

Florida Institute of Technology Colony of Theta Tau



Chapter Petition

Melbourne, Florida
June 2021

The Florida Institute of Technology Colony of Theta Tau
Professional Engineering Fraternity

150 W. University Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32901
May 30, 2021

Mr. Jim Gaffney
Executive Director
Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity
2131 W. Republic Road #528
Springfield, MO 65807

Dear Mr. Gaffney:

Greetings from the Florida Institute of Technology colony of Theta Tau! The members of this colony have worked hard in order to prepare this petition to become a Theta Tau chapter. We have strived to reach the peaks of the three pillars of Theta Tau, and through this have created a brotherhood between ourselves and the brothers in chapters around us!

Ever since February 2017, when our founding brothers originally joined together as an interest group, and shortly thereafter in August 2018 when we officially became a colony, our brothers have been working hard with the immense desire to become a chapter of Theta Tau. We are a recognized organization on campus and have the continued support of faculty beyond that of our advisor, Vipuil Kishore.

As my brothers and I dedicate ourselves to this fraternity, we believe a chapter status will further help us establish stronger bonds with not only the recognition it applies within the campus, but also with the brothers outside of our college, as we fully join the national brotherhood. Being able to network with brothers as a fully-fledged chapter would allow us to truly share the pillars we all believe in as we recruit more members, host events, and overall promoting professional engineering throughout our community as we leave this pandemic time.

Dan Jensen's help throughout our colony's process was crucial to our growth as he gave us the knowledge on what really needs to be established as we grow to become a chapter. The Eastern regional conference also provided lots of information that has helped our brothers grow into better leaders. Being able to take this and use it to grow was extremely helpful in establishing ourselves as a fraternity on our campus. The help and kind words that went into this petition from our brothers in Zeta Gamma was also very much appreciated, and we look forward to standing side by side with them as chapter brothers!

On behalf of my brothers from Florida Tech, I now present our petition for Theta Tau chapter status.

Sincerely,

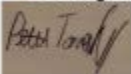


Fiona Swarr, Regent

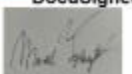
Florida Institute of Technology Colony of Theta Tau

We, the members of the Florida Institute of Technology Colony of Theta Tau Fraternity, do hereby petition the Theta Tau professional Engineering Fraternity for Chapter Status.


We, the undersigned, are all currently enrolled in the College of Engineering and Science at Florida Institute of Technology and have no affiliation with any organization considered to be competitive with Theta Tau.

DocuSigned by:

A955AA821FF24F8...

Peter Tarsoly

DocuSigned by:

96487DB3987F4CB...

Marcell Tapaszto

DocuSigned by:

3D22D4FF1A164DD...

Caroline Sisko

DocuSigned by:

018590E4A8DA471...

Dustin McCook

DocuSigned by:

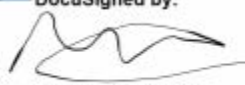
767DCCEC907D44E...

Miranda Easton

DocuSigned by:

DCD3C4D66C304C0...

Ryan Hutchison

DocuSigned by:

21A92F444B9140E...

Muntaser Syed

DocuSigned by:

16774E9F4DCF4DB...

Ryley Griffin

DocuSigned by:

08EDCD692C274EA...

Jessica Lugo

DocuSigned by:

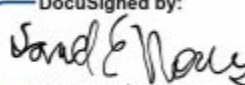
A329792A5D5C4CC...

Fiona Swarr

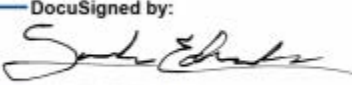
DocuSigned by:

F54F11756B71457...

Landon Blackwell-Frank

DocuSigned by:

5B856364843A4D7...

David Nieves-Acaron

DocuSigned by:

543E60C75A1741F...

Sarah Edwards

DocuSigned by:

B9E704A403FA449...

Justin Hing

DocuSigned by:

85668FBC803445A...

Gerardo Rivas-Leal

DocuSigned by:

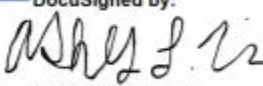
E891645D1259418...

Cassandra Rush

DocuSigned by:

0F65CF7F53F845A...

Michael Hoadley

DocuSigned by:

1E851610E9D34FC...

Ashley Tisaranni

DocuSigned by:

8B8044CC8B4D456...

Samuel Kaynor

DocuSigned by:

EBA1B9FF3BCA4FD...

Ian Leon

DocuSigned by:

33A87745914D4CA...

Phillip Wince

Table of Contents

Member Information	5
About Florida Institute of Technology	15
History of Florida Institute of Technology	16
About the college of Engineering and Science	20
History of the College of Engineering and Science	22
History of the Florida Institute of Technology Colony of Theta Tau	24
Advisor Vipul Kishore	28
Brotherhood Highlights.....	29
Professional Development Highlights.....	32
Service Highlights	36
Letters of Recommendation.....	38

Member Information

#1 Peter William Tarsoly

Hometown: Saint James, NY

Major: Computer Engineering

Degree: Master of Science

Graduation Date: December 2021

GPA: 4.0

Current Positions: Petition Chair, Pledge Educator

Previous Position: Regent

Other Activities: IEEE (former chairman), Tau Beta Pi, Orchestra

Email: ptarsoly2016@my.fit.edu



#2 Garrett Jacobellis

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2020

Position Held: Vice Regent

Email: gjacobellis2015@my.fit.edu



#3 Dustin Lloyd McCook

Hometown: Live Oak, FL

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2022

GPA: 2.5

Other Activities: AIAA, FIT Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy (FITSSFF)

Email: dmccook2017@my.fit.edu



#4 Amanda Noori

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2019

Email: anoori2016@my.fit.edu



#5 Nathan Parker

Hometown: Bradenton, FL

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: December 2020

Position Held: Scribe

Email: nparker2016@my.fit.edu



#6 Donovan Southwell

Hometown: Indialantic, FL

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2020

Position Held: Risk Management Chair

Email: dsouthwell2017@my.fit.edu



#7 Muntaser Mansur Syed

Hometown: Melbourne, FL

Major: Computer Engineering

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Graduation Date: May 2022

GPA: 3.7

Previous Position: Professional
Development Chair

Other Activities: IEEE, ACM

Email: msyed2011@my.fit.edu



#8 Alexander Thierer

Hometown: Orlando, FL

Major: Civil Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2019

Position Held: Recruitment Chair

Email: athierer2015@my.fit.edu



#9 Alana Thornton

Hometown: Fort Washington, MD

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2019

Position Held: Brotherhood Chair

Email: athornton2015@my.fit.edu



#10 Robert Whitman

Hometown: Palm Bay, FL

Major: Computer Science

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2021

Position Held: Corresponding Secretary

Email: rwhitman2017@my.fit.edu



#11 Fiona Elizabeth Swarr

Hometown: Melbourne, FL

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2022

GPA: 3.38

Current Position: Regent

Previous Positions: Brotherhood Chair,
Pledge Educator, Treasurer

Other Activities: Campus Orientation
Team, Band

Email: fswarr2017@my.fit.edu



#12 Sarah Elizabeth Edwards

Hometown: Brentwood, TN

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2022

GPA: 4.0

Other Activities: Rainbow Alliance
(Treasurer, Vice President, President),
Swing Dancing (Secretary), Belly Dancing

Email: edwardss2018@my.fit.edu



#13 Cassandra Rush

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2022

GPA: 3.2

Current Position: Vice Regent

Previous Positions: Brotherhood Chair,
Regent

Other Activity: Anime Club

Email: crush2018@my.fit.edu



#14 Alexis Hopkins

Hometown: Shalimar, FL

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2021

Positions Held: Corresponding Secretary,
Professional Development Chair

Email: ahopkins2016@my.fit.edu



#15 Sam Kaynor

Hometown: Jacksonville, FL

Major: Computer Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2022

GPA: 3.7

Current Position: Scribe

Previous Position: Pledge Educator

Other Activities: Honors College, Pep Band

Email: skaynor2018@my.fit.edu



#16 Marcell Istvan Tapaszto

Hometown: Kecskemet, Hungary

Major: Computer Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2022

GPA: 3.2

Current Position: Risk Management Chair

Previous Position: Projects Chair

Other Activity: IEEE (former chairman)

Email: mtapaszto2018@my.fit.edu



#17 Miranda Easton

Hometown: Tallahassee, FL

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2023

GPA: 3.13

Current Position: Treasurer

Previous Position: Service Chair

Email: peaston2019@my.fit.edu



#18 Ryley Patrick Griffin

Hometown: Morgantown, WV

Major: Chemical Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: December 2022

GPA: 3.42

Current Position: Corresponding Secretary

Other Activities: Honors College, AiChE (social media officer), Florida Tech Esports (Team Captain)

Email: rgriffin2019@my.fit.edu



#19 Landon Cade Blackwell-Frank

Hometown: The Woodlands, TX
Major: Aerospace Engineering
Degree: Bachelor of Science
Graduation Date: May 2024
GPA: 3.53
Current Position: Service Chair
Other Activity: Sailing Club
Email: lblackwellfr2020@my.fit.edu



#20 Justin Hing

Hometown: Fort Lauderdale, FL
Major: Aerospace Engineering
Degree: Bachelor of Science
Graduation Date: May 2022
GPA: 2.62
Current Position: Brotherhood Chair
Previous Position: Recruitment Chair
Other Activities: AIAA, Florida Tech Rocketry, Student Rocket Society (Secretary)
Email: jhing2018@my.fit.edu



#21 Michael Lafayette Hoadley

Hometown: Branford, CT
Major: Aerospace Engineering
Degree: Bachelor of Science
Graduation Date: May 2022
GPA: 3.72
Current Position: Recruitment Chair
Other Activities: Anime Club, Florida Tech Rocketry, Student Rocket Society
Email: mhoadley2018@my.fit.edu



#22 Ian Josue Leon

Hometown: San Jose, Costa Rica

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2023

GPA: 2.6

Current Position: Professional
Development Chair

Other Activity: Florida Tech Rock Climbing
Club (Secretary)

Email: leoni2019@my.fit.edu



#23 Caroline Claire Sisko

Hometown: Inverness, FL

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2022

GPA: 3.36

Other Activity: Honors College

Email: csisko2018@my.fit.edu



#24 Ryan Nicholas Hutchison

Hometown: Cocoa, FL

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2022

GPA: 2.8

Other Activities: Campus Research,
Capstone Design Lead

Email: rhutchison2018@my.fit.edu



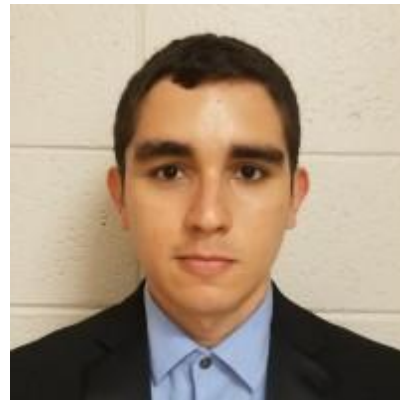
#25 Jessica Alicia Lugo

Hometown: Cherry Hill, NJ
Major: Aerospace Engineering
Degree: Bachelor of Science
Graduation Date: May 2022
GPA: 3.02
Other Activity: Anime Club
Email: jlugo2018@my.fit.edu



#26 David Enrique Nieves-Acaron

Hometown: San Juan, PR
Major: Computer Engineering
Degree: Bachelor of Science
Graduation Date: May 2022
GPA: 3.92
Other Activity: IEEE
Email: dneivesacaro2018@my.fit.edu



#27 Gerardo Rivas-Leal

Hometown: Labelle, FL
Major: Computer Engineering
Degree: Bachelor of Science
Graduation Date: May 2022
GPA: 3.51
Email: grivasleal2018@my.fit.edu



#28 Ashley Lynn Tisaranni

Hometown: Germantown, MD

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2023

GPA: 3.81

Other Activities: AIAA, Phi Eta Sigma

Email: atisaranni2019@my.fit.edu



#29 Phillip Jay Wince

Hometown: Ocean Springs, MS

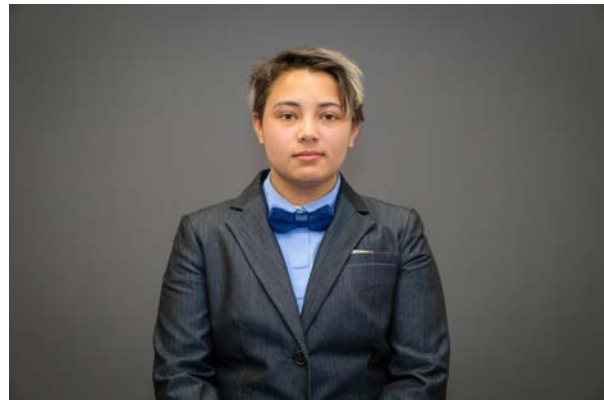
Major: Ocean Engineering

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Graduation Date: May 2024

GPA: 2.5

Email: iwince2020@my.fit.edu



About Florida Institute of Technology

Florida Institute of Technology's mission is to provide high-quality education to a culturally diverse student body in order to prepare students for entering the global workforce, seeking higher-education opportunities, and serving within their communities. The university also seeks to expand knowledge through basic and applied research and to serve the diverse economic, cultural, and societal needs of our local, state, national and international constituencies.

In support of this mission, we are committed to:

- Promoting student development by fostering and sustaining a productive institutional culture of assessment that leads to the continuous improvement of academic and administrative programs;
- Developing an organizational culture that values and encourages intellectual curiosity, a sense of belonging and shared purpose among faculty, students and staff, and the pursuit of excellence in all endeavors;
- Recruiting and developing excellent faculty to become leaders in their respective fields and internationally recognized scholars;
- Achieving recognition as an effective, innovative, technology-focused educational and research institution;
- Recruiting and retaining an excellent, highly select and culturally diverse student body;
- Continually improving the quality of campus life for all members of the university community;
- Providing personal and career growth opportunities for both traditional and nontraditional students and members of the faculty and staff;
- Securing and maintaining professional accreditation for all appropriate programs.

<https://catalog.fit.edu/>

History of Florida Institute of Technology

1958

BEC Founded by Dr. Jerome Keuper

Nicknamed the “Countdown College”, Brevard Engineering College offered educational opportunities to NASA scientists, engineers, and technicians at Cape Canaveral.

1960

Permanent Home Found

40 acres owned by the dissolved University of Melbourne was donated to BEC.

1962

BEC's First Library

The old University of Melbourne meeting hall metamorphosed into BEC's Technical Library and bookstore.

1964

BEC Gains Regional Accreditation

The university received accreditation from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

1966

BEC Expanded to Florida Institute of Technology

The Board of Trustees approves name change to more accurately reflect the university's character.

1967

School of Aeronautics Created

Student enrollment in the aviation program grew rapidly.

1969

Crawford Science Tower Opens

Fred Crawford, CEO of TRW and an aerospace leader, helped President Keuper raise funds for the Crawford building.

1970

ATI and FIT Merge

Aerospace Technical Institute eventually became the College of Aeronautics.

1975

WFIT Radio Station Begins Broadcasting

The founding of WFIT provided public radio to the Space Coast.

1977

Edward Teller Visits Florida Tech

Edward Teller, the "father of the Hydrogen Bomb," delivers the keynote address at Florida Tech's 20th Anniversary Celebration.

1980

School of Management

Jim Stoms and Joan Bixby organized the first management program in 1968. In 1980 the School of Management and Humanities was created, later named the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business.

1981

FIT Team Aids Shuttle Preparations

The FIT team was awarded an additional grant to "continue work on developing design criteria for a system to remove liquid fuel fumes from various Space Shuttle operations."

1984

John H. Evans Library Opens

John Evans, a prosperous citrus farmer, left land to the university, resulting in the construction of the library.

1990

Claude Pepper Institute Opens

Joshua Rokach headed the Claude Pepper Institute for Aging and Therapeutic Research, whose study focused on preventing arterial disease. U.S. Representative Claude Pepper was well known for helping the elderly.

George M. Skurla Hall Opens

Home of the School of Aeronautics, Skurla Hall was named for Florida Tech's Trustee, George M. Skurla, the retired President and CEO of Northrop Grumman Corporation.

1995

Space Walker

Alumna Sunita L. Williams, Master of Science in Engineering Management, 1995, is an American astronaut and a United States Navy officer. Williams holds the record for total cumulative spacewalk time by a female astronaut, totaling 50 hours and 40 minutes.

1997

FIT Receives a \$50 Million Grant

This donation from the F.W. Olin Foundation was a turning point in the development of Florida Tech. John T. Hartley was instrumental in this grant.

2000

Olin Engineering Complex and Life Sciences Building

The buildings officially opened for classes.

2003

Space Research Lands New Home

The European Space Agency (ESA) sent over 120 scientists, engineers, contractors, and technicians to Florida Tech to prepare, monitor, and run 16 biology experiments set to travel on the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Columbia Village Residence Hall Dedicated

As a memorial, each of the 7 new residence halls in Columbia Village is named in honor of the fallen astronauts who died on the Space Shuttle Columbia.

2004

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Research Center Established

This Center was funded through a \$900,000 federal appropriation won through the efforts of Congressman Dave Weldon.

2005

F.W. Olin Physical Sciences Center Opens

The final gift of \$14 million from the F.W. Olin Foundation created a home for the Departments of Chemistry, and Physics & Space Sciences.

2006

Panther 1 Rocket Launched from Cape Canaveral

Panther 1, the first student-built rocket to launch from Cape Canaveral, followed a perfect parabolic path to a splashdown in the Atlantic.

2008

Designation of Florida Institute of Technology as a Florida Heritage Site

This designation coincided with the university's golden anniversary.

2009

Scott Center for Autism Treatment Opens

The clinic is an integrated service, research, and training component of Florida Tech's School of Psychology for the Applied Behavior Analysis and Clinical graduate programs.

2013

Center for Aeronautics and Innovation

The Florida Tech Research Park's central office hosts its grand opening.

2016

Florida Academy of Sciences

The Florida Academy of Sciences moved its Headquarters to Florida Tech.

2017

Pillars of Excellence Identified

Florida Tech identified its five Pillars of Excellence as Hardware and Software Cybersecurity; Aerospace and Space Systems; Autism Treatment and Research; Human-Centered Design and Manufacturing; and Ocean, Lagoon, Climate Science and Engineering.

2018

Pirates to Panthers Academy Launched

Florida Tech and Palm Bay Magnet High School launched a dual enrollment program, Pirates to Panthers Academy, to bring high-quality, hands-on university education to participating high school students.

Colleges of Engineering, Science, and School of Computing Unified

In order to align with its identified Pillars of Excellence, Florida Tech created a unified College of Engineering and Science.

Tenure

The Board of Trustees approves a faculty tenure program at Florida Tech.

Rebranding

The University decided to move away from referring to itself as "FIT" and replaced it with "Florida Tech".

<http://timeline.fit.edu/>

About the College of Engineering and Science

Florida Tech's College of Engineering and Science is the largest community in our University. Of the approximately 2,500 undergraduate students within the college, 1,700 are pursuing ABET-accredited degrees. Currently, the college offers the following engineering degree programs:

- Aerospace Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Construction Management
- Electrical Engineering
- Systems Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Ocean Engineering
- Software Engineering

The college also offers these additional programs:

- Applied Mathematics
- Astrobiology
- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Biochemistry
- Biological, Chemical, Geological, and Physical Oceanography
- Biological Sciences
- Biomathematics
- Biomedical Science
- Chemistry
- Coastal Zone and Environmental Resource Management
- Computer Information Systems
- Conservation Technology
- Earth Remote Sensing
- Education and Interdisciplinary Studies
- Environmental Science
- Genomics and Molecular Genetics
- Information Assurance and Cybersecurity
- Mathematical Sciences

- Meteorology
- Operations Research
- Planetary Science
- Sustainability Studies
- Space Sciences

The mission of the College of Engineering and Science is to educate and challenge students in the basics of rigorous engineering and scientific theory, ethics and practice, and to expand collective knowledge through novel research, discovery and entrepreneurship. The college is enthusiastic and proud of how faculty members and students engage and answer challenging questions for numerous industry partners and government agencies, which ensure that both research and educational efforts produce a relevant and focused impact on society.



A Sunset View of (left to right) Olin Engineering Complex, Olin Physical Sciences Building, and L3Harris Center for Science and Engineering Building.

<https://catalog.fit.edu/>

History of the College of Engineering and Science

On September 22nd, 1958, Brevard Engineering College began its first semester, offering degree programs in Applied Mathematics, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. These three programs eventually became the backbone of Florida Tech's College of Engineering and Science. Since then, the college has taken many forms. From an independent College of Engineering, to a School of Computing, to a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Florida Tech evolved its engineering and science divisions to better accommodate educational and research efforts.



A Southward view of the Crawford Building.

In 1970, ABET accredited Florida Tech's Electrical Engineering degree program, which was a first for the University. That same year, construction finished on the Crawford Science Building. Early on, Crawford housed research facilities dedicated to applying nuclear technology to space exploration and water filtration. The physical remains of these efforts can be seen in a small cylindrical structure adjacent to Crawford, colloquially known today as the "atomic toilet". Currently, Crawford is used as a cross-disciplinary lecture space. In 1974, though in existence since the school's founding, the Mechanical Engineering program became ABET accredited. In 1977, the Frueauff building was donated by NASA Kennedy Space Center and was converted into an energy research facility. Currently, the building is primarily utilized for undergraduate laboratory courses. In 1979, the Link building was finished, giving a home to the Oceanography department. Today, the building is additionally used by Biomedical, Chemical, and Ocean Engineering programs. Shortly after, in 1980, the Ocean Engineering program achieved ABET Accreditation.

A number of degree programs became ABET Accredited at Florida Tech throughout the eighties and nineties. In 1983, the Chemical, Civil, and Computer Engineering programs

became accredited. An Environmental Engineering program was established and accredited in 1985, but was shortly thereafter dissolved. The school's most popular degree program, Aerospace Engineering, became accredited in 1990. Finally, the Computer Science program became ABET Accredited in 1998.

In 2000, the Olin Engineering Complex and Life Sciences buildings were open for instructional and research use. After the Olin Engineering Complex then became the new home for Computing majors, the Software Engineering program was accredited in 2003. In 2005, the Olin Physical Sciences building was finished, providing space for more undergraduate laboratories and a home to research for both astronomy and high-energy physics. In 2009, the L3Harris Center for Science and Engineering Building was completed, now housing Marine Biology and Computing research facilities. Shortly thereafter, the Biomedical Engineering program was established and accredited in 2014. Finally, in 2015, the airplane hangar-shaped L3Harris Student Design Center was finished, complementing the pre-existing machine shop by allocating a formal space for both general and senior design projects.

The College of Engineering and Science was created after the College of Engineering and Computing was unified with the College of Science and the Human-Centered Design Institute in 2018. During the unification, six departments were created to align with the university vision and its Pillars of Excellence. These departments were the following:

- Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences
- Biomedical and Chemical Engineering and Sciences
- Computer Engineering and Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Mechanical and Civil Engineering
- Ocean Engineering and Marine Sciences

As we look to the future, the college is planning an expansion into health science education and research. The Health Sciences Research Center is slated to be completed in December 2021, and will physically complete the campus area informally known as the "Olin Quad". The new facility will become the cornerstone of the anticipated growth of Florida Tech's Biomedical Engineering and Science programs.

History of the Florida Institute of Technology Colony of Theta Tau

One Saturday afternoon in January 2017, a group of students at Florida Tech were discussing the lack of a campus community where all engineering students could live, learn, and grow together. Some argued that this already weakly existed in Greek life because of the large number of engineering students at the school. Others lamented that none were oriented to allow students to grow as young professionals and leaders, and that Greek life solely consisted of gender-exclusive organizations. The only group that weakly resembled what they desired was a recently-folded Triangle Fraternity interest group, and even they were primarily a social group on top of being a gender-exclusive organization.

Some of those students decided to pursue starting a campus organization to fill the void that they discussed, and they decided to create a local co-ed fraternity. After learning about Theta Tau, the nation's foremost co-ed engineering fraternity, the group realized that Theta Tau's purpose and values were closely aligned with theirs. They wanted to learn more, so on February 10th, 2017, Peter Tarsoly, a freshman studying Computer Engineering, spoke with Executive Director Michael T. Abraham. The meeting went well, and Abe demonstrated an interest in one day bringing Theta Tau to Florida Tech. From then, the local fraternity continued their efforts and became a recognized student organization on February 22nd, going by the name Zeta Theta Tau. Shortly thereafter, the first official meeting was held on February 27th, 2017. The first semester of the local fraternity's existence consisted of 10 core members, along with their first social and professional development events.

During the Fall 2017 semester, the local fraternity grew once again. In addition to gaining new members, the group also secured an advisor, Dr. Vipuil Kishore, from the Chemical Engineering department. On October 21st, 2017, Abe and the group had a meeting to discuss the path forward towards colony certification and the national organization at large. Additionally, the group's initial bylaws were ratified. After the meeting, the group worked hard to prepare themselves to become a colony of Theta Tau, which included creating a petition and updating bylaws to include preliminary group elections during the first meeting in the month of December. The group also held their first service event that semester, along with various social and professional development events.

The Spring 2018 semester brought the members of the local fraternity closer, as they started to realize fraternal fellowship. A combination of service and social events was critical for that to occur. On the service side, the local fraternity started to interact more

with other campus organizations. They volunteered in the planning and execution of the campus-wide Engineers' Week 2018, and collaborated with the local Alpha Phi Omega chapter to organize a beach cleanup. On the social side, the local fraternity organized game and movie nights, beach days, a hike, and an end of the semester trip to Disney. While the group grew closer, they successfully submitted a petition to become a colony of Theta Tau.

After months of planning, the Florida Institute of Technology Colony of Theta Tau was certified on August 25th, 2018 with 15 founders. The founding executive board consisted of Peter Tarsoly as Regent, Garrett Jacobellis as Vice Regent, Nathan Parker as Scribe, Camara Casson as Treasurer, and Robert Whitman as Corresponding Secretary. The brothers were ecstatic to meet Theta Tau brothers, both active and alumni, who came not only from around the Gulf region, but from around the country. The remainder of the Fall 2018 semester was characterized by bringing in the first official pledge class and continuing to form brotherhood within the colony. In March 2019, brothers visited Rho Gamma during their alumni weekend. Those who attended quickly realized that they too wanted to someday host a gathering of their magnitude and began to plan out how the colony could grow to that size.

The Fall 2019 semester is considered a turning point in the colony's history. On November 2nd, 2019, the colony was visited by Colony Director Kristen Bobuk to discuss their future. While they determined that they were not quite ready to become a Theta Tau chapter, the visit served as a reminder that the road ahead would require the utmost effort of all brothers if they were to eventually become a chapter. As a result, the colony became busy with service, professional development, and brotherhood events.

The colony continued to build on their recently reestablished efforts to grow themselves into the Spring 2020 semester. Brothers brought in ten prospective members that semester, making them the largest group since the founding class. Over the weekend of January 17th, 2020, the colony went on their first camping trip to Salt Springs in Ocala National Forest. The trip helped form a strong bond between the brothers. Other significant events planned included resurrecting Florida Tech Engineering Week to be carried out at the end of March, attending the Gulf Regional conference hosted by Zeta Gamma, and the colony's first formal in April. Unfortunately, that all came to a screeching halt on March 13th, 2020, due to the initial lockdowns and chaos caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost immediately, many in the group scattered out to different corners of the state, country, and world. Many of the prospective members dropped out of both the colony and school, cutting the class in half. If it were not for that initial camping trip, houses and apartments where brothers locked down together, and a colony Minecraft server, the colony may have ceased to exist by the end of that semester. Nevertheless, they persisted forward.

Over Summer 2020, the colony was at a crossroads about redefining their operations during COVID-19. While the colony fully intended on visiting the national convention in Tampa to connect with Theta Tau brothers across the country, they were able to achieve this at a smaller scale, in a rather unconventional way. Some of the brothers joined the national Minecraft server, which not only provided some distraction from the day-to-day trials and tribulations faced during that period, but also served as a place to mingle with Theta Tau brothers. Early on, the brothers rekindled their relationship with actives and alumni of Rho Gamma, along with meeting some brothers from both inside and outside the Gulf region. These interactions, though informal, gave the brothers insight into what they could achieve both in virtual and socially distanced mediums.

As the Fall 2020 semester approached, the colony planned to hold primarily virtual events and a return to weekly meetings, combined with some carefully planned in-person events. After partnering with Rigg's Outpost, a local boat and kayak rental business, brothers kayaked out on the local Crane Creek to collect waste. Ultimately, they were able to help collect over 70 pounds of waste over a two-hour period on October 12th, 2020. The colony additionally started holding weekly meme contests and created a new position with a weekly term called the Meme Lord. Prior to each week's meeting, the Meme Lord picks a winner for that week's contest, who is then appointed Meme Lord for that next week. Despite the nature of the event, it provided another channel for active brothers and alumni to reconnect during this trying time.

As the Spring 2021 semester progressed, the colony continued to thrive. While they continued holding virtual movie and game nights, those living in Melbourne started hiking in small groups. Professional Development flourished during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, which included talks from alumni, LinkedIn, and résumé nights. One of the colony's goals during the Spring 2021 semester was to provide opportunities to the general student body in the area of professional development. They were able to meet this through their PTC Creo virtual workshop series, COVID-conscious professional headshot event, and Florida Tech Engineer's week. Moving forward, the colony plans to organize these events again in the future. In March 2021, more than half of the colony attended both the Eastern and Western 2021 Virtual Spring Regional Conferences. The brothers enjoyed connecting and learning from Theta Tau brothers both within the Gulf region and around the country. Finally, brothers became increasingly communicative with the Zeta Gamma chapter, culminating in a joint Minecraft night in May 2021.

Looking towards the future, the colony is in the process of planning out operations as they see light at the end of the COVID-shaped tunnel. Facility tours, a blood drive, and a camping

trip are just some of what is in store, pandemic pending. In the long term, the colony is looking to attain a permanent headquarters in the form of an office within Evans Hall.

As the local fraternity once fought against the odds every step of the way to become a colony of Theta Tau, the colony has faced far greater challenges. Similarly, against all odds, the colony has been resilient, and has put all of its efforts into finally becoming not only a sustainable colony, but soon a sustainable chapter of Theta Tau.



Brothers after the initiation of the Spring 2019 pledge class.

Advisor Vipuil Kishore



Dr. Kishore is an Associate Professor in chemical engineering and biomedical engineering programs at Florida Tech. He received his BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Madras University, Chennai, India in 2000, and his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI in 2009. After completing his doctoral degree, Dr. Kishore acquired his postdoctoral training at Purdue University and Case Western Reserve University. At Florida Tech, he is the principal investigator of the Functional Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Laboratory. Research projects currently ongoing in his research lab center on biomaterial development, cell-material interactions, in vitro tissue models, tissue engineering, and regenerative medicine. Specifically, research in his laboratory strives to develop novel strategies to recreate the tissue microenvironment and investigate the effects of biomimetic cues on cell response and tissue remodeling. He has published over 25 journal articles, 2 book chapters, and presented at numerous national conferences. He is a full member of Sigma Xi, Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), and Society for Biomaterials (SFB).

Brotherhood Highlights

November 9th, 2019 - Ice Skating



Skating at the Space Coast Iceplex.

Faced with a warm Fall, brothers ventured out to the Space Coast Iceplex to remember what cold weather feels like. Despite their sub-zero abilities to skate, they still had a cool experience.

January 17th-19th, 2020 - Salt Springs Campout



Brothers enjoying s'mores, stories, and songs around the campfire.

In Florida, one of the best months to go camping is January. For our inaugural camping trip, we decided to go to Salt Springs in Ocala National Forest. The trip included a two night stay,

a hike, and a swim in the pristine Salt Springs. Colony members came back from the trip with a refreshed desire to continue improving the group, and a deeper bond.

December 20th, 2020 - Virtual Secret Santa

While we couldn't have our traditional end of the year gathering in 2020 due to COVID-19, we decided to host a virtual Secret Santa event. Brothers shipped presents to each other, only to open them during the event in front of the group on camera. The Colony also took time to reflect on the past year, and shared some well-needed thoughts and laughter.

Ongoing - Virtual Movie and Game Nights



A screenshot of an area shared by Colony Brothers on the Theta Tau National Minecraft server.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Colony members have gathered for both scheduled and impromptu virtual watch parties and game nights. From reciting Monty Python film lines, to interacting with brothers of Theta Tau across the country on the national Minecraft server, Colony Members have been able to find solace interacting with each other, and with Theta Tau brothers, through these activities. Most recently, Colony members organized a Minecraft night with Zeta Gamma in May 2021.

Ongoing - Meme Contest

Started in the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester, the Colony holds a weekly Meme Contest. The brother who won the previous week's contest is dubbed the "Meme Lord", and gets to choose who wins the current week's contest. Though there are no tangible rewards

for winning, members do get to hold bragging rights. The Meme Contest is simply another way we keep the Brotherhood alive and well during the pandemic.

Brotherhood Events

10/6/2018 - Beach Day
10/19/2018 - DnD Night
12/3/2018 - Mini Catapult Contest
12/9/2018 - Secret Santa
3/1/2019 - Capture the Flag
3/2/2019 - Rho Gamma Visit
3/15/2019 - Learn how to play card games night
8/24/2019 - Beach Day
9/20/2019 - Movie Night
10/29/2019 - Halloween Costume Contest and Social
11/9/2019 - Ice Skating
1/17-19/2020 - Salt Springs Campout
February-Early March 2020 - Sunday night game nights
3/13/2020 - Beach Day
September 2020 - Ongoing - Weekly meme contest
September - Ongoing - Biweekly virtual movie and game nights
12/20/2020 - Virtual Secret Santa
April - May 2021 - COVID-conscious Wooden Letters Project
5/28/2021 - Minecraft night with Zeta Gamma



Brothers at an impromptu lunch.

Professional Development Highlights

March 1st-3rd, 2019 - Trip to UCF KnightHacks Hackathon



Brothers Kaynor (center) and Syed (right) after winning an award for their project, Waste Sorter.

Many brothers have found an opportunity to professionally grow through attending college hackathons, such as KnightHacks, together. From technical knowledge to presentation skills, colony members have gained far more than merely winning awards at these events.

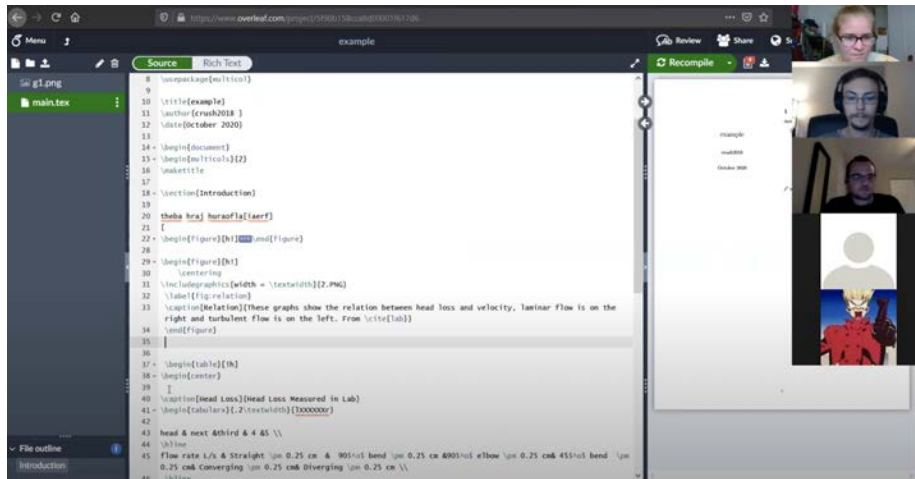
November 15th, 2019 - Alumna presentation - *Engineering after Education* by Amanda Noori



Alumna Amanda Noori presenting on Engineering after Education.

Alumna Amanda Noori presented on Engineering professions not typically covered in a traditional degree program. She gave insight on what it takes to become a Manufacturing Engineer, from her recent experiences working at Embraer.

October 21st, 2020 - LaTeX Workshop



Brothers learned how to use LaTeX formatting in this informative workshop.

Regent Cassie Rush presented on using LaTeX to help increase our technical writing capabilities. Attendees left the workshop with hands-on experience in using features such as figures, tables, formulas, and general LaTeX formatting.

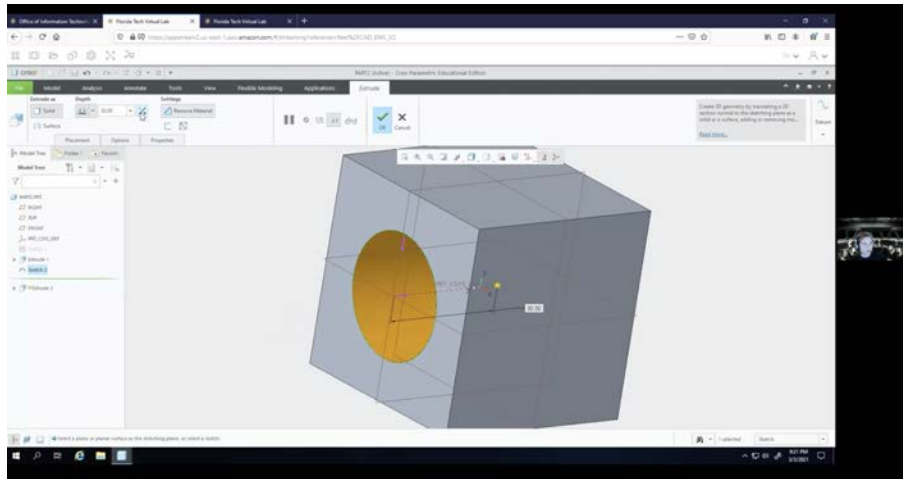
November 16th, 2020 - Alumni presentation - *Success Through Continuous Improvement* by Amanda Noori



The Presentation Introduction from Success Through Continuous Improvement

Success Through Continuous Improvement, a virtual presentation given by colony alumna and current Manufacturing Engineer Amanda Noori, introduced the continuous improvement cycle along with the concept of Kaizen. She provided attendees with a firm understanding of the connection between these concepts and their applications to industry.

March 3rd, 2021 - PTC Creo CAD Workshop



Basic CAD skills were introduced at our Colony's workshop.

Our Colony hosted an introductory virtual Creo workshop this past March. After gauging the interest of the student body and members of Theta Tau across the country, we made it a public event. The event introduced Florida Tech's virtual platform to access the software along with basic CAD skills.

April 10th, 2021 - Professional Headshot Event

Many of our own Colony Members had outdated professional headshots from before the COVID-19 pandemic. This prompted us to host a COVID-friendly headshot event, open to the on-campus student body. COVID guidelines were followed, including limited attendance, temperature screenings, mask enforcement, and social distancing all within one of the largest lecture halls on campus.

Professional Development Events

9/14-16/2018 - Trip to FIU ShellHacks Hackathon

2/9-10/2019 - Trip to ERAU HackRiddle Hackathon

3/1-3/2019 - Trip to UCF KnightHacks Hackathon

10/19/2019 - Trip to NASA Space Apps Competition in Orlando

11/15/2019 - Alumni presentation - *Engineering after Education*

2/14/2020 - Valentine's Day Communication Workshop

10/21/2020 - LaTeX Workshop

11/9/2020 - Virtual Talk with Career Services

11/16/2020 - Alumni presentation - *Success Through Continuous Improvement*

11/23/2020 - LinkedIn Workshop with Alumni

2/26/2021 - Résumé Workshop

3/3/2021 - PTC Creo Workshop

4/13 - 17/2021 - Florida Tech Engineers Week 2021



Brothers attending a Career Fair together.

Service Highlights

November 16th, 2019 - Ponce De Leon Park Cleanup



Brothers cleaning up Ponce De Leon park in Melbourne Beach.

After locating a local park in need of cleaning, brothers collected waste at Ponce De Leon park in Melbourne Beach. While not directly on the beach, their efforts helped beautify the surrounding area.

October 12th, 2020 - Crane Creek Cleanup



Brothers picking up trash on the banks of Crane Creek on Kayaks.

With the rise of single-use products plaguing our fragile local ecosystem brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Colony Members were invited by Riggs Outpost to help collect trash built up within Crane Creek. Kayaks were used to get into hard to reach areas, such as mangroves and banks without pedestrian access. Members helped collect over 70 pounds of waste, all while following COVID protocols, such as temperature checks and mask enforcement in areas where social distancing was not possible.

Service Events

- 1/19/2019 - Melbourne Beach Cleanup
- 11/16/2019 - Ponce De Leon Park Cleanup
- 1/11/2020 - Space Coast Games Referees
- 2/23/2020 - Florida Tech Big Day of Service
- 10/12/2020 - Crane Creek Cleanup



A joint Theta Tau/Alpha Phi Omega beach cleanup in Melbourne Beach.



May 26, 2021
Theta Tau
2131 W. Republic Road #528
Springfield, MO 65807

Dear Jim Gaffney,

It is with great honor that I provide my sincere and honest input on the Florida Tech Colony of Theta Tau. I have been working with Theta Tau for the past few years as their supervisor and resource as the Coordinator for Student Activities. In my role, I oversee every single one of the student-run clubs and organizations, including all Honor Societies, on campus.

Theta Tau works together tirelessly to improve themselves each semester and their efforts are evident. The way in which the members interact with each other has created a very supportive and encouraging atmosphere which has, no doubt, helped them within their academic, professional, and personal growth. This is exactly why the founders started the colony back in 2017, and it has truly benefitted the university and has led to the organization having some of the most incredible student leaders I have ever had the privilege of working with. However, that was just the beginning. They increased their civic engagement on campus in the community, their membership size, and professional connects. While COVID slowed down many other organizations, Theta Tau utilized the spring and summer of 2020 to actively plan for and absorb any damages the pandemic would cause to student involvement. Personally, I think they were one of our most active organizations that serves as a star example for everyone else.

This organization is always on top of all requirements and policies set by the Student Life office. While they are always one of the first to turn in documents and reports, have their website up to date, and have perfect attendance at leadership events, they have gone above and beyond what was expected of them. They flawlessly adapted to a virtual and then hybrid system and kept on hosting events and gaining interest. They hosted numerous professional development events, even working with Career Services to host events, which enabled members to network with professionals and alumni, build hard and soft skills, and upgrade their resumes. They hosted service projects to get themselves involved with the community and better the world as well as numerous brotherhood events which has helped the colony build relationships. The most impressive thing this colony has done, in my opinion, has been reviving the tradition of Florida Tech's Engineering week. Theta Tau planned an incredible program, which was unfortunately canceled due to COVID, but was perfectly organized and would have included students from every corner of campus. They brought it back, mostly virtual, this past year and even added an incredible civic engagement aspect. I was extremely excited for this theme week to be brought back and proud at their execution.

It is for all these reasons that I highly recommend and support the Florida Tech Colony of Theta Tau become an official chapter here on campus. I look forward to working with them as an official chapter and am excited to see what amazing things are in store for them ahead.

Sincerely,



Michelle Hazlett
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
**Coordinator of Student Life
Student Activities**

Division of Student Life
321.674.8080 | mhazlett@fit.edu
floridatech.edu/student-involvement
150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901



College of Engineering and Science
Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering and Sciences

May 30, 2021

RE: Support Letter for Theta Tau Chapter at Florida Tech

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter in strong support of the petition filed by Florida Tech Theta Tau colony to become a chapter of the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity. I have been serving as their faculty advisor since September 2017 and I am truly impressed by their commitment to the goals of the Theta Tau organization, diligent work ethic, and brotherhood. Over the past few years, I have witnessed firsthand their growth from the early days of their inception as an interest group to colonization, and how the Theta Tau colony has blossomed on Florida Tech campus. Based on my close mentorship interaction with them, I am confident that Theta Tau will continue to progress and flourish on Florida Tech campus.

I have always admired the hard work and dedication of the Theta Tau colony members to excel in any activity that they undertake. These activities include conducting professional development, student recruitment, service, and fundraising events on campus and within Brevard county. For example, members of the Theta Tau colony went on a camping trip to Salt Springs in Ocala in January 2020 to strengthen the bond between them, participated in Florida Tech engineering week in 2020 and 2021, volunteered at local establishments, and attended several regional conferences. In addition, executive members of the Theta Tau colony carried out student recruitment activities by visiting the classrooms of different engineering programs to educate the incoming freshmen as well as sophomores and juniors about Theta Tau events. Despite facing the challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Theta Tau colony continued to thrive by conducting several virtual events including movie and game nights, organizing professional development activities such as alumni talks, LinkedIn workshops and resume building nights, and carrying out CAD workshops and a Covid-conscious headshot event. As life is slowly returning to normalcy, the Theta Tau colony plans to continue to organize new professional development activities to serve the student community and the local region of Brevard county.

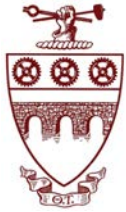
I personally know many of the students within the organization and I am truly impressed by their leadership qualities and passion for the Theta Tau organization. I have no doubt that Theta Tau will be a successful professional chapter on Florida Tech campus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Vipuil Kishore, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
(Email): vkishore@fit.edu

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vipuil K." with a period at the end.



THETA TAU
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY
Founded 1904

May 10, 2021

Dear Brothers:

I am pleased to write in support of Florida Institute of Technology Colony of Theta Tau's petition for installation as a chapter.

I first met with the students from Florida Tech on December 5, 2020, via videoconference in the middle of the nationwide COVID shutdown. Even at that time, I was impressed by the colony members' ability and willingness to take on the challenges of starting up a chapter at FIT compounded with the challenges of COVID with the extra difficulty of navigating administrative requirements from the school. Their colony, like so many chapters and colonies, went entirely online and provided relevant professional and social events to members within the campus area as well as nationally and internationally for students who were unable to return to the United States. More important than their success in delivering these programs was their collective attitude when facing these challenges. I never heard them complain or doubt their abilities to overcome obstacles, exemplifying a hammer-and-tongs spirit.

Their progress has been excellent, with officers and chairs transitioning and making a point to pass on the lessons they've learned to their successors, making me confident that they will be well positioned to continue as a student organization after their founding members have graduated and moved into their careers. They have shown good judgment in their decisions in how to develop their colony and commendable resolve when the outcomes they received were not the ones they had hoped for.

Personally, I am looking forward to meeting their delegation face-to-face at Convention this year, and I recommend you make an effort to do the same. I am proud to recommend approving FIT Colony's petition to become a chapter of Theta Tau.

In H and T,

Dan Jensen
Colony Director

1537 NW 7th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32603
(407) 462-7323
pg13759@gmail.com

May 2021

Dear Brothers,

I am very pleased and honored to recommend that the Florida Institute of Technology colony of be installed as an official chapter of Theta Tau. I have had the pleasure of interacting with many of their members and certainly believe that they would represent Theta Tau properly and be a true asset to the Gulf region.

Over the time that I have known the members of the FIT colony, they have been nothing but brotherly to our members at Zeta Gamma. They have hosted events at their university with a focus on professional development and selfless service, and as a chapter I am sure that they would continue to give back to their community. This colony has persevered in the face of extreme adversity in the form of a global pandemic and impressed both myself and the brothers at Zeta Gamma as a whole with their dedication. The members of their executive council have also expressed much interest in growing the fraternity of Theta Tau, and with FIT's strong roots in engineering I believe they can bring many new, valuable members into the brotherhood.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly believe that this colony is more than qualified in becoming a successful chapter of Theta Tau and look forward to their initiation. I am also very excited about the future of Theta Tau at FIT and more representation of our excellent fraternity in the state of Florida.

In H&T,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Gros". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Gros

ZG #664 XX! TT!