



**Alumni of Alpha Chapter
Theta Xi Fraternity
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

Fall 2012 E-Newsletter

October 4th, 2012

Dear Brother,

We are pleased to provide you with the Fall 2012 E-Newsletter.
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National Recognizes Alpha Excellence

The Alumni Association is pleased to announce that Alpha Chapter has been recognized by Theta Xi National in the following categories for 2011-2012:

Benchmark Chapter Award
Accreditation Recognition
Outstanding Recruitment Award
Outstanding Communication Award - Newsletter

The full listing of national awards may be found on the Theta Xi National website by [clicking here](#).

The Alumni Association also congratulates **David McWilliams A1650** and **Kenneth Sack Alpha 1829**, on being awarded the Edward I. Rudd Scholarships for 2012. **Edward I. Rudd A420**, Class of 1932, provided for a gift in

his estate plan which allowed for two scholarships (one for a member of Alpha Chapter and another for a member of any other chapter) to be awarded each year and administered by Theta Xi National. More details on Brother Rudd's gift and a list of past recipients may be found on the Theta Xi National [website](#).

Work Weekend 2012

House Manager **Will Smythe A1646** reports that work week back in August went well. The drain in the front yard was redone, as well as a lot of other general fixing/beautification to get the House and grounds looking sharp for the new school year. See sights of work week:



Strong Rush by Chapter Delivers

According to Rush Chair **Dagmawi Yifru A1630**, the chapter had a great turnout for car bash, and had many more people at the wing eating contest than was expected. Assistant Rush Chair was **Jon Burke A1645**. Clockwise from top left: Car Bash in the house parking lot; Soccer up at one of the athletic fields; Wing eating contest at the house.





Alpha Welcomes 12 New Associate Members

Name	Class Major	Hometown
Kody Ballard	2016 Chemical Eng	St. Albans, VT
Nicholas Dvorak	2016 Chemical Eng	Amenia, NY
Beren Evans	2016 Nuclear Eng	Voluntown, CT
Chris Flood	2016 Electrical Eng	Easton, PA
Carson Hotard	2016 Mechanical Eng	Annandale, VA
Eric Shapiro	2015 Math/Physics Dual	Shokan, NY
Zachary Shute	2016 Comp Sys Eng	Portland, OR
Matt Waddell	2016 Physics	Plainville, CT
James Wang	2016 Civil Eng	Fresh Meadows, NY
Patrick Wasil	2016 Chemical Eng	Fort Mill, SC
David Wen	2015 Electrical Eng	CHINA
Pat Whelan	2013 Mechanical Eng	Old Lyme, CT



Alpha Chapter welcomes 12 new associate members at the induction ceremony on September 28th, 2012.

Reunion & Homecoming Weekend - October 5-7, 2012

FRIDAY, October 5th 4:00-7:00pm -- Wine and Cheese Reception -- The Brothers of the Alpha Chapter of Theta Xi will host their annual Wine and Cheese Reception at the Chapter House. Alumni, RPI faculty and staff as well as the surrounding community are invited to attend in order to promote interaction between alumni, the actives and RPI staff. In addition, the event allows the active brothers to share the virtues of the fraternity to the surrounding community. Contact Alumni Relations Chair **Bobby Fohrenbach A1662** at fohrer@rpi.edu for more details.

6:00-8:00pm -- 6th Annual Greek ChowderFest Competition -- Greek ChowderFest, held at Rensselaer Society of Engineers House at 1501 Sage Ave, is a free event during Reunion & Homecoming Weekend (Oct. 5 - 7, 2012) for all Greek alumni and students. The event is a chowder making competition between different Greek organizations for the top prizes of The People's Choice & The Judges' Choice. Greek Organization bragging rights and a \$300 prize will be given for each category. Greek ChowderFest is sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, the Rensselaer Alumni Association (RAA) & Alumni Inter-Greek Council (AIGC), Panhel and the IFC. **Last year's winner of the People's Choice award was the 'Fall Chowdah' entry by the Brothers of Alpha Chapter.**

SATURDAY, October 6th

11:00am - 1:00pm - Annual Alumni Barbeque -- The Brothers of the Alpha Chapter of Theta Xi will host their annual Alumni Barbeque at the Chapter House. This is a great opportunity to visit the house and get to know the current brothers as well as meet the new associate members. Contact **Bobby Fohrenbach A1662** at fohrer@rpi.edu for more details.

1:00pm - Varsity Football -- RPI vs. St. Lawrence (East Campus Athletic Village Stadium).

7:00pm - Varsity Hockey -- RPI vs. Acadia University (Houston Field House).

[RPI's Reunion & Homecoming event schedule](#)

150th Anniversary Update

150th 6294 is April 26, 2014. A number of alumni including those from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s are working to coordinate a large reunion so hold the date. If you are interested in more information, please contact **David Fowkes A1275** at dwfowkes@verizon.net.

2012 Faculty Awards

Congratulations to the 2012 winners of these faculty awards gifted by Alpha alumni:

David M Darrin '40 Counseling Award (A566) – **Burt Swersey**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Nuclear Engineering

Jerome Fishbach '38 Faculty Travel Grant (A554) – **John Tichy**, Professor, Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Nuclear Engineering

William H. Wiley 1866 Distinguished Faculty Award (A206/A11) – **Nadarajah Narendran**, Director of Research, Lighting Research Center and Professor, School of Architecture

Theta Xi City Clubs

Albany, NY Club - [OPEN]. Email David Fowkes A1275 at dwfowkes@verizon.net about upcoming events.

Boston Club - Chris Blanc A1404 - For more information please contact Chris at cblanc@gmail.com.

Chicago Club - Weston Harding Gamma Tau 1 - Weston.Harding@xplusrealestate.com

NYC Club - David Fowkes A1275 - Email David at dwfowkes@verizon.net for more info.

Washington DC - Dan Daly Beta Omega 187 - The Washington DC Alumni Club has a happy hour the first Friday of every month. For more information, please contact Daniel Daly, DC Alumni Club President at dand187@gmail.com. John Reinhardt A1358 has also recently gotten together Alphas in the DC area. Contact John at john@teamreinhardt.com for more details.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 5-7, 2012

RPI Reunion & Homecoming: Get together with your Brothers this fall on the RPI campus in Troy, New York. See details above.

January 18-21, 2013

Vredenberg Presidents Academy: In its 14th year, the Vredenberg Presidents Academy held in St. Louis, Missouri is an intensive weekend of leadership training for Chapter Presidents. This academy is an exciting and interactive program that enables each chapter president to improve his personal skills and chapter operations by joining with his peers from across the country for a high quality leadership and educational weekend that includes small group interaction, outdoor leadership experience and quality interaction with recent past presidents (peer

facilitators) and alumni volunteers. The Academy has been named in honor of Theta Xi's late Executive Director, Jim Vredenburgh, Beta Omega ???, who passed away earlier this year.

January 18-21, 2013

Rising Stars Academy: This academy held in St. Louis, Missouri is for first-year initiates (men initiated in 2012) and coincides with the Presidents Academy. The Rising Stars Academy concentrates on providing attendees an opportunity to assess and develop their leadership styles and skills, in an interactive and experiential setting. Along with meeting new members from across the country, they gather ideas they can take back to strengthen their chapters in the areas of recruitment, membership education and overall operations. Team building skills are strengthened by accomplishing tasks presented on an exciting outdoor leadership challenge course.

February 2013 (Dates and sites TBD)

Newell District Leadership Academies: A host chapter in each District hosts these academies designed to create a greater national consciousness by bringing together chapter members to meet, work and interact with one another and with officials of the Fraternity.

April 27, 2013

6294 Reunion Weekend: Join us on Saturday for our annual corporation meeting and 6294 Celebration in Troy, New York.

April 26, 2014

6294 Reunion Weekend -- Theta Xi 150th Anniversary: Join us in Troy, New York as the Chapter and the Fraternity celebrate the founding of Theta Xi and Alpha Chapter 150 years ago.

August 2014

Theta Xi 150th Anniversary Convention: Join Theta Xi's from around the world in Troy, New York to celebrate the founding of Theta Xi.

Call for Photos/Yearbooks

WANTED: Alpha Chapter composites for pre-1958,1962,1963,1964,1969 to 1978, miscellaneous pictures or any yearbook that you would like to donate to the chapter's collection. If you have one of these, please contact Matt Glaccum at mglaccum@geosphereinc.com.

Get Connected through Online Networks

Connect with Brothers through online social and professional networks.

LinkedIn.com: <http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/95974/613485187C67> (103 Brothers - 20+ have joined in the last 12 months)

FaceBook.com: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/zooalumni/> (283 Brothers - 55+ have joined in the last 12 months) or search for 'Zoo Alumni'.

Chapter Eternal

A436 Richard B. Somers '32 5/14/1992*

A479 Bernard P. Wolbarst '35 5/00/1991*

A515 Ralph H. Hovey '37 4/26/1993*

A596 Alfred A. Curtis II '42 7/7/2002*

A615 Allen K. Woodcock '48 5/26/2010 [obituary](#)

A702 William A. Fatora '47 3/15/2012 [obituary](#)

A802 Donald P. Simek '54 3/14/2012 [obituary](#)
A817 John Okrepkie '54 9/14/2012 [obituary](#)
A835 Gerald L. Commerford '55 7/3/2012 [obituary](#)
A840 James A. Moore ('55) 5/8/2003
A866 Robert V. Hodgkins '56 3/15/2012 [obituary](#)
A905 Jack B. Watson '58 '59 10/8/2011 [obituary](#)
A1037 Robert C. Kohberger '67 '71 '75 3/17/2012 [obituary](#)
A1057 Gregory Rogovsky '69 11/28/1997*
A1109 Anthony F. Battaglia '71 2/19/2012 [obituary](#)
A1158 Stephan P. Haigh '77 6/15/2002*

*Recently 'found' alumni who are confirmed deceased. Dates for these are best known.

Thanks go to **Bill Taubert A824** and **Lloyd Bauer A826** for bringing Brother "Al" Moore "back" to Alpha after almost 60 years! For more details please contact Matt Glaccum at mglaccum@geosphereinc.com.

Volunteers Needed

Want to help out but not sure how? Contact David Fowkes (dwfowkes@verizon.net), Matt Glaccum (mglaccum@geosphereinc.com) or Chris Baldauf (chris.baldauf@gmail.com) to find out what you can do to help the chapter organizations continue to grow. Whether it is acting as a mentor to the Actives, working on the website or joining in organizing alumni events, please consider helping to strengthen the chapter network connection.

Alpha Alumni Website

Have you visited our alumni website? Have you updated your contact information so we can continue to send you your AlphaBet and electronic newsletters? Please visit our website at www.alpha6294.com or [update your contact information](#) if it is incorrect or missing as listed below.

Find Alpha Alumni

Looking for Alpha Alums? Our website provider, alumni owned and operated Destined Studios (**John Viggiano A1488** and **Ben Haynes A1526**) have added a new feature to our website. Please sign in/register at www.alpha6294.com and look for the Google Maps logo and search field. Type in any address and a Google map will provide you with a listing of all Alpha alumni living near that address. Thinking of moving or going on a trip? Check out alumni who you may want to call to grab a beer.

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