

THETA TAU



G R E E K L E T T E R O R G A N I Z A T I O N S
A N A M E R I C A N I N S T I T U T I O N S I N C E 1 7 7 6

AS OLD AS OUR NATION ITSELF, the Greek-letter system continues to serve the student and his alma mater. *Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities* classifies the various types of these organizations as shown below, with a long-established example of each:

FRATERNITIES

General (Social)
Sigma Chi
Professional
Theta Tau

SOCIETIES

Honor
Tau Beta Pi
Recognition
Alpha Phi Omega

A general characteristic of these organizations is that membership is by invitation only, and is for life. FRATERNITIES traditionally elect to membership by unanimous secret vote of their student members, exercising care to select men of high personal quality who are capable students, but not requiring the high scholastic average necessary for honor society membership. Within his professional field, a man may belong to only one professional fraternity, but he may also belong to a general fraternity and to honor societies.

THETA TAU

FOUNDED, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, 1904

"THE PURPOSE OF THETA TAU shall be to develop and maintain a high standard of professional interest among its members, and to unite them in a strong bond of fraternal fellowship."

Within each closely knit chapter, the Fraternity stimulates professional activity and social compatibility; and provides the framework for group participation (in campus, community, engineering, and fraternity affairs), recreation, and lasting friendship — a lifetime of brotherhood in an engineering atmosphere.

Theta Tau draws its initiates from among men studying or practicing one of the branches of engineering recognized by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development.

The Fraternity takes pride in the fact that many of its student initiates have now prominently distinguished themselves in their profession, in fields as old as civil engineering and as new as space exploration.

Additional student chapters are being established in fine engineering schools, and alumni organizations in major centers of engineering activity. The latter provide local opportunity for regular fraternity participation by all alumni including those far from their own chapters.



THETA TAU was a founding member of the Professional Interfraternity Conference in 1928. Today, through its 29 member fraternities in eleven professional fields, this Conference represents over 700,000 professional men.

The PIC has presented this definition: "The professional fraternity confines its membership to qualified students (plus faculty, graduate, and honorary members) in an organized curriculum leading to a professional degree in that field, has a minimum scholastic requirement for membership, elects its members after a careful investigation and generally by secret ballot. It initiates its student members early in their professional college life, enabling them to participate actively and beneficially in the professional aims of the fraternity, holds frequent meetings, conducts professional and social activities, and frequently maintains a chapter house or quarters. Professional fraternities also sponsor programs of special value to alumni members."

AS A PROFESSIONAL FRATERNITY, Theta Tau offers its members a well-balanced program. Each chapter's professional development program includes regularly scheduled presentations on subjects of interest to engineering students. Social activities include both stag affairs and parties with dates and wives. Each member is encouraged to participate fully in the technical society in his field, and as fully as his abilities and academic load will permit in intramural sports and other worthwhile campus activities. Annual service projects are undertaken by most chapters. Since all members have a common interest in engineering, they can help and encourage one another on academic problems. Because of the Fraternity's professional orientation, graduate and married students as well as undergraduate single men find student membership valuable.

Each chapter is expected to maintain a permanent headquarters. A minimum adequate headquarters is a chapter room for the virtually exclusive use of its members for meetings, for relaxing and studying together, etc. An increasing number of chapters are occupying houses offering lodging and eating facilities for their members.

THETA TAU BELIEVES THAT QUALITY, not quantity, is the hallmark of a fine fraternity; and that its real strength lies in the close fraternal bond which unites its members. In the United States, it is Fraternity policy that a school have at least one curriculum (and preferably several) accredited by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development (ECPD) before it will be considered actively as a potential chapter site. No chapter may have more than fifty student members at one time.

Even with its policies of careful extension and limited chapter size, Theta Tau is the largest (as well as the oldest) professional fraternity in the general field of engineering.

Through its Biennial Conventions and Regional Conferences, Theta Tau provides an opportunity for representative members of each chapter to meet annually. Through the magazine, *The Gear of Theta Tau*, provided to each member for life, contact is maintained with alumni everywhere. Through periodic visits made by the national officers, the Fraternity is assured that each chapter's operation continues to be a credit to its school and to Theta Tau.

THETA TAU IS PLEASED to be associated, through its 29 student chapters, with the following schools:

University of Alabama . . . University of Arizona . . . University of Arkansas . . . University of California
(Berkeley) . . . Case Institute of Technology . . . Colorado School of Mines . . . Columbia University . . .
University of Detroit . . . The George Washington University . . . University of Houston . . . State University
of Iowa . . . University of Kansas . . . University of Louisville . . . Michigan Technological University . . .
University of Minnesota . . . Mississippi State University . . . University of Missouri at Rolla . . . Montana
School of Mines . . . North Carolina State . . . Ohio State University . . . Purdue University . . . South
Dakota School of Mines . . . Syracuse University . . . University of Utah . . . Utah State University . . .
University of Virginia . . . University of Washington . . . Wayne State University . . . University of Wisconsin.



The jeweled badge of Theta Tau,
worn by each initiate of the Fraternity,
denotes student engineers throughout America
and professional engineers throughout the world
who are among the more than 17,400 members of the Fraternity.

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