



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

Spring 2012 E-Newsletter

April 4th, 2012

Dear Brother Viggiano,

We are pleased to provide you with the Spring 2012 E-Newsletter.
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Alpha Welcomes New Brothers into the Bonds



Front row from left: Brian Deignan '15, Vincenz Buhler '15, Alex Flores '15, and David McWilliams '15. **Back row:** Andrew Kelly '15, Chris Salva '15, Jon Matla '15, Roland Judd '15, Josh Plitnick '15, and James Lee '15. **Not Pictured:** Brian Le '15 and David Miller '15.

This past December 10th, Alpha Chapter welcomed 12 new brothers into the Bonds:

A1648 Brian J. Deignan	Aero/Mech Engineering 2013
A1649 Andrew J. Kelly	Communciations 2014
A1650 David A. McWilliams	Aeronautical Engineering 2014
A1651 Alexander D. Flores	Industrial Management 2013
A1652 Christopher A. Salva	Biology 2015
A1653 David C. Miller	Mathematics 2015
A1654 James J. Lee	BC BP 2014
A1655 Joshua R. Plitnick	Computer Systems 2015
A1656 Roland A. Judd	Physics 2015
A1657 Brian M. Le	Computer Science and EMAC 2015
A1658 Vincenz A. Buhler	Chemical Engineering 2014
A1659 Jonathan E. Matla	Nuclear Engineering 2015

Congratulations to the newest members of Alpha Chapter!

6294 Celebration April 28, 2012

Friday, April 27th

- **5:30pm** - Get together at the House.

Saturday, April 28th

- **12:30 pm** - Alumni & Active BBQ lunch at the House.
- **2:00-4:00 pm** - Annual alumni corporation meeting and elections on campus. Meeting in DCC318.
- **5:30 pm** - Annual alumni/active awards ceremony and photos at the Chapter House.
- **6:30 pm** - Buses arrive at Chapter House for transporting brothers and guests to Formal.
- **6:30 pm** - **Third Annual Theta Xi Texas Hold Em Fundraising Tournament. Mike Petronino A1359** requests that you be at the House by 6:00pm to start play at 6:30 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.
- **7:00-10:00 pm** Formal -- Dinner & dancing at the Carousel Ballroom at Sterup Square on Route 7 east of Troy. Alumni must sign up for Formal through this online spreadsheet by Friday, April 13th by 5pm:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dHR0cHg5VS0zV0ttbTBxalZ_Xb1hjUXc6MQ

Any alumni wishing to attend the dinner with the actives must pay in advance by April 13th via PayPal by [clicking here](#). Cost will be \$80 per person, \$150 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 6:30pm.

- **10:30 pm** - Buses return to Chapter House

Sunday, April 29th

- **5:30 pm** - Founders' Day Dinner at the Chapter House

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://new.evite.com/services/links/UUAJRUF7XO>

Annual Corporation Meeting April 28, 2012

The Alpha Alumni Association will hold its annual corporation meeting on April 28th, 2012 at 2:30pm 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 dwfowkes@verizon.net or to any alumni board member.

In Memoriam: Jim Vredenburgh, Executive Director of Theta Xi





All of Theta Xi mourns the loss of Jim Vredenberg Beta Omega 11. Brother Vredenberg passed away on March 8, 2012 after a long struggle with cancer. He will be missed. David Fowkes A1275 represented Alpha Chapter at Jim's memorial service held on March 17th in St. Louis, MO.

Theta Xi Flag On a Journey from Chapter to Chapter



As part of a Theta Xi HQ initiative, the Theta Xi Flag is visiting all the Fraternity's chapters in order of founding. The Brothers from Alpha kick off its journey by taking it to the Memorial Seat on RPI's campus. You can follow the flag's progress on the Theta Xi FB page or website.

Chapter Excels in Scholarship with 3.23 GPA

The January report from the Dean again showed the men of Alpha beating the All-Men's and All Greek's grade point average by posting a 3.23 GPA for the Fall Semester. Alpha ranked fourth in scholarship among all fraternities on campus. Congratulations to the guys for their fine effort in hitting the books.

Brothers Attend Presidents and Rising Stars Academies in St. Louis



Chapter president Will Toth A1631 participates in Presidents Academy exercises

This year's annual Theta Xi Presidents and Rising Stars Academies were held on January 13-16 in St Louis, MO.

Will Toth A1631 attended the Presidents Academy while **Will Smythe A1646** and **Chris Salva A1652** joined other first-year Theta Xi brothers from other chapters to attend Rising Stars. 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://www.thetaxi.org/#_p.%1DPresidents%20Academy and http://www.thetaxi.org/#_p.%1DRisingStar.

Alpha Hosts 2012 Newell District Leadership Academy

This year's Northeast Newell DLA was held on February 18th in Mother's in the Student Union across the street from the chapter house. 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. Seven brothers from Alpha participated:

A1545 Jon Burke
A1549 Andrew Kelly
A1652 Chris Salva
A1653 David Miller
A1654 James Lee
A1657 Brian Le
A1658 Vince Buhler

Chapter president **Will Toth A1631** also gave a seminar on "Setting Smart Goals" to the 48 chapter representatives in attendance (Alpha, Gamma, Delta, Eta, Omicron, Gamma Mu, Gamma Xi).

Learn more about the Newell DLAs at http://www.thetaxi.org/#_p.%1DDLA.

An Alpha Inducted into Phalanx for Second Year Running



Chuck Boylen A1593 with Barry Fortuna A1628

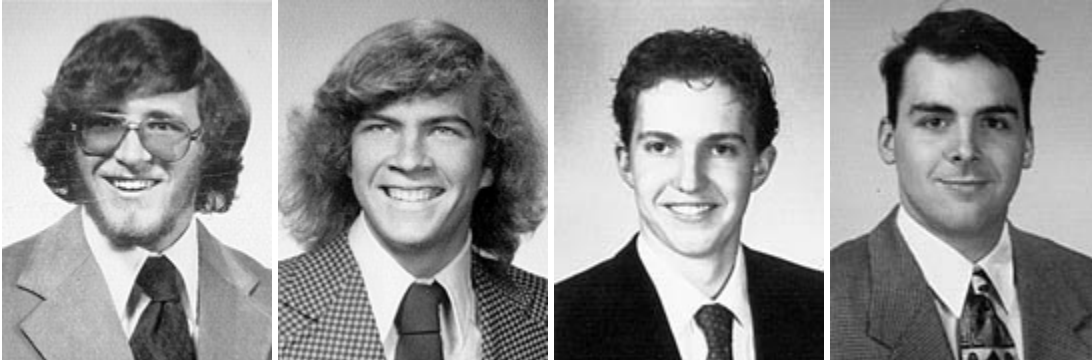


Barry Fortuna A1628 with President Shirley Ann Jackson (left) at the ceremony

The Alumni Association is proud to announce that brother and current IFC president **Barry Fortuna A1628** was inducted into The RPI Phalanx Honor Society on March 31st. This marks the second year in a row that an Alpha has been tapped by Phalanx. Last year, **Nihar Shah A1603** became the first brother so honored in recent memory.

Congratulations to Brother Fortuna!

Alumni Portrait Collection of Alpha Brothers a Must-See



Brother **Chuck Boylen A1593** has been busy behind the scenes the last few semesters with a monumental project: preparing portrait photos of brothers from the composites and other sources for use in the Alumni Association's online database. Chuck writes:

"Last fall I asked Matt Glaccum why the alumni database had a spot for a photo but no photos had been added to any brother's bio. He told me he and [others] had spent a lot of time on campus doing some high resolution scanning of yearly composites of actives and old yearbooks from the RPI library archives. Having "lives of their own" that was as much time as they were able to devote to it. As a "new" brother I often look to the database as a means of reconnecting with former students and the lack of photos was something I felt needed some attention. So I "volunteered" to download a few of the composites and crop out some of the brothers to see how they would look in the database. A "few" has now turned into 565 individual brother photographs added to the database to be exact, taking me back to the class of 1964-1965.

The endeavor has provided me an opportunity to "reconnect" with former actives who were once merely students or neighbors to me. Now as Brothers, each has received a fresh look and examination of what brotherhood means to me. I've been surprised at how many brothers I recall when they were Rensselaer students. Many I don't readily recall because the interaction between us was far less than the one I enjoy with current and recent actives who almost daily share their brotherhood experience and friendship with me.

I have no tangible explanation as to why I am so driven to take on this task. I had expected by now to have turned it over to some of the actives. But I continue to hold the project close because it has given me an opportunity to reflect on my own life at the age of the brothers in the photographs – when I too was in college making life choices and becoming the person I am today. Taking on the photo database has given me a chance to give something back and to ensure a bright future for Alpha. I hope all my Brothers feel the same."

Brother Boylen noted that there are gaps in the chapter's collection of composites particularly in the 1960's and 1970's (composite photos presumably started in 1959, missing 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64 and a large gap from 1969-1978). Anyone who has information about the (non)existence of composites for these years, please contact him at boylec@rpi.edu

Please check out Brother Boylen's remarkable handiwork by logging in to the online database at www.alpha6294.com.

Brother Nick Constantine A1451 Travels the World



Brother Nick Constantine A1451 is a man on the move. Around the world, that is. Check out Nick's journeys from country to country through his blog entries and photos at www.infinitedirection.com or via Facebook and Twitter.

Seminars Held at the Chapter House



Chapter Adviser **Norm Baldauf A1487** recently presented a talk in March on the "Phone Interview", the second of three planned seminars, for the brothers at the chapter house. The first was about resumes, and one more on personal finance will be conducted this semester. These presentations are geared to help brothers prepare for the job interviewing process and life after college.

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.

Intramural Sports Update

Congrats to the guys for taking first place in Floor Hockey – A League. The chapter also fields teams in Ice Hockey A-League, Indoor Soccer B-League, Outdoor Soccer C-League, Basketball D-League, Volleyball D-League, and Softball A-League.

Chapter Eternal

E. Harvey Holzworth, Jr. A718 10/31/1924 – 2/8/2010

<https://www.buffaloyachtclub.org/attachments%2FBinnacle%2F20100416120244binnacle%201004.pdf> (last page)

Dean H. Armstrong A742 12/3/1925 – 1/17/2012

<http://crossville-chronicle.com/obituaries/x431307290/Dean-Armstrong>

Victor Brinkman, Jr. A755 11/6/1925 – 12/10/2011

<http://www.copelandfuneralservice.com/index.php/victor-brinkman-jr.html>

Thomas J. Devine, Jr. A820 12/3/1932 – 4/12/2011

<http://www.reportertoday.com/seekonk/seekonk/stories/Thomas-Joseph-Devine.123>

Theta Xi City Clubs

Albany, NY Club - Looking for a new contact as Brad Spencer A1517 has moved away from the area. Email David Fowkes A1275 at dwfowkes@verizon.net if interested.

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 - Please send an email to David Fowkes A1275 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

April 28, 2012

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

EVITE: <http://new.evite.com/services/links/UUAJRUF7XO>

August 18-25, 2012

Work Week at the chapter house.

October 5-7, 2012

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.

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.

Get Connected through LINKED IN (95+) and FACEBOOK (225+)

Connect with Brothers through online social and professional networks.

LinkedIn.com: <http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/95974/613485187C67> (now up to 96 Brothers) FaceBook.com: 229 brothers now connected through FaceBook. Search for 'Zoo Alumni'.

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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