

# The Christian Brothers University Colony of Theta Tau



Memphis, TN

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Nolan Engineering Center  
Christian Brothers University  
650 East Parkway South  
Memphis, TN 38104  
February 22, 2016

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

Dear Brothers,

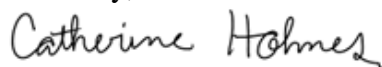
I am greatly honored to speak on behalf of the Christian Brothers University Colony of Theta Tau in presenting our petition for chapter status. Since our colonization last April, we have been working tirelessly to enroot within our members the pillars of Service, Profession, and Brotherhood. While it has not always been easy, I have watched our growth and development from day one and I could not be any prouder of how far we've come.

We have made great strides both locally and nationally. Since our formation, we have gone through two rush cycles with pledge classes numbering twenty-one and seven respectively, more than doubling our size within a year. We are very well established in the School of Engineering and are becoming a go-to group for our dean when he needs volunteers to help with events or to be lab monitors. We have also started to form an active national presence. We had four brothers attend Leadership Academy this past summer, we have eight brothers attending our regional conference this coming weekend (2/26-2/28) at Vanderbilt, and we have three brothers signed up to go on the Habitat for Humanity Spring Break trip. Our colony is forming very close ties with Kappa Beta Chapter at Mississippi State, with brothers from both groups traveling to visit one another in Memphis and Starkville. The brothers at KB have been a great example in how to operate our colony and be better brothers in general.

While we are still a young colony, I see a determination, passion, and true brotherhood in this group which I know will take us far, even long after all the founding members have graduated. I am writing this letter the night after returning from our retreat and what I saw over the past 48 hours proved to me we have what it takes to become a successful chapter. These members feel like family and have the will to succeed and to make this something truly special.

In light of all of this, I am now proud to present you with the Christian Brothers University Colony's petition for Theta Tau Chapter status.

Sincerely,



Catherine Holmes, Regent  
Christian Brothers University Colony of Theta Tau

## Signatures from the Active Members of the Colony

We, the members of the Christian Brothers University Colony of Theta Tau, do hereby petition the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity for chapter status.

We, the undersigned, are all currently enrolled in the School of Engineering at Christian Brothers University and have no affiliation with any organization considered to be competitive with Theta Tau.



Dalton Bailey



Tristan Barton



Paul Brown II



Ibrahim Chum



Christopher Clark



Jodie Crocker



Maverick Difuntorum



Melissa Dollar



George Eason



Jessica Eason



Austin Feathers



Jennifer Gonzalez



Alexa Kintanar



Joseph Graham



Olivia Koonce



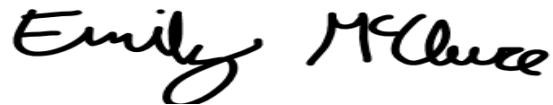
Corbin Harris



Efren Luna



Catherine Holmes



Emily McClure



Jack Hummel



Alexander McCormick



Aryanne Johnson



Raymond McGinnis III



Noah Kelley



Hailey McKinney



Kaila Muhammad



Alexander Rivera



Abin Nellamkuzhyil



Christopher Rivera



Jose Oliva



Robert Tworek



Jason Owings



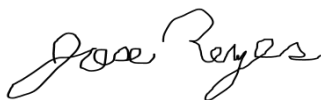
Juan Vasquez



Megan Pitts



Danny Vi



Jose Reyes



Clark Wadlington



Christopher Richardson



Rebecca Wauford

Signatures from the Alumni of the Colony

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ethan Hunter' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ethan Hunter '15

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Stranburg' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tyler Stranburg '15

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick McGinnis' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick McGinnis '15

## Active Member Profiles

### **Catherine Holmes**

Office: Regent  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2016  
Current GPA: 3.30  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program (Board of Directors), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Writing Center Consultant, Moonbuggy Team  
Email: [cholmes5@cbu.edu](mailto:cholmes5@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I played softball at Disney World in high school."

### **Megan Pitts**

Office: Scribe and Correspondence Secretary  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.20  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities :ASME, Zeta Tau Alpha, MAA, SPS, SWE, NASA's Moon Rover Challenge  
Email: [mpitts@cbu.edu](mailto:mpitts@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I grew up doing pageants and working on cars."

### **Aryanne Johnson**

Office: Vice Regent  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2016  
Current GPA: 3.12  
Hometown: Hopkinton, MA  
Campus Activities: ASME, Mathematical Association of America (MAA), Society of Physics Students (SPS), Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Zeta Tau Alpha, Moonbuggy Team  
Email: [ajohns42@cbu.edu](mailto:ajohns42@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I've been playing the drums since I was 10."

### **Alex McCormick**

Office: Treasurer  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2017  
Current GPA: 2.75  
Hometown: Cordova, TN  
Campus Activities: Tau Kappa Epsilon, ASME, Mini Baja  
Email: [amccormi@cbu.edu](mailto:amccormi@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I've never been outside our 48 states of freedom."



**Dalton Bailey**

Office: Petition Chair  
Major: Chemical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2019  
Current GPA: 3.01  
Hometown: Millington, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program,  
American Institute of Chemical Engineers  
(AIChE), Catholic Students Association,  
American Chemical Society  
Email: [dbailey7@cbu.edu](mailto:dbailey7@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "Have burped so loud that I was  
kicked out of the lunch room."

**Paul Brown II**

Office: Pledge Instructor  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2016  
Current GPA: 2.40  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: Vice President of ASME,  
Secretary of National Society of Black  
Engineers (NSBE)  
Email: [pbrown8@cbu.edu](mailto:pbrown8@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "Banging your head against the wall  
burns 150 calories an hour."

**Christopher Clark**

Office: Social Chair  
Major: Civil Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2019  
Current GPA: 3.00  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: ASCE, Best Buddies,  
ACT Tutor, IB Tutor, Concrete Canoe  
Email: [ccclark13@cbu.edu](mailto:ccclark13@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I have 3 different diplomas."

**Tristan Barton**

Major: Engineering Physics  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2019  
Current GPA: 3.80  
Hometown: Germantown, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program,  
Society of Physics Students, Mathematical  
Association of America  
Email: [tbarton@cbu.edu](mailto:tbarton@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I am also an aspiring  
songwriter."

**Ibrahim Chum**

Office: Former Pledge Class President, Pledge  
Instructor Assistant  
Major: Civil Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.20  
Hometown: Istanbul, Turkey  
Campus Activities: Tau Kappa Epsilon,  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
(ASCE)  
Email: [ichum@cbu.edu](mailto:ichum@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "Have a heart-shaped birthmark  
on my right hand."

**Jodie Crocker**

Office: Risk Management Chair  
Major: Civil Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 4.00  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: ASCE, Society of Women  
Engineers, Concrete Canoe  
Email: [jcrocker@cbu.edu](mailto:jcrocker@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I am shorter than 99% of the  
human population. #tallpeoplehater"

**Maverick Difuntorum**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: December 2016  
Current GPA: 2.30  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: ASME, SWE, NSBE,  
Barcelona Productions  
Email: [mdiunto@cbu.edu](mailto:mdiunto@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I collect snow globes from cities  
that I visit."

**Melissa Dollar**

Major: Electrical Engineering & Mathematics  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: December 2017  
Current GPA: 3.00  
Hometown: Olive Branch, MS  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, Students  
With Artistic Talents (president), Institute of  
Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)  
(vice chair)  
Email: [mdollar@cbu.edu](mailto:mdollar@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I'm a professional artist."

**George Eason**

Office: Professional Development Chair  
Major: Chemical Engineering & Physics  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2017  
Current GPA: 2.96  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: NSBE, AIChE, Society of  
Physics Students, Chem-E Car  
Email: [geason2@cbu.edu](mailto:geason2@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I'm way better at cooking than  
engineering."

**Jessica Eason**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.28  
Hometown: Brighton, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, ASME,  
MAA, Co-Head of CBU Battlebots Team,  
Moonbuggy  
Email: [jeason1@cbu.edu](mailto:jeason1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I have a collection of vintage and  
new vinyl including Star Wars episode IV and  
V soundtracks."

**Austin Feathers**

Office: Fundraising Chair  
Major: Civil Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.28  
Hometown: Holly Springs, MS  
Campus Activities: Concrete Canoe, ASCE  
Email: [afeathe2@cbu.edu](mailto:afeathe2@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "Every time I go out to eat I have to  
sit with my back against the wall."

**Jennifer Gonzalez**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2016  
Current GPA: 2.53  
Hometown: Covina, CA  
Campus Activities: ASME, SWE, CBU  
Softball Team  
Email: [jgonzale@cbu.edu](mailto:jgonzale@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I'm a triplet."

**Joey Graham**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.40  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: ASME, Battlebots,  
Personal Band  
Email: [jgraha10@cbu.edu](mailto:jgraha10@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I can draw 100% of the original  
Pokemon from memory."

**Corbin Harris**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2019  
Current GPA: 2.90  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: ASME  
Email: [charri24@cbu.edu](mailto:charri24@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I can drive a stickshift."

**Jack Hummel**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2017  
Current GPA: 2.90  
Hometown: St. Louis, MO  
Campus Activities: ASME, CBU Men's  
Basketball  
Email: [jhummel@cbu.edu](mailto:jhummel@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I am taller than 99% of the human  
population. #shortpeoplehater"

**Noah Kelley**

Office: Web Chair  
Major: Electrical Engineering and Computer  
Science  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2016  
Current GPA: 3.56  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, IEEE,  
Tau Beta Pi, Alpha Chi, Buccaneer E-Sports  
Team  
Email: [nkelley@cbu.edu](mailto:nkelley@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I accidentally burned down my  
house when I was 4."

**Alexa Kintanar**

Office: Junior Corresponding Secretary  
Major: Electrical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2019  
Current GPA: 3.10  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, Math  
Center Tutor, IEEE, MAA, CBU Ruby  
Buccaneers Dance Team  
Email: [akintan1@cbu.edu](mailto:akintan1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I prefer to eat EVERYTHING with  
a fork and knife."

**Olivia Koonce**

Office: Social Engineer  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2019  
Current GPA: 4.00  
Hometown: Evenston, IL  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, SWE,  
MAA  
Email: [okoonce@cbu.edu](mailto:okoonce@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I can speak conversational  
Russian."

**Efren Luna**

Major: Chemical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2019  
Current GPA: 3.30  
Hometown: Chilpancingo, Mexico  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, MAA, AIChE, Hola CBU, Spanish Tutor  
Email: [eluna1@cbu.edu](mailto:eluna1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "Before I decided on becoming an engineer, I wanted to become an artist."

**Emily McClure**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2017  
Current GPA: 2.40  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, ASME, MAA, Co-Head of CBU Battlebots Team  
Email: [emcclur1@cbu.edu](mailto:emcclur1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I had open heart surgery at 16 months old, and was walking around again within 72 hours of surgery."

**Raymond McGinnis III**

Major: Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2017  
Current GPA: 3.45  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, IEEE (Chair), Tau Beta Pi (President), Alpha Chi, September of Service  
Email: [mcginn1@cbu.edu](mailto:mcginn1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I am an active member of the 501st Star Wars costuming legion. We dress up as Star Wars characters for charity."

**Hailey McKinney**

Major: Biochemical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.50  
Hometown: Bartlett, TN  
Campus Activities: AIChE (Treasurer), Society of Women Engineers (Head of Fundraising), CBU Advising and Registration Leader (CARL), Peer Counselor (PC), Tri Beta, CBU Women's Tennis Team  
Email: [hmcKinne@cbu.edu](mailto:hmcKinne@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I do voice/accent imitations. Ex: Russian, British, Stitch, Smeagol, Shrimp from Sharktale, various anime voices, etc."

**Kaila Muhammad**

Major: Biochemical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.80  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: AIChE (Secretary), NSBE (Secretary), Math Center Tutor, Chess Club  
Email: [kmuhamm1@cbu.edu](mailto:kmuhamm1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I hula-hooped for 3 hours straight in a hula-hoop competition in middle school."

**Abin Nellamkuzhilyil**

Major: Electrical Engineering & Computer Science  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.00  
Hometown: Millington, TN  
Campus Activities: IEEE  
Email: [anellamk@cbu.edu](mailto:anellamk@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I love to travel."

**Jose Oliva**

Major: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2016  
Current GPA: 3.20  
Hometown: Collierville, TN  
Campus Activities: Tau Beta Pi  
Email: [joliva@cbu.edu](mailto:joliva@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I play guitar a lot on my free time. Love listening to Country, Rock , EDM. Listen to a lot of music period. I do weightlifting."

**Jose Reyes**

Major: Chemical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.20  
Hometown: Millington, TN  
Campus Activities: AICHE (Webmaster), MAA (Secretary), Hola CBU (Public Relations), BestBuddies,  
Email: [jreyes2@cbu.edu](mailto:jreyes2@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "My only two fears are heights and rats."

**Alexander Rivera**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2019  
Current GPA: 3.80  
Hometown: Chicago, IL  
Campus Activities: SAE Baja  
Email: [arivera1@cbu.edu](mailto:arivera1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "Paintballing has made me 'rich' over the years."

**Jason Owings**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 2.80  
Hometown: Bartlett, TN  
Campus Activities: SAE Baja Team Captain  
Email: [jowings1@cbu.edu](mailto:jowings1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "Approximately 40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year."

**Christopher Richardson**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: December 2019  
Current GPA: 2.80  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: Tau Kappa Epsilon  
Email: [cricha14@cbu.edu](mailto:cricha14@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I am a cast member at Disney World."

**Christopher Rivera**

Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.10  
Hometown: Chicago, IL  
Campus Activities: SAE Baja Captain, CAD tutor  
Email: [crivera@cbu.edu](mailto:crivera@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "Paintballing has made me broke over the years."

**Robert Tworek**

Office: Service Chair & Junior Treasurer  
Major: Civil Engineering & Mathematics  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.88  
Hometown: Westchester, IL  
Campus Activities: ASCE treasurer, Honors Program, Campus Ministry, Catholic Student Association  
Email: [rtworek@cbu.edu](mailto:rtworek@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I've been to 32 states, Washington D.C., and 7 other countries"

**Danny Vi**

Office: Rush Chair  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 2.50  
Hometown: Memphis, TN  
Campus Activities: SAE Baja Team  
Email: [dv1@cbu.edu](mailto:dv1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I play guitar, I'm double jointed, and I like K Pop."

**Rebecca Wauford**

Major: Mechanical Engineering & Mathematics  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2016  
Current GPA: 3.60  
Hometown: Covington, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, Lasallian Collegians, Lasallian Fellows, Career Services, President's Ambassadors, MAA, SPS, ASME  
Email: [rwauford@cbu.edu](mailto:rwauford@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I'm an ordained minister and Elvis impersonator (so if you want an Elvis wedding, let me know)."

**Juan Vasquez**

Office: Petition Chair  
Major: Mechanical Engineering & Computer Science  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2018  
Current GPA: 3.00  
Hometown: Cuernavaca, Mexico  
Campus Activities: ASME, Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI), Excel, SAE Baja  
Email: [jvazquez1@cbu.edu](mailto:jvazquez1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I can fall asleep while standing up."

**Clark Wadlington**

Major: Unspecified Engineering  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
Graduation Date: May 2019  
Current GPA: 3.50  
Hometown: Germantown, TN  
Campus Activities: Honors Program, TAPPI Student Chapter (President), Envision Program  
Email: [cwadlin1@cbu.edu](mailto:cwadlin1@cbu.edu)  
Fun Fact: "I fished for piranha on the Amazon River."

## Faculty Advisers

### **Mr. Raymond McGinnis Jr.**

Role: Faculty Advisor

Education: B.S. in Civil Engineering, 1979, University of Memphis; M.S. in Civil Engineering, 1982, University of Memphis  
Hometown: Memphis, TN

Campus/Professional Activities: ASCE (West TN Branch Board Member), Tau Beta Pi (Chief Faculty Advisor), Phi Kappa Phi, Epsilon Mu Eta

Email: [gene.mcginis@cbu.edu](mailto:gene.mcginis@cbu.edu)

Fun Fact: “I have taught/will teach all three of my sons at CBU.”

### **Dr. Andrew Assadollahi**

Role: Faculty Adviser

Education: B.S. in Civil Engineering and B.S. in Mathematics, 2009, CBU; M.S. in Civil Engineering, 2010, University of Memphis; Ph.D in Civil Engineering, 2013, University of Memphis  
Hometown: Memphis, TN

Campus/Professional Activities: ASCE Faculty Adviser, Tau Beta Pi, Strategic Planning Committee, Textbook Committee  
Email: [aassadollahi@cbu.edu](mailto:aassadollahi@cbu.edu)

Fun Fact: “I am a 4<sup>th</sup> degree black belt in Taekwondo.”



# History of Christian Brothers University

Christian Brothers College was founded November 19, 1871, by members of the Institute of the Brothers of Christian Schools, a Roman Catholic religious teaching congregation. The Brothers came to Memphis at the request of the people and clergy of the city, a move which culminated more than a decade of efforts to persuade the Brothers to open a college in Memphis.



Brother Maurelian was appointed the first President. His two terms as President totaled 33 years. During his presidency, the Brothers purchased the 612 Adams Street building which was to house the college until 1940 when the college moved to its present location at Central Avenue and East Parkway South.

The college functioned as a combined elementary school, high school, and college, granting both high school diplomas as well as Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from 1871 to 1915, when the college division was suspended. Elementary classes were dropped in 1922, and the institution operated as a high school only until 1940. Reopened at that time as a Junior College, the college began granting Associate of Arts Degrees in 1942.

In 1953, the decision was made to expand the Junior College into a four-year institution to more adequately serve the needs of the community. The four-year curriculum began with degrees in Business Administration and Electrical Engineering, with the first graduates in recent times receiving their degrees in 1955. The curriculum was soon expanded to meet the needs for new programs in the fields of Mechanical Engineering and Chemistry. Through the ensuing years the following degree programs were added: Biology, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, English, Physics, Chemical Engineering, History, Psychology, Natural Science, Engineering Physics, Computer Science, and Religion and Philosophy. Teacher Preparation Programs in Secondary education were added in 1969.

An accelerated Evening Program offering a degree in Business Administration was added in 1978 to meet the needs of the adult student, and the Applied Psychology degree was added in 1999. Programs at the graduate level were reinstated in 1987 with the Master's program in Telecommunication and Information Systems. The Master of Business Administration and the Master in Engineering Management were added in 1989. A Master of Education was added in 1997, and the Master of Arts in Teaching and Master of Science in Educational Leadership were offered beginning in 2001. The Master of Arts in Executive Leadership was added in 2005, and the Master of Arts in Catholic Studies was established in 2006. The Master of Science in Engineering Management was also added, with a significant online component, in 2006.

Christian Brothers University became co-educational in 1970. Currently, women make up approximately fifty five percent of the student body. Officially, Christian Brothers College became Christian Brothers University in June of 1990



## About the CBU School of Engineering

The CBU School of Engineering offers a 50+ year legacy of individualized engineering education with Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET) accredited degrees in the four major engineering disciplines: chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical.

Additionally, the School of Engineering offers:

- Dual Degree program that provides the opportunity to simultaneously earn undergraduate degrees in electrical engineering and computer science.
- Minor or certificate program in Packaging.
- Bachelors of Science in Engineering Management with concentrations in Packaging or Information Management.
- Master of Science program in Engineering Management (MSEM).
- Accelerated BS/MSEM Program.
- Various undergraduate and graduate certificates.

The faculty of the School of Engineering seek to nurture the intellectual, professional, and personal development of their students as they prepare them to be effective, productive, and ethical engineers. A CBU engineering education is distinguished by personalized interaction between students and faculty, a strong laboratory component in the curricula, and an emphasis on real world experience through hands-on design projects and internships. CBU also strives to provide its students with the sense of ethics and professionalism necessary for entry into the engineering profession, related fields, and graduate programs.

Our undergraduate students annually compete in regional and national conferences and competitions, advancing their skills in oral presentation, written communication, and real-time problem solving. During their senior year, students are challenged to apply what they have learned through a comprehensive design project often done in conjunction with their internship or an engineering practitioner. A majority of our students have paid internship experience by the time they graduate, providing them with a unique advantage in today's high demand job market.

The graduate program in engineering management has served the industry for over 25 years. Students have enjoyed the flexibility of taking courses on-line or on-site. In addition to the MSEM degree, students can also obtain a graduate certificate in various areas, including quality, information technology, and packaging by choosing a selected group of elective courses.

An engineering education from CBU built on these foundations creates a rich understanding of engineering concepts, enabling their graduates to sustain successful careers as critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

The programs and activities are described on these pages but they can only provide an introduction. We are proud of what we do – and would be pleased to provide additional information or discuss any of our programs personally.

# History of the CBU Colony of Theta Tau

The journey of the Christian Brothers University Colony started when, in the spring of 2014, Catherine Holmes, then a sophomore, considered the Greek organizations present on campus and felt there was still a need not being met. Having already heard of Theta Tau from friends, one being a brother attending another university, she started researching the fraternity and talking with other engineering students about their interest levels. However, with the summer quickly approaching, plans were put on hold until the fall. During the first few months of the semester, a correspondence was begun between her and nationals while a group of interested students and faculty members started coming together. Then on November 13, 2014, Michael Abraham, the Executive Director, visited CBU's campus and helped the students start a local fraternity. They called themselves Chi Beta Upsilon (XBY). Regent, Vice Regent, Treasurer, and Scribe were elected into office, bylaws were passed, and a weekly meeting time was established.

Over the course of the next few months into the spring of 2015, XBY's numbers leveled out at twenty-two members and they became a unified group. In order to get involved on campus and the School of Engineering, they set their sights high by deciding to bring back the middle and high school engineering competitions, which used to be an annual event held by CBU but had not been put on the past few years. Planning this event, which they called Buc-E Day (their mascot is the Buccaneer), was a great way for them to come together as a group, as the planning not only involved designing, organizing, and building (when necessary) all of the competitions, but also advertising to schools in the Memphis area and developing the following registration process, organizing lunch plans for all staff, contestants, and guests, and recruiting volunteers to run all aspects of the event. The day was a huge success and has become an annual project for the fraternity. All the while working on Buc-E Day, XBY was becoming better structured as an organization and creating closer bonds amongst its members. XBY was eager to get their petition in for colony status and two petition chairs were appointed to take lead on its organization. The petition was sent in at the end of January of 2015 and approved in early February. On April 19, 2015, the day after Buc-E Day, Michael Abraham, along with Brandon Satterwhite and the other national officers, came to Christian Brothers and established Chi Beta Upsilon as the Christian Brothers University Colony of Theta Tau.

Once established officially as a colony, the brothers wasted no time in electing chair positions, including social chair, service chair, and professional development chair among others. Shortly after though, the semester ended and everyone parted for the summer. Upon the start of the fall semester in 2015, the colony quickly jumped into the swing of things. Still being led by Catherine Holmes as regent, now a senior, the brothers started their first weekend back with a planning session, discussing how they wanted to be known, what they wanted to do, and what they hoped for the future. A calendar of events, which was made up of social/brotherhood, professional development, and service events was planned out also. Buc-E Day was moved into the fall, so the colony was quickly put to work planning and hosting their annual event. Buc-E Day was larger and more successful than last year, creating a growth trend they hope to sustain. Shortly after Buc-E Day, in October, the colony held their first rush week, extending twenty-two bids at the end of the week. Also during the month of October, the colony decided to volunteer at a local haunted house. All the proceeds of the house went to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which is here in Memphis. October was a busy, yet successful, month.

Besides involvement in local events, the CBU colony had started a correspondence and friendship with the Kappa Beta brothers at Mississippi State, which is only about three hours from Memphis. A couple of the CBU brothers had visited them for a few of their bigger social events and in December, a few of their members came to Memphis and met some of CBU's brothers. CBU's executive officers have reached out multiple times to KB's executive officers, asking for advice and guidance on both operation of a chapter in general and the specific officer roles. This friendship hit a new high when the KB brothers were near Memphis for their retreat the same weekend the CBU Colony was busy with their visit from one of their regional directors, Rachel McFalls-Brown, a KB alum. That Saturday night, members from both groups met up and had a night out. The group chat from that adventure is still active today.

The first pledge class, with 21 of the 22 pledges still active, was initiated at the end of January, more than doubling the size of the colony. It was not long, however, before the Colony hosted another, smaller, rush and extended seven bids, all of which were accepted. Right before the colony extended out the new bids, they hosted their semester retreat. The brothers took the opportunity to get away from school, get to know one another better and bond, and look toward the future of the colony. The presence of the colony has been constantly growing on campus. As the colony grows in members, more students see them walking around in their letters and hosting more open events. The dean of the School of Engineering has been starting to reach out to the colony when he needs volunteers for events or students to work as lab monitors. Christian Brothers University is a small campus and the Colony is making sure it can use that to truly have a positive impact.

While the above is a general overview of the history of the Colony from day one, starting on the next page highlights, in more depth, some of our best events, organized by type of event.

## Social/Brotherhood

### *-Beginning of the Year Cookout and Planning Session (8/28/15)*

We started the year strong by helping host a Welcome Back Cook-Out with the School of Engineering for all engineering majors the first Friday of school. We followed this with a beginning of the year planning session where we played icebreakers/get-to-know-you games, discussed how we wanted to be known on campus, and planned events for the semester.



*-Bid Day (10/16/15)*

After accepting their bids, our pledges played volleyball with our actives (even though it rained, which forced cookout plans to be nixed).



*-Founders' Day Dinner (10/25/15)*

Following pledge pinning, the colony got together for a catered dinner to celebrate founders' day. An alumnus from Zeta Chapter living in Memphis came to our dinner and spoke with us about his experience in the fraternity. Note: the dinner was not actually held on founders' day due to school conflicts, a smaller celebration was held on the actual date.

*-STEM Halloween Party (10/30/15)*

Normally hosted by the school's ASCE chapter, it was decided Theta Tau would be a more appropriate organization to host the party as we are more of an umbrella group. The party was open to all STEM majors. Costumes were encouraged!



*-Big/Little Reveal (11/05/15)*

Littles worked together to compete in the Colony's version of the amazing race, which lead them to finding all of their bigs.



*-Game Night/Rocky Horror with KB (12/11/5)*

A few KB brothers were coming to Memphis for the Rocky Horror Picture Show and contacted the colony to see if it could be a joint event. They arrived in Memphis early so everyone could get dinner together and play games until the show started.



*-Night Out with KB (01/16/16)*

After KB's brotherhood retreat, which was held just outside of Memphis, and CBU's business with regional director, Rachel McFalls-Brown, concerning her official visit was concluded, both KB and CBU brothers (including McFalls-Brown, who is a KB alum) all met up and had a night out. This included wandering around the mall, getting dinner, and reserving a space at RecRoom, which is a lounge stocked with all kinds of gaming consoles and board games.

*-Cosmic Bowling (02/19/16)*

In order to wrap up the spring rush session and to serve as a kickoff to retreat weekend, we went cosmic bowling.



*-Retreat (02/20/16-02/21/16)*

Easily being the colony's favorite event, the brotherhood retreat we went on served many purposes. We focused on building brotherhood, voting on our next pledge class, evaluating the current status of the colony, and planning for the future. It was a huge success!





*-Intramurals (throughout the year)*

Whether playing as a specific Theta Tau team or instead having Theta Tau members playing on the various School of Engineering teams, our colony members are very active in intramurals.

## **Professional Development**

*-Prof Talk (10/07/15)*

During the fall rush, our faculty advisers and PD chair gave talks about the benefits of attending graduate school, small tips to help our professionalism, and the versatility of an engineering degree.



*-Interview Night with Rushees (10/08/15)*

As the last event before voting during the fall rush week, all the rushees were interviewed, one-on-one, by a brother. Professional dress was required, giving them a taste of a real interview. This also greatly helped our brothers get to know some of the finer details about what would or would not make the rushees great brothers.

*-Alumni Networking Cook Out (11/04/15)*

School of Engineering Alumni were invited back for free food and good company. Networking between the alumni, students, and faculty was highly encouraged.

*-Steel Warehouse Tour (11/10/15)*

A few brothers had the opportunity to go on a plant tour of Steel Warehouse.

*-Networking Motivation 103 (02/10/16)*

In order to prepare for the upcoming career fair being put on by the school, and also to serve as a rush event, our PD chair put together a workshop on how to navigate and do well in a career fair.

**Service**

*-McKellar Lake Clean Up (09/26/15)*

Every September, the school hosts “September of Service,” which holds a service event every day of September. The colony volunteered as a group to go help clean up McKellar Lake, one of the dirtiest water ways in our region.



*-Wicked Ways Haunted House (Every weekend of October)*

Wicked Ways Haunted House is one of the biggest haunted houses in Memphis, but what sets them apart is they are not for profit, but instead donate their proceeds to St. Jude here in Memphis. Due to this, they are always in need of volunteers as their workers are not paid. The house is open every weekend of October, so the colony volunteered throughout the month to help out.

*-Buc-E Day (10/03/15)*

This event is the Colony's largest event and is hosted annually. Organized and run by Theta Tau with the support of the School of Engineering, Buc-E Day serves the purpose to expose middle and high school students to science and engineering through competitions and demonstrations. It's a day-long event and has been held twice now, becoming more successful and well known in the community.



*-Bowling for Uganda (11/07/15)*

This event, hosted by the school's biology honors program every year, is a bowling competition to raise funds for Uganda. The competition is done through teams and a group of, at the time, pledges, stepped up and put a team together.

## National

### *-Leadership Academy (07/16/15-07/19/15)*

Four brothers from the CBU Colony attended Leadership Academy. As the program was the first big event after the colony's certification in April, the members learned a lot, both specifically concerning the program and about Theta Tau and the brothers as a whole. Those who went saw it as a very valuable experience and were excited to take what they learned back to the colony.

### *-Regional Conference (02/26/16-02/28/16)*

Sending eight brothers, the colony attended their first regional conference and had a great experience meeting other brothers and learning valuable information from the speakers and breakout sessions. The first picture below is of the CBU brothers who attended, with the second picture being a group picture including both CBU and KB brothers.





## Closing Remarks

Our colony realizes that while having made many strides over the past months, we are still young and have much to accomplish. Two of our biggest concerns we are actively addressing include officer transitions and establishing a permanent headquarters. In order to help with officer transitions in the future, all current officers and chairs are putting together binders with information they have collected from either nationals or personal experience to help guide their successors. They are also encouraging interested members to talk in depth, and even shadow, the current brother in the position and are putting a larger emphasis on introducing the pledges to the officer positions early on to encourage them to think about future leadership opportunities.

Plans for obtaining a permanent headquarters, whether a house or a room, however, will not be able to be realized for a few years. Due to the current construction, and the plans for the future, available space on campus, especially within Nolan, the engineering building, is nonexistent. There is also no Greek housing currently allowed on CBU's campus, so a formal house is not currently an option. Until the space opens up for a room of our own, we are trying to hold our meetings in a consistent room each week, even though this is sometimes impossible as the administration will book the room for a campus event and we have to relocate. For less formal meetings or general brotherhood, brothers are looking to live together in various dorms on campus and make their living spaces areas where brothers can come hang out. However, the School of Engineering administration is aware we are looking for a space and we will hopefully be given options as soon as they become available.

While the School of Engineering, like the rest of Christian Brothers University is small, the influence of the CBU Theta Tau Colony is not. We are greatly looking forward to getting our charter, becoming full brothers, and being able to continue to make changes and better our community. It has been our goal since day one and we could not be more excited.

We would like to thank all the brothers for their time and consideration and say:

Rah! Rah! Theta Tau!



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

Dear Abe,

I am very pleased to support this petition for the chapter status of the The Colony of Theta Tau at Christian Brothers University. As you know I have been a faculty advisor for the colony since its inception. I have seen it grow from the vision of one member, Cathy Holmes, to the over forty members and seven pledges that we have assembled in such a short time period.

I have been impressed with all of the service that Theta Tau has provided to Christian Brothers University and the City of Memphis. They have organized and conducted two very successful BUC-e-DAY events on campus. Many high school and middle school from the Memphis area have competed in various design competitions and presentations about engineering and science. Many of our members have volunteered for events during CBU's September of Service (SOS) where students, faculty and staff volunteer their services to help out with various projects throughout the Memphis area for each day in September. The Colony of Theta Tau at CBU has definitely had a positive impact on the campus and the Memphis area.

They have excelled in developing a diverse group of students who embody the three pillars of Theta Tau. They have held several field trips to local engineering firms and have several on campus events related to engineering professionalism. They have more than doubled their membership through thoughtful recruitment. They have had several members attend the leadership academy last summer and are planning to seed representatives to the National Conference. Three of our members will be heading down to Florida during spring break to work on houses for Habitat for Humanity.

As for Brotherhood, they have formed a tight bond between the members in the colony as well as brothers from the Mississippi State chapter. They have had several "get

together” sessions with this chapter. The alumni (there are only three members) have planned a barbecue for March. The alums would like to make the barbecue an annual event. One of the alumni came back to campus and barbecued ribs for a School of Engineering picnic sponsored by our colony at CBU. I definitely plan to work towards the goal of having a strong alumni base to support our chapter in the future.

The colony recently held a retreat in Arkansas and all I heard from our members was how much fun they had and how much they learned about each other. I was very impressed by the program they conducted at the last initiation. Two out of three of our alumni attended the initiation. Our colony members have organized teams for our intramural sports program at Christian Brothers University. I am very impressed and proud to work with such a wonderful group of young adults in our colony at CBU. I believe that the students have built a very strong foundation for a long and prosperous existence as a chapter of Theta Tau. I have no reservations recommending that the CBU colony be appointed chapter status. I feel that they embody the foundations of what Theta Tau strives to stand for, and will continue to do so in the future.

Sincerely,

Gene McGinnis, P.E.  
Faculty Advisor  
Chair and Associate Professor  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Christian Brothers University  
901.321.32792



March 2, 2016

Dear Brothers:

I am pleased to support this petition for chapter status of the Christian Brothers University Colony of Theta Tau. I have met with the members of this colony on several occasions including during my official visit in January of this year. As well as maintaining regular contact with their regional directors, CBU colony has gained close ties to Kappa Beta Chapter at Mississippi State University, even inviting them to town during their chapter retreat and showing them around.

In my visit, I met with several members of the faculty including Zach Knight, the Director of Student Affairs, Mr. McGinnis, Colony Advisor and Civil Engineering Department Head, and Dr. Siripong Malasri, Dean of Engineering. They all praised the group for growing in both size and importance on the campus over the past year and a half. The group has become essential to CBU recruitment for the College of Engineering, leading the volunteer efforts for Buc-E Day.

The CBU colony has worked hard to foster a sense of brotherhood among its members, and it shows. They sent 8 members to regional conference last weekend, and they were all engaged and excited to participate in the presentations. Similarly, the group, while still quite new, sent 4 members to Atlanta for Leadership Academy, and now is sending 3 members to Habitat spring break. In my visit, I could see that the members who attended LA'15 brought home with them not only the training from the Academy, but also a glow of excitement for the future. This has propagated throughout its membership.

Also, in the absence of a pinning ceremony in the colony ritual, the officers of CBU colony wrote one! They collaborated with alumni and other chapters to determine the content and used inspiration from the other parts of the ritual as a style guide. In my opinion, this group has illustrated beyond any doubt that they would thrive as a chapter, and thusly, I offer my highest recommendation that they become one. Not only do I think they will be better as brothers, but the brotherhood of the fraternity will be better as a result.

In H&T,

Rachel J. McFalls-Brown  
Southeast Regional Director