



PLUS: 2016 National  
Convention and  
Career Fair

2016  
Award  
Winners

# Taking a Deeper Look at Mental Health

The Great Lakes Regional Conference presented a comprehensive mental health awareness program for the benefit of themselves and their peers.



# Table of Contents

4	5	7	10	16	20	21
Observations	Foundation	Digits	Chapter News	Alumni News	5Q+A	In Memorium

8



## Taking a Deeper Look at Mental Health

10



## Exploring Old Rag

12



## Away Field Advantage

3



6



17



### THE GEAR OF THETA TAU

*Editor-in-Chief*  
David Parker

*Contributors*  
Michael Abraham  
Timothy Collins  
Amber Jiles

*Creative Direction  
& Design*  
Tria Designs, Inc.

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*Grand Regent*  
J. Matthew Clark

*Grand Vice-Regent*  
Jamey Vann

*Grand Secretary*  
Holly Collins

*Grand Treasurer*  
Sagid E. Hillali

*Grand Marshal*  
Stuart Kadian

*Grand Inner Guard*  
Ian Lacy

*Grand Outer Guard*  
Ari Gernaat

### CENTRAL OFFICE

*Executive Director*  
Michael T. Abraham  
Theta Tau  
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205  
Austin, TX 78701  
512/472-1904  
800/264-1904  
512/472-4820 Fax  
cent.al.office@thetatau.org  
www.ThetaTau.org

Volume XCVI, No. 1

The GEAR of Theta Tau is the official publication of Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity and is published in the fall and spring. The magazine is an educational journal devoted to matters of fraternity interest and is sent at no cost to members whose addresses are on record.

Send change of address to:  
Theta Tau Central Office  
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205  
Austin, TX 78701  
cent.al.office@thetatau.org





# 2016 National Convention and Career Fair

The intersection of brotherhood and professional development

by Tyler Daly, University of Rhode Island (Sigma Gamma)

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

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

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

I ended up talking to five different representatives from five separate companies. I was able to hand out my resume

to each of them and left the career fair feeling confident in myself as a professional figure. This career fair greatly improved my self-esteem, and taught me how to sell myself (a vital skill to possess in the professional world).

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

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



# 2016 Awards Summary

## Robert E. Pope Outstanding Student Member

Nicholas Bely  
(Wayne State)

## The Alumni Hall of Fame inducted three new honorees:

Thomas Irwin  
(Michigan Tech) '63  
James Spann  
(Alabama) '78  
Stephen Moxley,  
(Alabama) '22,  
posthumously

## 20% growth

*Chapters that grew  
by 20% or more in  
membership*

Tennessee  
Wayne State  
Cincinnati  
Illinois  
VCU  
UC Merced  
Buffalo  
Hofstra  
Florida State  
Virginia  
NC State  
Ohio State  
Syracuse  
Miami  
Michigan  
Arkansas  
Lawrence Tech  
Texas A&M

## 40+ growth

*Chapters with 40  
or more members*

Arizona  
Tennessee  
UC Berkeley  
UC San Diego  
Maryland  
Colorado  
GWU  
Vanderbilt  
Cincinnati  
Illinois  
Mississippi State  
Cornell  
VCU  
Clemson

Alabama  
UC Merced  
Buffalo  
Pittsburgh  
FIU  
Iowa  
Rutgers  
UC Davis  
Purdue  
Florida State  
Virginia  
UC Irvine  
Texas  
Virginia Tech  
Ohio  
Nevada  
Central Florida  
UC Riverside  
Rhode Island  
Syracuse  
SMU  
Miami  
Penn  
Johns Hopkins  
Michigan  
Arkansas  
South Florida  
George Mason  
Texas A&M  
Kansas  
South Carolina  
Florida

## 700 Club

*Chapter scoring 700  
or more points on the  
Annual Report*

Old Dominion - 700  
Tennessee - 701  
Arkansas - 704  
UC Davis - 710  
Mississippi State - 720  
Minnesota - 721  
Virginia - 722  
Wayne State - 724  
Central Florida - 724  
Texas A&M - 737  
Florida - 737  
UC Berkeley - 744  
Tennessee Tech - 745  
Lawrence Tech - 755  
VCU - 771  
Virginia Tech - 781  
South Carolina - 804  
Miami - 806  
Alabama - 872

## Size Target Award

*Chapters who meet their  
size target defined by  
Nationals. \$250 award*

Tennessee  
Cincinnati  
Cornell  
Alabama  
Buffalo  
Virginia  
Texas  
Syracuse  
Miami  
Arkansas  
Texas A&M  
Kansas  
Florida

## Best Brotherhood Event

*Recognizing the chapter  
that planned and  
executed events  
which were beneficial  
to their brothers*

First: Mississippi State  
Second: UC Davis

## Best Community Service Event

*Recognizing the chapter  
that planned and  
executed events in which  
a difference was made  
in their community.*

First: UC Davis  
Second: Illinois  
Third: Mississippi State

## Best Professional Development Event

*Given to the chapter  
that plans and executes  
the best professional  
culture and events to  
further professional  
development.*

First: Cal  
Second: Illinois  
Third: Arizona

## Best Chapter Newsletter

First: Alabama  
Second: UC Davis  
Third: Illinois

## Best Photo

First: VCU  
Second: Texas  
Third: Nevada

## THANK YOU!

lt m ur  
v t s i  
d m a

f

f on t i t t w  
v on l l n l  
l t t s  
u r r



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

m t i  
t r f  
ienn m

## Best Website

First: Alabama  
Second: UCLA  
Third: Cal

## Outstanding Delegation

*Given to the chapter  
that best represented  
themselves at National  
Convention*

Atlantic: Virginia  
Central: Oklahoma State  
Great Lakes: Ohio  
Gulf: Central Florida  
Midwest: Minnesota  
Northeast: Rhode Island  
Southeast: Tennessee  
Western: UC Davis

## Member Miles

*The chapter that  
traveled the most  
combined miles to get  
to National Convention*

First: Oklahoma State  
Second: Texas A&M  
Third: FIU

## Outstanding Delegate

*Voted among peers,  
Outstanding Delegate  
is given to the delegate  
that has provided  
significant contributions  
at National Convention*

Rena Wang (Minnesota)

## Outstanding Adviser

*Recognizes the advisor  
who has achieved an  
exemplary relationship  
with students, assisted  
in mentoring and  
counseling chapter  
officers, and served  
well as the chapter's  
connection between  
itself and the university.*

Dr. Clark Midkiff  
(Alabama)

## Founders Award

*The nation's most  
improved chapter  
for the biennium*  
Tennessee Tech





## Instagram



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

#Brotherhood #ThetaTau #rahrah

## Twitter



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

## Facebook



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



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

The post-Katrina New Orleans community is in great need for homes. Although this was our first time volunteering

as a group with Habitat for Humanity, our members thought it was the most significant event we had all semester. Although all we were doing was putting up insulation and installing a few windows, we could see our impact on getting Shantell's family a permanent, affordable home.

#ThetaTauGivesBack #Habitat



📍 Rah Rah Brothers and HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

(Pumpkin carving by brother Tyler Bennett of Lambda Beta Chapter)





## Exciting Activities Planned for 2017

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

### Scholarships Available

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

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

### Two Leadership Academies for 2017

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

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



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





# VOLunteering

## Brothers host Volunteer Engineers Day at the University of Tennessee

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

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

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

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

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



Top: Chi Gamma members and student volunteers preparing to clean up the University of Tennessee's campus. Middle: Chi Gamma members participating in a local Habitat For Humanity build project in Knoxville. Above: Chi Gamma members restoring garden beds at Beardsley Farms in Knoxville.



# Digits

# 3.51

Average GPA of All Academic Team Captains

# 55

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

# 3.77

Average GPA of Endowed Scholarship recipients



# 72

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

# 150

2015 Leadership Academy was attended by 150 student members, which Annual Fund gifts at any level support





# Taking a Deeper Look at Mental Health

The Great Lakes Regional Conference presented  
a comprehensive mental health awareness program  
for the benefit of themselves and their peers.





**IN MARCH 2016, SIGMA CHAPTER AT** The Ohio State University hosted the Theta Tau Great Lakes Regional Conference. Regional Director, Brother Shelby Simes of Xi Beta Chapter, presented a series of seminars from the “Behind Happy Faces” curriculum by Ross Szabo.

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

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

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

On November 16th, the second module was completed under the guidance of Brother Simes. The second module was identifying how different life events and illnesses

are categorized in the mental health arena. Once again there were very positive reviews from the Iota Gamma brothers.

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

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

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

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



**“It was a truly inspiring moment for the chapter, to see brothers encouraging one another and offering advice and consolation.”**



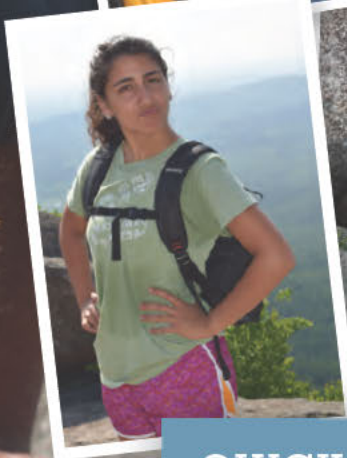
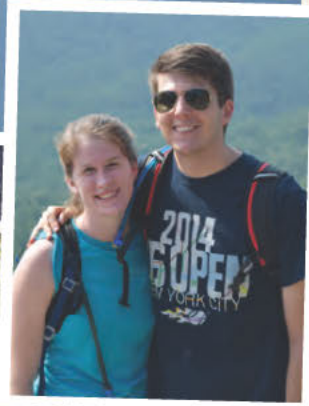
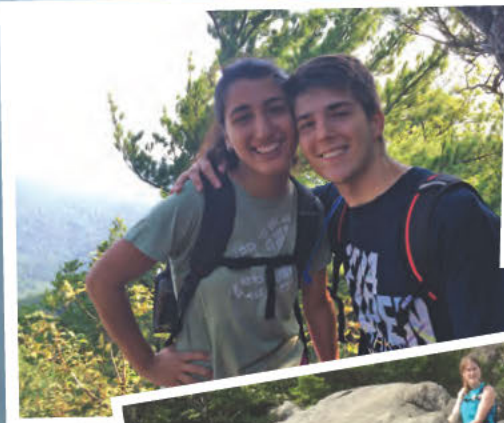
# Exploring Old Rag

Maryland Brothers Climb

by Tony Feric, Maryland (Eta Delta) '17







## QUICK FACTS

**Distance from  
Eta Delta Chapter:**  
101 miles

**Elevation:**  
3,291 feet



Old Rag Mountain is a popular hiking destination located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia's Madison County. *From Wikipedia*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Away Field Advantage: For The Love of Brotherhood

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

by Timothy Collins, Alabama (Mu) '18



Above Left: Mu Chapter celebrates Alabama's victory over USC outside of AT&T Stadium in Arlington, TX (top).

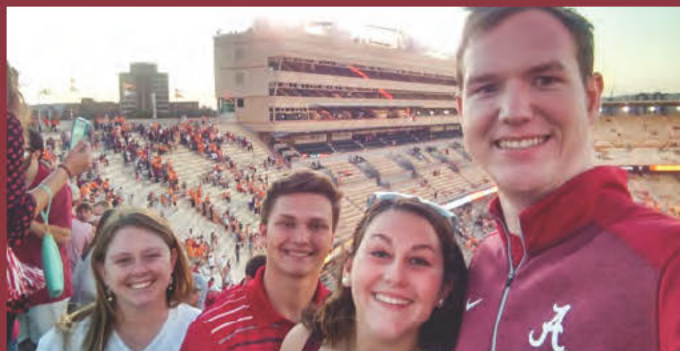
Above Right: Brother Mary Alsobrooks (Mu Chapter) and Brother Kyira Schrock (Upsilon Chapter)



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

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





Above: Mu Chapter and Tau Beta Chapter brothers at The Twisted Root in Texas

Left: Mu Chapter brothers in Neyland Stadium for Alabama vs. Tennessee

the result is another Crimson Tide victory.

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

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

As I write this, I'm looking forward to upcoming visits from Xi Gamma (Texas A&M) and Kappa

Beta (Mississippi State) to our chapter as we host their respective teams here in Tuscaloosa. The best aspect about visiting and getting to know other chapters is that the adventure never gets old; there are always more laughs, more stories, and more brotherhood to pass around. It's also a win for my chapter, your chapter, and all the brothers who get to partake in the excitement of a Saturday down south. Rah Rah, and Roll Tide! 🍷

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

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

iStockPhoto / blighty/ad-in-focus



»Baylor University  
Colony**BAYLOR  
UNIVERSITY**

by Jason Evans, '18

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

Professionally, we've connected with a variety of tech companies for touring opportunities and guest speaker recruitment sessions (many of which have come directly from brothers and alumni in the colony). Socially, events such as crawfish boils, cookouts, pool days, and pickup games keep members engaged and strengthen our fraternal bonds. August 10th, 2016 was a historic brotherhood event for our colony when, in preparation for our first tailgating event, we handcrafted and painted our wooden Theta Tau letters. Additionally, we created custom corn hole boards, both of which we couldn't be more proud of. Last semester our call to service

led us to volunteer by renovating previously neglected property of newly moved Waco residents. This semester we're scheduled to again participate in Baylor's campus-wide Steppin' Out community service event and look forward to participating in the building of our local community. As we continue to build our colony we wear our letters with pride and strive to become a chapter Theta Tau can be proud of. Rah rah Theta Tau.

»Sigma Gamma  
**UNIVERSITY OF  
RHODE ISLAND**

by Jennifer Hart, '17

For the smallest state in the nation, we have a chapter with big heart and even bigger plans for this school year. Sigma Gamma Chapter is back this fall and better than ever, with 43 active brothers and 9 brothers abroad for the year through URI's International Engineering Program. Over the summer, 8 of our brothers were able to attend Nationals and have rejoined us with reignited passion about everything Theta Tau. As always, Fall semester will undoubtedly fly by in a blur. We are looking forward to brotherhood events showcasing the best of what fall in New England has to offer (apple picking, camping, and haunted hayrides). We have already had a great turnout for Fall Rush, and by the time that you are reading this we will have some bright eyed pledges ready to join the brotherhood that we all know and love. As a chapter, we put a lot of focus and energy into our relationship



with the college of engineering at URI. After we participated in the Engineering Week competitions here on campus — winning the dodgeball tournament, the Mr. Engineering pageant, and hosting an Evening with Industry — we started an Student Engineering Council, which consists of leadership from all of the student organizations within the college and we are looking forward to collaborating with the other groups throughout the year, not just one week. We hope that through this group we will be able to improve access to great professional development events on campus for all engineering students as well as grow the community.

»Tau Beta  
**SMU**

by Lauren Metzinger, '18

Tau Beta chapter at Southern Methodist University kicked off their community service this semester by working with Keep Rowlett Beautiful. Keep Rowlett Beautiful is an organization Tau Beta has worked with on a few occasions dedicated to cleaning

up extensive damage from a tornado in nearby Rowlett, Texas last spring. Members cleaned up rubble from destroyed houses, occasionally finding the house owner's sentimental pictures and belongings for them or making a competition out of who can rescue a sleeping bag from a 30 foot tall tree.

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



Top: Sigma Gamma chapter at the URI college of engineering.

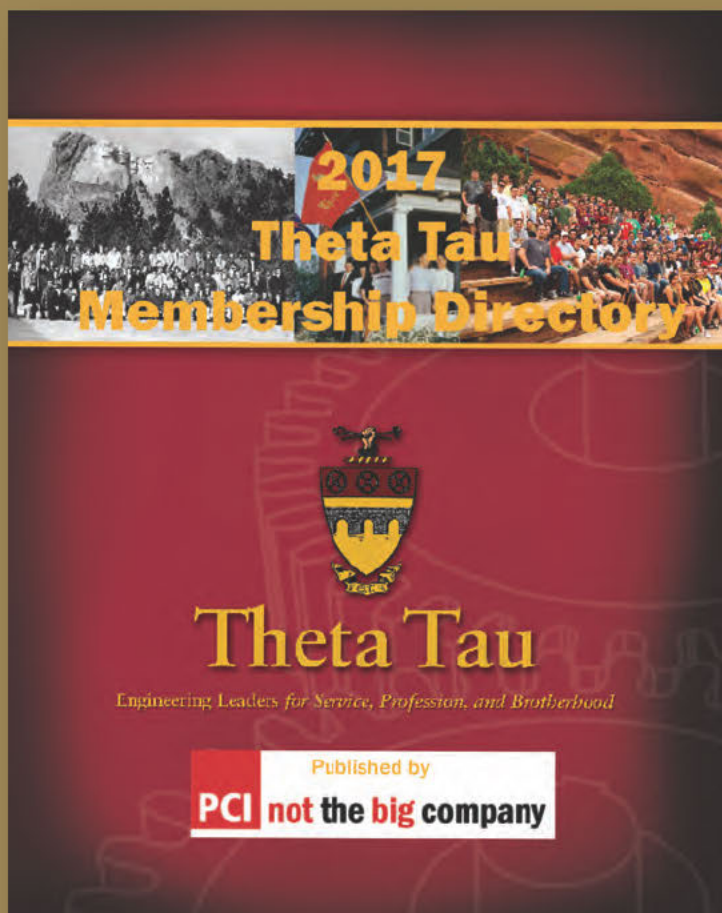
Bottom: Tau Beta Regent, Laura Adametz and alum member, Johna Rutz at an animal shelter volunteering event.



# THETA TAU'S Western Regional Conference

April 8, 2017  
Davis, California

More information at  
[ThetaTauBestRegion.org](http://ThetaTauBestRegion.org)



## Back by Popular Demand!

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

Theta Tau and PCI respect your security and privacy concerns. Having partnered with them for what will be 5 directories over 25+ years, we have every confidence in their ability in this regard.





Photo by Counse, Flickr

# Dragon Con Brothers

## GETTING THE "GEEK OUT"

by Taylor Patton, Mississippi State Alumna (Kappa Beta) '14

**MY HUSBAND AND I STARTED GOING TO DRAGON CON IN** Atlanta in 2012, before we got married. We are both members of Kappa Beta Chapter, and have always tried to convince our brothers to share the experience with us. We have planned three trips that have included brothers since our first convention.

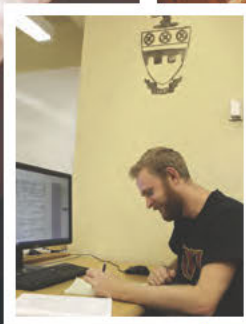
For those who don't know, Dragon Con is all about letting your "geek" out. Whether you are a fan of the paranormal, sci-fi, anime, British television, puppets, gaming (video or table top), or robots, Dragon Con has speakers, events, and workshops for every geek. The best part of Dragon Con for me is getting to meet the actors/actresses, authors, and scientists that come speak and sign autographs. For my husband, it's the vendor stores with

some of the coolest merchandise you could dream up. Some of the event is late night parties, other bits are cosplay contests, but most of it is really getting into whatever you geek out about.

**"I have realized how important this annual get together is, and I want to grow it in frequency and quality."**







FAR LEFT: Tod Colegrove presenting Libraries for the Future for TEDx. LEFT: Reno chapter brother studying underneath the Theta Tau crest inside the DeLamare Engineering Library. ABOVE: Reno DeLaMare Library director Tod Colegrove with 3D printed owl.

## From Advisor, to Honorary Member and the Establishment of Rho Delta's Spiritual Home

**TOD COLEGROVE IS MORE THAN A FACULTY** member for the Rho Delta Chapter at the University of Nevada. He was instrumental in the founding of the Nevada Colony as the colony's faculty advisor on December 10, 2011. In addition to a normal adviser role, Tod has become an invaluable asset for resources and knowledge. In his role as the Director of the DeLaMare Engineering Library (DLM), Tod has started a trend at the University of Nevada of promoting STEM Education. Taking a novel approach, Tod has turned the DLM Library into a variable "makerspace" which encourages children and students alike to forge their

own creative engineering paths. Tod's work allowed the chapter and the community to check out amazing technologies such as 3-D scanners, quadcopters, as well as a multitude of other technologies. We could have never hoped to acquire these tools on our own.

Every semester, Rho Delta hosts a community service event at the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum in Reno (below), Nevada to promote and encourage these same ideas. Without the help and encouragement of Tod, this event could have never become anything more than an idea. During the early stages of es-

tablishing Rho Delta, Tod literally opened the doors of the DLM to our Chapter and gave our chapter the opportunity to make the DLM its home. He even went as far as allowing a metal crest of Theta Tau be mounted on the 3rd floor which both active members and alumni see daily. It is for the reasons above that the Chapter of Rho Delta has asked Tod to become an Honorary Member, for making powerful connections with members and always having insight and knowledge whenever needed. ☺

— John Sandusky (Nevada)'19

*Continued from page 16*

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

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



Photos courtesy of Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum in Reno





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

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

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

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

Theta Tau would soon become an integral part of the lives of Raymond and Katie. In 2011, they were the lone members of a two person pledge class at Sigma

Gamma chapter of Theta Tau. Both brothers held the position of Regent during their time with the fraternity. In 2012, Raymond discovered the true meaning of brotherhood and fellowship after being diagnosed with Stage II Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The diagnosis caused him to miss six months of school to undergo intensive chemotherapy. During this difficult time, Katie and the rest of Sigma Gamma chapter stood by his side, and he would eventually triumph over cancer

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

In February of 2015, Raymond popped the big question and Katie happily accepted, setting the stage for a big Theta Tau wedding. Indeed, the Hammer and Tongs spirit was on everyone’s mind as they got married on Founder’s Day, October 15, in 2016.

Graduating in 2014, Katie is now employed with The Lee Company in Westbrook, CT, designing hydraulic valves for a variety of specialty applications. Raymond graduated in 2015 and currently works for AECOM in their Environmental Division, working in subsurface remediation and environmental sampling. ☺

# A Story of Love and Brotherhood

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

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







# 2017 Leadership Academy

Leadership Academy provides an immersive experience to develop the social soft skills needed to be an excellent member of any organization!

**July 28-30, 2017**

**Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN**

*More information at [ThetaTau.org](http://ThetaTau.org)*





# Stuart “Stu” Kardian

Virginia Commonwealth University (Kappa Gamma) '06

## Theta Tau Grand Marshal

### How did you get introduced to Theta Tau?

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

### After graduating from college, what made you want to stay involved with Theta Tau at the national level?

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

### What is your role in Theta Tau and the responsibilities of that role?

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

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

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

### How has Theta Tau helped you in your career?

Theta Tau helps you develop in many areas. This has impacted my career in several ways. First, my public speaking skills improved greatly. From chapter room meetings to an upper management board meeting, the art of public speaking is a tough but necessary skill for engineers. I've also gotten better at planning, organizing and implementing events. The skill to take an idea to

reality is useful in so many areas of life. Additionally, I have furthered my skill in facilitating. It's one thing to stand in front of a room and lecture to an audience, but it's another thing to enable a group to work more efficiently. Above all, Theta Tau helps you with your confidence. Being around and working with a group of brothers who will support you, no matter what, can have drastic effects on one's inner and outer confidence.

### What do you hope brothers get out of being in Theta Tau?

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





**Theta Tau Educational Foundation**  
**Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity**

1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205  
Austin, TX 78701

Nonprofit ORG  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Bolingbrook, IL  
Permit NO. 467

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# VOLunteering!

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

*Read all about it on page 6.*

