

# the Shield

of Theta Delta Chi  
Volume 134, Number 1, Spring 2021



Focus  
On The  
Undergraduate  
Perspective



Convention is  
virtual again  
for 2021  
July 28<sup>th</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup>  
[tdxconvention.org](http://tdxconvention.org)

2020  
VGDUES Honor Roll

# theShield



of Theta Delta Chi

Volume 134 Number 1  
Spring 2021

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## In this Issue

This year we paid special attention to  
enhancing and including the voice of  
our undergraduate members. Six younger  
members have contributed to this year's  
issue of *the Shield*.

Thank you for your engagement Austin,  
Dom, Joe, Landon, Micky and Peter.

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## Theta Delta Chi's New Membership Portal: Stay Connected and Informed



**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Your local Charge, the Educational Foundation, and the Grand Lodge want to keep you connected to all things Theta Delta Chi. In order to do this, we need you to join thousands of other Theta Deltas and log in to our NEW membership portal at [MyTDX.org](http://MyTDX.org).



**MyTDX.org**, powered by GreekTrack, is a Brothers-only portal where you can update your preferences and personal information, connect with Charge Brothers from all generations, check your donation history, and so much more.

Many of Theta Delta Chi's alumni associations and house corporations have been using **MyTDX.org** to connect with their members and to manage the business of their associations. However, for alumni associations and house corporations to be most effective, it takes the participation of all of the brotherhood.

After registering and entering this portal, you will be able to:

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Update your mailing address, phone number and email address. You no longer need to contact the Central Fraternity Office to have this information updated.

**COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES:** How would you like the Fraternity to reach you? Choose to receive mail, email, or both.

**CHARGE COMMUNICATION:** Interact with your Alumni Association and House Corporation via direct messaging or by completing surveys and forms. Connect with the undergraduate and alumni officers too.

**RECONNECT:** Find those long-lost brothers by searching your Charge's entire membership roster on **MyTDX.org** and find out where your best friend in the Fraternity went and how to contact him.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:** Register for homecoming and other alumni and Charge-related activities.

**DONATIONS:** Your donations to the Educational Foundation provide grant and scholarship opportunities to both your Charge and undergraduate members of the Fraternity. You will have full access to your entire giving history, and can also make a donation directly to the Educational Foundation through this portal.

**FAMILY TREE:** Who was your Big Brother? Did you have a Little Brother? Complete your portion of your family tree. By helping to connect the dots between members, we continue the tradition and memory of our 174-years of history.

Registering for this portal is easy and FREE by going directly to **MyTDX.org** and following the prompts. Your information will **not** be shared with anyone outside of the Fraternity. Don't delay and log into **MyTDX.org** and join us as we all "renew in union our social joys."

If you have any questions or need assistance in registering, please contact us at [support@tdx.org](mailto:support@tdx.org) or [staff@tdx.org](mailto:staff@tdx.org).

Executive Director, Brian Bertges  
Sigma Triton '00



Corbin Miller, Sigma Triton '20, Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00, and Thomas "Wally" Stephan, Sigma Triton '73 at the 2019 Annual Homecoming Event.

# WHY Should Fraternities Exist?

I constantly seek an answer for the existential question that the outside world challenges us with: "Why should fraternities exist?"

As time elapses, I sharpen my understanding through our undergraduates' questions and actions, bringing into focus what I believe to be the answer. Let me respond with conviction:

*Belongingness*

*Support*

*Vulnerability*

*Growth*



Caleb (8) and Jacob Bertges (5) at the 172nd Convention in Iowa

This past year, 2020, struck me at my core and made it clear to what matters most in the world is our humanity. For fraternities, it's no different. It's about our own humanity in relation to other members. In this unfamiliar environment that isolates us, erodes stability in our lives, and builds division, we must be vigilant and leverage the aforementioned traits. I would say that many of our undergraduate leaders have stepped up to the plate and done just that.

Over the past few years, and in particular this past year with COVID-19, I had numerous conversations with various Charge leaders who were assisting Brothers in crisis. Throughout our response, we would put the member to the center of the conversation, keeping in mind their personal safety and humanity. At the core of all of those discussions were belongingness, support, vulnerability, and growth. These moments exemplified true mutual esteem and dependence.

These conversations remind me of when I was an undergraduate

member and struggled with mental health. As pressure mounted, my relationships deteriorated. Simple tasks before me were monumental. Life overwhelmed me. I wanted to give up, all the while suffering in silence. I distinctly remember Steve Dougherty, Sigma Triton '03, had a conversation with me that will forever be shrouded in an honorable and confiding friendship. The end result was an inflection point in my life, allowing me to gain the courage to address my challenges. I am here because of the Fraternity, and I am grateful for the bonds of Brotherhood.

Over the past decade and a half Theta Delta Chi has shifted its programming and services to provide an environment that allows Brothers, not just undergraduates, to let down their guard and be more vulnerable. This adjustment has enabled a level of connectedness that allows us to flourish as an organization. These moments can happen even within video conferences. I want to share one with you.

During our 15th Preamble Institute (our first virtual experience), we had just sent our members into small groups. As the lead facilitator, I had the ability to visit various breakout rooms. What happened next would remind me of why I believe in what we are doing. As I entered, I heard Landon Wigg, Rho Triton '21, talking about his experience in Theta Delta Chi:

*"I, for one, joined for multiple reasons. I didn't have any close friends in middle and high school, any true friends at that. This led me to really attach to my Brotherhood as I saw how close and open they were with each other. I saw the opportunity to not only be a better Brother to my Fraternity Brothers, but to my biological little brother as well. We were never really close growing up, with having a big age gap, always fighting a lot, and having different personalities. We also shared the unfortunate experience of losing both our parents when we were really young (10 and 4 years old). This was really hard on us and made our relationship growing up even harder. It was 8 years since my parents' passing when I was pledging into TDX Rho Triton, and I found out that our initiation into the Brotherhood would be on the same day that my parents passed away. I really wanted to be there for my family around that time, and I didn't know what to do or how to open up to my Brothers about it. Eventually, I did, and it was a very special moment. They all understood and were there for me...In our Charge, we have a tradition where all the new members get into a circle and all the actives surround us, and we pass a candle around telling our most vulnerable secrets, mostly dealing with how the Fraternity has helped them and why they joined. I was the very last one to share, and it was intense. I told them about the reasons I joined as I mentioned before, and opened up about how that day was the day, the exact day my parents passed. But, I had more to say about it. I opened up about how hard it was growing up without a close family and no male role models, and how this Brotherhood almost fills that gap. I ended by saying 'I don't think that it's a coincidence how that on the same day that one of my families ended, on the same day I'm being welcomed into a new one.'"*

## Why do Fraternities Exist? Voices of Our Undergraduates

*"So many believe [fraternities exist] to party, drink, and for social comradery. In my opinion, fraternities exist for much different reasons. To me, fraternities exist to turn boys into men. They teach us leadership, comradery, accountability, acceptance, and much more. Without Theta Delta Chi I would have never found my passion for leadership. Being in a Fraternity has taught me the importance of giving back to the community... In May I will be finishing my undergraduate career with 130 best friends but also a handful of mentors like [Brian] and Rick that I will have for the rest of my life." – Austin Moe, Psi Tetraton '21*

*"At the time, I could not have imagined the challenges I would come to face as president of Alpha; however, my Brothers, alumni mentors, and trusted advisors at the CFO did, and they equipped me with the tools to not only withstand adversity but also thrive in it, and reimagine my own potential." – Peter Dranow, Alpha '21*



Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00 facilitating with Adam McCready, Chi Deuteron '02 at the first Preamble Institute.

If a person has the courage to be so vulnerable, it gives permission for others to do the same. At its best, this is one way the Fraternity serves its purpose. It's a place where we can love and be loved. It's a place where we can show true empathy and compassion to our Brothers. It's the place where we belong. And sometimes, knowing that you matter and that people care about you makes all the difference in this isolating world.

I encourage all of our Brothers to listen intently to each other, especially with the pandemic still looming over our heads. If you ask someone how they are doing and they respond with "Okay," "Hanging in there," or perhaps the unassuming "Good," take the time to dig a little deeper. Take the time to hold each other up just a little more. In a society where men are taught to "suck it up" or "not be emotional," we often suffer in silence.

Although the future will undoubtedly bring more challenges, both personally and as a Fraternity, and the existential question asking why we are here will persist, I am fully confident that our members will respond with conviction and truth. They will attest that they can be their authentic selves--they belong. They will confirm that with life's ups and downs, Brothers are there for them--they are supported. They will profess that they are not afraid to share their challenges or failures, or even a personal story--they are vulnerable. They will demonstrate through action, improved leadership and relationship skills--they experienced growth. Perhaps, like me, they will testify that the Fraternity has saved them too. For this reason, and many more, it is my earnest hope that my boys, Caleb and Jacob, will have the same experience and join the ranks of our incredible Brotherhood.

It is our lifelong friendship and bonds with a steadfast approach to living our values that lead me to believe we not only belong, but that we are ready to lead a movement. I am grateful to continue to serve in my role to do just that. Spectemur Agendo- "Let us be judged by our acts."

*In the Bonds,*

Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00

*"For me personally, that meant learning to be vulnerable to others. I don't think I experienced this growth until [Preamble Institute], where I gave a shaky speech in front of everyone else after learning about what allows for authentic and everlasting friendships. I did not really know what I was gonna [sic] say before I got up there, I just knew that the previous months were hard on me and I was ready to bring my guard down and find support in others. And after I was done, I only found kind words, compassion, and the support I needed."*

– Dom Sutermeister, Nu '20

(\*) designates Lifetime VG Donors  
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# Meeting the Challenge



Russell Materne,  
 Kappa '72, Director  
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 Educational Foundation

Twenty-twenty has been described in apocalyptic terms as global economies melted and family incomes declined. The impact on college and university life was devastating with reduced enrollment and a major health concern. The downstream effect on Greek life also was difficult with brothers sequestered at home having no social interaction, remote learning as their only option, and tough new campus regulations. Moreover, this scenario damaged House Corporations with mortgage payments and other fixed costs which continued unabated. A year ago, the uncertainty scared everyone.

For some, what happened at our Fraternity was unexpected or at least, a little surprising. Our alumni, YOU, rose and met the challenge of COVID-19 by refusing to be defeated or pessimistic. The start of our fiscal year on July 1, 2020 through the first part of 2021 has been a reassuring success in the amount of alumni engagement and support. The online 2020 Convention drew more Brothers because the geographic barrier of distance was broken. Yes, the online interaction was less personal and different without the physical TDX grip between Brothers, and though we look forward to an in-person event soon, this past convention showed resilience and our commitment to be a Brotherhood at all times under any circumstances.

Then this fall, a big test of your continued strength happened, Founders' Day of Giving (FDG) on October 31. This event and the build-up to it is the single most important fundraising moment of the year, typically raising over 25% of annual support for the Educational Foundation through which all scholarships and various other support functions are possible. The 2020 FDG broke all records in participation by alumni and Undergraduates, pledges and donations, and engagement on social media and Zoom with stories, pictures, and conversation. In every way imaginable, the Brotherhood of Theta Delta Chi stood strong against the COVID-19 adversity.

Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00 likes to speak of the three ways to participate in our Fraternity: Time, Talent or, Treasure. In this past year, we were blessed with countless gestures of involvement, and many Brothers doing it in all three areas. Examples include:

- Mark Webster, Alpha '88 100%er, Robert Loparo, Alpha '87 100%er, and Brian Colantropo, Alpha '02, take time from their busy schedules each year to hold summer retreats with Alpha's leadership for all-day strategy sessions.
- Ron Hallenbeck, Beta Deuteron '71, also a 100%er, runs their House Corporation (a huge task during 2020) and still found time this year to work with a generous alumnus toward helping Undergrads finance their education.
- Numerous alumni volunteered as mentors for Ambition in Motion, a program to match alumni with undergraduates or other alumni desiring guidance in their postgraduate career choices. The response was so positive we had more mentors than needed. In addition, several of these alumni are longstanding monthly donors.

While 2020 is described as "a year like no other", after 174 years, Theta Delta Chi survived because of our alumni's commitment to our values and deep understanding of the need to support others. Is coming through this pandemic remarkable? In context with the history, not really. After all, 14 years after our founding, there was a civil war, and though few Brothers remain who experienced it, 80 years ago this year, there was a world war, and we are still here.

What does all of this mean? It means we are all stronger and better when we engage each other in ways to build a positive and progressive

future for all new and existing Brothers. During this year, Brothers found ways to support, however they could, with their: Time, Talent, or Treasure. That is past, and our challenge now is to maintain this momentum, for our race is run every day, every year, and never finished; supporting those Charges and Brothers who need us, revitalizing dormant Charges, and expanding to campuses who would welcome us. Our message and values are powerful, and YOU make it ALL possible.

This fiscal year will be over in less than three months; finishing up strong through the 2021 Convention is essential. YOU showed up and picked up the gauntlet thrown down by the challenge of this past year, a **proud Brotherhood undeterred**. There is more to do, and your engagement and donations are statements and examples for others to join and to follow. Please do what you can to donate to Minerva, get involved with a Charge, or lead in some other way. There are lots of options, and the personal reward is bountiful.

Thank you, more than ever, I remain **In the Bonds**,  
Russell K. Materne K'73

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

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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 renewed contributions will receive annual recognition in *The Shield*. Thank you again for your continued generosity which is vital to the development of all current and future Theta Deltas!

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



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# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion *within Theta Delta Chi*

Johannes Alvarez-Rivero,  
Psi Tetraton '22



Psi Tetraton Charge House at the University of Arizona.

As a child born from two immigrant parents, I had no idea what college was going to be like. I didn't know what majors were, what living in a dorm would entail, or what students did outside of their academics. Growing up, movies were my window to understanding college life in the United States. More specifically, movies like "Animal House" or "American Pie: Beta House" were really my only introduction into what my experience in a fraternity at an American university might be, and man, was I excited to get started!







Johannes Alvarez-Rivero  
Psi Tetraton '22 holding  
two Convention Awards  
at his Charge house.



I was a rather quiet kid in high school. I didn't have many friends, was average at academics, played some sports (but not the ones deemed to be "popular"), was told I had a "funny-sounding" name, and had parents who weren't American or wealthy. I saw those types of films and imagined that maybe going to college would be my opportunity to be accepted for who I am, and maybe I would come out of my comfort zone as well.

So, there I was signing my agreement to attend the University of Arizona and participate in 2018 Fall Recruitment. I researched different fraternities and, being Latin American, my first instinct was to look into a Latin American culture-based fraternity. I thought to myself: "Wow, I might be able to join a fraternity with people who understand my culture and where I am from much more than any of the fraternities I've seen in the movies or television." After an email of interest, I scheduled an interview with the fraternity's president. As I walked into the classroom to meet him, excited beyond belief, he looked at me with clear disappointment and almost disgust on his face. He asked me if I was in the right place. I introduced myself and told him that it was nice to meet him.

After 10 minutes of seemingly random questions, he said, "I'm going to be honest with you—you will never be a part of this fraternity. The only thing Latin American about you, is your last name. You look white, you act white, and you don't even speak Spanish well enough. You would be better off joining one of those IFC fraternities; they might take you. You have to understand that this is the one thing we have, I'm sorry." I was shocked, and I felt like the opportunity to join a fraternity was over, not fully understanding at the time why he said what he said.

Shortly thereafter, I found my home at Theta Delta Chi, the home where I have served as New Member Educator, Social Chair, and Undergraduate Member-at-Large to the Grand Lodge, graduating at the end of the 2021 spring semester.

Theta Delta Chi at the University of Arizona, changed my beliefs about belongingness and acceptance. After my negative experience with a culturally-based fraternity, I didn't come into Theta Delta Chi with high expectations. I was anticipating being judged and manipulated into becoming someone that I am not, regardless of what I look like. I could not have been more wrong. The brothers of the Psi Tetraton Charge greeted me with open arms, embracing my differences and my diversity. And, as I walked around the house, I saw brothers of all different races, faiths, and sexual orientations, shattering my skewed perception of Greek life. This allowed me not only to feel like I belong, but also, that I could be myself. My story doesn't stop here.

Through my work in this organization, I have grown to love all my brothers for every single difference and to accept them and support them in however they identify. With a vision and strong desire for inclusiveness within the leadership of our Fraternity, I became inspired to help create and lead a national diversity, equity, and inclusion committee. To my knowledge, we are one of the first organizations to include the most important stakeholder at the table—the undergraduate members. I have the distinct honor and privilege to offer Charges in Canada and the United States assistance in implementing DEI chairs and committees at the local level. This commitment for diversity from all members of Theta Delta Chi is what makes me proud to be a part of this Fraternity.

Theta Delta Chi gives me opportunities to share my voice, to be engaged, and to help our organization continue in endeavors to improve and reform. The stark reality for me is that we need to give people the opportunity to not only be a part of our beloved Fraternity, but to have a voice within it. In our communities, we need to be inclusive in our interactions and not just keep to ourselves. Reflecting back to the day I was rejected by the Latin American fraternity, I realized it wasn't necessarily that I was rejected, but perhaps, just the opposite; these organizations were created because fraternities that were historically white, didn't want to accept them. So, brothers, are we ready to build bridges and lead a movement? If so, let's speak with our actions, not our words.



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# 174th

# Annual Convention

**July 29th-31st, 2021**  
 will mark the second time in the history  
 of Theta Delta Chi that convention  
 will be a virtual event.



**The 174th Annual Convention of Theta Delta Chi** will happen, irrespective of COVID-19.

Our beloved Fraternity has continued to grow and flourish, despite the continuation of the coronavirus pandemic, with the resurgence of two of our oldest Charges, Epsilon and Xi. Last year, out of necessity, we re-thought how we conduct business and held our first virtual convention, and we will replicate that experience with this year's event. By all reports, last year's occasion was very successful, providing an opportunity for old friends to reconnect, make new friends, and "renew in union our social joys."

One participant from last year's virtual convention told us, "Just being able to see and interact with all my brothers during these difficult times" was the most valuable part of the experience.

During this year's virtual Convention, we will take time to celebrate the (delayed) 150th anniversary of Beta Charge. Beta's continued 150-year existence and their support of, "the Old Lady", is something for us all to be proud of.

We will be following up the success of last year's roster of speakers with an outstanding lineup this year. Among them are:

Kevin Flike, Alpha '06, is a father, son, Army Green Beret, brother, board member, and American hero. While on his second deployment to Afghanistan, Brother Flike was seriously wounded. He underwent six surgeries marked by 40 inches of scars. He serves as a board member on the Green Beret Foundation and is a motivational and keynote speaker with Wounded by War.

Nolan Slifko, Upsilon Triton '12, is an attorney with Cobb County, Georgia. He will focus his presentation on how the perceptions we want to hold for ourselves and our Charge are often betrayed by our social media persona. This presentation will cause us all to re-evaluate how we are perceived by others.

Archie Messersmith-Bunting will focus his keynote on mental health issues entitled, "It's Okay Not to Be Okay." He will review the most common mental health issues facing college students, provide insights into self-care, explain how to provide support for your brother, and explain when and how to seek help and support from others.

With ample opportunity to socialize and re-connect, don't let this year's event pass you by. Join us from the convenience of your living room, den, or office! Don't forget to attend the annual Awards and Scholarship Presentation Ceremony along with "renewing in union our social joys." Go to [tdxconvention.org](http://tdxconvention.org) in order to register for this event and to learn more.

"The awards ceremony honored the tradition and also gave the recognition as much as the virtual presentation could manage. It was the highlight of the Convention for me."

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William M. Cameron '82  
Richard M. Weissman '85^#

**GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Andrew D. Ebbott '78  
R. Edward Ferguson '83^\*

**SONS OF MINERVA**  
Col. Daniel Z. Boyd USMC (Ret.) '53  
Dr. Robert J. Virostek '60  
Dr. Alan A. Rozycki '61  
Theodore R. Ellsworth Jr. '74  
William L. Parker IV '77

**STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
Robert M. Hittle '75

**VG DUES CLUB**  
Stephen C. Jones '67  
Robert L. Shirley IV '91

**Omicron Triton Rhode Island**

**PGL'S SOCIETY**  
Anthony J. DeMario Jr. '76

**FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
Kenneth B. Martin '81

**GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Paul A. Sepe '70  
Robert A. Zagrodny '78  
James F. Aylward '96

**SONS OF MINERVA**  
Arthur F. Fiorenzano '74  
David M. Flynn '81  
Marc A. Faubel '99

**STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
Gary W. Windish '67  
Daniel L. Scolardi '69  
Armando DeFusco '74

**Pi Triton California State, PA**

**SONS OF MINERVA**  
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**Rho Proteron University of South Carolina**

**GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Matthew J. Conley '10^

**Rho Triton Virginia Commonwealth**

**ROBERT FROST SOCIETY**  
David B. Wright '87^

**PGL'S SOCIETY**  
Ira Dunn '88  
Robert Kirby '90  
Scott A. Holbrook '91  
Taylor Webb Early '92^  
William K. Walton '93^

**FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
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Edward M. Boak '93  
Antonio Q.L. Rhodes '94  
James Robert Cocco M.D. '96^  
Jeffrey Dee Mitchell '96^

**GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
John L. Harding '81  
Stephen M. Jones '89  
Robert C. DeBlois '90  
Michael R. Stanley '93^  
Richard L. Oleson '94  
Sean J. Moore '03

**SONS OF MINERVA**  
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Dr. George W. Pegram III OD '87  
John P. Costanzo '90  
Anton Obermberger '91  
Michael J. Mullins '92

**STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
R. Fargo Wells '83  
Samer E. Khalaf '90  
Benjamin Owen '02  
Matthew E. Poteate '06  
Oscar Wing Wah Wong '10

**CENTURY CLUB**  
John H. Whalen Jr. '94  
James W. Mitchell '95  
James Samuel Chinn '08

**VG DUES CLUB**  
James H. Nemecek Jr. '78  
Kurt D. French '90  
Brent L. Elliott '94  
Ryan N. Hoggan '96  
Todd Justin Miller '00  
Christian J. Mitchell '01  
Andrew Wah Herley '07  
Bryce Wade Harrison '09  
William Cote Womack '09  
Theodore Martin Sisk II '10  
Arthur Yu '10  
Trevor Joseph Dyke '19  
Matthew Rieck Gregory '19  
Patrick Magee '20  
Michael William Mann '20  
Erik Ryan Nelson '20  
Neel Vishnu Patel '20  
Matthew Burton Piper '20  
Brendan Charles  
Solomon Quiroz '20  
Carter Randall '20  
Aaron James Tambllyn '21

**Sigma Deuteron Wisconsin**

**PGL'S SOCIETY**  
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**FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
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Dr. John A. Dutton '58  
William W. Pidcoe Jr. '61  
Robert M. Simenson '61  
James B. Loken '62  
Herman G. Kafura '64

**GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**

Peter A. Behr '65  
David C. Clegg '70  
Peter A. Brengosz '74  
Michael J. Degehant '84  
Patrick Loureiro '11

**SONS OF MINERVA**  
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Todd C. Stuart '95  
Quincy Allen-Wason Gottwig '15

**STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
William C. Nelson '58  
Troy W. Kienzle '99  
Ian Thomas Karls '17

**Sigma Triton Penn State**

**NORM HACKETT LEGACY SOCIETY**  
Brian Henderson '61^#

**JOHN HAY LEADERSHIP SOCIETY**  
Donald G. Reinhard '49#

**ROBERT FROST SOCIETY**  
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Gregory M. Gurev '89  
Brian John Bertges '00^#

**PGL'S SOCIETY**  
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James L. Fath '66^  
Thomas S. Ruth '66  
George A. Kunkel Jr. '80  
Eric Scott Kelley '04^

**FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
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Ralph W. Henry Jr. '66  
Lynn A. Stump '69  
Richard S. Reed '72  
Jeffrey A. Cowan '85  
Cuong Chi Dang '01  
Jason Patrick Dietz '01^  
Philip Roger Parker '08^  
Michael Colin Houlihan '09^

**GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
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David William Sutherland '62  
Joseph F. Preston Jr. '63  
Joseph Michael Bayline '64  
Thomas S. Provost '78  
Christopher L. Taylor '84  
Scott K. Munroe '98

**SONS OF MINERVA**  
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George T. Theodore Sobieralski '96

**STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
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Brett James Hirsch '01  
Jason A. Burhans '03  
Christopher Andrew Nicolais '08

**CENTURY CLUB**  
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Mark E. Swink '79  
Dave R. Stragand '93  
Edward Bertges '19

**VG DUES CLUB**  
Randy John Hedgeland '85  
Larry D. Senour '87  
Mario C DeAngelo '93  
Marc B. Papaj '95

**Tau Deuteron Minnesota**

**ROBERT FROST SOCIETY**  
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**FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
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**SONS OF MINERVA**  
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**Tau Triton Marist**

**FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
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**SONS OF MINERVA**  
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**CENTURY CLUB**  
Christopher John Fuschetti '18

**VG DUES CLUB**  
Scott Alexander Williams '14  
Matthew Alexander Blades '18  
Brandon Lang '19  
David William Ellis Olivar '19

**Upsilon Bucknell**

**GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
William H. McGowan '73

Julian Weller, Mu Triton '19

# Growth in a Time of Uncertainty

In times of uncertainty our organization pushes forward. The Central Fraternity Office (CFO) of Theta Delta Chi is preparing for an era of expansion, and leading the way in this endeavor is our current proposal for the re-chartering of the Epsilon Charge! The Epsilon Charge was first chartered in 1853 at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and has had various periods of activity since. The Charge most recently went dormant in 2008; however, due to the amazing involvement and coordination of the Epsilon Alumni Association, the Charge is looking to make a return in 2022.

Twenty-twenty has been a difficult year for us all: we faced a global pandemic, natural disasters, social unrest, and an array of other matters. These impacts have been felt on all levels of society including the world of higher education- the home of Fraternity operations. The rise of COVID-19 in March 2020 forced many colleges and universities to transition to remote learning in the middle of the academic term. This sudden shift in campus life was felt by our Charges, as many had to forgo planned recruitment events, philanthropy projects, and new member initiations. Despite these challenges Theta Delta Chi has provided members with a sense of belongingness and connectivity. Throughout these trying times, our Brothers have lent each other a shoulder to lean on, friend to confide in, and a family to cherish. This is a testament to the importance and relevancy of Theta Delta Chi, a community focused on building each other up, supporting one another, and believing in one another. Our type of community is not only wanted in today's society, it is needed.

Theta Delta Chi is distinguishing itself as leaders in a time of uncertainty. We have used our values and belief in each other to change, adapt, and improve in this new colligate climate. At the Charge level we saw this emergence in the form of new virtual recruitment events, where Brothers and new members were able to form meaningful connections and relationships utilizing online platforms. We also saw online fundraisers where Charges raised funds for local COVID-19 relief efforts, social justice organizations, and other purposeful initiatives. At the international level, the CFO created and distributed Theta Delta Chi COVID-19 Guidelines to Charges, alumni associations, housing corporations and fraternity/



The most recent expansion was the re-chartering of the Rho Triton Charge (VCU) in 2018.

sorority campus administrators. These guidelines helped groups prepare and execute measures that would aid in promoting the safety of our members and the greater community. Not all of our changes have been centered around COVID-19; in an effort to succor much needed change, Theta Delta Chi has established an International Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. These organizational responses have helped strengthen Theta Delta Chi's vision of being "values driven members of our community who are strong, socially responsible leaders, focused on improving ourselves and those around us."

And while Theta Delta Chi continues to press forward in new and unique ways, one thing remains the same, our values. Spectemur Agendo: "Let us be judged by our acts." It is our organizational values that call upon us to push forward, and to create mutual esteem and dependence through an honorable and confiding friendship. Our values guide us to build people up, not break them down. Our positive values and friendships are what we look to share through meaningful and gainful expansion.

**That being said,** we cannot do this alone, we look to you for help, this is our call to action! Calling all alumni: if you have sons, nephews or mentees that are attending college/university, that you believe have the qualities befitting of a Theta Delt, please have them contact us. Calling all alumni groups of dormant Charges: if you are interested in reviving your Charge, please contact us. And calling all undergraduates: if you have friends or family members at another institution that value their intellectual, moral and social being, and are interested in being a founding member of a Theta Delta Chi Charge, please have them contact us. Anyone interested in Theta Delta Chi expansion should contact the CFO at [glstaff@tdx.org](mailto:glstaff@tdx.org).

# Finding Appreciation for an Unwanted Experience

Psi Deuteron Charge House at the University of Los Angeles

**T**hese days, it is fairly easy to let the news get the better of us. With the rollercoaster of advances and setbacks due to COVID-19, pessimism can creep into our lives and take over. As we look to the future, we have two options: lament our current situation or view it as a learning experience. This is something I have come to realize through my time at college. I used to view my schoolwork and my job as obstacles which I needed to overcome in order to get to the part of my day that I enjoy. Now I am attempting to appreciate the grind for what it is, to view my losses as lessons, and to fail forward when I do fail.

***Now I am attempting to appreciate the grind for what it is, to view my losses as lessons, and to fail forward when I do fail.***

Translating this philosophy to life during coronavirus has been easier said than done, especially with regards to my education. As someone who already struggles with attention issues, the transition to online classes has been far from an easy one. Staring at a screen and being trapped inside for the better part of the day, as well as the social aspect of school being completely removed, has transformed my college experience. Towards the beginning of the pandemic, I let the disruptions affect my outlook on education. In March, when school transitioned to a virtual and seemingly disconnected environment, school became more like a rat race for me. I turned my camera off, didn't talk, and just wanted to finish my work. This attitude towards school made me abhor something I once loved. I let extraneous circumstances (i.e., the pandemic) negatively impact my mindset, something that is extremely easy to do.

My mother's side of the family is full of educators, one being Micky, my namesake. He's your quintessential lifelong learner, always excited to exchange his ideas with other people. He encouraged me to pursue education as a way to learn more, not as a competition for who had the best grades. The reality of his words hit me. I wasn't focused on the joy of learning. Furthermore, as the pandemic persisted, it became clear that this new way of life wouldn't be a two-week event, but rather more of a two-year event. I realized that I needed to reframe my situation. I'm sacrificing my time and money for this education, so I might as well get as much as I can out of it. Some days are more difficult, but now I try to treat the Zoom classroom as a regular one, interacting as much as possible, and asking questions.

This new "normal" isn't just detrimental to our productivity. It also affects our mental health, mostly from being socially restricted. It is in this way that I am more fortunate than most. Rather than

being isolated in an apartment, by living in the fraternity house I have been able to spend my last year at school with the people I treasure the most, and we have grown that much closer. We can gather to play basketball in the backyard, or work out at our home gym, something which I have found crucial to surviving the quarantine period. Though exercise is even more challenging when restricted to one spot, it really alleviates the feeling of being locked down. So,



Micky Maganini, Psi Deuteron, '21 (pictured: Center, Front) with Psi Deuteron brothers at an Autism Speaks 5k.

while it has become much harder to meet new people throughout the past year, the pandemic has illustrated to me how lucky I am to have my fellow Psi Deut Brothers in my life.

I think about this blessing in comparison to all the new students coming to UCLA and other institutions. The freshmen aren't getting the same in-person orientations. They don't feel the same connection to their peers. They are strangers in a new virtual world. I feel we are failing to some degree, as fellow students, to bring them into the fold. I want us to be there for them in meaningful ways, whether it's connecting with them virtually during recruitment and giving them a venue to vent their frustrations, or teaching them about the resources that helped us be successful on campus. Zoom meetings are a tough way to truly connect with people, but it's important for us as fraternity members to try as best we can to give the underclassmen a somewhat normal experience.

The silver lining to this pandemic is how it has changed my outlook on nearly everything. The tailgates and social events which I took for granted during my first two years at school are now occasions I long for. And while we may not be able to socialize in large groups for now, something that always cheers me up is to think about how we as a society will celebrate when the pandemic is over. I picture how the streets will be flooded with people just happy to be there. And I hope this brings us closer as a community and as a nation, to see that all our differences and problems pale in comparison to the forces of nature, and how every day and every experience should be cherished. Until then, I hope that all my Theta Delts stay safe, active, and optimistic.

**Upsilon Deuteron  
Wabash**

- PGL'S SOCIETY**  
Jim Donald Leuck '09^#
- FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
Seth Kreigh '01^  
Kyle Patrick O'Keefe '08^  
Bryan Edward Arnold '09^  
Garrett Robert Redweik '12^
- GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Joel Alexander Bustamante '11^  
Jacob Dawes Starnes Surface '11^  
Jordan Blake Ferguson '12^
- SONS OF MINERVA**  
Robert A. Clancy Jr. '92  
James A. Hawksworth '95
- STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
Corey Jacob Egler '15  
Collin Reed Graber '18
- CENTURY CLUB**  
Dr. Todd Douglas Vogel '04
- VG DUES CLUB**  
Alejandro Maya '13  
Steven Anthony Peters '16

**Upsilon Triton  
Indiana**

- GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Nolan Matthew Slifko '12^
- VG DUES CLUB**  
Jesus Diaz III '16

**Phi  
Lafayette**

- PGL'S SOCIETY**  
Paul J. Tuohig '65  
W. Robin Amesbury '71^#  
George K. Kollitides II '91
- FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
Kurt W. Klunder '57  
Edward G. Merkel '57  
Charles K. Wynn Jr. '59  
Dr. Joseph K. Lees '60  
W. Thomas Grimm '61\*^  
Robert N. Sellar '63\*  
Christopher G. Westcott '67
- GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Andrew B. Hester '78
- SONS OF MINERVA**  
A. Barry Simpson '68\*  
Jeffrey A. Leonard '82
- STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
Thomas F. Names '74
- CENTURY CLUB**  
Richard W. Logan Jr. '49  
Alvan Markle IV '65

**Phi Proteron  
Florida Institute**

- GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Ralph L. Leach '72

**Chi  
Rochester**

- PGL'S SOCIETY**  
Bob M. Tobey '63^  
William A. Hammond '73  
David M. Kilnapp '76^
- FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
Dr. James R. Hashim DMD '72  
Philip Z. Chryst '75  
Michael A. Recny '78^  
Peter W. Havery III '79  
Michael O. Morse Esq. '81  
Hadley A. Weinberg '81  
Joseph M. Pisano '82
- GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Richard W. Appel '51  
James F. Crum '56  
Nelson B. Leenhouts '56  
Mark E. McAnaney '75  
Stephen R. Sloan '78
- SONS OF MINERVA**  
Jerald D. Bullock '45  
Jere S. Carter CLU,CHFC '58  
James P. Juraska '73  
Stacy A. Wyatt '77  
Peter J. Russell '79  
William E. Munley '80  
Joseph J. Zuniga '80
- STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
Dennis P. Hennigan '75
- CENTURY CLUB**  
John M. Adduci '73

**Chi Deuteron  
George Washington**

- PGL'S SOCIETY**  
Donald E. Lucas '54  
Andrew N. Cline '94^#
- FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
Brett E. Goldsmith '97^  
Bryan Matthew Grackin '05
- GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Jason M. Weber '98  
Benjamin Alec Vogel '13^
- SONS OF MINERVA**  
Adam M. McCready '02
- CENTURY CLUB**  
Seth H.S. Wong '02

**Chi Triton  
Merrimack**

- FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
Patrick M. Tiernan '99^
- SONS OF MINERVA**  
Jay Robert Bailey '01

**Psi  
Hamilton**

- PGL'S SOCIETY**  
Ralph W. Rogers '53
- FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
Dr. Walter E. Badenhausen Jr., MD '52
- GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
John A. Anderson '61  
Albert F. Lotz III '67
- STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
Charles E. Griffith Jr. '60  
Arthur S. Whittemore III '85

**Psi Deuteron  
UCLA**

- LINDSAY RUSSELL SOCIETY**  
Douglas G. Southern '64^#
- NORM HACKETT LEGACY SOCIETY**  
Edward A. Elliott '63^
- ROBERT FROST SOCIETY**  
Eric James Davila '91^#
- PGL'S SOCIETY**  
Frank A. Rossi '59\*  
Anthony Osmundson '64\*  
Philip J. Frengs '73  
Phillip P. Bazan '96^
- FOUNDERS CIRCLE**  
Ralph H. Marx '54  
Thomas Jay Glad '55  
James G. Lumsden '55  
Paul L. Schoch '55  
James B. Cash '63  
J. Michael Hateley '68  
Stewart A. Gondo '80  
Owen E. Jackman '89
- GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Robert B. Heyn '55  
Robert A. Weeks '64  
Emil O. Erickson '65  
Eric C. Belle '84  
Kay McNulty Davila '01^  
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- SONS OF MINERVA**  
George Armenta '60  
Charles P. Adams '66
- STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
John D. Collado '78  
Darrin S. Trudeau '86
- CENTURY CLUB**  
Bruce W. Reinik '68  
Stephen H. Brichant '77
- VG DUES CLUB**  
William F. Roeschlein II '91

**Psi Triton  
UC Santa Barbara**

- GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB**  
Ernie G. Bumatay '71  
William Madden '74
- SONS OF MINERVA**  
James E. O'Donnell '73
- STARS AND ARROWS CLUB**  
Ramon W. Barger Jr. '74
- CENTURY CLUB**  
Charter C. Hughes '76

**Psi Tetraton  
University of Arizona**

- VG DUES CLUB**  
Peter James LeBlanc '19

# Supporting Minerva Through Planned Giving



Jeff Janak, Beta Deuteron, '83, (Center) hanging out with fellow Beta Deuteron brothers during the 172nd Convention in Ames, Iowa.

Planned Giving is a way to donate to an entity of your choice as part of one's overall financial plan. Whereas an annual gift to VG Dues is generally cash or appreciated stock, a planned gift is for some time in the future or as a part of one's estate plan and can include a variety of different asset types. As the name suggests, the design of a planned gift is more complicated than an annual donation, but then they tend to be of a greater amount. Moreover, when the recipient is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3), like the Educational Foundation, there is the additional benefit of tax savings which leverages the value of the gift.

Up to now, the international fraternity, and probably local charges also, have had only an informal planned giving effort, responding to individual requests as needed. For 2021, we plan to develop a structured and more complete approach which includes the major types of planned giving designs and is inclusive of gifts to the CFO and to local charges. It is another example of the type of infrastructure the CFO needs to provide and help Alumni at all levels.

One of the planned giving methods is to assign some or all of the benefit from a life insurance policy, which is the approach being used by Jeff Janak βΔ '83 to benefit both the CFO and the Beta Deuteron Charge. The CFO will receive a fixed amount and the Charge will receive the balance. Brother Janak is also able to define how the funds are used so they will benefit TDX brothers for many many years. As he said to me:

*"During this past year, I remembered how the Beta Deuteron Brothers supported me as an undergraduate, I wanted to return that support in a long term way. My life insurance policy is self-sustaining now, so there is no cost to me. When the policy matures with my death, the proceeds will be split between the CFO and Charge. It is a simple thing and every Brother should make some effort depending on their circumstances to include the CFO and their local Charge in a planned gift. If we can get almost everyone to make a planned gift, even if only a few thousand dollars, the impact on our fraternity will be immense."*

Brother Janak states the matter perfectly. It is an issue of thinking into the future and making provision for the persons and the organizations you care about. Rather than depending on only major gifts, the real objective is to reach a large number to Brothers whose gifts of any amount accumulate. While it is most important for Brothers from delegations in the 1980's and earlier, it really is something to be considered early. The CFO will be working with local Charge organizations to understand their thoughts and needs for planned giving. Then in a few months we will roll out a program tailored to these needs and adapted to our alumni population. In the meantime, the CFO is willing to assist ahead of time and in any way we can. Please contact me at [rkmlterne@tdx.org](mailto:rkmlterne@tdx.org) with particular needs or questions.



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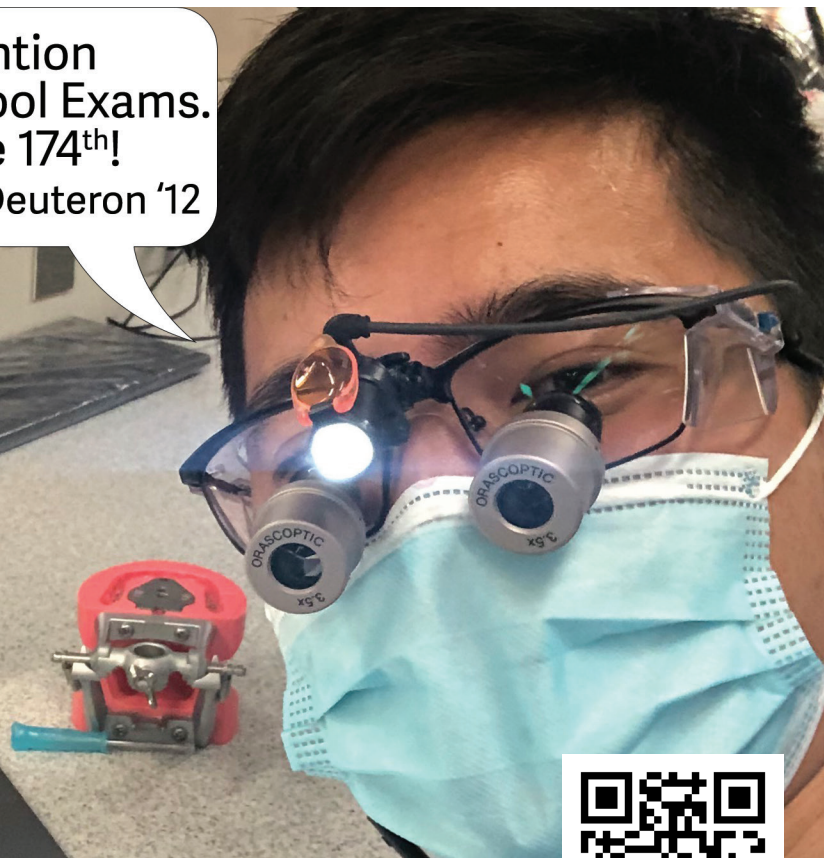
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I attended the 173<sup>rd</sup> Virtual Convention while studying for my Dental School Exams. Take a virtual selfie with me at the 174<sup>th</sup>!  
- Kevin J. Hahn, Delta Deuteron '12



**#tdx174**

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