

THE THETA RECORD

Official Newsletter of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi Fraternity

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RPI RELATIONS

The Fall 2022 semester has been the first “normal” semester at RPI since pre-COVID. Masks and frequent testing are no longer mandated, which has allowed campus activities to resume. RPI welcomed the Class of 2026 this semester, which has a record-breaking over-2,000 students. With everyone finally returning to campus and being able to enjoy in-person activities together, the campus environment has improved drastically from what Brothers experienced the past two years.

In addition, this is Dr. Martin Schmidt’s first semester as President of RPI, and so far the Brotherhood is very happy with the changes that he has made. He has made it his mission to be accessible to all members of the RPI community, and to do so, he visited all fraternities and sororities that were willing to host him for a brief 30 minute visit. Brothers enjoyed Dr. Schmidt’s company in the Chapter House and will aim to invite him over for a faculty dinner next year (the Brotherhood tried doing that this semester, but he got too many invites so he settled for these brief visits instead). Dr. Schmidt seems not only to be more accepting towards Greek life than his predecessor, but he actually has voiced his desire to see Greek life grow in the coming semesters. Brothers hope that school policies such as deferred recruitment and restrictions on social events might be changed in the near future as well in order to help the Greek community flourish.

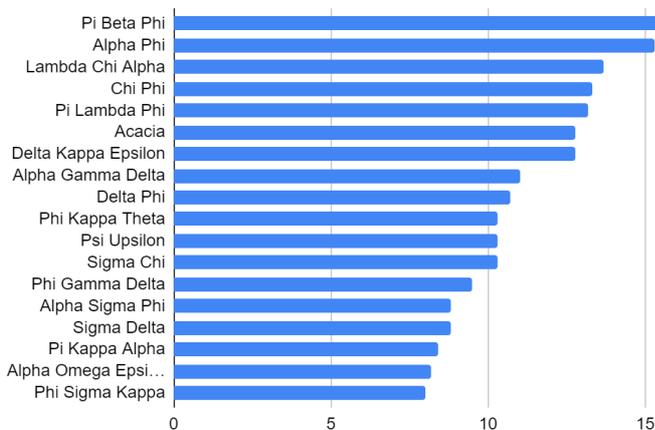


Dr. Schmidt and his wife at their visit to the Chapter House

Brothers maintained a strong presence on the Interfraternity Council this semester. Brother Noah Prisament wrapped up his year-long term as Executive Vice President of the IFC. In this role, he aimed to help reinvigorate Greek life coming out of COVID and also made sweeping and much necessary improvements to the IFC bylaws. In addition, Brother Shankar Veludandi began his term as Greek Senator. He has met with school administrators about policies which the Greek community at large would like to see changed, such as deferred recruitment, the Good Samaritan Policy, and the requirement for Summer Arch students to live in on-campus housing. Looking ahead at next year, two Brothers got elected to be on the IFC’s next executive board. Brother Jared Zornitzer will serve as EVP of Philanthropy and Service, and he hopes to rally the entire IFC community behind common goals and get Chapters more exposure through tabling on campus. Brother Aaron Rice will serve as EVP of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and he aims to host more IFC events in tandem with multicultural organizations in order to demonstrate how diverse the IFC community is.

The IFC returned to form from before COVID by hosting several successful events open to the RPI community. First, during NRB week, the IFC hosted a barbecue at Grafton Lakes State Park. This was a great opportunity for freshmen to meet members of the IFC. On top of that, the IFC organized a campus Block Party on Sunset Terrace. Chapters set up tables along the road with food and games for visitors to enjoy while socializing with Brothers. Overall, the IFC made great strides towards building Greek life's reputation on campus, which Brothers on the executive board will build off of next year. Furthermore, these IFC events gave the Chapter great exposure to this record-breaking freshman class and allowed Brothers to establish many genuine connections with potential new members for next semester. Along side this, the community received scores from the first full implementation of the Chapter Profile accreditation system in Fall 2021. 18 of the fraternities and sororities at RPI submitted their Chapter Profiles with Chi Phi receiving the second highest score within IFC and the fourth highest score overall.

2022 Chapter Profile Scores



The Rensselaer Interfraternity Council Presents the

IFC

BLOCK PARTY

for all students to
Relax, Reconnect, and Revive

Saturday, October 22nd
12:00pm - 5:00pm

Hosted on Sunset Terrace near LXA, Acacia, and Ski
Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, and Drinks Provided

Fun Activities - Fall Games
Bonfire - Live Music

Admissions Fee: 1\$
Food Fee: +4\$

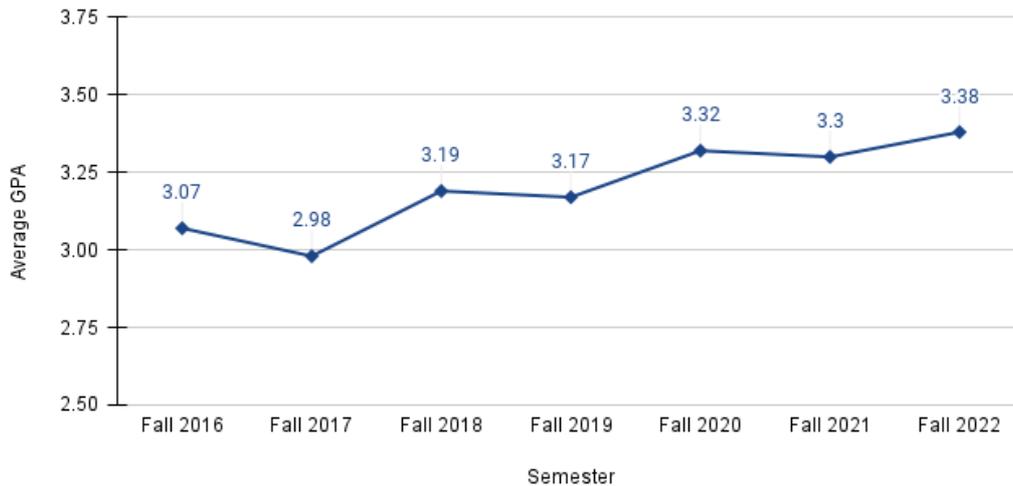
UPDATES FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Academics and Member Education

We have held several events this semester to educate the brotherhood on important topics. Some of these events include risk management and Narcan training, professional development with alumni, and an overview of Robert's Rules. For our Risk Management event we had Br. Noah Prisament and current Eta Br. Trenton Squires talk about how to reduce risk for the chapter; they also gave a brief demonstration on the use of Narcan in an emergency, and how to put someone in the recovery position. During our Alumni weekend we had several Alumni come host a professional development session in the chapter room Saturday morning to talk to brothers about industry, post-school opportunities, and answer any questions about resumes and career planning. Finally, we had Br. Noah Prisament give an informational session about Robert's Rules of Order and the proper maintenance of order during house meetings. While many of us are already knowledgeable about the proceedings of house meetings, this informational session served to help fill in the gaps and remind those who are newer.

This fall the brotherhood has continued its upward trend in academic performance, thanks to our successful academic program over the past several semesters. Regular study hours and tutoring between brothers have been great for helping with difficult workloads and attaining higher grades. Another addition to our academic program this semester has been the introduction of brother office hours for new members. This program consists of brothers signing up for weekly time slots to tutor our new member in specific classes, but other brothers are also welcome to come if they are taking the same class or want to help out. This ensures that we continue an upward progression and appreciation of academic excellence through our new members.

Average Brotherhood GPA



Philanthropy

KEVINDILLA

Sirloin Philly Cheesesteak, Provolone, Bell Peppers, Sautéed Onions \$8

THE GEORGIAN

BBO Pulled Pork, Veggie Slaw, Sautéed Onions \$8

THREE CHEESE

Traditional Mixture of Cheddar, Pepper Jack, and Monterey Jack \$6

VEGGIEDILLA (V)

Bell Peppers, Onions, Black Beans, Corn, Vegan Jack Cheese, Lime Aioli \$7

QUESADILLA DE POLLO

Pulled Chicken Breast, Peppers, Onions, Monterey Jack \$8

SIDES

Tortilla Chips \$1.00
Homemade Guacamole \$5.00
Salsa \$1.00
Sour Cream \$1.00

V = Vegan Option

RAINN
All profits go to RAINN

TDD 11/19 soulab@rpi.edu



Casa de Quesadillas

Hosted by the Chi Phi Fraternity

Friday 11/18
10 PM – 2 AM

Order by Calling:
(929)–255–7772

or by filling out the Google Form:



(Google form linked in our Instagram Bio @chi_phi_rpi)
Preorders are welcome

All deliveries will be fulfilled within 45 minutes

Currently, the brotherhood is on track to log over one hundred and fifty hours of philanthropic work this semester. These hours are spread out through aiding numerous organizations such as the church-sponsored homeless food distribution organization His Table, The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, Provisions Food Pantry, and The Albany Boys and Girls Club’s Haunted House. Through these organizations, we set up a schedule for brothers to devote their time to help out the community. Our endeavors weren’t only limited to the use of bigger organizations, however, as we took it upon ourselves to devote our time and manpower to raise money for RAINN (The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network). We started this off with a tabling event where we sold hot chocolate for a dollar and informed people of Casa De Quesadillas, a semesterly event where we make Quesadillas to order and deliver them throughout campus. Through these events, we were able to make over \$1,100, and counting for expenses we will be donating over \$600 to RAINN which is more than the previous 2 semesters! We hope to continue our philanthropy next semester with the annual St. Baldrick’s event.

Staying Social

This semester has been one of the best semesters socially since at least the last 4 years. Attendance to many of our social events have been consistently reaching the high levels of campus engagement, extending our presence on campus. It is common for brothers to overhear positive conversations about our fraternity in classrooms and dining halls. We have been growing our presence and reputation for the last three semesters and now it is back amongst that of the top fraternities on campus. We have had four mixers with sororities (including three with AGD, one with Alpha Phi, and one with Pi Beta Phi) and one with ASA — the African Student Alliance. We have been in contact with sports teams as well and plan to organize mixers with them next semester. We have done trivia, campfires with s'mores, and other general competitive team-based games. For family weekend, brothers invited their parents to join us for a family BBQ on the front lawn with music, lawn games, and food. Here our pledge's parents got to meet the brotherhood and learn what we are really all about. We also held our First Faculty dinner in many years since Fall 2019. We had professors, administration members, and even two of our assigned Pub-Safe officers attend. Despite the lack of an oven, the dinner was a great success and we look forward to hosting many more faculty members that were not able to attend this semester at the next dinner. Lastly, we have an upcoming trip to Montreal on December 21st to the 23rd. We have had huge success socially this semester and hope to continue that momentum into the future.



Brothers and friends on a Brotherhood hike

Likewise, we have kindled fun activities within our Brotherhood, these have included a Brotherhood hike (pictured above), a pumpkin picking and carving event, a puzzle racing competition and semi-regular karaoke nights.



Brothers and friends of the house carving pumpkins for Halloween

Sports

This semester, the brotherhood had a very successful sports season. We did not forfeit a single intramural game this semester. This means that we were able to gather enough people, whether it be brothers or friends of the house, to attend each and every one of the four sports we played. Another big accomplishment is that we were able to get potential new members to join our teams and play alongside us. We would actively invite people who were interested in sports and our fraternity to come play games with us. This gave the brothers a great opportunity to get to know them and actively connect with them. The brotherhood also started a fantasy football and basketball season. Like many semesters prior, we played both outdoor and indoor soccer. The brothers also played flag football where we went undefeated in the regular season and made the championships, but unfortunately lost in the championship game due to a last minute touchdown. We also played intramural volleyball as it was a very big hit last semester. We are currently heading into the playoffs with a winning record hoping for a deep playoff run.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



Br. Matthew Fluker

Matthew has served as Gamma, Iota, Social, Sports Chair and Judicial Board Chair. He will be continuing his job search in Management in the Defense Industry.

BS Aerospace Engineering,
Master's Business Administration



Br. Noah Prisament

Noah has served as Alpha, Delta, Zeta, Iota, Wiring Chair, PR, Alumni Relations, Judicial Board member and IFC Greek Senator & EVP. He will be working as a Software Engineer at MathWorks in the Engineering Development Group.

BS Computer Science and Mathematics,
MS Computer Science



Br. Michael Liu

Michael hopes to return to China which he has missed greatly throughout his time as a brother. He served endless hours as Wiring and Scholarship chair for his Fraternity.

BS Computer Science

CHAPTER GROWTH

Using the lessons learned last semester, our first step was optimizing the rush schedule, as we found last semester brothers and potential new members would be overwhelmed if we had too many events in one week. In order to counteract this we kept events to usually 2 a week, with a less intensive one first and a bigger event second. The turnout for these events was greater than it has been in a long time, with every active saying they've never seen numbers like these. Small events such as Taco Bell Tuesday and BBQ & Lawn Games were casually pulling in over 30 people, with the turnout at our small events rivaling even our usual attendance for the biggest events such as Wingstock and Lobsterfest. This enthusiasm was especially clear to see when we had 10 potential new members go as far as Yankee Stadium, which is a 3-hour drive, to watch a baseball game with us. We believe this insane turnout is in large part due to our newly committed to strategy of dedicating days to hanging out with potential new members outside of rush events where we built deeper connections with them and maximized their enthusiasm.

The goal of this semester was less so about actual recruitment and more about building and maintaining connections with freshmen for the Spring. As you all know RPI now practices deferred recruitment, meaning that freshmen can't join a fraternity until their second semester. This is the main reason that numbers don't tell the full story. While we only got 1 pledge, we are confident that next semester we will likely have over 10 based on the people who told us they intend to join as soon as they can. We can't get complacent, however, as we practice the ideology of rush 3-6-5. We need to maintain these connections if we want to be successful next semester. Whether it be through fantasy sports, intramurals, or just inviting potential new members around to hang out, we have laid the foundation for next semester to be successful.

We are pleased to introduce you all to the Mu Triton pledge class consisting of Nick Antsos (pictured right). I am happy to say we accomplished all aspects of the pledging process necessary to make him one of our Brothers.

Nick Antsos is a Junior Biomedical Engineer in the class of 2024 from Pasadena, CA and his big is Noah Theodore Prisament. We are proud of everything Nick has accomplished and look forward to seeing his contributions to our Fraternity.



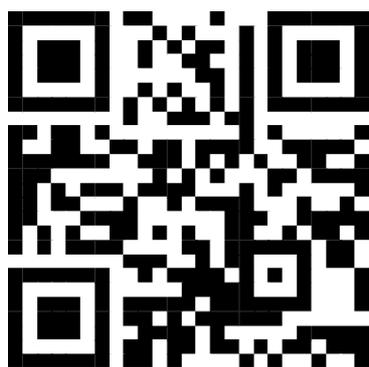
CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Finances

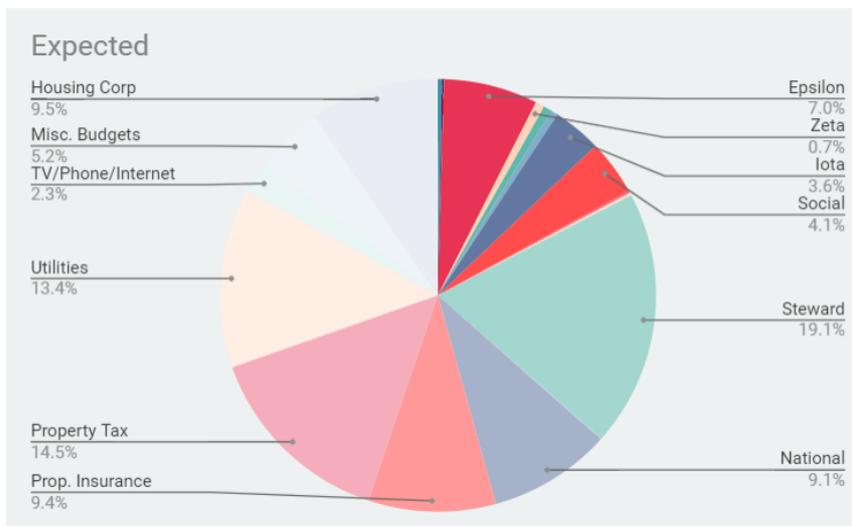
Most of the house's semesterly costs are fixed and are mainly independent of the membership rate, this means that although much of our spending remains the same or increases, the house's revenue has gone down further along with the membership rate. The house initiated major cost cuts over the semester, but unfortunately still has a deficit of a few thousand dollars which were taken from savings. This is something that only happened due to the critically low membership rate of the house. However, as we continue to grow and as we raise dues and rent for next semester, the house will be able to return to positive cash flow.

The house still has remained in excellent financial shape and we are on track to collect 100% of brother's dues this semester. As would be expected the house is up to date with all its bills and recently filed our 990 Tax form for the 2021 fiscal year. Finally, we would like to thank all of the generous alumni who have donated to the house to help us stay afloat.

If you would like to donate to the house, one option is the Chapter Support Fund which allows anybody to make a taxdeductible donation to the house through RPI. Although RPI does take a 10% fee, this donation channel leverages RPI's non-profit 501(c)(3) status to allow for tax deductible donations. You can donate at <https://tinyurl.com/chiphicsfund> or using the QR code below.



QR Code to the Theta Chapter Support Fund



Wiring and Communications

Alongside the structural repairs to our facilities, the Chapter worked to improve our digital infrastructure. This included improved lighting in the basement of The Chi, an additional access point in the basement of The Chi, subwoofers installed in the dining and chapter rooms, a new kitchen sound system, a new surround sound system in A21 and a UPS installed in the server rack.

Artifacts, Ritual, & History

This semester the Chapter has fully completed our updated collection of ritual equipment, ensuring that the Chapter has everything needed to properly appreciate our ritual. Likewise, we have performed every appropriate ritual this semester, keeping us in touch with their teachings.

The Brother of the Year and Alumnus of the Year plaques are being updated through 2022 and we have worked to hang up all of our old and new Chapter awards throughout the Chapter room alongside all of our appropriately conditioned composites.

Composite restoration is still in the works, but all necessary information was sent to Vantine for a quote. If you would like to donate to help restore your composites or any others, please feel free to reach out to our Zeta (zeta.theta.chiphi@gmail.com) or Delta (delta.theta.chiphi@gmail.com).



Brothers and friends of the house supporting Brother Jared Zornitzer after he completed a marathon!

Steward

Favorite Classic House Recipes:

- [Chicken Tikka Masala](#)
- [Beef Bulgogi](#)
- [Beef Stroganoff](#)
- [Firecracker Chicken](#)

Favorite New House Recipes:

- [Beef and Pepper Stir Fry](#)
- [Pork Kebab](#)
- [Gochujang Chicken](#)
- [Tonkatsu](#)

Risk Management

This semester, we received very high scores on inspection, with an 88% for the Main house and a 96% for Stroud Hall. This is a 4% and 2% increase from last semester for the Main house and the Annex respectively. Additionally, most mitigations were easily remedied with a short work party, with exception to the back stairwell, which was addressed in our 30-day mitigation report. Mask mandates have been removed at RPI and weekly testing is no longer mandatory nor offered. However, the house still supplies rapid test kits to anyone feeling sick in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the house as much as possible. Guests are now officially welcome to campus if they are fully vaccinated or provide a negative COVID-19 test result.

Housing

This semester the Brothers worked a cumulative over 500 Epsilon hours with work week included. Most of these being spent on room repairs and renovations. Due to a collapsing ceiling in A26, we had to tear down the walls and rebuild the room back up. All of it is finished except for some pieces of trim. We replastered and repainted the walls in M35. We began replacing the flooring in M24 as well as fixed the door knob to that door along with patching and repainting the walls. We also patched up the box of exposed electrical wires and cleaned up the ceiling in M21. We also started looking into bigger projects, such as getting an exterminator, getting a new stove, and looking at the back stairwell. The actives have been in contact with the Housing Corporation to hopefully setup with Meerkat exterminators. We had Nolan Engineering come out and take a look at our back stairwell and they should be getting back to us soon. Hopefully most of these projects will come to fruition during the Spring semester. We also hope to fix up the fence that was broken again from a car hitting the corner streetlamp earlier this semester.

M21 Ceiling Renovation

Before



After



M35 Wall Renovation

Before



After



M24 Renovations

Before



After

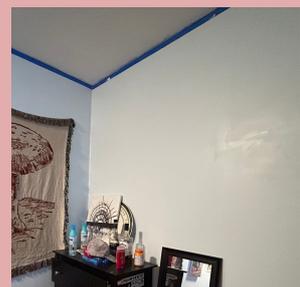


A26 Full Repair and Renovation

Before



After



NATIONAL AND ALUMNI RELATIONS



Br. Jared Zornitzer (left), Br. John Cohen (second to the right) and Br. Kevin Porrecca (right) pictured with Grand Alpha Br. Steven Hopkins (Nu '99) at the Congressional Banquet after receiving the Chapter's national awards.

National Relations

From a National perspective, Brothers have been very involved. Over the Summer, Brothers Jared Zornitzer and John Cohen, with TAA representative Brother Kevin Porrecca, attended Chi Phi's 156th Congress in Philadelphia. The Chapter was awarded its sixth straight Thomas Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence, and also the Outstanding Philanthropic Service and Outstanding Communication/Public Relations Awards! In addition, Jon Arthur, the Coordinator of Chapter Development from the National Office, came for a visit to the Chapter House this Fall.

The Brotherhood continued to strengthen its relationship with the Lambda Theta Chapter of Chi Phi at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth this semester by hosting them for their Initiation Weekend. It is always great seeing how Chi Phi is not just a local fraternity, but it is a national one. Brothers had a lot of fun spending time with Brothers from the Lambda Theta Chapter, and this relationship will surely extend into the future.

Upcoming Event Calendar

There will be an Alumni Weekend planned for the Spring 2023 semester and we encourage everyone to attend! Details will be sent in the email chain once they are finalized. If you are not currently on the email chain, contact the current Gamma at gamma.theta.chiphi@gmail.com or via the discord server to be added.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Brother Paul Kluppel
was married to
Stephanie Kebart on
October 8th, 2022!

Brother Jacob Liberatore and
his wife Steph had a baby
named Henry Holden Liberatore
on June 7th of this year!

Brother Harrison Bond
was married to the now
Niloofar Bond on
October 15th, 2022!

MESSAGE FROM THE TAA PRESIDENT

Hello Brothers,

During the Fall Theta Alumni Meeting held on November 12, 2022, Nick Laferriere was re-elected as TAA to Treasurer for a 1 year term. The next elections will be held during the Fall 2023 Alumni Weekend with President, Secretary, and one Member at Large up for election. We will be awarding the Andrew Colditz and Stephen Rusty Gordon memorial scholarships in the upcoming Spring 2023 Alumni Weekend.

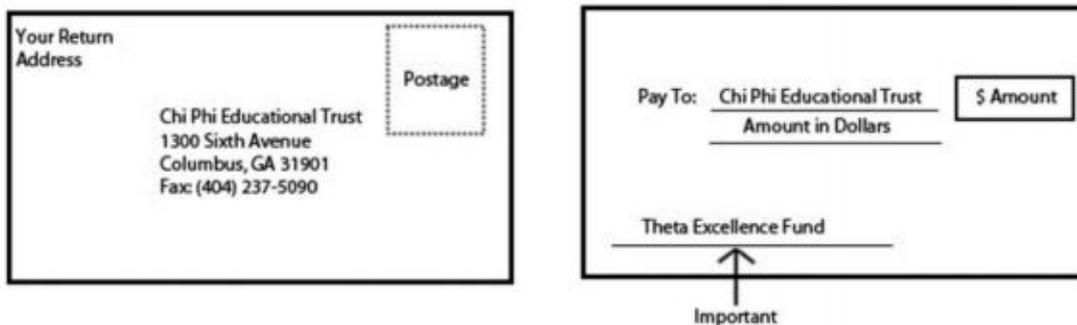
Looking forward, we have begun planning the celebration for the 200th Anniversary of Chi Phi that will be held in 2024. We will be continuing discussions on the direction of the 200th Anniversary during the Spring 2023 Alumni Weekend. Finalized details and date of the weekend will be established during the Fall 2023 Alumni Weekend.

On behalf of the TAA I would like to congratulate the Active chapter with their continued success. The Theta Chapter has secured their sixth consecutive Gehring Award. Thank you to all of the current active officers for their efforts in bettering the Theta Chapter. I look forward to seeing the new officers push us to new heights.

Fraternally,
Br. Nathan Rosengrant
TAA President
570.702.4454

THETA EXCELLENCE FUND

With the Theta Excellence Fund active, our first goal has been to provide an annual scholarship in honor of Brother Andrew Colditz, who passed away in 2005. The scholarship is for a new member in each pledge class who was found to represent the values of Chi Phi best and met a minimum GPA requirement. A second scholarship for leadership, in honor of Stephen “Rusty” Gordon, was established. This scholarship is for any Brother showing leadership through his activities with the house. If you would like to help the chapter by donating directly to the Theta Excellence fund, please follow the instructions below:



CHAPTER DONATIONS

Want to have a direct impact on the chapter?

Please contact the new 2023 Alpha (alpha.theta.chiphi@gmail.com), Brother Alexander Liu, or Delta (delta.theta.chiphi@gmail.com), Brother Matthew Auffarth, to discuss room dedications and contributing to housing renovations in the Chi or Stroud Hall.

All donations from alumni towards housing renovations are honored with plaques and room dedications for contributions and generosity. Get involved and invest in the future of our chapter!

CHAPTER CONTACTS

SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage you to follow the Theta Chapter on social media for more frequent updates on the chapter and events we are hosting.



@chi_phi_rpi



@chiphi.atrpi



@chiphi.atrpi

CHAPTER WEBSITE AND DISCORD

<http://www.thetaofchiphi.org/>

<https://discord.gg/Wepf99Q>