



Preserving Our History... *Building A Legacy*

Theta Chi at Penn State Project Summary

OUR MISSION is to conduct a capital campaign to renovate the chapter house at 523 S. Allen Street, and to fund an endowment that will enable Omega Chapter of Theta Chi to remain a viable and leading force at The Pennsylvania State University.

OUR VISION is that through this campaign and ongoing, increased involvement by the Alumni Corporation we will be able to secure the future of Theta Chi at Penn State. Funds raised will allow us to renovate the fraternity house to meet the demands of the current and future generations, and to attract members who meet the high standards of Theta Chi Brotherhood.

THE PROJECT LIST (not in order of priority)

- Replace windows and doors on first floor and second floor (third floor has already been renovated)
- Remove, replace, or repair the side porch
- Update the electrical system in the basement, first floor and second floor
- Replace exterior shutters
- Renovate the second floor bedrooms
- Paint, repoint and clean the exterior of the house
- Repair/replace the entry roof from the parking lot to the kitchen
- Renovate the first floor walls and floors
- Replace the water damaged concrete floor in the kitchen
- Renovate the basement bathroom
- Rebuild the bathroom on the first floor
- Renovate the stairs from first floor to 2nd and 3rd floors
- Investigate and repair water leaks from the 1st floor
- Install radiator thermostats
- Bring to ADA compliance

*Theta Chi
for Life*





PRESERVING OUR HISTORY... BUILDING A LEGACY

The Omega Chapter of Theta Chi is alive, well, and thriving at Penn State. But this was not always the case. At the turn of the century, the house was empty. There were no undergraduate members, no pledge program, no initiation, and limited involvement from the alumni. But most depressing was that there was no hope. The Alumni Corporation -- faced with overwhelming bills and no income -- prepared to sell the house and disband the chapter.

But in 2002, the National Chapter stepped in to lend a helping hand. Like the Phoenix rising from the ashes, in 2002 the Chapter was born anew. The pace of its rebirth surpassed even the most optimistic expectation. Today, Omega chapter:

- has more than 45 active brothers,
- has resumed its leadership position within the Penn State fraternity nation,
- is a leader in fundraising for the charitable organizations supported at Penn State,
- is a winner in the intramural world, and
- has become a minor dynasty in winning homecoming float and overall homecoming activity awards.

Concurrent with the resurrection of the active chapter has been the re-energization of the alumni corporation. Alumni leaders have assumed a more active role in moving the organization forward. In addition to annual Founder's Day and Homecoming alumni meetings, the last 3 years have seen successful alumni work weekends at the fraternity house. Brothers from as far back as the 1970s have donated their time and money to aid in making basic repairs to the chapter house. In turn, this has led to development of an outreach effort by the active members to alumni through tailgates, ski and rafting trips, and to the annual golf tournament, as means to help alumni "relive" their own Theta Chi experiences. Additionally, a generous gift from our departed brother Howard Alter has placed the chapter into a more stable financial position.

Omega Chapter is experiencing all of the variables that make for a successful chapter:

- energized, enthusiastic and motivated members;
- effective recruiting and membership development programs with emphasis on scholarship, leadership, and service;



For your convenience, you can complete the survey online at www.thetachiomega.com.



- adherence to the Theta Chi rituals; and
- balanced social programs. Also in place are strong and active alumni communications, dedicated alumni advisors, and a strong alumni corporation.

Penn State itself has taken the lead by building student housing with modern amenities and quality apartments close to campus. If we are to remain a leader among fraternities on campus and be a viable student choice in the future, we also must improve our facilities.



The Alumni Corporation has decided to conduct a feasibility study to help determine the level of financial support and volunteer assistance available to support this project. At the same time, we will be recruiting alumni brothers to assist on the campaign leadership team. Your involvement will be a continuation of your service to Theta Chi, will

make a lasting difference for our chapter, and will be a rewarding experience for you.

Within our chapter's living environment, there are some unfulfilled needs. While the basic structure of our house is sound, the effect of decades of normal fraternity life wear and tear, and normal material deterioration, must be addressed. Specifically, we must renovate the living conditions on the first and second floor, (the third floor was recently renovated), update the electrical wiring and plumbing, and repair crumbling concrete on the side porch.

Other Penn State fraternities are or have been in similar situations. In fact, numerous chapters have embarked on or made plans for conducting major fund raising campaigns to raise capital for house renovations. Among these are:

- Delta Tau Delta • Kappa Delta Rho
- Phi Sigma Kappa • Pi Kappa Phi
- Sigma Chi • Phi Delta Theta
- Phi Kappa Sigma • Fiji

We need to meet the needs of twenty-first century college students who look at fraternities as more than social organizations and expect top-notch living and learning environments. We need to provide a home that serves as a great study environment equipped with modern technology and ample electrical power to accommodate modern devices. Our chapter house must meet all the requirements of the Americans with Disability Act and provide security and privacy in our ever changing world. Finally, we need to upgrade our facility to meet all 21st century building codes, nearly all of which have changed since the house was built.

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How is Theta Chi doing at Penn State?

Theta Chi is prospering at Penn State. There are currently more than 45 active brothers, any one of whom we would be proud to have as a son or grandson.

They stand by a set of Cardinal Principles that "value the qualities that encompass a gentleman... understands that the primary reason for attending college is education... and know the meaning of "alma mater first and Theta Chi for alma mater." Their core values include: scholarship, service, and leadership. They seek excellence in all they do and they strive for the betterment of humanity.

They are academic leaders on campus. Since the 2007 academic year, the chapter has consistently exceeded the all university men's average GPA -- and in spring semester 2009 the chapter attained the highest GPA among all fraternities. They consistently lead Penn State organizations in community service and fundraising philanthropies such as K.I.C.K.S. (Kids in Cooperation with Karing Students), FLICKS (Ultimate Frisbee Fundraiser for Pennsylvania Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children), and THON, which last year raised a total of \$7,838,054.36 for the kids! Additionally, they have amassed over 1,000 service hours in neighborhood cleanups and visits with residents of the Village at Penn State (an assisted living community). Their involvement and their success has grown each year as the membership has matured.

They are similarly at the front of the pack in other Inter Fraternity Council/University sponsored events. They recently celebrated their fourth volleyball championship in five years. And, if homecoming matches enthusiasm with capability, Theta Chi has been tops in both. The Omega chapter has won first place in overall competition in 2007 and 2008 and has placed in the top three for the last four years. Theta Chi now is in the position where sororities search them out as teammates for homecoming. Sororities have also chosen to pair with Theta Chi in high profile events such as Greek Week and Greek Sing.

Other significant awards and accomplishments include:

- IFC Chapter of the year 2005
- IFC Chapter of Excellence 2009, 2010
- Most Improved Chapter 2006
- Academic Excellence 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
- Service Award 2005, 2006, 2007
- National Recognition Awards 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010



What is Happening with Fraternities at Penn State?

Numerous fraternities have completed or undertaken projects to provide their undergraduate brothers with modern housing and the best academic resources available. Here is a quick snapshot of the progress other Penn State fraternities have made in their own capital campaigns:

- Acacia has raised nearly \$750,000
- Alpha Zeta (ag fraternity) has raised \$600,000 for investment in housing renovations, scholarships and other educational resources.
- PIKA has raised nearly \$1.2 million
- Sigma Phi Epsilon has raised \$500,000
- Delta Tau Delta has recently launched a campaign, raising more than \$300,000 in the first few months (\$50,000 over their projected goal)
- Sigma Chi has raised \$2 million

These chapters have also worked toward building solid alumni advisory teams and arranging reunions and special events to assist their efforts. The most successful provide the opportunity for alumni brothers to build or rebuild relationships with their current undergraduate brothers.

Penn State is continually upgrading dormitory housing provided to students, and nearby apartment complexes are being designed or renovated with the student in mind. To compete, we must be proactive and be the front runners in an ongoing housing race.



GREEK LIFE AT PENN STATE

Not unlike Theta Chi, many Penn State fraternities have undergone their own cycle of darkness and rebirth. Chapters committing themselves to teaching fellowship, scholarship, leadership and service, and those that are actively involving alumni volunteers, chapter advisors and faculty advisors are doing better than anytime in history of the Greek experience at Penn State. There is strong, renewed support from the University for those chapters developing and following the high principles of fraternity brotherhood as historically practiced.

Recently, Penn State made the decision to invest further in the Greek system by hiring two new advisors to help mentor undergraduates. The increase in staff - one that can only help support our undergraduate brothers - comes as a welcomed investment. Generally speaking, it is the feeling of our chapter leadership that the expectations set forth by the Penn State administration are reasonable and easily met. Additionally, we have found support in the strong Greek presence within Penn State's Board of Trustees and the University's willingness to add new resources benefiting our brothers.



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WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED...

It's likely that after college graduation your priorities changed significantly....placed on the shelf were the intramural games against Phi Sigma Kappa, working on homecoming floats, Saturday night "beach parties" in the Theta Chi basement and evenings at the Skeller standing on top of a case of Rolling Rock.

These "good old days" were replaced by the daily grind of a full time job, marriage, a family, and perhaps the next generation off to college.

Priorities change and responsibilities evolve from personal to family.

So, why should you reengage with Theta Chi at this point in your life?

It's simple to say that giving back a small part of your success to Theta Chi fulfills a responsibility passed from one generation of brothers to another. After all, during your college years, it was the previous generation's willingness to give back that helped make your college years so enjoyable and memorable.

Your involvement now provides an opportunity to assist and guide the next generation of Theta Chi brothers in their career and life choices.

Sharing your experiences provides a personal satisfaction in knowing that you are contributing to the legacy of Theta Chi at Penn State.

Getting involved allows direct interaction with the current generation of brothers and completes a chain of brotherhood that values the rituals -- and the meaning behind them -- that were so important during your college years.

At the conclusion of this campaign, our chapter house will remain a vital part of fraternity life at Penn State. A renovated house will ensure the same continued growth and excellence that has been expected of those initiated as brothers of Theta Chi.

THETA CHI FOR LIFE

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED...

Alumni Board Our current alumni board provides a depth of experience and leadership that bridges decades of Omega Chapter. The current Directors are elected for 2 year terms over the homecoming weekend. Any Theta Chi alumni member who can offer time and effort to the development of the chapter is welcome.

Alumni work weekend Decades of community living and the fraternity way of life yields a multitude of tasks inside and outside the chapter house. Each year a willing group of alumni participate with the active membership to clean up, paint, patch and, if skill sets of our alumni cooperate, repair plumbing, or complete carpentry projects. The weekends normally are conducted in conjunction with a home basketball game, or hockey match. The work is not hard and the weekend provides a unique opportunity to build or renew relationships with the current generation of Theta Chi brothers.

Campaign leadership committee To succeed every campaign needs effective and dedicated leadership. Our leadership committee bridges decades of knowledge and experience and is in a unique position to assist in designing our campaign strategy, serving as campaign advocates, assisting in recruitment of class agents and key donors, and solicitation of class agents. There is always a need for willing leaders. There is a limited time commitment of 4-6 hours per month, and fund raising experience is not required.

Class agent What better way to renew your relationship with your Theta Chi fraternity class than personally contacting them and asking for financial support? You can join with other alumni volunteers to represent your pledge/initiation class by contacting them to both gather information and inform them of ongoing fraternity activities on a regular basis. During our campaign feasibility study and campaign, class agents will inform their "prospects" of the latest renovation and campaign related progress. Time committed should be no more than 3-5 hours each month.

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