



Alumni of Alpha Chapter Theta Xi Fraternity Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Spring 2008 E-Newsletter

March 12, 2008

Dear Brother,

We are pleased to provide you with the Spring 2008 E-newsletter.

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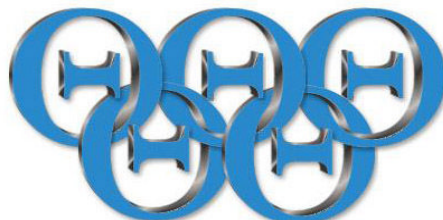
6294 Celebration and Fundraiser



The 6294 Dinner is scheduled for **April 26, 2008**. After way too long of a hiatus . 6294 in the Chapterhouse is back. This is one that you just can't miss - plan your weddings and conceptions accordingly. Over 60 Alumni and guests are already signed up to join the Brothers of Alpha in Troy.

To RSVP, please visit our [6294 Evite](#) and let us know if you are returning this year.

OLYMPIC REGISTRATION OPEN: John Reinhardt A1358 and Mike Petronino A1359 are organizing the Theta Xi Olympic games for that weekend. For more details about the games, please look at www.zoo-brew.com/olympics.html and get registered now!



The ΘΞ 6294 Olympics

SUPPORT THE OLYMPICS: To provide a quality Olympic experience, John and Mike need your help to help fund some needed work at the chapterhouse. Please consider making a contribution today to support the purchase of a new foosball table, dart board and pool table accessories; repairs are also needed for the pool table as well. John and Mike are looking to raise \$2000 for this purpose. The Alumni Association has recently had to allocate significant money for the purchase of a new refrigerator for the Actives and cannot fund games equipment alone. Any funds left over will be applied toward the purchase of a new foyer rug and other pre-6294 improvements as needed. Beyond that, donations are to be put toward the upcoming summer work week projects and other Association expenses.

IMPORTANT: You **MUST** let the Association know that you wish your donation (or a portion thereof) go toward this campaign by contacting anyone involved in the fundraising or use the e-mail address provided below. If you are attending the 6294 dinner, the first \$100-single/\$150-couple donation you send in go toward paying the dinner expense. Any donations above that amount can be applied toward this targeted fundraising but, again, you must let the Association know of your wishes.

HOW TO DONATE: Contact us at alumni-update@alpha6294.com for more information or go to the Alumni website for more options at www.alpha6294.com/donations.php.

E-MAIL US: If you decide to help out by donating, please send an e-mail to alumni-update@alpha6294.com and let us know how you want your money spent.

CONSIDERATION: The improvements that this Olympics fundraiser will fund will be very beneficial for future rush events and alumni activities as well; it will also improve the look of the public areas of the House.



150th Anniversary Convention in Troy in Summer 2014?

National has begun to explore the possibility of holding Theta Xi's 150th Anniversary convention in Troy, NY during the Summer of 2014. Executive Director Jim Vredenburg recently toured Capital District facilities to review viable options. Representatives met with RPI officials to explore the possibility of utilizing RPI facilities (lodging and conference) to hold the event on campus. National President Jon Luning and Grand Lodge Member Don Meringer toured campus at the February 23rd DLA and discussed Memorial Seat re-dedication ideas. It's too early to declare victory but initial momentum is positive at both National and with RPI.

Early Alpha Photo Album/Call for Photos

Catch a glimpse of life in the 19th century for the Brothers of Alpha Chapter. Check out the **Alpha Photo Album** on the alumni website at www.alpha6294.com/history_archives.php. Most photos are portrait settings for brothers between A1 and A200, but there are a few group photos as well. The loaning of the Album for scanning came courtesy of the Theta Xi National HQ in St. Louis.

WANTED: 300dpi TIF scans of chapter composites for 1962,1963,1964,1969 to 1978, 1986-87, 1992-1993, 1996-1997, 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2002-2003. If you have one of these, please contact Matt Glaccum at mglaccum@geosphereinc.com.

Chapter House Floors Redone!

When the floors were fully sanded and refinished a few years ago the contractor said that we could no longer do a full sand - they are too thin after 75 years. He said if we did a "screening" (a very light sanding of the finish as opposed to the wood) and a re-finish every couple of years we can get another few (maybe 7-10?) years out of them looking pretty good. This is a maintenance program we will follow until it is time (during a full renovation) to actually replace the wood floors. Visit the [Alpha Renovations page](#) for more photos and other updates.



Presidents Academy/Rising Stars Academy

Two men from Alpha Chapter spent a weekend hanging out with brothers from across the country in St. Louis this past January 18-21.

Current chapter president **John Steciuk A1571** attended the Presidents Academy. The Academy "enables each chapter president to improve his personal skills and chapter operations by joining with his peers for a high quality leadership and educational weekend." More details about the event can be found at <http://thetaxi.org/Events/PresAcad.php>.

Brother **Jin Yang A1590** joined other first year initiates in experiencing the 3rd annual Rising Stars Academy. The weekend event concentrates "on providing attendees an opportunity to assess and develop their leadership styles and skills, in an interactive and experiential setting." More details about the event can be found at <http://thetaxi.org/Events/RisingStar.php>.

The Alumni Association subsidized their travel expenses while the national organization handled their stay in St. Louis.

2007 National Accreditation Results

The actives earned 8 out of 9 in the accreditation process.

Of the 52 Theta Xis nationally (47 chapters, 5 colonies), only 4 did better than Alpha (had 9/9).

Of the 52 Theta Xis nationally (47 chapters, 5 colonies), only 22 received passing grades.

[Click here to view the 2007 Accreditation Summary.](#)

Welcome Newest Initiates and Associate Members!



(Photo on left) On January 19th, 2008, eight new Brothers were initiated into the Bonds of Theta Xi: **A1594 Jeff Kopera**; **A1595 Anthony Campos**; **A1596 Ben McCarty**; **A1597 Carlos Correa**; **A1598 Bill Simmons**; **A1599 Ken Lee**; **A1600 John Shepard**; **A1601 Gavin Graham**

Congratulations to our new initiates.

(Photo on right) Welcome our newest associate members from left to right (seated):

Joe	Mahonchak	FR	EE	Oakland, NJ
Alex	Meola	FR	Chem	Plaistow, NH
Adam	Baker	SO	CompSci	Troy, NY
Nihar	Shah	FR	Aero-Mech	Reading, MA
Ken	Shin	FR	Bio-Chem/Management	Tenatly, NJ
John	Lee	FR	CompSci	New York, NY

Visit our [Alpha News](#) section on our website to read more news about Alpha and our members.

New Northeast Regional Director

The Alumni Association congratulates **David Fowkes A1275** on being appointed the new Northeast Regional Director. Brother Fowkes received the news from Theta Xi Executive Director Jim Vredenburg this past January. He takes over for Brother Chris Hansen of Delta Chapter who had to relinquish the role when he decided to take a position overseas. Visit [Alpha News](#) for more information



Volunteers Needed

Want to help out but not sure how? Contact David Fowkes (dfowkes@comcast.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.

District Leadership

Alpha Chapter played host to the chapters of the Northeast on February 23rd as various brothers from the region descended on Troy for the District Leadership Academy. **Gamma Mu, Omicron and Zeta** chapter representatives were in attendance; poor traveling conditions prevented other chapters from attempting the trip. Also joining the chapter delegates were Theta Xi National President **Jon Luning Beta Omega 241**, Grand Lodge member **Don Meringer Omicron 1093**, Northeast Regional Director **David Fowkes A1275**, and Alpha Chapter Advisor **Chris "Norm" Baldauf A1487**. [Visit the Actives section on our website for more information.](#)



Annual Fund Update

We are off to another great start to our Annual Fund. Thank you!! **We have set a goal of \$42,500 and 160 donors for the 2007-08 fraternal year.** To see the fraternal year-end results, please visit our [Alpha Fund Drive web page](#). If your name is not in the list from this past year, you can give directly on the site via PayPal and get on this year's list.

Theta Xi City Clubs

Alpha Chapter alumni are banding with other Theta Xis nationwide to establish or re-establish area Theta Xi alumni clubs. **New York City Club** Wednesday March 12, 2008 at Mustang Harry's, 352 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001 at 6:30 pm. To RSVP, visit the [New York Club Evite](#)

Alpha Alumni Website

Have you visited our new 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.

Send Us An Update

Have news you want to share? You can send text and pictures to alumni-update@alpha6294.com. All updates will be posted where Brothers signing in to the alumni website can see what you have been up to.

Yours in the Bonds,

Theta Xi Association of Troy, New York