George P. Kalv, Gamma Beta ’47, made history by establishing the first named permanent fund within the Theta Tau Educational Foundation. Brother Kalv contributed substantial sums set aside in a separate fund in his name to finance the scholarships for student members of Theta Tau in perpetuity. A portion of the interest/investment income from that permanent fund will be used to advance these scholarship goals for Theta Tau, thus preserving the principal in the fund.

The Iota Beta permanent fund was made possible through contribution of proceeds from the sale of the chapter house on McNichols Avenue in Detroit by the McNichols House Corporation in 2007. By donor direction at the time the fund was established, the Foundation gives precedence to applicants attending a Catholic University (like the University of Detroit) and other students attending a college/university in the state of Michigan. It is hoped that at such time as Theta Tau is able to reestablish its chapter at the University of Detroit Mercy that this fund will solely benefit its student members.

The Simon Ramo, Lambda ’33, Permanent Fund was established by this internationally renowned scientist, engineer, and Theta Tau Alumni Hall of Fame Laureate. Dr. Ramo, a founding member of the National Academy of Engineering, held 25 patents by the age of 30. In the latter half of the 20th century, he led the development of microwave and missile technologies. He is one of the nation’s key advisors on science and technology. The IEEE Ramo Medal is named in his honor and his engineering honors and achievements are simply too numerous to list.

The Robert L. Miller, Omicron ’41, Permanent Fund was established in 2009 by this Alumni Hall of Fame Laureate, engineer, and entrepreneur. Bob is founder of Prime Plastics in northern Ohio, and former directors of the Corrugated Plastic Tubing Association, and Society of Plastic Engineers, and is author of multiple technical papers on extrusion and corrugation techniques. Bob received his Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Iowa. He was Akron Engineer of the year and helped found the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Akron. Bob has attended many Theta Tau national meetings and has served on the Alumni Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

The William S. Johnson, Rho ’42, Permanent Fund was established in 2009 via bequest from the estate of this alumnus. Brother Johnson served his nation as an aerospace engineer in the US Air Force and was responsible for the air transport command in the China-India-Burma Theater during WWII. He received the Asia Pacific Ribbon and Bronze Star for
his service. He received his BS in Aeronautical Engineering from The North Carolina State University at Raleigh and subsequent degrees from the California Institute of Technology and the Southern Methodist University. His professional employment as an engineer included work for General Dynamics, and the Chrysler Corporation Space Division.

J.B. “Bert” Ladd is the retired founder and CEO of Ladd Petroleum Corp. He earned a bachelor’s degree in petroleum engineering from KU in 1949. Ladd enrolled at KU in 1942 but placed his college aspirations on hold during World War II. After being honorably discharged as a first lieutenant from the U.S. Army Air Corps, he returned to KU to finish his degree. Upon graduation, Ladd found employment with a firm that would later become Texaco. In 1957, Ladd joined Consolidated Oil and Gas as its vice president of operations but left to spend a year working in Citibank’s new loan group that served the international and domestic petroleum industry. In 1968, he formed Ladd Petroleum Corp., which by 1973 had achieved significant industry stature and about 5,000 shareholders. Ladd Petroleum merged with Utah International, which subsequently was acquired by industry giant General Electric in 1976. Ladd continued to work as president and chairman of Ladd Petroleum until he resigned in 1979. He has remained active in the petroleum industry and corporate world and serves as a director of Whiting Petroleum Corp., which he helped found 25 years ago.

The Jeremy G. Chan, Tau Gamma ’08, Permanent Fund was created in 2010 by Jeremy’s family, friends, and brothers in his memory. A charter member of our chapter at the University of Pennsylvania, Jeremy passed away in a canoeing accident in May 2010. This fund was created to provide a scholarship in honor of Brother Chan who had both quiet wisdom and great kindness.

Jeremy’s appetite for challenges served him well at Penn, where he excelled academically in mechanical engineering. He likewise rose to overcome obstacles as co-chairman of Tau Gamma’s first rush and then as mastermind and pioneering guide for the chapter’s formative pledging programs. He continued to play an important role advising new generations of brothers as the Colony at Penn became Tau Gamma Chapter in 2008. After graduating magna cum laude, Jeremy continued to visit the chapter several times as an alumnus, glad to reap the spirit and joys of the brotherhood he was instrumental in creating. Jeremy applied his skills to the work of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation’s largest health-focused philanthropy.

The Theta Tau Educational Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Federal Tax ID# 43-1774314. To the extent allowed by law, contributions to the Foundation are fully tax deductible. The permanent funds created by or created in honor of these members will continue to benefit members of Theta Tau in perpetuity. Please remember the Theta Tau Educational Foundation in your planned giving. Feel free to contact the Theta Tau Central Office for more information.