



Zeta Alpha Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity Alumni Newsletter

President's Message

Brothers,

It is an honor and privilege for me to have been elected by the Alumni Board to serve as your President. I had not expected to be elected President when I ran for another term on the Board but I welcome the opportunity and appreciate the confidence they have displayed by making that decision! I would also like to welcome our new Board member **Brother Michael Bariski** and thank **Brother Patrick Russell** for agreeing to serve another term.

I would like to take a moment and express my sincere appreciation for the job that **Immediate Past President Doug Bull** has done over the last 3 years serving as your Alumni President. His leadership, direction and steady hand has brought us to the point we are today. The most significant accomplishment to which we can point was his ability to rally alumni and friends with the help of the entire Board to bring us to the brink of Endowment Status for the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund. This has been accomplished in just 18 months an accomplishment for which we all should be proud. This is truly an example of what a brotherhood can do when working together.

More importantly it will stand as a resource to the young men of the Zeta Alpha Chapter to be able to utilize at a time of need. They will know that as Alumni that we lead by example. They will know that they can rely on those who came before who live the Theta Chi motto of "An Assisting Hand."

As you read the newsletter, it will highlight the incredibly successful **28th Zeta Alpha Golf Outing** with the highest attendance in the event's history with over 70 participants over the weekend. This is a testament to the brotherhood's desire to stay connected not only with those you pledged but also expanding those connections with the newer alumni and even those brothers who now make up the Zeta Alpha Chapter and their interest in connecting with you. This can only make our alumni association stronger and only help us expand the support we can offer to the chapter as it continues to grow and influence our Alma Mater.

I look forward in overseeing the planning of the 29th Golf Outing with some of the plans already in the works. **Put the dates on your calendar, June 10 & 11, 2022** and I hope to see even more brothers, Little Sisters and Daughters of the Crossed Swords next year.

As far as Homecoming 2021, with the Covid-19 variant, the University has not released anything definitive related to Homecoming 2021 and the Alumni Board is working closely with President Cooper Collins and the chapter at this time. As we did in 2019, we expect to work with the chapter and subsidize at least some of the food and beverages at the event

but only if the chapter and the university feels an event can be held in a safe manner. Because of this, we will keep you informed about this activity as we get closer to the date.

The members of the chapter will be arriving on campus at the end of August and will be functioning more robustly as a chapter for the first time in almost 18 months so we expect to hear much more from the chapter in the near future.

On a special note, I would like to congratulate **Brother Eric Lehman** for beginning his career with Theta Chi Headquarters. As the Assistant Director of Chapter Development, Eric will oversee recruitment and individual chapter operations. Eric pledged his Freshman year, and succeeded me as Chapter President. Join me in congratulating Brother Eric in his new role!

You will notice there is a lot of information in this newsletter and if something was missed it was by no means intentional and so let me know and we can always add what was missed in a future newsletter.

Finally, I want to reach out to each of you. As President, even as an Alumni Board, we cannot accomplish the goals and the things we wish to accomplish - alone. We need each of you to think about how you fit into this fraternity you pledged and think about how you can volunteer your time, your talent or even some of your treasure to help further the objectives of the Zeta Alpha Chapter. The best way is to help through the Alumni Association. To be honest, if there is not a Zeta Alpha chapter there is really no reason for us to exist. So if as a brotherhood we do not reflect inwardly and ask ourselves "What have I done to be part of the solution to advance the success of the chapter?" "Am I helping the young men of Theta Chi become better men, leaders and collegians?" Then we have to ask ourselves "How can I help?" So I hope you will reach out to me or any member of the Board and offer your help to work together. Our contact information is on the website: <http://www.zachapter.com>.

I look forward to working with each of you this year and my "virtual door" is open. You have my phone number and my email. I would love to hear from you.

Until next time.

Fraternally

Sky Pederson
Zeta Alpha
Alumni President
724-309-8311

2021 Golf Outing



The 28th Zeta Alpha Alumni Golf Outing was the largest attended outing since its inception with **over 70 attendees** during the day. Here are some highlights:

- Nearly 30 percent of the attendees were composed of recent graduates or current

members which is a testament to a connection that is being made and strengthened between the past and the future of the Zeta Alpha Chapter.

- Every attendee on Saturday received a **FREE hotdog and drink** compliments of the Zeta Alpha Alumni Association.
- Thanks to the efforts of **Brothers Stephen Pennell and Rick Fox** selling arm lengths of raffle tickets and the generosity of almost every brother in attendance we were able to raise \$1,000 with the 50/50 raffle for the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund. Even better, **Brother Gary Donelli**, who won the raffle, then turned around and donated his \$500 winnings to the Helping Hand Fund! Thank you Brother Gary!
- **Zeta Alpha Chapter President Cooper Collins** continued a tradition started by Chapter President **Eric Lehman** and presented Silver Legion certificates to individual Brothers and presented a special **Golden Guard Certificate** to **Brother Bob Bolt** celebrating his 50 years as a Theta Chi.
- Several Brothers showed up on site during the event including **Brothers David and Jerry DeRosa and Paul Herbert** and presented checks to **Treasurer John Farrar** as personal donations to the Helping Hand Fund bringing the total contributions within sight of achieving "endowment status" for the the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund. A "Thank you Banner" was displayed thanking brothers who have contributed to the fund.
- As in the past, prizes were awarded, stories were told and an incredible sense of brotherhood fun and excitement about the status of the chapter and the future of Theta Chi permeated the event.
- Special "Thanks" are extended to **Brother John Farrar** who not only hosted but also provided and **donated all of the food and beverages** for the Friday "Welcome Cookout" held at the Radisson Hotel and then hosted an impromptu Saturday night "Leftovers" cookout on Saturday night as well. His generosity is both noticed and appreciated.

Teams this year included:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sky Pederson, Mike Ambrose, James Jackson, Brody McKenna• Don Burns, Brian Huskey, Tom Onufrak, Bob Flaccavento• Jim Clarke, Roy Pascal, JC Taylor, Dave Grabosky• Jeff Jacob, Tom "ZZ" Chappel, Mark Caratelli, Sean Kearney• Alan Copeland, Jim Grissinger, Rod Nicholson, Joe Wertz• Ben Richards, Jack Hare, Joe Rubic, Ryan Mittleider• Pete Reeves, Spenser Pascal, Brian Dereamer• Don Ayers, Glenn Weather, Al Lichtenwalner, Jack Shivetts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andrew Auth, Eric lehman, Matt Pecoraro, Cooper Collins• Joe Suprano, Ed Kostail, Joe White, Jim Dunn, Rich Rollins• Bob Bolt, Gary Donelli, Dan Angelucci, Jim Book• John Farrar, Chuck Boylan, Dan Van Wie, Frank Gorshin• Mike Bariski, Jeff Miller, Doug Bull, Kevin Krepinevich• Tom Spagnolo, Ken Sherwin, Mickey Stamerra, Rich Aquaviva• Rob Long, Jim Sayer, Dave Boley, Mark Correll |
|--|--|

Over the last few years, we have shared some of the accomplishments of the Zeta Alpha Chapter since its recolonization and a display has been created to be used for this fall's rush that was displayed at the Golf Outing. Below is Chapter President Cooper Collins with the display shared at the outing. You can click on the image to view a larger readable version!



T-Sign Donations

Living the Theta Chi Motto "An Assisting Hand" could not be more dramatically displayed over the last two years through the generous contributions of many Zeta Alpha Alumni and friends of Theta Chi through the purchase of T-Signs to be displayed during the Golf Outing. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we could not hold the outing in 2020. But **NOT ONE** of those who had agreed to donate a T-sign in 2020 asked for their contribution back and in some cases made a contribution again in 2021.

In 2021, even more brothers stepped forward to commemorate pledge classes, brothers who had passed to the Chapter Eternal or to commemorate achievements of fellow brothers by purchasing T-signs for the 2021 outing! Support was outstanding. Special thanks needs to be given to Alumni Board Member **Patrick Russell** for heading up the effort for the last 2 years and for helping us raise over \$2,700 for the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund.

If you were not able to attend the outing, the t-signs are displayed here for your enjoyment.

Again thank you to all those who contributed.

During that 2 year period several brothers saw fit make significant contributions to the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund and the Alumni Board created designations of **Silver and Gold Sponsors** to highlight the significance of their contributions to the with a T-sign recognizing those contributions. As brothers continue to contribute their names will be added to these lists! Those T-signs are listed here first.



THETA CHI GOLF OUTING



ALPHA PLEDGE CLASS OF '18

SPONSOR

THETA CHI GOLF OUTING

ZETA ALPHA CHAPTER

IN HONOR OF THE

ALPHA BETA

PLEDGE CLASS

SPONSOR

THETA CHI GOLF OUTING

ZETA ALPHA CHAPTER

IN HONOR OF

ALPHA GAMMA

PLEDGE CLASS

SPONSOR

THETA CHI GOLF OUTING

IN SUPPORT OF THE

RHO PLEDGE CLASS

ELECTRO-KOTE

COMPANY

BOB BAUDOUX

THETA CHI GOLF OUTING

HONORING

MABLE POE

"GRANDMA" BLYTH

"GRANDMA" BLYTH REACHED OUT TO ZETA ALPHA THETA CHI AND HELPED THEM REALIZE, WITH LOVE, THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY.

"THE LADY IN THE BLUE HOUSE TAUGHT US ALL LESSONS. WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL"

SPONSOR

THETA CHI GOLF OUTING

IN HONOR OF

THE JOE PUNTERARY BEER DISTRIBUTOR

APT. 23 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FROM ITS BIGGEST BENEFICIARY & SUPPORTER

DOUGLAS BULL

SPONSOR

THETA CHI GOLF OUTING

THANKS TO

THE ALUMNI BOARD



YOUR LEADERSHIP IS APPRECIATED

SPONSOR

THETA CHI GOLF OUTING

WELCOME BROTHER

ALAN COPELAND

ZETA BETA HONORARY ZETA ALPHA

& GRAND CHAPTER MEMBER

SPONSOR

THETA CHI GOLF OUTING

CONGRATULATIONS

MIKE

BARISKI

WPIAL COACH OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR

THETA CHI GOLF OUTING

LINCOLN

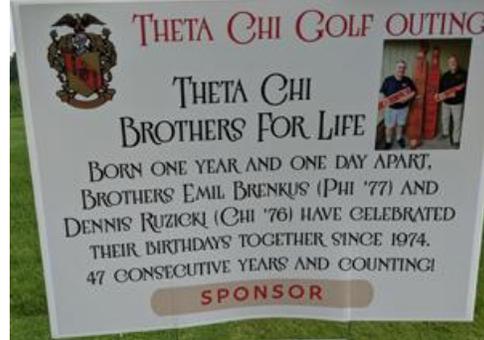
PARK

LEOPARDS



WPIAL CHAMPS

SPONSOR





Thank you to those who contributed!

- Thomas "ZZ" Chapple
- Jeffery "Jake" Jacob
- Patrick Russell
- David Stotka
- Dan Angelucci
- Joseph "Joe" White
- Gary Donelli
- Gary Perdue
- Jim Friend
- Charles "Chuckie" Boylan
- John Farrar

- Rick Fox
- Doug Bull
- Jim Dunn
- Tom "Chevy" Laicha
- Kevin Krepinevich
- Bob Baudoux
- Mike Bariski
- Logan Tupper
- Sky Pederson
- Nick Trombetta
- Stephen "Taz" Atteridge
- Dennis Ruzicki

Photo Highlights from the Golf Outing

Thank you to brothers who shared with us photos from the golf outing so we could share them with those who could not participate. Below are the photos we received.







Theta Chi Fraternity

165th

Anniversary Celebration

The Theta Chi Fraternity 165th Anniversary Celebration was held July 30 - August 1, 2021 in Lexington Kentucky. Originally scheduled for 2020 but delayed due Covid-19 collegians and alumni from all over the country and Canada descended on Lexington to share brotherhood, awards and the vision of the future of Theta Chi Fraternity.

Many of the highlights of the event will appear in your next edition of the Rattle. If you are receiving an electronic edition of the Rattle, make sure to click on the digital links and you can view a wide range of images from the event to get a "real feel" of what occurred at the sold out event.

Some of the highlights of the event included:

- A moving memorial service was conducted where the names of brothers who had passed over the last 2 years including **Brothers David Minett, Don Heisey and George Swanson** were shared with those in attendance.
- Super Bowl winning Coach with the Saint Louis Rams and Theta Chi Al Saunders was the Keynote speaker at the closing ceremony.
- Brothers participated in breakout sessions covering topics including "Our Sacred Purpose"; Experience the Resolute Journey; Have Fun, Stay Safe; Marketing and Customer Experience; Know Your Rights; Survival Guide for Dealing with Difficult People; Understanding My Theta Chi and GreekBill; Back to School; ; Preparation for Being the Marshall; Hot Topics and Moral; Recruitment Planning and Coaching to name a few.
- After extensive review and careful work the ritual has been revised in some areas and to demonstrate how it should be conducted the Grand Chapter conducted a complete initiation Ritual for all in attendance.
- Finally, if you have not seen a presentation by **Dr. Louis Profeta from Greek University** who spoke on the topic of "Why College Students die on Campus. You may want to Google him! We are considering bring him to SRU for a campus-wide Sacred Purpose program.

President Brown and Executive Director Mayer also shared with all in attendance the new 10 year Strategic Plan for the Fraternity while **celebrating the successes** experienced despite the challenges of Covid-19.

These included:

- **Record Active Chapters - 163**
- **95% Year over Year Membership Retention**
- **Financial strength (being able to reduce dues by \$100 per collegian for year due to Covid-19 and not needing to reduce staff or resources)**

The Strategic Plan will be based on the vision that Theta Chi will provide the premier men's fraternity experience.

The mission statement being: **Theta Chi develops college-age men into successful students, good citizens, lifelong brothers and resolute leaders.**

This will include:

Infrastructure/Finance

- Fundraising Development
- Stewardship of resources
- Chapter Housing

Growth

- 5000+ annual initiates
- Recruitment Coaching
- Expansion to new campuses

Communication

- Improving internal and External communication
- Keeping the Brand fresh
- Investment in Technology

Chapter Operations/Advocacy

- Enhancing chapter coaching model
- Interfraternalism
- Promoting & Defending student organizational rights

Member Experience

- Resolute Man revitalization
- Academics
- Commitment to All-Male experience
- Advancing Culture & Teaching Tolerance
- Sacred Purpose

The Zeta Alpha Chapter had 4 representatives at the celebration in Lexington including Immediate Past President Eric Lehman Chapter President Cooper Collins, Recruitment Chairman Andrew Auth and Chapter Advisor Kevin Krepinevich



As a final note since its inception in 1964, the Zeta Alpha Chapter has never had a chapter banner to display at the International Convention or celebration. These are displayed about the room during a convention. President Cooper Collins and the Zeta Alpha Chapter has rectified this oversight and we shall be appropriately represented from now on!



<http://www.zachapter.com>

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