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**It's a great Day to be a Theta Delt!**  
**June 2021**

## It's Awards Season

There are over a dozen awards given out annually at Convention. Seven of these awards have open nominations. Below are links to both the individual and Charge award applications for the 174th Convention.

[Individual awards](#) include; Undergraduate of the Year and Alumnus of the Year. [Charge awards](#) include; Service and Philanthropy Cup, Guy C. Pierce Improvement Cup, Ritual Improvement Cup, President's Cup, and Victory Cup. The deadline for submissions is July 10th, 2021.

### There is Still Time to Apply for Educational Foundation Scholarships

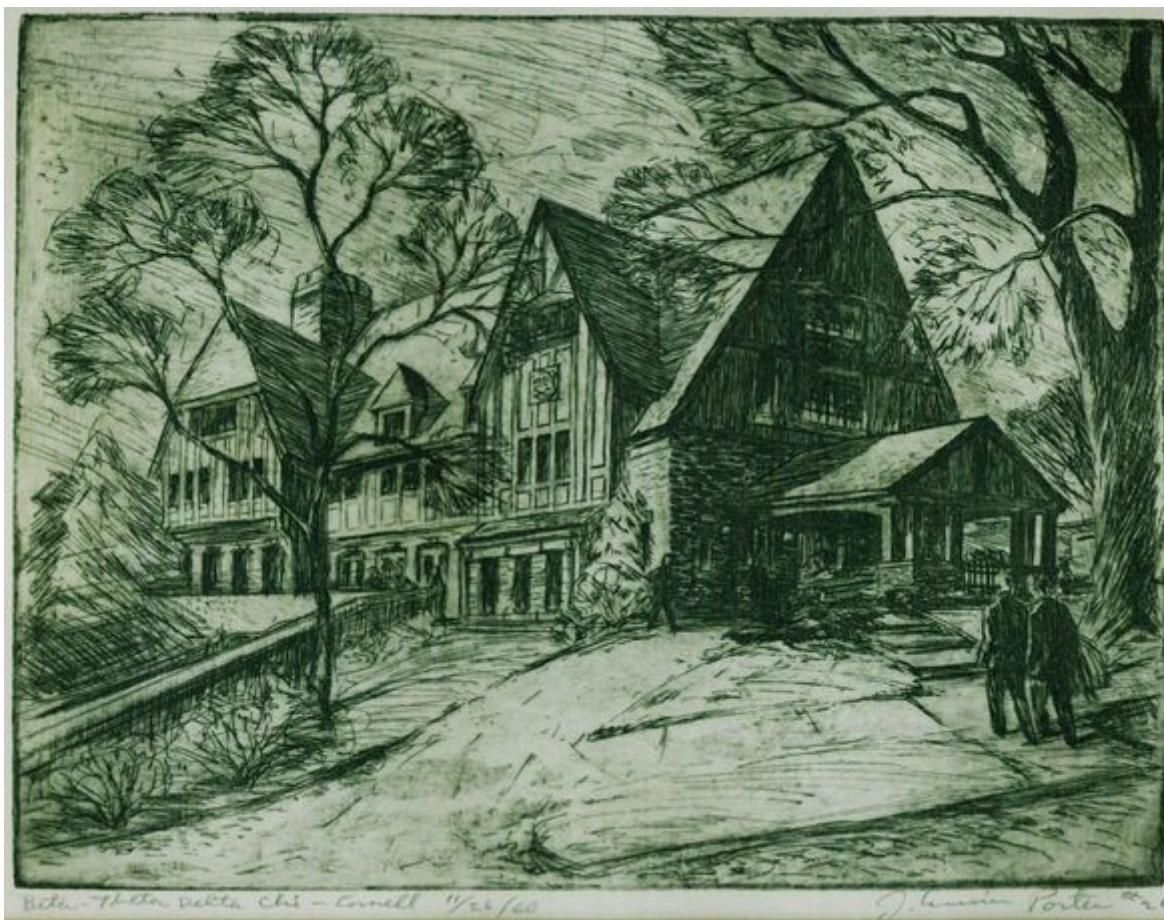


It's Fast! It's EASY and who doesn't want some FREE money. Click [here](#) to apply.

Scholarships range anywhere from \$1,000 to \$4,000. There are two named scholarships, the **Porter Scholarship** for \$1,000 given to a candidate excelling in chemistry or another science and several **Davenport Scholarships** in the amount of \$4000. The Davenport Scholarships have several criteria which can be found on the [TDX website](#) in the Educational Foundation section on Grants and Scholarships. In addition to these named scholarships, there are several other general

awards in varying amounts between \$1,000 and \$2,000. All scholarships use a single application. Applications are encouraged; please contact [rwood@idx.org](mailto:rwood@idx.org) if you have any questions about applying for a scholarship.

### Happy (belated) 150th Birthday Beta Charge



January 11th, 1870 marks Founder's Day for the Beta Charge and is coincidentally (perhaps) also Ezra Cornell's (founder of Cornell University) birthday. On this day, three brothers traveled from the Xi Charge (Hobart) as well as one brother from the Psi Charge (Hamilton) to conduct the initiation at the Clinton House, which at the time was Ithaca's nicest hotel. The evening was rather tame by today's standards. From the diary of Lewis Halsey (Xi 1868): "We initiated Will Corbin, Fox Holden, W.H. Tallmadge, F.E. Wadhams. Good men. Had lemonade and cigars - nothing stronger. A jolly good time - a genial, pleasant time. I had my song book, and we sang Theta Delt songs." The only toast of the evening was reported to be "Here's to the girl that each loves best, and Theta Delta Chi!"

There was one more step to make this all official – recognition from the Grand Lodge of Theta Delta Chi. The convention was the next month in New York City (held at The Astor House at Vesey St. and Broadway). A.B.C Dickinson (Beta 1871) was chosen to make the case. There were objections from brothers from Delta (RPI) and Zeta (Brown) around whether Cornell would be "destined to be a manual training school for boys and a practical place for farmers' lads and nothing more" (The Shield, 1900). After Dickinson's impassioned speech, TDX brother and owner of the convention venue Charlie Stetson cried out "My God, boys, give that man a charter!" No objections were raised when the final vote was tallied and the charter was granted.

Beta's Birthday was to have been celebrated at last year's convention; however, COVID got in the way. Happy Birthday none-the-less.

## The Shield Magazine (Spring '21)

The latest edition of the Shield Magazine, the first fraternity magazine in America, has been published and mailed. If you have not seen the Spring 2021 edition, it is now available through [MyTDX.org](http://MyTDX.org). There are several articles written by undergraduate members including Mickey Maganini, Psi Tetraton '21 and Johannes Alvares-Rivero, Psi Tetraton '22.

## Join The Grand Lodge

There are two Undergraduate Member at Large positions available on the Grand Lodge. These positions are for a one-year term.

Click [here](#) to apply for one of the Undergraduate positions. It is a great opportunity to chart a future for the "Old Lady."



## Attention All Charge Presidents!

If you have not done so – please complete the State of the Charge Report ASAP. The State of the Charge Report is comprised of a short summary of every Charge's operations and status over the past year and was due on June 15th, 2021. You can submit your report using the following [link](#). For additional questions, please contact Julian at [jweller@tdx.org](mailto:jweller@tdx.org).

## It's Convention Time



Convention will once again be virtual. ALL brothers are invited to attend. A complete schedule, registration and a full schedule can be found at [tdxconvention.org](http://tdxconvention.org). Julian has sent a separate link for Charge's two voting delegates to the Charge Officers; the two voting delegates should register using that link and not this one.

## Exceptional Brothers Doing Exceptional Things

Stephen "Steve" Rounds (Beta '51) was born October 7, 1928, in Exeter, New Hampshire. His parents were faculty and he was raised in the dormitories of Phillips Exeter Academy, and worked on farms where he discovered his passion for agriculture. He attended Cornell's School of Agricultural with the goal of ultimately becoming a farmer. At Cornell, he joined the Beta Charge of Theta Delta Chi. His grandfather Stephen Rounds (Kappa 1898) and father, Ezra Rounds (Eta 1920) were Theta Delts as well as his brother-in-law Achilles Filios (Kappa Deuteron '60) and daughter Poly (Eta '79). Poly became a Theta Delta during a time when Bowdoin College required all fraternities to either be co-ed or to close. Even though Theta Delta Chi allowed Eta Charge to be a co-ed Charge, Bowdoin decided to close all fraternities none-the-less.





While at Cornell, he was a varsity athlete on the hockey and lacrosse teams and wrote and cartooned for the Cornell Widow publication. He loved the glee club and singing. Cornell songs were among the few he learned to play on the piano; he regaled young crew teams visiting Princeton with his old boom box and tapes teaching them the songs and traditions as late as 2016.

Upon graduation he traveled the world and he turned his eye to public service, inspired by his Quaker upbringing. He rebuilt bombed out houses in Bavaria and then joined a group sponsored by the World Council of Churches with whom he could use his agricultural expertise. He was assigned to a group working in remote northwestern Greece. There he taught agriculture and basic rural healthy living to “his boys”. He taught the young men of an area decimated by WWII and the Greek Civil War to not only how to farm efficiently but how to install window screens and latrines.

In the small village of Agios Kosmas where he lived in a house in the middle of the village, he met Julia, the love of his life for nearly 65 years. The inevitable happened and he asked Julia – through an interpreter – to marry him.

They returned to upstate New York where Stephen took a few jobs in the agricultural field ultimately landing at Eastman Chemical Company where he would remain for over 45 years. His work with Eastman would lead him ultimately to Princeton, NJ where he would learn to “row” on an erg at the young age of 66. That led him to be world champion for several years and travel internationally as a champ.

Everyone who knew Stephen knew that he was one thing above all others: a gentleman. As he won 23 consecutive world championships on the erg, that quality was always on display. If the second-place finisher rowed a personal best, he would announce it from the champion’s podium. Every year he insisted that the second and third place winners join him on the champ’s top tier for the official winner’s photograph.



As Stephen and Julia moved around the country for his work, there was one constant: Theta Delta Chi. While in Rochester (Chi Charge) he would “chaperone” the house parties with Julia and three young children. There are pictures in the house including the children in 1965. He was on the alumni board of the Beta Charge, composed and sent the Beta Bulletin Brotherhood Newsletter, collected Voluntary Graduate contributions and returned every year for Fraternity meetings which happened to coincide with Homecoming and football games. He was a decades long member of the CRC, Continuous Reunion Club.

The family involvement with the Beta House was personal with Julia making things like curtains for the building and mothering the boys. One Thanksgiving there was food but no cooks, so Julia, the family and some of the brothers cooked and served the meal.

For years, Stephen composed the Beta Bulletin and solicited dues to “keep the slate roof repaired”. It seemed to be a thankless task until the checks came in and he would read them aloud to the family. Always the gentleman, he hand-wrote thank-you letters to every donor. He smiled a knowing smile when he told the family these letters always led to getting news from the brothers for the Bulletin.

He was selected Theta Delt of the Year in 1985.

Bro. Rounds passed into Omega June, 2020 and is remembered fondly around the world. He is known by many Theta Delts, recalled warmly in Randolph and in little Agios Kosmas as they named the village’s library in his honor. In a gesture he would have truly appreciated, when news of his passing reached the village at 3 a.m., they rang the bells of the church to commemorate his passing as they do for every “citizen” of the town. “A life well-lived”



Current editions of the Undergraduate Newsletter are hosted on MyTDX.org (GreekTrack) for all members of the Fraternity.

If you would like to submit ideas for articles, comment on current articles or submit an article for publication in this newsletter, please contact Dr. Richard "Rick" Wood, Educational Consultant for Theta Delta Chi at [rwood@tdx.org](mailto:rwood@tdx.org).

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