

the **Shield**

of Theta Delta Chi

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WALTER HICKEY, EPSILON '12 PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

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THE VG DUES HONOR ROLL
“ENDEAVORS TO IMPROVE AND REFORM”
176TH CONVENTION IN AZ
EPSILON’S ROAD TO RETURN

theShield

of Theta Delta Chi



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About the Cover

Front Cover:

Walter Hickey, Epsilon '12,
a recipient of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize
from his contributions to the story:
How I Escaped a Chinese Internment Camp.

Back Cover:

176th Convention
August 3rd-5th, 2023

In this Issue

Theta Delta Chi is continuing its
“endeavors to improve and reform.”

This issue focuses on various
perspectives and initiatives
showcasing Brothers' efforts in both
times good, and times bad.

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HOMOPHRONA THYMON ENCHONTES

By Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00

From Homer's Iliad, Theta Delta Chi has adopted the saying *Homophrona Thymon Enchontes*, meaning a "single-minded spirit," or more loosely "our hearts are united." Throughout this past year I have reflected on the meaning of this motto. It transforms my understanding of the world into something more beautiful than I previously imagined—we are not separate, but rather together as one. I recognize the power of our brotherhood and how it can revolutionize my life, and by extension, others lives. It starts with the love of oneself, which I had struggled with throughout my life.

I've often looked to others for recognition and worth. It wasn't until recently that I discovered not only love for myself, but also how to love more deeply. Aristotle was interpreted to have said, "We are what we repeatedly do... therefore excellence is not an act, but a habit." I argue that the same can be said about love. My belief is that love cannot be sustained without acts of love, not just in a moment, but continuously. Relationships are not built in a single moment, but over time. Here's a look at my recent journey.



James Ambrose, Tau Triton '18 (Left) and Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00 (Right) before their first Spartan race together in Killington, VT.



Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00 (Pictured Left) with CFO staff and Epsilon refunding members before the Spartan Hurricane Heat event to celebrate the 175th Founders' Day.

September 10, 2022 was an unusually hot day in Vermont. With race-day jitters, I began stretching and warming up for the Spartan Beast, a half-marathon obstacle course race (OCR). There I stood with a fellow Theta Delt, James Ambrose, Tau Triton '18. Leading up to this moment, we had many talks about continual self-improvement. We were both there for one another, but also for ourselves—on separate paths, yet together. During the race I was pushed to limits that seemed outside of my abilities. As I climbed the final hill with a sixty-pound sandbag on my back, facing defeat, James was there to encourage me.

When I crossed the finish line, I balled and bear-hugged James, knowing he saved me out there. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't have made it to the end. His mutual esteem and dependence carried me through, or should I say, love carried me through. From that moment I felt our Fraternity motto with him: *Homophrona Thymon Enchontes*.

The next month, I took on a challenge to celebrate our 175th Founders' Day, by doing burpees with Gunnar Royal Burpee, Tau Triton '23, the great-grandson of the inventor of the burpee. Throughout the month, we texted back and forth, motivating each other and at the same time ourselves as we pushed to meet our targets. *Homophrona Thymon Enchontes*.

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HOMOPHRONA THYMON ENCHONTES

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Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00 (Center) with CFO staff members and Mu Triton undergraduates after the Spartan Hurricane Heat ended.

At the culmination of the month I participated in another Spartan event, the Hurricane Heat team-based endurance challenge. This time I was with five other Brothers, and three Brothers-to-be. The night before the event, Drew Johnson, Beta Deuteron '20, and three Epsilon expansion group members ended up sleeping in a Food Lion parking lot (a whole nother story). The lack of sleep undoubtedly affected our cognitive and physical abilities, yet we had the time of our lives. Again, **Homophrona Thymon Enchontes**.

In December I ran a trifecta with Drew and James. Upon completing the final race it would only be fitting that I hugged James, again with tears in our eyes. Our transformation for the year was complete. I finally found love for myself. Reflecting back on that moment, I realized that love is more than something to give. We are interconnected in a universal truth, one that ideally would allow us to share who we are more freely and without judgment. **Homophrona Thymon Enchontes**.

As we drove home Drew said something that stuck with me, "Every day is a lifetime." I took this to mean, every day is an opportunity to live our best life, for it may be our last. **Memento mori**: remember death. We never know when life will come to an abrupt end, so live with purpose and with gusto, and more importantly, authentically live with love.

Life without love is nothing. Life without others to love or to be loved by is meaningless. Love. Love is who we are and what our purpose is. With all these adventures, we turn to something bigger than ourselves. We turn to our purpose. Let our Fraternity express a love so strong that it sticketh closer than a Brother in EVERY interaction.

So when others talk about "fraternity spirit," let us speak of love. Let us be what we are—love. Let us be one in that spirit. Our hearts united.

Homophrona Thymon Enchontes.

Thank you to all Brothers who joined me on my journey this past year,

Homophrona Thymon Enchontes:

- › John Lowry, Theta Triton '13
- › James Ambrose, Tau Triton '18
- › Drew Johnson, Beta Deuteron '20
- › Gunnar Royal Burpee, Tau Triton '23
- › Abdi DeLeon, Mu Triton '25
- › Xzaviar Smith, Mu Triton '25
- › Juan Valle, Mu Triton '25
- › Anwar Darham, Epsilon '26
(expansion group member- not initiated)
- › Andrew Finkelstein, Epsilon '26
(expansion group member- not initiated)
- › Troy Oetomo, Epsilon '26
(expansion group member- not initiated)



From Left to Right: James Ambrose, Tau Triton '18, Brian Bertges Sigma Triton '00, and Drew Johnson, Beta Deuteron '20 after finishing all three races to complete the Spartan Trifecta in Central Florida.

By Richard Wood,
Gamma Triton '73

Brother Walter Hickey, Epsilon '12 Wins Pulitzer Prize



In 1917 newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, through a provision in his will, established the annual award which bears his name, the Pulitzer Prize. This award is bestowed annually to Americans for achievements in newspaper, magazine, online journalism, literature, and musical composition in 21 categories and is administered by Columbia University. Among past winners of the award are authors Toni Morrison, William Faulkner, and Ernest Hemingway, along with composers, Wynton Marsalis, Kendrick Lamar, and Stephan Sondheim.

In 2022 a Pulitzer Prize was awarded to a team of four writers and artists for Illustrated Writing and Commentary. Among this team was **Brother Walter Hickey, Epsilon '12 (William & Mary)**. Their award reads, “for using graphic reportage and the comics medium to tell a powerful story of the Chinese oppression of the Uyghurs, making the issue accessible to a wider public.” The story, *How I Escaped a Chinese Internment Camp*, can be found online at Insider.

In a conversation with Brother Hickey he shared his experiences as an undergraduate at William & Mary. Brother Hickey majored in Applied Mathematics with a concentration in probability and statistics, at the same time working at the college newspaper, the Flat Hat. This led to his interest in the field of data journalism. In traditional journalism, you begin with the story and search for the data and statistics to support the story. In data journalism, you begin with the data and build the story around what the data suggests or where it leads you.

During his junior year, Brother Hickey decided to join the Epsilon Charge of Theta Delta Chi. He found the Brothers he encountered to be a tight-knit group and very welcoming. He also found the alumni to be devoted and enthusiastic and he embraced the long, combined history of William & Mary and Theta Delta Chi. Brother Hickey saw the sense of community, and the internal support system within the Charge provided a touchpoint for his life going forward. The concepts of “mutual

esteem and dependence” within the community at Epsilon were something easy to fall into. He saw that the values expressed in the Preamble were lived within the Charge house.

Brother Hickey served a summer internship with Open Secrets, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that tracks money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. This was the catalyst for his continuation in data journalism as a career track for himself.

Upon graduation from William & Mary, he worked at Business Insider during the 2012 elections. He then focused on data-infused stories about pop culture and lifestyle. From there he was offered a job by Nate Silver, at FiveThirtyEight, to work in the same areas. After working at FiveThirtyEight for about four years, he returned to his roots at Insider where he wrote his story about the plight of the Uyghur community in Chinese internment camps. The telling of this story appealed to his strong moral compass and his sense of social responsibility.

When putting the story together, there was a lack of photos of the situation in China and it was felt the story lacked the emotional impact needed to communicate most effectively. As he stated, “the story lacked the visual imagery to lock people in.” The team also felt telling one woman’s story would have a stronger impact on the reader than trying to tell what is happening to 4 million people; it would personalize the events for the reader. This became the focus and the point of view of their Pulitzer Prize-winning story about Zumwat Dawut in, *How I Escaped a Chinese Internment Camp*.

Besides his work with Business Insider, Walter Hickey writes a daily newsletter called Numlock News, “that highlights the context and importance of the numbers you read about in the news.” He will soon have a book in publication and continues to work on stories focused on the personal impact of governments and policies around the world. Truly, Brother Hickey lives out the values of Theta Delta Chi in all he does through the “improvement of the intellectual, moral, and social being.”

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Rho Triton's Fall Festival for Charity

By Rob Kirby, Rho Triton '90

Rho Triton at Virginia Commonwealth University held their second annual Fall Festival, raising money for the Children's Hospital of Richmond (CHoR), on Saturday, September 17, 2022. The festival, featuring live music, food trucks, and local artists, gathered on the University Student Commons' grounds. Rho Triton's philanthropy chair, Jamie Lehman '23, said the actives and alumni raised over \$6,500 for the hospital (a matching grant doubled it to nearly \$13,300).

For their charity, Rho Tritons will be recognized with a plaque in the new hospital and an exam room named in their honor. The new 16-story Wonder Tower of Children's Hospital at VCU is a 500,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art, inpatient facility scheduled to open in early 2023. Its design is based on understanding that children see the world differently.

Rho Triton Alumni Association philanthropy chair, Matthew Poteate '06, started cultivating the philanthropic relationship with CHoR in late 2019. Active and alumni members who grew up in central Virginia share childhood histories of getting their regular and specialty medical care there. Lehman said, "It was a cool thing for a lot of Brothers to be able to give back to the same organization that was able to provide so much to them growing up."

Planning the inaugural festival in 2021 began with the group coming together and discussing their values as a Fraternity. A focus was on the fact that a fraternity, at the end of the day, should be about community growth as well as personal growth. It was a natural relationship working with the University-affiliated hospital while holding one of our campus's largest social-philanthropic events.

Rho Triton wanted to feature organizations that specifically help the Richmond community. One of those organizations with booths was Art on Wheels,



which caters classes to disabled people, children, and the elderly. Another was RampsRVA, which in partnership with student groups and corporations finances and installs modular wheelchair ramps for those in need.

All of the bands, artists, vendors, and organizations were from the Richmond community. Rho Triton invited other student organizations to perform between musical acts. VCU's Atomic Gold Stomp n' Shake cheer team performed a routine to keep the crowd excited. "It's amazing to be able to host and work with so many organizations, and it's great to see people smile and bring that sense of community," Lehman said.

Rho Triton's president, Samuel Donlon '23, said the Charge is doing its part in trying to change the negative stereotypes surrounding fraternities. They are focusing on giving back to the community and the school they represent. During the time of the event, Rho Triton had 12 members while the average Greek organization at VCU had 37. As a small Fraternity, Theta Delta Chi takes seriously the image that it puts forward.

Unprecedented Growth During a Challenging Time

By Tyler C. Lewis, Rho Proteron '23



Throughout our lives, every unique individual faces challenges that seem insurmountable when encountered. This is no different from each Charge of the Theta Delta Chi International Fraternity. When obstacles block our very paths to growth, change, or recognition, the vision of the Charge may begin to fade or seem much bleaker. But the challenge itself does not define a Charge, as it does not define an individual.

At the point when things feel the darkest, the man- tra we must focus on

is emblazoned on our chests as Brothers of Theta Delta Chi: endeavor to improve and reform. When met with the destructive and counterproductive actions of a few members of the Rho Proteron Charge, we felt despair, anxiety, and frustration as we faced a four-year suspension from the University of South Carolina. Though these experiences felt unbearable, we realized that we were not alone in our fight. The outpouring of support and understanding that we received from the Grand Lodge and Central Fraternity Office (CFO) staff was incredible and allowed us to feel like the metaphorical ceiling crumbling on top of us was lifted as we began to skyrocket to heights we never thought we could experience.

With the help of the tremendous members of the CFO staff, we began to devise a plan

that would begin to put the broken pieces back together. Upon the inception of this reform plan, our brotherhood's investment and determination rose to levels we had never seen. The CFO staff worked side by side with my executive board and me to build a plan that was tailored specifically to the needs and desires of our Charge. Over the course of several weeks, and upwards of fifty hours of dedicated work by our members and the CFO staff, we devised a plan that allowed us to truly focus on our strengths while minimizing the effects of our faults and weaknesses. Working hand in hand with the CFO staff allowed us to express our individual challenges to them, which they were

extremely receptive towards. Rather than meeting our insufficiencies with anger and disappointment, they viewed each and every challenge as a puzzle with an understandable and inventive solution.

Since the implementation of our reform plan within the Rho Proteron Charge, our members have been exponentially happier, more dedicated, and more compassionate towards one another. The weight of social and fraternal expectations has been lifted from our shoulders. This has truly allowed us to have a transformative experience in which the diversity of mindset and uniqueness of each member can shine through. I personally could not have been happier with the undying and formidable support of the CFO staff. Our Brothers at the CFO truly understand what Brothers are for: support and guidance.

"Throughout the process of the creation of our reform plan, we hoped that the stepping stones placed in front of us laid out the framework for a path to both immediate and gradual improvement. The CFO staff guided us to recognize the underlying detriments plaguing our organization and took a personalized and meaningful approach to find an avenue that suited us as an individual Charge. As former President of the Rho Proteron Charge at the University of South Carolina, I could not have felt happier knowing the CFO staff was looking out, not only for the best interests of the Charge, but for each and every individual member that comprised it."

ENDEAVORING TO IMPROVE AND REFORM

In 1847 our founders, in the Preamble to our Constitution, penned the words that as Theta Delts we shall "...pardon the faults of each, (while we) endeavor to improve and reform." So, what does this look like when a Charge falls on hard times and enters the student conduct process at their host institution? At one point, the Charge would be called into a meeting of the Grand Lodge for a Revocation Hearing. These often were seen as meetings for determining punishments for the Charge, including the revocation of their charter. Upon reflection, this did little to change the culture or behaviors at the Charge.

In 2020, the Grand Lodge embarked on a different course of action. Rather than scheduling a Revocation Hearing, which requires a 30-day notice, the first step in the process became convening a Support Hearing with the Charge to discuss their commitment to a reform process, and to explore their level of engagement. At the conclusion of the Support Hearing, all stakeholders: the Charge, the Grand Lodge, and CFO staff, agree on how the Charge will be supported moving forward with a reform plan.

The Grand Lodge began using multi-year reform plans with Charges facing student conduct hearings in 2016. The first attempt at using a reform plan was not met with a great deal of encouragement from the host institution. The university had always focused on a crime and punishment model for student conduct and a reform plan is far from that. The reform plan is designed to move from this existing model of student conduct to a model focused on the growth and development of young men to make changes in their lives and in their Charge. We needed to remind the university that we were actually in the same business – the growth and development of the young people in our respective organizations. We also asked the student conduct officer if punishing the Charge by loss of recognition would change the behaviors and culture of any organization. They agreed to try out this new approach.

While the results the first time were not totally successful, we all learned from the experience. The plans moving forward needed to be more detailed, monitoring needed to be more frequent, and there needed to be more communication during the implementation of the plan with all parties. This process was viewed as groundbreaking on the part of many of our host institutions and within the larger Greek community.

Subsequent plans were more focused on addressing reform from structural, organizational, and cultural perspectives. The Charge develops its plan with assistance and input from CFO staff, alumni advisors, and Greek Life directors. This new model places the process for reform in the hands of the Charge. They are given the authority, with support and guidance, to determine a vision for success, the agency to move forward, pathways and actions to attain the vision, and the support to implement their plan. This generates hope for the members and the sustainability of their Charge.

Most reform plans span a two-to-three-year time period and have specific actions that are time-driven and measurable. In general, CFO staff meets with Charge leadership on a bi-weekly basis to monitor the progress of these plans,

By Dr. Richard E. Wood,
Gamma Triton '73



Joshua Thompson,
Delta Deuteron '24

focusing on successes, problems, and resources to move forward. The notes from these meetings are shared with Charge leadership, CFO staff, and alumni advisors.

As the plans evolve, there is a strong emphasis on utilizing on-campus or community resources to provide programming and other services to the Charge. One such programming resource which has helped several Charges is the use of restorative justice circles. Restorative justice focuses on mediation and agreement rather than punishment. Offenders must accept responsibility for harm and make restitution to victims. These practices come from indigenous communities and have been in use by them for generations. They have been in use in the criminal justice domain and have been shown to be very successful in addressing cultural change. Many host institutions use these practices to resolve conflict on campuses and are often brought into use through law schools.

Another programming resource these plans rely upon is the services of the on-campus health system, especially when alcohol and hazing are an issue. These services tend to be free to all students and are directly focused on the specific campus environment.

Theta Delta Chi has been a leader in not only the development of these plans but also in the accountability and monitoring that have made these plans successful. As Joshua Thompson Delta Deuteron '24 (Berkeley), the past president, has said, "At UC Berkeley, we had a lot of guys who followed what we had done for a period of time due to 'tradition' and 'it's what we have always done,' but after programs with CFO staff and one on Restorative Justice, we realized it was simply that no one wanted to go 'against the norm,' but no one wanted to continue what we were doing. We hated the perpetuation of the culture that had started at one point, and part of that was a fear of speaking up/against it. When we finally got the chance, we changed many things about us as a house: our priorities, our wants, our ways of leading, and the new identity that this house was and always was meant to be. We are young men who make mistakes but learn and change with each new experience. We are now coming to be seen as the gold standard at UC Berkeley, when just a year and a half ago, we were the 'hooligans' that no one believed could change."

The NOBLE RETURN

By Andrew Johnson, Beta Deuteron '20

Upon arriving in Williamsburg, Virginia in late August of 2022, my mission at hand was to revive the noble Epsilon Charge. Epsilon had been dormant for just over 10 years.

Every day felt like a different lifetime, as there was always something that was needed in order to push the mission forward, and it was almost impossible to sleep without doing so.

The first mission was to get the actual approval from the University to begin our recruitment efforts at William & Mary. This initial period was simply checking boxes and making sure that I wasn't overstepping university policy. To make a long story short, I had to constantly show up, and make some friends within the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) and Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) offices to show that I will be able to support this expansion effort to the best of my ability.

After getting approval, there were a few requirements I had to follow. The first was a tabling event on central campus that included all Greek organizations. As a lone ranger at the event, I quickly got the sense that no students in attendance were looking to start something of their own, and would rather join an established organization on campus. I was able to secure zero real connections that day, but now I had an idea of how to shift the strategy.

Two IFC-sponsored "rush" events that get approved by the William & Mary FSL office were also required in order to become a recognized fraternity on campus. I knew in my mind that these rush events would be unsuccessful, but I still pulled through with the commitment. Low and behold, both events yielded zero potential new members. On the bright side, I got the personal space to improve my bowling and billiards skills for two hours. But going forward, these traditional "rush" tactics were not going to yield the results that the Epsilon Charge needed in order to successfully recolonize.

At this point there were definitely doubts, but, usually when doubts arise there is an awakening or a turnaround shortly after. I remember being discouraged, and I remember talking with Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00, during our weekly call. He could tell that I was not feeling like Drew. I still remember his words being: "Just go into the spaces where you can be yourself."

Following this call, I immediately walked into the William & Mary recreation center and convinced the workers to break policy and allow me to get a monthly guest pass. I made it my goal every day to connect with at least two people. I never mentioned that I was looking to restart a fraternity; I just wanted to make genuine connections with people that wouldn't normally be interested in Greek life, and continue to build those relationships the right way.



Brothers and refounding fathers of Epsilon in front of the old Charge House. This picture was from William & Mary's homecoming.

On a random weekday, about a week after the billiards and bowling self-development session, I struck up a conversation with the one other guy in the gym that wasn't wearing headphones; that guy was Andrew Finkelstein. The topic eventually turned to the restart of Epsilon. Andrew was immediately interested, in fact he mentioned a discussion that he had with dormmates about starting their own fraternity. We started going to the gym and beginning the recruitment process as a team of two. This

teamwork was the biggest step in building Epsilon.

Eventually the three friends Andrew was referring to in our initial conversation signed on as well. With the additions of Troy Oetomo, Anwar Darham, and Hassan Khan, the Brotherhood was naturally forming. The five of us took a day trip to Virginia Beach followed by dinner in downtown Norfolk. These memories were not only a foundation to building the membership, but set the stage for a lifetime experience of being a Brother of Theta Delta Chi.

The Charge grew to 13 members in the first semester of Epsilon's new existence, and was one of the biggest Fall 2022 recruitment classes throughout the entire Greek system at William & Mary. Most importantly, these original re-founders continue to display mutual esteem and dependance on their campus, while finding others to join them on their journey.

Fast forward to right now: It is almost impossible not to have heard of Theta Delta Chi if you are a student at William & Mary. The re-founding fathers have been building the Fraternity through organic exposure, and have a long-term, growth mindset. There is no doubt that the future is extremely bright at Epsilon, as they look to conduct a non-hostile takeover of William & Mary's campus.

This is a possibility at every single campus, but we need to realize that the current system in place to promote "rush" is not going to get us there. Building real relationships with real people will never go out of style. So, to the reader that is looking to build their Charge the right way, I challenge you to make connections in a place where you can be yourself. In fact, being in spaces where you can be yourself is the easiest and most rewarding way to live (not only in college, but for the rest of your life). You will learn a lot about yourself in this process, but you will also have the reward of lifelong friends

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ROBERT FROST SOCIETY
John L. Donnelly '76^
PGL'S SOCIETY
 Gregory D. Showalter '83^

The Noble Return

« continued from previous page

And to the men of Epsilon, I am grateful that our paths happened to cross, and I am proud to have new friends for life. I am also very grateful to the Epsilon alumni, and special thanks to Howard Busbee '65, Bruce Patterson '80, Greg Wagner '84, Alan Ashworth '85, John Reynolds '87, Colin Verbicar '07, Evan Davis '07, Ed Walinsky '10, and many more for providing so much support throughout the whole process to constantly let me know that this is a group effort. Thanks especially to Roger Crook '78 and his wife, Sue, for providing me with a space to live during my two months in Williamsburg. Roger: Our late night conversations always kept me on the right track and constantly reminded me of the big picture. I can't thank you enough and will forever feel indebted to your graciousness. You are the definition of a true brother.

The job is not finished, however. The goal is to continue Epsilon's legacy for another 176 years and beyond.

GIVING CLUBS

\$1-\$99	VG Dues Club
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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*.

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



MYTDX.ORG AND YOU

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LOGIN TODAY

MyTDX.org powered by GreekTrack is Theta Delta Chi's online membership management portal.

The Central Fraternity Office uses MyTDX as its official rolls of membership, recordkeeping, and communication. The Educational Foundation uses the system to track every member's complete donor history, address information, and contact preferences. Undergraduate leadership at our active Charges are required to utilize the system to track members throughout their undergraduate experience, fill out paperwork, and pay their bills. This has improved the Grand Lodge's recordkeeping immensely and has proven invaluable in day-to-day operations.

MyTDX can also be utilized by the leadership of housing corporations, alumni associations, and regional graduate associations to interact with their members through a full messaging system, newsletter engine, a private file section, and the ability to update member records.

We encourage every member to login to the system periodically to update their address, set their contact preferences, and check their donation history. It is vital that we are able to keep in touch with you and to keep you updated on all things Theta Delt. While you are there you can check your donation history, inspect your family tree, connect with other alumni and much more!

The CFO staff is always available to help with your MyTDX questions and are available for training. Don't hesitate to email us at cfo@tdx.org or call **1-800-999-1847 ext. 0**.

To setup your alumni account, fill out our Getting Started form: setup.mytdx.org

Alumni Association and House Corporation Resource Page: alumnires.mytdx.org



MAKING CONNECTIONS...

John Kunkel, Xi '63 reached out to the CFO to try to reconnect with Brothers from his Charge. After a quick search on MyTDX.org, he found out that a Charge Brother from his undergraduate years lived about a half a mile from his home. He ended up swinging by and reconnecting.

It's not only helpful for inter-alumni communications, it creates networking opportunities for the younger generations of Brothers to connect with alumni. One example is Carter Ellis Sigma Triton '25 (pictured left). Here are his words:

"This past fall, I had the pleasure of listening to Ted Brown (Sigma Triton '67) speak at our alumni weekend. I could tell how passionate he was about being a Theta Delt and being on the board of trustees for Penn State. Ted runs a consulting firm out of State College with that same passion, which makes KETCHConsulting one of the most respected organizations in the risk prevention, business continuity, and crisis management fields.

I knew Ted would be a phenomenal person to learn from, especially considering I aspire to work in consulting post-graduation. I immediately went to LinkedIn to send him a message but had no luck. Then I remembered MyTDX.org. I looked up his name and saw everything from his email to his graduation information from 1967.

If I didn't find his email on MyTDX, I would have never landed the internship that I did with his firm."



176th

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Thetes, It Is Time to Saddle Up!
Tempe, Arizona is our destination—
Home of the Epsilon Triton Charge.

Join us on August 3-5, 2023

Our host location for the 176th gathering of our beloved Fraternity is the Tempe Mission Palms, located at 60 E 5th St, Tempe, AZ 85281, an elegant southwestern retreat nestled in downtown Tempe, Arizona, less than four miles from the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Book before July 2nd, 2023 to get our special convention rate of \$139/night. This special rate is available two nights before and one night after convention for conventioners and guests who want to extend their stay.

The last and only time Theta Delta Chi was in Arizona for a convention was in 1991. The 144th Convention celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Epsilon Triton Charge, chartered in 1961. The Charge disbanded in 1994. This year the Charge will be celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of their rechartering in 2008.

Conventions are where Theta Delta Chi makes decisions to guide the Fraternity!

There will be two general business sessions. All Brothers may attend the business sessions where the business of the Fraternity will be conducted, including the election of positions on the Grand Lodge and the Educational Foundation. Each active Charge has three votes, two undergraduate and one graduate. An inactive Charge may choose one alumnus as their graduate voting delegate, as long as they are a full registrant of the convention (per Article X, Section 13 of the bylaws, ratified at the 167th Convention).

In addition to the general business sessions, there will be meetings of the Grand Lodge, Educational Foundation, and Founders' Corporation. However, it's not all business. The PGL's Reception and Grand Banquet culminate the convention for many. Songs, photos, awards, and the announcement of the year's scholarship winners will be on the evening's program.

The tradition of the Omega Service continues. The Omega Service, first conducted at the 1904 Convention, originates from a tragic accident at the 54th Convention. Jacob S. Spahn, Chi 1870, was killed in a fire at The Manhattan Hotel in New York, after the banquet. Brother Spahn was the last speaker at the banquet and spoke as his final words, "... there is no top notch in Theta Delta Chi. When we reach the pinnacle of the seeming top notch, we use it as a resting place to get new strength to climb higher—and so we go on." It is customary for the Grand Lodge to read the names of all the Brothers who have passed since the last service, and the brotherhood sings Love Cannot Die, Lewis Halsey, Xi 1868, to welcome them to the Omega Charge. Brother Patrick Tiernan, Chi Triton '99, will again officiate this year's Omega Service.

The Epsilon Triton Charge and alumni are working with the Central Fraternity Office to plan a welcome reception, social events, a golf tournament, and more. It is sure to be the hottest event in town.

On tdxconvention.org, please find the following:

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

TRAVEL & HOTEL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION & TICKETS

Give this your prompt attention and join us for the 176th Convention of Theta Delta Chi in Tempe!

"Because every little bit counts..."



Mail reply envelope



Text **VGD23** to 91999



Go to vgdues.org

This issue of the *Shield* mostly focuses on our endeavors to improve and reform. When life brings you challenges, you likely will depend on others to lift you up and support you. Our undergraduates are no different. They need our love and encouragement.

Right now, we benefit from roughly 900 generous Brothers. With you joining the effort, we can send a clear message that the alumni are behind them 100%. It's about collective effervescence, which builds momentum and excitement as a brotherhood. It's about love. It's about hope. It's about seeking truth. Your

fidelity matters. When we come together we can make a difference and have a multiplier effect that yields even more impact.

With as little as \$18.47, your gift will provide scholarships to undergraduates who want to bring their authentic and passionate selves to the world. Because of you, a Charge will be able to conduct a philanthropy event to serve members of the community in profound ways. Because of you, Preamble Institute will continue to inspire members to be values-added. Because of you, Theta Delta Chi will flourish. Consider leading a movement with your gift today.

VGDUES HONOR ROLL VGDUES HONOR

Sigma Triton Continued

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Jeffrey A. Cowan '85
Cuong Chi Dang '00
Michael Colin Houlihan '09[^]

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SONS OF MINERVA

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CENTURY CLUB

Michael F. Blake '84
Larry D. Senour '87
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VGDUES CLUB

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Tau Deuteron Minnesota

FOUNDERS CIRCLE

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SONS OF MINERVA

Stephen F. Salzman '62
Col. Edward R. Michaud USAF (Ret.) '63

Tau Triton Marist

FOUNDERS CIRCLE

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Grant Douglas Hildman '19
Owen Patrick Corrigan '21
Noah Timmer '23

Tau Tetraton Johnson & Wales

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CENTURY CLUB

Maxwell William Campagna '19

Upsilon Bucknell

GRADUATE LOYALTY CLUB

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FOUNDERS CIRCLE

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Kyle Patrick O'Keefe '08[^]
Bryan Edward Arnold '09[^]
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SONS OF MINERVA

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VGDUES CLUB

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Luis Antonio Amaro '22
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Upsilon Triton Indiana

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VGDUES CLUB

Jesus Diaz III '16

Phi Lafayette

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Alvan Markle IV '65
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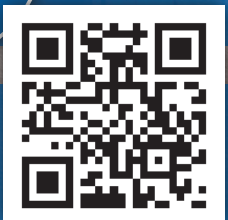
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