HAMMER TIME!

Clemson’s Lambda Gamma Chapter competes in Red Bull’s Flugtag.

New Educational Foundation Board Members

Tradition of Sand Sculpturing

Q&A with Grand Regent Satterwhite
The Gear of Theta Tau: Past & Present

The Fraternity’s magazine began as an annual Chronicle of the Fraternity in General titled “Hammer and Tongs.” Published under the direction of Beta Chapter at Michigan Tech, the first issue was edited by Herman Hopkins, Michigan Tech (Beta) ’08. In 1909, the magazine was first titled The Gear. Over the decades, the magazine page size changed to accommodate different printing presses. In 1972, Richard Nixon began his second presidential term, Mark Spitz won 7 Olympic gold medals, the first scientific hand-held calculator was created, Atari released the first video game PONG, and this tidbit appeared in the local paper announcing James Walter, Purdue (Phi) ’68, as the new editor of Theta Tau’s magazine.

We are very grateful to all those fine Brothers who have served as Editor in the last 100+ years:

- Charles Cameron, Michigan Tech (Beta) ’10
- Harry Turner, Michigan Tech (Beta) ’11
- Theodore Welcker, Michigan Tech (Beta) ’11
- Jack Haynes, Minnesota (Alpha) ’08
- Henry Machtett, Minnesota (Alpha) ’13
- Otto Budde, Case (Delta) ’12
- Frank Mooney, Minnesota (Alpha) ’23
- Albert Morse, Minnesota (Alpha) ’25
- Donald Curtis, Iowa (Omicron) ’19
- Joseph Howe, Iowa (Omicron) ’24 & Paul Mercer, Iowa (Omicron) ’21
- William Franklin, Kansas (Zeta) ’57
- Garn Hatch, Utah State (Zeta Beta) ’39
- James Walter, Purdue (Phi) ’68
- Steven Williams, Tennessee Tech (Lambda Beta) ’73
- Richard Rummelhart, Iowa (Omicron) ’76
- Arthur Petzelka, Iowa (Omicron) ’79
- Sean Donnelly, Syracuse (Tau) ’88 & Lawrence El-Hindi, Syracuse (Tau) ’87
- Robert Pope, Kansas (Zeta) ’52
- Michael Abraham, Wayne State (Epsilon Beta) ’92
- Allison Pollard, Southern Methodist (Tau Beta) ’05

Theta Tau has worked with Tria Designs to bring you this newly designed edition of The Gear. We hope that you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed creating it!
Flutag!
Clemson’s Lambda Gamma Chapter Gears Up for the Red Bull Flutag

Studying Abroad: Ireland
It’s not just about the Irish.

Spring Break!
It’s not what you think.
With an engineering spirit, our 2012 National Convention made decisions to improve our documentation for increased efficiency and risk mitigation.

**POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL**

The 2012 National Convention authorized the creation of a new Policy & Procedure Manual with content taken verbatim from sections removed from our Bylaws by that Convention. In the future, it is expected that this Policy & Procedure Manual will be converted to common vernacular and contain checklists and forms for easy reference covering virtually all aspects of chapter operations.

**NEW MEMBER EDUCATION MANUALS**

The Convention also ordered the creation of New Member Education Manuals to be used in the preparation of pledges for membership in Theta Tau. In studying the matter, the Executive Council contracted with RISE Partnerships to create 3 models/versions for our chapters: Basic, Standard, and Non-Traditional. Very briefly put, the Basic Model is tailored for use by colonies, new chapters, and chapters that need to get “back to the basics” in their education program. The Standard Model should likely be used by most chapters and includes activities specifically designed to facilitate pledges/members getting to know one another in the larger chapters we are experiencing today. Finally, the Non-Traditional Model provides activities designed for chapters that are un-housed or may have difficulty reserving meeting space on campus for activities, events, and meetings.

The Manuals contain very detailed instruction, information, checklists, and materials needed to conduct a well-planned education period. Each Manual is divided into three parts: Instructor’s Manual, Handouts, and Pledge Workbook. Chapters are being encouraged to familiarize themselves with the content now with implementation expected in 2014. In authoring these manuals, the Executive Council and National Convention are responding to increased oversight of education processes and other activities by colleges and universities. Having a certain, documented process can go a long way to mollify a school administrator to whom a concern may be reported. In addition, such defined and documented practices and programs also decrease the likelihood that undesirable habits will creep into an education program (habits that may result in discipline by the school against a chapter).

Additional action taken by the 2012 National Convention to amend our laws changed the name of the Pledge & Membership Manual to the Membership Manual. A new edition of that manual, containing information for prospective members about our history, purpose, operations, etc. was produced for distribution to chapters this fall.
TWITTER:
@UMNCSE: #UMN Theta Tau engineering fraternity hosted life-size game of Jenga. What a perfect day for #UMNHomcoming

Micky Drake, Alabama (Mu) '16
@mickydrake8: I love my brothers. At least one of them can always make me smile : ) #thetatau @MuChap_ThetaTau

@ThetaTauUpsilon: Birthday cake time. #ThetaTau

Nathaly Navarrete, California-Merced (Mu Delta) '14 @nathalynav: I'm seriously blessed to be part of the brotherhood in Theta Tau. If it wasn't for my brothers, who knows how engr classes would be #thetatau

@VTThetaTau: Brothers at the Hokie Half-Marathon
Journey to Leadership

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OVER 100 THETA Taus sing together? It happened because of you. You made our eighth biennial Leadership Academy in St. Louis an overwhelming success. Nearly 200 Theta Tau members from 42 chapters and colonies attended, and the excitement could be felt from the start!

Each Leadership Academy starts with introductions and icebreaker activities to form our learning community, and this year’s attendees jumped into the fun immediately. In the first session, the attendees broke into 8 groups and practiced brainstorming and group decision-making activities found in our leadership toolkits— we never attempted having the entire learning community participate hands-on during this session before, and it was an experiment that went off without a hitch!

Throughout the Academy members learned about their personal strengths and weaknesses while practicing new skills that will help them serve their chapters and their communities. And this year the group facilitators each had the opportunity to present to the entire learning community, and the entire room erupted in song! Thank you for your donations to the Theta Tau Educational Foundation that made the 2013 Leadership Academy an outstanding and memorable event. And thanks to our sponsors, Herff Jones, GEICO, and the James R. Favor Company.

FEEDBACK

ANIRUDH ANTONY SINGH, MINNESOTA (ALPHA) ’15
This may sound like a broken record, but I would like to thank each and everyone of you, from the brothers who organized the event to the brothers who attended, for making this an unforgettable experience. Leadership Academy has helped me grow as a brother and a leader, and it has inculcated in me a deeper meaning of brotherhood. I thank all of you for coming, and I would like to invite all of you to come over and visit us at Alpha. I hope to see you in the near future. Rah rah!

BRIAN LASHOMB, ALABAMA (MU) ’08
It is so inspiring to see the fraternity grow and succeed with you new student leaders, the future of our fraternity. I come to these events every year, and even though I graduated 5 years ago, I am never disappointed and always still have a great time and learn new things. I hope to see many of you at future national and regional events and/or chapter installations.

LEADERSHIP TIP:
Forming a Community

“Forming” is an essential aspect of developing a team, and taking the time to understand individual differences and similarities is necessary. We need to feel that as individuals we make a unique contribution to the team. Our similarities will help us synergize and work together, and we need to feel personally accountable to others in the group.

When forming a new team or committee or re-forming after new members are added, introduce activities that allow individuals to identify their similarities and differences. Things as simple as favorite foods, hobbies, and places they’ve lived can be shared. There is an extraordinary value in connecting with individuals, and when we do this, we let go of a bit of our personal needs and drivers and begin to think more about the collective good.

For example activities to use, contact Allison Pollard at allison.pollard@thetatau.org.

Far Left: Alumni and student members participating in an icebreaker activity
Left: Attendees practiced facilitating and brainstorming in groups
Above: Naoki Kitamura, Binghamton (Nu Gamma) ’14; and learning partner Garrett Crowe, Texas A&M (Xi Gamma) ’15
The best advice I ever received was...

What inspires you?

How do you manage stress?

What is the best advice you ever received? The best advice I received was from my father. He said, "Don't be like me; be better than me and do great things with your life."

Sylvester Stafford

ROBERT E. POPE
OUTSTANDING STUDENT MEMBER
Sylvester Stafford, Mississippi State (Kappa Beta) ‘13

Sylvester Stafford served as Kappa Beta Chapter Vice Regent, Scholarship Chair and was in charge of recruitment; he organized all of the recruitment events that led to 15 pledges. As Scholarship Chair, Sylvester encouraged studying to all members and sat down with members who were struggling. He also attended regions in South Carolina and visited Zeta Gamma and Mu Chapters, as well as attended professional development and service events and participated in intramural sports within Theta Tau.

Why did you join Theta Tau? I joined Theta Tau for the connections that could be made for studying in my classes. After becoming a member, those connections I sought turned into a second family, one with which I work, live and proudly belong.

What might someone be surprised to know about you? Someone would be surprised that I will be a first generation four-year university graduate.

How do you manage stress? I manage stress by going for a fast, pleasant drive in my Miata.

What inspires you? Ever since I was young, I liked to solve problems. It made me want to become an engineer and inspires me to create new things that will change the world.

What is the best advice you ever received? The best advice I received was from my father. He said, "Don’t be like me; be better than me and do great things with your life.”
FLUGTAG!

Clemson’s Lambda Gamma Chapter Gears Up for the Red Bull Flugtag

By Carolyn Lennon, ‘14, Regent; and Megan Hanscheke, ‘14, Corresponding Secretary

Peter Bosch/Miami Herald Staff
This year Red Bull hosted its first ever national Flugtag with five cities across the country playing host to approximately 35 teams each—Washington, D.C.; Miami, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas; and Long Beach, California. On September 21, 2013, all of the teams launched their machines off a 30-foot tall, 120-foot long platform. A total of 1,007 applications were submitted to the competition, and Lambda Gamma Chapter from Clemson University was selected as one of the 33 teams to compete in Miami, Florida.

We were very excited when we initially heard about the competition and even more when we were selected. We chose five brothers to represent the chapter: Erin Carpenter (‘16), CJ Couch (‘13), Kelly Gilliland (‘16), Mike Jones (‘15), and Justin McAllister (‘15). The next course of action was choosing a theme. After very little deliberation, the choice was obvious to us. We decided our team would be “Theta Tau Presents ‘Hammer Time’” as a tribute to the fraternity’s core values and our hammer and tongs spirit.

We were given common restrictions such as a weight limit of 400 pounds (including the pilot); the restrictions that worried us most were the size restrictions. Not only were we worried about making it too big to be in the competition—we were worried about it being too big to be able to transport to Miami!

What is Flugtag?

“Flugtag” (floog-tahg) is a German word meaning flight day, a fitting name for the competition that Red Bull holds every year where teams from all over the world come together to compete and put their homemade, human-powered flying machines to the test.

The first Red Bull Flugtag was officially organized in Vienna, Austria in 1992, but in the English coastal town of Selsey an annual flying competition called the “Birdman Rally” has been held since 1971. The idea of manned flight dates back as far as the 1480’s with Leonardo da Vinci drafting many blueprints of various flying machines. Red Bull has held over 35 competitions around the world since their inaugural competition in 1992. The competition came to the USA in 2002, drawing over 25,000 spectators at the first event, becoming an instant success. Since then over 20 competitions have been held around the country.

Throughout the building process, we found out how fortunate our chapter is to have such a variety of disciplines represented by our brothers. Our civil and mechanical engineers worked on the initial drawings of our craft in SolidWorks to make sure we could get enough lift under our wings to fly, the industrial engineers started laying out work schedules of everything that needed to get accomplished, and the remainder tapped into connections from internships and co-ops to secure building supplies.

Our craft was modeled after the design of a glider and took approximately two months to fully build. We worked on it at locations all over the upstate of South Carolina, from our brothers’ parents’ basements and garages to a storage unit closer to Clemson. Regardless, we managed to pull together as a chapter and finish the build on time. We loaded everything into a 14’ U-Haul on September 18 in preparation for the trip down to Miami where it was...
assembled the night before the competition.

The day of the competition, the craft went through the final safety inspection and was then placed back into position with the rest of the crafts so the general public and judges could walk around and look at each of them. The team was decked out in full “Hammer Time” outfits with Mike Jones as MC Hammer and Justin McAllister taking the role of Marvel’s Thor with his legendary hammer in order to gain creativity points for our team. Throughout the day, we watched many crafts gracefully fall into the Biscayne Bay with little more than a second of flight. Our craft, the seventh one of the day, was the first one in the Miami competition to achieve significant distance. We soared 54 feet before gently landing in the bay. Very few crafts achieved farther than ours.

At the conclusion of the weekend, it turned out that #7 was our lucky number for the duration of the competition. We were team number 7, finished 7th in distance, and earned 7th in total points. It turned out to be a great day for Red Bull Flugtag across the nation. The world record was broken twice in Long Beach, California, and now stands at a staggering 258 feet!

It was a very successful trip and a wonderful event to bring the disciplines of engineering we represent together to accomplish a goal. Many of the brothers have expressed interest in competing again. Now that we have experience under our belts we have very high hopes for next year!

The Lambda Gamma Chapter would like to extend a thank you to both the Rho Gamma and Omega Gamma Chapters for their hospitality when we traveled to Miami.
BECOMING A BROTHER OF PHI CHAPTER IS among the best commitments I’ve made as a student at Purdue University. To this day, it’s a challenge expressing how much my college experience has improved because of my involvement with Theta Tau. I find myself among an immense community of peers, both developing as a leader and forming life-long friendships. I’m especially proud of my time and effort put towards our chapter’s lasting prominence at Purdue and continuing excellence in engineering. I therefore feel quite invested in Phi Chapter’s future. Only an opportunity like being able to intern and study abroad in Ireland could pull me away from my brothers for the fall semester of my senior year.

Engineering is becoming an increasingly international field, and the chance to work as an R&D Intern for Fort Wayne Metals (FWM) Research Products in Castlebar, Ireland, this past summer has been invaluable. FWM is a global leader in medical-grade wires, which become critical components to virtually every medical device, from arterial stents to even neurovascular guidewires. Working in Ireland is exceedingly international; I would often sit in meetings with my Irish boss, a German customer, and a fellow intern from France, all while on the phone with a consultant in Spain. FWM lent me the company car for the summer. I had to teach myself to drive a manual transmission, but after getting that under control, I was driving all over Ireland virtually every weekend. So far, I’ve spent weekends in Northern Ireland, the Cliffs of Moher, and Dublin, and even met up with one of my Phi Chapter brothers in County Cork.

My trip doesn’t end after three months in Castlebar; as I write this, I’m sitting in the lounge of the Engineering Building at NUI Galway on the western coast of Ireland. My time here is spent taking a full load of engineering courses including my senior design capstone project. Ireland is an amazing country, and I’m doing my best to make the most of this experience in Europe by joining NUI Galway’s mountaineering club, visiting friends in Denmark, experiencing Oktoberfest in Munich, and much more. Leaving here at Christmas won’t be easy, but knowing I have another semester with my brothers at Purdue to look forward to certainly helps.

Working in Ireland is exceedingly international; I would often sit in meetings with my Irish boss, a German customer, and a fellow intern from France, all while on the phone with a consultant in Spain.

STUDYING ABROAD: Ireland

By Matthew Pharris, Purdue (Phi) ’14

Becoming a Brother of Phi Chapter is among the best commitments I’ve made as a student at Purdue University. To this day, it’s a challenge expressing how much my college experience has improved because of my involvement with Theta Tau. I find myself among an immense community of peers, both developing as a leader and forming life-long friendships. I’m especially proud of my time and effort put towards our chapter’s lasting prominence at Purdue and continuing excellence in engineering. I therefore feel quite invested in Phi Chapter’s future. Only an opportunity like being able to intern and study abroad in Ireland could pull me away from my brothers for the fall semester of my senior year.

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Brother Bob Smith, Ohio State (Sigma) ’67, has been retired since 2001 after working at 3M for nearly 35 years in research and development engineering.

What was it about engineering that interested you?
It’s like engineering was where I was always going to end up. I started as one of those kids who took things apart to see how they worked and then put them back together, and I had a good mechanical influence from my two grandfathers and my father. It was these two things: how things work, i.e. engineering, and aviation that continually led me toward engineering. Then it was just a matter of which kind of engineering to study.

The premise for engineering was interesting to me: what can you make for people or society that makes things better? Engineering is about more than just what can make money.

What inspires you to give?
Donating is one way to help the next generation of students. Two specific reasons I donate each year are:

I graduated in 1967, and we’ve had a group of us from Sigma Chapter that have stayed in touch ever since then. Being a brother in the fraternity, I’ve found there was a bond built back in school that we’ve kept going; the brotherhood, the chapter, and our school have meant something special to us. We have a reunion every three years around Thanksgiving for whoever can make it. Our spouses have all become good friends. We have really become a family. Hopefully new generations of students — brothers — will have that too.

Secondly, back in 1999, I got a call about a property tax bill that Sigma Chapter received and also learned that the house association had pretty much dissolved. The chapter was down to a few student members. We wrote to all the chapter’s alumni to help out with both money and work days at the house to try to revive the chapter and the house. The response was wonderful. Eventually, though, we turned the house over to the Educational Foundation because we couldn’t keep up with it year after year, as our alumni were scattered all over the country. For those of us who worked on that effort and for all the past house association members and the rest of the alumni, the transfer was a way to insure the growth of the chapter.
2013 Scholarship Recipients

The Foundation is pleased to announce that the 2013 scholarships were named late past spring! In addition to the scholarships listed below, you also made 50 grants for students to attend the 2013 Leadership Academy this past July. Thanks for your past and continued support of our young brothers!

**CHAN FUND**
Rocky Diegmiller, Pennsylvania (Tau Gamma) ’15
Ashley So, Rutgers (Omicron Delta) ’14

**IOTA BETA FUND**
Caleb Latimer, Wayne State (Epsilon Beta) ’15
Carlo del Mundo, Virginia Tech (Psi Gamma) ’13

**JOHNSON FUND**
Phuong Pham, Pacific (Lambda Delta) ’15

**THETA TAU**
Amy Cunningham, Cal., Davis (Omicron Gamma) ’14
Sharon Milligan, Alabama (Mu) ’13
Chrissy O’Keefe, Maryland (Eta Delta) ’13
Kaitlin Smith, Southern Methodist (Tau Beta) ’14

**KALV FUND**
David Loder, Purdue (Phi) ’14
Dorothy Libring, Rutgers (Omicron Delta) ’14

**LADD FUND**
Rafael Ollervides, Cal., Merced (Mu Delta) ’13
Lucy Richardson, Southern Methodist (Tau Beta) ’15

**MILLER FUND**
Caleb Felker, Alabama (Mu) ’15
Rebecca Zubaljo, Maryland (Eta Delta) ’15

**RAMO FUND**
Amy Tang, Cal., Davis (Omicron Gamma) ’14

**SIGMA FUND**
James Alderman, Ohio State (Sigma) ’15
Sean Crowe, Ohio State (Sigma) ’16
Mason Eberhart, Ohio State (Sigma) ’16
Joseph Kausits, Ohio State (Sigma) ’13
Mohamad Mohamad, Ohio State (Sigma) ’15
Andrew Ondrejcak, Ohio State (Sigma) ’13
Eric Sessler, Ohio State (Sigma) ’14
Adam Snow, Ohio State (Sigma) ’15
Gukhee Youn, Ohio State (Sigma) ’14

Who have been the leaders and mentors in your life?
There were several in my career at 3M, but in relation to the fraternity when I was in school (which seems ages ago now), we had a pretty strong regional director and Executive Director Bob Pope. He was great at staying in touch with all of the chapters and was a very positive influence for us. We also had good campus advisers — one being the Dean of College Engineering earlier on and then later one of the electrical engineering professors. There were a lot of people with history with the fraternity that set an example for us in their frequent visits, including a past Grand Regent from Sigma Chapter and one of our very early chapter members. They were all wonderful examples of what you should do in life and were helpful in teaching us. The brothers in the classes ahead of us also were leaders and set good examples on how to lead development, maintain the house, and all the other things about being brothers and a Theta Tau chapter.

“The premise for engineering was interesting to me: what can you make for people or society that makes things better?”
From the President

It is significant to me that on this past Founders Day the new board of directors for the Theta Tau Educational Foundation was announced – I feel it’s a symbol of what this great team is going to accomplish moving forward. I have been elected President, and I am honored to serve our fraternity and represent the Xi Beta Chapter of Lawrence Technological at the national level.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the past board members for their service and dedication to Theta Tau and the Foundation; to me, they have always embodied the spirit I imagine our founders had for Theta Tau.

In the coming months, the board will be defining its strategic vision and goals for the Educational Foundation. I am eager to get started and see what we can achieve together to support our student members through scholarships and leadership training.

Rah Rah Theta Tau!

Justin Wiseman, Theta Tau Foundation President
(Lawrence Technological – Xi Beta ’95)

Justin Wiseman, President
Lawrence Technological (Xi Beta) ’95

Justin Wiseman is a Product Engineer at Chrysler LLC. He holds a BSME in Systems Design from Lawrence Technological Engineering and an MSME in Manufacturing from Wayne State University. He has served Theta Tau for over 15 years, most recently as Grand Vice Regent. Wiseman was instrumental in establishing chapter advisory teams to encourage alumni to mentor and support chapters and students. Wiseman has also served Sigma Phi Epsilon (SigEp), most recently as president of SigEp Alumni and Volunteer Corporation. He brings considerable experience and ideas from his prior service. Wiseman has directly served the Foundation through his leadership as a facilitator for the Leadership Academy and through solicitations to potential donors on behalf of the Foundation.

Steven Brewer, Vice President
Binghamton (Nu Gamma) ’04

Steven Brewer is a Senior Engineer at Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation. He holds a BS in Industrial and Systems Engineering from State University of New York at Binghamton. Brewer has fulfilled a number of chapter and national roles in Theta Tau Fraternity including national service as Northeast Regional Director. Brewer has served the Educational Foundation directly through service as lead facilitator and group facilitator. His desire for the Foundation is to promote a regional academy and to cultivate engagement from early careerists for the fraternity and the Foundation.
Educational Foundation Directors:

Jeffery Blake, Treasurer
Wayne State (Epsilon Beta) ’88
Jeffery Blake is a Sales Engineering Manager for Splunk - a machine data analytics platform. He holds a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies from Wayne State University where he served as Regent of Epsilon Beta Chapter, and he is completing research for a Masters in Information Systems from Northwestern University. Blake has served as a facilitator at early Academies and is currently the Foundation Treasurer working on projects for corporate fundraising.

Jeffrey Skrentner, Secretary
Iowa (Omicron) ’06
Jeffrey Skrentner holds a BSE and MS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Iowa. He is currently a Quality Engineer at Smiths Medical in Minneapolis, Minn. Skrentner has fulfilled a number of chapter and national roles in Theta Tau Fraternity, including serving as Central Regional Director. He has served the Foundation as Continuing Education Director and as a facilitator for the National Leadership Academy for multiple years. Skrentner’s focus is in engaging alumni and building continuing education.

J. Matthew Clark, Trustee
Mississippi State (Kappa Beta) ’99
Matthew Clark is currently Charitable & Endowment Group Manager at PNC in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He holds a BBA in Economics from Mississippi State University; a JD from University of Pittsburgh; and an MBA from Penn State University. Clark is currently Grand Vice Regent for Theta Tau and has served as a facilitator for the National Leadership Academy. His legal background and experience with endowments are unique. Additionally, he will serve as a liaison between the Foundation and the Fraternity.

Roy Daniels, Trustee
South Florida (Upsilon Gamma) ’07
Roy Daniels is an entrepreneur, software developer, and founder of NEXTfinity, LLC. Daniels holds a BS in Computer Engineering from the University of South Florida. He has served the fraternity as Colony Director and as a facilitator for the Leadership Academy. Daniels has unique technical, web, and social media competencies and wants to enhance the Foundation’s web presence.

Allison Pollard, Trustee
Southern Methodist (Tau Beta) ’05
Allison Pollard is currently Senior Consultant at Improving Enterprises. Pollard holds bachelor’s degrees in Computer Science, Math, and English from Southern Methodist. She has served as Editor-in-Chief of The Gear since 2008 and been a web committee member since 2006; she was also a founding member of the Theta Tau National Alumni Club. Pollard serves as a board member for the Dallas Agile Leadership Network and is an organizer of the DFW Scrum user group, which has over 60 attendees at its monthly meetings. Pollard has served as a group facilitator, alumni group facilitator, and advanced track facilitator at the Leadership Academy. Pollard is looking forward to contributing to the Foundation’s strategic vision and programming.
Brothers pose on the build site
Through Habitat for Humanity’s program, homeowners literally build their own homes, and over the past 30 years, Habitat has built 350,000 houses. Theta Tau selected Habitat for Humanity as the fraternity’s national philanthropy at the 2000 National Convention. This was our fourth year for an alternative spring break, and we held four different weeks—three in Flagler Beach, Florida, and one in Ventura, California.

**Reminder of Blessings**

**By Chris Luo, Minnesota (Alpha) '13:**

“You need more elbow grease to get that nail in,” said Al, one of the construction site leaders at Flagler Habitat for Humanity. Most of us had never seen a house built from ground up, and now we were part of the crew to do just that. We learned how to build the frame and lay the roof trusses for the house. In addition, we laid tiles for another house that was due for completion in a few weeks. This Spring Break trip gave us an opportunity to offer service to one another and the community. We helped one another during the construction hours and also strengthened our bond of fraternal fellowship during the evening free time. After this service project with Flagler Habitat, I am looking forward to serving my community through the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Minnesota. I was very satisfied with my experience at Flagler Habitat, and I was reminded to be grateful for the one blessing in my life I usually take for granted — a safe shelter. I think every Theta Tau member should participate in this project; it is one of the best ways to live out the three pillars of Theta Tau: professionalism, service, and brotherhood.

**A Worthwhile Vacation**

**By Bill Mummert, Clemson (Lambda Gamma) '07:**

While I have been to Florida many times before, I have never taken the time to visit Flagler Beach until this past spring. During my week in Flagler Beach, I became familiar with the people living in the area and also learned more about Habitat for Humanity as an organization.

As an alumnus of Theta Tau, I was able to bond with younger brothers on the trip. I had the privilege to learn about student brothers from the University of Arkansas, and the University of Minnesota, as well as from my own chapter at Clemson. The week I spent in Florida was vacation time, and it was vacation time well spent. I got to bond with great brothers I had never known, and I got a chance to serve the society I live in, which has done so much for me on a daily basis. I feel great joy in our accomplishments as volunteers and take pride in the work we did. I know the time and effort was worth the experience I had, and I think every brother should come and get the same worthwhile experience. I hope to see you on site next year.

**Building Home, Friendships**

**By Stephanie Ehrler, Arkansas (Upsilon) '14:**

Ten brothers, 1,091 miles, 18 hours of driving; bring it on, Flagler Beach. This year had big expectations to fill from last year’s spring break, and it did just that. Despite an overcast sky and a little drowsiness, we were ready to face the challenge of starting a house from nothing but a concrete base on our first day. A few hours later the front wall was lifted from the ground; it was something that no one person could do. With the construction leaders instructing us what to do, Theta Tau’s open motto was really achieved throughout our week in Florida. We had expected to grow closer within our chapter, but we also created fraternal bonds with the brothers we met from three other chapters. Our spring break volunteer work only lasted a few days, but we plan to continue our service with our local affiliate of Habitat this fall semester.

**Giving Freely**

**By Emily Frosina, Virginia Tech (Psi Gamma) '15:**

What happens when you take 40 students from colleges all over the country who study every type of engineering you can imagine, put them in one place and tell them to build a house? It sounds like the set up for a joke.

Monday morning, bright and early while many of our classmates were still fast asleep in their hotel on the beach, all 40 of us circled inside the frame of what would be the house, sharing our reasons for coming with several Habitat volunteers and the future homeowner. The head builder told us about the homeowner’s son, who had stood in the driveway earlier that week and cried at the thought of having a house that would be their own. In that moment, I think it really clicked that no matter why we traveled to Flagler Beach, Florida, that week, it was to help people. Yes, we would make friends with brothers from all over the country and get to spend a little bit of time on the beach and away from the cold climates many of us traveled from. Those moments would also help to make it a week that we won’t
forget, but ultimately, it was about giving freely of our time and “talent” to help others. It was about (to paraphrase) doing what we can find with our might.

Fun-Filled

By Rachel McFalls, Mississippi State (Kappa Beta) ’14:
We loaded up the car and drove down to Florida — it was more than 10 hours from Starkville to Florida, and we had the soundtrack set. Daniel Crist, Abby Sherriff, and I made the journey just in time to make the dinner meeting at the church. The room was filled with a bunch of brothers from all over — Ohio, Virginia, Texas, etc. I had heard stories of how much fun this would be, but it was hard to believe how close we all would be in just a week.

In the mornings, we traveled to the build site and worked on two houses. We put up interior walls, hung trusses for the roof, laid tile, and painted. The amazing part was working alongside the families we were helping. Being able to hear their stories and help them build a better life was really inspiring.

In the evenings, we had time to explore Flagler Beach and the surrounding areas. We got together and played ultimate frisbee, listened to Daniel play guitar, and had a bonfire on the beach. One night we even walked a couple blocks and played at the park. At the end of the week, a group of us went up to Daytona Beach and got to see Bike Week. We even stopped by Zeta Gamma Chapter to say hello before heading home.

To all the people who told me this would be a wonderful experience, you’re welcome to say, “I told you so.” And to all the brothers who haven’t tried it yet, Theta Tau Alternative Spring Break has been one of the best experiences of my life.

Showing Appreciation

By Karen Hoshino, Central Florida (Rho Gamma) ’14:
When our past Regent tasked me with collecting volunteers for Rho Gamma’s first experience with Habitat for Humanity, I honestly felt overwhelmed. How would I convince a group of college students that they should spend their spring break in little Flagler Beach working? If they didn’t have fun, would they blame me and be upset? My anxiety grew worse as these thoughts crossed my mind. My brothers made me proud, however, and we formed a solid group of ten volunteers.

I decided to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity because through all the hardships that my family has endured, we always had someone from our community showing us compassion. I felt it was my time to pay it forward. Our chapter, along with the Habitat for Humanity group from James Madison University and four brothers from Chi Beta Chapter, helped with painting one house and framing another. It was extremely humbling to work alongside the future homeowner and other volunteers who work full time on these projects.

The people of Flagler County were very grateful for our time and did whatever they could to show us their appreciation. One night in particular, we were all ordering the cheapest dinners at a local BBQ joint (we are still broke college students after all), and we bumped into Mr. Allen Whetsell, who is quite a character. We spent the rest of the night chatting with him and discovered he was a major advocate of volunteer work. In the end, he paid for our entire meals and even added dessert at the end.

Not only did we experience the gooey, awesome feelings that come with volunteering, but also we connected with each other on a higher level. From sun up ‘til sun down we were together, whether it was cooking breakfast, working on the site, exploring town, or hanging out around a beach bonfire. Great memories are made in those tiny moments we take for granted, but this time we could slow down and really enjoy them without the distractions of technology and consumerism. ☺
Breaking the Stereotype

Engineers that Can Sing, Dance  By Candie Solis, Southern Methodist (Tau Beta) '13

As the Theta Tau/Lyle team took the stage, she remarked again, “Well, here come the engineers,” in a tone full of sympathy and doubt.

As various Panhellenic and IFC groups prepared to take the stage in Southern Methodist’s McFarlin Auditorium to pay tribute to 25 years of Sing-Song tradition, Theta Tau and the Lyle School of Engineering would never have been favored to win. After all, we’re just a bunch of nerds with slide rules, pocket protectors, and no rhythm, right? Wrong.

Three years ago the Theta Tau/Lyle team made its debut in the Sing-Song competition. Each year the team has worked diligently on developing characters, costumes, and choreography, and this year was no different. There somehow exists this stereotype (outside of the engineering world) that engineers cannot be fluid, creative, or rhythmic. But the very nature of engineering requires all of this and more, and our classmates were not about to disappoint!

As a group of Tau Beta brothers and I waited for the show to begin, I overheard a woman in front of me say, as she skimmed the program, “Engineering school? Hmm.” Later in the program, as the Theta Tau/Lyle team took the stage, she remarked again, “Well, here come the engineers,” in a tone full of sympathy and doubt. Theta Tau/Lyle delivered a performance that opened with a Las Vegas wedding, complete with wedding party-goers and wonderfully costumed Elvis.
There somehow exists this stereotype (outside of the engineering world) that engineers cannot be fluid, creative, or rhythmic.

We sat anxiously awaiting the results of the voting determined by judges considering singing, dancing, theme development, overall entertainment, and an audience vote. Before the big announcement, there were other awards to be announced. Among the nods to Theta Tau/Lyle were best male vocalist for Trevor Youngblood’s Elvis impersonation and best costume and design for Brother Virginia Hadley’s Elvis impersonators. Breaking news reveals that zombies have been sighted all across the country, which frightens all but the Elvis impersonators, who realize this is their chance to get a tip from the King himself. All of this eventually leads to a dance-off between Michael Jackson and his entourage of the undead and Zombie Elvis, backed up by the Elvis impersonators. In addition to supplying the fabulous vocals, the members of the Sing Song cast also performed multiple different dance numbers, including a noteworthy rendition of “Thriller,” a moonwalking Michael Jackson, and spirited interpretations of several classic Elvis hits. The audience loved it!

The show can be found on youtube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WM_pDEHcA or search: “Lyle Theta Tau Sing Song 2013”

Breaking the Stereotype (continued)

Mu

ALABAMA
By Bradly Hudson, ’13, Corresponding Secretary

Sometimes during the spring of 2011, I heard about Theta Tau from a guy that liked to sit next to the door in a classroom of 200 people, and I pledged in the fall. My pledge class started with 24 people, and by the end there were 14 of us left. We nearly doubled the chapter size, and it was a big enough pledge class that it put the chapter back into a cycle of growth that is still going strong almost three years later. Mu continues to welcome large numbers of engineers into our brotherhood every year, and we keep our numbers growing at this amazing pace. Every brother has been working hard to get the word out about Theta Tau on campus, and it really shows when recruitment starts. I feel we have done an awesome job of making potential brothers feel welcomed the moment they walk through our doors. Every during the pledging process, brothers have worked hard to get to know the new faces. We do our best to make them feel welcomed and surround them in a sense of strong brotherhood. Thirty-seven bids were given out this semester — a much larger number than our chapter has seen in a while, and with big plans ahead for Mu Chapter, this growth is exactly what we needed.

Chi

ARIZONA
By Lejla Prijic, ’15

Another semester has come and gone with our members working toward building a better Chi Chapter and improving our presence on campus. In the past spring semester, we focused on becoming a stronger brotherhood by having more events such as camping and spelunking. We also came together to make Spring Fling, our campus’s city-wide carnival, a giant success, earning best-selling funnel cake stand for the second year in a row. We have also been working to better our reputation on campus by hosting a social with the most outstanding professional fraternity that lives up to its purpose.

We have continued to keep our stretch of Sixth Street, between Campbell and Euclid, clean and beautiful by holding monthly cleanup groups. Our philanthropy also held an event at Ben’s Bells, which is a local charity that aims to show how even the slightest acts of kindness can go a long way.

We brought some of our alumni for a resume workshop to hear about their experiences with job hunting and their current jobs, and to help us improve our resumes for the engineering career fair, iExpo.

Every semester we have a retreat, a camping trip hosted by our alumni. Every semester we come back with a stronger bond between us. We are so thankful to our alumni for continuing this tradition every semester.

For our 83rd Founders Day celebration, we hosted a riverboat/casino...
Faculty adviser, Robert Silverstein, and student members

**Colony Certification**

**CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

*By Ken Araki, ’13*

On April 14, 2013, the 19 members of Theta Tau Colony at UCLA were initiated in the presence of national officers and alumni.

Since obtaining colony status, the UCLA interest group has widened its presence within the engineering community by co-hosting information sessions, hosting professional panels, and volunteering at UCLA’s Engineering Welcome Day. In the greater LA area, we reached out by participating in the “Adopt-A-Beach” program, volunteering at USC’s Botball, and hosting an Alumni BBQ.

Moving forward, the UCLA Colony continues to work on establishing ties within UCLA and the surrounding community. We are participating in MentorSEAS, a program that assigns mentors to incoming freshman and transfers. In a collaboration with multiple engineering clubs, we are proud to help found the UCLA Engineering Start-Up Fair this upcoming fall. To expand our presence within UCLA, we will be hosting a plant tour at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

We are very enthusiastic about this upcoming quarter and have already started to implement our ideas. The UCLA Colony would like to thank their continued support and encouragement as we begin the new year.

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**ARKANSAS**

*By Daniela Ischiu, ’16*

Ice skating has been a biannual recruitment tradition as it allows potential members to see our brotherhood in action. After some fun and a few uncoordinated falls on the ice rink, members and potential members went back to enjoy some hot cocoa at the Theta Tau house.

This semester the brothers at Upsilon Chapter pinned 14 engineering students interested in pledging and becoming members. We currently have 34 members and are looking forward to continuing to expand our chapter. Our recent and thrilling recruitment events included Ultimate Fiesta Night where we had fun playing some ultimate frisbee and enjoyed tacos made by our members. We also hosted Backyard Beach Bash, which consisted of a water balloon fight, and Bonfire Night was filled with hot dogs and s’mores around the fire!

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**BINGHAMTON**

*By Joseph Reill, ’14*

Last spring, the brothers of Nu Gamma celebrated their 10th anniversary as a chapter on May 4, 2013. This is not long in comparison to some chapters that recently celebrated their centennial, however, this marks one crucial step closer to achieve that goal. The 10th anniversary of Nu Gamma was a weekend filled with events to allow alumni and student members to connect with each other in a bond of fraternal fellowship.

The festivities began Saturday at Binghamton’s Osiningo Park for an afternoon filled with hot dogs, hamburgers, and backyard games. We were blessed with beautiful weather (a very rare sight in cloudy Binghamton). Brother Tina Chang Young (’06) noted about her experience at Nu Gamma Chapter, “It’s like returning to your childhood home, except there are still people there that treat you like family.” Everyone returned home with smiles on their faces and grass stains on their shirts. The event ended with enough time to shower and get ready for the main event later that night.

After months of planning and preparation done by Brothers Gary App (’12) and Marc Happes (’07), the chapter enjoyed a formal banquet at the Riverwalk Hotel in downtown Binghamton. This allowed alumni and student members to sit down and reminisce about the chapter, classes, and life in general. A slideshow depicting Nu Gamma through the years was playing throughout the evening. App and Happes gave a formal presentation during the dinner. They discussed the history of the chapter as well as gave out various awards to brothers.

Brother Happes said, “Some of my fondest memories of Binghamton were from Theta Tau. We have all worked hard to perpetuate our chapter, so I am really excited to celebrate this milestone with all of you and to kick off the next 10 years, Nu Gamma style.” After their presentation, former Northeast Regional Director Steven Brewer (Binghamton – Nu Gamma ’04) gave a very moving speech about the eternal bonds of brotherhood. At the conclusion of the banquet, brothers received glass mugs with the seal of Theta Tau as favors.

All of the brothers in the area, as well as those who attended the dinner, were invited to enjoy bagels and coffee at a house where some of the student brothers live. There we allowed any and all brothers to sign...
Chapter Reports (continued)

Brothers of the Nu Gamma Chapter at Binghamton enjoy a day in the park. Above left: Graduate student Nicodemo Panetta (’12) playing guitar in the park while catching up with J.C. Rienton (’11). Above right: Senior Nick Mart (’13) covers 2012 graduate Mike Amicucci (’12) in a game of ultimate frisbee.

a table to commemorate the weekend. This table was sealed, and it will remain in our history for many years. This was a very successful weekend for our chapter as we saw 52 of our alumni pass through. We look to keep our alumni connections strong throughout the next school year with events such as an industry panel, a brothers golf outing, tailgating a soccer game, and watching Brother Brandon Sheiner (’14) compete in our university’s annual Greek God Competition. We also look to expand our relationships with other chapters by hosting The Spring 2014 Northeast Regional Convention.

» Beta
MICHIGAN TECH
By Kyle Johnston, ’14 and Stefan Scharret, ’16
The fall of 2014 held exciting news for Beta Chapter of Theta Tau here at Michigan Tech. After a decade of dedicated effort we will be moving into a new home, setting a foundation for sustaining excellence in Theta Tau’s longest continually operating chapter. Thanks to the generous contributions of time and resources by our alumni, we have an opportunity for a fresh vision of our future while staying deeply rooted in strength of our traditions. Moving into our new home, we bring with us a culture of doing whatsoever our hands find with all our might. Beta’s culture of excellence is demonstrated in our reputation both inside the university and in our external networks. Our strong campus involvement, including members in leadership positions of student government, IFC, student union, and in professional and honors organizations, promotes and grows our dedication to service and leadership. On our resumes, we see a high standard of professional interest fostered by members published in academic literature, engaged in entrepreneurship, interning for Fortune 500 companies and tech startups alike, and even a brother pursuing a patent. Beta Chapter is sitting on a critical mass of talent and enthusiasm, and with our new home, we will see the fruition of a bright future in our second century of excellence.

» Kappa Beta
MISSISSIPPI STATE
By Melanie Shumock, ’14
Brotherhood events are important to any fraternity. It strengthens our bonds as a family by increasing trust and comfort in one another. There are no judgments. For example, one learns not to be afraid to cry in front of their brothers on the unforgiving paintball battlefield. For our brotherhood event, we went to the Air Force Base in Columbus, MS, to play paintball. There were a few of us that had never played paintball and were nervous about the pain that would come from getting shot by the round, gelatin-shelled, paint-filled balls, especially since many of the seasoned players said that it can be fairly painful. After we decided upon our team leaders, they went through the line choosing the rest of us to make up their teams. They went over safety, but still the fear of the unknown pain loomed over the “newbies.” The teams gathered to their respective sides, prepared for the oncoming onslaught. Five, four, three, two, one. Chaos broke loose upon the field. The zipping sound of bullets flying past was slightly unnerving. Within the first three seconds, however, I was shot from behind by one of my allies. I continued onward, and many were slain by my bright orange paint. Everyone shared ammo when someone was out, no matter what team we were on. The point was simply to have fun. I was battered by the end of the day and had cried twice in front of my brothers. This achievement comes after an extremely productive and rewarding semester. Theta Tau received university-wide recognition for raising over $6,000 — the second largest donation by a Greek professional chapter — for a local nonprofit that supports the nonmedical needs of children with cancer. Our chapter also won first place at the Rutgers Habitat for Humanity Build-a-Thon.

should not feel shame for my way of coping with my injuries but accept that everyone goes through pain differently than others. This is true for many other pains, not just physical ones, such as mental and spiritual. My brothers would be there to comfort me through any type of pain.

» Omicron Delta
RUTGERS
By Mariusz Ogrodnik, ’16, Historian, and Ashley So, ’14
This semester the Omicron Delta Chapter of Theta Tau was awarded four out of four stars by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs at Rutgers University. The award recognizes chapters that maintain an active presence on campus and host events that fulfill the founding principles of scholarship, service, leadership, and brotherhood. This achievement comes after an extremely productive and rewarding semester. Theta Tau received university-wide recognition for raising over $6,000 — the second largest donation by a Greek professional chapter — for a local nonprofit that supports the nonmedical needs of children with cancer. Our chapter also won first place at the Rutgers Habitat for Humanity Build-a-Thon.

Rutgers brothers raised money for Habitat for Humanity with a Car Smash event.
Taking On
The Gauntlet

Mu Delta CALIFORNIA-MERCED
By Emerinciana Nolasco, ’14 | Photos courtesy of Abombtography

AS THE EARLY MORNING SUN RISES IN THE GLOWING SKY, THE brothers of Mu Delta Chapter complete the finishing touches on their bleached DIY Transformers themed shirts. The homemade cardboard suits transform some of our brothers into Optimus Prime, Bumblebee and Megatron.

Today was the Gauntlet, a series of competitions between the many clubs and organizations on the University of California, Merced campus. With the Theta Tau spirit fueling our hearts, our brothers warm up and get our gears ready for a jam-packed, fun-filled day.

In spirit of the Gauntlet, the brothers of Theta Tau displayed an enthusiastic spirit throughout the day, cheering on and high-fiving the other clubs and organizations. Furthermore, our many runs around the field attracted others and created mini celebratory parades.

Through being bound together in the three-legged race, soaked by the tidal wave game, frenzizing though a crazy wardrobe crab walk game, and racing through a bounce house, the brothers carried their energy.

A surprise challenge was presented: pick one representative from your club or organization to race around the field, and the winner would score extra points for the organization. With a background in track, Ben Ordanza (Mu Delta) ’15, was ready for action. The competitors readied themselves, anticipating the start. “GO!” They were off! Brother Ordanza accelerated faster than the rest of the competition and was soon leading the race with less than 100m left to cover. Pushing for the finish line, Brother Ordanza was the first to cross, right into the arms of our cheering brothers.

As awards were handed out, our brothers were huddled in anticipation awaiting our fraternity to be called out, yet IVCF (Intervarsity Christian Fellowship) won both the Gauntlet and the Spirit Award. As they were presented the awards, they respectfully declined the spirit award, reasoning that Theta Tau carried the most spirit throughout the day*.

With the loss of voices and a bit of energy, we furthered the brotherhood, bonding and a spirit for Theta Tau.

* A thank you letter was sent to IVCF for their recognition of our spirit.
Chapter Reports (continued)

Chapter Installation

Pi Delta members with two visiting members from Epsilon Delta Chapter

**Pi Delta UC-IRVINE**

By Kelly Inciong, ‘15

Saturday, April 13, 2013 was an exciting day for the brothers of the UC Irvine Colony. That was the day their founders had always dreamed of—the day where all their hard work finally paid off, and they finally became an official chapter of Theta Tau.

Much preparation went into planning for the installation. The brothers formed a committee to plan the installation ceremony and banquet. They began planning about a month in advance since there were various aspects of the event to consider: venue, food, decorations, and accommodations for other brothers and guests.

Planning a large event like this will always have its ups and downs. Evan Coombs (‘15), a member of the committee, said, “We definitely ran into our share of problems, the greatest of which being finding a place within our budget that still had all the necessary facilities.” But after visiting various locations, the committee decided on the Beckman Center of the National Academies of Science and Engineering, conveniently located less than a mile away from UC Irvine’s campus. For the problems the committee did face, “[they] were solved through good communication,” Coombs shared, “and a willingness to pursue every option and opportunity.”

After the initiation ceremony was the banquet. Brothers from various chapters and colonies, including Epsilon Delta, Mu Delta, the colony at UCLA, and the colony at UC Riverside, attended the banquet. The Beckman Center provided a lovely three-course meal for the brothers of Theta Tau and their guests. During dinner, Grand Regent Brandon Satterwhite presented Regent Alex Staebler (‘14) and Vice Regent Charles Chiang (‘19) with the charter for the Pi Delta Chapter of Theta Tau. Regent-elect for the 2013-2014 school year Patrick Sy (‘14) shared that his favorite part of the chapter installation was “being able to celebrate with all my brothers in light of our achievement. Spending time with my brothers is always a memorable and joyous experience, and having the privilege of being named a chapter only made it better.”

and was recognized at the Homecoming Charity Bed Races, which benefited local public schools. Throughout the year our chapter hosted successful information sessions and workshops with companies, such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Goldman Sachs, and hosted our Third Annual Rube Goldberg Competition. Perhaps our most exciting event was the Car Smash that attracted over 2,000 students and enabled us to make a significant donation to Habitat for Humanity. The Omicron Delta Chapter plans to build upon our success by continuing to expand our brotherhood and serve our community.

**Upsilon Gamma**

**SOUTH FLORIDA**

By Stephen Collins, ‘14

Traditional recruitment is a one or two-week process that quickly introduces interested people to the local chapters of Theta Tau. This is done through several events such as information sessions, resume workshops, or a BBQ/sports day. These events often work to recruit good members from the chapter’s university; however, as brothers, we should always be striving to service for the best and brightest of our universities.

In order to recruit the best members from the University of South Florida, the Upsilon Gamma Chapter has begun to utilize a different recruitment strategy known as year-round recruitment. Our year-round recruitment process begins with the traditional two weeks of recruitment events at the beginning of each semester. This is where we host various events to show off our three pillars: brotherhood, professionalism, and service. Once the recruitment weeks are done, we begin to plan and host various events that allow our chapter to be seen in the College of Engineering. To help recruit and build our public relations, we invite and co-host these events with other engineering organizations, such as the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the Florida Engineering Society (FES), and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).

In the past, Upsilon Gamma has hosted and been involved with events that include fundraising through concession sales at our local stadium, an interview panel alongside FES, hosting a weekly FE review, and intramurals where we invite engineers to play with our team. While Upsilon Gamma continues some of these events each semester, we also try to plan new events such as having animals brought in from a shelter to the college campus to help reduce the stress of midterms and hosting a car smash where people come together to destroy an old car.

With each semester that passes and each event that Upsilon Gamma hosts, our reputation in the College of Engineering is strengthened, the faculty begins to endorse both the chapter and events, and the chapter becomes more diverse. These positive byproducts of recruitment can be built on for following semesters, and with time the chapter can develop to be the best organization on campus.

**Colonies**

**TEXAS-TYLER**

By Claire Johnson and Daniel Sorrells, ’14

The University of Texas, Tyler Colony of Theta Tau has overcome many obstacles to get where we are today. Our campus has within the last few years transitioned to a majority non-commuter school; however, a large majority of our college here still commutes to school every day. In the original planning stages, this was kept in mind as we planned study hours and professional development speakers at our first events. While today we are a majority of traditional, non-commuter students, we still plan many events that work to incorporate many of the commuting students on campus.

Prior to Theta Tau colonization, we had a tremendous amount of support and encouragement from the Central Office. In fact, Michael Abraham and Sean-Paul Ferrera came to one of our first interest meetings to show us the path to Theta Tau. First, we needed to form a student organization on campus, which was a challenge. The high commuter base of the College of Engineering and Computer Science along with its culture of divisiveness between its majors added to the challenges. We also had to come up with a name to call ourselves until we made it to colony. We decided to call ourselves Sigma Psi, symbolizing our hope to unify all of the students in the college and to pay homage to our mascot the Patriot Eagle. This name served to guide us in our planning of professional development and brotherhood activities. We wanted to incorporate all engineer-
This academic year brings a lot of new ideas into play for Epsilon Beta Chapter. We have found ourselves at an interesting point where a mass of members have graduated, leaving a number of leadership positions open that demand to be filled. However, on the shoulders of the brother who fills that position rests the responsibility of further developing that area to make the chapter more efficient and productive and to communicate the inner workings of the position to whomever fills the spot next. Our main focus this past summer has been on redesigning recruitment and the new member education system to make sure pledges know how to get involved while maintaining an open line of communication.

Some of our brothers had the opportunity to attend leadership training sessions through the national fraternity and our university, and we now have a new method of dynamic recruitment. By using measures such as reaching out in a broader way, instead of word of mouth, and then appealing to potentials on a moral level, we bolster our personal impression and learn more about potentials. In a philosophical way, we differentiate ourselves by stressing the core values that we hold dear to ourselves as members and engineers. Things like honor, loyalty, and respect that bring a moral and ethical pretense into play before pledging.

Members have debated and planned vigorously to have pledges learn and participate actively in committees. In this way, pledges develop their own style as to what areas in the chapter best suit their skills and where they would benefit the most. A big part of pledging is learning about yourself, aiming to improve your strengths, and isolating weaknesses. By walking the road of a brother, they can be better members because they will already know how to be members.

Our last major target for improvement was with our committees. Committees are a very important part of any working professional organization and, until recently, were underused in our chapter. We have mandated proper use of committees and member integration among them. Committee meetings have begun where events are planned, set up and reports have been recorded and noted. A main goal we wanted to accomplish with the committees was to have a set of events for professional development, community service, and brotherhood.

All things considered so far, we move into the fall semester with our hopes set high and a new sense of pride. The time we took to reevaluate how we worked and made use of the tools that had been set aside for so long has brought a swing of positive attitude in the current membership. Our younger members are bright-eyed, optimistic, and excited to get into the action to work for the good of the chapter. They gave quite a bit of input for a lot of the new measures we have taken. We all can’t wait to see what the semester holds and to improve individually and collectively as time moves on.
More than lines in the sand

by Jennifer Decker

THE BEACH VENTURE STARTED with a group of engineers not wanting to get outshone by children.

The annual sand sculpturing demonstration and sand castle contest was held this past August on the main beach of Pokagon State Park in Indiana.

One third-generation team with members from three states was busy digging, watering and packing down sand until it was just so and primed for sculpturing.

Sand art involves turning modeling sand into an artistic form through sandcastles, sand brushing, sand sculpture, sand painting or sand bottles.

Nancy and Gary Rutledge, GMI Engineering & Management Institute (Mu Beta) ’67, Clarkston, Mich., and their family, Angeline and son, Dan Rutledge, Charlotte, N.C.; and Kristina Marker, Cleveland, said they wouldn’t miss their annual pilgrimage to Pokagon to sculpt something that is usually popular and current in the movie industry.

“Are you kidding? It’s fun,” Nancy said and added her family wouldn’t miss it.

Dan said the traditional sand sculpting began in 1977 with a group of engineers from the Theta Tau fraternity at the General Motors Institute. “This is 30-40 years ago and in 1977 came here. I was 5 and a ton of kids were hanging out at Pokagon,” Dan said. “They announced a sand castle contest and these were all intense engineers. They made a huge sand castle and won first prize.”

Dan said his parents used creating sand sculptures as a lesson in learning and teamwork over the years. Those lessons continue.

“We were getting together for camping and engineers just can’t be lying around on the beach. By the time we were done, we won Popsicles,” Gary said, as he traced windows into the sand.
“We were getting together for camping and engineers just can’t be lying around on the beach ... It gives us something to do.”

The group’s sand sculptures are often inspired by what is popular and current in the movie industry.

“It’s creative and I’m hooked. It gives us something to do.”

As Angelyn helped pack the wet sand down, she said it was her third time in helping with the demonstration. “It was really fun,” she said. “I thought they were really good. Last year, I worked on the sea serpent. We try to do movies and this year, we’re doing ‘Turbo’ — he’s a snail. I like shoes, so we’re doing Converse, too.”

Kristina was in her eighth year in making creations come to life in sand and said a good base is needed.

In prior years, the family also created sculptures of McDonald’s french fries and a drink, a truck, “Batman,” “Captain America” and “Iron Man.”

The family usually works from coloring book pictures as models. “Generally, we pick animated movies you want the kids to see when they walk by,” Gary said. “A key is a lot of it has to do with beach sand. This is river sand and because there’s some clay, it sticks together.”

Further along the Lake James main beach to coincide with the sand sculptures, children participated in a sandcastle contest.

Some children made mud pies or used the contest as an excuse to get dirty. Others buried family members in the sand.

A tortoise was already sculpted on the beach. Children worked at their contest creations in which they had one hour to complete.

Others worked with sand pails and miniature shovels to create forts for their action figures, like Alex Schlatter, Fort Wayne, who camped at Pokagon with his family. “It’s a sand castle and it has a feather in it to have a flag,” he said, working on the walls. “There’s rocks on it so it can look cool.”

Farther down the beach, Kim and Scot Smith, Elkhart, camped in the park with their sons, Jackson, 5, and Lincoln 3. “We’re making a sand castle, but the walls broke,” Kim said, while helping a bashful Jackson, who was preparing to add Batman and a boat to the sculpture.

Tom Harpootlian said the contest entries would be judged on creativity, uniqueness, detail and “wow” factor. “Some kids are shy and it’s hard to get them to do it,” he said.
Keeping Families Together and Giving Our Peers Hope

The Psi Beta Chapter at Texas comes together to make a difference

by Erin Formby, Texas (Psi Beta) ’15

MIGUEL CAME TO the United States from Mexico at the age of nine. When he recounted his story to me, he told me he felt so incredibly privileged to have been able to enter the U.S. legally. Barely anyone from Mexico could attain this ability; his family was truly lucky. However, despite this good fortune, he had to wait for almost nine years to return to Mexico to visit his relatives. Miguel and his family had decided to apply for residency, and due to the backlog of applicants and strict rules regarding departure from the United States, the Vasquezes could not leave the country without fearing the inability to return. Miguel sadly missed a decade’s worth of weddings, funerals, birthdays, and holidays. However, he said his losses were worth it; now, he is a partner in a startup company in Austin called LooksyTV — a part of his future he certainly would never have achieved had he remained in Mexico.

I met Miguel in the fall of 2012 at a Theta Tau pledge meeting. Now we are student members of Psi Beta Chapter at Texas, and we often work together for projects regarding immigration reform. Miguel is certainly not the only one in Psi Beta Chapter who has encountered hardships due to the immigration system here in the United States. When I first began my work with comprehensive immigration reform, I never imagined that so many of my brothers would put aside their social and political differences to support me. One of my very first events with the immigrant community occurred last February.

Along with being initiated into Theta Tau this past year, I also joined a social advocacy group on University of Texas’s campus called University Leadership Initiative (ULI). ULI
primarily focuses on comprehensive immigration reform but is also a huge advocate for higher education. I was nervous to attend my first few ULI events due to the pangs the immigration system caused me in the past, but I knew it was something I had to get involved with. I turned to my brothers for support, and as always, they came through.

There are several different statuses one can hold in the United States: citizenship, legal permanent residency, specific types of visa holdings, and finally, no lawful status, otherwise known as being undocumented. Unlike Miguel, most young people who have come to the United States as children entered without papers and have resided for most of their lives as undocumented. However, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was a mandate issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security that gave certain young, undocumented students the ability to acquire a temporary, two year work permit and the protection of “prosecutorial discretion,” enabling them to reside safely in the United States without having legal status. The process to apply for DACA with the help of a lawyer is incredibly expensive, and for this reason, ULI hosts clinics with pro-bono lawyers and community volunteers who help eligible young people apply for DACA.

In February, nine of my brothers and I attended a DACA clinic and helped over 50 of our peers fill out applications. Michael Rodriguez, Texas (Psi Beta) ’13, said, “Getting to assist at the clinic and work face-to-face with entire families — mothers with their children — who are struggling to stay in their homes really showed the immediacy of today’s immigration crisis. Giving assistance, no matter how small, with an issue so monumental to these families was truly worthwhile.”

Michael was not the only one who felt this way. Many of my brothers confronted me after the clinic and said that they never realized how destructive the immigration system was to undocumented families until they worked with the applicants and learned about their experiences. Because of the harsh realities my brothers discovered at the DACA clinic, we have also volunteered together at a citizenship drive, fought the deportation case of a single mother of a U.S. citizen, and lobbied at Representative John Carter’s office for immigration reform.

I am an American citizen, born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. My involvement with the immigration movement began at the age of 18 when I discovered that one of my best friends was being deported. One of my dearest friends, Walter, has legal status now is because a drunk driver almost took his life. It hurts me to think about it. I will continue to fight every day of my life for these people, and I am proud to say that my brothers will be there by my side.
5Q+A

“When I first got into Yosemite Valley, I had to pull the car over... It’s like going to another planet”

Brandon Satterwhite
Alabama (Mu) ’98
Staff Engineer (Infrared Measurements/Predictions) Pratt & Whitney, Theta Tau Grand Regent

1. What’s the best place you’ve ever visited? You mean besides Bryant-Denny Stadium (Tuscaloosa) on a Saturday night? I love to travel, and I’ve been lucky enough to go to lots of amazing places. My favorite cities that I’ve visited are probably New York City and Rome—just so much fun to explore and so many things to see! But the single most amazing place I’ve visited is Yosemite National Park in California. It’s truly breathtaking. When I first got into Yosemite Valley, I had to pull the car over and get out for a few minutes to take it all in. It’s like going to another planet. Just incredible.

2. What’s your favorite Theta Tau memory? My favorite memories are from just hanging out with my brothers. Working on Fortran code and making frozen pizzas at my pledge brother’s house. Staying up late at the chapter house playing spades and hearts. Going to our favorite diner for breakfast when they opened at 4 AM, sitting alongside the drunks, cops, and all-night studiers that populated it at that time of night.

3. What do you like to do for fun? I play ultimate frisbee every Tuesday night and kickball on Thursdays. I love going to concerts, especially seeing new bands at small places. And of course, I like to travel a lot. I always try to find an excuse to get outside wherever I go, whether it’s hiking, scuba, kayaking or whatever. My Mu Chapter brothers would also be upset if I didn’t mention my love of playing hacky sack, which I learned from other Mu Chapter brothers during my first semester in Tuscaloosa. (Hey, it was the 90s, OK?)

4. If you were a super-hero, what would your superpower be? Teleportation maybe? But not like that awful Hayden Christensen movie “Jumper.”

5. What advice would you give to your 18-year-old self? Take the time to appreciate and enjoy the journey. Take more road trips with your brothers. There were several great trips that I missed out on that I still hear stories about. I wish I had visited more chapters and gone to more Theta Tau national events and at least a few of our away football games. So in general, 18 year-old self, say “yes” to a few more opportunities... but still try to get all of that thermo homework done, please!! 😊
Brother Miller was an Iowa native and graduated with a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Iowa in 1941. He later obtained a graduate degree from the Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve University). His entire professional career was in the plastics industry from the earliest days of that field. His primary business vehicle was Prime Plastics of Clinton, Ohio.

Brother Miller’s service to his profession was recognized through his induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame in 1990. Bob was a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Society of Plastics Engineers, the Corrugated Plastic Tubing Association, and American Society for Testing and Materials. He was a fixture for the last two decades at Theta Tau Conventions, Leadership Academies, and numerous chapter installations and colony certifications. In 2010, the Theta Tau Educational Foundation named the first recipient of the Robert L. Miller Scholarship via a permanent fund generously endowed by Bob the previous year.

At the age of 90, Brother Miller was asked to help solve an on-going difficulty by an engineer working with one of Akron’s local tire facilities; he took his workshop, and came out with key contributions to the rubber/tire industry: the multi-piece cushion extrusion process for high performance truck tire retreads. Months later, an international jury, meeting in Cologne, Germany, recognized the importance of this development by naming the “Retread Multi-Piece Cushion Technology” the 2011 Tire Manufacturing Innovation of the Year. Bob’s colleague’s startup StarPoint Extrusions now produces the product in Norton, Ohio, for Goodyear.
Join us in the city of cowboys and culture with world-class museums, a live cattle drive and much more! Stay tuned for more information.