



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

Spring 2011 E-Newsletter

April 7, 2011

Dear Brother Viggiano,

We are pleased to provide you with the Spring 2011 E-Newsletter.
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Alpha Welcomes New Brothers into the Bonds



From L to R: Alex Fredette, William Smythe, Jon Burke, Ryan Cassidy, Yao Dong, John Tiedtke

In February, Alpha welcomed 6 new brothers into the Bonds:

A1642	Alex Fredette	Nuclear Engineering 2014
A1643	John Tiedkte	Mechanical Engineering 2014
A1644	Yao Dong	Biomedical Engineering 2014
A1645	Jon Burke	Civil Engineering 2014
A1646	Will Smythe	Mechanical Engineering 2014
A1647	Ryan Cassidy	Aeronautical Engineering 2014

Congratulations to the newest members of Alpha Chapter!

6294 Celebration April 30, 2011

Friday, April 29th

- **8pm** - Get together at the House.

Saturday, April 30th

- **12:00 pm** - BBQ lunch at the House.
- **2:00 pm** - Annual alumni corporation meeting and elections on campus. Meeting location to be announced.

- **5:00 pm** - Annual alumni/active awards ceremony and photos at the Chapter House.
- **6:00-9:00pm** Formal -- Buffet Style Dinner at Carmela's Banquet House in Rensselaer - Any alumni wishing to attend the dinner with the actives **must pay in advance by April 15th** via PayPal by [clicking here](#). Cost will be \$50 per person, \$100 per couple, and does not include any additional donation you wish to make to the fundraising campaign. Additional donations should be made via the normal instructions that can be found at our website at www.alpha6294.com. There will be bus transportation to and from the house, departing at 5:45pm.
- **7:00 pm** Second Annual Theta Xi Texas Hold Em Fundraising Tournament. **Mike Petronino A1359** requests that you be at the House by 6:30pm to start play at 7 sharp. No early entry. \$50 donation to be paid to Mike on Saturday during registration period only. Top three places paid depending on how many enter. **50% of the proceeds go toward the Chapter Fundraising Campaign.** Custom Alpha Chapter decks of cards (these make good gifts!) are available for **\$10/deck**. Proceeds also benefit Alpha Chapter.

Make Your Payment Now via PayPal



If you can join us for all or part of the weekend please RSVP so we know to expect you. More details including discount hotel information are available through the 6294 Evite Link

<http://www.evite.com/pages/invite/viewInvite.jsp?event=YRPJKYMOXSRBIHJTKGG&li=iq>

Annual Corporation Meeting April 30, 2011

The Alpha Alumni Association will hold its annual corporation meeting on April 30th, 2011 at 2pm in Troy, NY. Meeting place to be announced. Elections will be held for expired seats on the Alumni Board. All Alpha chapter alumni in good standing are eligible to run for election and to vote (you must attend the meeting to vote). If you have any questions about the positions or are considering running and would like to discuss the positions, please email questions to **David Fowkes A1275** at david@rfowkes.com or to any alumni board member.

Alphas Attend Presidents and Rising Stars Academies in St. Louis

This year's annual Theta Xi Presidents and Rising Stars Academies were held in St Louis, MO on January 14-17.

J.D. DeWaard A1625 and **Barry Fortuna A1628** joined Theta Xi brothers from around the country to attend Rising Stars. **Eric Jordan A1618** attended the separately held Presidents Academy. The Presidents and Rising Stars Academies are annual leadership retreats hosted by Theta Xi headquarters and funded by the Theta Xi Foundation to provide leadership training to chapter presidents and select brothers identified as potential future chapter leaders. For more details on the Academies please visit the national Theta Xi website at <http://thetaxi.org/Events/PresAcad.php> and <http://www.thetaxi.org/Events/RisingStar.php>.

2011 District Leadership Academy

This year's Northeast District DLA was held on February 19th at Gamma Chapter at Stevens Institute of Technology in NJ. The District Leadership Academy ("DLA") is another component of Theta Xi's National leadership programming initiative. It is a one day seminar addressing leadership skills and allows brothers to meet with brothers from all the chapters within their district to exchange ideas. 13 brothers from Alpha made the trip from Troy to Hoboken:

A1581 Spencer Anunsen
A1596 Ben McCarty
A1618 Eric Jordan
A1620 Nick Senno
A1623 Billy Gibbons
A1625 J.D. DeWaard
A1628 Barry Fortuna
A1629 Derek Loush
A1630 Dagmawi Yifru
A1633 Jared Corso
A1635 Rob Malhotra
A1638 Dan Rosania
A1646 Will Smythe
A1647 Ryan Cassidy

Learn more about the DLAs at <http://thetaxi.org/Events/DLAs.php>.

Chapter Renovation Project Update – 3rd Floor Shower Mystery

Over the winter break, the showers on the 3rd floor were renovated by chapter contractor Duncan & Cahill (see photos). During the tear-out process, an inscription on a stud was discovered: "**J.W.M. A741 Jan 1949**". In response to some inquiries, Brother **John Custer A747** wrote "I am not sure, but I believe Bill Murphy was the house manager that year. No idea, though, why the partition was down." If you know more details how this came to be, please contact **Matt Glaccum A1324** at mglaccum@geosphereinc.com.



Alphas Inducted Into RPI Phalanx Honor Society



Nihar Shah A1603



Edward Yu A1634

The Alumni Association is proud to announce that brothers **Nihar Shah A1603** and **Edward Yu A1634** were inducted into The RPI Phalanx Honor Society on March 27th. Brother **Chuck Boylen A1593** who serves as Faculty Advisor to Alpha Chapter and is a Professor of Biology at RPI writes,

"Phalanx is a century old honorary service society at RPI . They only select ~2 dozen new members a year - a very prestigious organization within the student body. Last fall when nominations were opened, I encouraged the actives to consider nominating one of themselves and I would provide letters of recommendation for those they picked to be nominated. Three very strong candidates were nominated from the actives and Nihar was selected as a member for 2011. Considering one of 2 dozen out of 6000+ students, Nihar's selection is noteworthy of his personal qualifications as well as the general quality of the actives we have at Alpha.

The White Key Society is a select group within Phalanx that was founded in 1939. Its objective is to recognize early leadership and service in Rensselaer activities among Freshmen and Sophomore Classes. The White Key award was developed to encourage these younger students to continue to strive for the ideals of leadership, service, and devotion to Rensselaer. Only 13 were selected this year so it is a double pleasure to recognize Ed as only one of 13 from the entire freshman and sophomore classes to be so honored."

Congratulations to Brother Shah and Brother Yu!

Dean of Students Mark Smith visits with Alpha Chapter

Chapter President **Eric Jordan A1618** invited Dean of Students Mark Smith to the Chapter House on Tuesday evening April 5th to discuss the new division in RPI Greek Life responsibilities. The discussion brought to light that the new Greek Associate Dean will be in charge of improving the housing experience across the Greek system. He no longer reports to the DOS but to the Director of the Greek Commons. Disciplinary concerns within the entire Rensselaer student body will remain exclusively with the Dean of Students. Dean Smith concluded his visit remarking that he thought highly of the Alpha chapter, all the campus activities the brothers participate in, and that the actives have done a remarkable job in becoming one of the strongest chapters on campus: he inspired the

actives to "be the best you can be" and "keep up the good work."



Dean of Students Mark Smith, Chapter President Eric Jordan A1618, Former President Jeff Kopera A1594, Faculty Advisor Chuck Boylen A1593. Dean Smith stopped by Alpha Chapter to apprise the Brothers of the latest developments concerning administrative handling of Greek Life at RPI.

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 david@rfowkes.com.

Alpha Brothers Enjoy a Break on the Ice

The Brothers from Alpha Chapter enjoyed some time off after spring break for broomball (see photos). **JD DeWaard A1625** also mentioned that Alpha is once again having a very successful intramural sports semester, making playoffs in soccer, basketball and floor hockey so far.



Theta Xi City Clubs

Albany, NY Club - Brad Spencer A1517. Email Brad at bspencer1517@gmail.com 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 – This year marks another year since our Fraternity's founding. The Chicago 6294 Club would like to personally invite all Theta Xi brothers to join us for an anniversary dinner at The Parthenon Restaurant on Thursday April 28th 2011 at 6:30pm for drinks and a 3 course meal at 7pm. At the dinner there will be a presentation on the current status of the fraternity as well as plans for the future. All pricing and details are below:

The Parthenon Restaurant
314 South Halsted Street Chicago, IL 60661
Tel. 312.726.2407

Dinner will include an appetizer, Greek salad, choice of entrée, desert, and coffee for \$26.00 (Price includes tip and tax)

Beer, wine, and spirits are not included but can be purchased separately.

Dress for the occasion is business casual.

Please RSVP by Tuesday April 27th 2011 to Weston Harding by email at Weston.Harding@xplusrealestate.com

NYC Club - Please send an e-mail to **David Fowkes A1275** at david@rfowkes.com 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.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

April 30, 2011

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

August 4-7, 2011

Please join your brothers in St Louis this summer to celebrate our 147th Anniversary convention August 4-7. Details and registration at www.thetaxi.org.

October 21-23, 2011

Homecoming/Reunion: RPI has combined Reunion with Homecoming in the Fall.

April 26, 2014

6294 -- Theta Xi 150th Anniversary: Join us in Troy, NY 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, NY to celebrate the founding of Theta Xi.

Get Connected through Online Networks

Connect with Brothers through online social and professional networks.

LinkedIn.com: <http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/95974/613485187C67> (71 Brothers)

FaceBook.com: Over 215 brothers now connected through FaceBook. Search for 'Zoo Alumni'.

Call for Photos/Yearbooks

Please help us add to our large online collection of chapter membership photos. We have photos as old as 1868 and house membership photographs for most years from 1921 thru today. If you have any of these, please contact Matt Glaccum at mglaccum@geosphereinc.com

Volunteers Needed

Want to help out but not sure how? Contact David Fowkes (david@rfowkes.com), 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 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.

Find Alpha Alumni

Looking for Alpha Alum? 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.

Send Us An Update - News Wanted for the Alphabet's Alumni News Section

Have news about your family or work that you want to share with your fellow Brothers? You can send text and pictures to alumni-update@alpha6294.com or use the form box below. Updates will be included in the Alphabet's Alumni News Section and will be posted where Brothers signing in to the alumni website can see what you have been up to.