



University of Southern California

Colony of Theta Tau



**Chapter Petition
Spring 2017**

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Letter of Petition

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

Dear Mr. Abraham,

We, the brothers of the Theta Tau Colony at the University of Southern California, request to be accepted as a chapter within the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity. Through this rewarding process of establishing a colony here at USC, our organization has grown into a tight-knit group of dedicated and driven members. Each individual has worked tirelessly to better improve themselves, their brothers, and the colony as a whole.

Guided by the Theta Tau pillars set before us at the beginning of our colony's certification, we have made great progress professionally through our network of talented members, we have become a part of the greater Los Angeles community through our service outreach, and we have formed friendships to last a lifetime. Our members are ready to take on the responsibility of maintaining a chapter in hopes to continue developing our presence within the Viterbi School of Engineering, and University of Southern California and Los Angeles communities..

We humbly request that you have confidence in our colony, so that we may solidify a chapter here at the University of Southern California which will have a positive impact for many years to come.

In H & T,

Joseph Hall
Regent
University of Southern California Colony of Theta Tau

Alumni Profiles

30 | Liwei Xu

Positions held: N/A

Class: Beta

Major: Electrical Engineering

GPA: 3.89

Graduation Date: May 2016

Activities: President of the Leadership Fraternity (DOZ), Society of Women Engineers, Orientation Leader

Hometown: Shanghai, China

Email: liweixu@usc.edu





Member Signatures

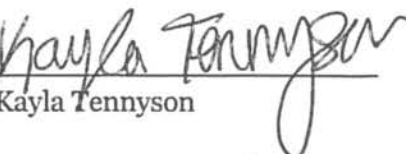
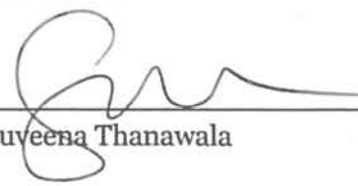
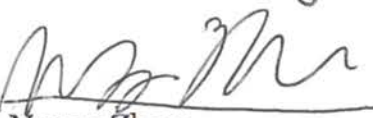
We, the members of the Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California Colony of Theta Tau do hereby petition the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity for chapter status.

We, the undersigned, are all currently enrolled in the Viterbi School of Engineering at the University of Southern California, and have no affiliation with any organization considered competitive with Theta Tau. We have met all of the membership requirements, and the Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California Colony of Theta Tau has met all requirements necessary to become a chapter.

Founders


Eric Deng
Anthony Elevathingal
Tvisha Gangwani
Joseph Hall
Zachary Laufer
Meaghan Phelan
Navneeth Pillai
Pavan Shah
Zane Shires
Ingrid Wang

Alpha Class


Rebecca Karol
Clifford Lee
David Sutter
Kayla Tennyson
Suveena Thanawala
Dustin Tso
Nancy Zhou

Beta Class



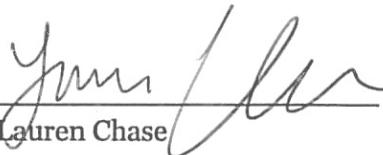
Ravi Bhandia



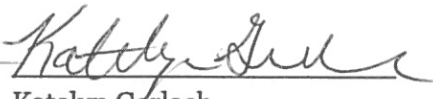
Rahul Bilakanti



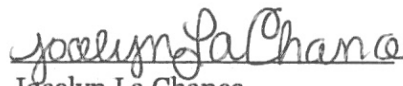
Joelle Burkhardt



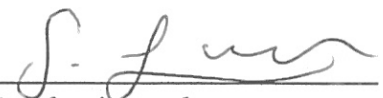
Lauren Chase



Katelyn Gerlach



Jocelyn La Chance



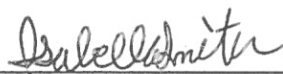
Stephanie Lamb



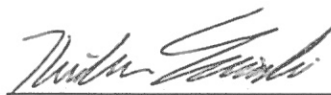
Aneta Miltko



Michael Morikado



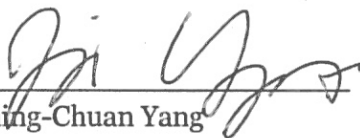
Isabella Smith



Kishan Trivedi










Philip Wong



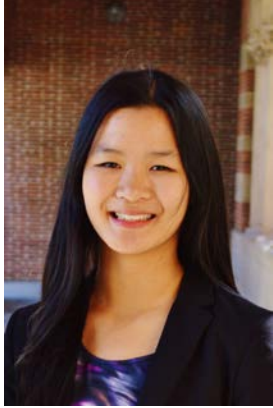







Ching-Chuan Yang

Member Profiles





<p>1 Eric Deng Positions held: President (2015-2016) Class: Founder Major: Electrical Engineering GPA: 3.21 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Eta Kappa Nu, SC Racing Electronics Engineer, Interaction Lab Research Assistant, CAIS++, CHARIOT, IEEE, W.V.T. Rusch Engineering Honor Colloquium Moderator, Men's Club Water Polo Hometown: Fremont, CA Email: denge@usc.edu</p>	
<p>2 Anthony Elevathingal Positions held: Service Chair Class: Founder Major: Computer Engineering and Computer Science GPA: 3.11 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Viterbi Impact Project, Freshmen Academy Coach, LavaLab Product Incubator Hometown: Issaquah, WA Email: elevathi@usc.edu</p>	
<p>3 Tvisha Gangwani Positions held: Treasurer (2015-2016) Class: Founder Major: Electrical Engineering GPA: 3.72 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Research Hometown: Mumbai, India Email: gangwani@usc.edu</p>	





<p>4 Joseph Hall Positions held: Regent (2016-present), Pledge Instructor (2015-2016) Class: Founder Major: Electrical Engineering GPA: 3.12 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: University Student Government Delegate, Trojan Events Services - Supervisor, Men's Club Volleyball, Club Boxing, Society of Women Engineers Hometown: Monterey, CA Email: halljc@usc.edu</p>	
<p>5 Zachary Laufer Positions held: Assistant Pledge Instructor (2016) Class: Founder Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.76 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Research Volunteer at NanoBio Lab, Associated Students of Biomedical Engineering Hometown: Park City, UT Email: zlaufer@usc.edu</p>	
<p>6 Meaghan Phelan Positions held: Website Chair Class: Founder Major: Computer Science and Business Administration GPA: 3.64 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Society of Women Engineers, Association for Computing Machinery Mentor, Women in Computing, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Hometown: Sacramento, CA Email: mcphelan@usc.edu</p>	
<p>7 Navneeth Pillai Positions held: Pledge Instructor, Scribe/Corresponding Secretary Class: Founder Major: Computer Science Minor: Screenwriting GPA: 3.86 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Pre-Law Society, Residential College Ambassador Hometown: Cupertino, CA Email: ndpillai@usc.edu</p>	





<p>8 Pavan Shah Positions held: N/A Class: Founder Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.95 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: USC 1000 Pitches Winner for Education Category, Troy Camp Counselor, Scholars Leading Scholars Mentor, Lavalab Mentor Hometown: Phoenix, AZ Email: pavanpsh@usc.edu</p>	
<p>9 Zane Shires Positions held: Corresponding Secretary (2015-2016) Class: Founder Major: Electrical Engineering GPA: 3.58 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Triathlon Club, Christian Challenge Hometown: Simi Valley, CA Email: zshires@usc.edu</p>	
<p>10 Ingrid Wang Positions held: Treasurer and Social Media Chair Class: Founder Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.91 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Klein Institute for Undergraduate Engineering Life Marketing Chair, USC Korean American Student Association, Freshman Dance Off Head Coordinator, USC Chamber Ballet Company Social Media Chair Hometown: Wilton, CT Email: ingridwa@usc.edu</p>	
<p>11 Rebecca Karol Positions held: N/A Class: Alpha Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.23 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Society of Women Engineers Ambassador & Community Outreach Representative, Girls in Tech Director of Communications, Women in Computing, Trojan Marching Band-Silks Hometown: Fair Haven, NJ Email: rkarol@usc.edu</p>	



<p>12 Clifford Lee Positions held: N/A Class: Alpha Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.50 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Association for Computing Machinery treasurer, CS104 Teaching Staff Hometown: Fremont, CA Email: leecliff@usc.edu</p>	
<p>13 David Sutter Positions held: Professional Development Chairman Class: Alpha Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.32 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Dickman Lab Researcher, EMSC Member, Surf Team Member Hometown: Sonoma, CA Email: dsutter@usc.edu</p>	
<p>14 Kayla Tennyson Positions held: Vice Regent (2016-present), Pledge Instructor (Fall 2016), Recruitment Chair (Spring 2016) Class: Alpha Major: Biomedical (Mechanical) Engineering Minor: Computer Programming GPA: 3.83 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: USC Biomechanics Research Laboratory, MeDesign, Society of Women Engineers, Marathon Team Hometown: Sacramento, CA Email: kmtennys@usc.edu</p>	
<p>15 Suveena Thanawala Positions held: N/A Class: Alpha Major: Computer Engineering and Computer Science GPA: 3.56 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Spark SC Board Member, Viterbi Student Ambassador Hometown: Fremont, CA Email: thanawal@usc.edu</p>	



<p>16 Dustin Tso Positions held: N/A Class: Alpha Major: Electrical Engineering GPA: 3.87 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: USC Makers, USC Badminton, Cronin Research Group Hometown: Fremont, CA Email: dtsousc.edu</p>	
<p>17 Nancy Zhou Positions held: Housing Coordinator Class: Alpha Major: Chemical Engineering (Sustainable Energy) GPA: 3.20 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, American Sign Language club Hometown: Diamond Bar, CA Email: nancyzho@usc.edu</p>	
<p>18 Ravi Bhandia Positions held: N/A Class: Beta Major: Chemical Engineering GPA: 3.46 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Industry Liaison, American Institute of Chemical Engineers Viterbi Honor Council Member, Undergraduate Fellow for the Center of Excellence in Teaching Hometown: San Jose, CA Email: bhandia@usc.edu</p>	
<p>19 Rahul Bilakanti Positions held: N/A Class: Beta Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.78 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Peaks and Professors Hometown: Portland, OR Email: rbilakan@usc.edu</p>	


<p>20 Joelle Burkhardt Positions held: N/A Class: Beta Major: Chemical Engineering GPA: 3.94 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Viterbi Academic Resource Center Lead Tutor, Peaks and Professors Vice President of Technology, W.V.T. Rusch Engineering Honor Colloquium Moderator, Women's Club Volleyball Captain Hometown: Boulder, CO Email: jburkhar@usc.edu</p>	
<p>21 Lauren Chase Positions held: Service Assistant, Industry Tours Coordinator Class: Beta Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.58 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Robogals Training Manager, Corpus Collosum Hometown: Denver, CO Email: chasela@usc.edu</p>	
<p>22 Katelyn Gerlach Positions held: Corresponding Secretary Class: Beta Major: Mechanical Engineering GPA: 3.12 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Society of Women Engineers Corporate Affairs Committee and Ambassador, SC Solar Car Operations Manager Hometown: Yorba Linda, CA Email: kgerlach@usc.edu</p>	
<p>23 Jocelyn La Chance Positions held: Retreat Coordinator Class: Beta Major: Mechanical Engineering GPA: 2.82 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: 3D4E, Undergraduate Student Government University Affairs, USC PAWS, SC Outfitters Hometown: Monterey, CA Email: jlachanc@usc.edu</p>	





<p>24 Stephanie Lamb Positions held: Rube Goldberg Chair Class: Beta Major: Mechanical Engineering GPA: 2.97 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Orientation Advisor, Trojan Marching Band, USC Basketball Band, TMB Equipment Assistant, Orchestra Performance, IM Soccer/Volleyball, American Society of Mechanical Engineers Hometown: Cleveland, OH Email: lambs@usc.edu</p>	
<p>25 Aneta Miltko Positions held: N/A Class: Beta Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.36 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Society of Women Engineers, Bovard Floor Manager Hometown: Chicago, IL Email: miltko@usc.edu</p>	
<p>26 Michael Morikado Positions held: Scribe Class: Beta Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.82 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Kuhn-Hicks lab undergraduate research, Engineers Without Borders, Viterbi Freshman Academy Coach Hometown: Arlington Heights, IL Email: morikado@usc.edu</p>	
<p>27 Isabella Smith Positions held: Recruitment Chair (2016-2017) Class: Beta Major: Industrial and Systems Engineering Minor: Screenwriting GPA: 3.00 Graduation Date: December 2018 Activities: Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Design Team Systems Lead; Undergraduate Student Government Assistant Director of University Affairs; Alpha Chi Omega Fall Philanthropy Chair, Sustainability Chair; Center For Engineering Diversity Mentor; Society of Women Engineers Hometown: Bayonne, NJ Email: isabells@usc.edu</p>	

<p>28 Kishan Trivedi Positions held: Social Chair Class: Beta Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.04 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Triathlon team Hometown: Mount Prospect, IL Email: kishantr@usc.edu</p>	
<p>29 Philip Wong Positions held: N/A Class: Beta Major: Electrical Engineering GPA: 3.10 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Taiwanese American Organization Hometown: Fremont, CA Email: philipyw@usc.edu</p>	
<p>30 Liwei Xu (see Alumni Profiles, page 3)</p>	
<p>31 Ching-Chuan Yang Positions held: N/A Class: Beta Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.55 Graduation Date: December 2017 Activities: Conversation Group Leader at the American Language Institute Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan Email: chingchu@usc.edu</p>	
<p>32 Ayesha Bedi Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Computer Science and Business Administration GPA: 3.07 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Marshall Women's Leadership Board Internal Events Coordinator, Undergraduate Student Government Academic Affairs Delegate, Phi Beta Lambda VP of Marketing Hometown: New Delhi, India Email: ayeshabedi@usc.edu</p>	

<p>33 Kristen Cheung Positions held: Web content Class: Gamma Major: Computer Science and Business Administration GPA: 3.41 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: USC Helenes, Society of Women Engineers, Association of Computing Machinery Hometown: Bellevue, WA Email: cheungkr@usc.edu</p>	
<p>34 Robert Diersing Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Computer Engineering and Computer Science GPA: 3.43 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Hometown: San Juan Capistrano, CA Email: rdiersin@usc.edu</p>	
<p>35 Manuel Escalante Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Computer Engineering and Computer Science GPA: 3.24 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: USC Marching Band Hometown: La Puente, CA Email: mvescala@usc.edu</p>	
<p>36 Cady Gooding Positions held: Service Committee Class: Gamma Major: Aerospace Engineering GPA: 3.68 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Hyperloop, Women's Ultimate Frisbee Hometown: Centennial, CO Email: cgooding@usc.edu</p>	

<p>37 Suyon Kim Positions held: Faculty Relations Coordinator Class: Gamma Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.68 Graduation Date: May 2020 Activities: EMSC, Asian Pacific American Student Assembly Hometown: Alexandria, Virginia Email: suyonkim@usc.edu</p>	
<p>38 Anya Kushwaha Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.00 Graduation Date: May 2020 Activities: GlobeMed, USC Dance-Off, Associated Students of Biomedical Engineering, Society of Women Engineers, Joint Educational Program, HAPA Hometown: Dallas, TX Email: akkushwa@usc.edu</p>	
<p>39 David Lee Positions held: Industry Tours Coordinator Class: Gamma Major: Chemical Engineering GPA: 3.43 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Chem-E Car, Chaotic 3 Dance Team Hometown: Houston, TX Email: davidpl@usc.edu</p>	
<p>40 Sabrina Lieu Positions held: Corresponding Secretary Assistant Class: Gamma Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.80 Graduation Date: May 2020 Activities: Undergraduate Student Government Delegate, Society of Women Engineers Hometown: Lynnwood, WA Email: sabrinsl@usc.edu</p>	

<p>41 Tanuja Mohan Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.86 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Klein Institute for Undergraduate Engineering Life Treasurer, Society of Women Engineers Ambassador Hometown: Saratoga, CA Email: tmohan@usc.edu</p>	
<p>42 Gautam Paranjape Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.52 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Aerial Robotics Hometown: Portland, OR Email: gparanja@usc.edu</p>	
<p>43 Hayley Peterson Positions held: Graphic Design, Risk Manager Class: Gamma Major: Civil Engineering-Building Science GPA: 2.98 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Construction Management Association of America, Cru Hometown: Morgan Hill, CA Email: hayleype@usc.edu</p>	
<p>44 Justin Rankin Positions held: Internal Events Coordinator Class: Gamma Major: Industrial and Systems Engineering GPA: 2.4 Graduation Date: December 2018 Activities: Doheny Library Bookstacks Assistant Hometown: Lakewood, CA Email: rankinj@usc.edu</p>	

<p>45 Nicole Roos Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Chemical Engineering (Biochemical) GPA: 3.10 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: Archery Team Secretary, Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Society of Women Engineers Hometown: La Jolla, CA Email: roosn@usc.edu</p>	
<p>46 Amanda Suhardjo Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Biomedical Engineering GPA: 3.17 Graduation Date: May 2020 Activities: USC KASA DanceOff, Society of Women Engineers Hometown: Upland, CA Email: suhardjo@usc.edu</p>	
<p>47 Lei Lily Tam Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Industrial and Systems Engineering GPA: 3.67 Graduation Date: May 2020 Activities: Concerto Chamber Orchestra Section Leader, Robogals Sponsorship & Partnership Officer, Women in Engineering Advisory Board Representative, National Organization of Business and Engineering Finance Director Hometown: Honolulu, HI Email: leililyt@usc.edu</p>	
<p>48 Philip Thoenen Positions held: Recruitment Event Coordinator Class: Gamma Major: Mechanical Engineering GPA: 3.91 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Recumbent Vehicle Design Team, Building Government Senator Hometown: Arlington Heights, IL Email: thoenen@usc.edu</p>	

<p>49 Patrick Truong Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.60 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Troy Camp Hometown: San Jose, CA Email: patricct@usc.edu</p>	
<p>50 McKenna VanderKley Positions held: Recruitment Assistant Class: Gamma Major: Industrial and Systems Engineering GPA: 3.50 Graduation Date: May 2018 Activities: InterVarsity, USC Club Basketball and Nutrition Hometown: Eugene, OR Email: mvanderk@usc.edu</p>	
<p>51 Alexander Yi Positions held: N/A Class: Gamma Major: Computer Science GPA: 3.5 Graduation Date: May 2019 Activities: Association Computing Machinery, Korean American Student Association Hometown: Irvine, CA Email: alexanwy@usc.edu</p>	

History of the University of Southern California

The University of Southern California, commonly abbreviated to “USC” or “SC,” was founded in 1880 in the city of Los Angeles, making it California’s oldest private research university.

Judge Robert M. Widney took action to secure donations from key figures early in LA’s history, including a Protestant nurseryman, an Irish-Catholic former Californian governor, and a German Jewish banker. Together, the three donated 308 plots of land and the seed money to start the school. USC was originally affiliated with the Methodist Church and mandated from its opening that “no student would be denied admission based on race,” although the school would sever official ties to the church in 1952. Widney was memorialized in the first building on campus, the Widney Alumni House.

When the school opened in 1880, USC had an enrollment of fifty-three students and ten faculty members. The university then consisted of a college of liberal arts, a university band, and a debate team. Today, the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences remains the university’s largest school. The Trojan Marching Band, also known as the Spirit of Troy, is the only collegiate band to have two platinum records, and the Trojan Debate Squad is one of the country’s premier debate teams. In 1880, the then-young city of Los Angeles did not have paved streets, electric lights, telephones, or a reliable fire alarm system. In 1884, the school graduated its first class of only three students.

Soon, however, the university began to grow. In 1884, USC established a school of music, closely followed by its College of Medicine in 1885, the first in Southern California. Over the next century, USC would go on to found seventeen prominent professional schools, including the renowned Viterbi School of Engineering, the Marshall School of Business, the School of Cinematic Arts, the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, and the first ever school of international relations.

USC’s athletics program has a storied history. Originally, students and athletes had no name but were known as “Fighting Methodists” or “Wesleyans.” At a track and field meet with Stanford University in 1912, however, USC fought back fiercely despite appearing to have lost conclusively early in the meet, causing one *LA Times* sportswriter to remark that the USC athletes “fought on like the Trojans of antiquity.” The name was officially approved by the George F. Bovard, the president at the time. The Trojans have won 123 total team championships, 361 individual team championships, and claims eleven football championships. Since 1904, 632 Trojans have competed in the Olympics and have taken home 135 gold medals. If it were its own country, USC would be ranked 12th in the world in terms of medals.

Today USC is a thriving, groundbreaking institution with respected programs and faculty. It is responsible for \$5 billion in economic output in LA County. USC’s generous financial aid has made USC the 4th most economically diverse university in the nation. Judge Widney’s dream of a premier yet truly inclusive university in Southern California has been realized.

History of the Viterbi School of Engineering

Formerly the USC School of Engineering, the Viterbi School of Engineering houses some of the brightest and most innovative minds in the country. Much has changed since the first engineering class offered in 1906. John B. Johnson was the first engineering professor to be hired in 1908, the same year Omar R. Turney graduated with the first engineering degree, a B.S. in civil engineering. At this time the classes were offered through the College of Liberal Arts in specific departments and it wasn't until 1928 that a separate college of engineering was established. This school had five engineering departments: chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical and petroleum.

The first Dean of Engineering was Professor Philip S. Biegler and the first engineering building, Biegler Hall, was named after him. In 1940, Robert E. Vivian became acting dean and with him the school of engineering saw growth over the next two decades. After World War II, the USC School of Engineering became one of the largest centers for an Engineering Science and Management War Training Program. Around 50,000 students cycled through this program to fill the need of technically trained personnel in the war industry. The first computer was installed in Biegler Hall in 1957 and in 1958 Vivian retired. Also in 1958, Zohrab Kaprielian joined the faculty and in the next decade transformed the school of engineering into a major research institution with Alfred C. Ingersoll as dean. Kaprielian created new positions for faculty by convincing the Defense Department to award USC a Joint Services Electronics Program. New departments were added in 1964 with aerospace engineering, in 1965 with industrial and systems engineering and in 1965 with materials science. When Kaprielian became dean in 1971 he separated the current singular department of electrical engineering into distinct departments of computer science, biomedical engineering, EE-electrophysics and EE-systems.

The Information Sciences Institute (ISI) was designed and brought to USC to work with the Department of Defense to develop short term solutions to specific military needs. Many creative minds in computer science were drawn to this institute and is noted as one of the birthplaces of the Internet. Leonard M. Silverman became dean in 1984 and focused his efforts on making the school an interdisciplinary research institution, creating the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Systems, the Center for Neural Engineering, the Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies and the Center for Software Engineering. In the past 10 years, the focus in the engineering school has shifted from graduates to undergraduates.

In 2001, C.L. Max Nikias became the new dean of engineering, breathing new life into the school. Within the first three years he added 30 new faculty members. In 2004, Andrew and Erna Viterbi donated \$52 million to name the USC Andrew and Erna Viterbi School of Engineering, the name it bears today. Andrew Viterbi was a graduate of USC and co-founder and chief technology officer of Qualcomm Inc. Following this gift, the engineering school rose to #6 in the U.S. News & World Report rankings for one of the best graduate programs. In 2006, the school celebrated the centennial anniversary of the first engineering courses offered at USC. Under the current dean, Yannis C. Yortsos who was named in 2006, the Viterbi School of Engineering continues to thrive as one of the top engineering research schools in the United States and the world.

History of the Colony

In the spring of 2015, Eric Deng met with a few friends, some he knew from high school and some he met at USC, to discuss the idea of bringing Theta Tau to USC. Over winter break, they found out that many of their friends from high school had joined Theta Tau and were now active at different chapters across the United States and they wondered why such an organization did not exist at USC. This group of friends had already spent a semester joining a variety of organizations all across campus and familiarized themselves with the extracurricular ecosystem. They had yet to find a general engineering, co-educational organization at USC and after a brief discussion, went forward with pursuing the creation of this organization, reaching out to the national office and getting insights from friends and leaders at other chapters.

After getting information and next-steps back from the national office, they went ahead with compiling the bylaws that align with both USC and Theta Tau rules. They reached out to friends and met with school administration and soon, gathered enough members to found a new student organization, which they called Alpha Theta Tau. Mr. Abraham then came to campus to give a presentation on Theta Tau and reviewed and approved their plans.

Alpha Theta Tau began as 13 members from different majors and a wide variety of backgrounds. They disbanded into different committees focused on facets of the colony application and the three pillars, reconvening weekly to update the organization and to bond over food and stories from the previous week. Quickly all the paperwork came together, the school organization was formed, with Professor Allen Weber as the advisor, and national officers were contacted.

On August 30, 2015, 13 students were officially initiated into the USC Colony of Theta Tau. The next day the colony had their first rush week and have continued to grow from there--immediately organizing social, professional, and service events. Since then, the colony has grown into 70 active members and 1 alumni member. As one of the fastest-growing organizations not only in Viterbi but at USC, this organization has become a group of engineers who are involved in Student Government, organization leaders, entrepreneurs, teaching assistants, and published researchers.

The colony of Theta Tau at USC has blossomed into an organization for thinkers, makers, and doers in the engineering school looking to broaden their perspective and social circles and provide guidance and mentorship to those who follow them. With active members studying a wide variety of majors, working at many different companies, and building innovative projects, the colony of Theta Tau at USC has become the prime destination for incoming engineering students to expand their networks and explore new things, forge lifelong friendships, and get more involved in the Viterbi community.

Professional Development Showcase

Our colony makes a strong effort to help each and every one of our members achieve their professional goals, starting from the moment they join. In addition to hosting our own professional development events, we also make sure all of our members are aware of events on campus, such as information sessions, workshops, and career fairs by sharing this information on our slack and facebook group pages regularly. We have also established strong peer mentorship relationships and share career advice and notifications of upcoming events in almost every meeting.

Member Events

Professional Headshots | Recurring

Members have the opportunity to get an updated professional headshot for use in LinkedIn profiles, job and scholarship applications, and on our website. This event typically occurs once or twice each semester, and all members are strongly encouraged to get their photo updated at least annually.

Resume Workshop | September 29, 2016 and January 26, 2017

A Viterbi career counselor gave a private resume workshop to our members. She covered format, content, and how to best highlight student experiences on a resume. Members had ample opportunity to ask questions and get personal critiques. This is a recurring event that we will continue to host every semester.

Resume Review | October 3, 2016

As a follow-up to the resume workshop, members participated in a peer review session. Upperclassmen helped younger students develop their resume presentation and shared their own resumes as an example, with anecdotes of successes and mistakes.

Coffee & Connect with USC Professors | December 1, 2016

In the first installment of a new series of events, Dr. Douglas Burke was invited to have coffee and snacks with a small group of Theta Tau members. This event is an opportunity for Theta Tau members to get to know their professors better, seek undergraduate research opportunities, learn about academia versus industry careers, and ask any questions they have about classes, college, and careers. This will be a recurring event with professors from all departments within Viterbi.

Speaker Events (aka Theta Taulks)

Machine Learning Tech Talk with Google| April 14, 2016



Theta Tau brought a representative from Google to give a Tech Talk on machine learning. The event was open to the entire school and was attended by over 100 people. Attendees learned about deep learning as well as potential career paths within computer science.

Android App Development Tech Talk with Google | October 26, 2016

Theta Tau hosted a representative from Google, who gave a Tech Talk on app development for Android platforms. This event was open to all students at USC. The presentation included a live demonstration of the speaker building an app on screen. It was a valuable experience for underclassmen interested in app development, regardless of their major.

Lockheed Martin Tech Talk | January 27, 2017

The colony hosted a presentation by a senior engineer from Lockheed Martin which was open to all USC students. The speaker gave an interesting talk on emerging technologies, engineering challenges he had faced in his career, and the valuable lessons of failure. After the formal presentation concluded, attendees had a chance to discuss what they had learned and ask questions of the speaker over lunch.

Tours

SpaceX | April 8 and 15, 2016



A group of colony members visited Space X in Hawthorne to learn about the company's structure and production processes. Members visited the manufacturing floor and walked along the production lines to see products in all different stages of production. The tour included information about the tools and robots used in manufacturing, a visit to mission control, and seeing the Falcon 9 rocket.

JPL | November 4, 2016



Members of Theta Tau went to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena and learned about the history of space travel, technologies and test methods used in different equipment, and career opportunities for mechanical, electrical, and software engineers in space exploration. The tour also included a visit to the historical "center of the universe" and a snack from the "lucky peanuts" jar.

Miscellaneous

Viterbi Career Fair | Recurring

Every semester, Viterbi hosts recruiters from engineering companies all over the country. Colony pledges are required to help staff the event, and many active members choose to participate too. In preparation for hosting, members were advised in proper dress, conversation tactics, and professional presentation. It has been a very valuable experience for underclassmen, as they get comfortable with professional interactions without the immediate pressure to land a job or internship. In Spring and Fall of 2016, Theta Tau won a cash award for having the most volunteers staffing the event.

Professional Development Night with SWE | September 20, 2016



Members of Theta Tau helped the USC Society of Women Engineers host a professional development night open to all engineers. The event included a series of six workshops and mock interviews with company representatives from Boeing, Facebook, Sandia National Labs, Accenture, and more. The night concluded with a networking dinner. Hosting members were able to participate in the event as well.

Service Showcase

Our colony prides itself on our commitment to service in the local community. Many of our service events have been at volunteer opportunities offered by local organizations:

Friends & Neighbors Day: Gladys Park, Skid Row | October 15th, 2016

Skid Row is an area in downtown Los Angeles that contains one of the largest stable populations of homeless people in the United States (between 3,000 and 6,000). Gladys Park is a park in the heart of Skid Row, with a basketball court, picnic tables, and a playground. Our colony visited the park and helped bag and distribute food and clothing donations to local residents, who gathered there that day to pick up items and spend time in the park.

LA Regional Food Bank | October 29th, 2016



The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank is a massive operation that mobilizes resources to fight hunger in the greater LA area. Our colony gathered a team to volunteer in their storage facility, working with other volunteers in an assembly line in order to prepare hundreds of bags of assorted food.

In addition to existing volunteer opportunities, we have also been able to produce original content for various STEM-related service events:

MESA College and Career Day | October 22nd, 2016

This event was put on by USC to promote interest in STEM in local schools. Our committee created a robotics activity for the event using Sphero SPRK+ robots. These are small spherical robots that are programmable using Bluetooth and the “Lightning Lab” iPhone application.

Our members designed and constructed three unique mazes out of PVC pipe. At the event, our members helped local students program the Sphero robots with the challenge of navigating them from the start of the maze to the end. The event promoted robotics, problem-solving, and coding skills.



Robotics Event @ Arroyo Seco | November 18th, 2016

This was an event at the Arroyo Seco Magnet School in the Mt. Washington area of Los Angeles. Our members conducted a robotics event similar to the one we held at MESA Day (described previously). It also included a presentation on the real-world utility of programmable robots, as well as a competition between the different teams of students to see who could best navigate the mazes.



Engineering Challenge Day @ 32nd Street | November 18th, 2016

This event was put on for the 32nd Street school, which is a few blocks from our own campus. After meeting with the school's STEM Outreach Coordinator, our committee designed a series of build challenges for the school's engineering design classes, which are offered for their high school students.

The four challenges were as follows:

1. Egg Drop: Build a device to allow an egg to safely survive a two-story drop.
2. Bridge: Build the bridge out of spaghetti and marshmallows that can hold the most weight.
3. Mouse Trap Car: Build a working mouse trap car that goes the furthest distance.
4. Tower: Build the tallest freestanding tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows that can hold a marble.

Students were split into teams and competed in each of the categories. It was a great way for the students to get hands-on building experience, giving them a chance to design, implement, test, and evaluate their projects in a fun environment.

Brotherhood Showcase

Our colony holds a variety of brotherhood events every semester to encourage a strong sense of community among our members and have some fun in between tough classes.

Bid Night | January 22, 2017

Our colony welcomed the new Delta Class pledges with bid night dinners allowing the pledges to get to know our actives better.



Formal Invite | November 18, 2016

Colony members and their dates got dressed up and went out to a fancy dinner, then took busses to Laser Tag in Culver City and spent the night playing arcade games and battling in the arena for bragging rights.

Brotherhood Retreat

Our semi-annual brotherhood event has quickly become a beloved tradition among colony members. Every semester, our colony conducts a camping trip that allows our actives and pledges to get to know each other on a more intimate level in an off-campus setting. Activities include hiking, frisbee, volleyball, bonding games, and s'mores.

Camping Retreat | March 6, 2016



Malibu Camping Trip | April 10, 2016



Joshua Tree | September 25, 2016

Our colony explored the beautiful Joshua Tree National Park together, singing songs by the campfire and enjoying a view of the stars.



Families

Gamma Class Initiation | November 13, 2016

Two of our families celebrating the initiation of the Gamma Class.



Big/Little Night | March 7, 2016

Below, our Beta Class pledges receive bigs among the actives and join one of our four families. Bigs serve as mentors to the pledges within the organization and within the Viterbi School of Engineering. As part of a family, pledges gain a stronger sense of identity within the colony, becoming a part of a smaller group of people who serve as an additional support system.



Family Dinner | January 29, 2017

Families will plan informal gatherings such as dinners throughout the semester to strengthen big/little bonds and the sense of community.



Miscellaneous

Summer Sailing | July 3, 2016

During the summer, colony members interning in the Seattle area come together for a sailing trip.



Tailgates | Recurring

During the fall, colony members host tailgates on campus and attend USC football games together, showing both USC and Theta Tau pride.



Brothers Supporting Brothers | February 24, 2016

Colony members attend the Viterbi Talent Show to support fellow brothers performing in the event.



Holiday Gift Exchange | December 3, 2016

Our brotherhood committee organized a gift exchange (also known as Secret Santa) among our members to celebrate the end of the semester and the holiday season.



Viterbi Ball | February 26th, 2016

Members of our colony attend the annual Viterbi Ball together.



Engineering Night | November 3, 2016

Our colony joined USC's Sigma Phi Delta, Engineers Without Borders, and Alpha Omega Epsilon for a night of engineering challenges. Above, our members pose with their winning spaghetti marshmallow tower.



Letters of Recommendation

February 2, 2017

Brothers,

I am pleased to recommend the University of Southern California Colony's petition for chapter status. I had the honor of attending the USC's Colony Certification in August 2015. In January 2017, I met with approximately 40 student members and the executive board during an official colony visit. At this meeting, I was thoroughly impressed by the Colony's growth, eagerness to achieve chapter status, enthusiasm for Theta Tau, and fraternal bonds that have developed.

As a lover of Theta Tau play on words, I was taught a few new ones by the colony, including Ted TAUlks, TAUlleyball, and TAUco Tuesday. I appreciated the colony's humor and laughter and engagement during the official colony visit. The colony described a strong program of activities and overall balanced program, with activities for brotherhood, professional development, and service. The most impressive events included a live app development presentation by Google and retreats and camping trips in Joshua Tree and Malibu. The colony also has been the organization to volunteer the most members for the Viterbi School of Engineering Career Fair for the last two semesters.

The USC Colony has established a positive presence on campus and within the Viterbi School of Engineering. I look forward to welcoming the USC Colony as a new chapter of Theta Tau in California. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

In H and T,



Brianna Juhrend
Colony Director
brianna.juhrend@thetatau.org

February 13, 2017

Dear Brothers,

As the Regent of the Theta Tau Epsilon chapter, I would like to recommend that chapter status be granted to the University of Southern California colony of Theta Tau. Since its colony installation, the USC colony has achieved monumental growth in its membership and activity encompassing service, professionalism, and brotherhood. I firmly believe that granting chapter status to USC would significantly strengthen Theta Tau in Southern California and the Western Region and enhance inter-chapter relations.

In just under two years, the USC colony has established itself as a leader in professional development on campus. They consistently have resume workshops and career fair preparation. They have toured several prominent companies like SpaceX and Jet Propulsion Lab as well as had speakers for Google and Lockheed Martin. They have partnered with other groups on campus like the Society of Women Engineers for professional opportunities as well, and it is clear that their professional segment is only improving.

Similarly, USC's colony has done a tremendous job servicing their community. They have held numerous education outreach events on campus and with local schools, introducing students to programming and robotics as well as fostering build competitions. They have partnered with other organizations in the Los Angeles area to serve the homeless and refurbish local sites. It is very promising that they have had such a large impact across several different sectors in their community, and I expect that they will continue their service excellence as a chapter.

USC's colony has created a strong bond of fraternal fellowship among its members consistent with the values of Theta Tau. They have held camping retreats every semester to foster bonding before big-little selection. They frequently have family dinners and participate in intramurals. Their pledges had a games day with other pledges from UC-Riverside, among others. They have created a superb atmosphere of support and success among their brothers that will surely continue with chapter status, and their inter-chapter relations will only improve as a chapter.

Once again, I would like to express my endorsement of the University of Southern California colony for chapter recognition. The volume of their accomplishments speaks to their commitment to the pillars of Theta Tau, and they deserve to be recognized as a chapter. Since their colony installation, their members have proven themselves as developing professionals, contributors to their community, and brothers of the fraternal bond.

In H&T,



Leo Ko
Epsilon Chapter of Theta Tau