

Theta Tau

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Petition for Chapter Status

Nashville, TN
4/4/2011

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

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Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau
c/o Cory Plastek
2301 Vanderbilt Pl
Nashville, TN 37235
2/25/2011

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

Dear Mr. Michael Abraham:

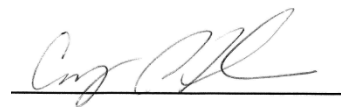
Greetings from the Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau. The members of the Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau have worked hard over the past months in preparing this petition for Theta Tau Chapter status.

On December 12th, 2009, the Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau was certified as a Colony in Nashville, Tennessee. Since then, we have been engaged in many social, professional, and community service events in order to build a sustainable tradition of brotherhood at Vanderbilt. Our members have bonded together as a Colony in this past year and a half, and we feel that this is evident in our petition.

We have striven to start an organization at Vanderbilt that fulfills a unique purpose: to unite all engineers at Vanderbilt regardless of major or class. This is the purpose of Theta Tau: to develop and maintain a high standard of professional interest among its members, and to unite them in a strong bond of fraternal fellowship. While the road has not been easy, we as a Colony have learned many important lessons, and feel successful in our accomplishments to date.

I now present you with the Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau petition for Theta Tau Chapter status. I hope that you will approve of our efforts involved in getting to this point and our continued enthusiasm for Theta Tau.

Sincerely,



Cory Plastek, Regent
Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Member Signatures

We, the members of the Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau, are all currently enrolled in the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering and are in good standing. We have no affiliation with any organization competitive with Theta Tau. We have met all of the membership requirements, and the Vanderbilt Colony has met all of the requirements necessary to become a chapter.

We, the undersigned, do hereby petition the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity for chapter status.


1 
Cory Plastek

2 
Johnathan Newkirk

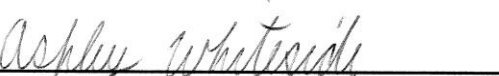
4 
Demetri Miller

7 
Clay Christain

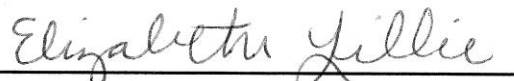
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James Tyler Steier

13 
Irene Hukkelhoven


14 
Erik Werner


15 
Ashley Whiteside

16 
Michael Dickert


17 
Elizabeth Lillie

18 
Jacob Logan


19 
Adam Vandergriff

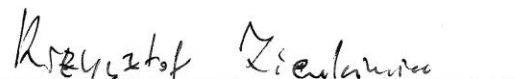
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Laura Albert

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Kara Boldt


22 
Pierce Jones

23 
Katherine Lopez

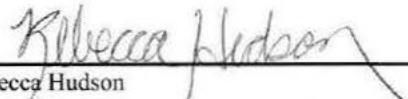
24 
Tyler Whittle

25 
Krzysztof Zienkiewicz

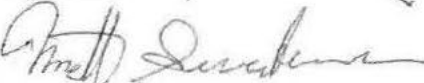
Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

26 
Mariele McDonald

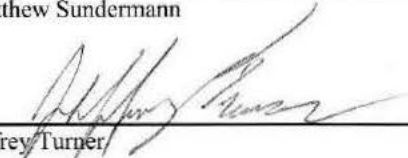
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William Yates

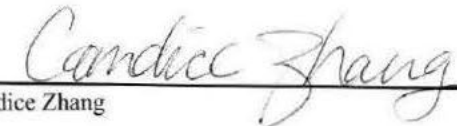
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Rebecca Hudson

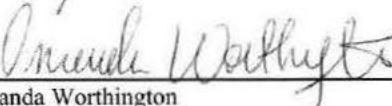
33 
Dylan Johnson

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Matthew Sundermann

34 
Jacob Choi

30 
Jeffrey Turner

35 
Candice Zhang

31 
Amanda Worthington

36 
William Emfinger

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Officers & Chairs

Officers

Cory Plastek, Regent

Jonathan Newkirk, Vice Regent

Tyler Steier, Treasurer

Clay Christian, Secretary

Chairs

Irene Hukkelhoven, Recruitment Chair

Mariele McDonald, Social Chair

Erik Werner, Service Chair

Krzysztof Zienkiewicz, Pledge Instructor

Tyler Whittle, Risk Management Chair

Adam Vandergriff, Petition Chair

Jacob Logan, Website Chair

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Members

The Founding Fathers

1 Cory J Plastek

Office: Regent
Hometown: Tampa, FL
Major: Computer Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2011
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 2.902
Campus activities: Vanderbilt Computer Society,
Residential Advisor
Email: cory.j.plastek@vanderbilt.edu



2 Jonathan D Newkirk

Office: Vice Regent
Hometown: Tampa, FL
Major: Electrical Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2012
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 3.1
Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Off-Broadway, V-Squared,
The Slant
Email: jonathan.d.newkirk@vanderbilt.edu



4 Demetri Miller

Hometown: Nashville, TN
Major: Computer Engineering
Graduation Date: December 2011
Degree: Master of Science
GPA: 3.67
Email: demetri.a.miller@vanderbilt.edu



7 Clay Christian

Office: Secretary
Hometown: Nashville, TN
Major: Civil Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2012
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 2.61
Campus Activities: The Slant
Email: clay.t.christain@vanderbilt.edu



Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

11 James Tyler Steier

Office: Treasurer

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2011

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 3.76

Campus Activities: American Society of Mechanical Engineers,
Ultimate Frisbee, Tau Beta Pi

Email: james.t.steier@vanderbilt.edu



The Alpha Class

13 Irene Hukkelhoven

Office: Recruitment Chair

Hometown: Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Major: Chemical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2012

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 3.34

Campus Activities: American Institute of Chemical Engineers,
Society

of Women Engineers, ACA, Graphic Designer, Next Step Labs

Email: irene.j.hukkelhoven@vanderbilt.edu



14 Erik Werner

Office: Service Chair

Hometown: Medinah, IL

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2012

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 3.25

Campus Activities: Students Promoting Environmental
Awareness and Responsibility, Club Volleyball, Vanderbilt
Student Volunteers for Science, Biomedical Engineering Society

Email: erik.werner@vanderbilt.edu



15 Ashley Whiteside

Hometown: Colorado Springs, CO

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2011

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 3.12

Campus Activities: Sailing, Gluten Free Night Out, Dance
Marathon, Biomedical Engineering Society

Email: ashley.m.whiteside@vanderbilt.edu



Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

16 Michael Dickert

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Major: Chemical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2012

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA 3.55

Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, Vanderbilt Dining, American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Email: michael.p.dickert@vanderbilt.edu



17 Elizabeth Lillie

Hometown: Rochester, MI

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2012

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 3.36

Campus Activities: Varsity Women's Soccer, Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Systems Biology and Bioengineering Undergraduate Research Experience

Email: elizabeth.m.lillie@vanderbilt.edu



18 Jacob Logan

Office: Webmaster Chair

Hometown: Washington, DC

Major: Computer Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2013

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 3.08

Campus Activities: Vandy Fanatics, Vanderbilt Spoken Word, National Society of Black Engineers

Email: jacob.m.logan@vanderbilt.edu

Not pictured

19 Adam Vandergriff

Office: Petition Chair

Hometown: Chattanooga, TN

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2011

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 2.767

Campus Activities: Biomedical Engineering Society, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

Email: adam.c.vandergriff@vanderbilt.edu



Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

20 Laura Albert

Hometown: Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2013
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 3.761
Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Omicron Pi, Habitat for Humanity
Email: laura.e.albert@vanderbilt.edu



21 Kara Boldt

Hometown: Dallas, TX
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2013
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 2.834
Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Student Government
Email: kara.a.bodt@vanderbilt.edu



22 Pierce Jones

Hometown: Columbia, SC
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2013
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 3.53
Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, Vanderbilt Programming Board, Delta Lambda Phi
Email: pierce.a.jones@vanderbilt.edu



23 Katherine Lopez

Hometown: Western Springs, IL
Major: Civil Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2013
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 3.387
Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Omicron Pi, Habitat for Humanity
Email: katherine.s.lopez@vanderbilt.edu



Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

24 Tyler Whittle

Office: Risk Management Chair
Hometown: Knoxville, TN
Major: Engineering Science
Graduation Date: May 2012
Degree: Bachelor of Science
GPA: 3.8
Campus Activities: Sigma Pi Sigma, Tau Beta Pi, Club Volleyball
Email: tyler.e.whittle@vanderbilt.edu



25 Krzysztof Zienkiewicz

Hometown: Wroclaw, Poland
Majors: Computer Science & Mathematics
Graduation Date: May 2012
Degrees: Bachelor of Science & Master of Science
GPA: 3.54
Campus Activities: Club Volleyball, Vanderbilt Computer Society
Email: krzysztof.k.zienkiewicz@vanderbilt.edu



26 Mariele McDonald

Office: Social Chair
Hometown: Sanibel, FL
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2012
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 3.045
Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, Next Step, Biomedical Engineering Society, Society of Women Engineers
Email: mariele.g.mcdonald@vanderbilt.edu



27 Rebecca Hudson

Hometown: Avon, CT
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2013
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 2.97
Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, Alpha Omicron Pi, Habitat for Humanity
Email: rebecca.b.hudson@vanderbilt.edu



Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

29 Matthew Sundermann

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2011
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 3.17
Campus Activities: Biomedical Engineering Society, Club Water Polo, Vanderbilt Emergency Medical Service
Email: matthew.l.sundermann@vanderbilt.edu



30 Jeffrey Turner

Hometown: Randolph, NJ
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2011
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 3.519
Campus Activities: Biomedical Engineering Society
Email: jeffrey.t.turner@vanderbilt.edu



The Beta Class

31 Amanda Worthington

Hometown: Chicago, IL
Major: Civil Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2013
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 3.411
Campus Activities: Club Volleyball, Engineers Without Borders, American Society of Civil Engineers
Email: amanda.m.worthington@vanderbilt.edu



32 William Yates

Hometown: Memphis, TN
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Graduation Date: May 2014
Degree: Bachelor of Engineering
GPA: 3.03
Campus Activities: American Society of Mechanical Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers
Email: william.d.yates@vanderbilt.edu



Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

33 Dylan Johnson

Hometown: Kingsport, TN

Major: Chemical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2014

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 2.292

Campus Activities: American Institute of Chemical Engineers,
Kennedy Center, Vanderbilt Computer Society

Email: dylan.s.johnson@vanderbilt.edu



34 Jacob Choi

Hometown: Irvine, CA

Major: Civil Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2012

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 3.676

Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Sciences,
Club Volleyball, V-Squared

Email: jacob.choi@vanderbilt.edu



35 Danyi "Candice" Zhang

Hometown: Rockville, MD

Major: Chemical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2014

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 3.5

Campus Activities: Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Sciences,
Synergy, Vanderbilt Music Outreach, Blood:Water

Email: danyi.zhang@vanderbilt.edu



36 William Emfinger

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Majors: Biomedical Engineering & Electrical Engineering

Graduation Date: May 2011

Degree: Bachelor of Engineering

GPA: 3.59

Campus Activities: Biomedical Engineering Society

Email: william.a.emfinger@vanderbilt.edu



Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

The Gamma Pledge Class



(Back row, from right to left: Jarrid Ristau, Dan Ratigan, Doug Hall, Will Redd, Sara Morimoto, Travis Meyer, and Hassan Alsada. Front row, from right to left: Zach Fleetwood, Devon Bracher, Kelsey Richards, Cheryl Lau, and Christina Stanfield)

- Hassan Alsada, Junior, Electrical Engineering
- Devon Bracher, Junior, Civil Engineering
- Zachary Fleetwood, Junior, Electrical Engineering
- Douglas Hall, Freshman, Biomedical Engineering
- Cheryl Lau, Junior, Biomedical Engineering
- Travis Meyer, Junior, Biomedical Engineering
- Sara Morimoto, Junior, Computer Engineering
- Dan Ratigan, Freshman, Biomedical Engineering
- William Redd, Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering
- Kelsey Richards, Freshman, Biomedical Engineering
- Jarrid Ristau, Freshman, Chemical Engineering
- Christina Stanfield, Junior, Biomedical Engineering

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Alumni

3. Adam Albright
5. Elise Adcock-Hinojosa
6. Brennan Carmody
9. Robert McColl
10. Thomas Pearson
12. Richard Teruya
28. Adrian Rossi-Mastracci

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

History of Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN

Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt was in his 79th year when he decided to make the gift that founded Vanderbilt University in the spring of 1873. The \$1 million that he gave to endow and build the university was the commodore's only major philanthropy. Methodist Bishop Holland N. McTyeire of Nashville, a cousin of the commodore's young second wife, went to New York for medical treatment early in 1873 and spent time recovering in the Vanderbilt mansion. He won the commodore's admiration and support for the project of building a university in the South that would "contribute to strengthening the ties which should exist between all sections of our common country."

McTyeire chose the site for the campus, supervised the construction of buildings and personally planted many of the trees that today make Vanderbilt a national arboretum. At the outset, the university consisted of one Main Building (now Kirkland Hall), an astronomical observatory and houses for professors. Landon C. Garland was Vanderbilt's first chancellor, serving from 1875 to 1893. He advised McTyeire in selecting the faculty, arranged the curriculum and set the policies of the university.

For the first 40 years of its existence, Vanderbilt was under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Vanderbilt Board of Trust severed its ties with the church in June 1914 as a result of a dispute with the bishops over who would appoint university trustees.



Kirkland Hall, before the 1905 fire

From the outset, Vanderbilt met two definitions of a university: It offered work in the liberal arts and sciences beyond the baccalaureate degree and it embraced several professional schools in addition to its college. James H. Kirkland, the longest serving chancellor in university history (1893-1937), followed Chancellor Garland. He guided Vanderbilt to rebuild after a fire in 1905 that consumed the main building, which was renamed in Kirkland's honor, and all its contents. He also navigated the university through the separation from the

Methodist Church. Notable advances in graduate studies were made under the third chancellor, Oliver Cromwell Carmichael (1937-46). He also created the Joint University Library, brought about by a coalition of Vanderbilt, Peabody College and Scarritt College.

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Remarkable continuity has characterized the government of Vanderbilt. The original charter, issued in 1872, was amended in 1873 to make the legal name of the corporation "The Vanderbilt University." The charter has not been altered since.

The university is self-governing under a Board of Trust that, since the beginning, has elected its own members and officers. The university's general government is vested in the Board of Trust. The immediate government of the university is committed to the chancellor, who is elected by the Board of Trust.

The original Vanderbilt campus consisted of 75 acres. By 1960, the campus had spread to about 260 acres of land. When George Peabody College for Teachers merged with Vanderbilt in 1979, about 53 acres were added.

Vanderbilt's student enrollment tended to double itself each 25 years during the first century of the university's history: 307 in the fall of 1875; 754 in 1900; 1,377 in 1925; 3,529 in 1950; 7,034 in 1975. In the fall of 1999 the enrollment was 10,127.

In the planning of Vanderbilt, the assumption seemed to be that it would be an all-male institution. Yet the board never enacted rules prohibiting women. At least one woman

attended Vanderbilt classes every year from 1875 on. Most came to classes by courtesy of professors or as special or irregular (non-degree) students. From 1892 to 1901 women at Vanderbilt gained full legal equality except in one respect -- access to dorms. In 1894 the faculty and board allowed women to compete for academic prizes. By 1897, four or five women entered with each freshman class. By 1913 the student body contained 78 women, or just more than 20 percent of the academic enrollment.

National recognition of the university's status came in 1949 with election of Vanderbilt to membership in the select Association of American Universities. In the 1950s Vanderbilt began to outgrow its provincial roots and to measure its achievements by national standards under the leadership of Chancellor Harvie Branscomb. By its 90th anniversary in 1963, Vanderbilt for the first time ranked in the top 20 private universities in the United States.

Vanderbilt continued to excel in research, and the number of university buildings more than doubled under the leadership of Chancellors Alexander Heard (1963-1982) and Joe B. Wyatt



**The Faye and Joe Wyatt Center for Education
at Peabody College**

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

(1982-2000), only the fifth and sixth chancellors in Vanderbilt's long and distinguished history. Heard added three schools (Blair, the Owen Graduate School of Management and Peabody College) to the seven already existing and constructed three dozen buildings. During Wyatt's tenure, Vanderbilt acquired or built one-third of the campus buildings and made great strides in diversity, volunteerism and technology.

The university grew and changed significantly under the leadership of its seventh chancellor, Gordon Gee, who served from 2000 to 2007. Vanderbilt led the country in the rate of growth for academic research funding, which increased to more than \$450 million. Applications for admission rose from 8,000 in 2000 to more than 13,000 in 2007, and the university became one of the most selective institutions in the country. Gee flaunted conventional wisdom in 2003 with a radical restructuring of the athletics program, which resulted in improved student athlete academic achievement and a jump in the university's athletic performance, with seven teams being ranked in the top 25 nationally in 2006-2007. During this time the university saw a 50 percent increase in the number of minority students, completed or began construction of more than \$700 million in new facilities, including one of the nation's best children's hospitals, and became the most-preferred provider of health care services in middle Tennessee.

On March 1, 2008, Nicholas Zeppos was named Vanderbilt's eighth chancellor.

Today, Vanderbilt University is a private research university of about 6,500 undergraduates and 5,300 graduate and professional students. The university comprises 10 schools, a distinguished medical center, a public policy center and The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center. Vanderbilt offers undergraduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences, engineering, music, education and human development as well as a full range of graduate and professional degrees. The university is consistently ranked as one of the nation's top 20 universities by publications such as *U.S. News & World Report*, with several programs and disciplines ranking in the top 10.

The combination of cutting-edge research, liberal arts and a distinguished medical center creates an invigorating atmosphere where students tailor their education to meet their goals and researchers collaborate to solve complex questions affecting our health, culture and society.

An independent, privately supported university employing more than 3,100 full-time faculty and a staff of more than 23,000, Vanderbilt is the largest private employer in Middle Tennessee and the second largest private employer in the state.

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

School of Engineering at Vanderbilt University

Majors

The mission of the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering is to provide a high quality engineering education in selected areas of engineering, balanced with broad learning opportunities from other fields, and integrated to provide intellectual richness and flexibility. The School provides national and international leadership in research and scholarship and builds mutually beneficial partnerships with internal collaborators, external collaborators and customers, alumni, and the professional community. The School of Engineering offers the Bachelor of Engineering degrees in:

- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

The School also offers the Bachelor of Science degrees in:

- Computer Science
- Engineering Science

Through graduate programs, the School also confers degrees in:

- Master of Engineering
- Master of Science
- Doctor of Philosophy

Research

While offering undergraduates a strong and broad foundation in the principles, tools and techniques of engineering, the School has established international reputations in selected areas of engineering that are focused but also draw from the wealth of scientific and medical expertise throughout Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt is no newcomer to multidisciplinary research, and the School of Engineering has always taken the position that engineering by nature is a multi-disciplinary enterprise. Solving challenging problems requires incorporating knowledge from across the academic spectrum. The School of Engineering is a key player in multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research on campus and throughout the world.

The School plays a pivotal role in such campus-wide multidisciplinary initiatives as:

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

- Institute for Biophysical Sciences and Bioengineering,
- Institute for Environmental Risk and Resources Management,
- Interdisciplinary Initiative in Nanometer-Scale Materials, Devices and Systems;
- Multidisciplinary Training in Reliability and Risk Engineering and Management.

The School's involvement in these multidisciplinary institutes will add to our portfolio of collaboration and partnership that includes the NSF-sponsored Engineering Research Center for Bioengineering Educational Technologies, Department of Defense Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative, the Center for Transportation Operations and Research, and others.

Great researchers, great teachers

The faculty's research productivity has increased dramatically in the past ten years. World-class research activity includes work in:

- Nanoscale science and engineering,
- Model-integrated computing,
- Hybrid and embedded computer systems
- Radiation effects in electronics,
- Reliability and risk assessment,
- Biomedical optics and imaging,
- Laser diagnostics for combustion,
- Adsorption processes,
- Environmental engineering.

The School of Engineering is housed in laboratories too numerous to list and in four main buildings on the 330-acre campus.

- Featheringill Hall is the School's new building, featuring the three-story Adams Atrium designed to be a focal point for student interaction and social events. Featheringill Hall also contains more than 50 teaching and research laboratories. Laboratories and classrooms are equipped for wired and wireless computer connections. The building also houses offices and design studios.
- The Stevenson Center includes the Dean's office and numerous classrooms, lecture halls, and laboratories. Biomedical Engineering laboratories are housed in this building, although biomedical research is also done in laboratories in the Vanderbilt Medical complex. Computer Science also maintains some offices and classrooms in the Stevenson Center.
- Jacobs Hall contains laboratories, offices and classrooms for Civil and Environmental Engineering and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. This building underwent a \$28 million renovation, completed in July 2002 which incorporated classrooms, research and social facilities that are modern in functionality and aesthetics.
- Olin Hall is a 9-story building of classrooms, laboratories and offices for Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Fast Facts about the Vanderbilt School of Engineering

- First private engineering school established in the south, in 1879.
- Accredited by Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology
- Student/faculty ratio: 15-1
- Teaching Faculty Total: 118
- Non-Teaching Research Staff: 42
- Undergraduate student population: 1,568 (Fall 2009)
 - 30% women
 - 7% African American
 - 8% Asian American
 - 4% Hispanic American
 - 9% International
- Median SAT: 1450 (Fall 2009 freshman)
- 61% of engineering students receive some form of financial aid
- Degrees awarded (2008-2009)
 - 219 B.E.
 - 61 B.S.
- Graduate student/faculty ratio: 5-1
- Graduate Student population: 388 (spring 2007)
- Graduate Degrees awarded (2008-2009)
 - 55 M.S.
 - 18 M.E.
 - 56 Ph.D.
- Of the graduates who sought employment, 95 percent had jobs within six months of graduation.
- After graduation, 20 percent of graduates go to on to graduate school and 15 percent go to professional schools.

(Information from previous section is taken from Vanderbilt University Websites)

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Vanderbilt Theta Tau

In September of 2008, after visiting the Rho Gamma Chapter of Theta Tau at the University of Central Florida, Cory Plastek had the idea to bring Theta Tau to Vanderbilt. At Vanderbilt, there are many engineering student organizations that support a very limited portion of Vanderbilt's engineering population, but no group dedicated to the whole of Vanderbilt's engineering students. Additionally, networking within the engineering community is extremely limited to other engineers in a certain major or class. For these reasons, Theta Tau through its goal of uniting members in service, profession, and brotherhood was an excellent fit for Vanderbilt University.

Later in September, Cory started communications with Mike Abraham, of the Theta Tau Central Office. During the next several months interest for Theta Tau was gauged and found to be higher than anticipated. Also during this time, support was generated among professors, University staff, and other student groups. With the encouragement from Mike Abraham, other students were sought out who also shared enthusiasm for a Theta Tau group at Vanderbilt.

In January of 2009, Cory Plastek formally approached several friends with the idea of forming a professional engineering fraternity at Vanderbilt University, with the intent of associating with the national Theta Tau organization. To encourage a more diverse group of members, an initial interest meeting was held on February 26th, 2009, to which 13 individuals attended. These 13 individuals soon after formed the Vanderbilt Theta Tau student organization and elected Officers. In that same month, the organization was officially recognized by Vanderbilt University as a student organization. This recognition was supported by two grants from the Office of Student Organizations for forming a new organization and for events planned to occur in the 2009-2010 school year.

In November 2009, the petition for colony was submitted to the national office. On December 12, 2009 the Vanderbilt Colony of Theta Tau was certified as a colony. In the spring of 2010, the colony held its first recruitment session. After several weeks of recruitment activities, a group of 17 students pledged the fraternity. Throughout this semester, the colony focused on social events and developing the pledges and integrating them into the fraternity. Nine of the founding members graduated in May of 2009, so new member development was central to the future of the fraternity. A retreat was held in April 2009 in Gatlinburg, TN as a capstone to the pledging period. The Alpha Class was initiated on April 27, 2010.

In June 2010, three members from the colony also travelled to Denver, CO for the Theta Tau National Convention.

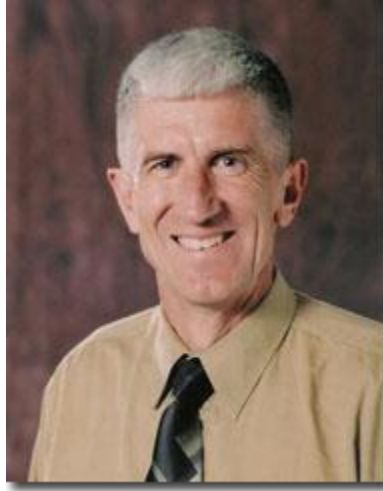
In the fall of 2010 with many new enthusiastic members, the colony diversified the activities to include more professional, service, and social events. These events and the planning involved helped the colony learn the planning and execution of many events in short periods of time. At the same time we successfully recruited 7 new members of the Beta Class who pledged the fall

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

semester and were initiated on February 7, 2011. Over fall break, several members and pledges made the drive to Knoxville to visit with the Chi Gamma Chapter at UTK.

So far in the spring of 2011, the colony has established a recurring service activity with Tools for Schools every other Friday, participated in other service events, as well as professional events. Two members attended the Southeast Regional Conference hosted by the Upsilon Gamma Chapter of USF in Tampa, FL. Spring recruitment yielded 13 pledges who will be pledging most of the remainder of the semester. We have many events planned for this spring that will benefit the community, the School of Engineering, and our members. Our organization has become stronger through our growth, and the future looks bright as we submit this petition for chapter status.

Faculty Advisor



Larry Dowdy obtained his B.S. degree in Mathematics from Florida State University in 1974. He then went to Duke University where he obtained both an M.A. degree and a Ph.D. in Computer Science in 1976 and 1977, respectively.

From 1978-81, Dr. Dowdy was an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the University of Maryland at College Park. Since 1981, he has been a faculty member at Vanderbilt University in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. From 1995-98, he served as the Chair of the Computer Science Department. Then, from 1998 – 2001 Professor Dowdy served as Vanderbilt's Dean of Students.

Professor Dowdy is a member of the IFIP Working Group 7.3, an international group of researchers in the area of performance measurement and modeling of computer systems. Within the past, Dr. Dowdy has served as the Chair of SIGMETRICS and has served as the senior editor of the "Performance Supplement" project, a joint project sponsored by ACM SIGMETRICS and the Computer Measurement Group (CMG). He has co-authored three books: *P.S. to Operating Systems*, *Capacity Planning and Performance Modeling*, and *Performance by Design* published by Prentice Hall; and has received research, teaching, and administrative awards.

He is also involved in many service organizations such as the *One Laptop Per Child* initiative and *Engineers Without Borders*. He has been a faculty site leader for Alternative Spring Break 19 years in a row, has participated in the VUcept program since its creation in 2006, and has acted as an adviser to countless student organizations on campus.

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Housing

One problem faced by the Colony is finding a permanent headquarters. Vanderbilt is a residential campus which means that not only do the vast majority of students live on campus, but the many organizations on campus have already established and are using the limited space available. Greek Life owns almost all Greek houses on campus, and there is a long list of IFC fraternities waiting to claim any vacancies in the houses. Since we are a co-ed organization we do not fall under the jurisdiction of Greek Life but instead Student Organizations. This means we will be ineligible for a Greek House on campus. Our only option left is to look for housing off campus. Despite our lack of housing we still use meeting spaces on campus for our meetings, but they are shared with other organizations. In the future, we hope to obtain housing near campus or on campus if the opportunity arises.

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Professional Development

The Vanderbilt Colony has striven to improve itself in the profession of engineering by organizing and taking part in many events. We have participated in several professional development events with more planned for the future. These events are intended to expose the members to aspects of engineering and professionalism that may be missed in the classroom. In the future, we have many more events planned. Among these include first impression lessons, professional speakers, golf skills, and a tour of Arnold Engineering Development Center.

Professional Development Events

- Vanderbilt Tunnel Tours (October 2010)
 - Members toured the tunnel system which lies below ground at Vanderbilt University, learning about engineering constraints and practical engineering applications in a real-world environment.
- Engineering Day Speaker (November 2010)
 - The colony sponsored a speech by David Owens on innovation and design for the school's first ever Engineering Day
- Graduate Student Info Session (November 2010)
 - Several alumni from the colony came to give descriptions of their experiences with Business School, Law School, and Graduate School as well as answer any questions that members had about continuing their studies after their undergraduate careers.
- Corsair Distillery Tour (February 2011)
 - Members toured the distillery which is located downtown in the old Marathon Motor Company building. Members learned about the process of distilling alcohol as well as local laws regarding distilleries and alcohol distribution.



Corsair Distillery Tour (2/19/2011)

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Community Service

The Vanderbilt Colony of Theta Tau and its Brothers strive to be active members of the university and community. Our brothers are some of the most visible student leaders on campus, holding positions as student advisors or leadership positions in service organizations. Currently, eight brothers have partnered with a campus organization Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science (VSVS), and lead two teams that travel to local schools to teach grade school children fun and interesting science lessons. An additional three brothers are involved in a similar organization, Next Step, that teaches science lessons to mentally disabled students on campus. In total, 23 of 29 brothers log hours of service with extracurricular service organizations on campus. As a colony wide effort to promote brotherhood and community development, we have partnered with Nashville Tools For Schools, and spend our Friday afternoons together performing small maintenance and construction projects in Metro Nashville Public Schools. We believe that our colony has formed a strong foundation, and has promising potential for future service opportunities as we grow.

Service Events

- Tools For Schools (Recurring Spring 2011)
 - Every Friday, members go to Hillsboro High School to help in a woodworking shop to build items that nearby schools need for their classroom.
- JETS (February 2011)
 - Members proctored examinations and gave tours in the School of Engineering for high school students interested in science and engineering.



Tools For Schools 2/18/11

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Social Activities

We have held a wide variety of social events to bring the brothers together in a more relaxed situation outside of class, professional development, and service. From time to time, we will gather together for a colony dinner. These have taken place at brother's apartments, meeting spaces on campus, and at the dining hall. Towards the end of each pledging period, we have travelled to the Smoky Mountains near Gatlinburg, Tennessee where we rented a cabin and spent the weekend together as a colony. We have many smaller impromptu gatherings which occur spontaneously. In the coming months we hope to hold many more social activities such as playing laser tag, going to a ropes course, going hiking, and parties.

Social Events

- Spring Retreat (April 2010)
 - The members and pledges traveled to Gatlinburg, TN to spend the weekend in a cabin. Activities included team building, pledge activities, mini-golf, and socialization.
- Pontoon Boat Trip (October 2010)
 - The members and pledges rented two pontoon boats and spent the day on a nearby lake swimming and having fun on the boats.
- Fraternity Dinner (October 2010)
 - The members and pledges met to eat dinner together at the Commons Dining Center on campus. Everyone came together to socialize and get to know the pledges better.
- Intramural Sports (Fall 2010)
 - The colony fielded teams in both volleyball and indoor soccer to compete with other groups from the university.
- Theta Tau Holiday Party (December 2010)
 - Everyone came to some of the members' suite wearing the tackiest of sweaters while blowing off some steam before hitting the books for finals.
- Fall Retreat (January 2010)
 - Despite schedule issues, the fall retreat happened in January and again we travelled to the Smoky Mountains for fun as well as a visit from several brothers from the Chi Gamma Chapter.

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau



Retreat April 2010



Retreat January 2011

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau



Spontaneous Event 2011

Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau

Recruitment and Pledging

Despite our short history we have already established traditions in the manner of which new members are recruited into the colony. Our recruitment period usually last about two and a half weeks. The info sessions are announced through an email to the entire School of Engineering. The following week we begin open rush during which anyone can attend our events. Following open rush, we vote to reduce the number of rushes if necessary. The closed rush events are by invitation only so that we can get to know the rushes better with less people. It also serves as a demonstration of the colony's interest in these rushes. So far recruitment has been a success. The Alpha Class consisted of 17 members, the Beta Class consisted of 7 members, and the Gamma Class consists of 11 pledges.

Recruitment Schedule 2011

- Information Sessions (2/2/11 and 2/3/11)
- Open Rush Begins (2/7/1)
- Super Bowl Party (2/7/11)
- Game Night (2/8/2011)
- Dinner at Fridays (2/9/11)
- Sunday Brunch (2/13/11)
- Closed Rush Begins (2/14/11)
- Bowling (2/17/11)
- Cookout (2/18/11).

Following recruitment, the members vote to decide which rushes will receive bids. The rushes accept their bids by attending our next weekly meeting during which they receive their pledge pins and pledge manuals to start pledging. The pledge period lasts between 6-8 weeks during which the pledges participate in study hours, weekly pledge meetings, a project, and other activities. Pledges are welcome to attend all activities of the colony except during certain meetings concerning pledging or other private matters. This allows members and pledges to learn about each other and to avoid any sense of exclusivity. Towards the end of pledging, a retreat is held at a cabin during which the last few pledge activities occur. Usually the week after the retreat the pledges will be initiated into the colony.

Letters of Recommendation



THETA TAU

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY

CENTRAL OFFICE

1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205
Austin, TX 78701
512/472-1904 Fax: 512/472-4820
Internet: Central.office@ThetaTau.org
Web: www.ThetaTau.org

March 28, 2011

ΘT Executive Council
Theta Tau Central Office
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Brothers:

I am pleased to write in support of the petition for chapter status from the colony at the Vanderbilt University.

In very early 2009, I met with about a dozen Vanderbilt engineering students interested in Theta Tau. The students knew each other well and wanted to bring a professional fraternity to Vanderbilt University to unite engineering students at the school. They chose our engineering fraternity as the best way to achieve that admirable goal.

Coincidentally, the Executive Council was meeting that month in Nashville so the students met me in the formal organizational meeting, and then later with some national officers at a Vanderbilt basketball game. The game tickets were courtesy of Jason Silvers, Zeta Gamma '04, who worked for Vanderbilt University and also had assisted the new group.

Since then, they have worked diligently and consistently to achieve the goal of becoming a chapter. I am impressed with success that they have had in recruitment each semester, in events and activities that they have planned and held, and in the support that they have received from their university. These achievements are evidenced by the content of this petition. I believe that they have demonstrated that they are ready for the step to chapter status and will continue to be a strong and positive example for Theta Tau on the campus of the Vanderbilt University.

I believe this group has the potential to be a valuable asset to Theta Tau, and I recommend your approval of their petition for chapter status.

In H and T,

Michael T. Abraham
Executive Director



Theta Tau

Rho Gamma University of Central Florida
4000 Central Florida Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32816

Dear Brothers,

I hope this letter finds you in good spirits. On behalf of Rho Gamma Chapter I am writing this letter of recommendation for the Vanderbilt colony of Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity in hopes that they may join the Brotherhood that is Theta Tau.

During the summer of 2008, after I became a Brother of Rho Gamma Chapter, Cory Plastek, a friend of mine from high school came to visit Orlando where he met Brothers of our chapter. He saw the brotherly bonds within our chapter and after seeing some of the things we were involved in, became very enthused about starting a colony at Vanderbilt.

Besides knowing Cory personally, Rho Gamma has met colony members from Vanderbilt on two specific occasions; National Convention 2010 and Southeast Regional Conference 2011. During these encounters it has become evident that the Vanderbilt colony has true intent to perpetuate our Fraternity's purpose and mission, therefore, leaving us no doubt that they would make an excellent addition to our brotherhood.

The Vanderbilt colony of Theta Tau has completed various community service events, professional development events and has made their presence known in the engineering college. I have the utmost confidence that the colony at Vanderbilt University will be an important addition to this Fraternity and has the potential of becoming one of the stronger chapters in the nation.

Vanderbilt colony has really engineered leaders for Service, Profession and Brotherhood.

In H&T,

Morgan Earnheart

PT #51 X!YY!VV!



THETA TAU

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY

amar.amin@thetatau.org

March 21, 2011

To all my Brothers in Theta Tau:

It is my pleasure to write in support of the Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau petition for chapter status. The colony has grown in many aspects over the past year and this growth shows that they are ready for chapter status. After visiting with many of the members of the colony, I feel confident that they will make a great chapter.

This group started out on a long journey more than one year ago as individuals and in that time, they have come together to form a Fraternity on their campus. In December of 2009, I had the pleasure to meet each member as they were certified as a Theta Tau colony. Their enthusiasm for the Fraternity was clearly apparent. In March of 2011, I had the pleasure to visit the Colony in Nashville, TN. The colony members were eager to provide a balanced program of activities to its members and pledges.

The Vanderbilt Colony is a diverse group of students with all the necessary tools required to build a great chapter of Theta. In the short time as a colony, they have recruited well and managed to teach themselves and their pledges what it means to be a part of this Fraternity. They should have no problem making the transition from colony to chapter and I personally feel that they would make an excellent addition to our Fraternity.

I again recommend that this petition be approved, and I look forward to the installation of a chapter at Vanderbilt University.

In H and T,

Amar Amin

Grand Inner Guard TTT!!

KB 605



THETA TAU

Chi Gamma Chapter
Vanderbilt Colony Petition Recommendation
March 13, 2011

1301 Bridge Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37916

ΘΤ Executive Council

Theta Tau Central Officer

1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205

Austin, TX 78701

Brothers,

I am pleased to express our chapter's support of the Vanderbilt University colony of Theta Tau for chapter status. Our proximity has given us the opportunity to interact with them on numerous occasions. It is apparent that they possess the qualities necessary for chapterhood from the level of commitment they hold to one another as well as towards brothers from other chapters.

They have impressed us with their highly motivated members as well as their growth. They had many of their founding members graduate but were still able to pass on the goal to the following classes. In addition, they have tried to incorporate us in their brotherhood events time after time as well as come to our many of our own events. We have watched them grow from just an idea to a fully integrated fraternal organization and this is the type of dedication we need in a chapter of Theta Tau. We see great things to come from them.

Once again I would like to recommend this petition be accepted and I look forward to welcoming them as brothers at their installation.

In H&T,

Ben Ealey

XΓ 19 X!

April 4, 2011

Michael Abraham
Theta Tau Central Office
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205
Austin, TX 78701

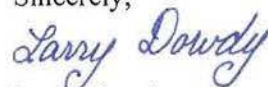
Dear Mr. Abraham:

This letter is in strong support of formally granting Chapter Status to the Vanderbilt University Colony of Theta Tau (ΘT). I have watched this group of dedicated men and women steadily grow over the past two years. Since gaining Colony Status, their recognition on campus, their impact within the School of Engineering, and their commitment to Theta Tau's core motto of "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" have been most impressive. Based on their demonstrated record to date, the unique role that they are fulfilling on campus, and the future potential of this relatively new organization, I am proud and pleased to recommend that they be granted Chapter Status.

Though the School of Engineering at Vanderbilt currently recognizes several student organizations, all of them are relatively niche oriented and tend to be oriented toward the needs of women (e.g., SWE, the Society of Women Engineers), needs of minorities (e.g., NSBE, National Society of Black Engineers), needs of particular departments (e.g., IEEE/ACM, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers/Association for Computing Machinery), humanitarian service needs (e.g., EWB, Engineers Without Borders), or administrative needs (e.g., ECouncil, Engineering Council). Until the Theta Tau Colony was established, there was no other student organization dedicated toward the overarching communal, social, philanthropic, service, and leadership needs of students that cut across all classes, majors, and niches within the School of Engineering. The current Theta Tau Colony is filling this void. It currently spans all engineering majors, genders, ethnicities, and class status. I know of no other organization at Vanderbilt that can boast such diversity, inclusiveness, and breadth of representation. The current colony brings together engineers from all engineering constituencies. It is a professional co-ed engineering fraternity, devoted to developing and maintaining a high standard of professional interest among its members. It unites its members in a strong bond of fraternal fellowship. Regular weekly meetings are held. ΘT is a recognized student organization by the Office of Student Organizations and by the Vanderbilt Student Government. It provides a strong professional engineering network.

Over the past fifteen months, since gaining Colony Status, its growth from the 13 original Founders to the current 29 active Brothers has been remarkable. The sheer number of events (e.g., Tools for Schools community service events, sponsored professional speakers, student information sessions, tours for high school students, retreats, recreational trips, dinners, sporting activities, and social parties) has been remarkable. I have personally witnessed the work, dedication, and excitement of the individuals involved in Vanderbilt's ΘT Colony. I have no doubt that they will uphold the high standards of the national ΘT organization, of Vanderbilt, and (most importantly) of themselves. I am very proud of these young men and women. I endorse their petition for Chapter Status enthusiastically and without reservation. I, too, am excited about their future.

Sincerely,



Larry Dowdy
Professor of Computer Science
Vanderbilt University
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

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