

# The GEAR of Theta Tau

## SUPPLEMENT

October, 1986

The GEAR Supplement (Newsletter) . . . . . The GEAR of Theta Tau (Magazine)

The GEAR Supplement was developed as a cost-effective way of informing our members of Fraternity news. This information would normally be in the GEAR of Theta Tau magazine. However, lack of funds has prevented publishing our magazine as often as is desirable. The next issue of The GEAR of Theta Tau magazine is to be published in Spring, 1987. This newsletter format will cut approximately \$6000 from our publishing cost during this biennium. If funding is increased, a more frequent magazine publishing schedule will be adopted. Please comment on this newsletter; we always like to hear from you.

### THE C. RAMOND HANES CONVENTION

Officially named to honor Past Grand Regent C. Ramond Hanes, Sigma (Ohio State) '24, the Thirty-Seventh Biennial Convention had as its theme "Theta Tau -- Gateway to Excellence in Engineering and in Life." It was held at the Sheraton St. Louis Hotel, in the Gateway City, August 14-17, 1986. Setting the tone for the Convention work, the movie "Brain Power" with John Houseman was shown at the Opening Session. At the Opening Dinner, the Convention was officially welcomed to St. Louis by Donald Guilfooy, Senior Engineering Executive of the City of St. Louis. Representing the Host City, Mr. Guilfooy presented the Fraternity with a Proclamation issued by Mayor Vincent J. Schoemehl, Jr., designating the week of August 14 as "Theta Tau Week" in St. Louis.

Grand Regent A. Thomas Brown, Mu (Alabama) '77, was prevented from attending the Convention due to the pending birth of a second child (in Germany where he serves as Captain in the U.S. Army). Presiding at Convention Sessions was Grand Vice-Regent Randall J. Scheetz, Omicron (Iowa) '79.

The spirit of sharing for the mutual benefit of the entire Fraternity was demonstrated by the greater participation of chapter delegations in making fine oral presentations and providing informative displays.

Those attending were further motivated by Chuck Pierce who spoke on Friday morning on the topic "Climbing the Mountain." Nearby facilities were utilized for the Saturday luncheon which was held on the riverboat, the Lt. Robert E. Lee, followed by a movie "Monument to a Dream" in the Museum of Westward Expansion and trip to the top of the Gateway Arch.



Randall J. Scheetz  
Elected Grand Regent

Parliamentary skills were sharpened by the Saturday morning presentation by Phil Vonder Haar. This was followed by the initiation into Theta Tau of five new members of Epsilon Beta Chapter. There were four simultaneous luncheons as those from each Region met together. That afternoon, a new Convention feature was the Alumni Gathering bringing together local and visiting alumni; and the Executive Council to serve during the coming Biennium was elected. The Reception and Convention Banquet that evening rounded out the day's activities except for the inevitable committee work which kept many up until all hours.

The Sunday morning schedule began with the Grand Chapter Memorial Service. Significant action at the final Convention Session included adoption of a balanced budget and, on the initiative of the student Delegates, increase of the semiannual student member dues from \$30 to \$35 when paid before date due. After installation of the newly elected Executive Council Members, and Convention adjournment, many accepted the invitation to visit the Central Office in St. Louis County before starting the trip home. During the Central Office visit, Vernon C. Rohde, II, Tau (Syracuse) '86, presented to the Fraternity the large dark red and gold plaque featuring three-dimensional Greek letters he had painstakingly crafted from toothpicks. It now beautifully decorates a wall of the Central Office where it is permanently displayed.

## CONVENTION

## A Great Fraternity Experience

At the Convention, special emphasis was placed on Fraternity growth and on increased services to alumni. A seminar on membership recruitment by Kurt A. Selzle, Omega (South Dakota Mines) '86, addressed the need of increasing chapter size. The Student Affairs Committee emphasized the advantages of dry rush and recommended rules to avoid tragedies which may result from alcohol consumption. During the biennium ahead, extension of the Fraternity to additional schools will be promoted through efforts of nearby chapters. This will follow the lead of Epsilon Beta Chapter (Wayne State) which has established at two additional schools in the Detroit area local fraternities which are expected to petition soon for certification as Theta Tau colonies. The signs of office are no longer classified as secret with very restricted use allowed. Each chapter is encouraged to hold a local Rube Goldberg Contest like that originated by Phi Chapter (Purdue) and successfully conducted also by Sigma (Ohio State) and Tau (Syracuse) Chapters with the goal that a national contest sponsored by the Fraternity will be developed in the next two years.

## PAST GRAND REGENT HANES Honored by Convention

C. Ramond Hanes, P.E., Sigma (Ohio State) '24, for whom the Convention was named, is a charter member of his chapter. He served on the Executive Council, 1958-68, including a term as Grand Regent (1966-68). He continues to take an active interest in the Fraternity and in professional society activities. In 1985, he was part of a delegation of professionals in highway construction and maintenance making a three-week tour of China, part of the Citizen Ambassador Program of People to People International.

## ENGLE AND BRITZIUS

## Banquet Speakers



Colonel Joe H. Engle  
Astronaut

The Convention Banquet, always a highlight of the meeting, was especially outstanding at this Convention. In addition to the traditional Remarks by Past Grand Regents -- this year, Brothers Charles W. Britzius, Alpha (Minnesota) '33, and Stephen J. Barth, Lambda Beta (Tennessee Tech) '67, and greetings from others unable to be present, the program featured two distinguished Theta Tau alumni as speakers. Brother Britzius presented "A Tribute to Erich J. Schrader" including a tape of part of the principal Founder's speech to the 1952 Convention, the last one he was able to attend. Colonel Joe H. Engle, Zeta (Kansas) '55, NASA Astronaut, shared some of his experiences in space in an inspiring speech illustrated by a movie. For the first time, the Convention Banquet program was videotaped for preservation in the Archives, and for lending to chapters and others interested in reliving or sharing in this experience.

## AWARDS PRESENTED

## Abraham, LaMere, KB, EB Tops

Kappa Beta Chapter (Mississippi State) again won the Erich J. Schrader Award for exemplifying the ideal chapter. (It had shared this award with Phi Chapter (Purdue) the previous biennium.) Kappa Beta Chapter also won the Founders' Award as the most improved chapter, was named Best Delegation from the Southern Region, and took second in the Photograph Contest. Two were named "Outstanding Delegate" by a tie vote of their fellow student Delegates: Pierre J. LaMere, Phi (Purdue) '87; and Michael T. Abraham, Epsilon Beta (Wayne State) '88. Other Best Delegation Awards went to Omicron Chapter at Iowa (Central), Epsilon Beta Chapter at Wayne State (Eastern), and Omega Chapter at South Dakota Mines (Western). In all, Epsilon Beta Chapter (Wayne State) carried away the most awards, including, besides those listed above, first in the Newsletter Competition, first in Member-Miles (having a delegation of nine student members plus five initiated at the Convention), and (for the third straight year) one of the awards presented for Chapter Growth. Other chapters winning Chapter Growth Awards (at least 20% increase over a year) were: Xi (Wisconsin-Madison), Rho (North Carolina State), Chi (Arizona), Psi (Montana Mines), Omega (South Dakota Mines), Iota Beta (Detroit), and Lambda Beta (Tennessee Tech). Lambda Beta Chapter also took first in the Photograph competition. Omega Chapter (South Dakota Mines) won the Best Presentation Award; and Zeta Chapter (Kansas) the Best Display Award.



Kappa Beta Delegation with the  
Schrader Award Plaque

## THE GRAND REGENT SPEAKS

Randall J. Scheetz

If there were a theme for this year, it would be: "Help us help ourselves."

Theta Tau is coming out of a period of unrest -- times when the federal government imposed restrictions such as minority and female membership. Some of the hotter issues of the past split the Fraternity. The differences among chapters still exist -- but they are well understood and respected. We are again a unified organization.

Since we are no longer arguing amongst ourselves, it is time to turn our focus toward the future. It is time to improve services to our alumni, and it is time to expand. We need actively to involve more of our alumni. There is no way that the Executive Council and the Regional Directors can build the Fraternity on their own. We need your help. I would be pleased if we could involve 30 more alumni this year than we have in the past. These brothers could do anything from speaking to chapters to starting new alumni clubs or student chapters. We can make a job as large or as specific as you desire.

There is evidence of recent progress. The Central New York Alumni Club was authorized in August. We are working with four local organizations expected eventually to become chapters of Theta Tau. New positions were created within the Fraternity to increase involvement on a national level.

Things are in place. The stage is set. All we need now is your support -- the manpower and motivation to fulfill the plan which truly makes Theta Tau a "National" Fraternity. We desire to make your membership in Theta Tau worthwhile for life as it was intended. Please drop us a quick note to learn of activities in your area, or how you can be of help.

## BRITZIUS RECEIVES CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Charles W. Britzius, P.E., Alpha (Minnesota) '33, was presented the 1986 Career Achievement Award by the Professional Fraternity Association on September 26, during its Annual Convention held in Williamsburg, Virginia. The topic of his Awards Luncheon address was *Private Enterprise and Capitalism*.

Brother Britzius is active with the Twin City Alumni Association and on his chapter's house corporation board. He served on the Executive Council for 28 years, including four as Grand Regent (1958-62) and 14 as Grand Treasurer. He continues in the appointive position of Historian. He compiled "A History of Theta Tau" published in 1980. The 1972 Convention was named in his honor.

He holds the degrees BSCE (1933) and MS (1938) from the University of Minnesota. He was President of Twin City Testing and Engineering Laboratory, Inc., 1938-79; President of Soil Exploration Company, 1955-79; and Chairman of the Board, Twin City Testing Corporation, 1979-85. Twin City Testing has over 300 employees providing consulting engineering and chemistry services from 16 offices in six states. He has held leadership positions in many technical and professional societies, including the Minnesota and National Societies of Professional Engineers (State President, 1958; National Director, 1962-64; and National Vice President, 1965-67). He has been Councilman and Mayor of Deephaven, Minnesota, where he makes his home with his wife, Bernice. He was named Engineer of the Year by the Minneapolis Engineers Club and the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers. He has received the Silver Beaver and Lamb Awards in Scouting. His hobbies are hunting, fishing, and tennis. He has been named Minnesota Sports Champion. He has served on the Boards of Carthage College, Gustavus Adolphus College, Martin Luther Manor Home for Aging, and Northwest Lutheran Theological Seminary, and currently on the Board of Bethesda Lutheran Medical Center, St. Paul.



Charles W. Britzius  
Receives PFA Award

The Professional Fraternity Association was formed in 1977 through merger of the Professional Panhellenic Association and the Professional Interfraternity Conference of which Theta Tau was a founding member in 1928. The PFA includes 36 national and international professionally oriented fraternities in a wide range of fields. The Career Achievement Award was established by the PPA in 1963.

## CENTRAL NEW YORK ALUMNI

Club Authorized

As a demonstration of the emphasis the Fraternity is placing on alumni participation, Randall J. Scheetz, as his first official act as Grand Regent, authorized the Central New York Alumni Club in response to the petition received from alumni in that area.



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTED Appointments Made

Serving two-year terms on the Executive Council are:

- Grand Regent, Randall J. Scheetz, P.E., Omicron (Iowa) '79
- Grand Vice-Regent, Craig S. Huff, P.E., Delta Beta (Louisville) '76
- Grand Scribe, Robert E. Pope, P.E., Zeta (Kansas) '52
- Grand Treasurer, Donald H. Slavik, P.E., Xi (Wisconsin-Madison) '78
- Grand Marshal, Dean W. Bettinger, Tau (Syracuse) '81
- Grand Inner Guard, Timothy A. Sandoval, Chi (Arizona) '79
- Grand Outer Guard, Arthur M. Partin, Tau (Syracuse) '84
- Student Member, Jerome R. Palardy, Epsilon Beta (Wayne State) '88
- Delegate-at-Large, A. Thomas Brown, P.E., Mu (Alabama) '77 (Past Grand Regent)

The Executive Council has announced the following appointments for the 1986-88 biennium: Regional Directors: Brad D. Besmer, Omega (South Dakota Mines) '86, Southern; William C. Bowman, Epsilon Beta (Wayne State) '85, Eastern; David J. Sandri, Beta (Michigan Tech) '83, Western; and Karol A. Sole, Omicron (Iowa) '83, Central; Board of Editors, The GEAR of Theta Tau, Arthur T. Petrzelka, Omicron (Iowa) '79, Editor-in-Chief; James P. Bellora, Upsilon (Arkansas) '83; Liza Lazzaron, Delta (Case Western Reserve) '84; and Karol A. Sole, Omicron (Iowa) '83; Alumni Hall of Fame Director, Past Grand Regent Stephen J. Barth, Lambda Beta (Tennessee Tech) '87; Alumni Program Director, Halbert D. Church, Jr., Chi (Arizona) '80; Archivist, Joseph W. Skovholt, Alpha (Minnesota) '31; Historian, Past Grand Regent Charles W. Britzau, Alpha (Minnesota) '33; Professional Development Director, Kurt A. Selze, Omega (South Dakota Mines) '86; and Executive Director, Robert E. Pope, Zeta (Kansas) '52.

### OMICRON CHAPTER Convention Host

Omicron Chapter from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, served as host for the Convention. Darcy M. Rocca, '87, chaired the Host Committee which was much in evidence during the Convention providing the many services necessary to making it run smoothly. Others working with her in St. Louis were David J. Ashton, '88; Mark D. Dvorak, '87; Joseph L. Kjellander, '88; David M. Kuehn, '87; Robert A. Moellering, '85; and Kurt W. Steinbrenner, '87. Dave Ashton photographed each attendee during registration (and later videotaped the Banquet); then, with Joe Kjellander did the paste-up at the Central Office that evening. The result was a first for Theta Tau: full color composites ready in 30 hours.

### ALUMNI GATHERING During Convention

More than the usual number of alumni attended the Convention this summer. The Midwest Alumni Association, the newest in the Fraternity, was represented. At the special Alumni Gathering, discussion included the many ways for regular and timely communication with alumni, as well as more opportunities for alumni participation. Suggested was a schedule of alumni activities during each national meeting. The Fraternity earnestly desires to serve the alumni better; so please write the Central Office with your ideas.

### HALL OF FAME ESTABLISHED Founders Inducted

There is a Football Hall of Fame, a Baseball Hall of Fame, and now . . . the Theta Tau Hall of Fame. The Convention in August created the Theta Tau Alumni Hall of Fame and elected the Founders of the Fraternity as its first honorees. It was established to recognize members who have excelled within this Fraternity and/or their professions. Each Chapter or Alumni Association may nominate two alumnus candidates a year. A maximum of five may be inducted in any one year. If you know a member who deserves this honor, please contact your Chapter or the Central Office. We are looking forward to a successful program, bestowing honor on our deserving brothers and on the Fraternity.

### NEW NEWS ABOUT THOSE YOU KNOW Congratulations! Congratulations!

- Born.** Joseph Edward, son of Ann and Art Petrzelka, Omicron (Iowa) '79, Editor-in-Chief, The GEAR of Theta Tau, on August 12, 1986, in Iowa City, Iowa.
- Born.** Jessica Caroline, daughter of Suzie and Tommy Brown, Mu (Alabama) '77, Grand Regent (1982-86), Grand Regent (1982-86), on August 13, 1986, in Fulda, West Germany.
- Married.** Mary Cook and Dale E. Jones, Lambda Beta (Tennessee Tech) '77, Southern Regional Director (1984-86), on August 30, 1986, in Lexington, Kentucky.

### PROFESSIONAL POSITION Available Now

Manufacturing Manager for a new product line. EE background and project management and product development experience. Company will pay relocation expenses to northeastern Ohio. Contact Don Prince, Sigma (Ohio State) '73, General Manager, Bell & Howell Publication Systems Division, Old Mansfield Rd., Wooster, OH 44691, telephone 216/264-6666.