

THE THETA RECORD

T H E T H E T A C H A P T E R O F C H I P H I

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T H E S T A T E O F T H E T H E T A

This semester has seen a significant shift in the leadership of this house -of the current e-board, all but 3 are sophomores. However, the entire board is highly motivated and has proven competent to keep the house running smoothly. Four new candidates completed the pledging process this semester to help keep Theta's membership high going into next year. The dramatic shift in the membership of the house at the end of this semester will be interesting - with nearly twenty brothers graduating - and we plan to use it to make a number of positive changes to the house. The Greek Life Commons Agreement and Bursar Billing have both been significant in the house; with RPI's class initiative to keep sophomores on campus, the institute has been amiable enough to allow sophomores to live in Greek chapter houses as well, provided we sign a document promising to maintain ourselves as a reasonable fraternity with a clean chapter house. As this doesn't cause us much worry, we have signed the agreement; as such, our rising sophomore brothers will be able to live in-house next year - which we believe is a

big part of life in Theta.

The Bursar Billing system, discussed in the last Theta Record, has been discussed in depth within the house and with our alumni advisors, and we are currently in the process of applying for membership with bursar billing. This has the benefit of not only forcing brothers to pay their house bill, but also allows freshmen and sophomores with 'housing grants' to apply those toward rent at the house. This is another situation where RPI has decided to help out Greek organizations: housing grants were meant to be used exclusively on campus, but from the influence of fraternity and sorority members, IFC and Pan-Hellenic Council, the current GM, and others, the administration decided to make an exception.

So, enough about the administration; what have the brothers been doing this semester? In a shift towards having more philanthropy events, we have volunteered twice at WMHT phone-a-thons, building ties with the administration at the television station and getting to spend time together as brothers. Also, last month, Brothers from SUNY Plattsburgh colony used our facili-

ties for their initiation. It was great to be able to meet some of our other brothers and help out a young colony, and to gain some different views on brotherhood from them. We've striven to have more private events to bond better as a house, like ice skating, backyard BBQs, and off-roading. In the last newsletter, it was reported that we received a four star rating on the 5 Star-which we were all very proud of. However, for the 2009 year, with the help of our PR Chair Br. Charpentier who wrote and compiled the 5 Star Application, we were honored as a **five star** house; one of only 6 social fraternities on campus to receive the honor. This shows that we have exemplified everything that a Greek organization should be, between philanthropy, inter-Greek events, brothers' campus involvement and GPAs, and risk management, among other aspects. We are *extremely* proud to be a Five Star house, and will continue to put in the effort this year and in the future to stay on top.

Fraternally,
Dana Schnabel
Alpha '10



CONTACT INFORMATION

Theta Chapter Executive Board

Alpha – Dana Schnabel - schnad@rpi.edu
Beta – Mark Buckler - bucklm4@rpi.edu
Gamma- Isaiah Legare - legari@rpi.edu
Delta – Benjamin Alston - alstob@rpi.edu
Epsilon – James Peterson - peterj7@rpi.edu
Zeta – Matthew Sable - sablem2@rpi.edu
Eta – Matthew Scoffone - scoffm@rpi.edu
Philanthropy Chair – Josef Saltz - saltzj3@rpi.edu
New Member Educator – John Mazza - mazzaj@rpi.edu
Social Chair – Anthony Peto - petoa@rpi.edu
Rush and Recruitment Chair– Dean Baker - bakerd3@rpi.edu

Theta Alumni Association Executive Board

President – Jim Hanley '06 – james.j.hanley@gmail.com
Vice President – John Farnsworth '06 – farnsj@rpi.edu
Treasurer – Ron Albright '99 – albrir@alum.rpi.edu
Secretary – Michael Eilenberg '06 – skidoodle@gmail.com
Member At Large – Joe Doucette '00 – jdoucette@alum.rpi.edu
Member At Large – Chris Pierno '09 – chrispierno@gmail.com
Advisor – Kent Worden '69 – KentWorden@Comcast.net
Advisor – Paul 'Pablo' Polichronakis '02 – policp@alum.rpi.edu

Theta Housing Corporation Executive Board

President – Paul 'Pablo' Polichronakis '02 – policp@alum.rpi.edu
Treasurer – Mark Stenpeck '07 – mark.stenpeck@gmail.com
Secretary – Peter Gregg '01 – pgregg@alum.rpi.edu
Member at Large – Kent Worden '69 – KentWorden@Comcast.net
Member at Large – Charlie Hammond '04 – verilan@aol.com



Do we have your email address?

Send your contact information to UPDATES@ThetaOfChiPhi.com so we can send you a quarterly reminder about upcoming events, news about fellow alumni, support career searchers and share career opportunities or find long lost brothers.

Upcoming Events

- Big Red Freakout 2011 – January 29, 2011
- Reunion & Homecoming 2010 – Oct. 15-17
- Reunion & Homecoming 2011 – Oct. 21-23



GETTING PROJECTS DONE

Two pledge projects were conducted this semester, leading to a great amount of improvement in the house. Both projects deal with trying to keep water out of the basement of the main house; a problem that tends to occur after heavy amounts of rain. One project is a grading project around the area between the main house, annex and 15th street, which is directing water off of our property and away from the foundation of the house. The other is an overhaul of the boiler room. The old boiler and pipes have been removed with great effort, and the brick walls have been patched and sealed to also prevent water coming into the basement.

With summer quickly approaching, more projects are in the works also. Over the winter, the grass of the front lawn gave up and decided it was not going to grow back this spring. But with the appearance of our fine house in mind, the lawn has been re-seeded and is currently growing an excellent turf better than the previous one. This summer, with the help of the Theta Housing Corporation, the house will begin redoing two rooms each summer. This summer the ceiling and walls will be replaced in the second floor main house room next to the bathroom, and the annex first floor room in the

corner by the back patio will have water damage repaired and general maintenance.

As we move into the next school year, more projects will begin, and I am excited with the progress we have seen by the actives and by the dedication of the Theta Housing Corporation. I would also like to personally thank Brother Kent Worden for all of this help and knowledge on many of the current projects this semester.

Fraternally,
James Peterson
Epsilon '10

KEEPING US SAFE

After a work-weekend at the beginning of the semester to clean and fix the house following the heating system installers living here over winter break, everyone is getting back to the daily routine of classes. We have finally received the list of items from the City of Troy / RPI house inspection last semester that are necessary to bring the Chi up to current fire codes. We are currently working on these requirements, most of which should be simple fixes. The new heating system eliminates one of the biggest problems found during the fire and safety inspection, the dangerous operating state of the old boiler. We are looking at replacing the second and third floor exterior doors on the An-

nex fire escape as well, as they were one of the other major issues from the inspection.

The H1N1 flu seems to be subsiding, as there have been no new cases on campus recently. The FDA-approved vaccine was administered by RPI to those students who wanted it last fall, which is probably the main reason for such little flu activity on campus. In addition, as the semester progresses, we look toward maintaining a safe and healthy brotherhood.

Fraternally,
Matthew Scoffone
Eta '10



**Brothers breaking up ice this winter
to help keep the sidewalks safe**



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Here is our favorite
Beta

The new IFC executive board has been chosen and so far they have been performing very well. As our IFC representative I serve on the IFC's recruitment committee. We are now planning events to try to make the incoming class have greater Greek awareness. Expanding the Greek community is important to all of us and it is important to cooperate with other houses to do so. An event that we participated in was the Accepted Students day. Seven of our Brothers volunteered to help with the event, and in addition to helping our reputation with the school we were able to spread word about the benefits of going greek. Coming up soon is the Greek Weekend, and we are looking forward to participating.

One important change that will soon be taking place within the house is the graduation of close to twenty Brothers. The only two juniors within the house were initiated this past semester.

While we are all very happy for these Brothers, this serves as a challenge for those of us who are left. The current executive board of the house was specifically chosen to contain younger brothers so that there could be a leadership training period. This period is about to end, but I feel like we have learned enough to be able to take the house forward.

This semester's rush went over well, and although we only have 4 pledges now this is typical of the spring semester. There are

enough freshman in the past pledge class to balance out this small class. We know to not slack off with rushing however, and continue to be rush conscious so that next semester's rush goes well.

As always I want to encourage interaction between active brothers and Alumni. Sometimes we forget that this is not the first time that someone has tried to run the house, and that some of the problems we face have already been solved. Please feel free to contact myself or any brother with any questions, comments or concerns.

Fraternally,
Mark Buckler
Beta '10

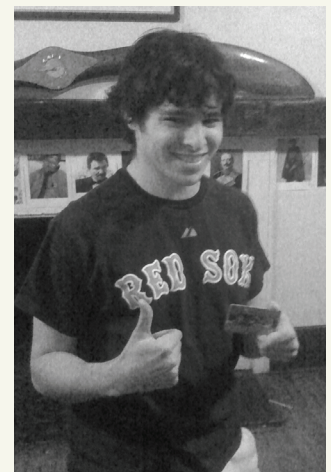
KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

Since the start of the spring 2010 semester, several improvements have been made to the House's finances. First, at the behest of the Chi Phi National Office, we have opened a new savings account with HSBC. National, due to poor financial relationships with other chapters, now requires all chapters to have a separate bank account for the purpose of setting money aside to pay dues to the National Office. While our chapter was not one of those responsible for bringing about this rule, a savings account will allow us to earn interest. Second, we

have recently applied and been approved for a Business MasterCard credit card. The points earned from spending with this card will be applied toward airline tickets or hotel rooms to help shoulder the cost of attending Congress, especially when located outside of driving distance from RPI's campus. While acknowledging the financial risks of a credit card, careful management will make the benefit of a lower cost to attend Congress worthwhile. Third, we are moving forward with Bursar Billing, the long talked about plan of going through RPI's finan-

cial office to disperse our bills. With the help of Bursar Billing our house finances should improve even further because RPI has the ability to block registration for an unpaid bill, which will prevent Brothers from accumulating large amounts of debt as some did in the past. Bursar Billing will be in effect within the next year. With all these improvements being made, the Theta Chapter's finances continue to run smoothly.

Fraternally,
Benjamin Alston
Delta '10



Ben, with our new credit
card

IT'S "FRATERNITY" NOT "FRAT"

"I'm never going to be a member of a frat." That is what I used to say after seeing how Greek life is conveyed via the mass media. Coming to RPI after two years at Hudson Valley Community College, I was positive that I would not be a member of a frat. To this day, I am still glad I did not join one. What I joined is a fraternity, a close group of men bonded together by common values and beliefs. To be honest, I used to think frats and fraternities were the same thing. I am humbled by the fact that I now know the difference.

As undergraduate members, we sometimes forget what it is like to be a member of a fraternity. When you have forty to fifty

people interacting with each other constantly, there are bound to be conflicts. What we need to focus on in these times is those common values and beliefs which brought us together in the first place. It is very easy to not want to stay around to clean up after a party or give minimal effort on a cleaning shift. We sometimes have trouble delegating who will shovel snow and who will fix up things in the house every week. But the negatives are not what make us Chi Phi brothers. What makes this brotherhood is the effort we give when voluntarily tutoring another brother, or perhaps volunteering to water the lawn, even if you know that nobody will see you and thank you for it.

Frat boys do not know the names of all their brothers because there are just too many living under one roof to bother learning them. We strive to be better than that and I truly believe we are. Every day we work to change the minds of people who think there is no difference between a frat and a fraternity. It is very easy to be a frat, but I am glad that we refuse to follow the easy path. I feel honored to be a newly initiated member of this fraternity. It makes me proud to know that I can still say "I'm never going to be a member of a frat."

Fraternerally,
Robert Defelice

'11

LET'S GIVE SOMETHING BACK

"Let's give something back" has been our motto this year with our Philanthropy and community service projects. We have been giving back to the community in every way possible, whether it's through volunteering for RPI or volunteering with local community organizations. We raised over \$13,500 for the local PBS station WMHT, over 200 dollars and tons of canned food for the local homeless shelter Joseph's House and countless volunteering hours with our fellow Fraternities and Sororities at RPI. We had numerous people dedicate days to the IFC volunteering programs, as well as sepa-



Brothers participating in Relay for life

ately, to the school through different programs, such as Face the Waste, Relay for Life at RPI and RPI's Accepted Student's Days and Weekends. But we don't stop

there; we have more plans for Philanthropy events including one with the brothers at AXP and one with the Boys and Girls Club here in Troy. RPI and Troy have given so much to us, it's time for us to give something back, something we will be continuing on for years to come.

Fraternally,
Josef Saltz

Philanthropy chair '11

ALUMNI PAGES

*You are invited to the
Theta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity's Annual*

Scarlet & Blue Dinner

Celebrating the expansion to the chapter membership and the awarding of the **Br. Stephen 'Rusty' Gordon Leadership Scholarship** and the **Br. Andrew Colditz Memorial Scholarship**.

Saturday October 16th 2010

Hilton Garden Inn Troy
235 Hoosick Street, Troy, New York, USA 12180

Minimum Donation of \$50 per person
Semi-formal attire requested but not required

Registration will be handled by the RPI Reunion Website. Please visit <http://www.alumni.rpi.edu/involved/reunion> for registration and payment.



THC: WORKING HARD TO SAVE THE CHI THE THETA HOUSING CORPORATION

The Theta Housing Corporation

It is a pleasure to write as the newest president of our housing corporation. I want to thank our outgoing president, Br. Tony Samela, for the immense amount of hard work he has done for the fraternity. Tony is among a group of brothers who have worked on so many projects around the house, you start to wonder if there is an area in the house he has not touched.

The primary responsibility of the housing corporation is to manage and preserve the properties of the Chi Phi Fraternity at RPI. As you know, we act as the landlords to the active chapter and use the rent and donations to maintain the houses as time and weather takes its toll. These usually include a few short-term projects, but most projects are for the long-term execution and benefit of the house. In a short time, the Chi will be hitting the 100 year mark and as it happens, we have a lot of work to do to get the back to its original splendor. Over the next few months, the executive board will continue work on our strategic plan and project list for the next 15+ years.

These projects will primarily be funded with standard rent income but rent alone will not be able to save the Chi. We will need financial help from our alumni base and I hope that I can count on you to think of your time at RPI and how the fraternity and the Chi helped to enhance your life experiences. Some of the projects coming up in the next few years include repairs to our foundation, facial work on the brick work, renovating of the annex bathrooms, refinish or replace wood floors and room-by-room renovations. If you have interest in assisting/sponsoring a project or joining a fundraising committee, please contact me at 646-961-3664 or polichp@alum.rpi.edu.

If you are curious about a way you could help today without digging into your pocket, please read the article titled "Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009" from the Capital Fraternal Caucus. The act, if passed, would seek to even the playing field where uni-

versities are currently allowed to use charitable contributions for infrastructure enhancements (student housing) and not-for-profit organizations (fraternities & sororities) currently cannot do the same. This would allow the housing corporation to solicit tax-deductible donations and encourage use of employer-matching programs from our alumni base as we look to preserve our piece of history at RPI.

In the past few years, the Theta Housing Corporation (THC) has been able to fund and manage a few large projects. In recent years, the THC has replaced the commercial kitchen stove and fire suppression system in the Chi and replaced the old, single pane, windows on Stroud Hall (the Annex) with new, energy efficient Pella windows. The windows instantly reduced road noise significantly and reduced heat loss and cold drafts in the building. We have even conducted an alumni work weekend which both alumni and undergraduates replaced the rotten wood columns on the front porch. The project was such a success in team building between the actives and alumni group that we hope to have another project this summer (please make sure we have your email address if you would like to come back and help, it will likely happen the first weekend of the chapter's workweek in August).

Our most recent project has been the new boiler plant in the main house. Under the guidance of Br. Kent Worden and his engineers, we have replaced our old steam system with highly efficient Weil-McLain boilers with base-board heat in every room. We expect a fast pay-back as the new units save the chapter large amounts of gas usage (we have moved from 70% to 96% efficiency) and will reduce our liabilities of running a steam boiler system.

On that same note, during our February meeting, the THC awarded Br. Kent Worden a Distinguished Service Award in thanks for the long days he spent with the engineers and contractors designing and installing the new heating & hot water system.

None of these projects could happen if it wasn't for our alumni support. This support does not only come in financial donations, but also the time and knowledge shared among the group. While we only have two meetings planned on campus, we try to have an open conference call about every month or two depending on schedules. If you have interest in helping to preserve our properties, please feel free to give me a call and I will be happy to bring you into the loop.

Paul "Pablo" Polichronakis '02
Theta Housing Corporation - President
polichp@alum.rpi.edu | 646.961.3664



Our new boilers.

2009 Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act **Pass the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009**

(H.R. 1547/S.781) Make College More Affordable by Preserving Not-for-Profit Student Housing

Making College More Affordable Means Keeping Student Housing Costs Under Control. The high cost of college is a threat to educational equality and American competitiveness. A quirk in the tax laws allows colleges and universities to use charitable contributions to build and maintain student housing while preventing other not-for-profit student housing entities from doing the same thing.

Now is the Time to Provide Equitable Tax Treatment for All Not-For-Profit Student Housing. There is no sound policy reason for distinguishing between charitable contributions made to colleges and universities for infrastructure improvements and gifts made to other not-for-profit entities such as fraternities and sororities for the benefit of similarly situated students. The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009 (H.R. 1547/S. 781) (CHIA) erases this disparity, allowing tax deductible contributions to not-for-profit student housing entities such as fraternity and sorority foundations to be used for the same purposes that a college or university could use such contributions. In the 110th Congress, CHIA secured 210 sponsors in the house and 40 sponsors in the Senate.

One Out of Every Eight College Students Lives in Greek Housing. The housing shortage would be even worse without fraternities and sororities, who are the nation's largest not-for-profit student landlords. Fraternities and sororities provide housing for over 250,000 students each year at no cost to the host institution. This \$3 billion dollar segment of the not-for-profit housing industry needs CHIA to become law so it can fund safety and structural improvements. Passing CHIA will help give more students access to safe and affordable not-for-profit housing, which is usually less expensive than university residence halls and off-campus housing.

We Must Improve Collegiate Housing Safety, Capacity and Energy Efficiency. Life safety upgrades are the top challenge facing fraternal housing. Only half of our housing has fire sprinklers so our smaller and older living spaces have twice the injury rate of other campus fires and significantly higher rates of property losses. 80% of fatalities in student housing fires since 2000 have occurred in off-campus housing such as fraternities and sororities. Installing automatic sprinkler systems saves lives - there has never been a fire-related fatality in fraternal housing that has sprinklers. Given the age of our housing, there is a need to install modern heating, cooling and electrical systems that are more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

Current Tax Laws Hinder Not-for-Profit Housing Access to Capital for Safety Upgrades. College towns such as Ames (IA), State College (PA), and Columbia (MO) are just some of the cities across the country that have passed ordinances requiring not-for-profit student housing to close if they don't retrofit fire sprinklers by a specific date. Fraternity housing can be up to 100 years old so retrofitting can cost as much as \$200,000. These costs cannot be passed along to current student tenants but the organizations often cannot raise the needed money to retrofit because the contributions are not tax-deductible. If CHIA becomes law, these organizations can raise the funds needed to make their housing safer and better for future generations of students.

CHIA will provide incentive for the generation of funding for capital and safety upgrades through infrastructure improvements and new construction. Over \$1 billion in capital projects have been identified by Greek organizations at campuses across the country. Private funds will create and maintain jobs for local plumbers, roofers, carpenters, electricians, contractors and other individuals working in the suffering construction industry. (Continued on next page)

Pass the Collegiate Housing (cont.)...

Passing the Collegiate House and Infrastructure Act(CHIA) would:

- Ø Make college more affordable with a minimal cost to taxpayers by offering a less expensive housing alternative. The Committee on Joint Taxation scored the cost of CHIA at \$148 million over ten years in 2009.
- Ø Encourage new charitable contributions to improve current collegiate housing, thereby preserving and upgrading existing housing capacity and helping construct the new housing needed to accommodate growing student populations.
- Ø Result in safer student housing by enabling fraternities and sororities to fund the installation of modern life safety equipment such as fire sprinklers, smoke detectors, and alarm systems.
- Ø Create and maintain jobs related to capital construction and improvements.

To become a sponsor of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009 contact Jennifer Pollack in Congresswoman Shelley Berkley's office 225-5969 in the House or Jennifer Cook in Senator Pat Roberts' office 224-4774 in the Senate.

Reproduced from the Capital Fraternal Caucus' Website at <http://www.fraternalcaucus.org>

Announcements:

- Brother Charles Hammond, with his wife '03 Chi Phi sweetheart recipient Becky Hammond, will be relocating to Los Angeles California with the Air Force.
- Brother Mathew Gehret's '05 was recently married and to his wife Dawn, and just had his first daughter Hanna.
- Brother Mark Furler '05 is engaged to marry Erin Dunbar.
- James Hanley '06 is engaged to marry '06 Chi Phi sweetheart recipient Sara Winar in September.
- Brother John Farnsworth '06 married '05 Chi Phi sweetheart recipient Niki Bishop.
- Brother Dan Harmon '04 is married to Erin Yund.
- Brother John Farnsworth '06 recently passed his Quals allowing him to proceed in his pursuits in - Aeronautical Engineering the RPI PHD program.
- Brother Michael Eilenberg '06 recently passed his Quals allowing him to proceed in his pursuits in Biomechatronics in the MIT PHD program.
- Brother Gabe Mulley '06 is engaged to marry Shayla Dunbar .
- Brother Patrick Carey '07 was recently married to Rachael Murphy.
- Special thanks to brother Kris Yee '02 for contributing towards the actives attending congress.
- Special thanks for contributing to the Theta Excellence Fund: Brother Jim Hanley '06, Brother Steve Hamm '96, Brother Joe Doucette '00, Brother William Harper '51.
- Congratulations to brother Kent Worden '69 for receiving the Distinguished Service award for all the great work he has done for the house over the years.

The Theta Record

Official alumni newsletter of the Theta chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity

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Check out our website at:
<http://www.thetaofchphi.org/>



The Theta Excellence Fund:

This year our chapter has again shown distinction among the national organization for being of the top chapters for donations to the Chi Phi Educational Trust (CET) both by number of donations and by amount. Donations from alumni and actives from our chapter totaled over \$5000. With the Theta Chapter Excellence fund active, donations to the fund go to the immediate benefit of the actives through scholarship awarded at the annual reunion banquet in the fall. We really want to express our gratitude towards you and your donations on contributing towards the trust, and for your support towards the brotherhood as a whole. Thank you so much.

To donate to the fund simply fill out your check as shown and address the envelope to the Chi Phi Educational Trust. The Chi Phi Educational trust is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible. In addition to your donation, your employer may offer a donation matching program, please remember to check with your company. Thank you for all your past and future donations.

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