



## Zeta Alpha Theta Chi Fraternity Alumni Corporation

Brothers,

The Alumni Bylaws 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, 2021.

Advance notifications of vacancies to be filled for 2021-2023 were announced to the membership on January 1, March 5 and March 23, 2021 soliciting nomination of candidates to fill identified vacancies.

A announcement providing information on each candidate nominated and a ballot was distributed on April 10 2020. The balloting occurred by electronic ballot between April 10 and April 25, 2021 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 Michael Bariski received 58 votes (85.2% of the votes cast)
- Brother Sky Pederson received 61 votes (89.7% of the votes cast)
- Brother Patrick Russell received 53 votes (77.9% of the votes cast)

A total of 68 ballots were cast.

Brothers Michael Bariski, Sky Pederson, and Patrick Russell were elected to fill the three Director positions for the period of June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2023.

Congratulations to these three brothers.

Following the election, a meeting was held on April 25, 2021 with the newly constituted members of the Directors who would hold their positions as of June 1, 2021 and an election of officers was conducted. At that meeting, the following officers for the period of June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022 were elected:

- President Brother Sky Pederson

- Treasurer Brother John Farrar
- Secretary Brother Patrick Russell

With the election of the 3 new Board members, comes the retirement of Brother Rick Fox who has served the Board since its inception, including serving as Secretary. His counsel and support of the Board and the chapter has been consistent and always with an eye on how we can advance the growth and support of the chapter. We thank him for his service and know he will always not be far away if we need his help.

**Sky Pederson**  
**2020-21 Secretary**

## **Report of the President**

**Before I begin I want to make a special point of the date MAY 23 2021!**

Because of arrangements for release of unordered hotel rooms, anyone attending needs to get your money in for meals by then, money for T-Signs and what you want on the sign in by then, letting us know if you want to play golf by then or if you are just planning on attending by then so appropriate arrangements can be made.

**So mark your calendars, set a reminder, do whatever it is you do to remind yourself by make sure you have done what you need to do by MAY 23, 2021 to attend the golf outing!**

As President of the Theta Chi, Zeta Alpha Chapter Alumni Board I want to thank the entire brotherhood for their support throughout the year. This was certainly a very challenging year for all of us with the Covid-19 pandemic affecting all of us.

The result was that 2020/2021 was not a normal year.

### **2020 Golf Outing**

After careful deliberations with the brotherhood and consulting with a variety of outside agencies the Board felt that for the health and safety of the brotherhood not having a golf outing in 2020, though difficult, was the safest and wisest decision we could make. Not surprisingly, we received many positive reactions from the brotherhood for this decision.

### **Homecoming 2020**

Of course with the restrictions placed on the students and the restrictions placed on sports and outside visitors to campus, Homecoming activities for 2020 were also not a possibility not just for us but the entire Slippery Rock University community.

Though there was a sense of loss for us all related to the fraternity and the ability to gather and enjoy each others company with these events, we as an organization were still able to band together and accomplish a great deal with your help.

### **Chapter Eternal**

Speaking of loss, the Board purchased three memorial bricks this year to be placed at the Alumni House one each for Brothers Don Heisey, David Minett and George Swanson who passed to the Chapter Eternal during the year.

### **Elections**

I would like to share with all Brothers what we were able to accomplish with this annual report. As noted the annual Alumni Board Elections were just

completed and we had 68 Brothers participate in the election. Brothers Patrick Russell and Sky Pederson were re-elected for another 2 year term. I want to extend a hardy welcome to our new Alumni Board member Brother Mike Bariski. I would also like to thank retiring Board member Rick Fox. I have a deep sense of satisfaction and confidence as I step down as President and pass the reins of leadership on to newly elected president Brother Sky and know he will continue to expand on the foundation the Board has set over the last few years.

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.

## **Bylaws**

We also had what I would consider exemplary participation in October by the brotherhood in assisting the Board and overwhelmingly endorsing some housekeeping changes to the bylaws.

## **Helping Hand Scholarship Fund**

As has been reported many times in the past, we have officially rolled the Resolute Man Scholarship Fund into the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund. There still are some funds in the Resolute Man scholarship fund, just over \$700, waiting to be used by the recipients. Once these collegians graduate, any unused money will be rolled into the Helping Hand Scholarship fund.

The purpose of the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund 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 we are educating our brothers to the availability of that fund while the Helping Hand Fund works "hand in hand" with that fund to help a Brother who may fall through the cracks.

Our goal for 2021 is to have donations to the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund reach in excess of \$25,000 that will place the fund into Endowment status. This will enable the fund to live in perpetuity with continued tax advantages, interest earned to be used for awards and to be able to accept further donations. To make the Endowment a reality, Brother Gary Purdue has enthusiastically volunteered and the Board has appointed him to lead us in all fund raising activities. As of today, we are proud to report that the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund has reached \$21,095. We are so very close to endowment status. I know, as we continue to be under the uncertainty of the pandemic, we are all monitoring all of our financial activities. But if you can, please consider making a contribution so that we can achieve Endowment status and help all the on campus Brothers we can. There are many different ways to give and any amount helps.

## **2021 Golf Outing**

As I mentioned at the beginning of my message, the 28<sup>th</sup> Zeta Alpha Theta Chi Golf Outing is planned for June 11-12 at Tam O'Shanter golf course in Hermitage, Pa. Though a little different than previous years due to continued socially distanced requirements by the golf course we should be close to normal.

- The Alumni Board is providing a **hot dog and a drink AGAIN THIS YEAR** for everyone who attends the golf outing, whether you play or not, so make sure to take advantage of the offer and enjoy a dog and a drink during the day!
- **TEE SIGNS:** We are pleased to announce in addition to the 18 tee signs purchased for last year we already have 8 paid commitments with 7 more verbal commitments already for tee signs for this year. Our goal is 36 total signs. Some brothers have already indicated, in addition to individual contributions, they are pooling funds as pledge classes or even pairing up to buy a tee sign in memory of a brother who has moved on to the Chapter Eternal. All contributions will support the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund which benefits on campus brothers in an emergency. Contributions of \$100.00 will have a tee sign. If you want a t-sign contact brother Patrick Russell **BEFORE MAY 23** at [patrickrussell2906@gmail.com](mailto:patrickrussell2906@gmail.com) he will help you with what you want on the sign and where to send the check!
- We will have an Alumni Board sponsored **cookout Friday night** (June 11) at the pavilion behind the Radisson hotel. All brothers and the significant others are encouraged to attend.
- To date we have 44 Brothers participating in golf on Saturday with more just planning on attending. Of course, there will be prizes and a 50/50 raffle during play.
- After golf we will have a **dinner for all participants** and their guests. Dinner choices are steak or chicken. Brother Joe Suprano is organizing the dinner. Please send an email to [golf@zachapter.com](mailto:golf@zachapter.com) **BEFORE May 23** with your choice and send a check for \$27 made out to: **Joe Suprano** at **641 Kelso Road Pittsburgh, PA 15243** to finalize your dinner plans. (No check, no meal reservation!)
- If you need a hotel room and you wish us to make sure it is booked for you let us know at [golf@zachapter.com](mailto:golf@zachapter.com) by **MAY 23** otherwise we will release rooms not reserved.

I want to thank you all for your commitment to Theta Chi and I look forward to a great 2021 and beyond.

**Doug Bull**  
**2020-21 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, 2020 = \$ 1,082.32**

**Income**

- None

**Expenses**

- Book Scholarships awarded = \$365.00
- **Total: \$365.00**

**Balance as of May 1, 2021 = \$ 717.32\***

**\*\$717.32 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, 2020 = \$ 7,905.91**

**Income**

- Donations from 2020 Golf Outing and T-signs = \$1,500.00
- Individual Donations May 1, 2020 - May 1, 2021 = \$ 11,690.00
- **Total: \$13,190.00**

**Expenses**

- Scholarships Awarded May 1, 2020 - May 1, 2021 - None
- **Total: \$0.00**

**Balance as of May 1, 2020 = \$ 21,095.91**

**Brick Fund**

**Balance as of May 1, 2020 = \$ 2,831.00**

- Purchase of Bricks = \$300.00 (Don Heisey, George Swanson, David Minett)

**Balance as of May 1, 2019 = \$ 2,531.00**

**General Fund**

**Balance as of May 1, 2020 = \$ 4,871.53\***

**Income**

- 2020 - T-signs fundraising income = \$ 1,300.00
- 2021 - T-sign donations = \$800
- Donation to General Fund - \$550.00
- **Total: \$ 2,650.00**

**Expenses**

- Donations for 2020 outing and T-sign Donors to Helping Hand Fund = \$1,500.00\*
- **Total: \$ 1,500.00**

**\*These totals include deposits of \$200 made for tee signs prior May 1, 2020 included in the total income and expense for the tee signs.**

**Balance as of May 1, 2021 = \$ 6,021.53**

**John Farrar  
2020-21 Treasurer**

## Chapter Advisor Report

When told "You are going to go to college to learn things." The Brothers of the Zeta Alpha Chapter did not quite have 2020-21 in mind.

Fortunately or unfortunately they learned things that they never expected. Like virtual recruitment, zoom chapter meetings, 80% of classes online and dealing with a social organization at a time of isolation. Seniors graduating on May 1 will have spent the last 1 and 1/2 years of their college experience learning remotely!

But what they did learn was with creativity, imagination and a resolute spirit they could overcome any obstacle placed in their way and continue to accomplish goals and objectives they set for themselves this year.

This fall they faced their first full campus shut down and social restrictions that affected all fraternities and sororities and limitations on freshmen recruitment. Even though faced with these challenges, they were able to match or exceed the recruitment efforts of most fraternities on campus. Though in the minds of the chapter members it fell well below their expectations, they were still dealing with a situation with which they were not familiar and set new priorities to gather the information needed to improve upon their efforts.

In the spring, the chapter's Zeta pledge class included 6 members with some who have yet to step foot on campus. In essence, "virtual" members. However, each member of the pledge class has worked together, completed the Resolute Journey pledge process and successfully completed the program. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the fact that these "virtual" pledges are not on campus, the chapter is currently planning an installation of the pledge class sometime in mid-May at a time and place convenient for all so they can be installed in person. A credit to the chapter and their imagination!





# THETA CHI RECRUITMENT 2021

Theta Chi is a social fraternity that provides brothers with a fulfilling and unforgettable college experience.



## Sacred Purpose

Provides brothers health and safety education to help protect each other, our friends and our community



## Scholarships

Over \$400K in scholarships a year and our local Helping Hand Scholarship



## Resolute Man

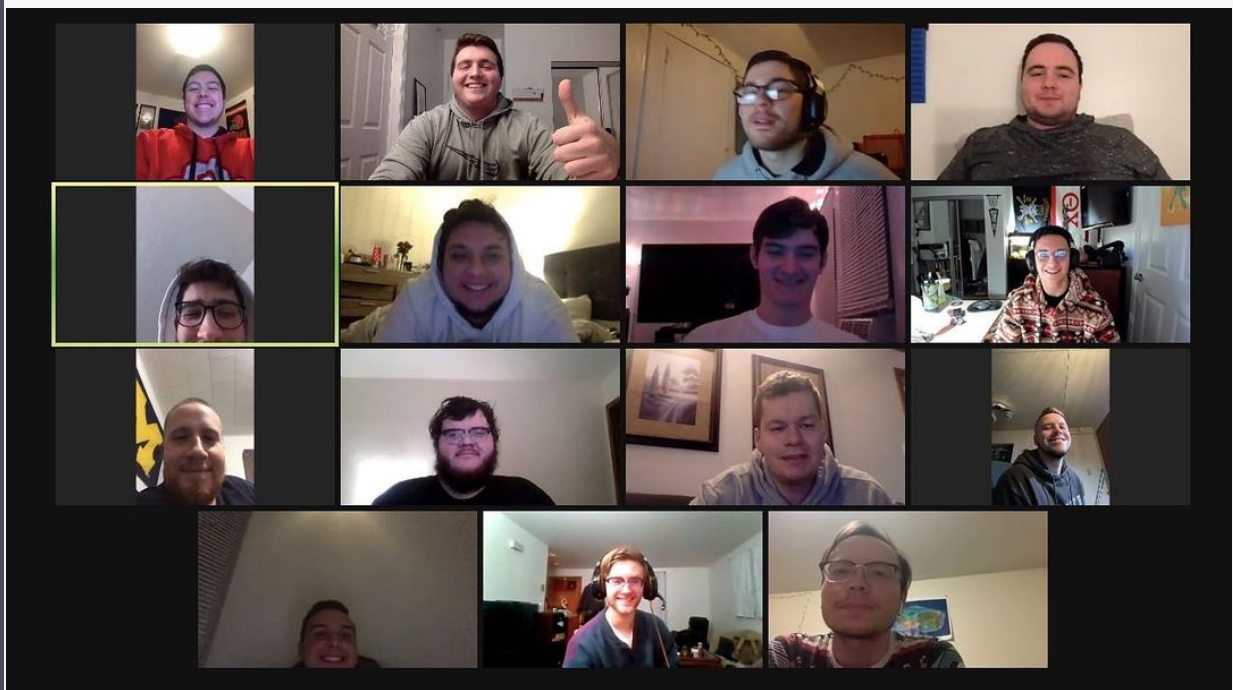
This program guides men through a rewarding college career as well as future endeavors.

**Interested? Hit the link in the bio to fill out our Interest Form!**

In November the Chapter elected its officers for 2021 and again it was completely done by Zoom. I was able to attend and was impressed by President Lehman's command of the meeting and how the chapter conducted the election process including bringing candidates in and out of the room, doing presentations and conducting elections. The words patience, tolerance, respect and cooperation continued run through my mind as the evening developed.

The Executive Board elected include:

- President - Cooper Collins
- Vice President - Jake Reynolds
- Vice President Health and Safety - Jake Wilson
- Treasurer - Zach Fuhs
- Secretary - Dillon Pusateri
- Marshall - Jett McGregor
- Recruitment Chair - Andrew Auth
- Scholarship - Max Oberg



With the new biennial and the approval of the bylaw changes a new slate of Chapter Officer Advisors were put in place this fall with the following brothers stepping up:

- Chapter/President Advisor: Kevin Krepinevich
- Vice President Advisor: Don "Clippy" Iskat
- Vice President of Health and Safety Advisor: Stephen Pennell
- Secretary Advisor: Daniel Angelucci
- Marshal Advisor: Michael Ambrose
- Financial Advisor: Francisco Maya
- Philanthropic Advisor: Paul Herbert
- Recruitment Advisor: James Jackson
- Scholarship/Academic Advisor: John "Jack" McMahon
- Legal Advisor: Thomas Minett
- University & Public Relations Advisor: David Price

I cannot thank these brothers enough for stepping up to be advisors to the collegians and agreeing to take the time to provide the assistance, support and talent necessary to support the chapter. Additionally, I wish to take a moment to make a special thank you to Brother Paul Herbert who served as the CAB Chair since the inception of the CAB and worked diligently to support not only the chapter but the members of the CAB as well. Brother Paul was instrumental in making sure each of the "retiring" advisors were sent a certificate of appreciation for their efforts.

To review, a chapter officer adviser 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 collegians should feel that the chapter officer adviser 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 giving advice, the collegians must have respect for the advisor which allows them to hear and understand what is being shared.



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

## Highlights

At the beginning of the 2020-21 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 deserves some special recognition for their achievements during 2020:

- **Eric Lehman** was recognized as **Greek Chapter President of the Year** for the second time in a row and Theta Chi recognized for the third year in a row.
- The chapter was recognized with the SRU Sorority & Fraternity Life Awards for: **Excellence in Chapter Management, Excellence in External Relations** (third year in a row).
- **Brother Daniel Pennell** was recognized with the **Army Achievement Award**.
- **Brother Dillon Pusateri** received the **Theta Chi Sherwood & Janet Blue Scholarship**
- The **overall chapter GPA** for the fall 2020 was a **2.9**
- The Chapter graduated 5 Brothers who are now part of the Alumni Association.

## Executive Board/Advisors Retreat

In January, restrictions on campus continued so again we had to be creative. We held the Executive Board/Advisors retreat at the Holiday Inn Express in Grove City. A socially distanced affair but an intense day dealing with the issues identified and addressing the needs of the chapter.

Mitch Nolan, who had served as a Field Executive assigned to recolonizing the chapter and now serving as Director of Chapter Development at Theta Chi International "Zoomed" into the meeting for an "interactive" hour on recruitment discussing strategies and ideas to assist spring and more importantly this fall's rush. This was a very well received session. By the end of the day, there were many good ideas shared and connections made for moving forward in 2021.



## **Officer Training**

Normally, there are 5 Chapter Board members that attend training in Indianapolis/St Louis in January: President, VPHS, Marshall, Recruitment Chair and Treasurer. However due to Covid-19 restrictions this 3 day session was not held this year and instead there were individual Zoom sessions lasting anywhere from 2-5 hours for these members to attend in January. Though it was not the best of circumstances, each Board member felt they gained some expertise from the opportunity but also relied more on their predecessor to get the help they needed for their responsibilities and also relied on their advisors.

## **Convention**

The Biennial Theta Chi convention scheduled for late July/August 2020 in Lexington, Kentucky was cancelled due to covid-19 however the business of the organization was conducted by the Grand Chapter.

The good news is the training was postponed to a 2021 Summer Celebration to be held July 30-August 2, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky with almost all of the activities normally conducted at the convention. Even better news is due to so many changes and cancellations during the year, in addition to the 2 convention registrations being provided by the chapter's dues for attendance, each chapter "in good standing" is receiving a \$1,500 voucher from IHQ for attendance expenses that can be used to attend this years meeting. This is an incredible opportunity to learn and to generate enthusiasm for the new academic year. President Collins is working hard to get as many brothers to attend as possible.

Currently, the chapter has hopes it can take as many as 5 brothers or cover as many expenses as possible. I plan to attend at my expense and have offered an additional scholarship to a chapter member to attend as well. So we hope to have a very good representation of the Zeta Alpha Chapter and spark some sincere enthusiasm for the fall semester.

Speaking of the Summer Celebration, the chapter is also working to have a Zeta Alpha banner created for Theta Chi International for display at the International Summer Celebration and future conventions. Every Chapter has a banner that is displayed at the biennial conventions, but Zeta Alpha has never had one. The chapter plans to have one displayed on our behalf at this year's meeting for the first time.

## **Campus Involvement**

This is a term that the University has made a difficult term to define this past year because only 20% of classes have been on campus and there has been very little opportunity for this type of activity. However, the Zeta Alpha Chapter has reached out at every possible opportunity to be visible and involved.

The chapter has continued to be involved in a variety of community service activities including raising funds for St Jude and for the USO and conducted a fundraiser in February in conjunction with the Delta Zetas for Valentines Day.

Theta Chi finished 2nd in Greek week held in interesting conditions during April this year.

The chapter this Spring reached out to the Brothers who made T-sign donations for the 2020 golf outing and sent a letter signed by each member of the Executive Board thanking brothers for their generous donation to the Helping Hand Fund. They understand and appreciate the contributions made to assist Zeta Alpha Brothers in need and the efforts the Brothers are making to create the Helping Hand Fund Endowment.



The Zeta Alpha chapter also purchased (2) Theta Chi masks for every member to wear when in public on campus to not only follow protocols but also promote Theta Chi when in public.

The chapter has received many positive comments not only from students but from faculty and staff.



Another feature the chapter has been utilizing Instagram highlighting recent alumni like Alumni Brother Beacom pictured here who is a coordinator on the new "Project Journey" at Ronald Regan National Airport and promoting what they are now doing with their careers now that they are no longer on campus.

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 are looking forward to interacting with the alumni at the golf outing.

Extending the **Θηρόποδα Χείρ**

**Kevin Krepinevich**  
**Chapter Advisor**

This concludes the Annual Report for the 2020-21 administrative year. The 2020-21 Officers, President Doug Bull [dmbull23@hotmail.com](mailto:dmbull23@hotmail.com), Treasurer John Farrar [jfarrar@abc4us.com](mailto:jfarrar@abc4us.com) or myself [sky@mbride.com](mailto:sky@mbride.com) welcome any questions.

**Sky Pederson**  
**2020-21 Secretary**

