

# THE THETA RECORD

Official Newsletter of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi Fraternity

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# STATE OF THE CHI

Br. Kevin Porrecca '21, Alpha

Brothers,

I want to start by thanking every single Brother for helping to make this semester happen. All the work each of you put in is the reason we were able to successfully open and operate this Fall. Despite the difficulties we've faced with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Theta Chapter has managed another productive semester. We have once again maintained our strong IFC presence with Br. Dan Celic '21 as IFC Secretary, Br. Christian Winicki '22 as Greek Senator, and myself as IFC Public Relations. I am thrilled to announce the younger members of our Chapter stepping up to IFC this coming Spring; with the elections of Br. Ethan Fovel '23 to IFC Treasurer and Br. Roberto Lopez '23 to IFC General Director. Our involvement is more crucial than ever, as we work with the RPI administration to figure out when the campus will reopen to full capacity, safely.

I am more than pleased to announce that the Theta Chapter has won a number of awards from Chi Phi National. These include Outstanding Community Service, Outstanding Recruitment Practices, and the Thomas A. Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence for the 4th consecutive year. I'd also like to congratulate Br. Kent Worden '69 and Br. Peter Gramenides '20 for winning the William M. Byrd Alumnus of the Year Award and the William D. Parr Zeta Award respectively. We've recently begun working on the brand new form of RPI Accreditation called Chapter Profile and I look forward to seeing the results. In terms of new members, we successfully completed the new member process for the Eta Triton pledge class at the start of this semester. Though unorthodox, all Eta Tritons were initiated online by Grand Alpha Br. Bob Walker and Grand Theta Br. Brody Stogdill. The members of this pledge class are being ritually initiated as they return to campus. For this semester, we were able to recruit one new member as the Theta Triton pledge class amidst our first semester of online recruitment due to COVID-19.

Many of the events and goals we try to accomplish in the Fall have been put on hold because of the pandemic. However, like most of the world we have been transitioning to online operations more than ever. Communications between Alumni and Actives has been a wonderful sight to see in our new Discord server and I encourage you all to join if you haven't joined yet. We have hosted a number of successful online recruitment events and I am looking forward to the upcoming online Alumni Weekend. We also were still able to excel in community service and philanthropy thanks to our incredible Philanthropy Chairman Br. Dan Celic '21. Br. Celic was able to find many opportunities for Brothers to help our community at soup kitchens and food banks, in a time where it is needed more than ever. I also want to thank the Brothers for stepping up to this task and sacrificing their time to help others. Another accomplishment is the Brotherhood raised the Chapter GPA to a 3.26 coming into this Fall semester as we continue to strive for academic excellence.

This semester has been incredibly hard on everyone between online classes, limited operations, and staying safe. However, I know the Brothers are working as hard as ever to continually improve our Fraternity. I want to thank all of you for allowing me to be your Alpha for this past year. I truly enjoyed every minute of it and though I'm sad it's come to an end; I have incredibly high hopes for our new Executive Board. They have my complete confidence and I look forward to everything they will accomplish this coming year.

Fraternally,

Br. Kevin Porrecca '21  
Alpha



Br. Porrecca

# AND MY AXE!

Br. Justin Underwood '20, Beta

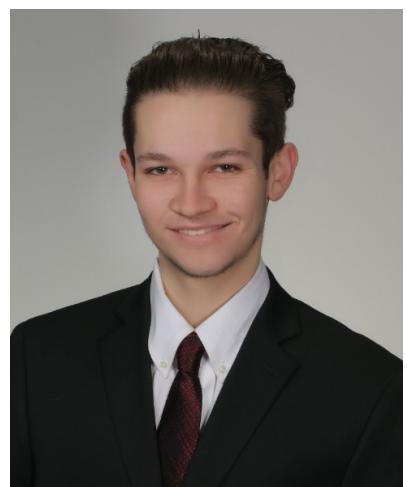
Brothers,

With the Fall semester drawing to a close, I look back on an unusual but productive year with this Executive Board. We have continued to excel despite having to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges associated with it. I worked closely with Br. Kevin Porrecca '21, Br. Connor Hanngi '22, and Br. Paul DeBassio '21 to shape the COVID policies that have allowed us to live in the house safely. These policies were continually updated throughout the semester as we faced new challenges associated with living in and worked together to overcome them.

In addition to the creation and enforcement of our COVID policies, we also had to make changes to the way that committees operated. Committee meetings began happening over Discord instead of in-person and the primary role of certain committees was changed. Because we were unable to hold events this semester, I primarily used committees to plan for our future. I ensured that younger Brothers were placed on committees that they were interested in, and I asked that officers use their committees to plan for the upcoming semester. Officers also began using committee meetings to update members on what they have been doing. This will hopefully make officer transitions much smoother than they have been in the past and allow us to hit the ground running once a vaccine is widely available.

At the beginning of this semester, I worked with the Judicial Board to pass a comprehensive review of our bylaws. Our goal during this process was to make the bylaws more clear and remove any redundancies to hopefully make them more accessible to the entire brotherhood. We then shifted our focus to completing the Summer Arch revisions that were started last semester and approving sweeping point system changes that were approved by the Executive Board.

With this semester coming to a close, I look forward to working with the Beta elect, Br. Paul DeBassio '21, to prepare him for the challenges he will face. He worked in a hospital during the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, and I have full confidence that he can continue keeping the house safe during these trying times. I will also be working closely with all of the officers to ensure that they have a formalized transition process in order to minimize the amount of knowledge lost during transitions. Although I am saddened about my time as Beta coming to an end, I am excited to see what the next Executive Board will be able to accomplish



Fraternally,

Br. Underwood

Br. Justin Underwood '21  
Beta

# BUILDING BETTER BOOKS

Br. Noah Prisament '22, Delta

Brothers,

For the past myriad of years, our Chapter has billed for all of our collections through the bursar. This semester, due to the unwillingness of the school to acknowledge the occupancy of greek houses, we were only allowed to bill for Dues and Fees through the bursar. This left all of the collection of room and board costs to be done internally for the first time in a long time. Though it definitely had a rocky start, I was able to implement direct billing and was able to achieve full payment of all debts notwithstanding payment plans I made with individual Brothers, all of which are up-to-date. This is a telling sign of the resilience of our Chapter and, although this will still be the case for the foreseeable future, we have been able to continue with our 100% collections rate during the interim.

As I talked about in my first newsletter writeup, a priority of mine has been getting our Chapter's tax-exempt status reinstated with the IRS. Although I had wanted to accomplish this during my first semester as Delta, due to the hecticness of COVID-19, I did not accomplish it during that time frame. Luckily, I have been working with a new certified public accountant to get everything sorted out and have been able to file 6 tax returns, along with a number of other forms, this semester to get everything back on track. I will be implementing new procedures and checks to make sure that this never happens again in the future.

Luckily, through careful financial management, our chapter is back in the black for the time being and we even expect to be able to put money back into our savings account again this semester. The summer dues from summer arch brothers helped offset what otherwise would have been an even more strained budget, despite them being reduced in light of the online nature of this past summer semester. However, next semester looks to be even tighter with 3 Brothers graduating, 7 Brothers going on away their away semester this coming spring and the lack of any summer dues. Nonetheless, I will put forth all of my best efforts to make a draft for a successful budget for next semester and help Br. Matthew Auffarth, the newly elected Delta for 2021, finalize it for a financially successful spring. Likewise, throughout my term as Delta, I have worked to implement a robust transition system and compile a thorough repository of all the necessary information for the position. This will allow for a smooth transition without the loss of any crucial knowledge.

Due to the hit to our finances from the effects of COVID-19 and the ramifications of regaining our tax-exempt status, I have begun pursuing alumni collections to help offset some of the burdens. There are many alumni that have recorded debts to the Chapter from their time as active Brothers and I am starting an initiative to collect on these debts. Invoices are actively being sent out to the respective alumni. With this difficult financial time, we immensely appreciate the help and support.

I have continued my philosophy that finance should not be an inhibitor of spending but instead an enabler for an organization to spend on what it wishes to. Throughout my tenure, I have emphasized making investments in the longevity of the house while aiming to make sure that the fraternal functions we were allowed to host weren't hindered by our finances. I am confident that our Chapter's finances will only improve in the coming semesters and in years to come so we can continue providing valuable programming while building better men.

Fraternally,

Br. Noah Prisament '22  
Delta



Br. Prisament

# HANDLING THE PANDEMIC

Br. Connor Hanggi '22, Eta

Brothers,

The responsibilities of the Risk Manager have no doubt changed over the last nine months, but my overall goal remains the same: I want to keep the Brotherhood safe and in good health. After being sent home in the spring, I had figured we would be back on campus by the end of the semester- boy was I wrong. I expected my position to be much less involved in the following weeks since no one was living on campus, but those couple weeks were just the calm before the storm.

With no end in sight for the virus, the remainder of the spring semester and the entirety of the summer were spent working diligently with E-board, particularly Br. Kevin Porrecca '21 and Br. Justin Underwood '21, to make plans for several different possibilities for the fall. We prepared guidelines and move-in times if and when we were eventually allowed back on campus. We also had to be ready for the possibility that we may get sent back home. In addition to the Alpha and Beta, I also worked closely with our Undergraduate Health Officer, Br. Paul DeBassio '21, who worked on the front lines with COVID-19 patients and knew first-hand what we were dealing with. He provided me with helpful insight on COVID protocol and proper use of PPE.

I arrived to campus a few days earlier than the rest of the Brotherhood so I could prepare the house for a carefully structured move-in. The house was stocked with gallons of hand sanitizer, boxes of disposable masks and gloves, thermometers for every Brother, and more cleaning products than any college guy knows what to do with. We have strict protocols aimed to keep Brothers in good health and we are continually updating policies based on state and school standards as well as considering input from Actives and Alumni.

While dealing with a worldwide pandemic is a new responsibility of the Eta, inspection remains generally the same. RPI did not hold their usual inspection this semester; however, our insurance company Holmes Murphy notified us that we were due for an inspection. I am glad this inspection happened because, whether we like to admit it or not, Brothers start getting lax with rules and cleaning. We cannot afford this in today's world. The inspection brought us all together, while also six feet apart, to clean and organize the house for inspection. It was a reminder of how important each shift is and I would like to thank the Brotherhood for all the time and hard work we put into the houses to prepare for this inspection.

I would also like to extend gratitude to our Alumni Advisor, Br. Avery Montembault '03, for taking the time and energy to visit and assist with inspection preparation. We have dealt with the majority of the issues that he or the inspectors found and have planned out longer-term fixes for those issues still left unresolved. I am more than happy with how the Brotherhood is handling the current situation and the amount of cooperation being displayed. As for the future, no one knows what is to come, but I have faith that the next Eta and E-board will be sufficiently prepared to lead the house through it.

Fraternally,

Br. Connor Hanggi '22  
Eta



Br. Hanggi

# FIXING THE FIXER UPPER

Br. Ryan Fishbein '21, Epsilon

Brothers,

We started off this year with a successful Fall work week with a focus on completing some smaller projects, continuing some long-term projects and renovations, and rejuvenating the house after being closed for many months due to the pandemic. Some of the small projects that were completed were repainting the dining room walls, doing some patchwork repair around the Main House, putting in new mulch and bushes in the front gardens and the path to the back patio. Progress on larger projects included increased demolition work on M35 to move its renovation forward and finishing the new sheetrock being put up in M23, another room currently under renovation. Also, thorough cleanings of each floor of both houses and the kitchen occurred during this workweek to help the house to meet the new COVID-19 standards set by the active Brothers. All our efforts during this week were rewarded with the ability to live in the houses safely.

Even with the shortened semester, we were still able to continue with the 4 required hours of Epsilon work that each Brother must complete. It was an integral part of keeping both properties in great condition and increasing Brothers' experience with the upkeep of the house. Throughout our time on campus this semester, we were able to replace the front door of Stroud Hall, fix some electrical problems in both houses, repair the boiler in Stroud Hall, and begin working with Housing Corp. to repair the back staircase and the foundation of the Main House. We had a meeting with Housing Corp. pertaining initially with the repair of the back stairwell, but instead, it helped jumpstart the project of fixing the foundation of the Main House. Now Housing Corp. is moving forward with this new project by getting in touch with engineers and pricing out this venture. The continued bettering of our relationship with Housing Corp. has been a huge asset for our brotherhood.

Some long term projects that are still on the docket are the renovations of both M23 and M35 and the repair of the back staircase. Since I will continue to hold the Epsilon position for another semester, I look forward to continuing working with Housing Corp and the Brotherhood to help accomplish these projects. I would like to thank all of our alumni for their continued contributions to the Fraternity over the years. Without their help, the house would not be in the state that it is today.

Faternally,

Br. Ryan Fishbein '21  
Epsilon

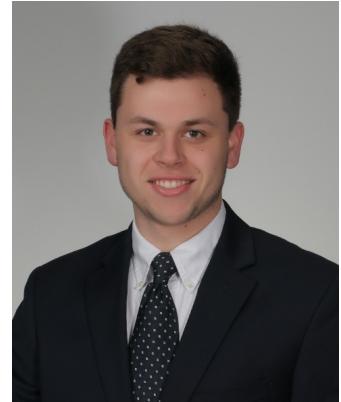


Br. Fishbein

# JOIN THE DISCORD!

**Br. Matthew Fluker '21, Gamma  
Brothers,**

With the ongoing pandemic, communication has been essential while we are operating remotely. This semester, like last, we changed our main method of communication and started a chapter Discord server. The Discord has been great so far; we hold our weekly house meetings on the server over voice calls and have been able to frequently talk with all the alumni who have joined. For all Alumni that are not yet in the Discord, I encourage you to contact me or our new Gamma, Br. Zachary Burpee '23, for instructions.



**Br. Fluker**

During the workweek, I spent some time upgrading the mailbox by making the slots wider and adding some permanent labels for officer mail slots. Additionally, I have been trying to organize all Gamma related information on a single Google Drive to assist in my remote officer transition. I am looking forward to working with our Gamma-elect to ensure a smooth Spring semester. He is a diligent worker and a bright young man, I can't wait to see how he improves the Gamma position.

Fraternally,

**Br. Matthew Fluker '21  
Gamma**

# MEET THE THETA TRITONS

**Br. Kai Haggman '21, Theta  
Brothers,**

This Fall semester, the Theta Chapter initiated the Theta Triton pledge class which consisted of a sole member, Br. Richard Gonzalez '23. The Chapter also initiated the members of the Eta Triton pledge class from the Spring semester through a virtual initiation hosted by Chi Phi Nationals. Five of the new members were also initiated by the Chapter in ritual at the beginning of the semester. These new members have already proven their dedication to the Fraternity through their efforts in learning the history of our house and the values to which we aspire. They have also shown particular merit through their commitment to the process in light of the constraints in place.



**Br. Haggman**

The COVID-19 pandemic has naturally had an impact on the new member process due to the volume of unique and constant challenges that it presented. Working in line with official guidelines and also our own personal safety policies while still delivering the same caliber of candidates has been a key aspiration this semester. However, through our success in adaptation this semester, I am sure that we will be able to meet the new challenges that future semesters might pose. I am looking forward to seeing the impact our new members have on the Fraternity. Congratulations to our newly initiated Brothers!

Fraternally,

**Br. Kai Haggman '21  
Theta**

# RUSH IS "AMONG US"

**Br. Michael Miller '21, Iota**

Brothers,

The trickle-down effects of the COVID-19 virus have provided not only an exponential challenge towards the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi, but Greek Life as a whole. The compounding effect of the virus on institutional closures and gathering policies have in conjunction with deferred recruitment seriously jeopardized the formality of in-person recruitment at Rensselaer. In-person gatherings limited to 10 persons, strict contact tracing, and chapter guest policies restricted the opportunity to hold traditional in-person events; a huge shift was made to migrate recruitment attempts into a virtual atmosphere.

Remote events were the new norm for this semester. We held many successful online rush events through our Discord channel. Our flagship events such as Lobsterfest and Wingstock were replaced with Among Us sessions

and Online Poker Nights. This was a huge shift for us, but despite these changes, we still attracted a decent amount of potential members. I am very proud to say that the Brotherhood was comfortable enough to extend two bids this semester, with one actually being signed. This semester, Greek Life as a whole extended very few bids, which makes me happy to see that we were able to continue good rush practices despite the drastic format change to the rush season.

Rush 365 has always been a mantra for our Chapter. We are making it an imperative to remain in contact with every rushee that attended our events, so that we can continue forming meaningful connections and convince them to rush next semester. We have also been making good use of services such as Chapter Builder to organize our next rush season, which will no doubt also be remote.

I wanted to thank Br. Kevin Porreca '21, Br. Matthew Fluker '21, Br. Noah Prissament '22, and Br. Paul DeBassio '21 for helping me each step of the way. This rush could not have been possible without their support. I also wanted to thank the rest of the Brotherhood in helping us welcome our newest member, Br. Richard Gonzalez '23. I am sure that he will become a valuable asset to our chapter and a benefit to our future rush efforts.

Fraternally,

Br. Michael Miller '21  
Iota



**Br. Miller**

# CONTINUED SUCCESS

**Br. Noah Prisament '22 & Br. Zachary Ward '21, Public Relations Chairs**

Brothers,

This semester, we are overjoyed to be able to report that Theta has been honored with the distinction of Thomas A. Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence for the fourth consecutive year. This year we also won an additional 4 awards; the chapter awards for Outstanding Community Service and Outstanding Recruitment Practices, the William M. Byrd Alumnus of the Year Award to Br. Kent Worden '69 and the William D. Parr Zeta Award to Br. Peter Gramenides '20. Chi Phi national has continued with their transition to a new accreditation system, however, due to COVID-19, this transition has been put on hold and a modified accreditation system was implemented for the interim. This modified system solely involves sending a number of documents to Chi Phi national which are graded in a moreso checklist-esque manner. We have submitted this accreditation for 2020 and expect to do well on it.

On the other hand, we have continued our successful accreditation with RPI and received 5 stars for the second year in a row. Similarly to Chi Phi national, RPI is also undergoing a change to their accreditation processes from the 5-star system to a new semesterly process called Chapter Profile that aims to better evaluate Fraternities against their own efforts and goals in a qualitative manner as opposed to the often arbitrary point assignments that were rampant in 5-star. The Theta Chapter has been working tirelessly to transition to this new system in the somewhat rushed timeframe that it was implemented with; we have sent in what we hope to be a submission that grants us a rating of Excellent, the top score within this new system. We look forward to transitioning into the Spring and continuing our successful public relations.

Fraternally,

Br. Noah Prisament '22 & Br. Zachary Ward '21  
Public Relations Chairs



**Br. Prisament**



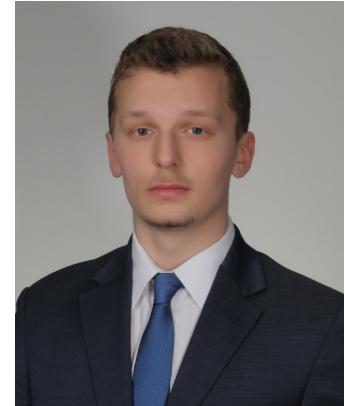
**Br. Ward**

# A COMMUNITY IN NEED

**Br. Daniel Celic '21, Philanthropy Chair**

Brothers,

Our primary focus this semester was aiding those in need of food and goods. This has been an increasing need in many communities this semester due to the pandemic and its effects on people's livelihoods. We partnered with the Albany Regional Food Bank at Northway Lane to consistently volunteer Tuesdays-Thursdays, every week, 3-4 people at a time.



**Br. Celic**

We have continued to stay in touch with Pastor Tim Stockwell at Victorious Life Christian Church in downtown Troy. Brothers of the house volunteered at "His Table" soup kitchen, providing community dinners and for their program "Provisions" to pack and distribute essential goods for those in need. Among the active fraternity, we were able to dedicate over 100 hours and fundraise \$500 to donate to these groups. It's been a humbling experience so far working with the leaders of these fantastic organizations and impacting the lives of those they serve. We look to continue aiding the efforts of the food bank and parish and search for more opportunities come next semester.

Fraternally,

**Br. Daniel Celic '21**  
Philanthropy Chair

# STRIVING FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**Br. Trenton Squires '22, Scholarship Chair**

Brothers,

This semester, I worked to maintain the high academic standards of the Brotherhood. The average GPA of the brotherhood currently stands at 3.26 as of spring 2020. I worked to help the brotherhood maintain or improve this average GPA through several methods. I encouraged Brothers to attend biweekly study hours in order to have a proactive study environment and to take part in one-and-one tutoring sessions to collaborate and ask for help on particular subjects.



**Br. Squires**

To reward Brothers for their academic successes and to appeal to some Brothers' competitive sides, I created an achievement chart. Brothers got points towards the achievement chart for every high grade they got on a noteworthy assignment, such as tests, term papers and projects. I hope the monetary reward of this chart encourages brothers to continue doing well on assignments as finals week approaches. While I will be away next semester for Arch, I hope that my work has helped contribute to the academic success of everyone in the chapter this semester. And with the demonstrated perseverance of this chapter, I am sure that everyone will continue to succeed in coming semesters.

Fraternally,

**Trenton Squires '22**  
Scholarship Chair

# SOCIALLY DISTANCING

**Br. Thomas Neuman '21, Social Chair**

Brothers,

This semester presented the Brotherhood with an unprecedented challenge to stay social. Given the house's proactive and stringent COVID-19 prevention protocol, the Brotherhood was unable to host and take part in social events with other organizations on campus. However, these unprecedented times bestowed the house with a unique opportunity to focus within. In order to maintain strong relationships within the house, the Brotherhood took part in weekly events that facilitated positive Brotherhood interaction. These events were able to expound upon some of the precedents set by past socials (Br. Matthew Fluker '21, Br. Brian Sposato '20, and Br. John Farrell '20). While these small gatherings were extremely well received, it is important to note that all were completed in strict adherence to COVID-19 policy (face coverings, respect of room capacities, etc.).



**Br. Neuman**

I am extremely grateful for the work done by Br. Shin Sasakura '21 (my appointed Brotherhood Chair) to go above and beyond what is generally asked of the position. Br. Sasakura actively took part in the safe adaptation of the position to continue the unique social aspect of the Fraternity. During his time in the position, Br. Sasakura was able to plan and host several Brotherhood events including hiking trips, bowling nights, poker nights, movie nights and other game competitions. I was also extremely pleased with the work done by Br. Marcello Degani '22 as sports chair. While the Fraternity was not able to actively participate in intramural sports he actively planned sports events to keep the Brotherhood active.

Overall, the ability of the Brotherhood to remain social during this crisis is a testament to not only the hard work done to keep the Brotherhood safe, but also the resilience of the Fraternity as a whole. It is my hope that instead of seeing the Fall 2020 semester as the beginning of a "dark winter", Brothers will now have the opportunity to look back upon the relationships they strengthened with one another.

Fraternally,

Br. Thomas Neuman  
Social Chair

# VIRTUAL ALUMNI WEEKEND

**Br. Anton Kapitman '21, Alumni Relations Chair**

Brothers,

This semester has been all about emphasizing the health and safety of our Brothers and Alumni during these troubled times, while still maintaining strong brotherly relationships with one another. Unlike typical Alumni events, events hosted this semester have been and will continue to be fully virtual, including our semiannual Alumni Weekend. Instead of gathering at the house this semester, Brothers and Alumni met through online platforms, such as Webex and Discord, to continue discussions with the Theta Alumni Association and Theta Housing Corporation. This ensured that we are constantly moving forward and making progress, as well as keeping the Alumni informed of our operations as a house.



**Br. Kapitman**

With RPI's summer arch program going into its 3rd year, the job market for college students will be highly competitive; in conjunction with the pandemic, it will be even tougher than before to secure a position. To combat this, Brothers seeking employment, or even just words of wisdom, were paired up with Alumni during Alumni Weekend to receive advice on how to pursue their professional careers. I believe that this was a very enriching experience for both parties and hopefully this can be implemented more often in the future.

Overall, I would say this Alumni Weekend was quite successful. It was great to see everybody, even if it was remote. We hope that everybody continues to stay healthy as we await your return in the future. We will get through this together!

Fraternally,

Anton Kapitman '21  
Alumni Relations Chair

# CORONA FRIENDLY RITUAL

Br. Hunter Hoffman '21, Zeta

Brothers,

The Zeta's priority is to maintain our rituals and traditions as well as the values that the Brotherhood holds dear. In these times of crisis, it is very easy to forget what it can mean to be a Chi Phi. I wanted to personally commend Br. Aidan Weathers '22 for continuing the connection we share through our rituals over the pandemic. We are dealing with unprecedented times and he valiantly maintained our values through ritual and tradition through his term.

COVID-19 put a real dampener on what we can accomplish as a Chapter. As you may have already heard, RPI set policies in place to ensure social distancing guidelines were being met. One such operation that was hindered by these policies was our ritual. Our rituals are what distinguish us from other fraternities. It is what makes us Chi Phi. Without ritual, we lose our very purpose as an organization.

I was personally tasked with holding these rituals while keeping in mind social distancing. All of the rituals we held this semester were successfully accomplished to the best of our abilities. They may not have been organized in the same fashion that most Brothers are used to, but the health and safety of our members takes top priority.

Our Alumni Relations position gained even greater importance. I have been working diligently with Br. Anton Kapitman '21 and Br. Nathan Rosengrant '18 in order to ensure a successful and safe Alumni Weekend. Along with the usual TAA and Housing Corp meetings, we plan to hold many other fun events remotely. Since we are not sure when the next in person Alumni Weekend is, we are giving the option to our most recent Alumni to be officially installed remotely. This option is also open to any Alumni who have not been officially installed at any point in time.

I wish the best to our newly elected Zeta, Br. Ethan Fovel '23. I am confident that he will fill the Zeta role well and will expand upon the position. He is a dedicated Brother who cares deeply for our rituals, history and customs. I plan to work closely with Ethan to help his transition to the position and ensure that our rituals are upheld responsibly.

Fraternally,

Br. Hunter Hoffman '21  
Zeta



Br. Hoffman

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR TAA PRESIDENT

Br. Nathan Rosengrant '21, TAA President

Brothers,

Despite a year filled with challenges and heartache, I am incredibly proud to announce that the Active Chapter has won the Thomas A. Ghering Award for Chapter Excellence. This marks the fourth consecutive win for the Theta Chapter. As many of you are aware, the RPI administration has implemented policies to neuter Greek Life in the past few semesters. To name a few of these changes, RPI administration has implemented deferred recruitment without Greek input, closed chapter houses to residents during Summer Arch, and increased minimum suspension to 6 semesters for minor infractions. The Active Brothers have been able to adeptly navigate these difficult changes and continue to thrive.

I would like to take a moment to notify those of you who do not know that Br. Randall French '00 entered Chapter Eternal after losing his battle to COVID-19. Br. French is survived by his wife, Danielle French, as well as his two daughters, Caitlyn and Juliana French. The Active Chapter, several Brothers and the TAA have all made donations to the family. The Theta Chapter will also be making a donation to RPI Ambulance in Br. French's honor. If you would like to make a donation, please reach out to me and I will help coordinate.

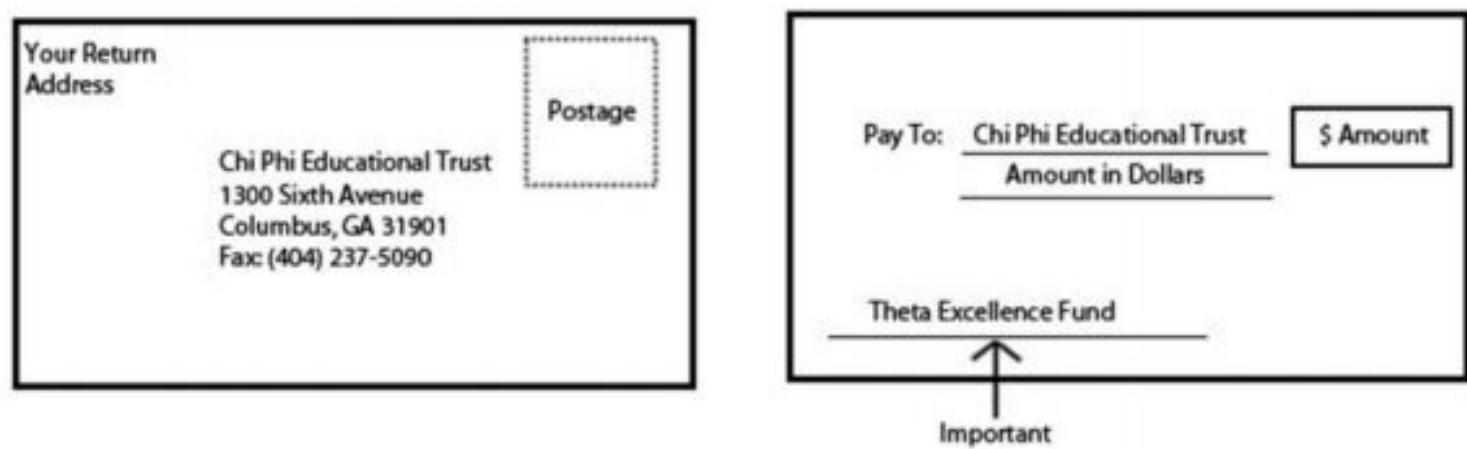
The Brotherhood has recently completed a virtual Alumni Weekend, TAA Meeting and Housing Corp Meeting. We had a very promising turnout with over 30 Brothers attending the TAA Meeting. During the meeting, we discussed the potential of hosting a large Fall 2021 Alumni Weekend once the world begins to return to normal with the release of the COVID-19 vaccine. If you would like to be on the ad hoc committee to plan this weekend, please reach out to me. I would like to congratulate Br. Nick Laferriere '11 on his reelection as TAA Secretary. During the Spring 2021 Alumni Meeting, the TAA President, Vice President and one Member at Large will be up for election. Please reach out if you would like to run for any of these positions.

Fraternally,

Nathan Rosengrant '18  
TAA President  
[nrosengrant7@gmail.com](mailto:nrosengrant7@gmail.com)

# THETA EXCELLENCE FUND

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. If you would like to help the chapter through donating directly to the Theta Excellence fund please follow the instructions below:



## CHAPTER DONATIONS

Want to have a direct impact on the chapter? Please contact the Alpha, Noah Prisament, at alpha.theta.chiphi@gmail.com to discuss room dedications and contributing to housing renovations in the Chi or Stroud Hall. Recent contributions from Alumni include Br. Kent Worden '69 renovating the main house bathrooms and Br. Charlie Hammond '04 installing new lights in the dining room. All donations from Alumni towards housing renovations are honored with plaques and room dedications for contributions and generosity. Get involved and invest in the future of our chapter!

## ALUMNI UPDATE

Br. Nick Laferriere '11 was reelected as TAA Secretary

Br. Robert Rouhani '13 and Ann had a kid this past November

Br. Robert Spicer '13 is going to Carnegie Melon for Graduate School

TAA President, Vice President, and 1 Member at Large will be up for election in Spring 2021