

the Shield



of Theta Delta Chi

Volume 131, Number 1, Spring 2018



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RAFTING ADVENTURE!**

VGD HONOR ROLL

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theShield

of Theta Delta Chi



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About the Cover

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Our beloved Fraternity is 170 years old and counting. However, we are here just for a moment in time until we enter Omega. I often ask myself, “Why am I here?” This is an existential question, but it is also about self-awareness. I seek to understand my intent and impact on the organization with every decision I make or action I take. I certainly do not have all the answers, nor will I ever have them. But together—with the brotherhood—we get closer to the truth.

If you have been following the news, there are questions whether fraternities are still relevant. From hazing and drinking-induced deaths, to issues surrounding sexual assault, we are a part of a larger question. Because we are values-based organizations, we stand out. Theta Delta Chi is not immune. Even though the media may spin fraternities in a biased manner, we have a different answer regarding our future. Are we still relevant? *Absolutely*. We are part of something bigger than ourselves—something that gives us a sense of belonging, something that connects us through a common thread. So, the question becomes, “Why does what we do matter?”

I pinch myself to have the ability to follow my passions in serving the “Old Lady.” I am honored to be a part of the Central Fraternity Office with a staff that dedicates itself to taking risks and pushing the envelope of the brotherhood. Every day I say I get paid to volunteer and I mean it. Theta Delta Chi has given back to me tenfold and this symbiotic relationship continues to flourish. But it is not about my experience.

The real reason why it matters to me are my two boys: Caleb (five) and Jacob (two). I want them to have a well-rounded experience just like mine, filled with scholarship, leadership, and social responsibility. I see their kind, caring, loving and respectful nature. I cannot help but think it is connected to our fraternal values. How so? I have already begun instilling our values in them.

During the holiday season they get to choose three gifts focused upon something they want to learn, something they want to do for others, and something they want to do with others. My gift for doing things with others revolves around our brotherhood. I want my whole family to go to Convention in Richmond this August. I would love for other families to join us. I want to share my brotherhood with my spouse and children. Please come and be present with my family so they too can experience what I love so dearly.

I aspire to live our values as a part of my daily life. This is my ritual. I earnestly hope that if you ever see my actions misaligned with our values, you call me out on it. I am not perfect, nor will I ever be. But I surely endeavor to improve and reform. Accountability is the key to our success. When we see brothers not abiding by the oaths we took, we should offer them feedback. This is something that I hold of the utmost importance. We must have mutual esteem and dependence. Feedback is something we push for in the office.

Accordingly, we ask our Charges to evaluate the Charge Consultants’ performance on visits. We ask the Charges and Greek Life Offices to assess their performance using the Record of Visitation scoring rubric to get a holistic view. We are developing an alumni and undergraduate needs assessment to determine what the membership wants. I ask that you please fill it out when it goes live. Every voice matters.

Again, we are only here for a blip of time in a greater narrative. I am hopeful that the actions and the risks I take with everyone around me enable us to grow as a brotherhood. In this way our Fraternity becomes lasting, impactful, and built on life-long friendship. The story we write will not reflect the stereotypical fraternity. Our story is of true brotherhood—a place of eternal belongingness.

My first six months have been both challenging and enlightening. One of the first major experiences I had as Executive Director was the closing of Kappa—our longest Charge with continual existence. No single decision resulted in a 10-year ban. So much history extinguished. I truly look forward to their triumphant return.

On a brighter note, I had the opportunity to be a part of Preamble Institute for the first time in over five years. The program has flourished and provides our undergraduates with an understanding of our shared values and their leadership skills. Throughout the January weekend brothers allowed themselves to be honest, present, authentic, and vulnerable. I left inspired and recharged.

Speaking of being recharged: we have hosted eight ReCharge workshops so far this year, with many other requests for the Spring semester. I love getting a feel for the brotherhood at each location. I was able to host four ReCharges on the West Coast recently. I loved the hospitality that the brothers showed Charge Consultant Gordon Bentley and me while we were there. Request one for your Charge today.

In the end, I go home happy every day. Regardless of what the day holds, I leave smiling and excited for the next. I have met brothers from every Charge during the Preamble Institute and had the chance to visit eight different colleges and universities. My goal is to connect with every Charge this year so we can renew in union our social joys, and perhaps tell some corny jokes.

In The Bonds,
Brian Bertges
Sigma Triton '00 (Penn State)
Executive Director

Joke Corner

WARNING: The jokes you are about to read are corny. Please proceed with caution.

Why did the Theta Delt not come into work after getting a little brother?
He was on Fraternity Leave. (submitted by Dwyer Deighan)

What is a Theta Delt’s favorite Shakespeare play to attend?
Bromeo and JUULiet (submitted by James Casali)

What is a Theta Delt’s favorite place to hang out at the house?
The Fratío. (submitted by Pete Welch)

What is a Theta Delt’s favorite element in the Periodic Table?
Bromine. (submitted by Brian Bertges)

What is a Theta Delt’s favorite style of martial arts?
Taekwonbro. (submitted by Mike Matos)

Have jokes you would like to submit? Want to give feedback? Desire different content? Compelled to share a story about yourself or another brother? Email us at shield@tdx.org.



Rho Triton: The Comeback Kids

It's been a long time coming, but the Fine Southern Charge of Theta Delta Chi is back and better than ever.

by Ryan Patrick Alderson,
B '17 (Cornell)

In Spring 2009, faced with the ultimatum of a lifetime ban from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), the Rho Triton Charge of Theta Delta Chi made a tough, unpopular decision. Having existed without VCU recognition for eight years, the undergraduates voted to turn in the charter. The Charge, undergraduates and alumni alike, were committed to doing whatever it took to regain recognition, ensuring Rho Triton's long-term viability and sustainability at VCU.

From the start, the journey to getting back on campus was a rocky, uphill battle. There were many hard feelings in the first couple of months. Some felt betrayed. Others shifted blame and pointed fingers. There were a lot of angry people, and a lot of division in the fraternity. But it was through shared adversity that Rho Triton ultimately came together and refocused their efforts.

Consequently, the Alumni Association was founded. That's when Rho Triton really got to work. In the words of Stephen Jones, Rho Triton '89, "It was fortunate that we had the mature leadership of Taylor Early, Rho Triton '92, to

accept the punishment and keep us together as a group. It's ironic because losing recognition ultimately jump-started a period of even greater alumni activity."

So it goes. Alumni picked up right where they left off as undergrads: Founders' Day, Thanksgiving, Family Day, VCU Rams basketball, and philanthropic endeavors. Their traditions continued even without an active undergraduate body. Taylor Early shared, "Most of my relationships and friendships were with people from my time. But I've since formed great friendships with Rho Tritons across all generations. There are brothers, like Nick Betts, Rho Triton '12, who I never may have known but now consider among my closest brothers."

To act like it was always sunshine and rainbows for Rho Triton is disingenuous. It was frustrating at times; things didn't always work out. Rho Triton was repeatedly denied the opportunity for recognition. But they persevered, determined to realize their shared goal.

Then in 2016, after enticement and presentations by alumni and the Central

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Join us for the 171st Convention this August in Richmond, Info & tickets at tdxconvention.org

Fraternity Office (CFO), Theta Delta Chi was invited to expand at VCU. But it soon became apparent that the only way expansion would be successful was to have a full-time recruiter present. As sad as it sounds, it came down to the money. That's when people really came out of the woodwork and hit home runs.

Blake Gordon, Rho Triton '98, took the initiative and called every single Rho Triton alumnus. Within a few weeks, nearly \$50,000 was pledged. Everyone gave something, and they did it without recognition. When it came time to collect the contributions, every pledge was honored. It was truly a collective effort.

Two years later, Rho Triton has undergraduate members again. In the words of Nick Betts, "Rechartering was a team effort. It's been nine years in the making but so many have contributed." In the end, the camaraderie of brotherhood has continued, and undergrads have been introduced to Rho Triton's traditions seamlessly.

Patrick Jones, Rho Triton '19—undergraduate president, charter member, and legacy—reflected on his fondest memory through it all. "Growing up, I always had interactions with alumni because of my dad (Stephen Jones, Rho Triton '89). But this past Founders' Day was awesome because the other guys got to see it as well. I am excited that Rho Triton is fully coming back into the fold at VCU and Theta Delta Chi."

Perhaps the brothers most excited to see rechartering through to fruition are the alumni. Blake Gordon is "excited to see what the future holds. I look at the young guys and I miss it. I can tell they click. My advice to the undergrads is to make friends outside of your class. You don't even know your best friends yet."

Forrest Clark, Rho Triton '98 and formerly on the Grand Lodge, agrees. "Regardless of the implementation, even if it's different, our tradition continues. Even if the Greek system, or the way the fraternity is run, or the personalities involved are different, what's important is that the tradition of brotherhood, camaraderie and our Fraternity is imparted to another generation at VCU. It's the idea that these young guys will have the same opportunity as us."

The Brothers of Rho Triton invite you to celebrate their rechartering in style as they host Theta Delta Chi's 171st Convention this August in Richmond, VA.

Fargo Wells, Rho Triton '83, remarked, "Brotherhood is forever. It's your choice to take advantage of that foreverness. I have best friends that I haven't seen in years, but I know if I call, they'll be there. If you come to Convention, you'll see people you haven't seen in a long time and you'll pick back up right where you left off. You never lose connection with the bonds you built. But, if you feel that you've lost that connection, it's never too late to find it again."

Convention is the one time a year when Theta Delta Chi comes together in force. Brothers of all ages converge to renew the bonds of brotherhood and celebrate each other. This year we have much to celebrate. We're celebrating the rebirth of a Charge. Rho Triton's story of tenacity and determination is an inspiration to Theta Deltas everywhere. They promise at least 100 of their alumni will be at Convention and call on friends of the Fine Southern Charge to come to Richmond and join the celebration. Let's hope the banquet hall is big enough.

P.S. A special thank you to all Rho Tritons who were interviewed and congratulations to the newest initiates of the Rho Triton Charge who are pictured on the adjacent page. The re-chartering took place on March 17th in the Graduate Hotel in the same room they relinquished their charter in 2009.



170th Convention Philadelphia, Rho Triton contingent



Pt brothers (F) Joe Sullivan, Michael Mullins, (B) John Constanzo, Fargo Wells cheer on the VCU Rams Basketball team circa 1989



Founders' Day 2017 Matt Piper, Carter Randall, and Aaron Long

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Give Through— Not To—VG Dues



You may already be familiar with the history of Voluntary Graduate Dues, the idea of Charles P. Schmid, Pi Deuteron 1897 (CCNY). In 1929 he first asked all alumni to contribute two dollars (today's equivalent of \$29) to support the operations of the Fraternity. You may also know that your tax-deductible gift goes to numerous efforts of the Educational Foundation and Grand Lodge, including the publication of this very issue of *the Shield*, ReCharge workshops focusing on our Ritual, and

Minerva educational programming at Convention, among others. And you may even know that we offer more programs and services to our undergraduate members than a decade ago despite no increase in initiation fees and only a marginal service fee increase that won't take effect until next year.

But did you know that your gift to support these invaluable services wasn't made to the Educational Foundation? And it certainly wasn't made to myself or the CFO. *It was made through us.* Because of your generosity, we were able to put your gift to work where it is needed the most. As good stewards of your donations, the charitable entity of our Fraternity—the Educational Foundation—serves the academic, leadership, and philanthropic needs of the active undergraduate brotherhood by providing scholarships and grants to subsidize programming and training to prepare the next generation of Theta Delt visionaries. As a small non-profit, we rely primarily on interest generated from our endowment and annual gifts made through VG Dues to cover costs associated with operating the Central Fraternity Office, and to provide funding for conferences like the Preamble Institute, our premiere leadership conference, along with exploring new avenues of revenue to establish endowed scholarships that promote our mission to further sound learning in higher education. To this end, I wish to bring your attention to two new initiatives we have recently developed and humbly ask for your support.

The first initiative is the **Leadership Restricted Fund**, which will serve the long term needs of the Grand Lodge to offer programs, conferences, and trainings pertinent to the 21st century collegiate man and the skills necessary to better serve his Charge and eventual career. As with any restricted fund, the financial concept is to build up the equity within the account to generate income from the interest to support a program. In the case of this fund, the immediate need would be to offset costs for actives to attend our Preamble Institute. Long-term strategic planning could foresee funding for attending conferences or other high-level workshops to bring back best practices to our Charges.

The second is the **Veterans Scholarship Fund**, which we hope will fund a scholarship to a deserving veteran of the armed forces. Veterans also face unique issues as "non-traditional" students including relocations costs, transfer of military to academic credits, and transition services. Theta Delta Chi has a unique opportunity to act in solidarity with this underserved population by also waiving the initiation fee for any veteran who joins an active Charge. As part of the Grand Lodge's Strategic Plan to expand and further develop Charges, this unique academic offering will serve as a launching point to expanded marketing and social networking opportunities.

Both of these initiatives will require much time and sacrifice from staff and donors alike. With your continued support, our Fraternity

will position itself once more as the preeminent social fraternity that adds once more to its tally of fraternal firsts. Make your gift through us today using the remittance envelope in your issue of *the Shield*, knowing you are investing in the young men of today who are entrusted with the future works of the "Old Lady"!

In the Bonds,
Patrick Tiernan, X^T '99 (Merrimack)
Director of Development



Recognizing our Donors

"One Hundred Percenters" are donors who have made at least one gift for each year since earning a baccalaureate degree and are listed in **boldface**. If you have never paid VG Dues or are a lapsed donor interested in learning how you can become a 100%er (donor credit for every year since graduation), please let us know. We have options for those who would like to catch up on those missing years.

- Write Patrick Tiernan c/o TDX, 214 Lewis Wharf, Boston, MA 02110 or
- Email Patrick at ptiernan@tdx.org
- Call 800-999-1847, ext. 1

Theta Delta Chi is pleased to honor alumni who loyally support the Educational Foundation with membership in the following **cumulative giving clubs**:

\$1-\$99	VG Dues Club
\$100	Century Club
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\$500	Sons of Minerva
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\$5,000	PGL's Society
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All past and future gifts of cash, securities and other tangible property on record will be credited toward membership in these giving clubs. Active donors with contributions at these levels will receive annual recognition in *the Shield*. Thank you for your continued generosity, which is vital to the development of today's and tomorrow's Theta Deltas.

*Please note that donations made to local alumni associations do not count toward VG Dues cumulative giving clubs.

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James B. Cason '85
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Clement J. Cheng '86
Kent W. Schaum '86
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Edward Quinton Walinsky '10[^]

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Leading the Charge In The Classroom

by Patrick Tiernan, Chi Triton '99 (Merrimack)

The field of education is as complex as it is alluring for those called to teach as a profession. One may even go so far as to name it as a vocation—literally a “calling”—to challenge young minds to examine, analyze, and create. Many are discouraged by the policies and socio-economics that hinder access to opportunities within schools, while others laud the independence in the classroom and the ability to grow alongside their students as a formative experience. As an educator myself, I was inspired to explore the teaching experiences of two Theta Deltas recently and documented my conversation with each of them in the hopes of gaining greater insight into how they see themselves leading the charge in the classroom.

First year teacher Zach Hegemann, Xi Deuteron '16 (Washington), is currently working for *Teach for America* (TFA) in Buffalo, NY. As a Law, Society, & Justice major (interdisciplinary focus on political science and social justice) at the University of Washington, Zach has always been interested in public policy issues and felt a strong connection between his own passion for change and the mission behind TFA. He told me, “I joined [here] because I am far more interested in the social justice aspect of the organization and advocating for students of color who continue to receive substandard educational experiences at far higher rates than their white peers around the country.”

While the initial training put on by TFA focused heavily on anti-racism themes and culturally sensitive pedagogy, Zach recognized quickly that he also needed the skills of a special education teacher to fill out Individual Education Plans (IEP) and work with students who had 504 plans (accommodations for students with disabilities). Nevertheless, he recognizes the nuances and challenges that come with any transition, particularly one that presents the needs and expectations as TFA. “Every day presents a new issue that tears at my understanding of the world and of myself—truly living on my own for the first time in my life, across the country from everybody and everything I have ever known. It’s purely exhausting, yet I continue to run on hope and love for my students.” In particular, Zach has worked to emulate teachers who have built a solid rapport with students and are able to connect the curriculum with contemporary culture.

While he may just be completing his first year of teaching, Zach articulated a genuine concern and positive outlook into the complex needs of our educational system. “Schools continue to fail and perpetuate the cyclical nature of educational inequity,” he observed, yet “as educators

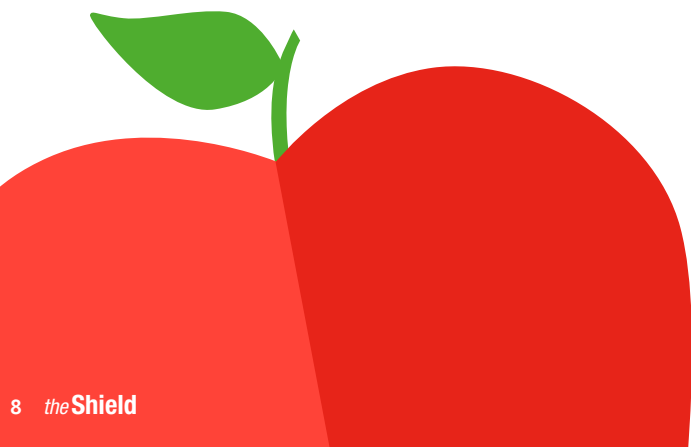


we can truly make a difference—and show a student that you care about them as more than a number or test score.” He remains interested in possibly pursuing graduate studies in policy administration and has a strong desire to continue his service in the public sector.

Dr. Clark Johnson, Gamma Deuteron '62 (Michigan), is currently in his 45th year of teaching primarily law students at Michigan State University. When posed with the same question about what brought him to consider a career in teaching he replied, “It would be nice to be able to say my long-term relationship with education all came about by having laid a rock solid, broad spectrum, highly sophisticated foundation based on intellectually rigorous training in a crucible of crushing competition aggressively posed by the world’s best talent. Unfortunately, in my case, that is not what happened; for me, it was entirely fortuitous. In fact, dumb luck would not only be more candid, but closer to truth’s mark.”

Clark attended law school on the G.I. Bill and continued his service in the Naval Reserve before leaving for a firm in private practice. He then recounted how on one Friday afternoon his world would unwittingly change. A persistent dean requested to meet with him in the hopes of teaching in the fall semester, which was to begin in a matter of weeks, after what he imagined would be his public service for the year leading a course in business agency and partnership. “[The next month] I was in love [and] the law firm was convinced I had lost my mind—the rest is history. That is how I got my job and I wouldn’t change a thing. Or to answer your question, I never ‘considered’ teaching. I was dragged into education screaming and kicking.” Since then he has taught countless students who continue to stay in touch with their mentor and friend, who still teaches law school courses in equity, contracts, commercial transactions, and medical-legal problems.

Today, Clark is as passionate about his career—and perhaps more emphatically, his students—as he was almost half a century ago. With a “keep it simple” philosophy toward his students, “I try to look after them as a shepherd, as peers struggling toward a common destination together,” he told me. Based on his enthusiasm and sheer passion for the classroom, there are no plans in the immediate future for him to slow his tireless pace. The university is working to establish an endowed chair in his name and with a new book coming out soon on moral and cultural issues surrounding the Supreme Court, there are no signs of Bro. Johnson rushing to retire anytime soon.



HOW THETA TRITON Got Their House

By Randal John Meyer, Theta Triton '11 (SUNY Binghamton)

In October 2016, our Charge faced one of its most daunting challenges, the potential loss of our house. A number of years ago, we got into a long-term deal with the owner of the best historic home on Binghamton's fraternity row. However, we found out that he was foreclosed on and lost the house when County officials showed up to inspect the place.

This was a crisis. Somehow, our Charge needed to pull together, undergraduate and alumni, and come up with a common vision and plan for buying the house. The Charge was allowed to stay in what was now the County's property until April 2017 under the law. So, in six months, we needed to figure out who would buy the house, how they would pay for it, and how we would ensure that the Charge, as a group, owned the house.

The first step was to ensure that the Charge had the right professionals in place to come up with a good plan to carry out. Owning a house and dealing with taxes and upkeep is complicated, so we needed the right people to manage the Charge house. We formed an early brain trust of an alumni accountant (Andrew Kelly, Theta Triton '12), people who have experience in fraternity management (John Lowry, Theta Triton '13 and Derek Clune, Theta Triton '14), a lawyer (myself), and a representative of the undergraduates (Brendan Kenny, Theta Triton '18, then Charge President).

That group developed a common vision: we would form a not-for-profit housing company whose members were all initiated brothers of Theta Triton, and use that to buy and manage the house. A properly structured corporate vehicle provides all of risk management, financial benefits, and perpetual existence—the things a good Charge needs. But, it really does require alumni professionals to upkeep it in compliance with laws—great power, great responsibility.

In consultation with the former Executive Director, Peter Niche, Chi '78 (Rochester), the Founders' Corporation, the Educational Foundation, and some old notes in the Charge archives from correspondence with former Executive Director William McClung, Iota Deuteron '66 (Williams), we decided on an exact structure: a not-for-profit housing corporation. The Minerva Company was incorporated

on October 31, 2016 (awesome, auspicious coincidence), with a strong group of Theta Triton alumni—Andrew Kelly '12, John Lowry '13, Derek Clune '14, Andrew Sheynin '08, Paul Liggieri '10, Robert Clark '09, and myself—at the helm as the Board of Directors.

Now, finding over a hundred thousand dollars

Now we were ready to play ball.

Most major banks won't take the risk of loaning ~\$160,000 (roughly what we needed to buy the place) to a company that has existed for a month and has no assets and little cash. In fact, the standard corporate mortgage requires a down payment of 20–30%, which means we would need ~\$53,000 in cash to get a mortgage. It's just how the mortgage market is. There was no possible way to raise that much by our April deadline.

But that's why creativity is important. What we had that not all new companies have is Theta Delta Chi International Fraternity backing us—a multimillion dollar organization of brothers. And that organization brings a lot to the table for a bank.

We found a local bank that was interested in our unique proposition—using a local financier (Tioga State Bank in New York) that could give us personal attention was critical to our success. Instead of our putting up thirty percent in cash for the loan, we reached an agreement where, if we put \$10,000 down and the International Fraternity gave us a second mortgage for thirty percent, the bank would loan us the rest. Then, if we were in the black for two continuous years, the bank would refinance and take over the full loan value.

With financing in hand, the rest was short work. We managed to get the house just before our ten-year Charge anniversary in April, 2017. The alumni came up with much of the rest of the \$10,000 for the lower down payment. A picture of Derek Clune holding the signed deed appeared on Facebook shortly thereafter, in May 2017, when we closed on the house.

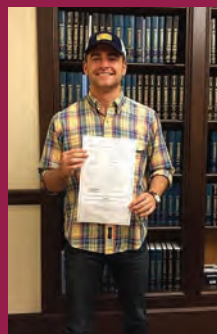
Any Charge can do this. With the support of the right group of alumni (and the International Fraternity can help fill in any gaps with getting alumni support), with a little money, and with the right local financier, any Charge can get a house on a quick timetable. Even if a Charge doesn't have a house picked out, it's best to start having the alumni involved early and to start saving early. Ask any brother of Theta Triton: life is just better when you own the house, for so many reasons. It's an endeavor for sure—to form a company and buy a house for the Old Lady—but it's one to improve and reform, with an immeasurable reward at the end.



Theta Triton Charge House



Brother DeLuigi's dog Minerva on the front steps



Brother Clune with signed deed

to buy the place with a brand-new company that had no money was a different matter. We needed both start-up capital and a mortgage.

We approached our generous Theta Triton alumni, who currently boast an unheard-of twenty-three percent giving rate. Theta Triton is a young Charge and does not have the wealth of ten thousand alumni brothers from which to draw, but we have good alumni. We managed to raise about \$2000 on our first asking round. The undergraduates agreed to pay a fee in exchange for management and in order to help us get to where we needed to buy the house. It wasn't much, but it was enough to operate for a while.

(*) designates Lifetime VG Donors
 (^) designates Charitos Society member
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 Jonathan D. J. Jodka '83

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Who Is Your Brother?



Brothers representing six Charges and their significant others gather for brunch at the Phoenix Country Club courtesy of Bro. Tom Gardner E '83

It's interesting from time to time to ponder this question: *Who is your brother?* You may think immediately of your pledge brothers or your Charge in general. For others, it may include those you met on a road trip or at Convention. In my travels I often remind myself how fortunate I am when it comes to answering this question, because my brothers span Charges, decades, ethnicities, and international borders. I sometimes think I am given permission to be a "Charge Chameleon" if you will, subtly blending into the background of events, reveling in the storytelling and memories, and feeling as though I am a part of each of your own treasured narratives.

Twenty years ago as a colonist at Convention, I was at a backyard picnic at the Xi Deuteron house in Seattle when I began speaking with an older brother. I asked him what it was like to be from a different house and how he related to (what appeared to me as) this overwhelming sea of faces. He gestured to the crowd and simply replied, "These are my brothers." That man was Bro. Don Noveau, Beta '70 (Cornell). That conversation with Don was forever seared into my memory because it symbolized the value and importance of not only who we identify as brothers but how we identify with those individuals. We may have an affinity for those with whom we may share certain interests, or who fall in a certain age bracket, but there is something truly ineffable—where words fail—when you discover someone is a Theta Delt. Whether it's that feeling you get when you see someone wear letters or when you feel the grip from a brother, there is an immediate recognition of what that person means to you. Over the years I have developed a deep sense of gratitude for the men that comprise our small, unique, and diverse brotherhood that distinguishes itself from other fraternal groups.

In 1917, Fr. Edward Flanagan opened Father Flanagan's Home for Boys ("Boys Town") in Omaha, Nebraska. As the story goes, one of the boys who was abandoned, Howard Loomis, had polio, which made it difficult for him to walk up and down the school steps. Soon many of the older boys were carrying him up and down the stairs. One day



The southwest renewed social joys in Albuquerque, New Mexico with Bro. Russ Edwards Σ^Δ '53, Bro. Rich DePippo Σ^Γ '79, and Bro. Barry Bitzer Δ^Δ '84

Kappa Triton Northwestern

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James R. Martell '76
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Thomas Rolfe, Esq. '63
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VG DUES CLUB

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Lambda Deuteron Toronto

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ROBERT FROST SOCIETY

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Lambda Triton Rutgers

CENTURY CLUB

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Virginia

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John G. Aveta '92[^]
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Ward Carter, Jr. '68
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Allan D. Wells '64
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John R. Kim '83
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Ryan Allburn Aggergaard '03[^]

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Ralph W. Rogers '55
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Raymond M. Murphy '82[^]
Richard M. Weissman '85
William R. Muirhead, II '86

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COL Daniel Z. Boyd, USMC (Ret.) '53
Robert W. Wagner '69
Robert M. Hittle '75
Douglas P. Fulton '85
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CENTURY CLUB

John B. Lanni '85
Osareme Ekhatior '15[^]

Omicron Triton Rhode Island

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Kenneth B. Martin '81

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Pi Triton California State, PA

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GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB

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Rho Triton Virginia Commonwealth

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Robert Kirby '90
Taylor Webb Early '92[^]
Edward M. Boak '93
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Lance Francis Lochner '09[^]

Who Is Your Brother?

continued from page 10



Kappa Deuteron (Illinois) alumni from the 70's and 80's reunited for Big Ten football action

Fr. Flanagan asked Reuben Granger, who was one of the older boys, if carrying Howard was hard. Reuben replied, "He's not heavy--he's m' brother." Decades later, Fr. Flanagan saw an ad with an older boy carrying a younger boy on his back with the caption, "He ain't heavy mister--he's my brother." He immediately wrote the magazine asking for permission to use the

image and quote. It has been the guiding motto for Boys Town ever since. This is a powerful metaphor for any relationship, but especially our brotherhood: Who helped carried you in college? Who continues to carry you today? How do you help to carry others now?

For some of you, being a brother may have ended at graduation; for others, it may have simply faded with time. Yet I would imagine, that for most of you reading this, you feel something different. Perhaps your experience as an undergraduate forever changed the trajectory



Alumni from Chi Triton (Merrimack) gather for their spring reunion to watch Hockey East competition.

of your career, or maybe it introduced you to lifelong friendships in a world of acquaintances. Either way, my personal hope is that you take a moment this year to reach out to a brother (or two) who made an impact in your life and reconnect in some small meaningful way.

What a collective impact we would have if we all made just one reconnection? If all we do is wax poetic about our past without investing our time and resources into the present, then what does that say about the future of our Fraternity for generations to come? What if the next time you considered the question, "Who is your brother?" you remembered the stories recalled above and how your brother may be—in a radical sense of the term—someone you don't even know, who has had no impact on your life but awaits your impact on theirs.

In the Bonds,
Patrick Tiernan, X^T '99 (Merrimack)
Director of Development

My Time at the Preamble Institute by Dom Sutermeister, N '20 (UVA)

"Maine in the winter!?" I thought as I signed up for the Preamble Institute. Not many people at Nu wanted to cut their winter breaks short, let alone go somewhere cold. But I figured, "Why not? It's just one weekend and I will get to meet other Theta Deltas." At the time, I had problems figuring out where I belonged. I began to rethink my major; I began to rethink personal matters; I even began to think about transferring. I just did not feel like I knew where I fit in. Maybe a weekend away with some new faces was what I needed to clear my mind.



Upon landing in Portland, there was a thick fog hanging in the air. It was cold, and somehow it was raining, not snowing; Portland was not looking very inviting so far. On my way to the shuttle, I met a few of the Gamma Deuts and the Gamma Tritons that got off the same flight as me. We introduced ourselves and started talking about our Charges, our schools, and our lives. Maine was already feeling a little warmer.

At the first session, I had no clue what to expect. For all I knew, Preamble could

have been set up like a lecture hall where we all sit in silence for hours while one person drones on and everyone in attendance watches the clock slowly run down like it's a long day at work. Before the session started all the delegates were talking, introducing ourselves, and we all shared that same thought. We were pleasantly surprised to learn our fears were misplaced. All the CFO & facilitators were very open and engaging. They wanted to get to know us as much as we wanted to get to know them. We opened up over board games, bowling, late night runs to diners, and trying to win big on HQ. Sadly, trivia was not our strong suit.

After the icebreakers and introductions, everyone felt at ease with one another. We could ask anyone anything and they would answer candidly. This was essential as we moved through the rest of PI. It built a foundation of transparency. This enabled us to discuss not only the strengths and weaknesses of our respective Charges, but also our individual strengths and weaknesses. Through our introspection, we were able to identify what we needed to do to fulfill our oaths to continually grow as men and as brothers.

The one task I will never forget is when my group of eight had to find a way to stack ten nails on the head of one nail. I know how that sounds;

we had the exact same thoughts. But we had a goal and were determined to accomplish it. We tried approaching this from every angle, but we did not start to make headway until we actually started to work through our task. We tried. We failed. We tried again. Still no avail. Another time. Once again it came crashing down. This pattern continued for quite a while. We agreed we would give it one more shot. We were all hands on deck trying to maneuver the nails so they would balance. When we pulled our collective hands away and all the nails stayed, we lost it.

Looking back, this was personally the most eye-opening activity I participated in. The entire time at Preamble we looked at ourselves as individuals and brothers under a common Charge, but only after we embraced authenticity and vulnerability were we able to identify all the problems in our own lives. In the nail activity, each nail is like a problem we face, and we must learn to balance them in our lives. We can think about our problems all we want, but we cannot accomplish a goal without action. However, even in action, we sometimes come up empty-handed. The only way for our efforts to be fruitful is by continuing to move forward, even in the face of defeat. We reach out to the ones closest to us, the family we choose to confide in, and in return they will lend a hand. With everyone's collaborative effort, we can achieve whatever we choose to, whether that be improving our Charges, or bettering ourselves. When we finally reach the apex together, it makes the accomplishment that much sweeter.

Leaving Portland, I looked back on my time at Preamble. I looked outside the glass windows of the airport, admiring the clear, sunny, warm (at least for Maine in the winter) day. I made some new friends. I learned what I needed to do in order to continue to grow as a person, and I had a renewed agency to bring back to my Charge. As I sat there staring out into the world hundreds of miles away from both school and home reflecting on my time, I confirmed my biggest take-away from Preamble: when I was with my brothers, I was exactly where I needed to be; I was home.

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Tod Alan Stenger '93[^]
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Holiday Inn by the Bay
Delta Deuteron Building Association
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Omicron Deuteron House Corporation
Psi Alumni Association





171ST Convention Richmond, VA August 9th-11th



Theta Delta Chi Returns to Richmond

The 171st Convention of our beloved Fraternity will take place this August 9, 10 and 11th. It will be the third time Richmond has played host to Theta Delta Chi. Theta Delts converged on the city twice before for the 83rd and 142nd Conventions, and six other times elsewhere in the state of Virginia. Richmond is also home to the newly re-chartered Fine Southern Charge of Rho Triton at Virginia Commonwealth University, which returned to the active ranks on March 17th.

The Hilton Richmond Downtown will be our Convention headquarters. Book your rooms directly with the hotel (<https://book.passkey.com/go/ThetaDeltaChiAnnualConvention>). It will host our business sessions on Thursday and Saturday, as well as our President of the Grand Lodge's Reception and Grand Banquet Saturday night. There is plenty of scheduled fun, but also the opportunity to check out the best that Richmond has to offer. You can purchase tickets to join the official undergraduate delegates on the James River Friday morning for their white-water rafting Minerva Session or explore Richmond's rich history, excellent breweries, and vibrant art scene.

On Friday afternoon Brothers and guests are invited to join us at the

Omega Service. Begun in 1904, it is an opportunity to reflect on our 171-year-old brotherhood as we commemorate those who have passed during the year into the halls of the Omega Charge.

This 171st Convention is a great opportunity to see new friends and old as we conduct the business of the fraternity and renew in union our social joys. Theta Delta Chi will celebrate the return of the Rho Triton Charge, vote for the new officers of the 142nd Grand Lodge, and conduct Annual Meetings of the Founders' Corporation, Educational Foundation, and Grand Lodge.

Want to learn more about Convention events and registration options? You can at tdxconvention.org

In 1930, the Governor of Virginia, John Garland Pollard,* welcomed Mr. Theta Delta Chi "Norm" Hackett, and 294 other Theta Delts to the city. Do as Norm did and join us, as we return to Virginia's capital this August!

**Governor Pollard's son, John G. Pollard, Jr., had joined the Epsilon Charge at The College of William and Mary, delegation of 1923.*

Visit <http://tdxconvention.org/> for registration information.



The 83rd Convention



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A wide-angle photograph of the Richmond, Virginia skyline at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are green trees and a bridge over a river. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky.

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