A Tale of Two Brothers

This Spring Break, two members of the Phi Gamma Chapter at Oklahoma State traveled to Palm Coast, Florida, to attend the alternative Spring Break Habitat for Humanity Build. This is a story of their adventure.
To promote fraternal spirit through singing, the 24th Biennial Convention of Theta Tau directed that a songbook be published. This collection of songs was compiled by William E. Franklin, Kansas (Zeta) ’57, then Editor of The Gear of Theta Tau and first published as a book in 1966.
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While working on The Gear, we strive to produce the best representation and image of the Fraternity. Unfortunately, significant errors can arise in our publication. We wish to correct the following that was made known:

In the fall 2015 issue of The Gear, Rho Chapter was listed as North Carolina and should have been NC State.

Also in fall 2015 issue of The Gear, Mu Beta Chapter was listed as GMI instead of Kettering University.

The Fire at Theta Tau Beta Chapter at Michigan Tech

By Al Stimac

As the old TV series stated “There are a million stories in the naked city and this is one of them.” However, this city is Houghton, Michigan with fewer stories but one involving about 35 nearly naked individuals. This is their story. It is a tale involving great foresight, college pranks, lots of luck and God’s help. The tale also exhibits the helping hands of the local townsfolk and University organizations.

If you would like to obtain your own copy of this historic story, they are $10 (includes shipping). Please send check or cash to:

Al Stimac
7547 E. Lockwood
Mesa, AZ 85207

Theta Tau Sigma Gamma: Three of our brothers had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Ventura, CA this past week to participate in the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge with fellow Theta Tau brothers from all over the country. It was an amazing experience and great bonding with new people. #RaRa #thetatau #thetatauuri #ventura #california #alternativespringbreak #habitatforhumanity

@MuDelta: This past weekend, brothers from Mu Delta and Lambda Delta chapters attended the Rim Fire restoration event to plant over 2,000 trees to replace those that were lost during a forest fire. #thetatau #ucmerced #CommunityMatters #Service #TTCares #SpringBreak

@ThetaTauZD: CAR SMASH IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW AT SWEARINGEN!! COME SMASH A CAR WITH A SLEDGEHAMMER FOR FREE!!
2015 Chapter Awards

BROTHERHOOD AWARD
The Brotherhood Award is given to the chapter that creatively involves members of not just their own chapter, but the Fraternity as a whole, in events throughout the year. These events benefit the brotherhood experience and make an impact on the fraternal bond.

*UT Austin - Psi Beta*

BEST NEWSLETTER
Every chapter sends out a newsletter to their alumni. The Best Newsletter is awarded based on the content, appearance, and layout.

*Mississippi State - Kappa Beta*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD
The Professional Development award is given based upon a single or cumulative group of events geared to professionally developing the members of the Fraternity. Creativity, number of members in attendance and the results of the event are taken into consideration.

1st: *UT Austin - Psi Beta*
2nd: *Mississippi State - Kappa Beta*
3rd: *UC Davis - Omicron Gamma*

CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD
The Service Award gives recognition to the chapter that planned and executed events in which a difference was made in their community.

1st: *UT Austin - Psi Beta*
2nd: *UC Davis - Omicron Gamma*
3rd: *Mississippi State - Kappa Beta*

BEST PHOTO
Best Photo is awarded based on the submitted package of a set of photos from a chapter. The photos showcase all of the aspects of Theta Tau from that chapter, relating to Service, Professional Development, and Brotherhood.

1st: *Florida - Zeta Gamma*
2nd: *Virginia Tech - Psi Gamma*
3rd: *UT Austin - Psi Beta*

BEST WEBSITE
This award honors outstanding efforts to present informative material, streamline chapter operations, and organize useful content on a website. Judging is based on content, its relevance and accessibility to target audiences, design, and innovation in presentation, organization, and execution.

1st: *UC Davis - Omicron Gamma*
2nd: *Florida State - Pi Delta*

BEST ADVISOR:
This Award recognizes from among chapter nominees the one who has achieved an exemplary relationship with students, assisted in mentoring and counseling chapter officers during officer transitions, recruitment planning and execution, with any other matters of importance to the Fraternity, and served well as the chapter’s connection between itself and the university or itself and that chapter’s body of alumni. Additional consideration was given to faculty advisers and/or Theta Tau members, but all are welcome as a chapter’s nominee.

*Lijuan Dawn Cheng,*
*UC Davis - Omicron Gamma*

Leadership Academy
Since the Theta Tau Educational Foundation began hosting its Leadership Academy in 1999, thousands of Theta Tau members have completed the multi-day curricular program. It is the Foundation’s signature program supported via annual fund donations, and chapter-targeted grants. Pictured at right are attendees to the 2015 Leadership Academy at Georgia Tech.
We invite your company to consider the 2016 Theta Tau National Convention Career Fair.

**TOP 3 Reasons to attend as an Alumnus Company Representative**

1. **Access to Brothers across the Country:**
   - Number of active chapters Nation Wide: 69
   - Number of Colonies Seeking Charters: 10
   - Connections to over 3,500 students and nearly 40,000 Alumni

2. **The multitude of technically minded professionals**
   - 30+ Diverse Engineering Majors represented
   - Technology: Computer, Engineering, Mechanical
   - Science: Electrical, Chemical, Biomedical

3. **A chance to restart a tradition**
   - Support in bringing back a Theta Tau National Career Fair

Questions:
David Parker
david.parker@thetatau.org
Professional Development Director

Follow the Progress:
Career Fair Website:

Mark the Date:
National Convention:
28-31 July 2016
Sign-up Deadline:
28 June 2016

Sponsorship Opportunities:
Sunny Liu
sunny10@vcu.edu
Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator
Digits

1,214
Number of New Initiates  
(as of April 2016)

28,481
Living Members  
(as of April 2016)

3,638
Current number of  
Theta Tau Student Members  
(as of March 2016)

39,225
Total Number of Initiated  
Members  
(as of April 2016)

50
Average Chapter Size  
(as of March 2016)

79
Active Chapters and Colonies  
(as of April 2016)
A Look Into the Past

Kansas’s Zeta Chapter in 1955
by Taylor Bahm, Kansas (Zeta) ’18

Recently, the Zeta Chapter of Theta Tau had the opportunity to journey sixty years back into the chapter’s history. In a presentation given by Richard Hinderliter (’58), the Zeta Chapter got a glimpse of some of the chapter’s old traditions and brotherhood. Throughout the presentation members of Zeta were able to see photos, listen to audio recordings, and hold artifacts from the 1955 Zeta Chapter. The focal point of the presentation was the award winning Homecoming decoration built by the chapter in the fall of 1955.

Back in 1955, the Zeta house stood a proud three stories on the corner of 16th and Louisiana, cattycorner from the chancellor’s house. At the time the house held around 25 to 30 active members as well as eight pledges. The house was maintained by the house mother who, according to Richard, “planned the meals, purchased the food, and gave [them] a measure of civility.” Additionally a strict quiet policy was enforced in the evenings so that the members of the chapter would have a quiet place to study. The third floor of the house functioned as a bunk room and on the second floor there were bedrooms shared between members. The first floor included a dining area, living room, kitchen, and the house mother’s quarters. Regular chapter meetings were held in the open space of the first floor.

According to Richard, “although [the chapter] did not usually indulge in social functions such as hour dances, sessions on which fork to use first, or the building of Homecoming Decorations, we did decide in 1955 that if anybody could build a winning Homecoming decoration it would be a whole house of engineers.” With this goal in mind the chapter began putting their plan into action. They decided on the theme “Davy Jayhawk,” an idea they borrowed from The Ballad of Davy Crockett, a popular song in 1955. The decoration itself was a pictorial display of Davy Jayhawk shooting the Missouri tiger as it ran back to Columbia. This was, however, no ordinary display. The scene had been engineered so that Davy Jayhawk would raise his blunderbuss and point it at the rear of the tiger. When he the blunderbuss was fully raised it would fire a blank strait into the tiger’s hind quarters. This would cause the tiger’s legs to spin like a whirligig. Davy
Jayhawk would then lower his arm and the process would start over again. According to Richard, the noise of Davy Jayhawk’s blunderbuss could be heard clear across campus. If this wasn’t enough, the chapter had also written a parody to The Ballad of Davy Crockett and several of the members had recorded it at a local record store. Throughout the day the recorded “Davy Jayhawk” song was played loudly out of one of the house’s windows so that anyone who passed by could hear it. Richard brought the original, and only, recording of “Davy Jayhawk” with him to the presentation so that the current members of Zeta could pass it around.

At the end of the week, the 1955 Zeta Chapter gathered at the Homecoming football game where they announced over the loud speakers that Theta Tau had won the Homecoming decoration competition. The chapter was too busy whooping and hollering when the announcer said “Theta Tau” that they did not realize he said “Fourth Place” as well. Even though it was not first place, the Zeta Chapter counted it as a victory and they carried off their trophy with pride. The photo on the right shows Richard holding the fourth place trophy.

Seeing and hearing the story of the 1955 Zeta Chapter was an amazing look into the past of the chapter. The ingenuity and cooperation it must have taken to build such a unique Homecoming decoration shows the true brotherhood and dedication of the Zeta Chapter of Theta Tau. This was a great experience and the Zeta chapter is planning on hold more events like this in the future. Special thanks to Richard for presenting and sharing his story with us.

Theta Tau is launching another Membership Directory project this summer. The published directory will be completed in mid-2017.

We will be using Publishing Concepts, Inc. (PCI) once again for this project. They will reach out to members via phone, email, and mail to verify and update your information.

Theta Tau and PCI respect your security and privacy concerns. Having partnered with them for what will be five directories over 25+ years, we have every confidence in their ability in this regard.
This Spring Break, two members of the Phi Gamma Chapter at Oklahoma State were able to attend the alternative Spring Break Habitat for Humanity Build in Palm Coast, Florida. Brother Jim Higgins and I were the attendees. This is the story of our adventure.

By Caitlyn Stice, Oklahoma State ’17
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016:
We left about 3PM. After 11 hours of driving, with various stops in between, we reached our first destination: Mu Chapter in Alabama. While looking around their house, we awed at Erich J. Schrader’s signature on their Schrader award. We stayed on their couches for the night before heading out at 9AM.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016:
We traveled another 8 hours before we reached our next overnight stay at Jim’s grandparents’ house in Wewahitchka, Florida. He enjoyed the time with his family before we went to sleep.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016:
We returned to the road for another 4 hours, until we finally reached Palm Coast and congregated with the Brothers from other chapters at the meeting church. I helped set up dinner, while Jim mingled. As an ice breaker before eating, each person was given a piece of a picture puzzle that divided us into about 6 groups, so we could meet others. We filled out forms, then discussed the information within the group to learn what we had in common and what was different. This was a great introduction that the Phi Gamma chapter plans to incorporate in our next semesters’ events. After the delicious food, we were instructed of the week’s plans and rules, then had some down time before bed. Since Jim and I, along with other chapters, were staying at a different church, we headed that way to unpack. Upon arrival, we were greeted by kind people and a plethora of food/snacks donated by the church. Everyone was super excited about the food. We talked with the Brothers from other chapters before going to bed.

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016:
Due to plans changing before we arrived, we had Monday to explore Florida. Jim and I, and Andy from Alpha Chapter (who we basically claimed for the rest of the week) decided to go to the Kennedy Space Center. We were typical engineers as we went through the facilities, gazing at everything, knowing how, or wanting to know how it worked. I was obsessed with airfoils thanks to my Applied Aerodynamics class, and Jim was obsessed with engines. We stopped to observe any equations to see if we could understand them, although the usual response was recognition of variables and not specific equations. Our favorite part of the whole tour was the Atlantis launching simulator, where you sit in rows in a moving room and get to experience the feeling of taking off. After a full day of fun, we returned to Palm Coast to shower, then to the churches for dinner. Following dinner, we talked and played card games, until we decided to go to bed.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016:
This was the first day we started building the house. When we arrived, it was a slab of concrete. Since there were forty Theta Tau students, we were divided into smaller groups. I helped build interior and exterior tees with Felix from Xi Gamma Chapter in Texas. Jim worked with Helen, a lady with the Care-a-van group, cutting boards for different things. By the end of the day we had all exterior walls up and had started nailing plywood onto the wall.
Following work, we went to shower. After showers, we returned to the church to play card games and talk. Several others had gone to the beach, but we decided not to because of the little time and from being tired from work.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016:**
We were up and to the worksite at 8AM. Today, the goal was to finish the plywood, so the inspector could come the next day. I had the job of hammering nails back through the plywood because they did not go into the studs of the wall. Jim worked on reading the floor plans and marking the layout. He said he struggled reading the floor plan because it was poorly done. We finished all of this by lunchtime, and because the trusses did not arrive, we called it a day and cleaned up. Since we finished early, we decided to go to Flagler Beach with some Brothers, while the majority went to St. Augustine this time. We spent a good two hours jumping through waves in the cold Atlantic Ocean. This was my first time on the East coast, so I fully enjoyed the experience. We headed back to Palm Coast to shower before dinner. After dinner and a few short card games, all the Brothers went to Flagler Beach for a bonfire. It was only after we were there and struggled to start the fire that we realized we were breaking most of the rules on the permit we got. However, we continued with the bonfire anyway. Everyone had good conversations. The last thing that happened was sharing favorite memories from Theta Tau. Almost everyone’s story pertained to when they first felt accepted as a Brother and felt that they belonged.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016:**
Today was the last day of the build. By this point everyone was tired from the minimal sleep throughout the week. Luckily, one of the churches asked to make breakfast for us, so we had a good meal to start the day. We also had cake because they thought it would be good for breakfast. The plywood inspector had come that morning before we arrived and approved our work, so the next step was putting up the trusses that arrived earlier. Again, we were divided into about
three groups. I was with the group moving the trusses from where they were stacked up onto the roof. Jim was building and raising interior walls. When we quit for lunch, all the trusses were up and about one-third the interior walls were up. Lunch was a full buffet, consisting of hamburgers, hotdogs, ribs, sides, and desserts, all provided by the neighbor, who a few years earlier had his house built by Habitat while he was in the hospital for lung problems. Since he could not help with his own house, he does as much as he can to help Habitat for Humanity. He has also done impressive improvements on his own home. While eating, it started to rain. Since we had accomplished everything the lead from Habitat expected us to, plus some, we cleaned up after lunch. Jim, Andy, and I showered then returned to the church at which we were staying. Since it had rained, we went with a few Brothers to get smoothies before dinner. Afterwards, we returned to the churches for games and dinner. Some of the Chapters left after dinner, so we said good-bye. After eating, I played card games and learned Spades, while Jim and a few others went out for drinks. Upon their return, we played Spades. It was Grand Regent Brandon Satterwhite and Jim versus Rob, from Mu Chapter in Alabama, and me. Needless to say, Rob and I won by about 600 points (400 to -200, or so). Rob and I thought it was hilarious, but Brandon and Jim did not for whatever reason. After the game, we went to bed.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016:
Although we did not have to work, we still had to leave the church by 7:30AM since they had school. Jim and I gathered our things, said good-bye to our friends, group hug style, and went on our way. We began the ten hour trip to Kappa Beta Chapter in Mississippi, where we stayed for the night. On the drive there, I was Jim’s secretary. He listed many of the ideas he had for the chapter as well as things he learned from other chapters throughout the week, and I wrote them down. Once we made it to Kappa Beta, we met up with a Brother we met at the Habitat for Humanity build. We went to dinner followed by a gathering at another Brother’s house. After fun conversations, we returned to the Chapter house to sleep on their couches. I appreciated not sleeping on the ground anymore.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016:
In the morning, we went with the Kappa Beta Brothers to a local diner for breakfast. After eating, we said our good-byes and parted ways. The Kappa Beta Chapter reminded Jim and I a lot of our chapter, so we hope to return (with others) for their “Pig Pickin’” event next Fall. Another ten hours or so and we finally made it back to Stillwater. Although it was a long drive and we spent more time in the car then at the worksite, it was definitely worth the time. We built strong bonds with brothers from around the nation, and I know I am looking forward to the next time I can see them, just as I am sure Jim is too. This was a great experience that I would recommend to any Brother.
Life as a Professionally Engineered Orange

Have you ever sat and watched a sunset? The orange glow reflecting off the sky. Reflecting on the events of a day, marking a time of completion. Who did you spend time with? What did you do? What knowledge was gained to expand on what you will do tomorrow, next week, or next year? Being a member of Theta Tau, you spend time with your Brothers, both young and new, near and far. You also garner knowledge from those before you and disperse that knowledge to those after. You work together towards common goals. All of these things benefit you tomorrow while giving you a purpose today. Who better to show the embodiment of this orange glow than those from Syracuse’s Tau Chapter, home of the Orange?

REGIONALS

During the first weekend of October, a coming together of Brothers from different chapters transpired. The Northeastern Regional Conference, entrusted to Tau Chapter of Theta Tau, provided an opportunity for networking, learning, and gaining wisdom in both engineering and Theta Tau. As other chapters and colonies from around the region drove in on Friday night to Syracuse, they were welcomed to a barbecue. This provided a way for everyone to initially meet before the eventful day to come.

Regent John Schramm officially kicked off and led the conference Saturday morning. The topics inspired discussion between those in attendance on the dynamics of each chapter. Differences in recruiting methods, chapter meetings, and ideas to foster brotherhood gave insight on how we can not only improve ourselves, but the others around us. Guest lecturer Dr. Ben-Akih Kumgeh, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Syracuse College of Engineering, presented on energy and future of engineering. To conclude the conference, former Grand Regent Dean Bettinger, Syracuse (Tau) ’83, spoke about his time as an active brother, his time as Grand Regent, and about the transformation he experienced during his involvement in Theta Tau.

The day’s events continued with an engineering marvel that sits on the campus at Syracuse. Coded “The Loud House,” the Carrier Dome is the

“The ability to come together with brothers from all over to gain knowledge and insight from alumni and engineering faculty ... shows how people see and support Theta Tau as a whole.”
largest domed stadium on any college campus. The Teflon-coated inflatable roof intensifies the noise within for both basketball and football games. Together with brothers, we were allowed to visit the press box, tour the locker room facilities and step foot onto the gridiron. With getting close to dinner time, everyone returned to the chapter house for catered Chipotle.

With the weekend coming to a close, one realizes the reason we hold these events with such high regard. The ability to come together with brothers from all over to gain knowledge and insight from alumni and engineering faculty, and for those same people to volunteer their time to us shows how people see and support Theta Tau as a whole.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
For Tau Chapter, our house is a focal point for our chapter. It is a place for our Brothers to come together and enjoy each other’s company. Our house is also a thriving residence, housing more brothers in recent years than before. To maintain the house to support our growing chapter, an investment in renovations was made to bring the house up to spec.

The kitchen underwent an extensive remodeling. Brothers worked together to eliminate the drop ceiling, freeing up a lot of headroom. Refinishing the existing shelving and replacing the floor made the kitchen come to life. Newly acquired appliance will aid in the growth of the chapter that is to come. Most importantly, following an attempted break in that was thwarted by the heroic Brother Dave Brown, Syracuse (Tau) ’17, the back door was replaced with a solid door and combo lock.

The main stairs leading to the second floor also received some attention as the previously worn carpet was removed, revealing a hidden treasure of hardwood. A few Brothers took the time to strip the old stain and varnish off of the wood and replace it with a new cherry oak stain. This resulted in a revitalized stair case that will hopefully see many more years of use.

In previous years, ingress and egress to the parking lot has not been adequate especially in inclement weather. Many Brothers living at the house have cars, so it was critical that this job be done before winter arrives. A new retaining wall encircling the parking area was created to hold in the nearly 30 tons of gravel that
was used to level it. To finish off the parking lot, a driveway topper and a vibratory compactor allowed for a smooth surface to park.

A trip hazard in the summer and a slip hazard in the icy winter, the cracked concrete steps in front of the house needed replacing. New concrete steps were laid in front of the house leading to the front porch. The previous concrete steps were somewhat dangerous; cracks and instability posed a trip and fall hazard in the summer and a slip and fall hazard in the winter. A beautiful retaining wall has been built for the front yard as well.

Finally, gracing the front of our house is a beautiful new Theta Tau sign crafted by Brother Nick Litzenberger, Syracuse (Tau) ’17. Mounted under the top window on the front of the house, this sign brings light to our name and replaces what was once stolen before.

Working together with Brothers in this chapter allows for bonding and embracing what it means to be a member in this fraternity. To take responsibility to fix things that are broken, allows for our chapter to produce a foundation for ourselves and the generations to come after.

ALUMNI WEEKEND
During Homecoming Weekend this October, Tau chapter invited its alumni back for Alumni Weekend. Nearly 30 Graduates from the years 1955 to 2015 attended making this one of the biggest Alumni Weekends any of the active Brothers can remember.

The next day came, a day where Syracuse was playing Pitt in football. Right on the 50-yard line we sat to watch the game with fellow Brothers. The last time most of the alumni went to a game was when football was still played in Archbold Stadium, before the Carrier Dome was built. Even though Syracuse lost by a field goal, everyone had a great time.

After the game was over, everyone met back up at the chapter house for a post-game BBQ. A little bit into the event our neighbor Chancellor Kent Syverud stopped by for a burger and chat with everyone along with his wife Dr. Ruth Chen, Professor of Practice at the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Before leaving they made sure to invite the Fraternity over for dinner.

At the end of the day, everyone parted ways as the event was over. Seeing the joy in are alumni as they were taken back and reacquainted with their Brothers, both old and new, gave hope and promise that we may one day be able to revisit and remember the fond times we had while active in Theta Tau.

“Seeing the joy in are alumni as they were taken back and reacquainted with their Brothers, both old and new, gave hope and promise that we may one day be able to revisit and remember the fond times we had while active in Theta Tau.”
Can you outsmart your smartphone?

We all love our smartphones, but they’re only as smart as the decisions we make when using them. In 2013, over 3,150 people were killed in vehicle crashes related to distracted driving, while an additional 424,000 people were reported injured in such accidents (NHTSA, 2013). Make the road safer for everyone and put the phone away while driving.

To see how much you could save with a special Theta Tau member discount, visit geico.com/greek/thetatau or call 800-368-2734. Don’t forget, whenever you complete a new quote, GEICO gives back to Theta Tau.
Chapter News

Regionals: Behind the Scenes

The Impact of a Regional Conference

by Marielle Cortez, University of the Pacific (Lambda Delta) ’16

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE IS A BIENNIAL EVENT WHERE Theta Taus from all over come together and unite as brothers! If you have never been to one, the day typically starts off with chapter updates and professional development activities — a keynote speaker lecture and smaller break-out info sessions. It is a great opportunity to network and to exchange valuable advice! Afterwards, many brotherhood bonding activities take place, allowing us to contribute in our own way, coming closer together as a single cohesive unit. Brother Eric Petralia of Rho Delta chapter exclaims, “It was my favorite part! Finding things in common that didn’t have to do with engineering or Theta Tau, and then finding something unique about everyone.” The friendships developed from these activities are priceless, and will persist far beyond the scope of our undergraduate careers. It might be hard to appreciate the value of Regional Conferences if you have never been to one; however, the ultimate satisfaction comes from the opportunity to host one. It takes extraordinary time and effort to put on a huge conference like this! It is a true test of the values we have been taught as members of Theta Tau.

Over the course of the conference, we have discussed among brothers how it is important to be honest & ethical. To proceed without this foundation would compromise the structural integrity of our service to society. In order to establish and maintain credibility, we must also be dependable & trustworthy by properly prioritizing and accomplishing what must be done in a timely fashion. Furthermore, we must remain respectful of ourselves and each other. One of our biggest challenges as engineers is finding a way to solve problems together as a team, and only through mutual respect and accountability can this be accomplished. However, even with the growing stress of hosting an event of this size, it is important to take time for your own well-being in addition to that of those around you. One person alone cannot make this event successful. It takes many dedicated individuals to

Picture credits to Fahad Almenai.

From top to bottom: Spring 2016 Western Regional Conference attendees hosted by the Lambda Delta Chapter of Theta Tau; The Rock – painting the rock is a University of the Pacific tradition. Lambda Delta chapter got spirited and decorated it; Brothers having some photobooth fun; A picture of brothers bonding during breakfast.
step up to take the task at hand. We learned how we can be generous of time, talent, & treasure for Each Other, Theta Tau, and our Community, by finding the unique gift that everybody has to contribute. By valuing the precious commodities that every single person has to offer, we can grow together as not only friends and colleagues, but as a community. This weekend, the high spirits and enjoyment of our brothers make me proud that we are the oldest, largest and foremost Fraternity for Engineers.

To my fellow undergraduates: if the opportunity to host a Regional Conference ever comes your way, I certainly recommend that you find a way to get involved. Not only would you be taking part in hosting an amazing event, but also you would be writing an important chapter in Theta Tau history. Brad Hirayama, Regent of Lambda Delta (Pacific) Chapter, agrees, “Regionals served as a standing testament to all the hard work that our chapter dedicated into each and every event that we have put together.” For most people, being involved with an event of this magnitude is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I had the honor of co-coordinating with a brilliant brother from my chapter – Colleen Motoyasu. With unmistakable diligence and unmatched attention to detail, she was the mastermind behind making this conference run as flawlessly as it did. With her vast wealth of experience under her belt, I was quickly finding myself learning a great deal from her. These past few months were trying times, but ultimately helped each of us further develop our personal and professional selves. It really goes to show you that what you get out of Theta Tau is what you put into it. This organization shows great promise and infinite potential, and although the Lambda Delta Chapter is young and only nearing our four-year anniversary, I am so proud of what we have already been able to accomplish.

The culmination of experience that resulted from executing such an important event has left a lasting impression upon the members of our chapter, and has provided us with a greater appreciation of the fraternity as a whole. Colleen Motoyasu adds, “I hope all the brothers who attended the Spring 2016 Western Regional Conference in Stockton enjoyed catching up with brothers and learning what other chapters are doing. We, the brothers of Lambda Delta, sincerely appreciated you all making the trip out to University of the Pacific, and we’re excited to make the trip down to Sigma Delta (UC Riverside) for next semester’s Regionals!”

» Mu

ALABAMA
By Timothy Collins ’18

Oh, the joys of spring. Finally, the winter awakes from its deep sleep, the frost retreats, warm weather arrives, and the net goes up in the Theta Tau sand pit. You see, a lot of people would take volleyball as just being a game that brothers of Mu Chapter play for leisure. And while that may be true to a certain extent, it means a lot more than that. It’s an excuse to get outside and have fun with your brothers. You don’t even have to play that well or have significant skill; you have your brothers behind you backing you up and cheering you on all the way. Simply watching brothers play is a great way to take a load off from a full day of classes and tests. It’s raining outside? Mother nature is no detriment to pure euphoria our brothers get from jumping and diving for the ball. With the semester’s end coming soon, volleyball will take a hiatus. However, you can bet your bottom dollar come August, brothers will be asking for the ball.

» Upsilon

ARKANSAS
By Nathan Evans, ’16

It finally came back around to our chapter. One of the best events you can attend as a brother of Theta Tau. If you don’t know what I am talking about it is Central Regional Conference. Every semester a chapter in the central region hosts this event. This semester it was Upsilon. Everything started on Friday as our brothers from all over started coming in to settle in and prepare themselves for Saturday’s activities. We kicked off our conference with a speaker named Antonio Neves on “How to Create Your Own Luck”. From there we moved across the campus to breakout sessions where we learned How to Life, leadership skills, running chapters, and game breaks. This conference also had a Triva Bowl where groups of brothers were pit against each other on fraternity history and other pop culture things. But unfortunately we had to go back home. With a special thanks to Samantha Cloud. She spent most of her time putting this conference together and making sure this conference without a hitch. Some of us will see you next semester at Omega chapter!

» Chi

ARIZONA
By Ben Ambri ’18

Ask a group of students and faculty at the University of Arizona who their favorite float builders are, and many of them are likely to answer “the engineering fraternity.” They may call us Theta “T-ow,” but the Wildcats love our floats every year, and this homecoming was the year we bounced back after a two year losing streak. Brothers Kevin Dickey and Nick Katsinas took charge this semester, designing and constructing a wooden Parthenon and Mount Olympus for the 100 years of Greek life theme. The two lead the construction from the beginning of October all the way to the night before the parade. The morning of the parade, members got the float trailer onto the street with speakers playing
music in the bed of the truck. There was a lounge chair under the Parthenon for Wilbur, who was fanned with a palm frond by one of our members; and Zeus, portrayed by Chi Chapter’s regent, Parker Mathewson, stood atop the mountain with a lightning bolt. There was also a jail cell in the middle of the float housing the opposing team’s mascot, kindly played by a member of Chi Chapter. Members rode with and walked alongside the float, with the Zoo Keeper and Captain Arizona, the game day personas of Chi alumni David Badger and Skyler Brown respectively, leading in front. There may not have been any moving parts this year, but it was a quality float that the crowd and the judges loved.

»Kappa Beta MISSISSIPPI STATE
By Fredrick C. Monroe ’16

Picture it: You’ve just finished a long week of school – you know: endless amounts of homework, that you stressed over; three tests, that you undeniably crammed for; that pop quiz that left you feeling a bit salty, and the project assignment that made you feel little engineer that couldn’t.

You’re feeling a little run over by the events of the week, but you’re glad that it’s all over (at least for the next two days). And you decide to come by the chapter house for really no other reason than to take a load off. You walk in the front door, and no one is in the chapter room. That’s fine, you need a quiet place to rest your mind. As you sit on the couch just clearing your mind of everything but “fine dining, and breath-‘ing”, you start to smell something pleasant, and it’s coming from the kitchen. You get up and walk into the kitchen and see the oven is on. Oh man, there are cookies baking in the oven! That sweet smell of fresh baked cookies just takes you right up to cloud nine. But then you smell something else, like someone is grilling. Then you finally notice that people are talking and laughing. But where is that coming from? You look out of the window and see smiling faces, but not just any ole smiling faces. These are the faces of your brothers. You look at them all laughing and talking, and you suddenly feel the absolute need to join them, to be with them, to revel in the fun. You open the door to the backyard, and the weary chorus begins to sing. You get the feeling of home inside, everything is so familiar: David Cain is making a bonfire and showing off his new hunting gear; Katie Van Cott is talking in her kiddie voice to her dog, Ace Pup; Adam Jordan is making people laugh so hard their sides are bursting; Zach Baer is rounding up brothers to play Ultimate Frisbee; and Brad Hansen is approaching you to give you a hard time about something (or nothing, it depends). Yep. The culmination of all the smells, of all the laughter, and of the sheer excitement of spending time with your brothers makes you feel good inside; feeling good in such a way that only a brother of the Fraternity can feel. You know you can rely on these people for help, advice, a ride to the store, finances, school, anything. You are outside with your family, your Theta Tau family. The birds are flying high; the sun is in the sky. Butterflies are having fun, and there is a peace knowing the week is done. It’s a new dawn, a new day, and we are feeling good.

»Upsilon Beta OLD DOMINION
By Aaron Kelman ’18

On November third of this past year, Upsilon Beta Chapter had its twenty-fifth anniversary. The chapter celebrated this by having an anniversary party at the location of its founding, Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. The man that put it all together was the alumnus Rob Reali. He brought this to the chapter’s attention and led the decision making process so that
Advice on the “Real World”

Mu Delta’s First Alumni Panel

On the bright Sunday morning after spring 2015 initiation, Mu Delta Chapter hosted their first alumni panel. This was a professional development event carefully planned by PD chair Brother Jeffrey Kirkpatrick, UC Merced (Mu Delta) ’16, and Alumni Advisor Brother Kim-Alexis Daliva, UC Merced (Mu Delta) ’13. The timing for the event could not have been more planned out perfectly. The chapter’s alumni poured in town for the weekend to witness what was the chapter’s biggest initiated class to date. With this, they were able to participate in the panel or sit in the event to show support for their fellow brothers who were the panelists.

The Panel consisted of four alumni who presented their work after graduating from the University of California, Merced. The presentations ranged from brothers who work in the industry, like Boeing and Petagron, to brothers who are attending graduate school. This was a great networking opportunity for the chapter’s current student members. The panelists presented their work, talked about the industry they work in, and present their input on how to survive the “real world”. Adding to that, there was a question and answer after each presentation. This was where the audience were able to interact with the panelists and ask specific questions regarding their work or simply unique questions, such as asking for words of advice when diving head first into the workforce or graduate school.

Overall, the event was exceptional. It was different from the previous professional development events that the chapter has hosted. And as for a new event, this made a stamp in the chapter and, odds are, it will make multiple appearances in the future semesters.

— by Jinnabelle Garce, UC Merced (Mu Delta) ’16
this could happen. Over sixty alumni, actives and guests gathered at ODU to reconnect with old friends, laugh at old photos and enjoy some long missed fraternal fellowship. The actives were happy to meet Roll #1, Rich Jenkins along with other charter members and hear long forgotten mythology of the chapter’s founding. Brothers were encouraged to dust off their old hammers, unfold their letter and tees, and bring and display any other memorabilia that been collected over the years. Coming from the perspective of an active brother it was amazing to see all of these people come together and bond over the chapter they held so dear. I heard many interesting stories over the night and talked to many different people. It was a wonderful occasion to celebrate the twenty fifth anniversary of our chapter, and a great stepping stone to welcome us into the next twenty-five years. 

»Xi Gamma
TEXAS A&M
By Felix Sierra ’17

The 2015 Leadership Academy was a great experience for the ten Xi Gamma Brothers that attended. It can be difficult to get a clear perception of the fraternity on a national scale and attending an event with so many chapters present really helps members to understand the spectrum of the fraternity. As we conversed in the gymnasium, at Georgia Tech University, we realized that almost all the chapters had similar issues with which they were struggling. It was interesting being in a setting where so many like-minded, driven people were collaborating with the common goal of improving the fraternity. The guest speakers were able to provide some perspective on how each brother really interacted with the fraternity: who inspired, who encouraged, who enabled, who was a model, and who challenged the process. By figuring out our roles in the fraternity, we were able to strengthen other areas that would otherwise hinder our potential. All in all, the bonding experiences of meeting other chapters, the road trip to Georgia, and getting to mingle with the national officers are what will enable us to continue the growth of our chapter and fraternity.

»Phi Delta
FLORIDA STATE
By Ryan Rendina ’17

After hard work and dedication, the Phi Delta Chapter at Florida State University was installed last summer, May 28th, 2015. We ourselves are now in our second semester of chapterhood. We continue to strive for excellence. Our goal is to build a program of longevity that will help generations of engineers flourish and grow in our pillars of brotherhood, service, and professional development.

Our semesterly camping trip, that began while we were still a colony, is always one of our favorite and most attended event. In the past few semesters, we have camped in various locations such as Big Lagoon State Park, Kolomoki Mounds State Park, and most recently Providence Canyon State Park (see photo below). We are also developing traditions for our fraternity which includes a Fraternal Bonding day, filled with sports and food, prior to the Big/Little reveal.

We have immersed ourselves in the community through various university and community sponsored service events. Our involvement ranges from STEM tutoring at local elementary schools to participating in Habitat for Humanity’s local event Seminole Shack Showdown, where we pair with other student organizations to promote awareness on the issue of substandard living.

As our alumni base grows, the Phi Delta chapter has agreed that alumni relations is a top priority. Alumni weekend is a special time where those who worked hard to create our chapter are able to meet those who will be picking up the torch and carrying us into the future. Sustaining a close connection with our alumni has also helped to further professional development for our active members. Recent alumni return to host informational sessions and run recruitment tables during our job fairs. We have developed a mentorship program, run by our alumni, to help current members throughout the process of attaining their degree and preparing for full time positions and internships. With Convention right around the corner, we are excited for the opportunity to interact with our brothers on a national level. As the first year of our chapter comes to a close, we are eager and optimistic for the future of our chapter and this Fraternity.

»Chi Delta
MARSHALL
By Stuart Adkins ’17

On August 22, 2015, the Marshall Colony of Theta Tau was installed as the Chi Delta Chapter of Theta Tau, the very first chapter in the mountain state of West Virginia. Chi Delta’s journey began in spring of 2012 when engineering student Kristin
Bobuk began a search for a student organization that would help foster the growth of not only her engineering career, but of her classmates as well. During her search, Kristin came across Theta Tau and knew without a doubt that it was a perfect fit for Marshall’s campus. April 7, 2012 marked the official beginning for Theta Tau at Marshall University, when the Marshall Colony was founded with 16 members.

Since its conception, the group has initiated over 45 members and continues to hold a strong presence in the growing College of Information Technology and Engineering at Marshall University. With the completion of a brand new 145,000 square foot engineering facility at the university, Chi Delta expects to grow by leaps and bounds over the coming years as the engineering program continues expanding at an exponential rate.

Through their actions Chi Delta has made themselves known throughout the school. From giving back to the community by volunteering at the dog shelter to sharing brotherhood at football games, people have taken notice of who they are and what they stand for. Each brother strives to remain dedicated to our brotherhood, our future profession, and our community.

The brothers of Chi Delta would like to thank everyone who has provided support and advice throughout their journey to chapterhood and without whose help this day very well may never have come to fruition. Each member wishes to express their gratitude for the warm welcome into the brotherhood and their excitement for the future of the chapter. Chi Delta is here to stay.
Alumni Hall of Fame

This year Theta Tau inducts four members to its Alumni Hall of Fame.

The Theta Tau Alumni Hall of Fame was created by Convention action in 1986 and the four Founders were the inaugural inductees. Each Chapter may nominate two Brothers for consideration and those so honored shall receive a majority vote of the Alumni Hall of Fame Judging Committee. To date there have been 114 Brothers honored by their inclusion in the Hall of Fame.

Brigadier General Albert L. Pruden, Jr.
NC State, Rho 1955

Albert L Purden, Jr. was selected for outstanding service to his profession. Brother Purden received his Bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering in 1955 from North Carolina State University and then a Masters of Arts degree in Business Management from New Mexico Highlands University in 1977.

Brigadier General Purden was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1955. He received his wings in 1956, and flew fighter planes before becoming an F-106 instructor pilot and weapons systems instructor. He was selected to conduct high-altitude tests in F-106s and began efforts that led to the 20mm cannon being added to the F-106 armament system.

From 1966 – 1967, he was assigned to the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing “Gunfighters” at Da Nang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam and flew 140 combat missions, including 100 missions over North Vietnam. 6 years later he returned for a second tour of duty in Southeast Asia. At the end of the Vietnam conflict, he had flown 233 combat sorties in F-4C’s, D’s and E’s.

Upon his return to the United States, he served as deputy director of the F4E Operational Test and Evaluation Program and let development of the modified cockpit switchology incorporated in present-day F-4Ds. He served with several squadrons as manager, chief, vice commander, and commander. Under his command, his wing integrated improved production and prototype all-weather, near real time reconnaissance systems into its operational mission.
The general was a command pilot with more than 4,800 flying hours in fighter aircraft and his military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal and Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Brother Purden was promoted to Brigadier General in 1982 and retired in 1984 as the director of aerospace safety, Headquarters Air Force Inspection and Safety Center in California.

Dr. Jerome A. Gilbert
Mississippi State, Kappa Beta 1977

Dr. Jerome A. Gilbert was selected for outstanding service to his profession and his fraternity. He graduated from the Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Engineering in 1977 and in 1982 graduated with a Ph.D. Biomedical Engineering from Duke University.

As a student member of Kappa Beta, Brother Gilbert served as House Director, Professional Development Committee head, and organized service projects. He has since returned to speak at professional development dinners.

From 1982 – 1995 Brother Gilbert served as a Professor in Mechanical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Orthopedic Surgery, Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture.

From 1995 – 2003 Dr. Gilbert served as Interim and Department Head in the Agricultural and Biological Engineering department and established the graduate program in Biomedical Engineering.

From 2004 – 2015 Dr. Gilbert served as Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and served as a Research Affiliate in the Institute for Imaging and Analytical Technologies. He served as Interim Dean of the Bagley College of Engineering and the Provost and Executive Vice President at Mississippi State University.

In January of 2016, Dr. Gilbert became the 37th president of Marshall University.

Dr. Gilbert’s research has focused on bone modeling, orthopedic biomechanics, osteoporosis modeling, and biocompatibility of biomaterials. He has more than 40 Journal Publications to his credit and both the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation have funded his research projects.

Active in the local community, Brother Gilbert is a co-founder of the Starkville Foundation for Public Education and has worked with and held positions in the Starkville Area Arts Council and the Cotton District Arts Festival.

David P. Post
Michigan Tech, Beta 1956

David Post was selected for outstanding service to his profession and his fraternity. He graduated from Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1956.

As a student member of Beta Chapter, Brother Post served as Regent during his senior year and led the chapter in numerous inter-fraternal activities including the victory of winning the MTU Winter Carnival by dominating the snow statue skit.

In 2007, He volunteered to Chair the Capital Fund Drive to solicit funds to construct a new Beta Chapter House. He organized a committee of Beta alumni to develop the fund raising material and initiate contact with alumni.

David endured through several committee transformations and is likely the only Brother to raise over a million dollars for the Fraternity! This personal dedication and resolve has resulted in the new Beta Chapter House being constructed and financed with a positive business case to have it paid off in ten years!

David has had a seasoned career with Bethlehem Steel starting in a Sales role and working his way up to Vice President before his retirement.

He has served as Board Members on ‘Steel Service Center Industrial Board’ and the ‘Steel Recycling Institute’ and also was chairman of the ‘Iron and Steel Institute.’

David has been recognized for his participation in ‘Blue Key Engineering Society,’ a ‘Trustee of Michigan Tech Fun Executive Council’ and ‘Michigan Tech President’s Club.’ David was awarded ‘MTU Board of Control Silver Medal Award’ in 1993.

Active in the local community, Brother Post is a board member of Lehigh Valley Industrial Park and Soucon Valley Country Club and is very involved with his local church.

James D. Cote
Michigan Tech, Beta 1962

James Cote was selected for outstanding service to his profession and his fraternity. He graduated from Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1962 and received an MBA from Wayne State University in 1973.

As a student member of Beta Chapter, Brother Cote served as Regent.

He served the Beta House Corporation as Treasurer and President. Jim demonstrated true H&T spirit during his eight years on the House Corporation resulting in a new house for Beta Chapter. He provided outstanding support and direction for fund raising, land swap negotiations, financing, and occupancy permitting. As Treasurer, he also reversed IRS penalties incurred by overdue IRS filings.

Jim and his wife continue their support Beta Chapter by personally endowing a Beta Academic Scholarship. He remains involved with strengthening chapter leadership by encouraging Professional Development and campus involvement.

Brother Cote had a distinguished career with GM starting as an engine design engineer and retiring as Chief Engineer of Medium Duty Commercial Trucks. In 1986, he served as an executive engineer creating a new Truck Safety and Crashworthiness group which installed the first air bag in a GM Truck.

He received honors from Owens Corning & Society of Plastics Institute in 1980 and also holds a patent for an Engine Hydraulic Governor.

Brother Cote professional affiliations includes, Member of The Society of Automotive Engineers and MTU Presidents Club, Co-Chair – GM C4 Core Enabler on Artificial Intelligence, Chair of U of Missouri Industrial Advisory Board and US Truck Manufacturers Association

Active in the local community, Brother Cote is a lay leader in his church, an engineering mentor and Jaycee lifetime member.
What drove you to join Theta Tau?
I was initially turned off from Greek life given the way it is depicted in movies and popular culture. However, as a freshman ChemE student, I liked the idea of a professional fraternity that would provide opportunities to grow personally and professionally with others who shared my interests. I showed up to the rush meetings and I was hooked. I had a great pledge trainer (Thanks Hal!), a great big brother (Thanks Pamela!) and a great pledge class.

What has been your favorite experience as a National Officer?
I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2004 and still live in the area, so I’d have to say that my favorite experience was assisting in the formation of Nu Delta at Pitt from interest group to colony to chapter. I like to joke that I’m probably the only person to install a chapter at my own Alma Mater! I do feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in eighteen different chapter and colony installations and find that the enthusiasm of each new member rekindles my own Theta Tau flame.

What do you like to do for fun?
I love spending time with my wife Heather, and kids Abigail (9) and Henry (7)! We love to swim, camp, travel, read books, watch movies, do youth sports, and play games together. In fact, my kids are still trying to beat me at Mario Kart 8 on the WiiU that Santa brought.

How has your professional life impacted Theta Tau?
Fortunately, this has been a two way street. As a manager at work, I’ve learned a great deal about leading a team, from setting and organizing goals to motivating, evaluating, and developing my direct reports. However, I believe that my Theta Tau leadership experience was a deciding factor in my promotion to a management position at work. That’s one reason that I’ve enjoyed facilitating at the Leadership Academy, as it allows me to give back to Theta Tau and develop our next generation of leaders.

While technology and innovation has been ever increasing, Theta Tau has also been growing. Where do you see the Fraternity 10 years from now as things continue to grow?
Imagine a nationwide Professional Development presentation simulcast to every chapter and member who wants to see it. That technology exists today—we just need the manpower to actually implement it. The governance of the fraternity was designed for a much smaller organization of only twenty or so active chapters. Today, with 81 chapters and colonies, we’re having some growing pains. We may need to revisit our governance structure to ensure that it can handle the 100+ chapters that we will likely have in the future. That means more volunteers, more training, and a greater reliance on technology to streamline our operations, but should also provide more opportunities for brothers across the nation to participate on a regional and national level like never before. What an exciting time to be a member of Theta Tau!
In Memoriam

Former Editor of The Gear Passes

William E. Franklin, Zeta (Kansas) ’57, passed away on May 15, 2016. Bill earned his undergraduate degree in Geological Engineering at KU, and master’s degree in Industrial Administration from Purdue. During his time at KU, he was Regent of Theta Tau, President of the Engineering Student Council, and Editor of The Kansas Engineer. As an alumnus, he became Theta Tau’s very first Regional Director in 1958. In early 1962, he became Editor-in-Chief of The Gear of Theta Tau, and continued as such until 1972. At Theta Tau’s 2004 Convention, he was inducted into its Alumni Hall of Fame. Brother Franklin gained national recognition in the fields of solid waste management and Life Cycle Assessment. He participated in some of the first published national studies of markets for recovered materials with the Public Health Service and the EPA. He helped the EPA develop a methodology for estimating municipal solid waste generation. His work was furthered when he founded Franklin Associates. He served his community as Mayor of Prairie Village, President of the Johnson County Board of Commissioners, and ways too numerous to mention. In all his personal and professional endeavors, he and his wife Marjorie (Marge), who preceded him in death, were full partners. He is survived by his brother Bob Franklin (Zeta ’61), children Mark and Janice, and numerous grandchildren. There will be Celebration of Life on August 6, 3:00 pm, at the Prairie Village Community Center in Prairie Village, KS.
Join us for a unique opportunity to learn, share, grow, celebrate, and deliberate the future of our Fraternity!