

Theta Chi of Penn State, Inc.

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Preserving a Legacy

Theta Chi at Penn State Project Summary

Rising Above the Status Quo

Ed Brown '87, Corporation President • Dennis Foley '91, Development Chair

Today's quality fraternity chapters have strong alumni communications and event programs, competitive housing, as well as dedicated alumni advisors, a faculty advisor, chapter advisors and an active alumni association. They also have membership development programs that focus on scholarship, leadership and service, in addition to balanced social programs. This is the model we followed for most of our chapter history. And it is resuming this philosophy that will match Theta Chi at Penn State with today's expectations, ensure its future success and allow it to repeat and sustain its prominence on campus.

The house at 523 S. Allen St. is no longer competitive ... the result of decades of use, wear and tear typical amongst fraternity housing. While the chapter house is declining, our competition have been actively improving their facilities. The following Penn State chapters have all made plans for or are in the process of conducting major fund-raising projects to raise capital for renovations to their facilities:

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

Today's student expects more. He demands more privacy and security. He desires a home that offers the proper study environment and is equipped with current technology that enables him to prosper in his studies. He requires a home with ample electrical service to accommodate the upwards of 17 electrical devices he'll bring with him to campus.

Penn State has taken the lead by building student housing with many amenities, and quality apartments are available near the campus. The next time you are in State College, drive down Atherton, College Ave., Beaver Ave. or Waupelani Drive. You'll see what we mean. If we are to return to being a respected and choice fraternity at Penn State, we need to have the facilities to remain competitive.

Thus, we have decided to expand our last engineering study and to explore our options in pursuing some critical upgrades and renovations to the Omega chapter house. We need to seriously consider these projects:

- Updated electrical and telecommunications systems including wiring, control panels, a fire alarm system and more (approx. cost: \$65,000)
- New mechanical systems including sprinkler capabilities, installation of water lines, replacement of existing boiler and more (approx. cost: \$125,000)
- Replacement of windows and doors and continued demolition and rebuilding of the second and third floors (approx. cost: \$230,000)
- Replacement of the roof (approx. cost: \$17,250)
- Amenities including new public restrooms, exercise room, computer lounge, house furnishings and more (approx. cost: \$77,250)

(see proposed renovation plan at www.thetachiomega.com)

We are exploring these options, and we are also looking for your thoughts on this important matter. Your opinion, and the opinions of fellow alumni brothers and parents, will determine if we proceed with a capital campaign to raise the funds needed to renovate our chapter house. Continually assessing our property to evaluate whether we are competitive with alternative campus housing options and devising short- and long-term plans to address any deficiencies is imperative to our continued serviceability and relevance.

Theta Chi of Penn State, Inc., has expanded its relationship with Affinity Connection, Inc., enabling the chapter to conduct a feasibility study to help determine the level of financial and volunteer assistance available to support the project. At the same time, we'll be recruiting involvement on the potential campaign leadership team. Your involvement will not only be a rewarding experience for you, it will make a lasting difference for our chapter, now and for years to come.

For your convenience, complete the survey online at www.2stayconnected.com/thetachi-psu/560survey.html.



What is the State of Theta Chi at Penn State?

Our Competition

As mentioned, other fraternities on campus have completed or have undertaken major projects to provide their undergraduate brothers with the best housing and 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 for a major renovation and expansion project!
- Sigma Phi Epsilon has raised \$500,000 for renovations.
- Delta Tau Delta has recently launched a campaign, raising more than \$300,000 in the first few months for new windows and a new roof with some cosmetic upgrades.

These chapters have also worked toward building solid alumni advisory teams and arranging reunions and special events to assist their efforts. They are reaping the benefits of their labor.

Penn State is continually upgrading the 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 a housing race that has begun. The bottom line is that we are both a brotherhood and a residence. In order to survive and thrive, we must be competitive.

The Future of Greek Life at Penn State

Chapters committed to nurturing brotherhood, scholarship, leadership and service and those that have actively involved alumni volunteers, chapter advisors and faculty advisors are doing better than anytime in the history of the Greek experience at Penn State. Those that are not are in jeopardy. There is strong support from Penn State for chapters who are developing and following “best practices.”

Recently, Penn State has made the decision to invest further in the Greek system by hiring two new

advisors to help mentor undergraduates. This increase in staff — one that can do nothing but help support our undergraduate brothers — comes as a welcomed move. 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 by our Omega Chapter. Additionally, we have found support from the strong Greek presence within Penn State’s Board of Trustees and the university’s willingness to add new resources benefiting our brothers.

Specifically, how is Theta Chi doing at Penn State?

• Undergraduates

There is no doubt that building a strong and sustainable undergraduate chapter has been the challenge of our Omega Chapter over the last few years. During this last semester, the chapter was excited for the opportunity to apply to the national fraternity’s Howard Alter Chapter Excellence Award. The question now becomes this: Where is everyone going to live? The current chapter leadership has exhibited their ability to build the confidence of the alumni brotherhood. Now it is our turn to provide them the resources to continue in this journey of progress and achievement.

• Alumni

Our current strength lies in our alumni brotherhood. And you need attend only one PSU home football game to appreciate the involvement of your fellow alumni brothers in reunions (many informal), tailgates and other venues designed to rebuild and maintain the brotherhood. With annual events like our Annual Theta Chi Golf Open, we see an alumni membership that is committed to ensuring the legacy and tradition of Theta Chi at Penn State. Stop for just one moment and remember times in the living room of the chapter house. Do you remember how the wood around the fireplace became charred? These are the memories that will continue to connect us as friends ... as brothers.

We do have some work ahead of us, however, to secure the future of a chapter built on the principles in which we all take pride. And we should all be proud to know that the university and the national fraternity are in full support of us as we continue to charge ahead in our pursuit of excellence at Penn State.

For your convenience, complete the survey online at www.2stayconnected.com/thetachi-psu/560survey.html.



Homecoming 1975

Ways to Get Involved

Theta Chi of Penn State, Inc. — Our Omega Chapter is proud of the depth of leadership found among the current members — a group of alumni with a strong sense of dedication to the future of our chapter. The current directors are open to additional members and officers who can offer hands-on involvement in the further development of the chapter. Please let us know if you are interested.

Board of Advisors — A new initiative for our Omega Chapter, this yet-to-be-formed team will welcome brothers from all professional backgrounds and able to offer a variety of benefits to the undergraduates. Whether you can only make it to State College once a year to look in on the brothers or can make a weekly visit, we would like your participation. Able to help our actives with academic mentoring or business networking? Let us know. Stop to think about how you can contribute of your time and talents ... and give one of us a call. Time commitment: flexible; meetings if available.

Campaign Volunteer — Join with 75-100 other graduate/parent volunteers to represent your pledge/initiation class. Select six to 10 brothers/parents (prospects) with whom you can keep in touch, gather information and inform of activities on a monthly basis. Time commitment: one to three hours per month, meetings possible.

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Why Are We Conducting a Feasibility Study?

The purpose of the feasibility study is three-fold:

- First, we are expanding our engineering study to assess the proposed renovation projects that must be done to ensure the competitiveness, safety and livability of the house.
- We are trying to quantify, optimize and protect the overall level of volunteer and financial support for of a campaign by identifying graduate/parent donors and volunteers. This is especially crucial in our attempt to renovate the house while also undertaking projects to ensure the future strength of our Omega Chapter.
- The feasibility study will help us prepare for the possible campaign by enlisting volunteer assistance, begin building the campaign's framework and determine our course of action. If the campaign is initiated, many of the donors will have been identified and the volunteer corps will be ready to begin their efforts. Statistically, success might be measured using the following as a benchmark.

"My father lent the chapter money to help build the chapter house, and it was returned to him in due time. Theta Chi can be a very important part of college experience and preparation for life."

— Harry G. Heil '30

"This is a 'chip in' that you should all participate in. The house holds the memories of a lot of good times, and I would hate to see it fall in disrepair. Think about it."

— Victor J. Howe '77



Spring Formal 1990

For your convenience, complete the survey online at www.2stayconnected.com/thetachi-psu/560survey.html.

If For No Other Reason

We've all heard it before ... now is the time to give back. It has definitely become a cliché. But here are some benefits that you might not have considered when weighing your decision to become actively involved with the Omega Chapter:

- It's a chance to come back and enjoy football weekends on campus. What better place than Beaver Stadium?
- You have an opportunity to help guide undergraduate brothers in important career and life choices. You can have an amazing amount of influence, helping to channel the energy of your younger brothers in a positive and constructive direction.
- Looking for a job? Now is your chance to network with business leaders at Theta Chi.
- Have legacy prospects? Get them in the door through your personal involvement with the chapter.
- You will receive personal satisfaction knowing that you are contributing to the livelihood of Theta Chi.

When successful, an improved chapter house will provide for a revitalized chapter, capable of maintaining the level of excellence we have celebrated over the generations of those who have been initiated into Theta Chi at Penn State. A chapter full of history and tradition like ours needs a proper living environment to continue the legacy of true brotherhood and service.

Today's Greek Relevance

- *Largest and most visible values-based organizations on campus*
- *Most successful leadership development program for college students*
- *Largest network of volunteers in the U.S. (10 million hours of volunteer service yearly)*
- *Largest not-for-profit student landlord (own and manage \$3 BILLION in student housing and house 250,000 students in 8,000 facilities nationwide)*



Christmas Formal, 1949



Winter 1982 Pledge Trip to Gettysburg



Your Input is Needed and Appreciated

If you haven't done so already, please take five minutes to fill out the enclosed feasibility survey and return it in the envelope provided, or fill out the survey online at www.2stayconnected.com/thetachi-psu/560survey.html.