Zeta Alpha Theta Chi Fraternity
Alumni Corporation

Brothers,

The Alumni Blylaws direct the the Alumni Board to present an Annual Report to the membership on May 1 of each year.

A copy of this report shall be posted on our website at http://www.zachapter.com under the Alumni Board Section of the site. Remember, to access the "Brothers only" section the password is: Boston.

Results of the Election of Directors and Officers by the Secretary

I would like to begin with reporting the results of the election to fill the three (3) vacancies that would need to be filled effective June 1, 2020.

A announcement providing information on each candidate and ballot was distributed on April 10 2020. The balloting occurred by electronic ballot between April 10 and April 25, 2020 by members of the Zeta Alpha Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, in good standing, no longer attending Slippery Rock State College/University or enrolled in a school with no collegiate chapter of Theta, Chi, Honorary members voted in by the Zeta Alpha Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, and Initiates of any Theta Chi collegiate chapter voted into the corporation by the Board of Directors.

Each person voting could cast a ballot for up to 3 of the 3 candidates running. The results of the balloting is as follows:

- Brother Doug Bull received 72 votes (97.2% of the votes cast)
- Brother John Farrar received 71 votes (95.9% of the votes cast)
- Brother Logan Tupper received 73 votes (98.6% of the votes cast)

Brothers Doug Bull, John Farrar and Logan Tupper were elected to fill the three Director positions for the period of June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2022.

Congratulations to these three brothers.

Following the election, a meeting was held on April 26, 2020 with the newly constituted members of the Directors who would hold their positions as of June 1, 2019 and an election of officers was conducted. At that meeting, the following officers for the period of June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020 were elected:

- President Brother Douglas Bull
- Treasurer Brother John Farrar
- Secretary Brother Sky Pederson

John Merski, Jr.
2019-20 Secretary

Report of the President

As President of the Theta Chi, Zeta Alpha Chapter Alumni Board I want to thank the entire brotherhood for their support throughout the year. We, as an organization, were able to accomplish a great deal with your help. I would like to share with all Brothers what we were able to accomplish with this annual report.

Annual Alumni Board Elections

We just finished Alumni Board elections and we had 74 Brothers participate in the election. John Farrar and I were re-elected for another set of 2 year terms. I want to extend a hardy welcome to the Alumni Board to Brother Logan Tupper. Logan graduated in December of 2019. It has been my goal to bring more recent graduates to the Alumni Board and by having both Logan and Sky Peterson we ensure ourselves very high quality leadership in the future.

I hope, as we move forward, others will join our vision of developing the Alumni Association to continue to advance the goals and objectives of the chapter, enhance the cooperation between the Chapter and the Alumni and to encourage more and more involvement in the Alumni Association by the collegians as they graduate to assume the role of running the Alumni Association in the future.

Resolute Man Scholarship

As has been reported many times in the past, we have officially rolled the Resolute Man Scholarship into the Helping Hand Scholarship. This was accomplished with the feedback from a significant majority of Brothers stating they were unhappy that scholarship money was going to non Theta Chi's on campus. We heard your concerns and now we have one scholarship that 100% helps "collegiate" brothers.

Helping Hand Scholarship
The purpose of the scholarship is to **EXCLUSIVELY** support Zeta Alpha Brothers only who may need our assistance. This will be for food money, gas money home for funerals, housing assistance and all others things an on campus brother may need in an emergency situation.

However **WE** will **NOT** be the first source of assistance. The University has a program under the Direction of the University Director of Student Support. This Director has discretionary funds available to assist **ANY** student in need. However, in our research many students were not aware of this fund so the Helping Hand fund works "hand in hand" with that fund to help a Brother who may fall through the cracks. To date, we have awarded $1,000 to support our Brothers.

We currently have almost $8,000 in this fund. It is the goal of the Alumni Board to raise the total amount of the fund with the SRU Foundation so that the balance exceeds $25,000 and becomes an Endowment. It then becomes self funding and can make awards generated by its interest. We already have some brothers making continuing contributions and ask that you consider making a continuing contribution at http://www.srufoundation.org/helpinghands.html. You will hear more from the Alumni Board in the future on how you can support this scholarship fund.

Homecoming 2019

During Homecoming 2019 for the 3rd year in a row, a contingent of the Alumni and members of the chapter had an opportunity to interact during the tailgating portion of Homecoming prior to and after the game. I received a very special phone call from the Office of University Communication and Public Affairs at Slippery Rock University congratulating us on how the chapter brothers worked so hard to put together Homecoming 2019 with the support of the Alumni. They mentioned that Slippery Rock highly encourages the on

campus organizations to promote and support Homecoming and the Zeta Alpha Chapter of Theta Chi should be recognized for their efforts. Next time you talk to a fellow brother, please congratulate each other that you are part of the ZA Chapter and how we received very special praise from the administration of Slippery Rock University that the on campus brothers organized Homecoming!!

Golf Outing

The 27th Annual Golf Outing was another great success and as years in the past we held a 50/50 raffle for the Alumni Association, brothers donated event prizes and we had several recent graduates and collegiate brothers attend the outing.

This was the 2nd highest attended golf outing in our history. The almost record setting attendance continued to demonstrate the enthusiasm of the Alumni and the Chapter for this event. The Alumni Board sponsored a free hot dog and drink for everyone that showed up at the golf course on Saturday. Due to your donations to raffles at the outing in the past, we were able to fund this and we plan on doing the same for all future Golf outings.

Additionally, the Zeta Alpha Chapter President presented 25 year and 50 year certificates of recognition to Alumni brothers in attendance in appreciation of their support of the Chapter.

This was a another step to creating a strong relationship between the chapter and the Alumni. I know I speak for all the Brothers our appreciation for Brother Joe Soprano's efforts in conducting a quality event each year and this was no exception.

Looking ahead, the 28th Annual Zeta Alpha Golf outing will take place at Tam O' Shanter Golf Course on June 13, "maybe."

Governor Wolf of Pennsylvania posted this declaration on 4/27/20:

"Beginning May 1, 2020 golf course operators may permit individual access to the property so long as there is no gathering of any kind and appropriate social distancing is six feet between individuals is strictly abided. Golf carts may be utilized, but must be single occupant only. Restaurant activity is limited to take-out or delivery only and use of facilities for banquets or similar gatherings remains prohibited."

In addition as of April 30, 2020 **Tam O'Shanter** officially announced their opening as of May 1 with the following information in part:

"We will be enforcing Social Distancing regulations, in accordance with Pennsylvania's directives for golf course operations:

- All players must maintain a distance of 6 feet from all other golfers on the course and the range
- Walking is permitted
- Cart use is limited to one player per cart
- The flagstick must remain in the hole at ALL times (DO NOT TOUCH THE FLAG POLE AT ANY TIME!)
- Only one group is allowed on the tee at any one time — maintain social distancing at all times
- Check in will be available on-line or on our patio
- Players are not allowed to congregate in the parking lot before or after the round (group gatherings are not permitted)"

So things are easing and we will need to continue to watch over at least the next 30 days and see what is happening **we will continue to keep everyone informed.**

Brother Joe Soprano has done another excellent job organizing this year's event as he has done for many years on the past (especially this year under these difficult circumstances.) We truly owe a debt of gratitude to Brother Joe for his untiring effort for this event on behalf of the brothers and we all look forward to a great time. So for now please respond to Joe as if the event will take place. Should you have any questions, please contact Joe at 412-592-6156 or email him at **jssuprano@juno.com** or at **jssuprano@icloud.com**. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

As mentioned in Brother Joe's Golf Outing emails, the Alumni Association is having a fund-raising event during Saturday's golfing. The Alumni Association will be raising money through Brotherhood Golf Tee signs. Brother Pat Russell is heading up the event this year. We hope to have 2 Tee signs on each hole.

The sign can be sponsored by your golfing foursome, your business, or with a personal saying. Each sign is approximately the size of a political campaign lawn sign. It can include a, business logo, family photo or a past college day photo. The cost is $100.00 per sign per hole. The money raised will go towards the Alumni Association to eventually support the Chapter. Please send your check if purchasing a sign, made out to: **ZA Chapter Alumni Chapter of Theta Chi**, to the following address:

(For Sign Purchases ONLY)
John Farrar
11801 Riverpark Way
Chesterfield, VA. 23838

Please let Brother Pat know what you want your sign to say by sending him the information at **patrickrussell2906@gmail.com**. So far we already have a commitment for 14 signs.

Welcome New Alumni

I would also like to take a moment and welcome the new alumni added to our ranks this year. We, I believe, by the end of this semester, which is just a few days away, will have added 7 more Alumni to our ranks during the 2019-20 administrative year and look forward to their participation as Alumni and would like to congratulate them on their accomplishment and remind them that they have just finished the first step of their Theta Chi journey!!

Finally, I would like to mention that the **http://www.zachapter.com** website continues to be updated. Under the Chapter History section there is now a "ZA Chapter Yearbook Photos" section covering all chapter yearbook photos from 1961-1998, an "Alumni News" section (which just used to be the Alumni Corporation page) and content continues to be added under the Chapter News section among other features. It is designed to be a resource for you.
That is it for now. I want to personally thank every Brother in the Zeta Alpha Chapter Alumni Association for their hard work and commitment. For without that, we could not have possibly accomplished all that we did in this year.

Doug Bull
2019-20 President

Treasurer Report

We continue to work hard maintain the books of the organization and work with the SRU Foundation on the accounting for the Scholarships. A report is part of every Board meeting and included in the minutes that are posted on the http://www.zachapter.com website after every Board meeting to keep the finances of the Alumni Association as transparent as possible.

All expenditures are approved by the Board and checks must be signed by two members of the Board before being issued. The Scholarship funds are kept by

the Slippery Rock University Foundation, regularly reported to the Treasurer and are tax exempt donations and expenditures must be authorized by the Board. The Brick Fund and the General Fund are accounted for separately.

Scholarship Accounts

Resolute Man Scholarship

Balance as of May 1 2019 = $ 4,375.91

Income
- None

Expenses
- Transfer to Helping Hand Fund = $3,875.91
- **Total: $3,875.91**

Balance as of May 1, 2020 = $ 1,082.32*

***$582.32 remains in reserve for Book scholarships awarded in 2018 to students who have yet to use the full amount awarded and have yet to graduate. Once they either use the full amount awarded or graduate, the remainder of the funds will be transferred to the Helping Hand fund.**

Helping Hand Scholarship

Balance as of May 1, 2019 = $ 1,590.00

Income
- Donations from Golf Outing and T-signs = $2,000.00
- Transfer in/from Resolute Man Fund = $3,875.91
- Individual Donations May 1, 2019 - May 1, 2020 = $ 1,440.00
- **Total: $7,315.91**

Expenses
- Scholarships Awarded 2 @ $500 = $1,000.00
- **Total: $1,000.00**

Balance as of May 1, 2020 = $ 7,905.91

Brick Fund

Balance as of May 1, 2019 = $ 3,281.00
- Purchase of Bricks = $350.00 (Grandma Blyth/Rip Rowan)

Balance as of May 1, 2019 = $ 2,931.00

General Fund

Balance as of June 1, 2020 = $ 5,324.45

Income
- T-signs fundraising income = $ 2,000.00
- Golf Outing Raffle = $301.00
- Golf Outing Donations = $37.85
- **Total: $2,138.85**

Expenses
- T-sign expenses = $84.36
- Cost of Hotdog and Drink at Outing for Participants = $300.00
- Donation from outing and T-sign Donors to Helping Hand Fund =$2,000.00
- Helping Hand Promotional Materials = $65.48
- Authorization for Chapter costs for Food at Homecoming = $341.93

- **Total: $2,791.77**

Balance as of May 1, 2020 $ 4,871.53

John Farrar
2018-19 Treasurer

Chapter Advisory Board Chair Report

2019-20 has been an unusual and productive year for the CAB.

To review, a chapter adviser/CAB member is a mentor, role model, teacher, counselor, and confidant to the chapter's executive board and individual members. An adviser gives of his knowledge, and experience to help collegians plan and lead their chapters. The result is a well-run, goal-driven, and stable organization which promotes a positive learning experience for its members.

An adviser is not a baby-sitter, nor should he be one who does the work when chapter officers fail to meet their obligations. He is a guiding force who supports the concept that students learn best through personal experience and who is committed to helping young men develop their own potential as chapter members.

The CAB currently has approximately 20 members, ten which are, or could be, assigned a Chapter member or Officer. The role of a chapter adviser/CAB member is to "advise." The real learning experience in Theta Chi happens when collegians interact as brothers within the chapter. An adviser's role is to advise on matters requiring an opinion from someone who has a more sophisticated background of knowledge concerning group dynamics, Theta Chi, the school, and a basic knowledge of the resources available to officers and brothers.

The CAB meets by teleconference 1 to 2 times per year. The role of a chapter adviser/CAB member is to "advise." The real learning experience in Theta Chi happens when collegians interact as brothers within the chapter. An adviser's role is to advise on matters requiring an opinion from someone who has a more sophisticated background of knowledge concerning group dynamics, Theta Chi, the school, and a basic knowledge of the resources available to officers and brothers.

The collegians should feel that the chapter adviser/CAB member is a part of the chapter, but not one of the guys. They (the collegians) will make the ultimate decision on what advice to accept and what advice to reject. Consequently, when you do give advice, the collegians must have respect for you which allows them to hear and understand what you are saying.

This past year a CAB advisor has had contact with his Chapter counterpart 2 or 3 times per semester on average.

CAB members have been invited by the Chapter to attend the first formal meeting of every month and have been involved in providing content at meetings that have helped the Chapter address issues.

Current CAB Positions Include:

- President Advisor
- Vice President Advisor
- Health and Safety Advisor – counterpart with Vice President of Health and Safety
- Marshal Advisor - counterpart with Marshal
- Financial Advisor – counterpart with Treasurer
- Recruitment Advisor - counterpart with Recruitment Chair
- Academic Advisor- this is student scholarship and GPA maintenance
- Legal Advisor

- University and Public Relations Advisor
- Liaison to the House Board
- Rapid Response Advisor

Chapter Advisor Report

It has been indeed a pleasure for me to work with the Zeta Alpha Chapter, the Chapter Advisory Board and the Alumni Board this year.

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 year the Zeta Alpha Chapter Executive Board considered making a funding request to the Chapter Advisory Board to submit to the Alumni Board but reviewed their finances and felt that they were on stable enough footing and did not need to request funds.

The Chapter distributed a newsletter to Alumni Brothers on June 20, 2019 and to highlight some important items:

- Sky Pederson was recognized as Greek Chapter President of the Year.
- The chapter was nominated and was recognized as **outstanding student organization** of the year and **educational event of the year** for the Stop the Bleed and SAVE programs in April. The chapter received the Rising Star award for the 2018-19 academic year Presented by SRU for both.
- Additionally, Brother Dillon Pusateri, a freshman political science major from Bethel Park who was a member of the spring pledge class also received one of 7 Rising star awards exemplifying and standing out as an emerging leader in the chapter on SRU campus
- The chapter also submitted for the Howard R. Alter, Jr. Award for Chapter Excellence as an outstanding chapter in Theta Chi Fraternity this year and was recognize by Theta Chi International with the **Chapter Excellence Award** in July at the Initiative Academy.
- Brother Marshall Tuten made it to the final round for the Colley Award and received the SRU Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Man Award.
- The Chapter graduated 10 Brothers who are now part of the Alumni Association and many graduated with honors!

Cooper Collins (far left) receiving the Chapter Excellence Award on behalf of the Zeta Alpha Chapter from

International President Dr. Tait Martin

Over the summer, Brother and 2018 Charter Member **James Jackson** was hired as a Field Executive with Theta Chi International. In November, He was instrumental in the recolonization of North Carolina State University Delta Rho Chapter with over 50 members. He was then promoted to Assistant Director of Recruitment and Expansion and just a few months later promoted to Director of Recruitment and Expansion.

In August an email was sent to all Chapter Advisory Board members including a message from Theta Chi International to collegian brothers, about the start of the new school year and a copy of the "new" Safety Manual to review at their leisure so they would be familiar with the guidelines set by Theta Chi when advising collegians in their leadership roles.

In cooperation with Chapter **Recruitment Chair Andrew Borcherding** the "Parents" brochure and letter to parents has been revised and they were used as part of the fall recruitment campaign.

Field Executive **Daniel Mendoza** assigned to the Zeta Alpha Chapter this fall met with the chapter in early September. Brother Mendoza was very complementary about his meetings with the Chapter and its officers.

The chapter sent electronic invitations to Homecoming and to the Delta pledge class initiation ceremony in advance of each event hoping to generate as much alumni participation as possible.

Many of the "first year" Alumni attend Homecoming as Alumni for the first time from as far away as California. There appears to be a strong commitment by these brothers to the Chapter and a sincere desire to find a project that they can become involved to support the Chapter.

The Zeta Alpha Chapter installed the Delta pledge class on November 16, 2019 and the ceremony was attended by **Brothers, Hoffman, Pennell, Shivetts and myself.** Each time the chapter conducts the ritual they are more confident, polished and professional, and efficient, with the program!

The Zeta Alpha Chapter was represented at the installation of the Zeta Omicron Chapter at Shippensburg University on November 17, 2019. This chapter lost its charter at about the same time Zeta Alpha lost it charter and has been in the process for almost 2 years to re-establish the chapter.

On December 3, 2019 the Zeta Alpha Chapter held their election and installation of officers for the 2020 year including re-electing **Brothers Eric**

Lehman as President, Cooper Collins as Vice President, Kevin McLaughlin as Vice President for Health and Safety, Ashton Bloom as Treasurer, Zach Fuhs as Secretary, Jake Reynolds as Marshall, Andrew Auth as Recruitment Chair and Jake Wilson as Scholarship Chair. Alumni had been invited to attend which is normal for all rituals and elections and **Brothers Iskat** and **Herbert** and **myself** attended. Again, very careful attention to detail and professionalism surrounded the event and the chapter expressed pride in their handling of the election and installation, a first-class event - though it is a long evening!

Five members of the chapter attended training in Indianapolis hosted by the International Headquarters of Theta Chi this weekend - January 10-12, 2020. The Sasser Conference attended by **President Eric Lehman**, the VP of Health and Safety Conference attended by **Kevin McLaughlin**, the Amplify Theta Chi (Recruitment Conference) attended by **Andrew Auth**, and the Marshall's Conference attended by **Brody McKenna** on behalf of Marshall Jake Reynolds who could not attend due to illness. The cost of meals, housing and even transportation is covered by the dues of all members of all Theta Chi Chapters.

The Zeta Alpha brothers in attendance were hosted by Zeta Alpha Brother and Field Executive Brother James Jackson to a tour of the IHQ and they picked up a great deal of good information and enthusiasm to bring back to the chapter.

On January 18, 2020 the annual **Executive Board/CAB Retreat** was held at the Robert Smith Student Center. It was held between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. and a tentative agenda was shared in advance with the Chapter Executive Board and all the members of the CAB. All the Chapter Executive Board members attended. Even though the weather was not the best, all but two of the CAB members were able to attend. A Theta Chi Quiz was distributed and challenged everyone in attendance. The Howard R. Alter, Jr. Award for Chapter Excellence application with its 14 categories was used as a guide to assess the chapter's current situation. This helped to work on strengths and weaknesses, set goals and identify opportunities for the upcoming year. One of the topics that was covered was the desire to have more of the recent graduates to be more involved.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Virus has played havoc with the entire university system and with the operation of the chapter. Many plans were put in place and were beginning to be executed including a program to continue to improve the GPA of the chapter that was to be implemented after spring break.

However, nothing has been the same since spring break. On campus classes and activities have not resumed and everything is being conducted online. The five seniors who were charter members had to spend their last 2 ½ months connected on Zoom and any other forms of communication they could find.

The chapter continued to conduct regular meetings using Zoom, planning for the future and doing their best to stay in contact, safe and their spirits up.

What is most obvious from spending time with the brothers of the Zeta Alpha Chapter is a strong bond of brotherhood, fellowship and reliance on each other mixed with a strong commitment to the ideals and objectives of Theta Chi.

On April 17, Theta Chi **Executive Director Mike Maye**r announced that the Grand Chapter had voted to adjust dues for chapter members for 2020-21 by $100 per member due the COVID-19 virus which was warmly received throughout the organization.

Field Executive **Jorge Robles** conducted a "virtual" chapter visit between April 17 and 20, 2020. He spoke with each member of the Chapter Executive Board to discuss the chapter's progress and agreed with the officers and their observations of areas that can be addressed and provided suggestions to further expand the chapter's success. He was complimentary of the chapter and its involvement in all areas.

Even though things are challenging we cannot overlook the success the Zeta Alpha Chapter is enjoying. On February 6, 2020 during the Greek Celebration of Excellence the Zeta Alpha Chapter was recognized with the following awards:

- Excellence in Member Development – Chapter Award
- Excellence in External Relations – Chapter Award
- Emerging Leader – **Cooper Collins** (Current Chapter Vice President)
- Outstanding Campus Involvement – **Dillon Pusateri**
- Brothers with a 4.0 for the Fall Semester – **Braydon Black**, **Dillon Pusateri** and **Zack Fuhs** (Current Secretary)
- Chapter President of the Year – **Eric Lehman** (2nd consecutive Year Theta Chi has received this award)

This is an impressive list of awards for a chapter that is just shy of 3 years on campus and is clearly showing leadership for Greek life an accomplishing what we had hoped and that is "Redefining Fraternities on Campus."

The Theta Chi 164th Anniversary Convention and 39th School of Fraternity Practices scheduled for July 17-21, 2020 in Lexington, KY is still scheduled but is being monitored by the IHQ staff.

In all of this, it can be reported that the members of the Chapter continue to express their appreciation for the support the Alumni provide in all ways to help the chapter to be successful and hope that Alumni take advantage of participating in the installation rituals as they are announced and come visit at homecoming and the golf outing.

Extending the **Θ**ηρόποεα **X**είρ

Kevin Krepinevich
Chapter Advisor

This concludes the Annual Report for the 2019-20 administrative year. The 2019-20 Officers, President Doug Bull **dmbull23@hotmail.com**, Treasurer John Farrar **jfarrar@abc4us.com** or myself **merskijr@gmail.com** welcome

any questions.

John Merski, Jr.
2019-20 Secretary