# GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY COLONY OF THETA TAU PETITION FOR CHAPTER STATUS



# **Table of Contents**

•	Letter from the Regent, George Mason University	i
•	Statement of Petition	ii
•	Member Profiles	1
	Active Brothers     Alumni and Pledges	
•	History of George Mason University	6
•	History of the Volgenau School of Engineering	7
•	History of The Colony of George Mason University	8
	o Brotherhood	
	o Service	11
	o Professional Development	13
•	Letters of Recommendation	14

George Mason University, Colony of Theta Tau c/o Guy Austin Simpson II 4400 University Dr MS 2D6 Fairfax, VA 22030 April 1, 2012

Michael T. Abraham, Executive Director Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity 1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205 Austin, TX 78701

### Dear Brothers of Theta Tau:

The members of the George Mason University Colony of Theta Tau are proud to present this petition for Chapter Status. Over the past few years, we have worked hard on becoming an organization which we believe is deserving of the recognition of Theta Tau affiliation.

We have grown with the evolving and expanding Volgenau School, here at George Mason University, whose motto is "Innovation is Tradition." While we stumbled as an organization early, as the founders realized just how much work starting a chapter would entail, we together, and our efforts through those early trials and tribulations only forged amongst ourselves a stronger sense of brotherhood and commitment.

Each of the members has expressed their most sincere interest in becoming a Chapter, and I believe we will continue to excel as a premiere organization on campus and amongst other chapters within the Fraternity, as this is merely the next step towards bettering ourselves, our profession, and our community.

Sincerely,

Guy Austin Simpson If

**GMU Colony Regent** 

We, the members of the George Mason University Colony of Theta Tau do hereby petition the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity for chapter status. We have no affiliation with any organization competitive with Theta Tau and have met all of the membership and organizational requirements necessary to become a chapter.

3. Erik Jose Tenas	20. James Damer Kerr
ExitEnces	Done D. Jan
4. Christopher Robert Miller	21. Naveed Mehboob Fazlani
Christophe Mila	UN gall
S. Lam Thanh Do	22. Damian Warren O'Leary
3am Jo	
6. Joshua Ryan Hicks	23. Patrick Ryan Early
Maple	
9. Reed Sexton Hopwood	24. Christopher Joseph Ritz
Olas Mad'	W / NC
10. Eric Timothy Walter	25. Lisa Katarina Grube
aic Watter	disa Grube
14. Guy Austin Simpson/II	26. Alexandra Paige Raper
Le lin	alex Raper
15. Bradford Jordan Webb	27. Josh Alexander Walser
Brodon Jonan Well-	Joshua Croser
16. Justin Patrick Bauman	28. Jonathan Monaghan Smith
Justin Burney	Jacut)
17. Michael James Cronin	29. Ryan Taylor Ward McCreedy
Muhael Cremin	Man Pubul
18. Sara Dale Segal	30. Marissa Jo Arager
Sara Segal	cllarissa ednage
19. Schuyler Mackenzie Cumbie	31. Eric Paul Marks
Solyt him	Juli



Erik Jose Tenas Roll #: 3

Hometown: Manassas, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: SHPE, Mason

**AMP** 

Gpa: 2.90 Major: Electrical Engineering

etenas@gmu.edu



Joshua Ryan Hicks

Roll #: 6

Hometown: Alexandria, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: ASCE, AWWA Gpa: 2.51 Major: Civil Engineering

joshhicks7@gmail.com



Christopher Robert Miller

Roll #: 4

Hometown: Ashburn, Va

Gpa: 2.3 Major: Electrical Engineering

cmill.gmu@gmail.com



Reed Sexton Hopwood

Roll #: 9

Hometown: Arlington, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: ASCE, Chi Psi Gpa: 2.45 Major: Civil Engineering

rhopwood@gmu.edu



Lam Thanh Do

Roll #: 5

Hometown: Centerville, Va Other Activities/Orgs: IEEE

Gpa: 2.80 Major: Electrical Engineering

ldo3@gmu.edu



**Eric Timothy Walter** 

Roll #: 10

Hometown: Vienna, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: ALD, NSCS Gpa: 2.89 Major: Civil Engineering

ewalter5@gmu.edu



**Guy Austin Simpson II** 

Roll #: 14

Hometown: Tuckahoe, NJ

Other Activities/Orgs: Eagle Scout Gpa: 3.70 Major: Electrical Engineering

gsimpso2@gmu.edu



Michael James Cronin

Roll #: 17

Hometown: Fredericksburg, Va Gpa: 2.80 Major: Bioengineering

mcronin350@gmail.com



Bradford Jordan Webb

Roll #: 15

Hometown: Hampton, Va Gpa: 2.71 Major: Computer

**Engineering** 

brjwebb@gmail.com



Sara Dale Segal

Roll #: 18

Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa

Gpa: 2.54 Major: Electrical Engineering

sarasegal320@gmail.com



**Justin Patrick Bauman** 

Roll #: 16

Hometown: Appomattox, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: Running Club,

Econ Society, NSCS

Gpa: 3.55 Major: Civil Engineering

bauman.justin@gmail.com



Schuyler Mackenzie Cumbie

Roll #: 19

Hometown: Reston, Va

Gpa: 2.80 Major: Computer Science

schuylerc@gmail.com



James Daniel Kerr

Roll #: 20

Hometown: Stephens City, Va Gpa: 3.65 Major: Information

**Technology** 

jkerr2@masonlive.gmu.edu



Naveed Mehboob Fazlani

Roll #: 21

Hometown: Richmond, Va Gpa: 3.00 Major: Information

**Technology** 

deevan2010@aol.com



Damian Warren O'Leary

Roll #: 22

Hometown: Shelton, Wa

Other Activities/Orgs: AFCEA, GADIG

Gpa: 2.89 Major: Computer

**Engineering** 

damianoleary1@hotmail.com



**Patrick Ryan Early** 

Roll #: 23

Hometown: Reston, Va Other Activities/Orgs: NSCS

Gpa: 4.00 Major: Electrical Engineering

patrick.r.early@gmail.com



Christopher Joseph Ritz

Roll #: 24

Hometown: Culpeper, Va Other Activities/Orgs: CCM Gpa: 2.11 Major: Information

Technology

Ritzbit92@gmail.com



Lisa Katharina Grube

Roll #: 25

Hometown: Davensberg, Germany Other Activities/Orgs: Circle K, SWE, ASCE, Habitat for Humanity, Steelbridge,

**AWWA** 

Gpa: 3.69 Major: Civil Engineering

lisa@grubemail.com



Alexandra Paige Raper Roll #: 26 Hometown: Alexandria, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: Circle K, SWE,

**Habitat for Humanity** 

Gpa: 2.75 Major: Computer

**Engineering** 

alexandra.raper@yahoo.com



Joshua Alexander Walser Roll #: 27

Hometown: Alexandria, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: AWWA, WEF Gpa: 2.18 Major: Electrical Engineering

jawalser@gmail.com



Jonathan Monaghan Smith

Roll #: 28

Hometown: Stafford, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: ASCE, Eagle Scout

Gpa: 3.22 Major: Civil Engineering

jmsmith1988@gmail.com



Ryan Taylor Ward McCreedy

Roll #: 29

Hometown: Springfield, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: ASCE, AWWA,

Eagle Scout

Gpa: 3.02 Major: Civil Engineering

ryan0712@aol.com



Marissa Jo Arager

Roll #: 30

Hometown: Yorktown, Va

Other Activities/Orgs: SWE, Hillel Gpa: 3.48 Major: Bioengineering marager@masonlive.gmu.edu



Eric Paul Marks

Roll #: 31

Hometown: Honolulu, Hi

Other Activities/Orgs: TOMS Club Gpa: 2.8 Major: Computer Engineering

emarks3@gmu.edu

#### Alumni

**Sheel Dilip Patel** 

Roll #: 1

Hometown: Brighton, UK Major: Systems Engineering sheel.d.patel@gmail.com

**Gavin Reid Bauman** 

Roll #: 2

Hometown: Warrenton, VA Major: Electrical Engineering gavinrbauman@gmail.com

**Matthew Robert Webster** 

Roll #: 7

Hometown: Fairfax, VA

**Major: Electrical Engineering** 

mwebsterw@gmail.com

**Buddy Nadeem Shoukat** 

Roll #: 8

Major: Electrical Engineering

bshoukat@gmu.edu

Elio Gary Andia

Roll #: 11

Hometown: Arlington, VA Major: Computer Engineering Hardtarget32@gmail.com

**Brian David Freedman** 

Roll #: 12

Hometown: Ashburn, VA Major: MS Cyber Security bfreedma@gmu.edu

James Allen Bonner II

Roll #: 13

Major: Information Technology

jabtcom@gmail.com

# Spring 2012 Pledges

- 1. Ashley Marie Timm
- 2. Elizabeth Lane Anderson
- 3. Kunal Kumar Sarkhel
- 4. Anne Zheng
- 5. Christopher Joseph Bednar
- 6. Robert Michael Roldan
- 7. Dillon Carter Powell
- 8. Nishant Manesh Patel
- 9. Christopher Michael Mackay
- 10. Matthew Alexander Taylor
- 11. Erik Preston Kniaz
- 12. William Justin Eaton
- 13. Steven Chase Gleason
- 14. Andrew Christopher Gholson
- 15. Emily Brooklyn Eastlake

# A Brief History of George Mason University

George Mason University's growing reputation as an innovative educational leader is rooted in Virginia's strong educational tradition.

The university began as the Northern Virginia branch of the University of Virginia in 1957. Eager to support the fledgling institution, the Town (now City) of Fairfax purchased 150 acres in 1958 and donated it to the University of Virginia for a permanent branch campus. In March 1966, the General Assembly authorized the expansion of George Mason College into a four-year, degree-granting institution and gave it the long-range mandate to expand into a major regional university.

In 1972, the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia recommended that the college separate from its parent institution. On April 7, the governor signed the General Assembly legislation that established George Mason University as an independent member of the commonwealth's system of colleges and universities.

Since 1972, the university's development has been marked by rapid growth and innovative planning. Drawing prominent scholars from all fields, George Mason's outstanding faculty includes two Nobel laureates in Economic Science, James Buchanan (1986) and Vernon Smith (2002), the Robinson Professors, a group of outstanding scholars committed to undergraduate teaching and interdisciplinary scholarship, a Pulitzer Prize winner, IEEE Centennial Medalists, and recipients of numerous grants and awards, including Fulbright, National Science Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts awards. Endowed chairs have also brought many artists and scholars to campus.

George Mason has expanded its presence to serve the entire Northern Virginia region by employing the revolutionary concept of the "distributed" university. The university acquired the George Mason University School of Law and a campus in Arlington in 1979, and established the Prince William Campus in Prince William County in 1997.

George Mason University has achieved national distinction in many areas. Its reputation continues to grow as the university provides for an educational, cultural, and economic resource for the people of Northern Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and beyond.

## History of the George Mason University Engineering School

The School of Information Technology and Engineering at George Mason University was established in 1985. It was the first engineering school in the United States to focus its scholarship primarily on information technology and math-based engineering as opposed to the traditional physical, material-based engineering approach. It was also the first to offer a doctoral degree in information technology. Today, the School's programs cover the spectrum of IT education, from introductory courses in IT technology to cutting edge research at the doctoral level.

In 2005, the School celebrated 20 years of scholastic achievement and received a \$10M gift from Ernst and Sara Volgenau, which kicked off the newly named Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering's \$20M fund-raising campaign to construct a combined teaching and research facility, and to support scholarships. In 2007, a brand new, state-of-the-art engineering building construction began, including a 250-seat lecture hall. In October 2009, the official grand opening of the new Engineering Building was held, which included more then 300 guests celebrating the completion of the largest academic building on campus at 180,000 GSF. The building was named after Long and Kimmy Nguyen, whom contributed \$5M to the school.

Presently, the Volgenau School continues its growth and commitment to Information Technology and Engineering. As the only Engineering School in Northern Virginia, George Mason University has an excellent relationship with companies and businesses in the IT&E fields, counting 33 corporate partners and over 1,500 companies in Fairfax County whom regularly employ GMU students as interns and both in full and part-time positions. George Mason University is one of the largest schools in Virginia with over 32,000 students, and this carries over to the Volgenau School, with over 4500 students enrolled in 2011. The School is currently ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the country in the number of MS degrees awarded, and 23<sup>rd</sup> in the country in graduate enrollment with over 1800 students.

The school also offers 10 distinguished scholarships, which are full, four-year scholarships, 27 fully endowed scholarships, and 10 annually supported scholarships. It has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education and is currently ahead of both the University of Virginia and Virginia Polytechnic Institute in federal research expenditures in Computer Science. The Volgenau School's total research expenditures were \$19.6M in 2011.

The School is subdivided into seven departments:

- · Applied Information Technology
- Bioengineering
- Computer Science
- Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Statistics
- Systems Engineering and Operations Research

# **History of Colony**

On November 22, 2008, the George Mason Colony of Theta Tau was officially instated. Since this time the brothers of the colony have worked diligently towards a singular goal: Attaining full membership as brothers of Theta Tau by becoming a Chapter. We concentrated our efforts in three areas: Brotherhood, Service, and Professional Development. To this end we've held and assisted with a number of events within these three areas. Below is a list of events we've done as well as a brief description of the event.





## Brotherhood

- Intramural Sports
  - Football
  - Basketball
  - Soccer
  - Volleyball
    - We participate in one or two Intramural sports each semester. Some sports we're more competitive in then others, but we enjoy the competition.
- Brother Outings
  - Movies
  - Bowling
  - Golfing
  - Laser Tag
  - Board Game Nights
    - We have occasional events where we get together and do an activity. These can range from bowling or a driving range to the movies or laser tag. We use opportunities like this to strengthen our brotherhood and enjoy that bond.
- · Chapter Visits with Gamma Beta
  - We have had the opportunity and privilege to participate in several of the events held by the brothers of the Gamma Beta Chapter at George Washington University, such as their Alumni and Founder's Day barbeques.
- · Regional Attendance
  - We have had an active and growing attendance at each of the Regional Conferences for the Atlantic Region. This past semester we had 11 of 24 active brothers attend the conference at the Psi Gamma Chapter at Virginia Tech.
- Wilderness Adventures
  - Camping
  - Hiking
    - Each semester, we plan both a hiking trip and camping trip. These have been a big success among our colony members, as they provide a great opportunity to work together toward a common goal, forging stronger bonds between brothers and pledges alike.
- Lock-In
- We started a tradition of a pre-semester Lock-in to plan the events of the semester. It takes place during a weekend leading up to the kickoff of the semester, and has really helped us get organized in terms of creating, planning, and executing successful events.

# • Brotherhood Dinners

Every week we have a brotherhood dinner at an anrea restaurant. Both locations and days of the week vary so that every brother has a least a few opportunities to go.







#### Service

- Relay for Life
  - Each year, members create a Relay for Life team and help fundraise and raise awareness for a cure for cancer.
- High School Outreach
  - We went to a local high school, Robinson High, and discussed and facilitated a Q&A on College and Greek life to graduating seniors whom were interested in IT&E majors. In this way we were able to both promote interest in Engineering while helping students learn to adjust to campus life and college academia.
- Blood Drive
  - We participated in a Blue Cross blood drive where members gave blood to help people in need
- Packing for South Sudan
  - Colony Brothers packed food and medical bags for people in need in South Sudan.
- Engineer's Day
  - Each year, Colony Brothers assist in organizing and running the Engineer's Day on campus. A large part of Engineer's Day is a Career Fair with several corporate sponsors of the Volgenau School, and so it also gives us an opportunity to build relationships with recruiters and potential guest speakers.
- Invasive Plant Management and Removal
  - The Brothers participated in removing invasive species of nonnative plants at a local state park.
- Run for the Kids
  - A fundraising event that raised \$825 to fight childhood obesity
- Emergency Event Situation, VRC
  - Working with the VRC, the Volunteer Reception Center in Fairfax, we helped simulate an emergency response situation, where in the event of an actual crisis or emergency, food, medical supplies, or rescue personnel could efficiently and effectively be prioritized and distributed across Fairfax County and surrounding counties for aid.
- Engineering Open House
  - When the new Engineering Building was officially unveiled, the members worked to help organize the Open House, and assist the Volgenau School with the event.

- Engineering Gala
  - Each spring, a formal Engineering Gala is held for corporate sponsors, faculty, and high profile individuals. The colony has assisted in organizing and managing the event, and it has also given us a great opportunity to network with local corporate sponsors.







# Professional Development

- Loudon Water Reclamation Plant Tour
  - The brothers went to a newly developed, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant facility where we were shown the processes and systems that were involved in wastewater treatment.
- Resume Workshop
- At least once a year, we've held a resume building workshop with Career Services on campus
- Museum Tours
- With our proximity to Washington D.C., we have been able to set up several museum tours including the Smithsonian, the Natural History Museum, and Air & Space Museum.
- Behavioral Workshop
  - We've started to host a Behavioral Interview Workshop at least once a year with Career Services on campus.
- Micron Facilities Tour
  - We toured the Micron Facilities, where we saw the processes and machinery that is required to build microprocessors and semiconductors
- Career Fairs
- Given the Volgenau Schools great networking opportunities, we've been able to attend multiple career fairs for networking and job recruitment.







### PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY

1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205 Austin, TX 78701 512/472-1904 Fax: 512/472-4820 Internet: Central.office@ThetaTau.org

Web: www.ThetaTau.org

April 17, 2012

ΘT Executive Council Theta Tau Central Office 1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205 Austin, TX 78701

### Dear Brothers:

I am pleased to write in support of the petition for chapter status from the colony at the George Mason University.

I met with a select group of GMU engineering students interested in Theta Tau some time ago. The students knew one another, had heard much about Theta Tau's expansion in their area, and wanted to bring a professional fraternity to their campus. Their colony was later certified with 12 members. Since then, the colony has worked diligently and consistently toward becoming a chapter. The group has come a long way since that first meeting and is fully prepared to take the next step toward full Theta Tau membership. Their growth in membership has been remarkable over the last several semesters.

As importantly, the university campus and engineering school at George Mason in Fairfax, Virginia, has been growing rapidly during the colony's development. The engineering school is very supportive of the colony, the members highly motivated, and their involvement on campus substantial. They have regularly and extensively participated in regional and national meetings. I am impressed with the enthusiasm, effort, and achievements of this group as evidenced by the content of this petition. I believe that they have demonstrated that they are ready for the step to chapter status and will continue to be a strong and positive example for Theta Tau on the campus of George Mason.

I believe this group has the potential to be a valuable asset to Theta Tau, and I recommend your approval of their petition for chapter status.

In H and T,

Michael T. Abraham

**Executive Director** 

stuart.kardian@thetatau.org

March 22, 2012

# Brothers of Theta Tau:

I am honored to write in support of the petition from the George Mason University Colony of Theta Tau to become our newest Chapter of Theta Tau.

As Regional Director, I have witnessed monumental success in the areas of recruitment, regional participation, and both campus and community involvement. From professional development to brotherhood events, the GMU Colony strives for excellence while meeting each new challenge with a hammer & tongs spirit.

Within the past few years, the Colony membership has grown to a sizeable number – an indication not only of their recruitment efforts, but also of their ability to clearly show other students that there is a great benefit to be a member of Theta Tau.

This group is a valuable asset to the Fraternity, and I strongly recommend you approve their petition for Chapter status.

In H and T,

Stuart Kardian

Atlantic Regional Director

KT XX! YY! WW!

To whom it may concern,

In my few years with the Theta Tau Fraternity, I have had the honor of interacting with the gentlemen of the George Mason University colony who now wish to be a part of Theta Tau. In the past few years, I have seen them at regional conferences and I have used these opportunities to talk with them. They also have come to visit our chapter, Gamma Beta, for a few of our Fraternity gatherings including initiation barbecues. On all of these occasions, I have found them to be upstanding people who I believe will benefit our Fraternity of Theta Tau as brothers. Through their recent efforts, they have seen tremendous growth as a colony. Their most recent pledge class had 15 young engineering students. This strong interest will certainly make them an asset in our Fraternity. I also will be moving out to the GMU area next year, after graduation, and would like to help them with their initial few years as a chapter, if they would like my help.

In H&T, Will Kline



# Volgenau School of Engineering

March 14, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for the George Mason University Colony of Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity. I understand that they are applying for chapter status and I welcome this opportunity to support their application.

Since its founding in 2008 by 12 active Volgenau School of Engineering students, the Theta Tau colony has actively served the school through extensive volunteering for events and outreach. Members of Theta Tau have volunteered at numerous Volgenau School events including our annual Engineers Day celebration, the opening celebration for our new engineering building, our annual Ice Cream Social, and our annual Awards Gala. The students have even visited local high schools to speak with prospective students about engineering.

Through their active involvement and initiative, the members of the Theta Tau colony have proven themselves as great role models. They work actively to raise interest in engineering and to provide social and professional opportunities for engineering students. They are active in providing community service in our school, our university, and our community. They exemplify Theta Tau's purpose and values.

Theta Tau's growth as a fraternity at George Mason University will benefit the Volgenau School of Engineering and the larger community. I fully support Theta Tau's petition for chapter status.

Sincerely,

Sharon A. Caraballo, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs



# Volgenau School of Engineering

February 28, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Theta Tau, the Professional Engineering Fraternity colony, at George Mason University. I understand they are applying for chapter status and I welcome this opportunity to support their interest in that pursuit.

Officers for the Theta Tau visited my offices in the Fall of 2009 to volunteer the brothers for events or outreach. Since that time, members of the Theta Tau have been volunteering at our fundraising events including our high profile Annual Awards Gala as well as our annual recruiting job fair. They are highly professional and personable and we are proud to have them involved with our activities.

I know Theta Tau not only volunteers their time for the Volgenau School, they also are involved in community outreach events. For example, I am aware that they have visited a local high school where they spoke with students interested in pursuing Engineering, and we couldn't have been more pleased that they took on that initiative.

The students in the Theta Tau are thoughtful and generous with their time. They are highly regarded among the Volgenau School staff, faculty and student body. They are good role models and they exemplify Theta Tau's purpose, core values, principles and goals I found featured on your website.

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Theta Tau.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Kovac

Director of Corporate Relations Volgenau School of Engineering

Finda S. Kora

George Mason University

4400 University Drive, MS 4A3

Fairfax, VA 22030

703-993-9375 or lkovac@gmu.edu