

# THE THETA RECORD

Official Newsletter of the Theta Chapter of Chi Phi Fraternity

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# RPI RELATIONS

Following our probationary semester last Fall, the Theta Chapter set ambitious goals for the Spring to improve relations with the Fraternity and Sorority Commons (FSC) and the broader campus community. Early in the semester, Associate Greek Dean Ethan Stubbs expressed his satisfaction with the results of our support plan from last Fall and anticipated our continued cooperation. We have strived to exceed expectations through active participation and high-quality involvement in all FSC events, meetings, and other requirements. Strengthened relations with the school have enabled our Chapter to focus on campus outreach and operations, which have seen significant improvement.

We successfully reintroduced numerous philanthropy and community events, including our St. Baldrick's fundraiser, which raised nearly \$12,000, Faculty Dinner, and Dog Days. Our campus visibility has increased through new initiatives such as "Commons takeovers," open BBQ nights, more frequent tabling, and involvement in club and Greek community philanthropy events like Bwenzi's Family Feud night and AGD's dance competition.

With support from the newly appointed Assistant Greek Deans, the FSC office has intensified its presence within the Greek community, implementing various new standards and events. They have established a new accreditation program that serves as the annual recognition process for fraternities and sororities, enabling chapters to maintain good standing with the institution. This program includes various standards of excellence across categories such as academics, chapter operations, member development, leadership, and experiential learning. Each category has specific requirements assigned a point value, and chapters are scored based on the percentage of accumulated points. Additionally, this semester saw the introduction of the annual Excellence and Achievement Awards for individuals in every council, where we earned the highest number of awards among fraternities. The following Spring ceremony will include community awards and the results of accreditation.

Furthermore, we have revitalized our presence within the Interfraternity Council (IFC) with Br. John Cohen and Br. Soulaymana Barry, having served their first term as President and Vice President of Community Relations, respectively. John has significantly enhanced the efficiency and authority of the IFC, introducing initiatives such as Spirit Week, General Body Meeting breakout groups, and a new IFC Judicial Board, and is currently developing an IFC website to improve communication and transparency. Soul has also been substantially impactful in organizing events such as the Day of Service and a Suicide Prevention Walk.

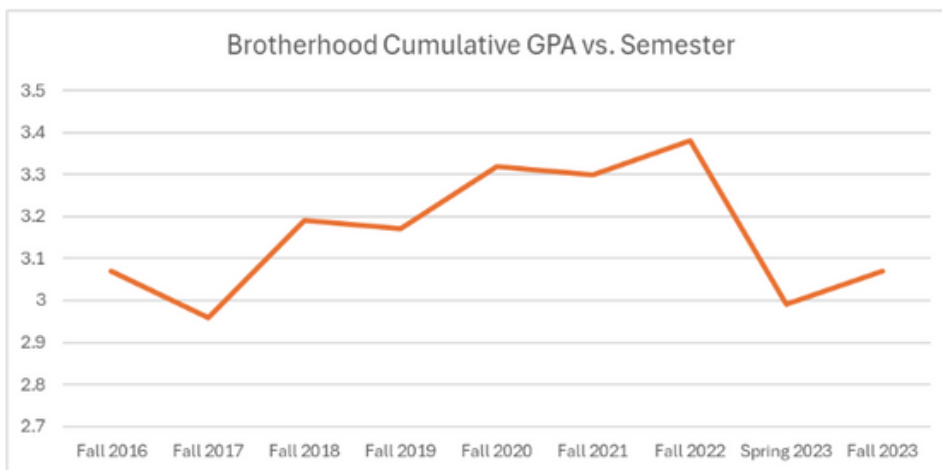


Brothers and PNMs after St. Baldrick's Fundraiser

# UPDATES FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

## Academics and Member Education

The Chapter intensified its efforts to improve our cumulative GPA this semester. We continued hosting study hours twice per week, with one session held in the Student Union to increase our visibility and image on campus. Incentives for study hours include an achievement chart, a raffle rewarding Brothers for their academic success, and fresh-baked cookies once a week during study hours! Additionally, the Chapter implemented an extensive tutoring program for both Brothers and New Members, providing essential tools for academic success. These efforts have paid off, and we have successfully raised our cumulative GPA this semester from 2.99 last semester to 3.07.



Currently, one Brother is actively engaged in research on campus. Br. Jared Zornitzer completed two undergraduate research projects last year and has made significant progress on his Master's project this Spring. His work designing RPI's new Center for Robotic Manufacturing Systems led to RPI receiving \$1 million in federal funding to acquire advanced machinery and establish a state-of-the-art facility in the coming years.

## Staying Social

As the Brotherhood continues to improve our reputation, we maintained a strong focus on internal events this semester while ensuring a presence on campus. Br. Soulaymana Barry, our Brotherhood chair, hosted various events such as bonfires, brotherhood-wide competitive challenges, and casino nights in collaboration with our Total Member Educator. A handful of our Brothers also visited Upstate New York to catch an incredible viewing of the solar eclipse this year.

Additionally, we have been steadily growing our presence and reputation. This semester, we had two social events with AGD: team-based competitive games and an Easter Egg Hunt. We also hosted a faculty dinner where the brothers invited professors and administration members. Brothers actively engaged in thoughtful and connective conversations, forging meaningful connections with the faculty. The dinner was a great success, and we look forward to hosting many more faculty members who could not attend this time. The Brotherhood also took part in our first formal since Spring 2022. We hosted the event in the RPI Ballroom and enjoyed our food and each other's company, not to mention some great speeches!

Overall, we have had better social success this semester than last. We plan to continue building on this momentum through more joint events with other Greek organizations and hosted events open to RPI students and faculty.



Brothers and RPI Faculty at Faculty Dinner

## Philanthropy

The active Brotherhood went above and beyond in its dedication to Philanthropic service this semester, with over 300 hours logged and three-quarters of the Brotherhood exceeding the expected eight-hour contribution for philanthropic service.

The organization we most consistently volunteered at this semester was for clean-ups at the Victorious Life Christian Church for His Table, a soup kitchen in downtown Troy. Since service is an essential part of our new member process and is thoroughly stressed throughout its entirety, our latest members also dedicated over four hours to volunteering for His Table. We also continued our semesterly tradition of donating to Chi Phi's national charity RAINN by donating our proceeds from our fundraiser Casa de Quesadilla and selling hot chocolate at tabling events. The outgoing and incoming Philanthropy chairs organized our Dog Days event as a destress event during reading days with three dogs, pizza, and lawn games, which resulted in a great turnout with many students enjoying the nice weather and company of some great dogs to destress before finals week. Our most successful event was our annual St. Baldrick's fundraiser. We raised \$11,714 for childhood cancer research, with sixteen members of the IFC shaving their heads in a powerful show of solidarity.

As the next semester approaches, we plan to continue our history of Philanthropic service as we look towards volunteering for the Albany Boys and Girls Club for their annual Halloween Haunted House, fundraising more for RAINN, and extending out to volunteering at more organizations.



Brothers at a tabling event raising money for homeless veterans

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



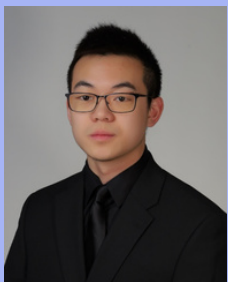
**Br. Ethan Fovel**  
BS Mechanical and  
Aeronautical Engineering

Ethan has served as Zeta and Alumni Relations. He is working on continuous improvement at GS Precision in Keene, NH.



**Br. Roberto Lopez**  
BS Mechanical Engineering

Roberto has served as Eta, Steward, and chairman of the Judicial Board. He plans to move to New London, Connecticut, as he has accepted a job at Electric Boat, where he will work as a Nuclear Engineer designing new propulsion systems for the next class of submarines.



**Br. Alexander Liu**  
BS Computer Science and  
Mathematics

Alex has served as Alpha and Epsilon. After graduation, Alex began working as a software engineer at Google in New York City.



**Br. Aadith Ratish**  
BS Physics

Aadith has served as Iota, Gamma, Steward, and Scholarship Chair. He plans to pursue an IBM data and financial analysis certification from CalTech.



Brothers after winning a semesterly Brotherhood event



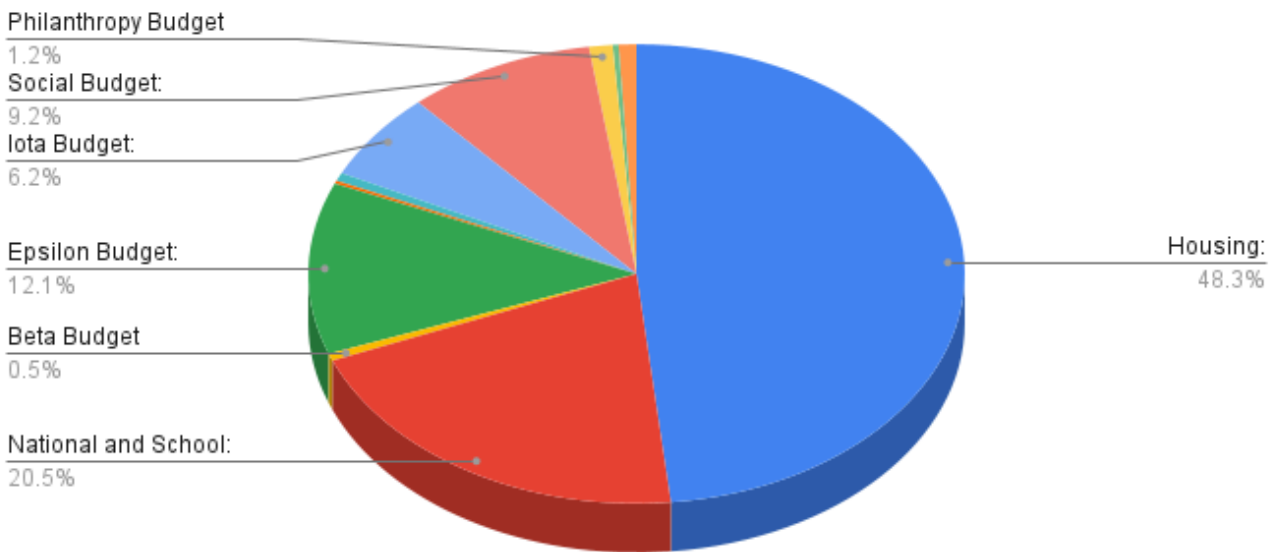
Brothers and RPI students at Dog Days

# CHAPTER OPERATIONS

## Finances

As of April 21, our organization's monetary assets total \$42,020, with \$30,192 in our savings account and \$7,870 in our checking account. While no significant purchases were made this semester, we significantly exceeded our water usage budget. Our stocks are currently valued at \$15,006. Below is a pie chart of our budget for next semester.

We sincerely thank our alumni for their generous donations, which have supported our Chapter's financial health. We want to give a special shout-out to our respected Alumnus, Br. Charles Hammond III of the Rho Pledge Class, for donating \$1,500 to our Epsilon budget! As we look forward to upcoming projects and initiatives, we encourage continued contributions to sustain and enhance our Chapter's operations.



## Bylaws and Chapter Organization

This semester, the Judicial Board proposed, and the Chapter passed, three significant changes to the Chapter bylaws aimed at improving the organization and operations of our Fraternity. First, brothers with negative semesterly points by the start of the housing lottery will be placed last and ordered among themselves by total points. This change, detailed in Article XI: Housing, Section 5: Housing Selection Order and Residence, involved renaming the current Part 5.8 to 5.9 and adding a new Part 5.8. This new part stipulates that all brothers with a negative semesterly point sum at the time of the housing lottery will follow in seniority, ordered in descending order of their total points, with those with more total points receiving higher priority.

Second, the Public Relations Chairman will now be responsible for maintaining all social media accounts owned by the Chapter. This update to Article VI: Officers, Section 13: Public Relations Chairman, involved renaming Part 4.5 to 4.6 and adding a new Part 4.5. This addition assigns the PR Chairman to coordinate publications and events coverage in Chapter-owned social media accounts.

Third, a procedure for property damage fines was established. According to the new addition in Article IV: Membership, Section 5: Finance, should any member cause property damage to the house, the Executive Board will propose an appropriate fine. This proposed fine will be subject to a majority approval vote by the Executive Board. It can be overturned by a three-fourths majority vote by either the Brotherhood or the Judicial Board.

## Housing

This semester's goal was to begin preparations for the 200th anniversary by beautifying both houses. With this concept in mind, the Brotherhood undertook extensive cleaning and organizing projects, including tidying up the wiring closet, annex basement, and main basement. Since we were allowed to host social events this semester, we focused on making the basement presentable by replacing damaged ceiling tiles, cleaning walls, and disposing trash.

During the semester, our water bill for the main house spiked significantly. With the assistance of the housing corporation, we identified and resolved most of the issues. Additionally, we replaced the window in the M2 bathroom.

Looking towards the future, we have several projects lined up. Over the summer, with the help of the housing corporation, we plan to redo the M33 ceiling, fix the roof leak, and refinish the walls in A22. Another goal is to clean up and repair the walkway between the houses and the backyard. Any unfinished tasks will be addressed during the upcoming work week. We will collaborate closely with the housing corporation to plan the work week and determine the projects they want to be completed around the house. Our aim in all these efforts is to ensure that both houses and our properties, in general, look excellent for the upcoming celebrations.

## Risk Management

We are proud to report that in the semesterly fire inspection with the school, we received a score of 468/520 (90%) for The Chi and 490/515 (95%) for The Annex, with only minor infractions noted, including two 24-hour violations with smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. The Eta promptly and properly mitigated these violations. The incoming Eta is committed to maintaining high inspection scores next semester, continuing to impress RPI and FSC administrators, and ensuring a safer and cleaner living environment for those residing in-house.

## Meal Plan

This semester, our Steward's efforts focused on providing nutritious and enjoyable meals for the Brotherhood. Here are some of the most enjoyed dinners:

- [Shepherd's Pie](#)
- [Chicken Katsu Curry](#)
- [Tacos Al Pastor](#)
- [Pan Fried Chicken](#)
- [Garlic Honey Salmon](#)
- [Chicken Tikka](#)

With an increased Steward budget, we initiated frequent barbecue nights open to the entire Brotherhood, outside friends, and Potential New Members (PNMs). Additionally, we organized several "Commons Takeovers" this semester in a joint effort between the Steward and Iota. During these events, groups of two active members sat down with RPI students in the Commons Dining Hall to build connections and invite them to our events. This initiative has helped us expand our network and attract potential new members to our Chapter. These events have proven effective in boosting our recruitment efforts and bolstering our image on campus.



Br. Jared Zornitzer cooking  
Tacos Al Pastor

# CHAPTER GROWTH

## Rush

This semester's rush process provided our Chapter with valuable insights. Our primary focus was increasing the number of people walking through our door and enhancing our campus presence. Although we expanded our public reach and reputation, we could only secure three pledges this semester.

Our first event, Lobsterfest, attracted a large crowd thanks to our advertising efforts through multimedia outlets and poster sessions. We saw a similar turnout during Wingstock, our second most significant event, where we successfully maintained many contacts. Another successful event was Casino Night, which facilitated the most interactions between brothers and Potential New Members (PNMs). Given its success, we are considering hosting Casino Night once a month, regardless of the rush season, as it helped us build closer relationships with the PNMs.

In addition to these more significant events, we hosted many smaller, more intimate gatherings like watch parties and study hours. These allowed brothers and PNMs to develop friendly relationships and gauge mutual interest. Unfortunately, the unpredictable weather mix of snow and rain affected the success of some smaller events, leading us to reconsider the setup of future events due to the cost of supplies.

One key observation from this semester was that while Lobsterfest garnered a large crowd, most attendees were one-time visitors. Given the rising costs and lack of efficiency, we are contemplating discontinuing Lobsterfest as a rush event in the future. Instead, our resources would be better spent on events that foster deeper connections with PNMs who show significant interest. In the future, we aim to focus on smaller, more exclusive events to secure PNMs rather than attract many visitors. Potential events include outdoor grilling, bonfires, hikes, and day outings to New York City for activities like catching a Yankees game, which we have all done before.

We hope the number of contacts we gained through our increased campus presence will provide a solid foundation for next semester's rush.



Brothers and PNMs at Lobsterfest





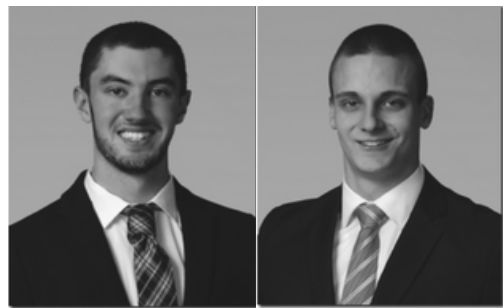
Brothers and PNMs at Casino Night



Brothers and PNMs at BBQ and Lawn Games

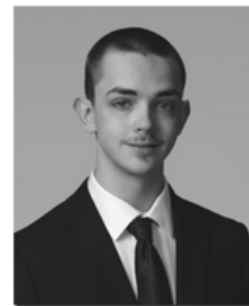
## New Members

The Chapter joyfully welcomes three fresh faces into the Nu Triton Pledge Class this semester: Landon Hembdt, a Mechanical Engineering major from Ellenville, NY; Owen Perala, a Mechanical Engineering major from Troy, NY; and Carl Rucker, an Aerospace Engineering major from Watkill, NY. With heightened dedication, we've engaged in acquainting them with our values, ensuring the integrity of our Brotherhood. They approached all assigned tasks with unwavering commitment. We anticipate swift contributions from all three individuals, as their enthusiasm radiated throughout the process, showcasing their commitment to embracing truth, honor, and personal integrity.



LONDON HEMBDT

OWEN PERALA



CARL RUCKER



Brothers at total solar eclipse in Upstate New York



Br. Richard Gonzalez and Sweetheart Tabitha Henriquez

# NATIONAL AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

## National Relations

Brothers Ryan Snell and Michael Samir attended the Alphas and Thetas Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, this past winter. This event provided an excellent opportunity to engage with Brothers from across the country, various alumni, staff, and members of the Grand Council. They brought back valuable knowledge to the Chapter about effective leadership, communication with other officers, chapter growth, and promoting the values of the Fraternity. The Theta Chapter was also proud to have our very own Nathan Rosengrant facilitate one of the small groups on the Thetas track, contributing to developing leaders across the Fraternity.

## Alumni Relations

This semester's alumni weekend, held from March 22 to March 24, saw a great turnout. Engaging social events and festivities were hosted at the chapter house. We thoroughly enjoyed catching up with and spending time with our esteemed alumni. In addition to all the fun we had with our alumni this weekend, we also used it to host our TAA and Housing Corp meetings. The Hoco made significant strides in strengthening alumni engagement and enhancing chapter operations this Spring.

The TAA also initiated efforts to establish an Alumni Advisory Panel with guidance from the National Fraternity and the School to provide structured support and mentorship, starting with Executive Board positions. These efforts enhance the Chapter's leadership and operational effectiveness through experienced guidance.

## Upcoming Events

Join us for the 200th Anniversary Bicentennial Celebration in the historic city of Troy, NY, hosted by the Theta Alumni of the Chi Phi Fraternity, which will be held from Friday, October 4th to Sunday, October 6th! A formal invitation with further details, including an RSVP and comprehensive schedule of events, will be forthcoming. Details will be sent in the email chain once they are finalized. If you are not currently on the email chain, contact the current Gamma at [gamma.theta.chiphi@gmail.com](mailto:gamma.theta.chiphi@gmail.com) or via the discord server to be added.



Br. Ryan Snell and Br. Michael Samir  
with Grand Alpha Steven Hopkins



# Chi Phi

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

# ALUMNI UPDATES

Br. Scott Hounsell and his wife Monica had a baby named Thomas Scott Hounsell on August 21, 2023

Br. Daniel Celic got engaged to Caroline Ringel on February 10, 2024

Br. David Nice got engaged to Christine Ya on March 23, 2024

Br. Ian Marshall got engaged to Rachel Grenadier on March 30, 2024

Br. Samuel Atkinson got married to Stephanie Bodie on April 20, 2024

Christopher Sammut graduated with his MBA in Business Data Analytics from the UCONN on May 6, 2024

Br. Paul DeBassio graduated with his Physician Assistant Degree from MCPH on May 9, 2024

Br. Peter Gramenides graduated with his Master's Degree in Engineering from RPI on May 18, 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE TAA PRESIDENT

Brothers,

With another semester in the books, I congratulate the active Chapter on its return to normalcy after a few years of turmoil. In the past semester, the active Chapter began hosting St. Baldrick's again, raising over \$11,000 for childhood cancer research. They have also hosted multiple philanthropic events, including Casa de Quesadilla, Dog Days, and the IFC Day of Service, averaging over 10 hours per brother in philanthropy hours. Congrats to the active Chapter, and I look forward to your progress in the coming semesters.

During the Spring 2024 Alumni Meeting, we finalized the date for the 200th Anniversary Celebration, which will be held October 4 through October 6, 2024, in Troy, NY. More details will be sent out soon.

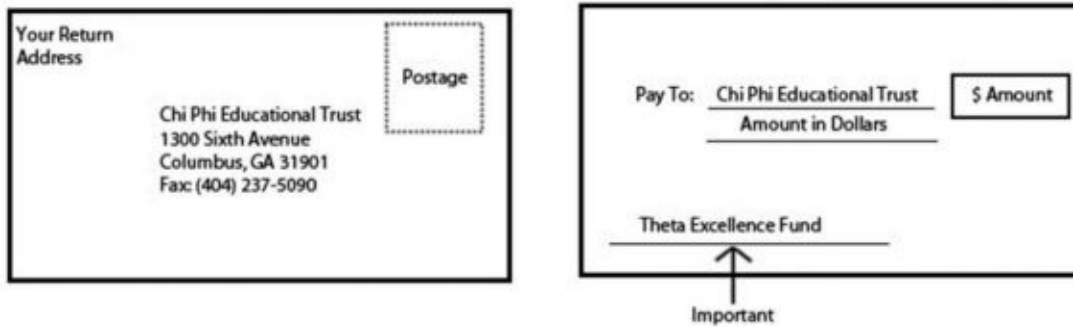
We will hold elections for the following TAA positions in the Fall: vice president, Treasurer, and Jim Loveland's Member at large position. If you are interested in any of these positions, please reach out. Also, please let me know if anyone is interested in the Chapter Advisor position.

I want to congratulate Kyle Palsson on winning the Br. Andrew Colditz Memorial Scholarship, Barry Soulaymana winning the Stephen Rusty Gordon Memorial Leadership Scholarship, and John Cohen winning the Br. Randall Clayton French Memorial Scholarship. Your efforts and commitment to the Fraternity are greatly appreciated.

Fraternally,  
Nathan Rosengrant  
TAA President

# THETA EXCELLENCE FUND

With the Theta Excellence Fund active, our first goal has been to provide an annual scholarship in honor of Brother Andrew Colditz, who passed away in 2005. The scholarship is for a new member in each pledge class who was found to represent the values of Chi Phi best and met a minimum GPA requirement. A second scholarship for leadership, in honor of Stephen “Rusty” Gordon, was established. This scholarship is for any Brother showing leadership through his activities with the house. If you would like to help the chapter by donating directly to the Theta Excellence fund, please follow the instructions below:



## CHAPTER DONATIONS

Want to have a direct impact on the chapter?

Please contact the 2024 Alpha (alpha.theta.chiphi@gmail.com), Brother Ryan Snell, or Delta (delta.theta.chiphi@gmail.com), Brother Paul Lea, to discuss room dedications and contributing to housing renovations in the Chi or Stroud Hall.

All donations from alumni towards housing renovations are honored with plaques and room dedications for contributions and generosity. Get involved and invest in the future of our chapter!

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

### SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage you to follow the Theta Chapter on social media for more frequent updates on the chapter and events we are hosting.



@chi\_phi\_rpi



@chiphi.atrpi



@chiphi.atrpi

### CHAPTER WEBSITE AND DISCORD

<http://www.thetaofchiphi.org/>

<https://discord.gg/Wepf99Q>