

the Shield

of Theta Delta Chi

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theShield

of Theta Delta Chi



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About the Cover

Photo of Dartmouth Rugby Players
from the Omicron Deuteron Charge
(L to R) Jack Wagner '22, Mike Weir '22,
and Andrew Skow '21.

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Are We Listening?



The Bertges Family

Months ago, I wrote an article for this issue of the *Shield*. I wanted to share the importance of communication and feedback, not expecting all that was to come in subsequent months. Today, I offer you a different perspective—a need for change. Choosing not to improve and reform, not to engage as active participants, may ring the proverbial death knell for Minerva.

For the first time in my tenure in the organization, I see we are facing a major crossroads. We have to make a conscious decision as to whether we ascribe to the core values of Theta Delta Chi or to the negative stereotypes of Greek Life. The words of Robert Frost, *Omicron Deuteron 1896*, illustrate my paradigm and the conundrum of life.

The poem demonstrates our greatest gift—choice. We have the choice to take the path that has been traveled by others or lead other fraternities to the values-added path. Some of our groups already have taken up the mantle, having administrators mention that our groups have the potential to change the culture on campus.

Fraternities compete with one another for popularity, for members, and for status. Whether it's by measuring strength, who you hang out with, the quality of the house, or the sheer size of the group, Greek men generally have the same pitch, same product.

Parties and social status—they are the path most travelled, allow fraternities to keep recruiting the members who align with the mentality depicted in movies like *Animal House*. I want us to step away from the people who are joining for the stereotypes. I want us to be different. I want us to pick a direction that veers us to uncharted grassy paths that want wear. Universities and Colleges have a perception of fraternities, and it is not one that is necessarily beloved. Greek men are stereotyped as heavy drinkers, hazers, and sexual assaulters. That is what they see, but that is not who we know we are. Unfortunately, what people see us doing matches the perception. Unless, of course, we change what we do. *Spectemur Agendo*, "Let us be judged by our acts."

It's time that we refocus ourselves into a cultural movement, to part from the rest of the Greeks on the path that will surely be trodden black. It's time that we transition from being values based to being values added—to not just espouse our values, but to actually put them into action. It's that we lead because no one else is. So how do we do it? Let me share my perspective.

ALUMNI. Your active participation is not wanted—IT'S NEEDED! The best Charges of Theta Delta Chi have an active alumni base that pushes the values of the organization, holding our members accountable. This engagement must be positive. Alumni involvement encouraging debauchery and

risky behavior must be minimized. Sure we want our members to have fun and expect them to, but not by putting themselves or others in harm's way. The undergraduates will want to one-up every story retold in their presence. Regale them with tales of leadership and community impact, not about a signature party or hooking up.

RECRUITMENT. We need to stop competing for the same pool of candidates that everyone else is. This is the beaten path. We need to find the majority of people who are engaged that don't know they want to join. Where are they? Other student organizations. Breed it in new member education. Breed it in your brothers. They don't have to be leaders in those groups, but the sheer involvement will send a message and open up pools of quality members to bring into Theta Delta Chi. Imagine what recruitment would be like if you had the President of the Interfraternity Council, President of Student Government, Chief Editor of the Newspaper, and the Captain of a sports team. Who would you attract? How will that change your influence on campus? Examine every new potential member

and evaluate why they are there. If it's just for the parties, say no thank you and be okay with that.

ACCOUNTABILITY. We can see the problems in our membership, whether it's undergraduates or alumni. Don't attack people. Do address behaviors. If you see someone who "blacks out" from drinking, don't celebrate it. Share your concern about their safety. Their lowered inhibitions can lead to

major consequences, up to and including death. If you see someone skipping class, don't encourage them to hang out during class time. Remind them that if they're not performing well academically, they may not be able to continue their studies. Tell them that you enjoy their company and you want them to be there for future semesters.

BE SELF-AWARE. Know how you are perceived by others outside of the organization. Perceptions are your reality. Build rapport with the Greek Life office, neighbors, other organizations and their members. Don't just stay in your charge bubble or the Greek bubble. Actively solicit feedback, especially if you are a leader. Don't blame others. Look at what you can do better as an individual or group.

BE INQUISITIVE. Don't just take other's comments at face value. Search for the meaning behind what people say. The why is way more important than the what. If you ask how someone is doing and they say "Okay." Ask them why they are just okay. Ask them is there anything they need help with.

The idea is that we can make the values path the black trodden path. The poem hints that both are used and perhaps equally. In the end, it is our choice. We can throw up our hands and ring the death knell or choose the path that is currently less taken. I choose the one representing our core values. As a brotherhood, let us vie in executing a non-hostile takeover of our campuses, bringing the rest of the Greek Community with us and rewrite Brother Frost's words.

Theta Delta Chi took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

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

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

*Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,*

*And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.*

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

— ROBERT FROST,
OMICRON DEUTERON (DARTMOUTH) 1896



The Granite of New Hampshire:

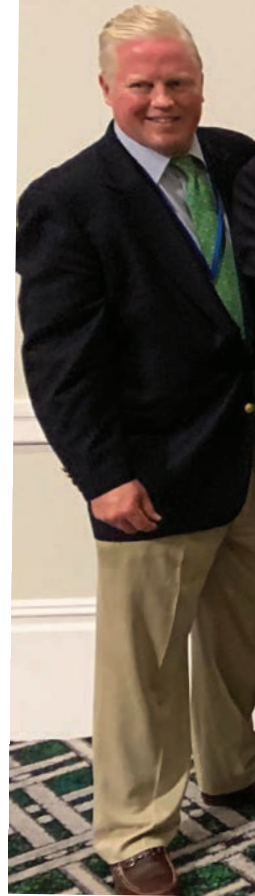
Celebrating 150 Years of the Omicron Deuteron Charge

Brian Bertges '00 and I had the distinct pleasure of being invited to the 150th anniversary of our longest standing Charge in Theta Delta Chi—Omicron Deuteron in Hanover, New Hampshire. We were warmly greeted by upperclassmen and alumni playing games at the Lodge. Boisterous laughs and smiles filled the room as brothers renewed in union their social joys. Even beverages were connected to the Charge. True North Ale, a company founded by Gary Rodgers '77, was enjoyed throughout the weekend's activities.

Jim Calmas '84 (President of Omicron Deuteron House Corporation), with a team of dedicated alumni, coordinated a Convention-like weekend. The sesquicentennial celebration contained a range of emotions from the joy of reminiscing about brothers' stories of the past to the somber remembrance of brothers who entered Omega.

Theta Deltas socialized at sporting events, watching brothers participate in the games. Of note, we were able to attend a Dartmouth rugby match when the team, many of which are Theta Deltas, stomped Yale to a score >100 that couldn't even register on the scoreboard. Brian snapped an updated version of the iconic Theta Delta Chi brotherhood photograph with undergraduates (left to right) Jack Wagner '22, Mike Weir '22, and Andrew Skow '21.

Afterwards, brothers and guests enjoyed some wine of their own, while singing in unison as they rocked out to Jerry Jeff Walker singing his hit, "Sangria Wine," during a concert at the house. The celebratory group gathered on the lawn and sang a rendition of Dartmouth's Alma Mater.



Hanover
Town in
Hanover
Grafton
population was 11,260
Dartmouth College and
Engineers Cold Region
Laboratory





The signature events to end the memorable weekend included a Grand Banquet on campus and a thought-provoking service on Sunday by the Reverend Joel Hubbard '82. The dinner celebrated the history of the Charge, but also reflected on brothers who entered Omega. Tears and laughter filled the room, showing the strong connections among all those who were in attendance.

Brother Hubbard provided one of the best Omega services that I have ever partaken in. Brothers were invited to light candles for their respective time, to remember all of those who passed from their era.

I am inspired by the caliber of alumni and undergraduates who hosted the 150th event at the Lodge. Brian and I are proud to have been guests and excited, in the words of Allen "Alio" Stowe '60, "for what the alumni in training can accomplish for their next anniversary!"

We look forward to seeing many of the Omie Deut Brothers at Convention in Ithaca at the end of July.

ITB,
 Jim Leuck '09
 67th PGL

(*) designates Lifetime VG Donors
 (^) designates Charitos Society member
 (#) Aegis Guild member
 BOLD designates 100%ers

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A Leader's Burden



When I was elected as president of the Alpha Charge, there was much to be accomplished and the road ahead was daunting. Not four months prior, I was a newly initiated brother, wide-eyed and simply grateful to be a part of something larger than myself. Now entering the last semester of my presidency, I have started to reflect on the experience, and on the moments that I feel defined me as a leader.

In my time as an undergraduate student and a Theta Delt at Union College, I have had the privilege of learning more about myself and life than I ever would have imagined. Some of the lessons came easier than others, but I've learned that the most impactful lessons were not the most enjoyable ones; they were the painful ones, the frustrating ones, and the ones that cost me hours of sleep.

Without wholeheartedly believing in my own message, I could never expect my brothers to do the same. In the form of an analogy, I've found the leader who attempts to inspire without vision yields results similar to the rifleman who attempts to shoot without bullets. As these principles became essential to my direction as a leader, I started feeling the brotherhood's true strength behind me.

I recently had the privilege of attending the 14th Preamble Institute, a conference led by the CFO and attended by young leaders and alumni of all Charges. Several of the delegates I met were recent president-elects and were curious about my experience as a Charge president. Before I shared my stories and spoke of the job's difficulties, I explained the vision which has guided me along the way.

In a moment of honesty, I told one delegate that before I could envision the success of a 75-member fraternity, I needed to first picture what the success of just one person, a single brother, would look like. Cliché as it is, I found my truth in the words of our Preamble, specifically its threefold ideal of strong character: superiority as an intellectual, moral, and social being.

Before developing the relationships that I now cherish with alumni, brothers, and those from the CFO, my values were all I had. When I received the charge, it was in as precarious a place as it ever had been, and the decisions I made often left me feeling like a villain; stealing fun from the brotherhood I had been elected to serve.

As I continued, receiving guidance from an emerging team of mentors along the way, I realized this was the role I had been chosen to fulfill. Furthermore, it was a compliment to be entrusted with my Charge's best interest throughout the abrasive times. As I started to discover meaning in my role and effectively communicate why these sacrifices were being made, I began to hit my stride. It was without a doubt the work I did in the hard times that taught me a leader's burden.

A leader's burden is not the what, it's the why. It's not expecting someone to believe, but rather showing them why they should. A leader's burden is staying true to their vision in good times and bad. Without Theta Delta Chi, I would never have learned these lessons, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

ITB,
 Peter Dranow, Alpha '21



Let Us Be Judged by Our Acts

One of our Fraternity mottos, *Spectemur Agendo* means “let us be judged by our acts.” Let our actions be our words. To me, the act of service to others demonstrates our true character.

This year, in order to recognize brothers for their acts of service to the Fraternity and greater community, we have designed and produced a challenge coin with *Spectemur Agendo* inscribed on it. Challenge coins are a military tradition. They are given to individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty. A noteworthy act deserves a coin.

Theta Delta Chi has a rich history of military service, dating all the way back to our origins. Andrew H. Green, the founder credited with writing our Ritual, served as the Advocate of the Pacific Squadron from 1854–1856. Throughout our rich history, many brothers sacrificed time, talent and finances to make the greater community and the Fraternity stronger. Today, service members are coming back from overseas and are seeking an education; some of them are joining our ranks. As such, we need to ensure we have all of the resources in place to ease the transition.

We need to support them, and Minerva can do it with YOU! She needs you to reengage the Fraternity that we love. She needs you to create a ritual of giving back, whether through time, talent, or treasure. She needs you to ensure the bonds of brotherhood are everlasting.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of our loyal donors who keep the bonds of our brotherhood alive!

Can you support Theta Delta Chi? Whether it's to provide scholarships to brothers in need or to develop the leadership skills of our Charges to lead a movement, we cannot grow as an organization without YOU. And if you know someone who has already gone above and beyond the call of duty, let us know so we can recognize them for their efforts. Let us be judged by our acts.



A challenge coin is a military tradition that recognizes people who have taken extraordinary actions for the accomplishment of the greater mission. Joining the Charitos Society is just such an action. Charitos means “friendship,” and investing in this level of giving demonstrates our mutual esteem and dependence.

To give some perspective, we raise no more than \$200,000 annually to our VG Dues campaign. If every living alumnus were to give \$10 in one day, we would raise \$250,000. If everyone gave at the Charitos level, we would bring in well over \$15,000,000 annually. Please consider making giving to Theta Delta Chi a part of your routine—your ritual. If you graduated less than ten years ago, you can join the Charitos Society for only \$18.47/month. From 10 to 20 years out, it's just \$50/month. Beyond 20 years, it's \$100/month. In recognition of your support, if you join the Charitos Society, Minerva will send you one of our new challenge coins.

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ALIGNING PERCEPTIONS: A Look at the New 360 Degree Evaluation



Asking for consumer feedback has become a staple among businesses and many organizations. After a simple trip to the dentist, you can expect to receive a customer satisfaction survey. The purpose for soliciting this information is to provide a direction for those businesses and organizations to improve. This “listening” activity also allows these organizations to measure themselves against specific, definable behaviors across a variety of categories.

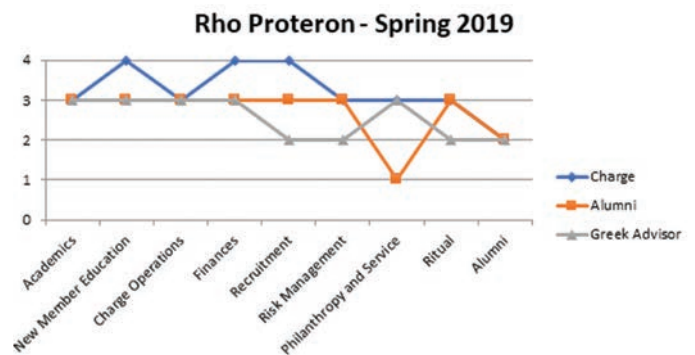
Over the past few years, Theta Delta Chi has developed and refined its process of evaluating individual Charges against the values expressed in our Preamble. This is part of our ongoing ROV, Report of Visitation, process. As an Educational Consultant for many years and charged with improving schools, a rubric, based on specific measurable outcomes was a highly effective tool in helping schools to improve. Bringing that experience with me to the Fraternity, allowed us to develop a rubric based on four core values expressed in our Preamble, Scholarship, Leadership, Responsible Social Life, and Brotherhood. Each of these categories contains clearly defined behaviors and identifiable evidence and is measured on a four-point scale. This rubric is a way to collect data for the purpose of allowing the Charge to set goals for improvement.

During the 2019-20 academic year we invited our alumni associations, Greek Life Offices and Charge Presidents to self-assess where they see the Charge on the four areas in the Rubric. This 360-degree assessment has allowed Charges to analyze the gaps they see in this data and begin to take action to close these gaps by developing three SMART goals. As our Founders’ said, to “endeavor to improve and reform.” As reported by Forbes, more than 85% of all the Fortune 500 companies use the 360-degree feedback process as a cornerstone of their overall leadership development process.

This process has created more open conversations between alumnus, Charges and universities. At Rho Proteron Charge, the data showed a huge discrepancy in the scores in the area of Philanthropy and Service. After a conversation with both the Charge and the university it was discovered that the issue was about accurate reporting of the data and a solution was identified which, when published, alters the perception of the Charge to its alumni. At the same Charge, officer transitions were identified as problematic and both the university and the Charge worked together to determine a path forward for improvement.

Currently, Theta Delta Chi stands out among the Greek community in inviting various stake holders into the evaluation process. Most institutions have been very enthusiastic about being asked to participate. They feel they have a voice in helping the Charge to improve. This 360-degree assessment also provides a direction for alumni to understand how and where to mentor the undergraduate members of the Charge.

This process allows all of us to be better “listeners” within Theta Delta Chi.



For more information, contact our Educational Consultant, Dr. Richard “Rick” Wood, Gamma Triton ’73, at rwood@tdx.org.

Getting Communications on (Greek)Track!

Big Data & Analytics for your Fraternity

Grow your organization through an online management system that produces intelligent

For approximately 15 years, the Grand Lodge, Educational Foundation and Central Fraternity Office have considered changing our internal membership management system. In 2020, we will be entering a new era of communications. Where it once was a system only maintained by the Central Fraternity Office, GreekTrack will now be accessible to Charges, Alumni Groups and members like you.

Both the Educational Foundation and the Grand Lodge are invested in this new system, which will increase communications between all internal and external stakeholders. We are currently ironing out migration details on the backend to ensure that our data is ready to go for a Spring 2020 launch. As such, we will be training Charges, Alumni Associations and more.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Please make sure your email address is up-to-date with the CFO in order to get access to GreekTrack so you can search for brothers from your Charge. Go to update.mytdx.org and fill out the form.

SO YOU MAY BE WONDERING, "WHAT CAN GREEKTRACK DO?"

EMPOWER

- Provide Charges, colonies, and alumni associations both public and private websites to manage their members, allowing us to share the most up-to-date contact information with one another
- Allow local Charges to post events, track involvement, and collect local dues
- Increase retention with awards, unlockable achievements, and leaderboards

MANAGE

- Your organization's membership database
- Charge and member profiles with unlimited custom fields
- View membership statistics and trends as well as detailed reports

COLLECT

- Automatic membership invoicing as well as manual Charge or member invoicing options
- Collect payments online and auto-track transactions
- Visualize your financial standing with an online ledger of both online and offline transactions

EDUCATE

- Store files online and assign access privileges
- Deliver resources directly to Charge officers through Role Folders
- View statistics on your resources to see who opened them

CONNECT

- Send bulk emails or text messages using advanced filtering
- Track email delivery and open rates as well as text message delivery rates
- View a history of communication sent by your national staff

FUNDRAISE

- Allow Charges to set up their own fundraising pages and collect donations
- Donor Management System to track donors
- Track outgoing messages

It's time for us to open up the channels of communication, so we are all on the same page, same paragraph, same line, and hopefully, the same word. So, make sure your email address is up-to-date with the CFO in order to get access to the platform. Go to update.mytdx.org and fill out the form.

(*) designates Lifetime VG Donors
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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 affordable methods for those who would like to catch up on those missing years.

- Write Russell K. Materne c/o TDX, 214 Lewis Wharf, Boston, MA 02110 or
- Email Russell at rkmaterne@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
\$250	Stars and Arrows Club
\$500	Sons of Minerva
\$1000	Graduate Loyalty Club
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\$25,000	John Hay Leadership Society
\$50,000	Norm Hackett Legacy Society
\$100,000 +	Lindsay Russell Society

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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EXPLORING THE ENTHUSIASM AND STATE OF THETA DELTA CHI IN 1901

THE FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION



As of recent our Fraternity magazine has made space to annually showcase a piece of its history, usually a tale from Convention(s) in the upcoming host city. The *Shield*, first published in June of 1869 and reestablished in 1884, offers great insight into Convention happenings. Many issues of the *Shield* include details of business sessions, travel vignettes, and word-for-word reproductions of the speeches that capture our history. While Theta Delta Chi is no stranger to New York, 2020 will be the Fraternity's first Convention in Ithaca, NY. Unable to bring a story from an Ithaca Convention past, it perhaps suits us better to explore stories from one of New York's other Conventions.

Over 50 Conventions have been held in the state of New York. Some of the notable ones were the 2nd in Schenectady 1849, the Semi-Centennial at the Windsor Hotel in New York City 1898, the Centennial Convention at the Sagamore Hotel in New York City 1947, and the Sesquicentennial in Albany 1997. Curious as to why the Semi-Centennial was celebrated in 1898 and not 1897? You can uncover the mystery in Volume 129 Issue 1 of the *Shield* in the article "History of Boston Conventions (and our founding date!)." New York has also been home to four locations of the Central Fraternity Office prior to the move to Boston.

As you may imagine, the effort to attend a Convention in 1901 was considerably more elaborate than it is today. It is with effort and out of concern that many made it to the 53rd Convention at the Buffalo Historical Society in 1901. A conventioneer was proving their loyalty to the dear old Fraternity with their attendance. Convention is not just

a time to conduct the routine business of the Fraternity—it is a time to preserve its high standing and increase its stability and prestige.

Brother Carl Axel Harstrom, Xi 1886, during an address to the 53rd banquet attendees, described the organization as "rejuvenating", his reason being that, "It belongs to all times, to all ages, and to all places," ownership he later mentions again, saying, "When one has become thoroughly imbued with the spirit of our Fraternity, it is a possession that lasts a life-time." The Fraternity spirit is something that resonated with all those that attended, each finding a different way to express it, be it their first time or returning as a loyal graduate.

Theta Delta Chi was feeling positive growth and organizational strengthening as it conducted business at the 53rd Convention. The Grand Lodge believed the establishment of Delta Deuteron at University of California, Berkeley was one of the most important and successful acts of its administration. It was the first push towards westward expansion. This preceded another momentous step north into Canada, with the soon to be chartered Zeta Deuteron at McGill University.

These successes were no surprise—they came from the organization's faithful, efficient, and unceasing labors. Committees were formed annually to tackle the organizations concerns, trustees controlled the high stakes items, and the custodian of the archives was rather a team committed to preserving the history of the organization. Tasks large and small received the same attention, and in return the same thanks.

■ *continued on page 14*

The 173rd Convention CELEBRATING BETA'S 150TH

The 173rd Convention will take place July 30th–August 1st. For the first time ever, Convention will take place in Ithaca, New York; however, this location is no stranger to Theta Delta Chi. It is home to Cornell University and the Beta Charge. Celebrating their 150th anniversary, Beta brothers from all over the world will be converging on Ithaca for the 2020 Convention.

Since 1870, Beta has built up a rich and expansive history. The house, located at 800 University Avenue, is something to explore. Rob Merola, Beta '11 remarked, "The house is an absolute masterpiece, not just the physical structure, but what the House stands for. When you walk in you immediately feel the history of the generations of Theta Delta Chi Brothers that have been there before you. The House is a representation of the hard work and commitment of the Brothers of Beta."



Beta has a strong relationship with the musical arts; their house is fitted with a 10,000-watt system and their Grand Hall has a 250-person capacity, which they have used to host various benefit concerts. The house has served as a concert venue for popular bands such as Big Gigantic.

Waldo F. Tobey served as the President of the Founders' Corporation from 1937-43.

The structure was built in 1928 through the fundraising efforts of Waldo Franklin "Ag" Tobey, Beta 1895. Brother Tobey was a prominent lawyer in Chicago who was thought to have made his fortune defending the notorious Al Capone. Due to Tobey's connection with the American gangster during the Prohibition era, the house contains a speakeasy. Check out this hidden room on Friday during Convention at the Beta Reception, and learn about the Beta Charge from undergraduates and alumni.

Along with the history of the house comes its many notable alumni. "Beta brothers have served roles on the Grand Lodge, Educational Foundation and the Central Fraternity Office staff. And as I am excited to share the accomplishments of Beta, I am also excited to share the different challenges we have faced and how Beta was able to overcome them. I am excited to share stories of the incredible leaders that have helped shaped Beta into what it is today," Brother Merola said with pride.

One example is Stanton Griffis, Beta 1910. Brother Griffis was an American veteran, businessman, and diplomat. He served in the United States Army during World War I, and became heavily involved with diplomacy during World War II. As a result of his efforts during the Second World War, he received the Medal for Merit and Medal of Freedom. Following the Second World War, Brother Griffis was appointed the United States Ambassador to Poland, and later served as an ambassador to Egypt, Argentina, and Spain.



Stanton Griffis, Beta 1910

The Beta Charge is more than the house and the brothers, it's a place that has molded the lives of those who were initiated by the Beta Charge. Former Charge Consultant Patrick Alderson, Beta '17 mentioned, "Being a part of Beta was an amazing part of my undergrad experience, and continues to be an amazing part of my life. It became my home away from home. Where I met a variety people from different backgrounds. Although we came from different [walks of life] we bonded on the idea of a shared community. I'm excited to see the brothers that have helped me succeed and grow and share our community with the rest of the Brotherhood in Ithaca."

So what does Ithaca and the Convention have to offer you?

Enjoy the amazing summer atmosphere the local region provides as it is home to over 150 waterfalls! These waterfalls provide an amazing sight to be shared with family and friends. Enjoy the natural beauty at the Robert Treman and Buttermilk State Parks, take a cruise on Cayuga Lake, or perhaps visit the Cornell Botanic Gardens or some of the museums. After a day of hiking, exploring, and climbing, visit and relax at the many different wineries that Ithaca has to offer.

Not only is this annual reunion a great time to forge new bonds with brothers, it is also an opportunity to honor those who have passed. During the Omega Service we will commemorate those who joined the ranks of the Omega Charge since our last Convention. We will also conduct our Fraternity's business, holding our Annual Meetings of the Founder's Corporation, Educational Foundation, Grand Lodge and Minerva sessions that feature programs open to both undergraduates and alumni.

The 173rd Convention will provide a perfect combination of history, explorations and celebration; this is not a Convention you are going to want to miss. The Statler Hotel will be serving as the Convention headquarters; you can book your rooms directly through the hotel. If you would like to learn more about this year's Convention events and registration options visit tdxconvention.org.

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53rd Convention Retrospective

■ *continued from page 12*

Brothers were connected to their fraternal experience and knew that it would accompany them through life. During the banquet the Toastmaster read through numerous telegrams, letters, and messages from brothers each expressing their regret for not attending. The notes each shared deep regret for not being able to fulfill their duty of being present, but also hopes for their organization, and of course zeal for their future Conventions and interactions with brothers. They all knew improvement required commitment to the habits the fraternity expected of them.

Brother Harstrom, prior to congratulating President Ernest W. Huffcut Beta, 1884 on a reelection, says, "and if I live to be 137, as our president this evening has been good enough to wish, I shall strive to be a better Theta Delt during the last 100 years than I have been during that part of the first 37 that I have worn the shield". It was recognized that you are most impactful as a Brother after you graduate. Brother Nathaniel Rowe Webster, Eta 1881 echoes the sentiment of Brother Harstrom, staying to the attendees "The affairs of the Fraternity interest me as much now as they did twenty years ago, indeed, I may safely say that they interest me even more now, because then I did not know what Theta Delta Chi meant as I do at this day."

While largely uneventful compared to other Conventions of our organization, the 53rd gives us insight into what the fraternity machine may accomplish when firing on all cylinders, and what that takes. In 1901 Norman Hackett's attendance to his first Convention likely did not stand out, a young Theta Delt, known in the organization but nowhere near his final height of power and influence. Brother Hackett gained the nicknames "The Seventh Founder" and "Mr. Theta Delta Chi" over his lifetime of service and commitment to the "Old Lady." He spoke these closing words for his fellow Theta Deltas on the Convention's closing day:

"I thought I understood the meaning of Fraternity Enthusiasm, but I must confess the Convention has far exceeded my most extravagant conception of the word. It has been a positive inspiration and I am sure every man here feels ten times better for it. When such a body of men will cheer themselves hoarse repeatedly from the loyal unselfish impulse of their hearts, the reason speaks volumes. I have had the best time of my life and earnestly hope I may be able to join the boys at many future Conventions."

Perhaps unbeknownst to even himself when Norm delivered that message but he would return to almost every Convention until his death in 1959, and traveled as an employee of the organization for over 30 years visiting its Charges.

And lastly, the final words from "The Fifty-Third Annual Convention" Post-Convention article in the *Shield*, Vol. 17 Issue 3 seem appropriate;

"Now at the conclusion of these rambling impressions we have but one suggestion to offer to every brother whose eyes chance to fall upon these pages. And this is the moral that adorns the tale: Brother, if you wish to be made to feel that life is worth living after all, be on hand early at the Convention. Come and

SEE AND HEAR

For yourself. HO, enough said."



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