



**T H I S
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T A U**

AN INTRODUCTION

AS AN ENGINEERING STUDENT, you are aware of the increasingly important role of the professional engineer in supplying the needs of our society and in solving its critical problems. Accordingly, your total educational experience is increasingly significant in preparing you for professional practice. Fraternity membership is one of the college experiences which contributes much to a student's future as a professional engineer.

You should consider fraternity membership not alone for the fun it offers during your college years, but for the positive impact it can have on your future potential contribution to society. Not only do fraternity members achieve consistently higher grades, but they are more likely to continue to graduation because of the close friendships, inspiration, and contact with alumni found in a fraternity. In addition, fraternity members receive valuable social experience, practice in human relations, and unexcelled leadership training at minimal cost.

Rushing is the method used by fraternities to meet, consider, and select new members. It also provides the rushee an opportunity to meet the members and to observe the benefits of membership.

There are several important matters you should consider as you rush. For example, are the members the type with whom you would like to associate closely while in school, and later as an alumnus? Are the basic ideals of the fraternity in accord with your own? Can the fraternity provide you the opportunity for well-balanced personal development—professionally, socially, and academically? Is the chapter size limited so as to insure its being a closely knit group? In what ways can you contribute to the fraternity? How is the fraternity regarded, nationally and locally? Will your daily activities be unnecessarily regulated if you decide to pledge? These and other questions may come to your mind as you consider membership. You should feel free to ask such questions of the fraternity members you meet.

At the same time, the members will be considering you as a potential fraternity brother. Theta Tau is careful in choosing its pledges in order to maintain its high standards and excellent record. Members are selected on the basis of their worth as men, and of their potential, not on the basis of surface factors alone.

THE GREEK LETTER SYSTEM

AN AMERICAN TRADITION since 1776, the Greek letter system continues to serve the student and his alma mater. On many campuses there are numerous Greek letter organizations with a variety of aims and membership requirements. The various types are classified as shown below with long-established examples of each:

FRATERNITIES

General (Social)

Phi Delta Theta
Sigma Chi

Professional

Theta Tau
Phi Delta Phi

SOCIETIES

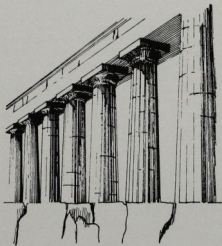
Honor

Tau Beta Pi
Phi Beta Kappa

Recognition

Alpha Phi Omega
Kappa Kappa Psi

A general characteristic of these organizations is that membership is by invitation only, and is for life. Honor societies and recognition societies function solely to recognize achievement or interest in some field. 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 do not require the high scholastic average necessary for honor society membership.



THE PROFESSIONAL FRATERNITY

Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities, a standard reference, describes a professional fraternity in this way:

"A professional fraternity is a specialized fraternity which limits its student membership to a specific field of professional education in colleges and universities offering courses leading to recognized degrees therein; which maintains mutually exclusive membership in that field, but may initiate members of the general social fraternities; and which organizes its group life specially to promote professional competency and achievement within its field. The professional fraternity . . . has a minimum scholastic requirement for membership . . . , elects its members after a careful investigation and generally by a unanimous secret ballot. It initiates its 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."

The professional fraternity provides all the advantages of fraternal affiliation, and in addition, it offers a common bond among members: an interest in and pursuance of their profession. It provides the medium through which students with a common professional interest develop close fraternal ties among themselves and with alumni of the fraternity who are practicing the profession. Chapters generally have strong faculty support because they offer this association with members of the profession from the time the student is initiated, thus bridging the gap between the student, faculty, and profession.



The leading professional fraternities, including Theta Tau, organized the Professional Interfraternity Conference in 1928. The twenty-six fraternities which constitute the PIC represent eleven professional fields and have initiated over 850,000 professional men.

THE FRATERNITY

FOUNDED at the University of Minnesota in 1904, Theta Tau is the largest and oldest professional fraternity in the field of engineering, having initiated over 20,000 members through chapters located in outstanding engineering schools across the nation.



University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California
(Berkeley)
Case Western Reserve
University
Colorado School of Mines
Columbia University
University of Detroit
General Motors Institute
George Washington University
University of Houston
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Louisville
Michigan Technological
University
University of Minnesota

Mississippi State University
University of Missouri—Rolla
Montana College of Mineral
Science and Technology
North Carolina State University
at Raleigh
Ohio State University
Purdue University
South Dakota School of Mines
and Technology
Syracuse University
Tennessee Technological
University
University of Utah
Utah State University
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Wayne State University
University of Wisconsin

Through its Biennial Conventions and Regional Conferences Theta Tau provides an opportunity for representative members of each chapter and alumni organization to meet annually. Through the magazine, **THE GEAR OF THETA TAU**, provided to each member for life, contact is maintained with members 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 the Fraternity. Its Central Office staff provides full-time service to its chapters and members.



THE MAN

THE MEASURE of a fraternity is the quality of its members. Therefore, Theta Tau places its emphasis here.

Membership Requirements

To be initiated, a prospective student member must be male, at least eighteen years of age, regularly enrolled at a school with a Theta Tau chapter, majoring in a curriculum meeting standards established by the Fraternity and leading to a bachelor's or higher degree in engineering, and not within six months of graduation. He must possess the qualities of brotherhood as determined by the individual chapter, and demonstrate a professional attitude beneficial to Theta Tau. Academically, he must meet the minimum requirements for graduation.

Marks of a Member

Those who have worn the pledge pin, shared in the work and good times of pledgship, and been initiated into the Fraternity, realize the significance of receiving the jeweled badge of Theta Tau and the certificate of membership. These tangible symbols denote the Theta Tau member, but of greater importance are his character, his attitudes, and his conduct which should reflect his status as a man, an engineer, and a member of the Fraternity.

Cost

A national survey showed that fraternity dues on the average constitute less than two percent of the cost of a college education. The cost of Theta Tau membership compares favorably with this average. The national initiation fee is \$30 which includes the membership certificate and life subscription to the magazine. The initiate must also buy a badge which costs \$10.35 or \$14.00 (depending on style selected), and pay the local fee established by his chapter. Student members pay national dues of \$22 annually plus local chapter dues. There are no national alumni dues.

Other Organizations

Theta Tau lists as nationally competitive the following fraternities with which dual membership is not permitted: Alpha Chi Sigma, Alpha Rho Chi, Kappa Eta Kappa, Scarab, Sigma Phi Delta, Sigma Rho, and Triangle. Members of Theta Tau may also belong to honor societies and recognition societies. At some chapters, social fraternity members also belong to Theta Tau. However, such dual membership should be undertaken only if a man can maintain his academic standards and be a strong participant in both fraternities.

THE CHAPTER

BECAUSE it is a professional fraternity, Theta Tau offers each member an opportunity for the balanced development of his abilities. Naturally, there are many avenues open for the development of leadership. In addition, the chapter's professional development program includes presentations on subjects which will increase the breadth of the engineering student's background. Social activities of the chapter include both stag events and parties with dates and wives. Each member is encouraged to participate in technical society activities, intramural sports, and other campus activities. Since all members have a common interest in engineering, they can provide one another with help and encouragement on academic problems.

These activities are carried out in all chapters. An increasing number of chapters are occupying houses. In these cases, the members have an added opportunity to develop closer fraternal ties by living together.



Pledges of Theta Tau are expected to participate in chapter activities and to learn certain facts about the Fraternity and their chapter before they are initiated. Many chapters require pledge projects and hold short informal initiations before the formal initiation into Theta Tau.

Through each student chapter, it is Theta Tau practice:

- 1) To select carefully the young engineering student of significant potential.
- 2) To guide his progress as a pledge so that he may qualify for initiation and become an informed, interested, and participating member of the Fraternity.
- 3) To provide the inspiration, environment, and challenge which will promote his full personal and professional development.
- 4) To help produce, in cooperation with the alma mater, a well-educated graduate engineer.
- 5) To encourage the member, upon graduation, to make a significant contribution through the practice of engineering, and to achieve professional stature through registration as a professional engineer.

THE ALUMNI

UPON COMPLETION of his academic program, a student member joins the larger ranks of alumni and is urged to continue his participation in fraternity affairs. There are opportunities to belong to alumni organizations and to serve the fraternity nationally.

Theta Tau takes pride in the fact that many of its members have prominently distinguished themselves as professional men of national acclaim. Among these are:

- Theodore Baumeister, Editor, *Standard Handbook for Mechanical Engineers*
- Paul Borel, Assistant Director, Central Intelligence Agency
- Waldo Bowman, Consulting Editor, *Engineering News-Record*, and *Construction Methods and Equipment*
- Charles M. Brinkerhoff, President, The Anaconda Company
- Kenneth R. Daniel, President, American Cast Iron Pipe Company
- Harry Darby, Chairman of the Board, The Darby Corporation, former U. S. Senator
- Fred A. Davies, Chairman of the Board, Arabian American Oil Company
- Lt. Col. Joe H. Engle, Pilot-Astronaut (Named one of Ten Outstanding Young Men in America)
- Harry E. Figgie, Jr., President and Chairman of the Board, Automatic Sprinkler Corporation of America
- Dr. Robert R. Gilruth, Director, NASA Manned Spacecraft Center
- Henry Hardaway, Director, Bell Telephone Laboratories
- W. Maxey Jarman, Chairman, Genesco, Inc.
- Joseph B. Kennedy, Jr., President, Sinclair Oil & Gas Company
- Dr. Stanley Learned, Vice Chairman of Board, Phillips Petroleum Company
- General Curtis E. LeMay, former Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force
- Robert F. McCaw, Editor, *Power Engineering*
- Dunklin H. McCondichie, President, American Urethane, Inc.
- Lee D. Miller, Managing Editor, *Automation Magazine*
- Fred M. Nelson, Board Chairman & Consultant, Texas Gulf Sulphur Company
- Gerard V. Patrick, President & Chairman of Board, York Division of Borg-Warner Corporation
- Wallace R. Persons, Chairman of the Board, Emerson Electric Manufacturing Company
- Dr. Simon Ramo, Vice Chairman of Board, TRW, Inc.; President, The Bunker-Ramo Corporation (Charter Member, National Academy of Engineering)
- Charles E. Spahr, President, Standard Oil Company (Ohio)

A PERSONAL NOTE

IF THIS SHORT BOOKLET has not answered all your questions about Theta Tau, we hope you will ask the members to answer them for you.

Pledgeship, the first formal step toward becoming a member, should not be undertaken without due consideration.

Can you see yourself in the Theta Tau picture? Chances are you can. If you qualify for membership, make your interest in the Fraternity known to some of the student members. They will be glad to present your name to the chapter for consideration as a prospective pledge.



In your professional career beyond the campus, hardly an engineering activity of significant size can be found without a member of Theta Tau associated with it. No one can guarantee you a good job after graduation, but your value to an employer will be increased by extracurricular participation. Whether in an upswing or in a recession, companies recruit men who are more than just technically trained graduates. Today's engineer must be able to get along with others, be aware of society's problems beyond his own field, know how to organize and how to accept responsibility. Theta Tau membership helps to develop proficiency in these areas.

Theta Tau membership is not for every engineering student, but for those who accept an invitation to pledge and are later initiated into the Fraternity, it provides a lifetime of brotherhood in an engineering atmosphere. The badge of this Fraternity denotes student engineers throughout America, and professional engineers around the world, who share the fraternal bonds of Theta Tau.

