is away on co-op this semester. Another interesting note is that the current campus representatives for two large and competing technology companies, Google and Microsoft, are both brothers living in the house. Becoming the representative for the school is a competitive process for both companies.

The Regional Leadership Alliance for the northeast region was again hosted in Albany this spring. Afterwards, Theta welcomed three

other chapters to our house as we strengthened our connections across the nation.

As I wrote last semester and have seen confirmed, I have no doubt that Theta will continue upon its current successes as we continually work to improve the chapter to new heights with every semester.

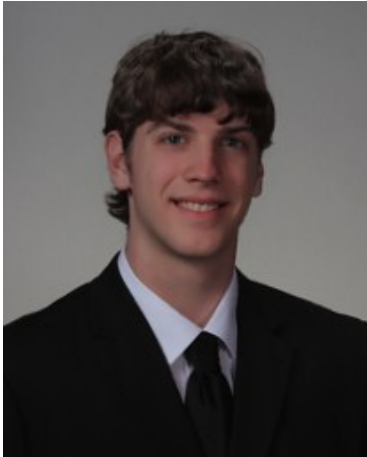
Fraternally,
Br. Scott Hounsell '14 RAE
Alpha



Br. Scott Hounsell '14

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| ALPHA | 2 |
| DELTA | 3 |
| EPSILON | 4 |
| BETA | 5 |
| ACADEMIC CHAIRMAN | 5 |
| ETA | 6 |
| NEW MEMBER EDUCATOR | 7 |
| SOCIAL CHAIR | 7 |
| GAMMA | 8 |
| ZETA | 9 |
| PHILANTHROPY CHAIR | 10 |



Br. John Bartlett '14

The Cash Register

Entering my second semester as Delta, I feel confident in my duties and that the house is in a strong financial position, even after major spending over the summer to repair and bring the Annex up to code. In addition I have been updating and upgrading the tools used by the Delta position and will pass on this knowledge and progress to my successor.

We have been using RPI's Bursar Billing service to charge all necessary dues and living fees for four semesters now, and it is by far the most successful resource for obtaining funds from active brothers.

My only complaint is that it is not a dynamic system which can be accessed by the Delta personally. Any charges and corrections to charges must go through the Greek Dean, and as can be expected, the middleman inevitably adds time and complications to the process.

One lasting problem that our house continues to face is that of the large debt some of our alumni have with the house. The summer was relatively productive in this regard, as I was able to call in approximately 10% of our accounts receivable. I would like to thank Br. Alex Kociuba for being so cooperative in paying the entirety of his debts. In addition, I would like to thank Br. Brian Urbach for starting down the same road. Addressing the root cause of alumni debt, I worked with the graduating actives of Spring '12 to obtain signed promissory notes and payment plans. The same will be done this semester.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, I began and

have now completed the process of closing out all of our HSBC accounts in favor of the highly convenient SEFCU branch located in The Union. This will reduce the headache of changing the account owners to the new officers every year and in general reduce transaction costs for the house.

I also made the decision to upgrade our QuickBooks software which was purchased in 2008 and was lacking key functionality due to its age and Intuit's policy of progressively removing features on old versions. The 2012 version allows me to email and print invoices and balance sheets directly, and more importantly, import bank statements from SEFCU and reconcile the house's records. This will ensure that purchases are recorded correctly, increasing the accuracy of house budgets and making tax time much less stressful.

A further improvement to the Delta toolbox comes in the form of data-sharing services such as Google Docs and Dropbox. I use Google Docs to share important Delta information with E-Board members, namely position budgets and spending, allowing them to plan future expenditures and stay within their allocated funds. Alternatively, Dropbox is used to back up other critical files and when necessary, share large files such as Quickbooks data with Brother Sadler when it comes time to submit our taxes.

I will continue to address the financial issues encountered by the Theta chapter, but it is clear that despite these challenges, the house is doing well and this will continue in the

future. Managing the house finances has been a rewarding experience, but I do not intend to run for the position for another term. I look forward to educating my successor, and trust that he will only represent a further improvement to the position of Delta.

Fraternally,
Br. John Bartlett '14
Delta

Fixing the Annex

As you may have heard, events last semester led to serious changes in Stroud Hall (The Annex). One late morning this April, due to a number of inconvenient coincidences in the house and the abysmal relationship between RPI and the Troy Fire Department, the city code inspector was called in by the TFD Chief. After a walk-through of the building, he decided that there were quite a number of issues, including several imminent dangers, and ordered the house evacuated until those issues were fixed.

With the help of the Brotherhood and under the guidance of our Eta, we were able to move back into the house within three days. However, that was just the start; the larger issues required much more work. After much deliberation with Housing Corp, construction plans were decided upon, and fully planned out by Br. Worden. After the course of the summer, at the hands of Alumni and Actives, the A2 corridor now continues all the way back to the rear stairwell, and A2-3 has been shrunken in size (to mirror the first floor's floor plan). Additional work is still in progress to add steel fire doors on each floor, including the attic and basement.

I'd like to thank Alumni Brs. Hanley, Tully, and Powers for their help during the demolition phase of the renovation project. Active Brs. Brandon

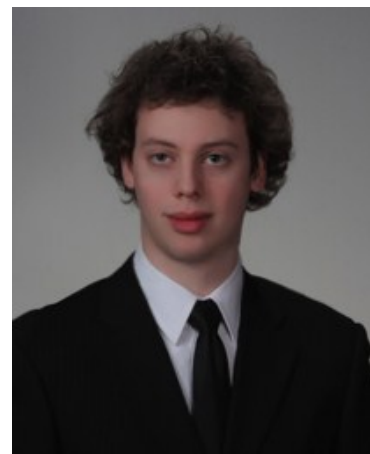
Kennedy '12 and Robert Barron '14 have also shown extreme dedication to this project. Of course, we wouldn't have been able to do any of the work without Br. Kent Worden, who volunteered his time and resources not only to plan the project, order materials and contact contractors when needed, but also drive down from New Hampshire numerous weekends this summer with a truckload of tools and the knowledge of how to do just about every part of construction imaginable.

As for work week, we tried to focus on not just making things look good, but actually improving them for the future. All of the intricate wood trim work around the Main House front door had easily 10-15 coats of white paint on it; we took the time to strip it down to bare wood, prepare it properly, and re-paint it. The milk room and basement stair treads were all replaced with solid oak, since many were broken, breaking, or at least severely worn. We also sorted through all tools, supplies, and consumables, and moved all good materials and tools to the Annex basement. They were also organized it in a system that, hopefully, will last more than a few years (we'll see).

I'm planning to continue improving the houses for the future of the Fraternity this semester before I graduate, in hopes that when I return to the

house some twenty years from now I will still be able to see the work that we have done this year.

Fraternally,
Br. Dana Schnabel '12
Epsilon



Br. Dana Schnabel '12

The Theta Record



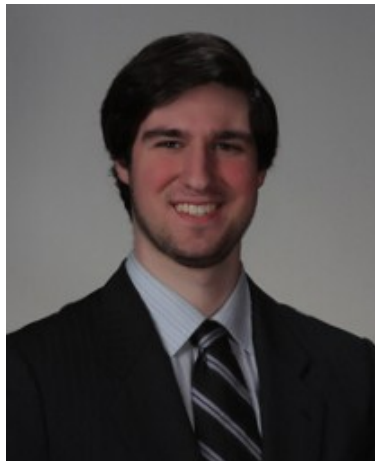
Br. Vincent Riemer '14

Liaison to IFC

The fall of 2014 semester has been coming along as smoothly as ever. This year it was decided to integrate our brotherhood retreat with our big invite only rush event, a trip to a cabin in Vermont. Other than the initial announcement of the approval for the party monitoring system, IFC has been quiet this semester. I have also more

recently started a trial run with the website service ChapterSpot to see if it would be appropriate to replace our current Google Docs system. I look forward to a successful semester and fun rest of the year!

Fraternally,
Br. Vincent Riemer '14
Beta



Br. Michael Pawlak '12

Improving Our Grades

Last semester the position of Academic Chairman was created from the scholarship duties that the Gamma normally held. This position is the equivalent to the school's position of Greek Academic Peer Support (GAPS) representative. The GAPS representative is a the equivalent for a Learning Assistant for Greeks. My responsibilities will be to help mentor and tutor Brothers who need help in courses or get them the help they need when the subject is beyond what anyone else in the house can help

with. It is also my responsibility to monitor the early warning system (EWS) for our house. The EWS is a system where each Brother will receive emails if their grades in a course are slipping or if they haven't been attending classes. These emails will also be sent to myself as Academic Chairman so I can talk to them one-on-one and try to resolve any issues they may have. I look forward to creating a strong precedent for this position as one that will do good for this house and will hopefully be able to help us raise our

GPA over the 3.0 mark once again.

Fraternally,
Br. Michael Pawlak '12
Academic Chairman

The Theta Record

Keeping Everyone Safe

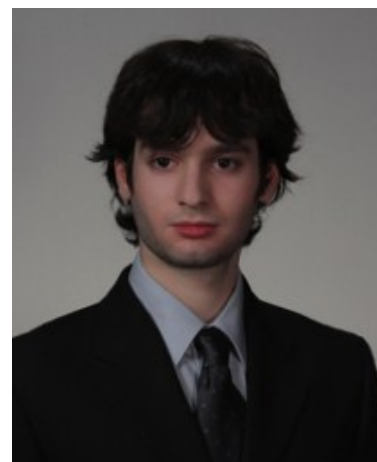
It's been a busy semester for the Epsilon and I. Significant renovations had to be made to Stroud Hall (the Annex) to bring it up to Troy fire code within an extremely short timeframe. This was because of an unexpected fire inspection from Troy's fire department itself, not the school. The Epsilon's report covers these changes and the events leading up to them in detail. RPI's fire inspections that occur each semester are unfortunately not nearly as comprehensive as Troy's, and as such we had no knowledge of several issues. Some problems were legitimate and it was very helpful to have some of these pointed out, such as the Annex hot water heater having improper piping. The Annex and the Chi had been passing RPI fire inspection for multiple years before this happened, so this was quite a surprise to us. With the help of Br. Kent Worden and others we have brought the Annex up to code and successfully passed a second fire inspection. Not only that, but multiple aspects of the Annex are improved, such as the second floor back hallway, and new electrical wiring in multiple parts of the house. Br. Worden was invaluable in all phases of the work. He not only showed me and several other brothers how to do wiring and construction, but also worked on everything alongside us.

This fall semester's RPI fire inspection went well, with the Chi having zero problems. The only issue with the Annex was leftover materials from the construction that occurred during the summer.

In my final semester as Eta I have tried to help fix our so-

ber driver system by instituting a single phone number policy where the sober driver each night simply uses a single cell phone so that people don't need to know night to night which Brother to call if they are stuck at a party. So far, it has worked quite well. I have also been more involved with the Social chair to make sure all events are well planned. Our fall formal went very smoothly, and everyone had a great time. I hope that we will continue to have a fun but safe semester!

Fraternally,
Br. Robert Barron '14
Eta



Br. Robert Barron '14



From Left: Brs. Brandon Kennedy '12, Kent Worden, Steven Ulin '14 and Dana Schnabel '12 work on renovating the back hallway in the Annex

The Theta Record

New Member Educator

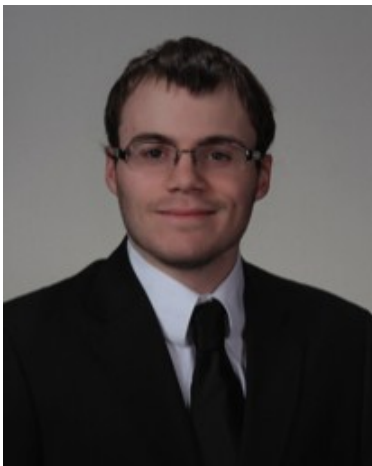
This past semester we initiated 2 new brothers to our fraternity! Congratulations to both Andrew and Steve. It was a bit of a hectic semester due to the unforeseen circumstances surrounding the Annex and an unfortunate visit from another Chi Phi chapter but in the end Steve and Andrew did a great job with the education process and I'm proud to have

them as our newest Brothers. Good luck to Steve and Andrew and I hope that they will wear the Scarlet and Blue proudly.

Fraternally,
Br. Michael Pawlak '12
New Member Educator



From left: Brs. Andrew Shapiro '14, Michael Pawlak '12, and Steven Ulin '14



Br. Peter Skinner '13

Keeping Us Involved

This year I am focusing on trying to bring us back on campus. Over the last couple years, we have been fairly quiet, working on building up a better brotherhood internally, and now that we have done that, it is time to reach outward and hopefully work our way back into the social scene as well as the Greek scene. I've have made it my responsibility to try to encourage the brotherhood to go out and meet new people every week, slowly expanding our network and friend circle. By the end of this semester I'd hope that every person on campus can say they know at least one Chi Phi. My other goal is to keep this house labeled a 5 star fraternity. So far we have kept proving that our house is

one of the top houses on campus, and to continue this trend I've been challenging the brotherhood to step out and make a difference. I've been met with great enthusiasm, and because of this, I believe we are looking at another year of 5 star excellence.

Fraternally,
Br. Peter Skinner '13
Social Chair

The Theta Record

Gamma Report

I've put in strong work during my first semester as Gamma with high praise for my witty Brother of the Week nomination names. My devotion will surely continue during the second half of my position and I will continue to write the meeting minutes with the same aplomb as last semester. Unfortunately, despite contacting National, corrected Brother certificates and badges for several Brothers have still not been received. I'm hoping to rectify this as soon as possible. I'm also hoping to find a worthy successor to a long line of

proud Gammas to take over the position for the next year.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to be removed from the non-alumni email list.

Fraternally,
Br. Christopher Loers '14
Gamma



Br. Christopher Loers '14

ROBERT LUNDIN
ZETA

JOHN BARTLETT
DELTA

VINCENT RIEMER
BETA

SCOTT HOUNSELL
ALPHA

CHRISTOPHER LOERS
GAMMA

DANA SCHNABEL
ETA

ROBERT BARRON
THETA

BENJAMIN ALSTON

JAMES PETERSON

ANTHONY PETO

MATTHEW SABLE

BRANDON KENNEDY

VARUN MADIATH

ERIC MCCURRY

MATTHEW MICHNEWICH

MICHAEL PAWLAK

PETER SKINNER

JOSEPH TUFANO

ERIC ANGULO

ROBERT CULEN

OLIVER BASHAN

HARRISON BOND

CHRISTOPHER CHIRENO

DANIEL CAMPOS

BENJAMIN GOVERNALI

WILLIAM KUCHARCZYK

NICHOLAS LAFERRIERE

NICHOLAS MARTON

DREW MITCHELL

MARK BUCKLER

ISAIAH LeGARE

JOSEF SALTZ

EDWARD COFRANCESCO

Chi Phi

Theta Chapter

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The Theta Record



Br. Robert Lundin '14

Recording the History

I would like to apologize for not sending out the newsletter sooner. I have been working to create a comprehensive digital photo album this semester which I hope alumni and actives will be able to add to and enjoy together and I would like to encourage anyone with relevant pictures or materials about the history of the Chapter to send me any stories or pictures you have. Other things I am working on include the hanging of some older composites in the Annex

instead of leaving them in storage in the attic as well as the repair of some picture frames that were broken during the summer. If anyone has any stories they would like to submit to the new writing of The Chronicles of Chi Phi please go to the website <http://chronicles.chiphi.org> to submit them.

Fraternally,
Br. Robert Lundin '14
Zeta

Contact Information:

Phone: (518) 271-6376

E-mail: lundin.rb@gmail.com

Thetaofchiphi.org



Brothers and Candidates for Membership at the Fall 2012 Formal

Helping the Community

Philanthropy is looking very hopeful this semester. Now that rush is over, events are starting to begin. Chi Phi hosted a hugely successful blood drive on September 11th. The drive had 82 whole blood donations, and a whopping 19 double red cell donations. Brs. Matthew Michnewich '13, Edward Cofrancesco '13, Robert Lundin '14, and I were included among the donors.

Also, Chi Phi sent a team of eight on September 22 to ColorMeRad in Altamont, which is a 5k towards charity. Our team raised over \$350 for the race, where the proceeds went towards the Special Olympics of New York.

The race was a great experience as a brotherhood, and we were happy to help out a great organization such as the Special Olympics of New York.

On September 30, Chi Phi hosted a Distinguished Gentleman's Charity Ride to fundraise for the Boys and Girls Club of Troy.

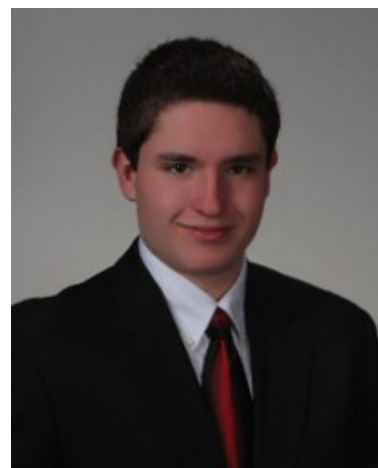
I am planning on sending a team to Making Strides against Breast Cancer in Albany this October. It is similar to Relay for Life as it is run by the American Cancer Society, and includes two laps around Washington Park.

This year I plan on having a more successful Chi Phi Live than ever. The event will be

longer and will now include a food, as well as refreshments. Il Nasty and the Pledges are scheduled to be the big finale, so make sure you come and catch us performing "The Ballad of Dean Baker."

Overall, I expect this semester's philanthropy to be very strong and successful.

Fraternally,
Br. William Kucharczyk '15
Philanthropy Chair



Br. William Kucharczyk '15



From Left: Brs. William Kucharczyk '15, Robert Barron '14, Matthew Michnewich '13 and Peter Skinner '13
