

**THETA TAU  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
PETITION FOR CHAPTER STATUS**



PITTSBURGH, PA  
3/25/2012

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University of Pittsburgh Colony of Theta Tau  
c/o Erik Dirkmaat  
Benedum Hall  
3700 O'Hara St  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261  
3/26/2012

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

Dear Mr. Michael Abraham:

The University of Pittsburgh colony of Theta Tau petitions to become the next chapter of Theta Tau after many semesters of work.

In late 2009, a group of students met with Matthew Clark, the grand treasurer of Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity for an interest meeting. We were granted colony status by April 2010. Since this time, we have worked to form lasting relationships between students, professors and the University and have strived to uphold the values of professional interest and fraternal brotherhood.

We have worked to establish ourselves at the University of Pittsburgh and take pride in the fact that we have grown so much not only in size but also in professional, social and service aspects. Our members are committed to furthering the each other and the Fraternity as a whole. Together we are able to have a greater impact on our community and provide a strong network of support not only during our college time but also looking toward the future as professionals.

I now present to you with the University of Pittsburgh colony of Theta Tau petition for Chapter status. I hope our growth and past success will serve as evidence of our commitment to Theta Tau.

Sincerely,



Erik Dirkmaat, Regent  
University of Pittsburgh Colony of Theta Tau

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH COLONY OF THETA TAU

We, the members of the University of Pittsburgh Colony of Theta Tau, are all currently enrolled in the Swanson 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 University of Pittsburgh 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. [Signature]  
Bruk M. Berhanu
2. [Signature]  
Ross R. Boudley
3. [Signature]  
Erin J. Dansey
4. [Signature]  
Tyler R. Gaskill
5. [Signature]  
Bradley W. Lyons
6. [Signature]  
Alexandra E. McCaffrey
7. [Signature]  
Carrie A. McCormick
8. [Signature]  
Todd R. Mellett
9. [Signature]  
Erica D. Parise
10. [Signature]  
Michael J. Pesce
11. [Signature]  
Cassia Priebe
12. [Signature]  
Samantha C. Warman
13. [Signature]  
Chenell E. York
14. [Signature]  
Janelle L. Bickta
15. [Signature]  
Erica L. Brungraber
16. [Signature]  
Tara L. Celli
17. [Signature]  
Annie R. Cooper
18. [Signature]  
Cameron Dashti
19. [Signature]  
Erik L. Dirkmaat
20. [Signature]  
Deitrick F. Franklin
21. [Signature]  
Kelsey A. Kennedy
22. [Signature]  
Jose C. Kuroki
23. [Signature]  
Marc A. Milord
24. [Signature]  
Aaron M. Polanski
25. [Signature]  
Kathryn J. Reed
26. [Signature]  
Cristian A. Riley
27. [Signature]  
Lisa A. Barkand
28. [Signature]  
Jada M. Davis
29. [Signature]  
Vanessa M. Edwards
30. [Signature]  
Ayana D. Elmore
31. [Signature]  
Beytari A. Hinson
32. [Signature]  
David J. Kraemer
33. [Signature]  
Timothy J. Ciczak
34. [Signature]  
Naomi S. Rybeck
35. [Signature]  
Katrina E. Sedlock
36. [Signature]  
Giancarlo F. Binando
37. [Signature]  
John G. Nalls
38. [Signature]  
Manon W. Pughli
39. [Signature]  
Lindsay Quinn
40. [Signature]  
Angus B. Robertson
41. [Signature]  
Michael N. Rutigliano
42. [Signature]  
Adam T. Schiowitz
43. [Signature]  
Shirley Tang

**MEMBERS**  
**FOUNDING FATHERS**

**1. Bruk Berhneau**

**Office:** Treasurer

**Hometown:** Solon, OH

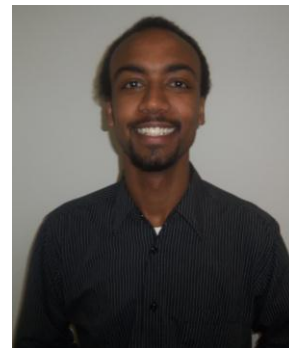
**Major:** Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Graduation Date:** April 2013

**GPA:** 3.2

**Campus Activities:** Epsilon Sigma Alpha, EXCEL, Engineers for a Sustainable World, ASCE

**E-mail:** brb71@pitt.edu



**2. Ross Brodsky**

**Hometown:** Marlton, NJ

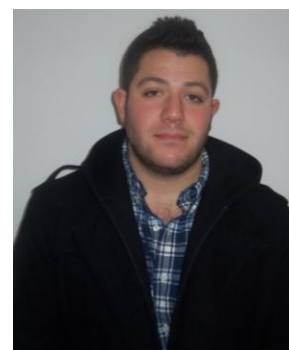
**Major:** Chemical Engineering; Bioengineering Minor

**Graduation Date:** April 2012

**GPA:** 3.40

**Campus Activities:** Little Lab Researcher, Intern at UPitt Office of Technology Management, Chemistry TA, Freshman Peer Advisor & Conference Co-Chair

**E-mail:** rrb19@pitt.edu



**3. Erin Dansey**

**Hometown:** Parkersburg, West Virginia

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**Graduation Date:** December 2012

**GPA:** 3.0

**Campus Activities:** Co-op

**E-mail:** ejd24@pitt.edu



**4. Tyler Gaskill**

**Hometown:** Marlton, NJ

**Major:** Chemical Engineering

**Graduation Date:** December 2012

**GPA:** 3.70

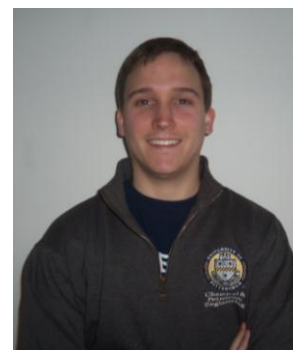
**Campus Activities:** Valspar Co-Op, Research

**E-mail:** trg10@pitt.edu



**5. Bradley Lyons**

**Hometown:** Louisville, KY  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 3.15  
**Campus Activities:** Hancock Tire Co-Op,  
ESC President, Study Abroad (Chile), AICHE  
**E-mail:** bwl9@pitt.edu



**6. Alexandra McCaffrey**

**Office:** Vice Regent  
**Hometown:** Washington, PA  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2012  
**GPA:** 3.4  
**Campus Activities:** IIE  
**E-mail:** aem57@pitt.edu



**7. Carrie McCormick**

**Office:** Service Chair  
**Hometown:** Erie, PA  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** May 2012  
**GPA:** 3.35  
**Campus Activities:** Accenture Co-op, IIE, TA,  
GE Transportation Intern, Club Water Polo  
**E-mail:** cam174@pitt.edu



**8. Todd Mellett**

**Hometown:** Allentown, PA  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 3.72  
**Campus Activities:** Honda Co-op, SHPE, NSCS  
**E-mail:** trm29@pitt.edu



**9. Erica Parise**

**Office:** Social chair  
**Hometown:** Erial, NJ  
**Major:** Bioengineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2012  
**GPA:** 3.74  
**Campus Activities:** Club Gymnastics President,  
Research at Human Movement and Balance Lab  
**E-mail:** edp20@pitt.edu



**10. Michael Pesce**

**Hometown:** Media, PA  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 3.64  
**Campus Activities:** FedEx Co-Op, IIE  
**E-mail:** mjp88@pitt.edu



**11. Cassia Priebe**

**Office:** Professional Development Chair  
**Hometown:** Rochester, NY  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 3.15  
**Campus Activities:** FedEx Co-op, WPTS  
**E-mail:** cap67@pitt.edu



**12. Samantha Warman**

**Office:** Recruitment Chair  
**Hometown:** Portugal  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering; Portuguese Minor  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 2.74  
**Campus Activities:** Research under Dr. Enick,  
ESC, AIChE, Study Abroad  
**E-mail:** scw31@pitt.edu



**13. Chenell York**

**Office:** Big/Little Chair

**Hometown:** Richmond, VA

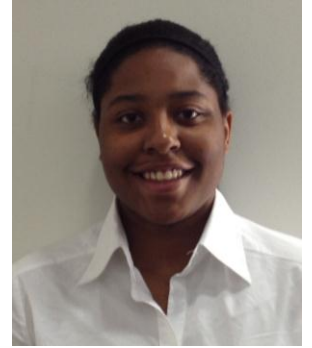
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering; Materials Science  
Engineering Minor

**Graduation Date:** April 2012

**GPA:** 2.51

**Campus Activities:** Intern at Eaton Corporation,  
Thermo-acoustic engine research under Dr. Laura Schaefer,  
EXCEL, NSBE, Panther Women's Rugby Team, ASME

**E-mail:** cey9@pitt.edu





**MEMBERS**  
**ALPHA CLASS**

**14. Janelle Bickta**

**Office:** Fundraising Co-Chair  
**Hometown:** Reading, PA  
**Major:** Bioengineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2013  
**GPA:** 3.06  
**Campus Activities:** Research under Dr. Partha Roy  
**E-mail:** jab234@pitt.edu



**15. Erica Brunngraber**

**Hometown:** Wantage, NJ  
**Major:** Bioengineering, Mechanical Engineering Minor  
**Graduation Date:** May 2013  
**GPA:** 2.70  
**Campus Activities:** Research Allegheny General Hospital  
**E-mail:** elb82@pitt.edu



**16. Tara Celli**

**Office:** Service Chair  
**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 3.50  
**Campus Activities:** Valspar Co-op, Research, Colleges against Cancer, AIChE  
**E-mail:** tlc47@pitt.edu



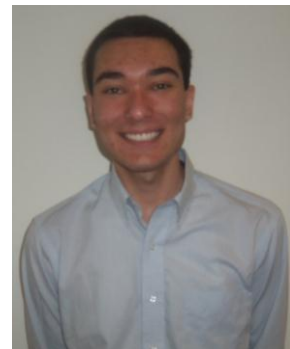
**17. Arnie Cooper**

**Hometown:** Great Neck, NY  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** May 2014  
**GPA:** 2.47  
**Campus Activities:** Curtiss-Wright Co-Op  
**E-mail:** arc72@pitt.edu



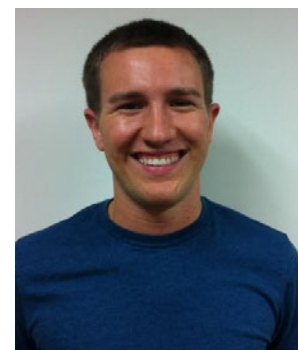
**18. Cameron Dashti**

**Office:** Web Chair  
**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Major:** Computer Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** May 2014  
**GPA:** 3.43  
**Campus Activities:** Robotics & Automation Society  
**E-mail:** cnd11@pitt.edu



**19. Erik Dirkmaat**

**Office:** Regent  
**Hometown:** Knoxville, TN  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 3.15  
**Campus Activities:** Valspar Co-op  
**E-mail:** eld44@pitt.edu



**20. Deitrick Franklin**

**Hometown:** Baltimore, MD  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2012  
**GPA:** 3.45  
**Campus Activities:** Chevron Corporation Facilities Engineer  
**E-mail:** dff9@pitt.edu



**21. Kelsey Kennedy**

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 2.45  
**Campus Activities:** Pitt INNOVATE: China  
**E-mail:** kak153@pitt.edu



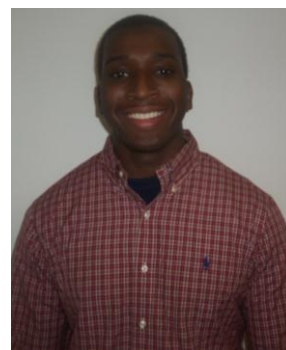
**22. Jose Kuroki**

**Hometown:** Nagoya Japan  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering; Economics & Applied  
Statistics Minor  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 2.80  
**Campus Activities:** FedEx Co-op, EXCEL, SHPE,  
Tau Epsilon Phi  
**E-mail:** bjck38pitt.edu



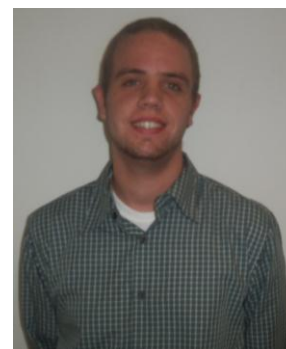
**23. Marc Milord**

**Hometown:** Valley Stream, NY  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 3.22  
**Campus Activities:** Cargill Co-op, EXCEL, NSBE,  
Nanowire research under Dr. Di Gao, Study Abroad  
**E-mail:** mam321@pitt.edu



**24. Aaron Polanski**

**Hometown:** Erie, PA  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2013  
**GPA:** 2.87  
**Campus Activities:** Curtiss-Wright Co-Op  
**E-mail:** amp143@pitt.edu



**25. Kathryn Reed**

**Office:** Big/Little Co-Chair  
**Hometown:** Mansfield, OH  
**Major:** Emergency Medicine/Pre-Med  
**Graduation Date:** April 2014  
**GPA:** 3.07  
**Campus Activities:** Volunteer at Magee Women's Hospital,  
Research for MACRO study at UPMC Presbyterian, NSBE  
**E-mail:** kjr34@pitt.edu



**26. Cristian Riley**

**Office:** Social Chair

**Hometown:** Parker, CO

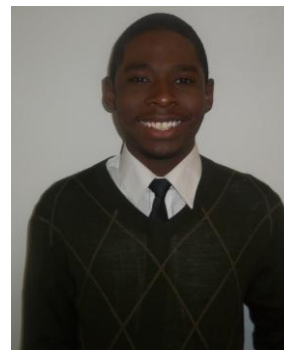
**Major:** Chemical Engineering

**Graduation Date:** April 2014

**GPA:** 2.95

**Campus Activities:** AIChE, NSBE, EXCEL,  
Polymer Research under Dr. Li

**E-mail:** car85@pitt.edu



**MEMBERS**  
**BETA CLASS**

**27. Lisa Barkand**

**Hometown:** South Park, PA  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2013  
**GPA:** 3.62  
**Campus Activities:** Intern at National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory, AIChE  
**E-mail:** lab129@pitt.edu



**28. Jada Davis**

**Hometown:** Houston, TX  
**Major:** Material Science Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** May 2014  
**GPA:** 3.18  
**Campus Activities:** NSBE, Gospel Choir,  
Study Abroad: Sydney, Australia  
**E-mail:** jmd29@pitt.edu



**29. Vanessa Edwards**

**Hometown:** Albuquerque, NM  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2013  
**GPA:** 3.01  
**Campus Activities:** Crayola Co-Op, NSBE,  
Intern with Air Force Research Labs,  
Research at the UNM Cancer Research Center  
**E-mail:** vme2@pitt.edu



**30. Ayana Elmore**

**Office:** Secretary  
**Hometown:** Hershey, PA  
**Major:** Computer Engineering; Theater & Italian Minor  
**Graduation Date:** December 2014  
**GPA:** 3.25  
**Campus Activities:** NSBE & EXCEL  
**E-mail:** ade14@pitt.edu



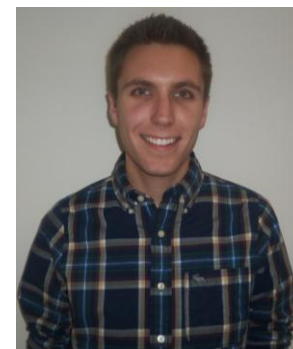
**31. Brytani Hinson**

**Hometown:** Yucca Valley, CA  
**Major:** Bioengineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2015  
**GPA:** 2.55  
**Campus Activities:** NSBE  
**E-mail:** bah69@pitt.edu



**32. David Kraemer**

**Hometown:** Cary, IL  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2013  
**GPA:** 3.83  
**Campus Activities:** Johnson & Johnson Co-op,  
AIChE, Research under Dr. Robert Parker  
**E-mail:** djc52@pitt.edu



**33. Timothy Olczak**

**Hometown:** Buffalo, NY  
**Major:** Electrical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2012  
**GPA:** 3.10  
**Campus Activities:** Epsilon Sigma Alpha,  
MSA Co-Op  
**E-mail:** tjo14@pitt.edu



**34. Naomi Rybeck**

**Office:** Fundraising Chair  
**Hometown:** Rockville, MD  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2014  
**GPA:** 3.40  
**Campus Activities:** Connors Group Co-Op, EXCEL,  
FELT Ambassador, Challah for Hunger, E-Week Chair  
**E-mail:** nsr9@pitt.edu



**35. Katrina Sedlock**

**Hometown:** Independence, OH

**Major:** Chemical Engineering

**Graduation Date:** April 2014

**GPA:** 3.01

**Campus Activities:** Research

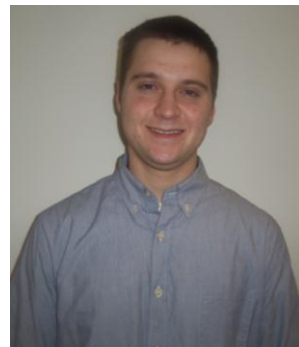
**E-mail:** kes112@pitt.edu



**MEMBERS**  
**GAMMA CLASS**

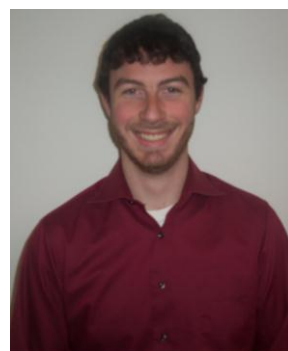
**36. Giancarlo Binando**

**Office:** Pledge Master  
**Hometown:** Dallas, TX  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2014  
**GPA:** 3.46  
**Campus Activities:** College Democrats  
**E-mail:** gfb@pitt.edu



**37. John Nalls**

**Hometown:** Bethesda, MD  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** May 2013  
**GPA:** 2.75  
**Campus Activities:** Pittsburgh Panther RFC, ANS, Dewberry, Inc. Internship  
**E-mail:** jgn5@pitt.edu



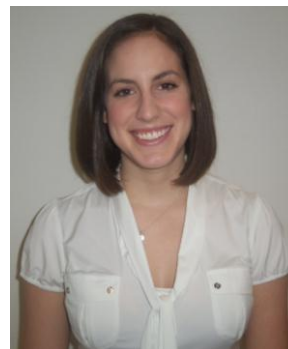
**38. Manon Pilardi**

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** May 2013  
**GPA:** 3.30  
**Campus Activities:** Taggart Global Intern  
**E-mail:** mwp21@pitt.edu



**39. Lindsay Quinn**

**Hometown:** Chagrin Falls, OH  
**Major:** Bioengineering  
**Graduation Date:** May 2015  
**GPA:** 3.51  
**Campus Activities:** Cohera Medical Co-Op  
**E-mail:** le6@pitt.edu





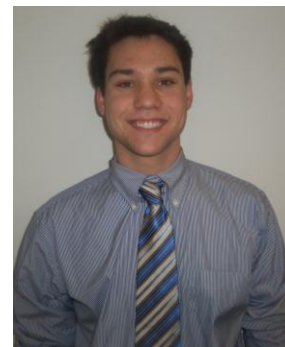
**40. Angus Robertson**

**Hometown:** Lower Merion, PA  
**Major:** Civil and Environmental Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2014  
**GPA:** 3.30  
**Campus Activities:** Ice Hockey, Emerging Leaders  
**E-mail:** abr28@pitt.edu



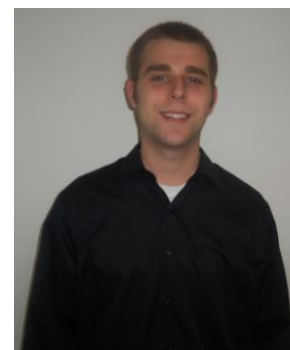
**41. Michael Rutigliano**

**Hometown:** Latrobe, PA  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2014  
**GPA:** 3.80  
**Campus Activities:** Bayer Material Science Co-Op  
, Blue and Gold Society, FELT Ambassador, AIChE  
**E-mail:** mnr13@pitt.edu



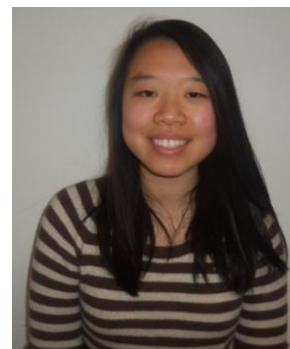
**42. Adam Schiowitz**

**Hometown:** Elkins Park, PA  
**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2013  
**GPA:** 2.92  
**Campus Activities:** Study Abroad (Germany)  
**E-mail:** ats28@pitt.edu



**43. Shirley Tang**

**Hometown:** Alfred, NY  
**Major:** Civil and Environmental Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2014  
**GPA:** 3.10  
**Campus Activities:** SWE, ESW, Pitt Asian Intervarsity  
**E-mail:** sht50@pitt.edu



DELTA RUSH CLASS



**1<sup>st</sup> Row (L to R):** Amanda Kelly, Sarah Pachesky, Deanna Broadwater, Ashley Pruitt  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Row:** Matt McCarrol, Patrick Soloski, Dan Knapp, Robert Gleba, Laura Kingsley

ALUMNI

**1. Ellen Bachman**

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Major:** Electrical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** April 2011

**2. Michelle Clogan**

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Major:** Electrical Engineering  
**Graduation Date:** December 2011

## HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

### PITTSBURGH, PA

Hugh Henry Brackenridge founded the University of Pittsburgh, originally named the Pittsburgh Academy, in 1787. He had high hopes for Pittsburgh, noting, “This town must in future time be a place of great manufactory. Indeed the greatest on the continent, or perhaps in the world.”

The University of Pittsburgh is among a select group of universities and colleges established in the 18th century in the United States. It is the oldest continuously chartered institution of learning in the U.S., west of the Allegheny Mountains. Hugh Henry Brackenridge obtained a charter for the school from the state legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on February 28, 1787.

In 1819, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amended the school's 1787 charter to confer university status. The school took the name the Western University of Pennsylvania, or WUP, and intended to be the western sister institution to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. By 1830, WUP had moved into a new three-story, freestone-fronted building, near its original building in downtown Pittsburgh. By the 1830s, the university faced severe financial pressure to abandon its traditional liberal education in favor of the state legislature's desire for it to provide more vocational training. The decision to remain committed to liberal education nearly killed the university, but it prevailed despite its abandonment by the city and state.

The University's buildings, along with most of its records and files, were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1845 that wiped out 20 square blocks of Pittsburgh. Classes were temporarily held in Trinity Church until a new building was constructed on Duquesne Way. By 1854, WUP had erected a new building on the corner of what is now Forbes Avenue, and classes resumed in 1855. In 1867, Samuel Pierpoint Langley a prominent figure in astronomy and future Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution assumed the role as director of the Allegheny Observatory. The Observatory was donated to WUP, and with the help of Langley, the university outgrew its downtown facilities.

The university moved to a 10-acre site on the North Side's Observatory Hill at the location of its Allegheny Observatory. There, it constructed two new buildings, Science Hall and Main Hall. During this era, the first collegiate football team was formed at Pitt in 1889.

In 1892, the Western Pennsylvania Medical College joined the University. Between 1895 and 1896, WUP established its School of Law, the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy, and the Pittsburgh Dental School. In 1898, the first women, sisters Margaret and Stella Stein, graduated from the University.

Citing a need to avoid confusion, distinguish itself from the University of Pennsylvania, and to further identify with the city that the university grew to represent, the Western University of Pennsylvania, was renamed the University of Pittsburgh in the summer of 1908. The University of Pittsburgh moved sites once more to its current location in the Pittsburgh

neighborhood of Oakland with the purchase of 43 acres in December 1907. During this time, the University of Pittsburgh resisted pressure to abandon its roots in liberal education led by Chancellor Samuel McCormick. During his administration, McCormick would also lead the university into a new level of national recognition, expansion, and growth, as well as began institutional support of athletics.

In the 1920s, new University chancellor John Gabbert Bowman declared that he had a vision for a centerpiece "tall building" for the university. The 14 acres Frick Acres property in Oakland was soon purchased and plans were made for neo-Gothic Revival buildings that are comprised of the Cathedral of Learning, Heinz Memorial Chapel, Stephen Foster Memorial, and Clapp Hall buildings. Bowman was a persuasive leader and although the Great Depression intervened, the Cathedral of Learning, on which construction was begun in 1926 and finished 11 years later in 1937. Today, the Cathedral of learning remains the second-tallest education building in the world and contains an equally-impressive interior.

In 1966, Pitt was designated by Pennsylvania as a state-related university. As such, Pitt receives public funds and offers reduced tuition to Pennsylvania residents. Upon affiliation with the state, subsidized tuition led to a massive influx of new students and rapid expansion of Pitt's size and scope. In the 1970s, Pitt's football team won a national championship season in 1976 led by Hall of Fame running back Tony Dorsett. In the 1980s, significant medical research in the field of organ transplantation was conducted by Thomas Starzl, establishing Pitt as the world leader in the field of organ transplantation. In 1991, long-time chancellor Wesley Posvar retired after 24 years in office. His administration is best known for elimination of the university's debt from its 1960s financial crisis and for increasing the school's prestige and endowment. Mark Nordenberg has been chancellor of the University since 1995 and is leading Pitt through a period of substantial progress.

## HISTORY OF SWANSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

In 1846, the University of Pittsburgh added a school of engineering. In 2007, the school was renamed the Swanson School of Engineering after John A. Swanson, founder of the computer software firm, ANSYS, Inc., who donated a total of \$41.3 million to the school.

The Swanson School of Engineering currently has nine engineering departments housed within Benedum Hall which include; biomedical, chemical, civil, computer, electrical, industrial, mechanical, material sciences and physics engineering. The school is ABET accredited.

The years surrounding the Civil War transformed Pittsburgh's industrial base from regional to international, and the University responded. By 1868, specialized degrees in civil and mechanical engineering were initiated, with mining engineering following in 1869 and electrical engineering in 1890. In 1909, the metallurgical engineering department was established, followed by the chemical engineering department and the world's first petroleum engineering department in 1910. Also that year, one of the nation's first undergraduate cooperative education programs was created. The Swanson School of Engineering's tradition of innovative programming resulted in the establishment of one of the nation's first industrial engineering departments in 1921.

In recent years, the Swanson School of Engineering has remained on the cutting edge of industry and the profession, while maintaining its blend of tradition and innovative educational programming. The close relationship between the school and the internationally renowned teaching and research hospitals of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center has resulted in the establishment of a new Department of Bioengineering and the Center for Bioengineering. In addition to the academic and research thrusts within its seven departments, the school also offers interdisciplinary degree programs in engineering physics, computer engineering, and manufacturing systems engineering.

## UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH THETA TAU

On Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a small group of students from the Swanson School of Engineering of the University of Pittsburgh met with Matthew Clark, Grand Treasurer of Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity for an interest meeting in the William Pitt Union. During this meeting, the group of students established the core group of officers that would work to establish Pi Theta Tau as a colony at the University of Pittsburgh. This commitment was the beginning of a three year journey to create an active Pi Theta Tau chapter at the University of Pittsburgh.

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Pi Theta Tau became an official University of Pittsburgh student organization. This title gives the group ability to have fundraisers and participate with other student organizations in University activities. During these first months as an organization, the founding fathers began to formulate what the kind of Pi Theta Tau chapter they wanted to create to benefit the Swanson School of Engineering.

Pi Theta Tau officially became a colony of Theta Tau on December 4, 2010. Since this time, the colony has grown to 43 active members. We currently represent 8 of 9 engineering disciplines within the Swanson School of Engineering. Nine students are currently pledging for the delta class. The colony has established effective leadership strategies to manage the growth of the colony. Professional development, recruitment, fundraising, and service committees have been established to give all members an opportunity to have a leadership role and be actively involved in a specific goal.

During the spring of 2011 the Beta class was recruited with nine members. In fall 2011 Gamma class was inducted on December 2, 2011, with eight members.

In January 2012, members traveled to Philadelphia to meet with the Tau Gamma Chapter of the University of Pennsylvania. Planning is underway to send members to the national convention in Boston this summer.

The future of Theta Tau at the University of Pittsburgh is something that the entire group is excited to contribute to. By adding to the foundation that has been built thus far, Theta Tau at the University of Pittsburgh plans to continue its growth to become a contributive piece of the University of Pittsburgh community.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The University of Pittsburgh colony of Theta Tau has made it a point to actively involve its members in networking events and professional experience. Most of our members have worked as part of an internship, co-op, or within a lab doing research. To help promote the development of our members, we have held resume building sessions, networking events, and have established relationships with faculty and staff of the university.

- **Resume building session (February 2011)**
  - We have held many resume building workshops and sessions with different faculty within the Engineering school. They have helped our members obtain co-ops and internships.
- **Networking and Social Media (October 2011)**
  - The career development office provided a forum to discuss the role of social media in business. They came and discussed the changing environment of professional networking based on social media.
- **Financial Planning (December 2011)**
  - The career development office sponsored a lecture provided by the career development office about financial planning. We learned about savings and investing.
- **Mock Interview and Resume Critique (February 2012)**
  - Professionals from FedEx came to the University of Pittsburgh to conduct mock interviews and give feedback based on their extensive interviewing experience.
- **Weekly Study Hours**





## SERVICE

The brothers of the University of Pittsburgh colony of Theta Tau are committed to improving the university and the surrounding Pittsburgh area. Our members not only actively participate as part of Theta Tau, but also involve themselves with Engineering Student Council, departmental clubs, and other service organizations. Together, we have the ability to reach the majority of the school through service events and coordinated efforts.

- **Bradley Center (Stage)**
  - The first service event that the colony participated in was building a stage for the Bradley center which is a home for children with special needs. This helped their children to have an area to perform different theatrical events.
- **Relay for Life**
  - We are continuing our support of the American Cancer Society with our involvement in Pitt's Relay for Life. We are currently preparing for our second year of participation. Last year we raised about \$4,000 for the American Cancer Society. We fundraise and advertise for the event.



- **Pitt Make a Difference Day**
  - The University holds a service event every year called Pitt Make a Difference Day. We have formed a group for the past three years to help improve the surrounding community. Services our members have provided have included house renovations for the homeless, weeding, and general home improvement for the less fortunate in our area.



- **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Volunteer Work**
  - Our members participated in planting trees in our local Schenley Park.
- **Finals Tutoring**
  - Every semester before finals, tutoring is provided through the Freshman advising office. We have helped tutor freshman for the past three years in math, physics, chemistry and engineering analysis.
- **Pasta Fundraising**
  - We have developed a relationship with a local restaurant to help us fundraise for our various charities. Every Monday, a pasta special is served and if Theta Tau is mentioned, one dollar is donated towards our Relay for Life cause.
- **Peter's Pub Fundraising Social**
  - We are in the process of planning and advertising our big fundraising event for our philanthropy, the American Cancer Society. The event will occur at a local pub, and we are working to get campus-wide participation.

## BROTHERHOOD AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We have formed a supportive network of engineers committed to bettering the university, colony, and each other. Besides our weekly meetings, we frequently plan events in which we can bond and get to know each other better. This past fall, we held our first formal.

- **Retreat**
  - We have just completed our third annual spring retreat near Seven Springs, Pennsylvania. The retreat that occurred in February 2012 was used to generate ideas concerning professional development, service, and social events for the upcoming semester. We formulated our schedule of events for the year and set goals for our colony. During retreat, we get rid of cell phones and participate in group bonding activities.
- **Scavenger Hunt**
  - A fun event that we like to plan to get to know our rushes better is our scavenger hunt. Members are placed in teams that compete to find objects around Pittsburgh.
- **Formal**
  - Our formal was held at the Six Penn kitchen in downtown Pittsburgh.



- **Social Gatherings**
  - We plan events to celebrate holidays, birthdays, and the end of semesters. These events allow brothers to touch base with each other outside of school.



- **Half Off**
  - Some restaurants around Pittsburgh offer half price menu items after certain times. Our brothers meet for food and get a chance to talk and relax.
- **“Save your Balls” Dodge Ball Tournament**
  - The event was organized by a club on campus called Colleges Against Cancer called “Save Your Balls” and all proceeds went to the American Cancer Society.

### RECRUITMENT AND PLEDGING

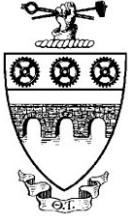
We have established an effective recruitment process for the organization. Our rush committee works to plan events to entice engineering students to come and discover what the University of Pittsburgh Colony of Theta Tau represents. We take pride in the fact that we are the only professional engineering fraternity on campus, and we like to show that we have something unique to offer to the engineering students. We put fliers around the engineering school and send e-mails through each of the departments. Rush week usually consists of:

- Meet and Greet
- Game Night
- Professional Development
- Half-off night at Local Restaurant
- Invitation Dinner

It is required to come to two of the four events during the week to be invited to the Invitation Dinner so that we are sure that our members are serious about a colony that we all love.



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



THETA TAU

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY

GRAND TREASURER

254 Lebanon Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
412-341-2435

Internet: matthew.clark@thetatau.org

March 26, 2012

ΘT Executive Council  
Theta Tau Central Office  
815 Brazos, Suite 710  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Brothers:

I am pleased to write in support of the petition for chapter status from the University of Pittsburgh Colony of Theta Tau. As an alumnus of the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Law, I am quite familiar with the university, its campus, and its students.

In the fall of 2010, I joined Michael Abraham in meeting with President Erin Dansey and a group of students on the Pitt campus. The local group, Pi Theta Tau, successful petitioned to become a colony, and I was pleased to preside over their installation on December 4, 2010.

I have been in continual contact with the colony since then and I am impressed with what I have seen. They have gained university recognition, organized study groups, conducted service projects, and held retreats. They have done a good job in the recruitment of new members and now have over forty actives. Additionally, they have worked diligently to achieve important goals including completion of this petition.

Meeting with them at their recent initiation on December 4, 2011, the group was quite excited about the chance to become a full chapter of Theta Tau. I was quite impressed with their enthusiasm.

The University of Pittsburgh Colony of Theta Tau should prove to be one of Theta Tau's leading chapters in the future, and I strongly recommend your approval of their petition for chapter status.

In H and T,

J. Matthew Clark, Grand Treasurer

To whom it may concern:

As the faculty advisor for the Theta Tau colony I fully support the move from colony to chapter. Since the start of the Pittsburgh chapter the members have stayed fast to the goal of creating a co-ed engineering fraternity that is supposed to promote brotherhood between different specialties of engineering. The University of Pittsburgh Theta Tau chapter is based upon three major pillars: social interaction, professional development, and community service.

The social interaction between different engineers helps the member keep in touch with each other after freshman engineering. It also allows the members to network for long term connections throughout the engineering community. Some examples of the social events include a retreat, parties after bid night and initiation, cook outs, and study groups.

The professional development aspect is to help develop the members for their future professions. This can range from learning what each specialty can do with their career to interviewing skills. They have had multiple interviewing workshops, resume critiquing workshops, and a seminar on how to handle credit cards and loans after graduation. This knowledge will hopefully assist them in joining the working world and develop skills we will need once we are there.

Lastly, the group plays a large role in our community. In the first semester, they helped to build a stage for a local school for handicapped children. They also participate in planting trees around Pittsburgh at different parks. Their biggest community service effort is Relay for Life since many of our members have a personal connection to the charity. They have raised the most money out of any group participating in Pitt's Relay for Life, and we are striving to raise more before the event. In addition to our three pillars, we also do some fundraising to raise money for Relay for Life. These events include Pasta Mondays at Peter's Pub, where they have agreed to donate a portion of every pasta dish bought at Peter's Pub to our Relay for Life team.

In all, Theta Tau is an organization that has grown a lot in the past two years. Our members are dedicated to becoming a chapter, and we have put in the work to accomplish that goal. When we do become a chapter, we hope to bring new engineers into our organization to share in our goals and improve the Pitt engineering community as a whole.

As a member of the Beta Chapter of Theta Tau from back in the 1970's I stand by this chapter and their goals and actions. If the reputation of an organization is truly based on the actions of its individual members, this group of young men and women has proven that the University of Pittsburgh group has earned the right to become a full chapter in Theta Tau. As a brother of Theta Tau I welcome them to our organization and I hope Nationals feel the same.

In H&T,

Dan Budny, Beta



Dear Brothers,

As the Regent of Tau Gamma chapter at the University of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to be writing in support of the University of Pittsburgh colony of Theta Tau becoming a chapter of Theta Tau Fraternity.

I have had the privilege of speaking with the Colony's Regent, Erik Dirkmaat, on a few occasions. These were very enjoyable conversations and I was very pleased to learn about the status of their colony.

Already, the Colony has established strong foundations in brotherhood, community service, and professional development. They recently held a retreat that included 35 of their brothers, as well as all of their pledges, where they held several activities to bring the brothers closer together and they also set their agenda for the year. They are committed to keeping their brotherhood tight-knit and included in the inner workings of the fraternity. The Colony also participated in Pitt's Make a Difference Day where they volunteered with a local organization that supports homeless people and helped restore a house. They've also held several Relay for Life fundraisers, showing that they understand the importance of helping out both local and national organizations. The Colony has also brought in HR representatives from FedEx to hold mock interviews for their brothers and have received talks on networking and social media tips from their Career Development Office, educating their brothers on how to best represent our industry.

Despite the presence of two competing organizations at the University of Pittsburgh, the Colony has been able to maintain solid recruitment and pledging numbers, having established their presence as the only co-ed organization out of the three. Not only have they thrived despite these competing organizations, the Colony collaborated with them on organizing a tailgate last semester. This kind of collaboration will be important to the growth of this chapter, and I'm proud that the Colony has interacted with these other organizations in a way that benefits their campus.

The University of Pittsburgh Colony has shown that they've developed a solid foundation on which to build a thriving and responsible chapter and I urge you to approve this petition.

In H&T,

Michael Plis  
TT 69 X!



# University of Pittsburgh

*Swanson School of Engineering*  
*Department of Industrial Engineering*

January 30, 2012

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3700 O'Hara Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261  
412-624-9830  
Fax: 412-624-9831

Theta Tau Executive Council  
Theta Tau Central Office  
815 Brazos, Suite 710  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Theta Tau Central Office,

I am writing on behalf of the student leadership of the University of Pittsburgh Theta Tau fraternity who are asking to become an official Chapter of Theta Tau. The students in the Swanson School of Engineering at Pitt are extremely active in many organizations within the University and make numerous contributions to the leadership of those organizations. They are probably the strongest group of students at Pitt both academically and in their professional skills.

I have known many of the leaders of the proposed Theta Tau chapter since their freshman or sophomore year. These leaders have discussed the activities that they have undertaken so far with me and I am confident that they have the ability and motivation to create a strong, active chapter and organize activities to promote social interaction, professional development and community service among engineering students. They have already held a number of social events, resume and interviewing workshops and have held events to raise money for their selected charity, Relay for Life. Their efforts thus far should ensure long term sustainability of this student organization.

I can highly recommend that they be accepted as an official chapter of your organization. Should you have any questions regarding my recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen M. Bursic".

Karen M. Bursic, Ph.D., P.E.  
Assistant Professor and  
Undergraduate Program Director  
Department of Industrial Engineering  
Swanson School of Engineering  
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