

ALPHABET



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SEES PROGRESS WITH EARLY COMMITMENTS

Alumni Participation Is Vital to Our Success

In just a short three months since announcing the *150 Years of Theta Xi: Building Alpha's Future Together* campaign we've already seen incredible growth in signed commitments. We are extremely pleased with the response we have received from loyal alumni, not only from a monetary standpoint but also with your desire to reconnect with an organization that is still important to you. We are especially proud of the undergraduate chapter. **Collectively, the actives have contributed or pledged nearly \$70,000 to our campaign.** Their commitment to this effort is an outstanding example of their dedication to Alpha's future.

Since August we've gained more than \$150,000 in new commitments, bringing the total raised to \$583,654 from only 86 donors, less than 10%

of our active alumni! We are so thankful for those who have since stepped forward, but now we look to the rest of our brothers for help.

The campaign and rebuilding of Alpha is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our members, and we want every alumnus to participate in the creation of our improved chapter house. Rally your brothers for a class gift, honor a loved one through a five-year pledge, or join your family to place your name on the distinguished list of donors.

As we mentioned in the campaign brochure earlier this fall, our renovated home will feature necessary upgrades and structural changes, making for improved public spaces, bathrooms, bedrooms, and kitchen. It will also be equipped with life-safety features, such as asbestos treat-

ment, sprinkler systems, and fire detection and alarm systems, protecting the live-in brothers and guests 24/7.

As the campaign chairman, I am encouraged to see the response we have received so far to this very important and necessary campaign. I thank you for your support and continued interest in Alpha.

Yours in the Bonds,
David Fowkes '89 (A1275)
Campaign Chairman

P.S. A full listing of our campaign donors is on page 2—add your name by filling out the enclosed pledge card! We'd be honored to include you among these generous contributors.

Gary Peterson '62 (A964) Pays It Forward at Iconic 1490 Sage Avenue

"You can't be a student at Rensselaer without seeing Theta Xi's chapter house all the time," proud Alpha alumnus **Gary Peterson '62 (A964)** boasts. "It's an integral part of the campus and no other fraternity can say that—it'd be a shame to let it disappear." Gary looks back on his time at 1490 Sage Avenue fondly, and says, "I would need a page the size of the *New York Times* to list all my favorite memories." Although many of the new member traditions have changed since Gary was a freshman, he describes his pledgship as one of the most profound experiences in shaping his life and his profession.

Having pledge tests and responsibilities allowed him the opportunity to get to know himself and others on a fundamental level he never had before. "It was a difficult blend of physical and psychological pressure that was brilliant in its concept." The challenging experiences he faced helped him thrive in his profession, and says, "In any job you're inevitably subjected to psychological pressure. That pledging routine was the first time in my life I really started to understand people and see



how instinctual reactions can vary." Before retiring a few years ago, Gary spent 40 years with Ingersoll-Rand/Dresser-Rand, where he worked hard and achieved success, which he believes wouldn't have been possible without the lessons learned in Theta Xi.

For the last three consecutive years, Gary has made his way back to Theta Xi for alumni events and reunions. He has immensely enjoyed the ongoing social relationship Theta Xi has given him and is thrilled to maintain lifelong friendships with **Bob Nilsson '63 (A984)**, **Bill Gutheim '63 (A982)**, **George Dabb '62 (A972)**, **Kenny Wilson '63 (A973)**, **Ray Rettberg '63 (A983)**, **Frank Fischer '64 (A986)**, **John Van Gelder '64 (A999)**, **Pat Mahoney '64 (A1008)**, and countless others. Gary recognizes that the chapter house undoubtedly serves as a magnet that brings brothers, old and new, back together.

"We were given a beautiful gift—now everyone should participate in this campaign. Maybe you can't participate monetarily, but

(Continued on page 2)

150 YEARS OF THETA XI: Building Alpha's Future Together

Thank You, Loyal Brothers, for Committing \$583,654

We are deeply grateful to the 86 brothers who have committed \$583,654 to our campaign, *150 Years of Theta Xi: Building Alpha's Future Together*. This generosity demonstrates that these alumni and undergraduates recognize the importance of ensuring the future of Theta Xi. If an error has been made in recording your gift, we sincerely apologize. Please contact Campaign Chairman **David Fowkes '89 (A1275)** with corrections at dwfowkes@verizon.net.

Add your name to the list by making a pledge today!

Peter Henry Fox Society (\$100,000 and above)

Brendan P. Bagley, M.D. '94
In memory of
Roger Lundén '64

Ronald P. Simpson '64
Rick Gordon '65
Dr. David J. Barnette Jr. '76
Thomas White Jr. '79
Dane LeBlanc '80
Philip Cutrone '96
David P. Halsey '99
Peter Anderson '00
Jason T. Virgil '03
Robert J. King '04
Brad W. Spencer '04
Mark A. Black '07
Carl Busta '09
Jeffrey M. Kopera '11

Ralph Gooding Packard Society (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Philip Palmroth
John A. Reinhardt Jr. '94
Demetrius Mossaidis '96
In memory of
Danny Dog
John A. Simone '03
James A. Chenard '04
Rohun V. Gholkar '04
Gregory D. Wester '05

Bozzone Family Foundation
Robert P. Bozzone '55
Frank M. Fischer '64
Alpha Chapter of Theta Xi

Christopher Champlin Waite Society (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

E.W. Phares II '51
David H. Benton Jr. '85
David W. Fowkes '89

Henry Harrison Farnum Society (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Alexander S. Kuli '67
Mike Lyden '78
Christopher Riismandel '95
Casey E. Hill '01
Steven T. Ly '01
Paul W. Dalton '04
Jason A. Garabedian '04
Anthony Campos Jr. '09
Spencer M. Anunsen '11
In memory of
Josh Stimson '00

George Bradford Brainerd Society (\$15,000 to \$24,999)

George E. Callas '56
Carlos B. Soledade '94
Christopher J. Baldauf '03

Samuel Buel Jr. Society (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

James F. Ingle '55
Gary Peterson '62
August W. Gutheim '63
John M. Van Gelder '64
John B. Wilson '81
Matthew B. Glaccum '92

Thomas Cole Raymond Society (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Peter G. Bostock '56
Raymond J. Rettberg '63

Nathaniel Henry Starbuck Society (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Kobell Family Gift
In memory of
Joseph E. Kobell '50
Lloyd Bauer '55
Julian Smetana '56
Robert T. Drew '58
Vincent Agnello '60
Lee Wilcox '60
William E. Daniel '67
Roland M. Cavalier '68
William F. Fredericks '76
Duncan K. Sparrell '77
Jeffrey D. Lamoree '89
Ron Vogel
Hitoshi Sano '91

Campaign Status

At-a-Glance

As of November 18, 2014

Goal
\$750,000

Pledges to Date
\$583,654

Number of Contributors
86

Total Participation
9.63%

Christian Blanc '96
Lawrence Kaminsky '96
Michael Champagne '03
Justin R. Scaduto '05
Timothy A. Wise '07
Nihar Shah '11
Matthew Laird '12
Barry J. Fortuna Jr. '13
Gregory Weston '13

Gary Peterson '62 (A964) Pays it Forward

(Continued from page 1)

donate your time or networks. By doing so, we are enabling others to continue our proud history at Rensselaer." Gary pays it forward so the chapter house will remain an icon for all students on the Rensselaer campus. **"That house meant everything to me for five years of my life, and I'd like to do everything I can to support it and keep it going."**

Gary and his wife, Mary Anne, take delight in visiting their vacation home in the Sierra Nevada Mountains often and enjoy spending time with their three daughters, Anne, Karen, and Laura, three sons-in-law, and 10 grandchildren. While Gary has embraced a lifetime of sports, he has given most up and explains that now he's an "alleged" golfer. E-mail: garypete@att.net

WELCOME, FALL 2014 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Dylan Brion '16
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Frederick Hole '18
Ormond Beach, Fla.

Barret Soison '18*
West Lawn, Pa.
[Father **James Soison '94 (A1366)**]

Evan Bernstein '17
Waterford, N.Y.

Mike Miller '18*
Troy, N.Y.
[Brother **Matthew Miller '15 (A1677)**]

Yutao Wang '18
Ellington, Conn.

Carlos Calero '18
Birmingham, Ala.

Sage Parin '18
Mishawaka, Ind.

John Wilt '18
Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

Andrew DeMarco '18
Brewster, N.Y.

Daniel Reed '18
Poughquag, N.Y.

*Legacy; relative in brackets

Austin Egri '18
Buffalo, N.Y.

Harwant Sethi '18
Lyndonville, Conn.



Nickolas Ziter '17 (A1680), Alex Pawlak '17 (A1679), Conor Wood '17 (A1684), and Chris Flood '16 (A1664) manned a food and water distribution site for bikers during the Bike for Multiple Sclerosis event this fall, where they got to talk to the bikers and learn their motivations for volunteering.

Theta Xi Excels in Recruitment, Academics, Philanthropy Alumni Support Boosts Chapter Morale

Just because our 150th anniversary is over does not mean the Alpha Chapter has slowed down its efforts. The goals of this semester largely concentrated on self-improvement. The semester began with a strong recruitment and a brand new system to help improve the chapter GPA. However, the focus is not strictly internal as philanthropy remains a priority.

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED

The GPA last term was a 3.14, placing us in the top half of Greek GPAs for fraternities on campus. This semester marks the beginning of a new mentoring program for brothers who are struggling with schoolwork. These brothers are paired with senior brothers who monitor and help with the mentee's academic progress. This brother provides the mentee with assistance in a variety of ways. That assistance could come in the form of helping them out with their homework, going over concepts with them to prepare for an upcoming exam, or improving general study habits. This new program is a result of the persistence of Scholarship Chairman **David McWilliams '14 (A1650)**, who has been working with the mentors and mentees to improve the academic standing of the chapter.

ON-CAMPUS PRESENCE GROWS

Community Relations Chairman **Nick Ziter '17 (A1680)** organized several philanthropic events throughout the semester. The most recent was a fundraising event for multiple sclerosis research, which was co-sponsored by the women of Pi Beta Phi sorority. Together we tabled to sell candygrams, messages attached with candy, that we delivered on Halloween. In addition, the associate members have been collaborating with non-profit organization Hi5 Sports. Every Saturday morning, a group of brothers and associate members volunteer with this organization at a bowling alley to help out special needs children.

Membership is continuing its upward trajectory from previous semesters. Our biggest event, Car Bash, has continued to pull in hordes of prospective

members to the house. This was followed up with events like steak dinner and broomball, finishing off with a high ropes course and lazy river tubing. The culmination of these events and the effort of the brothers led to a total of 13 associate members for the fall. Even with 10 brothers graduating next spring, the size of the chapter will still increase. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of former Recruitment Chairman **Jon Burke '14 (A1645)**.

ALPHA CHAPTER EXCELS THANKS TO ALUMNI SUPPORT

Rather than taking a break after the 150th anniversary, the brothers of the Alpha Chapter saw fit to use it as a stepping stone. We will improve our academic standing, as well as maintain high numbers for recruitment. The chapter will also continue our numerous philanthropic events.

Evidence of our hard work was shown when the Alpha Chapter received a Benchmark Chapter award at the 150th anniversary convention. However, there was a much more meaningful testimony to the efforts of not just the actives, but the alumni of the Alpha Chapter. The awe and the appreciation for the chapter was evident in the faces of all that attended the convention. That experience truly humbled me.

None of this would have been possible without you, the brothers of the Alpha Chapter. On behalf of the actives, I truly thank you for the effort you have put into making this chapter what it is today. I look forward to visits from you in the coming months!



Yours in the Bonds,
Alex Pentland '15 (A1661)
Chapter President
president@alphaofthetaxi.com
(732) 614-7436



ALPHABET SOUP: CHAPTER ETERNAL

Robert B. Bass '40 (A573) entered Chapter Eternal in February 2013. Robert's interests included hunting, fishing, Boy Scouts, The Vestry at St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church, and, of course, his children and grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Catherine, and their four children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

John P. Van Duyne '44 (A612) entered Chapter Eternal on January 15. John was a WWII veteran serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and discharged in 1946 as a technical sergeant. He was an electrical engineer for 40 years, pioneering in electrical measurements, radio, and television. He ended his career with Singer as executive vice president of engineering in 1984. He was an avid amateur radio operator from 1936 until recently; last call letters were W1COA. John is survived by his wife of 69 years, Loraine, three sons, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

W. Bruce Lockwood '44 (A620) entered Chapter Eternal on October 11, 2012, at the age of 90. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for a short time before enlisting in the Navy at the beginning of World War II. He spent five years in the Navy primarily in the Pacific theater. Bruce's leadership skills earned him challenging assignments; at age 21 he was the captain of a sub-chaser. After the war, he returned to school at the University of Michigan, where he captained the sailing team, presided over Theta Xi fraternity, and earned a degree in naval architecture. Bruce was a talented sailor who was widely known in southeastern Connecticut as an enthusiastic and avid competitor. As teenagers, several times Bruce and his brother, John, rescued a capsized neighbor of theirs who was not as talented as they were with sailboats: Albert Einstein. Not only did Bruce race sailboats, he restored and built them as well. He cherished his extensive collection of tools and woodworking equipment and spent many hours building penguin and el toro-class boats, which he then won races with. In 1938, he and his brother founded the Old Cove Yacht Club in New Suffolk, Long Island, still going strong today. In 2007, Bruce wrote the book, *Reflections - Off Soundings Since 1933*, which was published and sold to sailors and non-sailors alike. Bruce was a positive-thinking man who was loved by many people and who made friends wherever he went. His zest for life was contagious, and he had a unique way of seeing the best in everything. Bruce's passion for life touched many and those who knew him were richer for his friendship. Bruce was predeceased by his first wife of 44 years, Nancy, and his sister, Mary Oakes. He is survived by his wife of 15 years, Linda; four daughters; two step-sons and their families; two brothers; and numerous nieces and nephews.

John G. Shipton '51 (A714) entered Chapter Eternal on September 20, 2012, in Commerce, Texas, at the age of 87. John was proud of his Irish heritage and his service in the United States Army. He served as a paratrooper on D-Day and was proud of his contribution to the cause of freedom. John was an avid sportsman and worked for years at his own business selling and refurbishing sports equipment. He loved to talk to people—he was a master storyteller. John is survived by his loving daughters, Dana and Jody, and their husbands.

C. Brad Dewey Jr. '52 (A768) entered Chapter Eternal in November 2013 at Fort Hudson Nursing Facility. Brad graduated from New

Hampton School in 1945 and began college at RPI. He left RPI after his first year and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving for two years as an electronics technician mate. He returned to RPI, where he played lacrosse and graduated in 1952. In 1949, he married Julia Law Pippin (Judy). They began their 64-year marriage with three years together at RPI. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his two children and five grandchildren.

Roger F. Hallenbeck '52 (A773) entered Chapter Eternal in September 2013 in Foothill Acres Care Center, Hillsborough Township. He graduated with a B.S. degree in architecture and received his master's in urban planning from Columbia University. His is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ruth (Rooney), four children, and five grandchildren.

Willy H. Pieper '53 (A800) entered Chapter Eternal in August 2013. Willy received a B.S. in engineering after completing a tour with the U.S. Army as part of the post-WWII reconstruction in Japan. He married Elaine Kimmey in 1961, and they lived together in Auburn, N.Y., before moving full-time to Ballston Lake. Willy was passionate about gardening and landscaping his beloved camp along the Ballston Lake shoreline and spent many happy hours there working on his rock garden and bird watching. He was also an avid golfer and active for many years with various Lutheran congregations and social groups. Willy is survived by his wife, four children, and five grandchildren.

John G. Williams Jr. '56 (A808) entered Chapter Eternal on August 28 at Park Ridge Hospital. He was born in Akron, Ohio, on February 13, 1930. He grew up in Ohio and Toronto, Canada and subsequently moved to Troy, NY, to attend RPI. In 1952 he attended Officer Candidate School at Ft. Belvoir, Va., and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Upon discharge from the army, John and his wife, Joan, whom he was married to for 60 years, traveled extensively in the west until they returned to RPI, where he completed his degree in architectural engineering. He gave his time to First United Methodist Church as president of the board of trustees, as well as on the building committee. He and Joan enjoyed primitive camping and canoeing in the northern lakes of Algonquin Park, Ontario. John is survived by Joan; two daughters, Nancy and Susan; two sons, Mike and Steve; five grandsons; four great-grandchildren; and his brother.

William P. Engels '54 (A819) was born August 15, 1931, and entered Chapter Eternal on February 10. He lived a full life and will be deeply missed. He was a resident of Marco Island, Fla.

Gordon R. Peterkin '55 (A829) entered Chapter Eternal on September 21, peacefully in hospital after a lengthy struggle with Alzheimer's disease. In 1954, Gordon scored the game-winning goal in sudden-death overtime for RPI to beat Minnesota 5-4 for the 1954 NCAA hockey title. He also recorded a hat trick and an assist in the semifinal game against Michigan. **Lloyd Bauer '55 (A826)** and **Martin Karch '56 (A853)** were also on that title-winning team. You can Google the winter 2003 issue of the Rensselaer alumni magazine for a great recap of the 1954 hockey team. Gordon is remembered as a beloved husband to Pat Christie for 47 years, loving father to Andrew and Lesley, and proud grandfather to Ashlyn, Connor, Spencer, Carter, and Zahra.



Jack R. Maurer '55 (A842) entered Chapter Eternal in October 2013 at Harmar Village, Pennsylvania. He worked as a metallurgical engineer at Allegheny Ludlum Research in Brackenridge for more than 45 years. He was a very active member of Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church, where he was an elder and deacon. He was actively involved as a Scout master, Cub leader, and assistant Scout master of Troop 395 of the Boy Scouts of America for more than 50 years. He was active in many social and professional organizations. He was an avid reader and he traveled the world for both business and pleasure. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Delphine M. Burton Maurer, his three children, and five grandchildren.

David J. Carlson '56 (A855) entered Chapter Eternal peacefully at home in the presence of his family following a long battle with Parkinson's disease and dementia. He was a leader until the day he passed and will continue to be through his life teachings and the example he set every day. David served in the U.S. Navy midway through college until he was honorably discharged in 1957. He received the National Defense Service Medal. David completed his mechanical engineering degree at Newark College of Engineering in 1961. Per David's own words, his "great adventure" began in 1962 when he headed west. David began his distinguished career with IBM in the San Francisco Bay Area but returned to the northwest after he accepted a position with Tektronix in 1980, where he worked until he retired in the mid-1990s. David derived pleasure from his varied interests, including hunting, fishing, boating, camping, and woodworking. He also enjoyed trains, airplanes (he had a pilot's license), and Notre Dame football. David's legacy will endure through the unforgettable memories and invaluable life lessons passed to his two children, three grandchildren, extended family, and close friends.

Lawrence W. Chaffinch '58 (A898) entered Chapter Eternal on September 13, 2010, at the age of 74. Lawrence served in the U.S. Army for four years. He met and married Marian Soulsman and together they raised one son, Curt. Lawrence worked as a computer systems engineer for First Tennessee Bank and was instrumental in finding ways to integrate computers into the banking industry. Lawrence liked NASCAR racing, Civil War and naval history, and was an avid University of Alabama Crimson Tide fan. He also enjoyed building model railroads and airplanes. Lawrence was particularly proud of Curt's successful military career with the U.S. Navy. Lawrence and Marian, whom he was married to for 43 years, moved to Ocala from Horn Lake, Miss., in 2003. He is survived by Marian, Curt, his brother, William, and one granddaughter, Chelsea.

Frederick E. Fritschi '65 (A1015) was born on January 25, 1944, and entered Chapter Eternal on December 2, 2012. He was a loyal brother and friend. He was a resident of Dallas, Texas.

William D. Barhite '73 (A1144) of Allen Park, Michigan, entered Chapter Eternal in April 2009. He was a beloved husband to his wife, Bonnie, a loving father to his two children, and role model to his grandson.



Brothers attend the August dedication of the 150th Anniversary Memorial in front of the Ricketts Building. From left: Bobby Fohrenbach '15 (A1662), James Lee '14 (A1654), Alumni Association President Chris Baldauf '03 (A1487), Robert Strang '16 (A1672), and Chapter President Alex Pentland '15 (A1661). For more details on the 150th Anniversary Convention, read the Fall 2014 issue of The Unicorn at <http://thetaxi.org/the-unicorn>.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Chris Flood '16 (A1664)

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David McWilliams '14 (A1650)

VISIT US ON THE WEB



Reconnect with your Alpha brothers and stay up to date on all the latest chapter events by visiting our LinkedIn and Facebook pages.



LinkedIn: Search for Alpha Chapter of Theta Xi and connect professionally to 131 brothers.



Facebook: Search for Zoo Alumni to find 339 members, or search by individual groups, Theta Xi Club of Boston, Theta Xi Club of New York, Greater Houston Area Theta Xi Alumni Club, and Theta Xi – Washington, D.C., Alumni Club.



www.alpha6294.com: Explore the alumni database, view the photo gallery, read expanded articles, and update your information at the Alpha Chapter of Theta Xi Alumni website.



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Alpha Chapter members paid their respects to founder Nathaniel Starbuck (A8) at the Oakwood Cemetery Cleanup last year. The eight founders of Theta Xi were elected into the Order of the Unicorn at the 150th Convention in August.