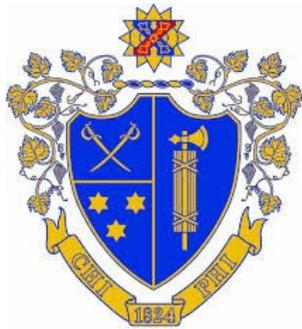


# THE THETA RECORD



## Building Towards A Better Future

I am very proud to say that the Theta Chapter has been continuing to improve in many aspects over the past years. However, many improvements can still be made that will help us to become the Chi Phi chapter I know we can be.

One of the areas where we have made improvements is our GPA, which is currently a 3.20. This means we are not only the Chapter with the 5th highest GPA, but we are also above the All-Men's and well above the All-Greek GPA. To continue this trend of a rising GPA, Jonathan Underwood and Paul Kluppel have been working to improve the number of resources that we have to study from, as well as improve the support network by providing each brother with a list of brothers who are able to help with their current courses. We are also looking into creating a designated study space in the house.

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Recruitment continues to be a high priority for the house. We initiated 12 new brothers last Fall, and currently have two potential new members, Jacob Legatt and Brian Vivolo. Although the university administration is working with both us and IFC, recruitment still suffered this semester. Even though spring recruitment suffered, Lyndon Pisansky, our recruitment chair, already has many ideas for the Fall. If the chapter is as motivated as we have been in past recruitments, we are posed for it to be another successful rush.

The chapter has been Accredited by National this past semester. In the past, we were awarded Accredited with Distinction, and we look to have this be the case once again for the current semester. Stephen Notley, the Beta, has constructed officer checklists to help assist each officer with creating goals for each semester that are in accordance with Five Star and Accreditation. Our Five Star report was submitted on March 4th, and we expect to be four to five star again this semester.

Holding the extended officer meetings has greatly improved our operations as a house, as well as our Five Star report. These meetings will continue to be held at the beginning, middle, and end of each semester. The officer binders are continuously being added to updated throughout the semester to improve the transition process of each officer.

The chapter has steadily been improving each semester, and I am very proud of us for that improvement. We strive to continue to raise our GPA through a more involved scholarship program based on reward rather than punishment, as well as one that makes resources more readily available for each brother. Recruitment will continue to be a priority of the chapter, the house becoming more involved in each recruitment event. We also look to be both Accredited with Distinction and a five star fraternity by the end of this semester. However, there are still many aspects that we can improve on before we become the exceptional Chi Phi chapter that we once were, and I do not expect us to stop there. I believe that with the continued enthusiasm of the entire brotherhood, we will become the model chapter both nationally, and on campus.



*Br. D'Arcangelo*

Faternally,

Br. Matthew D'Arcangelo '18  
Alpha

# THE THETA RECORD

## From the Beta's Desk

Throughout this semester and next, I intend to work with all of the officers, both individually and as a group, in order to ensure maximum communication and organization as we work together to achieve our goals.

I plan on continuing the practice of holding monthly chairman meetings which involve very clearly-outlined sets of goals to be achieved to make sure that adequate progress is being made on these plans. Additionally, I would like to have officers put together similarly-outlined action plans for their committees to ensure that delegation is being practiced with efficiency. These simple practices will go a long way toward making sure we achieve the goals which we lay out for ourselves at the beginning of each semester.

In addition to these meetings, another device that I plan to use to keep officers on track is a system of officer spreadsheets. These spreadsheets are made for each officer and consist of plain-English descriptions of what is expected of them for official documentation such as 5-Star and Accreditation. Having these in place will help officers know exactly what quantitative things need to be done every semester and every year in order to remain in a favorable position with both school administration and the National office. I believe that a large part of why some of these obligations were not being met was a genuine lack of knowledge and communication about these requirements which should end here. This, hopefully, will remove the last barrier from being a fraternity which is both accredited with distinction and 5-Star rated.

Fraternally,

Br. Stephen Notley  
'18  
Beta



*Br. Notley*

## Footnotes by the Gamma

During my tenure as Gamma I want to focus on keeping the wiki up to date by making sure all brothers have access and having the most updated bylaws. Giving gifts to sororities is also another major part of being Gamma. I want to give personalized gifts that sororities will have around for years to come. Something that they will proudly hang up and whenever new sisters, alumni, or anyone passes by it in the house and the ask about it. The gifts shown here were made from our tree that was sadly cut down, but now it can live on surrounded by people who will admire it.

Fraternally,

Br. Majid Javed '19  
Gamma



*Br. Javed*



# THE THETA RECORD

## Craving Savings

I am happy to say that the house's finances are continuing to improve this semester on the path set by the past Delta, Br. Marshall. With the recent influx of new brothers, the house has been able to increase budgets in the areas of risk management, philanthropy, and social activities while still managing to increase budgeted savings. This semester we are on track to save over 9% of our house budget. This can be used in the future for larger house improvements and projects.

This semester I have kept every brother up-to-date on officer budgets by sending out updated spending reports on a weekly basis, continuing the transparency efforts set forth by the past house executive board.

One of my biggest goals for the semester is to provide alumni with more ways to set up payments on debt. With the recent rise in popularity of online payment services, I want to make it as easy as possible for alumni to make payments on debt as well as make donations to the house.

I believe that the house's finances are in a very good state and I am very confident that we can keep it that way. This house is capable of great things and our stable financial state will ensure that does not change. With the help of the rest of the officers and E-board we can maintain our success in the coming year.

Fraternally,

Br. Samuel Atkinson '18  
Delta



*Br. Atkinson*

## Safety First

The house did extremely well with our Spring Fire and Life Safety Inspection, with just a few minor areas to address. Building off of this, I plan to implement procedures that will keep these issues, as well as ones from the previous semester, in check. With these added to the officer binder, future Eta's will have an easier time preparing for inspections. The house is moving in a great direction in this regard.

I also plan to continue the work of my predecessors in making an emergency checklist available to all brothers. While there are currently guidelines to different levels of emergencies, my goal is to create sub-categories under these, laying out steps to take in more specific situations. It is difficult to think clearly in the heat of the moment, and different emergencies do not always follow the same guidelines. Having this checklist as a resource will help our house be better prepared and safer.

Fraternally,

Br. Anthony Chiaramonte '18  
Eta



*Br. Chiaramonte*

# THE THETA RECORD

## Patching Up the Chi

This upcoming year will be sure to bring many new challenges and projects regarding the maintenance of the houses. However, support from Housing Corp, Brother Worden, Brother Underwood, and my committee will ensure great success in these endeavors. The Brotherhood has already come together to bring improvements to the house during work weekend in the beginning of the semester and many other subsequent work days.

During work weekend, a radiator was moved to the A1 foyer in order to better heat the annex entrance. Drywall was also put up in the annex back stairwell on walls that are shared with bedrooms in order to improve insulation and satisfy fire code. The studs of the walls in the basement of the main house were reinforced with concrete board and sealed with mortar to prevent further water damage. A leak in the ceiling of A1-2 was repaired and patched. The backyard was also tidied up and all debris was disposed of.

The A1 bathroom is now fully functional and now both annex bathrooms await drop ceilings for completion. A leak in the kitchen ceiling, caused by a pinhole in a length of copper pipe leading to the milk-room sink, was easily patched. A combination lock was attached to the dumpster after some "Brother Governali's" repeatedly tore apart the garbage bags looking for cans. We now consolidate all cans and place them outside of the dumpster to be collected. The main house and annex door mechanisms were also repaired after much wear and tear. Brother Baken has been working on a Chi Phi mural in the basement for his pledge class project, as well.

I plan to use the majority of the remainder of my budget this semester to complete more pledge class projects, including the building of a shed and the painting of the eaves and trim around the main house. Tulips and other perennials will be planted in the gardens shortly in order to beautify the house for the end of the spring. Plans for next work week include the completion of the excavation next to the foundation of the annex in order to create a second entrance to the basement and the construction of more picnic tables and chairs for everyone's enjoyment in the warmer months.

The houses need our tender love and care in order to achieve the victory of continual existence. I know the Brotherhood will all contribute to this goal and I am excited for the future. If any alumni would like to donate your time, re

sources, or just give a suggestion for continually improving the image of Chi Phi, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Br. Ethan Carmody '18

Epsilon



*Br. Carmody*



***The new and improved A-1 sinks and toilet***

# THE THETA RECORD

## Meet The New Blokes

This past semester we initiated 12 new brothers to our fraternity! Congratulations to the Chi Deuteron pledge Class (colloquially known as the cry deuterons) . It was a busy semester due to the sheer number of pledges but in the end they all did a great job with the pledging process and I'm proud to have them as our newest Brothers.

This semester we have a modestly sized pledge class of two potential new members. Jacob Legatt and Brian Vivolo are about half way through the pledging process and are working hard to stay on track. Just this past week their big brothers Steve Notley and Michael Brown (respectively) were revealed to them. They will be staying in the house for live in week during GM week.

Fraternally,

Br. Ian Marshall '16  
New Member Educator



*Br. Marshall*

## Giving Back

So far, our semester has been incredibly successful and we hope to continue this success. We have raised money for, and participated in the St. Baldrick's charity. After fundraising for a week, we raised a grand total of \$4,153 thanks to many generous donations from alumni, family, and our fellow students. We also completed our first adopt-a-highway cleaning of the year, and will complete our second before the semester is finished. Moving forward we are hoping to do a joint fundraiser with a new up and coming Russell Sage club that raises money for RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network). We are also looking to host Chi Phi Live at a downtown Troy restaurant. At the end of April, we will be participating in Relay for Life here at RPI where we will represent Australia in this year's "World Games" theme. We would like to extend an invitation to any or all of these events to our alumni, and we would also like to thank you for your generous donations in our previous fundraisers!

Fraternally,

Br. Jonathan Underwood '16  
Philanthropy Chairman



*Br. Underwood*

**Brothers who shaved their heads to support cancer awareness for St. Baldrick's**



# THE THETA RECORD

## Being Socially Adequate

With the midway point of the semester behind us, we look both forward and back at the events to come and past. Looking back to what we have already done, we have held formal and hosted a social event with the brothers of Tau Epsilon Phi. We have also hosted a mixer with Pi Phi and one of our two planned campus social events. The focus of these events is to not only improve the experience of the brothers at events such as these but also improve our house image by holding ourselves to a higher standard and making our guests feel welcomed. In the semester to come I hope to increase the number of interfraternal events to create stronger bonds between houses and broaden the network friends we have created.

Fraternally,

Br. Ezekiel Sherbourne '18  
Social Chairman



*Br. Sherbourne*

## To Five Stars and Beyond

Our chapter has continued on its path to success with regards to both Five Star and Accreditation. For the fall of 2015 we have once again been accredited with a score of 85. Unfortunately this is not high enough to be "Accredited with Distinction", however we still performed much better than the national average. We have also submitted the Five Star Application recently, and thanks to constant badgering by Br. Underwood we even applied for several awards. We have very high hopes for this year's submission and for all future submissions. If anyone wants to see the beautiful Five Star submission, feel free to email Greg.

We have continued to use the grading rubrics for both of these ranking systems to plan out our semester and yearly activities, as suggested by Br. Mazza a couple of years ago. Recently Br. Notley helped improve this system by sitting down and creating spreadsheets for each officer which go over in detail what is expected of them every semester for both Five Star and Accreditation. Now, each officer has quick and easy access to all of the information that they will need to ensure a high Accreditation and Five Star score.

Looking forward, the next thing on our agenda is to improve our accreditation score to once again be "Accredited with Distinction," as well as applying for national awards which we believe we have a very good chance of winning. We look forward to seeing the chapter continue to improve and earn the rankings that we have been striving for.

Fraternally,

Br. Greg Avsyuk '17  
Br. Tyler Quon  
'16  
Public Relations  
Chairmen



*Br. Avsyuk*



*Br. Quon*

# THE THETA RECORD

## Rush Report

This semester we had two potential new members sign their bids and are now beginning the process of pledging. The two pledges this semester are Brian Vivolo and Jacob Legatt from Wanaque, New Jersey and Randolph, New Jersey respectively. A spring pledge class of this size has been about the average recently, but it is a 100% increase in size from last spring rush, and our goal should be to continue this trend. The feeling among many is that Spring rush is going to be increasing in importance in the coming years. First of all, a new program at RPI is going to be bringing a larger number of first semester freshman to RPI in the spring semester. This year only a few hundred new students participated in the program, but that number is predicted to significantly increase in the coming years. Also, rush was extended beyond its usual length by about a week. Because of these changes, there was a 5% increase



*Br. Pisansky*

in overall pledges this semester as compared to last spring rush. We can expect this trend to continue, and our goal for next spring should be to recruit four new members for our chapter. Our goal next semester is to build on our recent success in the fall semester, and recruit 15 to 20 new members.

I would like to make a few acknowledgements to a few standout brothers.

First of all, due to an injury, I had to have surgery and was unable to perform my duties as rush chair this semester. Therefore, it was decided among e-board members and myself that senior Brother Brian Dunn would take over this rush. Brian Dunn had previously showed enthusiasm for rush and had the knowledge and experience necessary to make the best of the difficult circumstances. We made an excellent choice, and I could not have asked for any better. All events went smoothly and were well organized. Also, congratulations to Nathan Rosengrant for doing his part for all fraternities at RPI by being elected IFC VP of Recruitment. He is working hard to encourage an overall better rush at RPI. He successfully extended spring rush nearly a whole week, and worked with the school to make dorm storming possible again. Finally, the

brotherhood as a whole came together to make rush successful and ensure the continued strength of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi.

Fraternally,

Br. Lyndon Pisansky '17  
Rush Chairman

## Improving Academic Performance

Although our house's academic performance has been greatly improving over the last few semesters, we would like to see even larger strides made in this area. This semester, as there are two sitting scholarship chairmen, we are doubling the number of weekly study hours available to the brotherhood. Additionally, our largest project will be compiling a list of every brother's curriculum to make individual tutors more easily accessible to the brotherhood, as well as organizing the significant body of backwork the Chapter has accumulated. Through these efforts we hope to see ourselves become and remain a Dean's listed house.

Fraternally,

Br. Paul Kluppel '16  
Br. Jonathan Underwood '16  
Academic Chairmen



*Br. Underwood*



*Br. Kluppel*

## THE THETA RECORD

### A Few Points to Make

As Zeta, my overall goals are to keep the brotherhood in touch with our history and to make sure the points system is running smoothly. I believe that if I am successful, this will lead to a more rewarding experience as an active Chi Phi brother.

An important aspect of history is ritual. This is something that creates a bond between everyone in this house and all of our brothers across the country. It is my responsibility to make sure we have the means to carry out these rituals. I will be taking inventory and replacing and/or acquiring the necessary equipment. In addition to this, I have been (and will continue) giving weekly history reports at house meeting. This keeps brothers interested and engaged in our chapter's and our national organization's history. I encourage alumni to reach out to me if there are any interesting stories or facts I could tell the brotherhood.

The points system does a good job of rewarding and holding brothers accountable. I won't be making any drastic changes, but I will have to keep it up to date and make any changes when necessary. I have online documentation between me and each officer to ensure that all points, either awarded or subtracted, are accounted for.

Through these efforts I hope to keep our points straight and to inspire brothers about what it means to be a Chi Phi.

Fraternally,

Br. Ethan Hill '18  
Zeta



*Br. Hill*



***Brothers at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey for the most recent Regional Leadership Alliance***

# THE THETA RECORD

## Theta Excellence Fund

With the Theta Excellence Fund active our first goal is 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 best represent the values of Chi Phi, and met a minimum GPA requirement. The scholarship fund has been so successful we have been able to establish a second scholarship for leadership in honor of Stephen "Rusty" Gordon. This scholarship is for any brother showing leadership through his activities with the house.

If you would like to help the chapter through donating directly to the Theta Excellence fund please follow the instructions below:

Your Return Address	Postage
Chi Phi Educational Trust 1300 Sixth Avenue Columbus, GA 31901 Fax: (404) 237-5090	

Pay To: <u>Chi Phi Educational Trust</u>	\$ Amount
<u>Amount in Dollars</u>	
<u>Theta Excellence Fund</u>	
↑	
Important	

