Taking a Deeper Look at Mental Health

The Great Lakes Regional Conference presented a comprehensive mental health awareness program for the benefit of themselves and their peers.
Taking a Deeper Look at Mental Health

Exploring Old Rag

Away Field Advantage
One of the longest running events in the history of Theta Tau is the National Convention. Originating in 1911 and held in even-numbered years since 1946, it is where new legislation is passed and the future of the fraternity is shaped with contributions from brothers from every chapter. Many major events in Theta Tau’s history have come from National Convention, including changing the name of the fraternity to Theta Tau, creating The Gear, allowing the initiation of female members, and creating the Risk Management policy, just to name a few.

I attended this noteworthy event for the first time this past summer. The 2016 National Convention was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, and several new changes were announced for this Convention, including the addition of a Theta Tau Career Fair. Since this was my first time attending a national event, I didn’t quite know what to expect.

However, the career fair was certainly the high point on my trip. This career fair was my first time ever networking to more than one company at a time, let alone face to face with potential 13 companies. I was extremely nervous minutes before the event had started. Approaching the first booth, I wasn’t sure how I would start the conversation; I went for the simplest line “Hello, I’m Tyler”. After my introduction, and a firm handshake, everything went smoothly. I felt comfortable talking to the representatives of the company, collecting valuable information that would better my understanding of what they do.

I ended up talking to five different representatives from five separate companies. I was able to hand out my resume to each of them and left the career fair feeling confident in myself as a professional figure. This career fair greatly improved my self-esteem, and taught me how to sell myself (a vital skill to possess in the professional world).

Another cool thing we did was go on a tour of the Great American Ball Park, the home of the Cincinnati Reds. It was cool to see a place that had so much history and notoriety, especially for those of us that were baseball fans.

As for convention itself, significant legislation was passed. We approved extensive revisions to our constitution, proposed several new additions to the Policies and Procedures Manual, and also created a Student Advisory Committee to replace the former position of Student Member. This Theta Tau National Convention was an amazing experience; I learned so many things, and I would highly recommend as many brothers to attend this event!
2016 Awards Summary

Robert E. Pope
Outstanding Student Member
Nicholas Bely
(Wayne State)

The Alumni Hall of Fame inducted three new honorees:
Thomas Irwin
(Michigan Tech)’63
James Spann
(Alabama)’78
Stephen Maxley,
(Alabama)’22,
posthumously

20% growth
Chapters that grew by 20% or more in membership
Tennessee
Wayne State
Cincinnati
Illinois
VCU
UC Merced
Virginia
NC State
Ohio State
Syracuse
Miami
Michigan
Arkansas
Lawrence Tech
Texas A&M

40+ growth
Chapters with 40 or more members
Arizona
Tennessee
UC Berkeley
UC San Diego
Maryland
Colorado
GWU
Vanderbilt
Cincinnati
Illinois
Mississippi State
Cornell
VCU
Clemson
Alabama
UC Merced
Buffalo
Pittsburgh
FIU
Iowa
Rutgers
UC Davis
Purdue
Florida State
Virginia
UC Irvine
Texas
Virginia Tech
Ohio
Nevada
Central Florida
UC Riverside
Rhode Island
Syracuse
SMU
Miami
Penn
John Hopkins
Michigan
Arkansas
South Florida
George Mason
Texas A&M
Kansas
South Carolina
Florida

700 Club
Chapter scoring 700 or more points on the Annual Report
Old Dominion - 700
Tennessee - 701
Arkansas - 704
UC Davis - 710
Mississippi State - 720
Minnesota - 721
Virginia - 722
Wayne State - 724
Central Florida - 724
Texas A&M - 737
Florida - 737
UC Berkeley - 744
Tennessee Tech - 746
Lawrence Tech - 755
VCU - 771
Virginia Tech - 781
South Carolina - 804
Miami - 806
Alabama - 872

Size Target Award
Chapters who meet their size target defined by Nationals. $250 award
Tennessee
Cincinnati
Cornell
Alabama
Buffalo
Virginia
Texas
Syracuse
Miami
Arkansas
Texas A&M
Florida

Best Brotherhood Event
Recognizing the chapter that planned and executed events which were beneficial to their brothers
First: Mississippi State
Second: UC Davis

Best Community Service Event
Recognizing the chapter that planned and executed events in which a difference was made in their community.
First: UC Davis
Second: Illinois
Third: Mississippi State

Best Professional Development Event
Given to the chapter that plans and executes the best professional culture and events to further professional development.
First: Cal
Second: Illinois
Third: Arizona

700 Club
Chapter scoring 700 or more points on the Annual Report
Old Dominion - 700
Tennessee - 701
Arkansas - 704
UC Davis - 710
Mississippi State - 720
Minnesota - 721
Virginia - 722
Wayne State - 724
Central Florida - 724
Texas A&M - 737
Florida - 737
UC Berkeley - 744
Tennessee Tech - 746
Lawrence Tech - 755
VCU - 771
Virginia Tech - 781
South Carolina - 804
Miami - 806
Alabama - 872

Best Website
First: Alabama
Second: UCLA
Third: Cal

Outstanding Delegate
Voted among peers.
Outstanding Delegate is given to the delegate that has provided significant contributions at National Convention
Rena Wang (Minnesota)

Outstanding Adviser
Recognizes the advisor who has achieved an exemplary relationship with students, assisted in mentoring and counseling chapter officers, and served as the chapter’s connection between itself and the university.
Dr. Clark Midkiff
(Alabama)

Founders’ Award
The nation’s most improved chapter for the biennium
Tennessee Tech

Above: Grand Regent Satterwhite presents Schrader Award to Zeta Delta Regent Jared Laone.
Instagram

@clemsonthetatau2016
@phideltathetatau brother from Phi Delta and Lambda Gamma chapters tailgating in Tallahassee, Florida.

#Brotherhood #ThetaTau #rahrah

Twitter

@uscthetatau Officially initiated! Congratulations to our Beta Class! USC #thetatau #viterbi #fraternity #initiation

Facebook

@cornellthetatau Wey-Wey Su representing Theta Tau in intramural sports

We acknowledge the Tulane University Colony of Theta Tau for their time spent volunteering on their service project with Habitat for Humanity! Here's what they had to say about their experience:

The post-Katrina New Orleans community is in great need for homes. Although this was our first time volunteering as a group with Habitat for Humanity, our members thought it was the most significant event we had all semester. Although all were doing was putting up insulation and installing a few windows, we could see our impact on getting Shante's family a permanent, affordable home.

#ThetaTaoGivesBack #Habitat

Rah Rah
Brothers and HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

(Pumpkin carving by brother Tyler Bennett of Lambda Beta Chapter)
Exciting Activities Planned for 2017

The Board of the Theta Tau Educational Foundation has a full range of activities planned for the upcoming year in support of our mission statement “Providing Educational Opportunities to Develop the Leaders of Tomorrow”.

Scholarships Available
Student members with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher in the fall semester should be watching Velocitas and the Foundation’s webpage (thetatau.org/foundation) for the opportunity to apply for the All Academic Team. In addition to the team members, a Captain will be named for each of the eight regions and will receive a scholarship from the Foundation.

In addition, interested students should be ready next spring to compete for one of the scholarships that the Foundation offers (see photo below for some of the 2016 awardees). All of these activities and more are made possible through the generous contributions by alumni and friends of the Fraternity.

Two Leadership Academies for 2017
Planning is underway for the 2017 Leadership Academy next summer. For the first time, two academies are planned to make it easier for students to attend. One will be held in the East/Midwest and the second on the West Coast.

In addition to making contributions to the Annual Campaign or one of the named scholarship funds, alumni are invited to help their chapter by designating their tax-deductible contribution for a scholarship to cover the cost of attending the Academy for a student from their alma mater. A gift of $275 is suggested which covers the full cost of a student attending including the registration fee. Donors wishing to do this should click on the “Donate” button on the Foundation webpage (thetatau.org/foundation). Under “Designation”, select “Leadership Academy”. The Foundation will inform chapters if scholarships have been designated for them and from the sponsoring alumni.

Left: The Theta Tau Educational Foundation presented scholarships to three Brothers at the 2016 National Convention. In addition to these three, an additional six scholarships were awarded to Brothers who were not present. Pictured along with Foundation Board Members and scholarship recipients (left to right) Mark Wisneski, Sean Walsh, Jeff Brown, Rachel Lucas, Bertrand Neyhouse, Quintin Fettes, Justine Wiseman, and Art Partin.
VOLunteering
Brothers host Volunteer Engineers Day at the University of Tennessee

by Sydney Reeder and Jessica Ossyra,
Tennessee (Chi Gamma) ’18

TENNESSEE’S CHI GAMMA CHAPTER IS ROOTED IN A STATE with a long tradition of service. Dubbed the “Volunteer State” after the war of 1812 when thousands of volunteer soldiers helped to ensure a victory. This notion was reinforced during the Mexican American War when the Secretary of State asked for 2,800 volunteers and received over 30,000 respondents. The University of Tennessee sits nestled in the heartland of the Volunteer state, claiming the Volunteer name as more than just a mascot, but a lifestyle. This past year, Chi Gamma took this Volunteer mentality to heart. Striving to build up our “big pillar” of Service, we took on several incredible initiatives to bring the Chi Gamma Volunteer spirit to our community.

Volunteer Engineers Day was our biggest enterprise, a day of service hosted by Theta Tau that included over 100 volunteers and six local organizations. Organizations included Ijams Nature Center, Keep Knoxville Beautiful, Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries, Beardsley Farms, University of Tennessee and the Knoxville Greenways. This single event collectively achieved over 400 hours of service to our community. Students from Chi Gamma, the College of Engineering, and the wider campus community were organized into groups that cleaned our greenway trails and picked up trash in our parks, pulled weeds and invasive species, restored community garden beds, serviced hiking trails, organized storage areas, and sanitized drywall. Participating students received a free shirt that was designed by Chi Gamma students, and a pizza party that was generously donated by local restaurants who wanted to support our contribution to the community.

In addition to Volunteer Engineers Day, Chi Gamma had 57 members participate in Relay for Life, an overnight walk-a-thon hosted by the American Cancer Society. We used a new grill built by Chi Gamma brothers to sell hamburgers and hot dogs, raising over $700 for the American Cancer Society.

Chi Gamma’s 2016-2017 service has already commenced with several members participating in our local Habitat for Humanity builds. We also kicked off this year’s recruitment with a service-themed rush event called Can-Struct-O-Rama where members and rushees competed building structures out of canned food. Over 675 lbs of food was collected and donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee, and we had a blast doing it! With the semester well underway, we are looking forward to our next Habitat for Humanity builds, volunteering at Zoo Knoxville, and planning a new initiative where Chi Gamma works to create an inspiring and engaging STEM program with a local junior high school! With 73 active members, we have a lot of capable hands ready to live and breathe the VOLunteer spirit! 🌟

Top: Chi Gamma members and student volunteers preparing to clean up the University of Tennessee’s campus. Middle: Chi Gamma members participating in a local Habitat for Humanity build project in Knoxville. Above: Chi Gamma members restoring garden beds at Beardsley Farms in Knoxville.
3.51
Average GPA of All Academic Team Captains

55
During our Spring 2015 calling campaign, 55 alumni contributed at the necessary level to sponsor student(s) to the Academy

3.77
Average GPA of Endowed Scholarship recipients

72
Number of grants made available to students as a result - 48% of registered attendance

150
2015 Leadership Academy was attended by 150 student members, which Annual Fund gifts at any level support
Taking a Deeper Look at Mental Health

The Great Lakes Regional Conference presented a comprehensive mental health awareness program for the benefit of themselves and their peers.
IN MARCH 2016, SIGMA CHAPTER AT
The Ohio State University hosted
the Theta Tau Great Lakes Regional
Conference. Regional Director,
Brother Shelby Simes of Xi Beta
Chapter, presented a series of
seminars from the “Behind Happy
Faces” curriculum by Ross Szabo.

The premise of the program is
to guide young adults in a more
comprehensive awareness of mental
health, understanding where they
stand individually on the mental
health spectrum, and how to
recognize signs of mental health
issues in themselves and their peers.

No representatives from Iota
Gamma were able to attend the GLRC
due to our annual chapter formal
coinciding with the date, but we
found this topic to be very relevant
and important to our chapter.

Brother Simes was invited to
a chapter meeting in late spring
semester to present to first module
of the program and there were very
positive reviews from members.
The first module was all about
understanding what mental health is
and how our society tends to associate
it with a negative connotation.

On November 16th, the second
module was completed under the
guidance of Brother Simes. The
second module was identifying how
different life events and illnesses
are categorized in the mental health
arena. Once again there were very
positive reviews from the Iota
Gamma brothers.

The chapter followed up with a
corresponding event called “Fireside
Chats” on November 19th at a senior
member’s home, where 26 of our
members gathered.

Both of these events allowed
members to come forward to
brothers in confidence regarding
their current struggles and burdens,
without fear of judgement. It was
a truly inspiring moment for the
chapter, to see brothers encouraging
one another and offering advice
and consolation. As a whole, I feel
that brothers who participated feel
more united with one another. Of the
brothers I have spoken with, there
is a unanimous conclusion that we
value this knowledge and awareness
about mental health that we want to
help promote a safe environment for
members and other peers alike.

We hope to make a difference in
just one person’s life, by caring for one
another and breaking the negative
stigma around mental health.

We want to extend our gratitude to Brother
Simes for his passion on this subject and
bringing this curriculum to Theta Tau Great
Lakes Region and the Iota Gamma Chapter
at the University of Cincinnati.

“IT WAS A TRULY INSPIRING
MOMENT FOR THE
CHAPTER, TO SEE BROTHERS
ENCOURAGING ONE
ANOTHER AND OFFERING
ADVICE AND CONSOLATION.”
Exploring Old Rag

Maryland Brothers Climb

by Tony Feric, Maryland (Eta Delta) ’17
In the spirit of brotherhood, my fellow Eta Delta brothers and I decided to brave the trek across Old Rag Mountain, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia's Madison County. This is our story.

4:00AM. The cacophony of all the different alarms going off begins to wake everyone up. We eat breakfast, get ready for our trip and clean up the apartment before heading out on what would end up being one of the best adventures of the summer. Next stop: Old Rag Mountain at Shenandoah Valley!!

7:00AM. We arrive at the mountain and head towards the trail. At this point, we are all very excited to start the journey because we have all heard wonderful things about the trail and can’t wait to explore it with our brothers. As we start hiking, we begin to share what we’ve each been up to this summer and what else we have planned.

9:00AM. At this point we’ve been hiking for a while and we decide to take a break on a nice large rock. Embracing our millennial stereotype, we pull out a selfie stick and begin taking pictures to document the moment and remember it forever. The trees are a healthy green, the air is crisp and we are enjoying this escape from the struggles of our engineering internships.

11:00AM. After walking up steep slopes and pulling ourselves through tight crevices, our aching stomachs tell us it’s time to stop for lunch. We find a huge boulder that has a terrific view of the valley and decide that this is a good place to rest for a bit. As we share Sour Patch Kids, chips and granola bars, we can't help but marvel in the beautiful nature that surrounds us.

12:00PM. We FINALLY make it to the top! The view is incredible and we explore all that the summit has to offer before taking a break for a bit. We’re so happy to be here and we take some more pictures. Everyone is celebrating our arrival in their own way: some are taking it easy and basking in the sun, while others pose for silly pictures.

3:00PM. We are most of the way down the mountain by now. Our legs are aching, our water bottles are running low and we are drenched in sweat. However, this doesn’t stop us from enjoying the descent. We stop for a moment to enjoy being completely surrounded by trees, a luxury we often take for granted. Knowing that we are close to the starting point, some of us decide to culminate our adventure by running back to the car. However, our run is cut short by the presence of a baby black bear on the trail!

4:00PM. We make it back to the car and have come to terms with our wonderful adventure being over. We ask the park rangers for directions to get back home since there is no GPS signal in the valley. We drive home for a while before taking a break for food. Then we proceed back towards our beloved College Park and the majority of the car falls asleep after the exhausting trip.
Away Field Advantage: For The Love of Brotherhood

Hitting the road to cheer for the nation’s top-ranked team might be the dream of every college kid, but meeting other brothers along the way makes these trips even more worthwhile.

by Timothy Collins, Alabama (Mu) 1811

IF THERE’S ONE THING I’VE UNEQUIVOCALLY LOVED DURING MY TIME AT THE University of Alabama, it’s getting to cheer on my Crimson Tide Saturday in the Fall. The atmosphere, the fans, the players, and success on the field form a magical combination like no other — creating many defining moments of my time as a student, football fan, and Theta Tau brother.

With one of our first chapter visits, Tau Beta chapter at Southern Methodist University provided a great meal and good times at The Twisted Root, a local burger joint. This was for our first game of the season. A few weeks later, the calendar has flipped to October and a match up in Fayetteville with the Arkansas Razorbacks is on deck. Friday morning, five of us huddled in the car and started the nearly nine-hour trek. We were given a warm welcome by Upsilon’s brothers, and a gracious offer to stay in their chapter house. I’ll never forget when all of their brothers started “Calling the Hogs”. Yelling pig snouts is their chant, their way of uniting, and it was inspiring to witness that strong fraternal bond in another chapter. The next day is game day, and
the result is another Crimson Tide victory.

One week passes, and it’s time for the Third Saturday in October, our annual rivalry game against Tennessee. Making this weekend even more special was the celebration of the Fraternity’s Founders’ Day. Chi Gamma chapter went above and beyond in their efforts to provide us with great lodging and entertainment during our stay in Knoxville. It was an additionally noteworthy trip for me as I got to reunite with two brothers, Graham Jones and Chris Stinnett, whom I had previously met during Habitat Spring Break. Our first evening in town, we are taken to local eatery Downtown Grill & Brewery, affectionately known to locals as “DGB”.

Saturday, October 15th. It’s Founders’ Day first and foremost and it’s also the day we take on the Vols in Neyland Stadium for our biggest test yet. Despite the game being close early, we take advantage of several Tennessee miscues and run away with a victory. We cap the day with a Founders’ Day celebration alongside our brothers from Chi Gamma. Somewhere in all the fun, I take the time to reminisce on my experiences so far as a Theta Tau brother, here on Founders’ Day, surrounded by the brothers I love and cherish.

As I write this, I’m looking forward to upcoming visits from Xi Gamma (Texas A&M) and Kappa Beta (Mississippi State) to our chapter as we host their respective teams here in Tuscaloosa. The best aspect about visiting and getting to know other chapters is that the adventure never gets old; there are always more laughs, more stories, and more brotherhood to pass around. It’s also a win for my chapter, your chapter, and all the brothers who get to partake in the excitement of a Saturday down south. Rah Rah, and Roll Tide! 😊

Editor’s Note: We congratulate Alabama on a great season and Clemson on the 2017 Championship!

The atmosphere, the fans, the players, and success on the field form a magical combination like no other — creating many defining moments of my time as a student, football fan, and Theta Tau brother.
Baylor University Colony

BY JASON EVANS, ’18

On October 18th, 2015, aspiring brothers at Baylor University were welcomed into the family of Theta Tau by fellow chapters and colonies who came to support their new brothers’ colony certification. The Baylor Colony had originally operated under the title Beta Theta Tau, a name the founding fathers were proud to retire. As the colony continues to expand and build presence on campus, we are consistently working towards our goal of chapter recognition in 2017. With this purpose in mind, Baylor Colony continues to pursue Theta Tau’s mantra of professional development, brotherhood, and community involvement.

Professionally, we’ve connected with a variety of tech companies for touring opportunities and guest speaker recruitment sessions (many of which have come directly from brothers and alumni in the colony). Socially, events such as crawfish boils, cookouts, pool days, and pickup games keep members engaged and strengthen our fraternal bonds. August 10th, 2016 was a historic brotherhood event for our colony when, in preparation for our first tailgating event, we handcrafted and painted our wooden Theta Tau letters. Additionally, we created custom corn hole boards, both of which we couldn’t be more proud of. Last semester our call to service led us to volunteer by renovating previously neglected property of newly moved Waco residents. This semester we’re scheduled to again participate in Baylor’s campus-wide Steppin’ Out community service event and look forward to participating in the building of our local community. As we continue to build our colony we wear our letters with pride and strive to become a chapter Theta Tau can be proud of, rah rah Theta Tau.

Sigma Gamma

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

BY JENNIFER HART, ’17

For the smallest state in the nation, we have a chapter with big heart and even bigger plans for this school year. Sigma Gamma Chapter is back this fall and better than ever, with 45 active brothers and 9 brothers abroad for the year through URI’s International Engineering Program. Over the summer, 8 of our brothers were able to attend Nationals and have rejoined us with reignited passion about everything Theta Tau. As always, Fall semester will undoubtedly fly by in a blur. We are looking forward to brotherhood events showcasing the best of what fall in New England has to offer (apple picking, camping, and haunted hayrides). We have already had a great turnout for Fall Rush, and by the time that you are reading this we will have some bright-eyed pledges ready to join the brotherhood that we all know and love. As a chapter, we put a lot of focus and energy into our relationship with the college of engineering at URI. After we participated in the Engineering Week competitions here on campus — winning the dodgeball tournament, the Mr. Engineering pageant, and hosting an Evening with Industry — we started an Student Engineering Council, which consists of leadership of all of the student organizations within the college and we are looking forward to collaborating with the other groups throughout the year, not just one week. We hope that through this group we will be able to improve access to great professional development events on campus for all engineering students as well as grow the community.

Tau Beta

SMU

BY LAUREN METZINGER, ’18

Tau Beta chapter at Southern Methodist University kicked off their community service this semester by working with Keep Rowlett Beautiful. Keep Rowlett Beautiful is an organization that works to clean up extensive damage from a tornado in nearby Rowlett, Texas last spring. Members cleaned up rubble from destroyed houses, occasionally finding the house owner’s sentimental pictures and belongings for them or making a competition out of who can rescue a sleeping bag from a 30 foot tall tree.

We also look forward to working more this semester with our most popular form of community service, puppies! Tau Beta often visits Dallas area animal shelters where members get to walk, wash, feed, and play with dogs and cats and no one ever leaves these events without a smile. All in all, we look forward to more community service events like these this year as an opportunity to bond with our brothers and give back to the community.

Top: Sigma Gamma chapter at the URI college of engineering.
Bottom: Tau Beta Regent, Laura Adamesz and alum member, Ishea Rutz at an animal shelter volunteering event.
THETA TAU ´S
Western Regional Conference
April 8, 2017
Davis, California

More information at
ThetaTauBestRegion.org

Back by Popular Demand!

Last year, Theta Tau launched another Membership Directory program with Publishing Concepts, Inc. (PCI) for publication in 2017. Data collection and marketing of the book has been completed. Publication and distribution is expected late this summer.

Theta Tau and PCI respect your security and privacy concerns. Having partnered with them for what will be 8 directories over 25+ years, we have every confidence in their ability in this regard.
MY HUSBAND AND I STARTED GOING TO DRAGON CON IN Atlanta in 2012, before we got married. We are both members of Kappa Beta Chapter, and have always tried to convince our brothers to share the experience with us. We have planned three trips that have included brothers since our first convention.

For those who don’t know, Dragon Con is all about letting your “geek” out. Whether you are a fan of the paranormal, sci-fi, anime, British television, puppets, gaming (video or table top), or robots, Dragon Con has speakers, events, and workshops for every geek. The best part of Dragon Con for me is getting to meet the actors/actresses, authors, and scientists that come speak and sign autographs. For my husband, it’s the vendor stores with some of the coolest merchandise you could dream up. Some of the event is late night parties, other bits are cosplay contests, but most of it is really getting into whatever you geek out about.

“I have realized how important this annual get together is, and I want to grow it in frequency and quality.”
From Advisor, to Honorary Member and the Establishment of Rho Delta’s Spiritual Home

TOD COLEGROVE IS MORE THAN A FACULTY member for the Rho Delta Chapter at the University of Nevada. He was instrumental in the founding of the Nevada Colony as the colony’s faculty advisor on December 10, 2011. In addition to a normal advisor role, Tod has become an invaluable asset for resources and knowledge. In his role as the Director of the DeLamare Engineering Library (DLM), Tod has started a trend at the University of Nevada of promoting STEM Education. Taking a novel approach, Tod has turned the DLM Library into a variable “makerspace” which encourages children and students alike to forge their own creative engineering paths. Tod’s work allowed the chapter and the community to take advantage of technologies such as 3-D scanners, quadcopters, and a multitude of other technologies. We could have never hoped to acquire these tools on our own.

Every semester, Rho Delta hosts a community service event at the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum in Reno (below), Nevada to promote and encourage these same ideas. Without the help and encouragement of Tod, this event could have never become anything more than an idea. During the early stages of establishing Rho Delta, Tod literally opened the doors of the DLM to our Chapter and gave our chapter the opportunity to make the DLM its home. He even went as far as allowing a metal crest of Theta Tau to be mounted on the 3rd floor which both active members and alumni see daily. It is for these reasons above that the Chapter of Rho Delta has asked Tod to become an Honorary Member, for making powerful connections with members and always having insight and knowledge whenever needed.

— John Sandusky (Nevada)19

Continued from page 16

After the first year in 2012, my husband and I ran into a couple of brothers, and we decided we were always going to try and have a meet up at the Con. Our favorite place to go eat in the downtown area is Ted’s Montana Grill, so we have set that as an annual tradition. No matter who the special guests are, what workshops or parties are planned, or which brothers we meet up or attend with that year, we always have a brother dinner at Ted’s. It’s a great time for us to catch up with alumni that we don’t get to see as often now that we are all working in different parts of the country. We all have something in common to talk about—Dragon Con—as well as catch up with our everyday lives and personal news.

After becoming a National Alumni Club officer, I have realized how important this annual get together is, and I want to grow it in frequency and quality. If you have never been to a con, Dragon Con is a great one for beginners and an all-inclusive one that can be as serious or fun as you want it to be.
A Story of Love and Brotherhood

The inspiring story of Raymond and Katie Taylor whom came to be more than brothers

By Raymond Taylor, University of Rhode Island (Sigma Gamma), ’15

“Raymond and Katie’s devotion to each other and Theta Tau has served as an inspiration to all brothers of Sigma Gamma chapter.”

 Theta Tau means many things to a lot of people. It is where people make lifelong friendships and bonds, discover their passions, try new and exciting things, and create memories that last forever. For two brothers in particular, it is also where they found true love.

The Hammer and Tong love story of Raymond Taylor and Katherine Hufslen begins in 2009 at Chariho High School in Wood River Junction, Rhode Island.

While both were students in Precalculus and Trigonometry class, a relationship was formed and the two began dating. After graduation from Chariho, Raymond and Katie both started attending the University of Rhode Island, with Raymond pursuing studies in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Katie becoming a Mechanical Engineering major.

Theta Tau would soon become an integral part of the lives of Raymond and Katie. In 2011, they were the lone members of a two person pledge class at Sigma Gamma chapter of Theta Tau. Both brothers held the position of Regent during their time with the fraternity. In 2012, Raymond discovered the true meaning of brotherhood and fellowship after being diagnosed with Stage II Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. The diagnosis caused him to miss six months of school to undergo intensive chemotherapy. During this difficult time, Katie and the rest of Sigma Gamma chapter stood by his side, and he would eventually triumph over cancer and return to school. Raymond and Katie’s devotion to each other and Theta Tau has served as an inspiration to all brothers of Sigma Gamma chapter.

In February of 2015, Raymond popped the big question and Katie happily accepted, setting the stage for a big Theta Tau wedding. Indeed, the Hammer and Tong spirit was on everyone’s mind as they got married on Founder’s Day, October 15, in 2015.

Graduating in 2014, Katie is now employed with The Lee Company in Westbrook, CT, designing hydraulic valves for a variety of specialty applications. Raymond graduated in 2015 and currently works for AECOM in their Environmental Division, working in subsurface remediation and environmental sampling.
Leadership Academy provides an immersive experience to develop the social soft skills needed to be an excellent member of any organization!

July 28-30, 2017
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

More information at ThetaTau.org
Stuart “Stu” Kardian  
Virginia Commonwealth University (Kappa Gamma) ’06

Theta Tau Grand Marshal

How did you get introduced to Theta Tau?  
I never wanted to join a fraternity. In 2001, as a high school senior touring college campuses, then later as a freshman, I kept running into the same two guys. They listened to me at freshman orientation, helped me plan a class schedule, and provided a open heart and friendship that would define my college experience. They were just good guys. People join people. Brian Evenshank and Marco Camacho, along with the other Kappa Gamma’s helped break me out of an introverted shell and enjoy life. The stories from my time as a pledge, to the things we accomplished over the next few years, are my best memories from college.

What made you want to stay involved with Theta Tau at the national level?  
The memories and experiences I’ve had with Theta Tau continue to reignite my passion for this amazing organization. Once I graduated, I felt the least I could do was give back to the organization that gave me so much. After 15 years of brotherhood, I can still say that the more you put into Theta Tau, the more it gives back.

What is your role in Theta Tau and the responsibilities of that role?  
I was honored to be elected Grand Marshal for 2016-2018. In this role, my primary responsibilities are leading the Risk Management Committee and installing new chapters. Chapter installations are exciting. I get to interact with our newest members, seeing the passion in their eyes as they become brothers of Theta Tau. With Risk Management, I am exposed to the sorrows, mishaps, and hardships of individuals and entire chapters. Each issue is unique and challenging. I am disappointed at some of the scenarios our fellow brothers have experienced.

How has Theta Tau helped you in your career?  
Theta Tau helps you develop in many areas. This has impacted my career in several ways. First, my public speaking skills improved greatly. From chapter room meetings to an upper management board meeting, the art of public speaking is a tough but necessary skill for engineers. I’ve also gotten better at planning, organizing and implementing events. The skill to take an idea to reality is useful in so many areas of life. Additionally, I have furthered my skill in facilitating. It’s one thing to stand in front of a room and lecture to an audience, but it’s another thing to enable a group to work more efficiently. Above all, Theta Tau helps you with your confidence. Being around and working with a group of brothers who will support you, no matter what, can have drastic effects on one’s inner and outer confidence.

What do you hope brothers get out of being in Theta Tau?  
I truly believe that the more you pour into Theta Tau, the more you get out of it. I hope that when you think of your time as a student member, you’ll smile and be flooded with memories of the amazing accomplishments and relationships that were built. I hope that as alumni, you’ll continue the close bond of brotherhood with the lifelong friends you’ve made. I hope that Theta Tau gives you the confidence to strive to do great things.

“I urge each and every one of you to contact another brother in some way and give them an uplifting message. Some of our fellow brothers have gone through trials and tribulations, and a little bit of hope and joy can do so much.”
Volunteering!

This past year, Chi Gamma took this Volunteer mentality to heart. Striving to build up our “big pillar” of Service, we took on several incredible initiatives to bring the Chi Gamma Volunteer spirit to our community.

Read all about it on page 6.