



*the***Shield**
of Theta Delta Chi
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RENEW IN **UNION** OUR SOCIAL JOYS

THE
175TH
CONVENTION
SCHENECTADY, NY



IN THIS ISSUE:

ALPHA'S JOURNEY, CONVENTION,
STAFF FAREWELLS, EXPANSION,
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THE NOTT MEMORIAL

UNION'S HISTORIC CENTERPIECE
AND THE SITE OF THIS YEAR'S
CONVENTION PHOTO

theShield

of Theta Delta Chi

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About the Cover

Front Cover:
**Nott Memorial under
construction dated 1873**
Courtesy of Special Collections,
Schaffer Library, Union College.

Back Cover:
Alpha Card Party
Courtesy of Special Collections,
Schaffer Library, Union College.

In this Issue

We explore the past, present,
and future of Theta Delta Chi through
the lens of Alpha, Union College,
and our archives.

Thank you to this year's
volunteer contributors:
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and Will Gimpel, Epsilon '84.

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A Foundation to Build Off:

A New Vision for Theta Delta Chi's Growth

"It is no measure of health to be well-adjusted to a profoundly sick society."

- Jiddu Krishnamurti

Fraternities have served many formal and informal roles over the years. Whether perceived as leaders, philanthropists, partiers, or hazers, they face never-ending scrutiny. If we stop and ask ourselves "why," we can start to gain some insight. When a community is unhealthy, blame becomes prevalent. Many host institutions scapegoat fraternities for the problems of the student body. The cycle goes on and on, a revolving door of coming back on and getting kicked off campuses. Their approach is a quick fix for a wicked problem. I propose we do something different—work to change campus culture, starting with our brotherhood. And I believe the result can transform higher education.

We must address our culture at the foundation—our fundamentals. By systematically changing ourselves, both individually and at all levels of the Fraternity, we have the ability to push back against the stereotypes and reject them. Then the rest of the community will be forced to keep the blame for the challenges of the greater student body.

I am not so naive as to think this will be like flipping a light switch. It will take persistent and patient effort; yet, it is possible. The Nott Memorial, pictured on the cover of the *Shield*, is where we began. The same image is also symbolic of where we are as a fraternity—focused on building off the foundation that our founders created so many years ago. The flame of Alpha, still burning bright, allows us to reflect on the work that has already begun—a shift.

Peter Dranow, Alpha '21 was president during a challenging time. We talked about an upcoming event at Union College, where Theta Delta Chi participated annually. I asked him to consider canceling their social function. His response struck me.

"We need to have it. All the students expect it from us." "But," I said, "what if we didn't follow others' expectations of us, but rather our own?" They ended up canceling the function at their house. Today, Theta Delta Chi is the dominant force in the community, heralded by the administration. Although the change was incremental, it has been sustained. Brothers like Mark Webster, Alpha '88 and Robert Loparo, Alpha '87 worked diligently and patiently with them until the inflection point.

We've been replicating stories like these over the years, and the students continue to step up. But we are far from done, and the future of Theta Delta Chi depends on us figuring out how to turn all of our Charges into the exemplars of their campuses. What's more, alumni also need to be radiant exemplars because the undergraduates will be a reflection of who surrounds them. I'll start with me.

Rolling the clock back to 2017, when I first started as Executive Director, I noticed something that I did not appreciate: my energy was sapped. I had obtained society's "Dad Bod." I used energy drinks to get me through



Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00, with his two boys, Caleb and Jacob, at a Spartan Race in Jacksonville, FL.

my days. I wasn't exercising regularly. Combining all the preceding with living in the North End and its endless plates of pasta and cannoli options was a recipe for disaster, no pun intended. My mental health was mediocre.

There was a need to alter my life so that I could engage more fully with family, friends, colleagues, and most importantly, myself. I began working out daily with Brother John Lowry, Theta Triton '13. I thought exercise was enough. When work got tough, I would hit the gym two to three times a day to manage the stress. After working out for a few months, COVID-19 shut down the city, my exercise came to an immediate halt, and I felt trapped in a two-bedroom apartment with a lockdown in place.

With no family in the area, I felt a need to move on. Destination: Florida. All seemed to be getting better, and

exercise resumed; however, my energy was still sapped. Eventually, I made a decision that would transform my life. My wife, Marivi, wanted to sign up for a coaching program. She had decided that in any area of life where she sought to improve, the expertise and accountability of a coach would be money well spent. She convinced me to join her.

In the Heroic Coach program I've learned that exercise isn't a cure-all, though it certainly plays an important role in well-being. Beyond exercise, the fundamentals of a healthy life include moving, eating, sleeping, breathing, focusing, practicing gratitude, and prospering. Integrating these fundamentals establishes a solid foundation, one that is much stronger than any individual activity. Since embarking on this journey I've lost over 25 pounds. I have more energy than I did in college. For 20 years I've dealt with migraines three to four times per week; they're gone. Quite frankly, I'm experiencing rapture.

Those around me notice the change in me and talk about how they would love to alter their lifestyles. From teenagers to grandparents, people are inspired to do the hard work of resetting their health. My kids do burpees with me, my parents started walking again, the neighbors have started running together, and others are choosing to modify their diets. I can clearly see the ripple effects from my actions. Just imagine! Imagine yourself as a radiant exemplar in your community, setting an example of being healthy. Imagine talking about the hard times, lessons learned, and most importantly, the rewards of your efforts. Imagine freeing yourself from societal norms, of no longer being "well-adjusted to a profoundly sick society."

I argue, it's time for us to alter our mindsets. We have an opportunity to shift our members from "frat boys" back to fraternity men, where we lead. Unlike other organizations, we don't treat our members like "kids" but instead as adults. We challenge their mindsets, and now, push them to practice their fundamentals. Once the fundamentals are in place, focusing on our values, those outlined in our Preamble and oaths, becomes straightforward, because rejecting society's expectations in one area makes it easier to follow the virtuous path in other areas as well. A Charge that focuses on our values is bound to succeed, and likely to positively impact their college community.

The foundation is solid, and with a new vision in place, it's time to build. Fellow Brothers, help us with sustainable and healthy expansion. I am excited for the future, as we once again pursue measured growth for the "Old Lady." Let us do the work to improve the culture within the higher education community.

We have limited time in this world to make the difference we can. We must act, following our highest selves—together. We must raise each other up at every moment. Today is the day!

In the Bonds,
Brian Bertges, ΣΤ '00
65th PGL
Executive Director



Alpha Charge winning the Brown Award for the best Fraternity at Union College. Peter Dranow, Alpha '21 is holding the trophy (left side).

THE FOUNDING OF THETA DELTA CHI, IS REALLY ABOUT THE BACKSTORY.

Our existence was sparked by the actions of others within the context of the time and gave birth to the ideals of “improvement of the intellectual, moral and social being.”

Pictured Right: West College in 1865, the birthplace of Theta Delta Chi. Courtesy of Special Collections, Schaffer Library, Union College.



To better understand the origins of Theta Delta Chi at Union College, it is important to understand the academic and social environment on the campus in 1847. Union College was chartered in 1795 by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. Unlike other institutions of higher learning, Union was the first non-denominational institution of its kind in the United States. This status set a course of study for the students unlike any before it.

While the curriculum had its roots in the classical traditions of Greek and Latin, Union College, having its eye on the future and grounded in the principles of the Enlightenment, expanded its view of the world, adding subjects to the curriculum that were a response to the commercial life of the new nation. French was offered as a substitute for Greek and Latin, as French was considered the language of revolution.

The move toward “reforming and improving” the curriculum continued unabated. By 1826 Union College offered more languages, increased mathematics, and a full science curriculum. A civil engineering program was introduced in 1845, being the first of its kind at an American liberal arts college. Not only was the curriculum improved and expanded upon, so were the teaching methods. However, many of the other colleges in existence were focused on developing a cadre of ministers to populate the new and expanding nation.

The standard instructional methods used during this time period consisted of memorization, recitation and adherence to a set canon of literature. In response to this rigid instructional program, “literary societies” sprang up at places like Princeton and Yale. These societies challenged the accepted norms, and students began to read, discuss, and debate literature outside the approved readings of their colleges. The faculty responded negatively to this challenge to their authority and banded together across the country to expel anyone who participated in these activities, also agreeing to not admit anyone who had been expelled for these reasons.

Union College decided to accept those students who were determined to “improve their intellectual being.” The college also began to move away from these instructional methods and from a set canon of literature. It is not surprising that Union College was the birthplace of the first three social fraternities (Union Triad) in America, Kappa Alpha Society (1825), Sigma Phi Society (1827) and Delta Phi (1827). However, all was not well at Union College for Greek life.

These three fraternities quickly came under pressure from both the faculty and Eliphalet Nott, the President of the College, to dissolve and abandon their groups. Had it not been for John Jay Hyde, a Delta Phi, the modern fraternity movement would probably not exist. As recorded by Delta Phi,

Under extreme duress, both Kappa Alpha and Sigma Phi removed their badges and attempted underground existences. However, the brothers of Delta Phi held firm and refused to disband and continued on in the open, establishing the fraternity as the oldest, continuous fraternity. Delta Phi took up the defense of the fraternity movement and it was a Delt, John Jay Hyde, Alpha chapter 1832 (Union 1834) who so convincingly argued the case of the fraternities before the faculty that Dr. Nott rescinded his proscription of fraternities, allowing them to grow, flourish, and expand to other campuses. In turn, Nott's own son would later join Delta Phi during his college days.

In 1836 the Union College Anti-Slavery Society was established and students and faculty were asked to join the abolition movement. The argument was centered around the moral and biblical imperative of abolition.

Lincoln, in 1854, denounced slavery as “immoral,” seven years before the start of the Civil War. The anti-slavery movement had a profound impact on the “moral and social” conscience of the men at the college.

The concept of the social being is rooted in many philosophies. Aristotle stated that, “Man is by nature a social animal.” Aristotle was a familiar name to the founders of the Union Triad and to the founders of Theta Delta Chi. It is not surprising these men would embrace the concepts of improving the social being. This would include describing what friendship means and defining our relationship to each other and our communities. As described by Able Beach at the Convention of 1898, referring to his fellow founders, “I speak of them other than myself as men than whom there were never more fit to form or fasten the ties of a pure and enduring friendship.”

The bust of Minerva is centermost on the seal of Union College with its motto written in French, prior to 1970, “Under the Laws of Minerva, we all become brothers.” Minerva was the Roman goddess of wisdom, justice, law, and the sponsor of arts, trade, and strategy. Minerva came to represent all of the qualities in a rational, virtuous, scientific, and wise man of the time and was adopted as the patron goddess of Theta Delta Chi. Again, the Enlightenment was firmly entrenched at Union College as these are many of the same virtues the Enlightenment authors espouse.

Within this context, six men came together in an effort to form a bond of friendship under the guiding principles of the “improvement of the intellectual, moral and social being.” This group came to found Theta Delta Chi.



Seal of Union College: Bust of Minerva. Courtesy of Special Collections, Schaffer Library, Union College

ALPHA CHARGE AND A RETURN TO THE WHY

DR. RICHARD WOOD, GAMMA TRITON '73

Alpha alumni sponsor and conduct an annual leadership retreat.



The context of the early 19th century at Union College brought six men together to form among themselves a bond of friendship based on the guiding principles of the "improvement of the intellectual, moral and social being." These principles formed the "why" for the establishment of Theta Delta Chi as a friendship founded upon mutual esteem and dependence where character is the cement that makes us who we are.

It is character which determines how far any ability will carry us, and this is the time to be forming character. What better place for that than in your Charge House, that great social laboratory where we learn by contact and group association what is best. – Unknown, Theta Delta Chi Membership Handbook, 16th edition

"Why," is one of the most important questions we can ask ourselves in life. Why we decided to go to a specific college, why we chose a specific career path, and-- why membership in Theta Delta Chi? In 1847 our founders wrote down their answer to that question in the Preamble of our Constitution. Today, all Charge members recite the Preamble before each meeting as a reminder of why we exist and what we believe in. This why statement becomes a driving force for many of our most successful Charges, and when things go awry, it is frequently because the why has been forgotten.

Alpha Charge, as recently as 2015, was in danger of being closed and lost many of its privileges at Union College, including housing privileges,



Alpha Charge winning the Stephan P. Brown Trophy presented to the fraternity with the best record in scholarship, intramural athletics and extracurricular activities.

due to hazing and a strong party culture. The Charge, over time, had strayed from the commitments that made them a fraternity. It can easily be argued that the only "why" for the Charge existing was, primarily, for the social activities it provided on the Union College campus.

Recently, through the hard work of several Alpha alumni, the Charge was able to reestablish itself on the campus as a values-centered organization. They identified their "why" for existing as being a focus on improving scholarship, leadership and a responsible social life. They returned to the intent of our founders and began to see themselves as a values-added organization.

This was not an easy transformation and took a great deal of time and energy on the part of the alumni and the active brotherhood for this to occur. These three areas: scholarship, leadership, and a responsible social life, now form the centerpiece of the Charge. Alpha brothers have a very strong GPA, hold the majority of positions on the IFC and leadership positions on many of the sports teams, and are committed to adhering to the social norms of the College while participating in many community-oriented service projects.

We almost lost our Alpha Charge. Because of the commitment to "improving and reforming," Alpha continues on. Several key alumni, who could answer the "why" of fraternity life, the "why" of Theta Delta Chi and the "why" of Alpha Charge, were able to help the Charge re-center itself. Their actions were based on a set of principles that assisted these young men in being able to answer these same questions for themselves much like the original six founders of Alpha Charge in 1847.

As we enter a new era of expansion with several new groups on the horizon, including the return of Epsilon Charge and the Omicron Triton Charge, we again ask all of our groups to think about their "why." The "why" articulated by our founders as expressed in the Preamble of our 1847 Constitution still resonates for all of us.

(*) designates Lifetime VG Donors
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Russell Materne
(Front Right) at a
Blackhawks game in
Chicago for a Charitas
Event in February 2020

175 Years AND COUNTING

By the Former Director of Development (DOD), Brother Russell K. Materne K'72

Note from the Executive Director: *I am grateful for Brother Russell Materne's service to the "Old Lady" during the pandemic. His presence helped to build on the fundraising foundation, adding to our cumulative success. He will be missed in the office; however, being the wonderful Brother that he is, it is not a goodbye. Russell wanted to share some thoughts with you as we prepare for our annual convention:*

Wow, 2022 is the 175th year of our Fraternity, and this milestone should bring a smile and warm feeling of pride to every Brother. Few companies or organizations, let alone governments, last as long. Theta Delta Chi has endured a Civil War, two world wars, multiple pandemics, and several other disasters. Our longevity is a testament to alumni support and to the relevance and durability of our values, sustaining the Fraternity through all sorts of challenges. The simplicity and genius of these values, expressed in our Preamble, talk of unreserved friendship and provide a lifelong code of conduct for brothers. One hundred seventy-five years on, the Preamble still speaks to us.

In my four years at Tufts University, Kappa Charge, I was mostly unaware of the Central Fraternity Office (CFO) or the amazing values stated in our Preamble, and the Charge suffered for it. However, since having worked at the CFO as the Director of Development (DOD), I now am keenly aware of the Fraternity's critical role reinforcing our values, its inner workings, and the essential relationship of the CFO with local Charges. As such, our most successful Charges recite the Preamble prior to their brotherhood meetings, allowing the power of unreserved friendship to permeate the culture and set the tone for Brother-to-Brother relationships. I see how a misalignment with our values contributed to a 10-year loss of recognition for the Kappa Charge.

However, the CFO can't do it alone. Every commitment matters and we must each find our own way to make it. There are Brothers who give substantial amounts, and they are wonderful, but the growth opportunity is in support at lower amounts with a greater number of donors.

Reflecting back on my time, I see the critical nature of supporting Theta Delta Chi at the local and international level. The Educational Foundation needs to grow donor support beyond the three to five percent of all Brothers to at least 10 percent. This greater number will provide

stability for the future with less dependency on any individual donor. I am going to do what I can to grow Kappa contributions as a commitment and precursor to emerging from campus suspension and thereby retaining the longest continuous Charge. I encourage a similar effort at every Charge to grow your numbers to at least 10% alumni participation. YOU can do it!

Finally, a comment on the 175th Convention: Be There. I have never been to a convention and would have gone to Beta Charge in 2020 or 2021 but for New York State's prohibition of large gatherings. While I was DOD for TDX, I talked to lots of Brothers and communicated with even more through letters or thank-you notes for their donations. All very rewarding but this convention is my chance, and yours, to greet Brothers face-to-face with "the grip."

At our convention, you will learn about what is happening today across Theta Delta Chi, and what is possible in the future. Twenty twenty-two is our year, especially as we return to Union College, a tribute to our Fraternity's beginning in 1847 and the touchstone of our reason for being. There is nothing better an alum can do than to reacquaint oneself and understand our significance. I'm buying the first round. **Spectemur Agendo.**

ITB,
Russel K. Materne

Although Russell may be gone from staff, he remains connected and committed to our beloved Fraternity. His message is clear. Consider giving your time, talent, and treasure.

Time: *Join Russell, and other alumni, at convention. Just being present will demonstrate the lifelong commitment to undergraduates, while reminding us why we exist—belongingness.*

Talent: *Reach out to your alumni to grow the engagement to at least 10%, while offering your talents to ensure the sustainability of not only the local Charge, but also the International Fraternity.*

Treasure: *With your support of the Educational Foundation, we can lead a movement together. Money generates impact. Help us lead with our values and virtues.*

Want to engage? Want to make a difference? Want to make a gift? Reach out to Brothers McNulty-Davila (kfdavila@tdx.org) and me (bbertges@tdx.org) to connect. Once again, a hearty thank you to Russell and best wishes to you AND see you at convention, Brother!
Brian Bertges



Old Objects with a New Look

By Larry Sarchin & Brian Bertges

The Archives Committee continued to work to preserve, catalog, and maintain the holdings until the pandemic put a pause on the efforts. In 2021, EF President Don Noveau, Beta '70, called for action and asked that progress be made on Brother Rankin's recommendations. Larry Sarchin, Xi Deuteron '77 (pictured upper-left and lower-right), presented a proposal to further curate the archival items on display at the Central Fraternity Office (CFO) and retrofit the already-framed items with UV glass and archival mats. Many of the prepared items were last serviced in the 1970s and needed attention, as Brother Rankin had pointed out.

Before Larry's arrival, he worked directly with the rest of the Archives Committee, headed by Dr. Bruce Tench, Iota Triton '06, and CFO staff. Meeting weekly via Zoom, they pared down the list of displayed objects by roughly half. They also agreed to order two display cases for the Constitution and Minutes and a large 32" by 46" 10-drawer flat file that would store the de-framed art. These were scheduled to arrive just after Larry was expected to be in Boston.

Once he arrived, the bumps began. The heavy deliveries of the 340-lb. flat file and the display cases fell victim to supply chain issues. Larry had to be nimble.

The first week was a blur of activity. First, I took everything off the walls and separated the frames into items that would get new glass and mats, and those that would go into storage. Once the display cases and the huge flat file finally arrived, Brian, a Lewis Wharf staff member, Kay McNulty Davila, Psi Deuteron '01, and I managed them over the curbing and 250-year-old stone floors, wrestling them up into the Central Fraternity Office.

The initial supply chain issues were only the start of the adventure. Then anxiety struck. As Larry recalls:

I'm driving down one of Boston's busiest freeways, I-95, with about 90 of our Fraternity's holiest relics in the back of my rental SUV: the active pin of Abel Beach, photographs and signatures of our Founders, a copy of a check written by Abraham Lincoln to Brother John Hay, an 1890 oil painting of Minerva, and just about every picture you've ever seen in our New Member Handbook. Trucks are whizzing by inches away as I maneuver the Big Dig tunnel to get over to the Charlestown exit, where our framer and conservator has his shop. During that white-knuckle drive, I could not stop thinking, what if I lose one of these pieces or get in an accident? How did I talk myself into this huge job that I thought would take two weeks?



For over a decade, the Educational Foundation (EF) has been considering how to best preserve the Fraternity archives, especially our most precious archival item, the original Alpha Constitution compiled by our Founders. In 2016, the late Dr. William McClung, Iota Deuteron '66, led a project indexing, cataloging, and digitizing a sizable portion of our archival holdings. In 2018 then-Director of Development Patrick Tiernan, Chi Triton '99, brought in an archival expert. His Charge Brother, Alex Rankin, Chi Triton '97, created a list of recommendations and best practices for storage and preservation.

The Theta Delta Chi Archives Project through the eyes of Theta Delta Chi's Archivist

As life would have it...two weeks indeed was not enough. Colin Powell notably stated, "No battle plan ever survives first contact with the enemy." The enemy—clearly the supply chain.

Tony of Harvard Art and Frame told me that he would do his best, but he wouldn't be able to finish the 112 items we gave him in two weeks because of the Thanksgiving holiday. So the schedule stretched to three weeks, and then four, as supply issues for the mats and museum glass came up.

After many trips back and forth to Harvard Art and Frame over the coming weeks, the precious items were reframed. They were subsequently returned to the CFO under the careful attention of Brother Sarchin. Another hurdle was overcome.

Curation was next on the docket. With help from Brothers Noveau and Taylor Early, Rho Triton '92 (pictured lower-left) Larry had to address the items that were no longer going to be displayed. Then he needed to arrange the remaining items according to the newly adopted themes selected by the Archives Committee.

Taylor Early came for two days in November to help with the arduous work of de-framing and then storing the 134 items removed from display. I went to Home Depot, Harbor Freight, and art supply stores to get the necessary tools and gloves we needed. We didn't want to shred our hands on the glass or the rusty finish and even roofing nails that some casual framers used.

Then came the most significant task – finding the wall space and appropriate areas to curate the displays into themes the Committee had agreed on. Don Noveau drove up from Maryland to help assemble the file and plan the new exhibits: The Founders, Social Joys (Conventions and Gatherings), Brothers in Arms, Symbols of Brotherhood, The Men Who Made TDX (EF, Grand Lodge, and Founders Corp), and Leaders for the Future (Preamble Institute, ReCharge Workshops, public service).

In the end, it all worked out.

As in the old TV series, The A-Team, the plan came together. More and more supplies arrived. I took several shipments of completed pictures back, bumping nervously over the temporary Washington Street Bridge between Charlestown and the North End. I took out the hundreds of nails and screws and filled most holes. Then, I started

working on how to make and mount the many theme statements and captions, as galleries and museums do. This was the curation end, and it was the most challenging part yet. I bought a mat cutter and figured out how to use it and devised a method of using transparent label stock to print the captions and a color laser printer for the blue titles. It mostly worked.

I finished putting up the last caption the same morning I left to fly back to Seattle, on Sunday, December 12. I slept for a good part of a week and played with my dogs, who fortunately still recognized me. But I can't end without thanking the Archive Committee and the EF who funded the project, Kay McNulty Davila, who provided physical and moral support while I worked. Lastly, I also thank Taylor Early and Don Noveau, without whose help I'd still be in Boston trying to finish. Finally, I hope all of you have an opportunity to visit the CFO and see the displays and our Constitution.

With the first chunk of the archives preserved over the weeks of work, more is yet to be done. We still need to maintain copies of the *Shield* volumes, among other pertinent documents. We hope that you will give to support the Educational Foundation to ensure that our history is preserved and our future is bright.



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I encourage you to exercise your mutual esteem and dependence in support of the Educational Foundation by writing a letter to your IRA or 401k custodian. Notify them that you would like to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the Theta Delta Chi Educational Foundation “for general charitable purposes without restriction.” This will qualify as an exclusion from taxable income for the 2022 tax year and fulfill part or all of your RMD, while increasing your lifetime VG Dues giving.

Please consider making your gift today to support our undergraduate members through grants and scholarships. Consider making this gift annually to ensure the stability and future of our beloved Fraternity. Make the Educational Foundation your primary charity, allowing others to enjoy the same life-changing growth you did as an undergraduate.

Not sure how to make a QCD or require assistance? If you would like an example letter, or need help drafting one up, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at bbertges@tdx.org. To the “Old Lady!”

In the Bonds,
 Brian Bertges

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GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB
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175th

Annual Convention

August 4-7, 2022

The Landings Hotel, Schenectady, New York

Returning Home

By Drew Johnson, Beta Deuteron '20

Our upcoming convention marks the 175th anniversary with Minerva, as the brotherhood returns to the Alpha Charge in Schenectady, New York. We will be together for the first time in person since the 172nd Convention at the esteemed Beta Deuteron Charge in Ames, Iowa. Undoubtedly, it will be an incredible experience to renew, in "Union," our social joys once again.

I have so many once-in-a-lifetime memories from the Ames Convention- from wearing matching Thumper shirts with the Beta Deuts at the Iowa State Fair, to singing Piano Man at the Grand Banquet, and even the little things, like absorbing some subtle wisdom from alumni of every generation. Even though it was on my home turf, that weekend gave me a brand new perspective on the brotherhood. Something I had never realized before was how powerful it is to have a network of Brothers who care about the improvement of each other's intellectual, moral, and social beings across the United States and Canada, in your back pocket. I am still in extremely close contact with Brothers from Charges outside of my own that I would have otherwise never met. My love for the international organization, in addition to Beta Deuteron, all started in 2019 during our last in-person convention.

The Alpha Charge at Union College will be hosting the annual convention for the first time since 1854. Alpha has not slowed down by any means, as the Brothers at Union College continue to improve themselves intellectually, morally, and socially through friendship. The undergraduates at Alpha add value to their campus by constantly holding positions on IFC as well as being in constant contention for the Chapter of the Year Award at Union College.

*"We're ecstatic for the convention to be coming back to where it all started. To see where Theta Delta Chi is now and how it has expanded to so many other Charges all over the U.S. and Canada, it feels righteous for it to come back full circle. We're excited to open our arms to other Theta Delts for this year's convention."
- Carlos Gregory, Alpha '22.*

The first in-person convention since 2019 will be hosted at The Landing Hotel at Rivers Casino & Resort. The weekend will include action-packed events for undergraduates and alumni alike. The alumni will have the opportunity to catch up with their Brothers at the Saratoga horse race track in Saratoga Springs, New York. Meanwhile, the undergrads will link up at the Mountain Ridge Adventure Zip Line Park in Schenectady, New York. But ultimately, this is a celebration of the Charge that started it all. If you haven't had a chance to come to an in-person convention, there is no better time than now to attend. You never know what doors will open up for you when you surround yourself with like-minded Brothers.

A lot has changed in 175 years, but our values as an organization have remained consistent with the vision of our founders in 1847. Let's show the founders in mass numbers that we still believe in that vision.



175th Annual Convention

Register TODAY!

August 4-7, 2022
The Landings Hotel, Schenectady, New York

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to choose from!**

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FULL REGISTRATION - \$450

Enjoy all this historic event will offer
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Lunch Friday and Saturday, August 5 and 6
Dinner and reception Thursday and Friday, August 4 and 5
PGL Reception and Banquet, Saturday, August 6
Official souvenir of the 175th Annual Convention of Theta Delta Chi
Choice of Friday, August 5th event: Mountain Ridge Adventure
(ropes course) or Saratoga Race Course (horse racing)
Four Drink Tickets

DINNERS & RECEPTIONS - \$275

Dinner and reception Thursday and Friday, August 4 and 5
PGL Reception and Banquet, Saturday, August 6
Two Drink Tickets

PGL RECEPTION AND GRAND BANQUET ONLY - \$150

Celebrate our 175th Anniversary on Saturday, August 6 from 6:00pm -10:30pm
at the Landings Hotel in Schenectady, NY
Passed hors d'oeuvres
Choice of entrée, cash bar

Register TODAY! tdxconvention.org

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Go to: <https://bit.ly/TDC0822>
Or call: (518) 579-8840
Group Code TDC0822





Members of Epsilon Set a Guinness Book of World Records for their Horseshoe Marathon in 1982

A New Hope in Williamsburg

By Will Gimpel, Epsilon '84

The 800+ living alumni of the noble Epsilon Charge are working to revive Theta Delta Chi's fifth-oldest Charge at the College of William & Mary. The Epsilon Association recognizes the collegiate world has changed since 1853 when the "Old Lady" first arrived in Williamsburg, so we are working to create an environment to succeed through partnership with the College, collaboration with the Central Fraternity Office (CFO), committed alumni support, and working with an educational training and strategic consultant with a proven approach for establishing successful charges.

Working with the CFO, the Association earned the nod of the College's administration and the Interfraternity Council (IFC) to recolonize. Reconnecting alumni through MyTDX.org, video telephony, and social media has enabled the Association to rally alumni from all eras to renew the bonds and support an Epsilon revival even with the uncertainties associated with the COVID pandemic.

While we need to define the bonds of brotherhood for a new age, the benefits of a social "network" and support for others throughout life still stand. The Greek movement has evolved in the last 50 years. Social upheaval in the 1960s and cynicism and decline in the 1970s gave way to a resurgence of fraternities in the 1980s with renewed alumni support. Theta Delta Chi was the first social fraternity at William & Mary (second only to Phi Beta Kappa), so the Charge has witnessed the various eras. Epsilon was crushed by the Civil War, was briefly revived during Reconstruction, and thrived from 1904 throughout the twentieth century until declining fortunes closed the Charge again in 2012.

Why does it matter that another dormant Charge is stirring? Greek life

in 2022 may be different from what you remember as an undergraduate, but the benefits of enduring friendships and social networking keep their universal appeal, and fraternal operations are excellent training grounds for leadership, management, and organization. William & Mary has a strong Greek history and sees collaboration with responsible chapters as a mutually beneficial relationship. Like other Charges, Epsilon has a long tradition of philanthropy and community service. Now during a pandemic, we are using modern tools to reconnect, strengthen our partnerships with the CFO and College, confirm our commitment to lifelong friendship, and embark on revitalizing a new Epsilon as a rededicated team.

The Epsilon Association is working with the CFO to make this happen. We are taking advantage of myTDX.org for communication, making joint visits with the College, collaborating on presentations to the IFC, and pledging alumni support of scholarship and training to grow a strong Greek community. We, the alumni of Epsilon, have rededicated ourselves to creating opportunity for Theta Delta Chi and others to thrive and grow. On to the great experiment with our Brothers and more . . . watch this space.

Chi Triton Merrimack

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SONS OF MINERVA
Jay Robert Bailey '01

Psi Hamilton

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James B. Cash '63
J. Michael Hateley '68
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Charter C. Hughes '76

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CENTURY CLUB
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VG DUES CLUB
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Nu Deuteron
Omicron Deuteron
Michael Conklin
Susan Grathwohl Dingle
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