

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

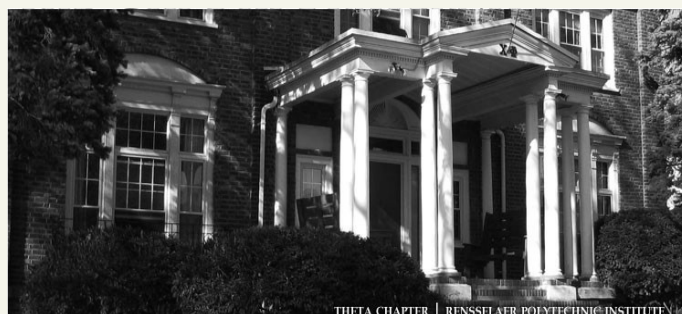
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A GOOD YEAR

The spring of 2009 has proven to be an outstanding semester and Fall is looking to follow this trend. The chapter has been re-asserting its standing among the Greek community as well as the Rensselaer community as a whole. From completing the 5-star to opening the Fall semester with a ridiculous party, we are putting ourselves back on the map.

The Spring semester brought us seven new brothers who have already proven to be great additions to the house. On top of buttressing our numbers with some more non-



THETA CHAPTER | RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

seniors they have really stepped up to the plate in regards to taking charge and getting things done.

We have had a couple of very productive work weeks during which a lot of junk was disposed of and many things were fixed.

The Fall 2009 for-

mal is clear on the horizon and we look forward to seeing all our recently signed pledges attending. It looks like a strong group that will make excellent Chi Phi brother material.

The last semester was good and the next is looking to be even better!

A big thanks to all the alumni who made the trip out to RPI in October. It was great to have all of you here and hear how everything is going. We look forward to seeing you all again soon!

ALPHA SETS THE BEAT

The year has been very solid for the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi. Last spring we had a very good rush which resulted in eight new members who all seem like very good candidates for positions in the house in the future. We have been doing a good job focusing on strengthening our relationship with the school. Theta has been doing its best to comply to the changes to Greek Life in order to look good in the eyes of RPI again.

A lot of new things have been happening with the Greek Life on campus such as the new bursar billing system, the sophomore housing, and the 5 Star. With the help of our newly elected position, the public relations position, who is currently Br. Ide, Theta has been doing its best to strengthen its relationship with the administration. After a grueling couple of weeks back in January and February, we finished writing the 5 Star, which is a rating system for the school to rate each fraternity based on philanthropic events, academics, events with other fraternities and sororities, etc. The house received a four star rating, which we are very proud of.

Due to our semester on sus-



pension, our house was made up of only seniors and sophomores. Next spring about 20 brothers will be graduating which means that our main focus needed to be on rush and getting new members. With the help of our rush chair, Br. Dana Schnabel, the theta chapter had a very successful rush. We gave out a total of 25 bids to guys of various years. We got 15 of them to sign their bids and begin our pledging process.

Back on April 4th 2009, I had the privilege of attending the Sigma

Zeta Chartering at the Marriot in Albany. It was a wonderful event in which we got to see our brothers at Albany go from a colony, which it had been for 20 years, to a chapter. I couldn't believe how much excitement was in the room when the charter was revealed to everyone. Also, later this semester, Theta will be hosting RLA. We are very excited to be doing so, even though it is a lot of work. We are currently in the midst of planning the weekend. RLA will begin on the 6th of November and end on the 8th.

I believe the house is headed in the right direction with the school and with keeping this house alive. I am confident that when I step down from my position this winter, the house will continue in the right direction with a new E-board. I'd like to thank the brothers who graduated last semester for their hard work over the years and setting a good example for all us. I'd like to wish them luck on their next steps through life. We have been working hard to achieve our goals for 2009 and I am very excited to see what the rest of the year has in store for us.

Drew Shamyner

Alpha '09

BETA BUILDING RELATIONS

In his Farewell Address, George Washington preached a policy of isolationism in order to safeguard the country from the perils of alliances. As the Beta of the house I must respectfully disagree with President Washington. Now more than ever is the time to embrace our brothers of different houses. As many know in light of the recent economic hardships, Greek Dean Jessica Wickewicz was dismissed from the school at the close of the fall 2008 semester. This essentially removed the main conduit of Greek interaction with the administration. Another hurdle the Greeks will face in the future is the CLASS Initiative that RPI plans to institute with the incoming freshman class. Among other things, it would require sophomores to live on campus. Fraternities would likewise have the option of having their billing systems administrated by RPI in order to be considered "On-Campus" housing. These obstacles certainly represent a trying time in the future of Greek Life here at RPI. As the Inter-Fraternity Council Delegate

of the house, I have watched the leaders of the Greek community unite in

I feel that our new relationships are creating not only a strong social network but a responsible one as well.

order to protect that future. I am proud to represent Chi Phi at our weekly meetings and have become a member of a number of committees in the IFC ensuring the interests of the house are attended to within the policies applied to the Greek community as a whole.

Besides the general Greek unity that the campus has recently surged with, I feel the Chi Phi has begun to build a great relationship with multiple houses across campus. After hosting a hugely successful live music philanthropy event in the fall, we have fostered relationships with Phi Mu

Delta, Delta Tau Delta and our 15th Street neighbors, Sigma Phi Epsilon. I feel that our new relationships are creating not only a strong social network but a responsible one as well. Philanthropy has come to be a huge focus of our house. After Chi Phi Live (our music event in the fall) Delta Tau Delta hosted a similar event in the spring beginning what I hope will become a tradition of Brotherhood, philanthropy and a general social relationship with an increasing number of houses on campus.

I would love alumni input on anything. Your experiences at the house are invaluable in terms of our future positions. Please feel free to contact me at the house address with any questions, comments or concerns.

Fraternally,

John Mazza

Beta '09

BEHIND THE SCENES

While everyone seems to think that the gamma plays a very small role when it comes to running the house, most of the responsibilities occur behind the scenes to keep the house running smoothly. The gamma is responsible for all paperwork flowing in and out of the chapter house that keeps us recognized by the school and our national office. Another thing the gamma is responsible for is making sure that all the brothers in the chapter apply for the available scholarships on time. This ensures that all available scholarship money is received, which relieves financial stress on many of our brothers. In addition to all of these

things I have constructed a complete and working contact list so that every brother can be in contact when it is needed. This is necessary for house cohesion and can assist in emergencies that may arise. In conclusion, while it may seem as if the gamma doesn't do much to keep the house running, a lot is done in the background to maintain a smoothly running operation that is the Chi Phi Fraternity.

Brian Urbach

Gamma '09



Apocalypse Wing-eating competition at the Fall 2009 Wingstock

THE CASH REGISTER

The year of 2009 has been a prosperous one thus far. We have started collecting old debt from some of the folks who owed quite a lot of money to the house. We have reduced our running cost significantly by cutting some of the unnecessary expenditures. One of which was, unlimited nationwide calling on all of our phone lines. As you can see, this was probably a bad idea since two of the lines are backups for the

fire alarm. That alone saved us around \$150 a month. We are also enrolled in a New Choices plan from National Grid which saved us a significant amount on our gas bill as of late. All in all, the house financials are in excellent conditions and we seem to have a great sum of people living in the house over the summer as well. We may be also getting involved in an RPI billing system in which we go through them to disperse the

bills, instead of dispersing them ourselves. This will decrease the ability to accumulate debt because if you don't pay your bill from RPI, you can't register for classes, nor graduate. Things are flowing quite smoothly at the house when it comes to financials.

Dave Przybylo

Delta '09

MEET THE OFFICERS



Drew Shamyar
Alpha



John Mazza
Beta



Brian Urbach
Gamma



Dave Przybylo
Delta and Wiring



Chris Patton
Epsilon and Social



Robert Garstka
Zeta



Andrew Biro
Eta



Ben Alston
Philanthropy



James Peterson
Pledge Educator



Dana Schnabel
Rush



Marshal Farley
Sports

FIX IT UP

The fall semester was kicked off with an excellent workweek this year. 3 major projects were completed, and the usual 30 yard dumpster was magically filled to brim. For some reason the distinguished residents of Troy thought it would be an amusing past time to kick out the majority of the vertical fence posts that join the upper and lower cross members of our fence. The brothers did a great job of replacing the broken pieces, scraping/sanding, and repainting the entire fence. The first floor of the Annex had the carpet ripped

out last year, so this year we figured it was time to refinish the hardwood floors. Renting a floor sander from Home Depot let us prep the floor nicely, which gave the coats of dark stain and polyurethane a great luster. The main house front door has seen a lot of damage to the locking mechanism is recent years; the door had been replaced entirely just last year. In the spring we fitted the new door with a new keypad/doorknob to match the Annex front door, but unfortunately the fasteners stripped out and the door would stick open often. With

the help of recent alumnus Brother Pierno, we were able to build a custom new door made from red oak, angle iron, and stainless hardware. The new door stands out, and gives off a rather medieval aura. As I pass on my Epsilon duties this fall I hope to have instilled some pride in the house with the projects we accomplished. Also, a very big thank you to the Alumni who donated to the Epsilon budget this year!

Chris Patton

Epsilon '09



Our new front door. You'd need a cannon to break this thing down.



Left: The refinished floor on the first floor of the Annex.

Right: Some of old and new Theta.



GOING DOWN IN HISTORY

This year has been a good one in historical terms. The Theta Alumni Association has been very active this past semester. Due to many generous alumni donations, it was possible to give out two scholarships. These are the Andrew Colditz award; given to a recently initiated member who has done a great deal for the house. This was awarded to brother Dana Schnabel of the Theta Deuteron class. The other award is the Steve "Rusty" Gordon award which goes to someone on E-Board who has shown outstanding leadership to the house. That award went to

brother Aaron Ide of the Delta Deuteron class. Congratulations to both of these brothers.

We also had a large turnout for the TAA meeting and homecoming weekend held on October 2nd and 3rd. We had a number of alumni from as far back as the graduating class of '49 and it was great to talk to them and hear some old-school stories. Thanks for stopping by guys!

An interesting piece of history came our way when we found on E-Bay a really nice print from a steel plate engraving done in

1891. It depicts a rock with waves crashing onto it and the sun rising in the background with the Theta and Chi Phi letters on it. It's always fun to find little things like that.

I am happy to say that with the progress made in many areas such as outside relations, pledges, unity and the house building itself, we will be able to comfortably continue our history for many years to come.

Rob Garstka

Zeta '09

THE SAFE ZONE



The Great Jim Hanley
serving Apocalypse wings
in a fire suit

Yet another semester is underway, and after a safe and productive workweek, everyone is getting back to the daily routine of classes. The City of Troy / RPI house inspection came and went with a promise of documentation to outline things we should correct in the coming months. Despite several attempts to contact both parties, no information has been received. However, some updates that were made to the houses include updated bash guards and springs on all fire escape doors, better locations for smoke alarms, and the addition of carbon monoxide detectors. The fire extinguishers and kitchen are scheduled to be inspected on September 23.

September 18 marked the first confirmed case of the H1N1 virus at RPI.

However, the Health Center announced that the student had been isolated, and the recently approved FDA vaccine will be available to the Rensselaer community by mid-October. To combat the flu season, antibacterial soaps and hand sanitizers were added to bathrooms in both houses. Those who feel sick are doing well to avoid contact with the rest of the house, and no severe symptoms have been reported by any brothers.

As the semester progresses, we look toward maintaining a safe and healthy brotherhood.

Andrew Biro

Eta '09

MAKING US LOOK GOOD

As the inaugural office holder of the Public Relations position in the Theta Chapter it is my job to set a precedence as to what the position will entail in the future. We created this position because we decided as a house that the days of trying to stay below the radar to stay out of trouble are behind us. With the current administration, we need to proactively promote ourselves in order to not fall under the boot heel of RPI. My duties have been to take over the awards applications from the Gamma, and some of the documentation of our chapters current activities from the Zeta.

In addition, I am responsible for making sure our good deeds are being noticed by the Institute and the community.

The first major task I undertook was the submission of the Five-star Standards of Excellence. The five-star is a cumulative award for ranking each fraternity and sorority on campus and gives us a way of showing off what we do for the community, as well as kissing Shirley Ann Jackson's ass a little bit. The next task I have undertaken is the Gehring Award given through the Chi Phi national office. I

also have been pushing for the brothers of our house to apply for the Scholarship Program given through the Chi Phi Educational Trust. My plans for the future are to promote our philanthropy events and get them published in the Polytechnic as well as acknowledged by the city of Troy. Finally, I would like to ask anyone for suggestion on how I can better the public image of our chapter. My email is: idea@rpi.edu.

Br. Aaron Ide

Public Relations Chair '09

GET THIS PARTY STARTED

After being on suspension for longer than anyone wanted to be, Chi Phi has made it back onto the social scene at RPI. We hosted a festival party with Sig Ep and Tep on the Friday of work week, and it was a great success. At the end of the Das Boot event Sig Ep was crowned the winners. The event was accompanied by an enjoyable and uncharacteristically good (possibly reversed) ratio of RPI ladies. Dates have been set for mixers with sororities; AOE and Alpha Phi. The Scarlet and Blue formal was a great experience this

fall. On top of giving out the 15 bids and welcoming our new pledges, The event doubled as alumni weekend and a reunion with brothers from Chi Phi of the 50s. It was an honor to have 113 guests at the dinner; thanks for your support!

Chris Patton

Social '09



A big group of us at Red Robin

BROTHERS IN THE MAKING

*25 bids were given out
and 15 pledges have
dedicated themselves*



The fall semester started off with a bang, having one of the best rushes brothers have seen. Many of the older members noted some of the highest turnouts in years, including our largest event, Wingstock, with an attendance larger than any active brother has seen in years past.

25 bids were given out and 15 pledges have dedicated themselves to becoming a Chi Phi. The large number of bids given out is due to the fact that currently we have no juniors in the house due to recent suspension during that time period. Close to half of the active members in the house will be leaving at the end of this year, and it

has become our goal to not lose our strong base of brothers in the house. With this coming exodus, it will be important to give the pledges an important sense of duty in the house, because in the upcoming year, leadership will fall onto the ones that have truly become a part of chi phi.

James Peterson
Pledge Educator '09

Left: The pledges and their pledge educator.

Right: The chicken suit drew a lot of people to Wingstock.



ALUMNI CORNER

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. Also as a result I am proud to announce that with some recent donations from several alumni, special thanks to Stephen Gordon and the 50's alumni, our Chapter Excellence fund is now active. With the Theta Chapter Excellence fund active for the first time donations to the fund can go to the immediate benefit of the actives.

With the Theta Excellence Fund active our first goal is to provide a semesterly scholarship in honor of brother, Andrew Colditz, who passed away in 2005. The scholarship is for a new member in each pledge class who met a minimum GPA requirement and was found to best represent the values of Chi Phi as a new member to the organization. Also 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 would be for any brother showing leadership through his activities with the house.

It is also my pleasure to announce the first two scholarship winners for 2009. The winner for the Andrew Colditz memorial scholarship is Dana Schnabel. Still new to the organization Dana stepped forward as rush chair and brought in 15 new pledges for our fall class and has showed continued leadership in the organization. These numbers are the equivalent for one new pledge for every two brothers. The winner for the Stephen "Rusty" Gordon scholarship is Aaron Ide. Aaron Ide has consistently served as a leader among the actives with such fine examples as playing an active role with the Chi Phi Congress. Also noted Aaron took on the daunting task completing the chapters 5 Start Accreditation, a long multifaceted document detailing the chapter's works, which established a precedent for the approval rating the chapter has from the school. As a member of the Theta Alumni Association I can only hope that we have such fine examples of gentlemen deserving of these scholarships going forward.

If you would like to help the chapter through donating directly to the Theta Excellence fund please follow the instructions on the next page.

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.

Brother Mark Furler '05 is engaged to marry Erin Dunbar

Brother James Hanley '06 is engaged to marry '06 Chi Phi sweetheart recipient Sara Winar

Brother John Farnsworth '06 is engaged to marry '05 Chi Phi sweetheart recipient Niki Bishop.

Brother Dan Harmon '04 is engaged to Erin Yund.

Brother John Farnsworth '06 recently passed his Qualls allowing him to proceed in his pursuits in Aeronautical Engineering the RPI PHD program.

Brother Michael Eilenberg '06 recently passed his Qualls allowing him to proceed in his pursuits in Biomechanics in the MIT PHD program.

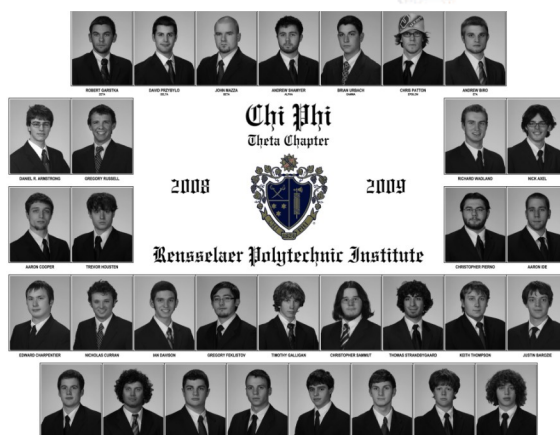
Brother Gabe Mulley '06 is engaged to marry Shayla Dunbar

Brother Patrick Carey '07 was recently married to Rachael Murphy.

The Theta Excellence Fund:

To donate to the fund simply fill out your check as shown and address the envelope to the Chi Phi Educational Trust. 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		

**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 on the Mijoy. Trip will be in early August and date set depending on the parties interested. The plan: Set sail for the best Blue Fish and Bass fishing areas. Last year the average catch per person in our group was 2 fish each. Spouses and family are welcome.

If you are interested, please contact Jim Hanley at james.j.hanley@gmail.com or by phone at (518)-258-5009. Spots are limited on the vessel, so RSVP

Br. James Hanley '06

CHI PHI



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