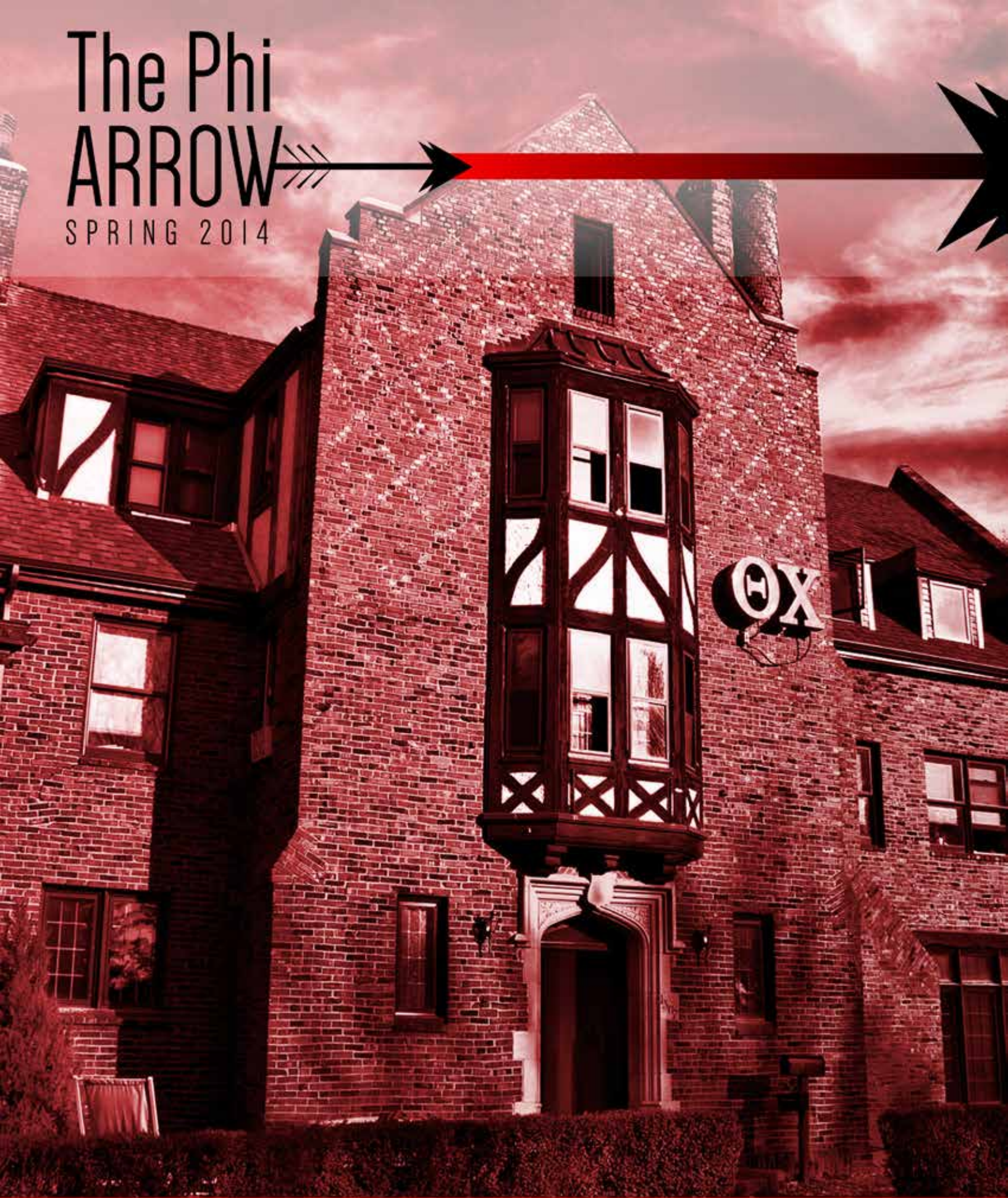


The Phi ARROW

SPRING 2014



PHI CHAPTER - NDSU

ALUMNI CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S LETTER

INSIDE
THE ARROW



The past couple years of being on the Alumni Council and the Steering Committee has been a very fulfilling period in which I (and many others) have had the opportunity to give back to Theta Chi and Phi Chapter in a way that doesn't even begin to scratch the surface in comparison to what Phi has given to us. As we approach Pig Banquet 2014, I am excited to be a part of the growing Campaign to raise funds for the renovation and rehabbing of our beloved Chapter house.

Speaking of Pig Banquet, it is quickly approaching, set for March 28 & 29! Along with all the fun times catching up and reminiscing, we will again have some very important business matters to discuss as we push forward with the campaign (more on that later). We will be getting together on Friday night at Chub's like normal, and here is the schedule for Saturday.

11:00 a.m.: Social at the house

12:00 p.m.: The pig is served at the house!

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: We will travel to the Memorial Union for the alumni meeting in Century Theater

5:00 p.m.: Social at The Avalon (613 1st Ave N, Fargo)

6:00 p.m.: Meal served, followed by a short program

Any schedule updates will be sent out on the Alumni email listserv, and on the "Alumni of Phi Chapter of Theta Chi" Facebook page (contact Cory Loveless or me to be added to this secret Facebook group, as it cannot be found through a Facebook search). If you haven't been receiving Alumni emails, please subscribe to the email listserv and update your contact information at <http://phionline.org/alumni-page>. We have a block of rooms under "Theta Chi Alumni" reserved at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Fargo, which is approximately 2 blocks from the Avalon. These rooms must be reserved by March 14, or they will be released. Reservations can be made by calling them at (701) 232-7363.

As we continue to progress with the Campaign, it is not lost on the Alumni Council and the Campaign Committee the incredible amount of momentum that both NDSU and the economy across the upper mid-west generates for such a campaign. Pride in what is taking place at NDSU both academically and athletically (How 'bout them Bison?!), the continued success of the Active Chapter, and the need for the renovations combines to make this the perfect time for the campaign. The chance to reconnect with Brothers we haven't spoken with for awhile has rekindled an interest in many of us in seeing our Chapter remain successful, and to always be the best fraternity at NDSU. It is for these reasons I ask you to seriously consider coming to Pig Banquet this year, so that we can not only have FUN, but to get your input and answer any questions you might have about the Campaign.

I stress fun in the previous paragraph, because if you can't have fun doing something, it is not worth doing. With that in mind, I think Theta Chis of all ages have continued to have a blast with our football game tailgating, as it seems to get better every fall. There continues to be a core group of Alumni that set-up together in a large rectangle of four buses at every home football game, which has served as a de-facto headquarters of sorts for both Alumni and Actives for pre-game festivities. This will continue to be the case next fall, as NDSU moves forward with its quest for a fourth National Championship in a row. Any and all of you are always welcome to come out and get "warmed up" at this spot prior to heading in to the FargoDome to cheer on the Bison.

I look forward to seeing you at Pig Banquet, and GO BISON!

Fraternally,
Kyle D. Kemmet 1476 Φ
Alumni Council President

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STATE OF THE ACTIVE CHAPTER

Hello from Phi Chapter! We hope that the past year has brought you achievement and success. We look forward to your return to Fargo for Pig Banquet and any other time you are around. As we move into the New Year we are thankful for many things and reflect upon the men who laid the foundation that we can stand on today.

We had a strong fall recruitment and initiated 19 men, bringing our active membership to 85 at the end of the calendar year. We are determined to continue recruiting men who possess values of Theta Chi throughout the year.

NDSU went on to win its third straight National Championship this year in Frisco, Texas. Nearly 17,000 Bison fans filled Toyota Stadium and watched the Bison go undefeated. This accomplishment helps to portray the university's diverse variety of excellence throughout the nation.

Phi also had many accomplishments this last year. John Lynch was honored in The Rattle as the Phi Chapter outstanding senior of the year. Kyle Sebesta also brought the Colley Award home to Phi Chapter this year, a feat only four Phi members have ever achieved.

We continue to work with alumni and seek support for the upcoming centennial campaign. The house has been a home for

many brothers for nearly 90 years and we would like to provide our future brothers with a house that has the modern technologies and amenities that accommodate for the dynamic changes in education.

Pig Banquet is coming up and should be one of the largest turn-outs in recent history! We hope that you are able to celebrate with us, socialize with other brothers, as well as celebrate our successes! Phi Chapter is continuing to move forward and become a beacon radiating our values within the campus and community.

Fraternally,
Tyler Hill 1864 Φ
Active Chapter President



Alumni Council Treasurer Update

Hello fellow alumni! This past year was a busy one for the alumni council and centennial campaign committees. The centennial campaign, officially called "Phi Now," is currently in its silent phase; which means we are making one-on-one contact with alumni to promote the campaign and secure pledges. Once we have attained around 70% of our goal the campaign will go public and there will be a broad reach to all alumni. As of the end of January, only a couple months into the campaign, we are already at 25% of our \$1.9 million goal! If you would like to discuss a pledge to the campaign now, just give me a call at 701-367-0471.

In 2013 we broke records again and received \$11,085 for the Theta Chi for Life campaign. Over the past 13 years this campaign has enabled our chapter to retire our mortgage early and make many necessary house repairs. This past year we put this money to work covering expenses incurred to plan, promote and execute the Phi Now campaign. Many fraternities that have started major campaigns similar to ours have borrowed funds just to get the campaign off the ground - we are paying cash. Thank you to everyone that has contributed and made our solid financial footing possible (see donor list on page 12).

I will look forward to seeing our alumni return to 1307 N. University Dr. once again on March 29th, and until then... Go Bison!

Fraternally,
Jason Gates 1563 Φ
Alumni Council Treasurer



Phi Now Capital Campaign Update

The news is out! Work has begun to renovate the “House That Brotherhood Built.” Although the halls aren’t echoing with the sounds of demolition and reconstruction just yet, volunteers are making noise developing design plans and meeting one-on-one with key alumni donor prospects.

Thank you to the following brothers for their early contributions of time, talent and treasure. Don’t hesitate to reach out to any one of us for the latest news on the project.

Shhh - Quiet Phase!

Before shouting from the roof of the FargoDome that Theta Chi is accepting campaign donations for our \$1.9 million project, we will quietly spend the spring through the early fall personally reaching out to potential major supporters. Let’s face it, if we start now accepting \$100 gifts for the project – however helpful they may be - we won’t realize our vision in a reasonable time frame. So stay tuned for details or contact any one of us identified above for more information.

Once we reach 60-70% of our goal quietly reaching out to targeted individuals, the fraternity will need an army of volunteers, as well as donors, to contact every brother for financial support. If you have the time and heart to assist with this important, historical effort, please contact me directly at 701-730-8151 or <bureshr@me.com>! We can use a few good men to provide arms, legs and voice to our renovation vision.

In the meantime, here are highlights of our success to date:

- 40 brothers have contributed nearly \$400,000 through one-on-one visits.
- IvyPartners – a fundraising coach specializing in fraternity campaigns – has been secured to assist with our 5-year campaign.
- We hope to soon formally secure an architect to finalize a design and prepare for the bid process.
- A partnership between Theta Chi and the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation has been formalized to provide brothers with a means to make a tax-deductible gift. Donations can also be accepted by the fraternity directly, which can be used immediately to offset project expenses.
- In addition to 5-year pledges and gifts of cash, the fraternity can accept commodity donations as well as appreciated securities.
- We will be ready for a more comprehensive report at the Pig Banquet March 29th.

Fraternally,
Rick Buresh 951 ☐

Alumni Council

Daniel Adamietz ‘11 (218) 371-0838	Daniel.adamietz31@hotmail.com
Dennis Agnew ‘99 (701) 527-0483	dennis.agnew@doosan.com
Jason Gates ‘02 (701) 367-0471	jgates97@gmail.com
Duane Grippe ‘90 (701) 356-8415	duane.grippe@odayequipment.com
Kyle Kemmet ‘98 (701) 214-7943	kylekemmet@hotmail.com
Cory Loveless ‘12 (701) 330-9890	cory.loveless@gmail.com
Ben Buresh ‘06 (701) 446-7005	ben.buresh@gmail.com

Campaign Committee

Rick Buresh ‘71 (701) 730-8151	buresh@cableone.net
John Cook ‘70 (701) 756-6923	cook@srt.com
Jon Dickson ‘00 (701) 306-2536	jonkdickson@gmail.com
Roger Gjellstad ‘72 (701) 628-2934	rgjellstad@yahoo.com
Dave Hynek ‘68 (701) 755-3372	dave.hynek@hotmail.com
Glen Masset ‘89 (501) 830-3356	glenmasset@att.net
Jeff McInnes ‘76 (701) 430-0844	jmcinnes@trv.net
Dave Miller ‘71 (701) 721-4414	dcmiller@srt.com
Bob Stein ‘69 (701) 730-8785	steinrc@hotmail.com
Dennis Vonasek ‘88 (612) 860-5593	DVonasek@hga.com
Mark Williamson ‘88 (701) 330-7016	mwilliamson@minnkota.com
Kyle Blake ‘89 (701) 399-9564	kyle.blake.mn@gmail.com

Building Committee

Eric Lembke (952) 934-2459	elembke@bonestroo.com
J. Scott Fournier (701) 746-8398	scott@heyer-eng.com
Russell Handegard (701) 282-3787	russwhand@gmail.com
Bernie Dardis (701) 282-7133	bernie.dardis@indigosignworks.com

Where Are They Now?

... a conversation with Phi Alumnus, Randy Morris, '71
Rick Buresh, '71

Undergraduate Years... Randy graduated from high school in 1967 from Ryder High School. Fellow Theta Chi alumni Lee Sorenson and Gus Mueller also graduated from Ryder as did Randy's younger brother Steve who is also a Phi alumnus. They were so hard on their high school that it closed its doors for good in 1969 like so many other small ND high schools. Randy started college at Minot State College University and transferred to NDSU the following year where he was immediately influenced by his high school friends to pledge Theta Chi. Randy was an active member of the fraternity where he served as assistant pledge marshal and pledge marshal. He graduated in 1971 with a degree in speech pathology/psychology. He later went back to school for graduate work to earn his administrative credentials.

During this era of fraternity life, most people had a nickname. You didn't really get to pick your nickname. Rather, it was bestowed upon you by others. Randy's misfortune was to be christened "Goof." There was an upside to having nicknames. "Goof" was a Rahjah. Part of his assignment in the Rahjah's was to be the mascot during football games. During a victory celebratory storming of Dakota Field, Goof climbed a goal post that was not designed to carry his weight. It came crashing down. Wearing a costume provided some cover for Randy as did his nickname. Investigators later tried to identify the mascot but only were able to come up with the name "Goof" so Randy avoided



Randy Morris '71

consequences. Hopefully, the statute of limitations has since passed. Randy has many fond memories of his time at Phi including his trip to the Camelia Bowl in a pickup camper and another spontaneous trip to Duluth to go bowling. Those of us in Randy's era can reminisce about many other good times with "Goof" – but probably not in print.

Professional Life... Randy has spent his entire working life in South Dakota. He started work in Pierre working for the SD Department of Public Instruction as the assistant director of special education. After some years there, Randy went out on his own to form a public/private collaborative called the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative. The BHSSC is headquartered in Spearfish, SD, where Randy continues to live today. BHSSC is a remarkable organization that provides a wide range of services to area schools, governmental subdivisions, and businesses. These services include special education case management, sheltered employment for people with disabilities, asbestos abatement, alternative residential high schools, economic development, workforce development, and many others. It is a remarkable, rather unique example of the power of a strong, focused entrepreneurial mindset applied to public service. Randy started as its only employee – a leader with a vision. BHSSC has now grown to 550 employees

Personal/Family Life... Randy describes his wife of 42 years, Phyllis, as a saint. Randy and Phyllis have a son, a daughter, and three grand daughters. Randy is now enjoying retirement but still keeps very busy taking on special assignments for SD Governor Dennis Daugaard.

Reflection on my Theta Chi experience... Randy strongly believes that his time at Phi was hugely influential in his life. His experiences at Phi were foundational to his ability to work in teams, to get along with people with diverse backgrounds, to build consensus around a vision, to sell an idea and simply to lead an organization. Yes, there were many fond memories that invoke a smile, from a different era similar to the movie, *Animal House*. While that model no longer works in this era, there are other, more compelling, persistent-over-time takeaways from our time at Phi – brotherhood, teamwork, problem-solving, service, loyalty.

Randy feels strongly about the need to sustain the experiences and traditions of Phi Chapter. He wants others to have opportunities similar to those he experienced. Toward that goal he has given generously to the Phi Now Campaign to renovate the chapter house and encourages all alumni to do so. He is hopeful that he and Phyllis will be able to join us at the Pig Banquet March 29th.

Fraternally,
Rick Buresh 951 Φ

Kyle Sebesta Honored with Colley Award

From, ThetaChi.org

Theta Chi Fraternity has named North Dakota State University senior Kyle E. Sebesta as the 2013 recipient of its highest undergraduate honor, the Reginald E. F. Colley Award. The award annually recognizes distinguished undergraduate service to alma mater, fraternity and chapter.

Garret Mueller of Iota Beta Chapter at Missouri State University was named first runner-up and Sterett Seckman of Chi Chapter of Auburn University was second runner-up. The winner and two runners-up each receive academic scholarships furnished by The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi.

Sebesta, a Civil Engineering major, served his alma mater, community, and fraternity greatly during his time at NDSU as a leader and mentor.

He participated in NDSU's Summer Leadership Institute as a freshman and later returned as a student leader and facilitated leadership seminars in 2010 and 2012. He was also involved with the Move-In Crew and as an NDSU Conference, Orientation, and Recruitment Leaders that helped students adjust to college life. He also participated in NDSU Transfer Student Orientation. He worked on campaigns for Student Body President and Vice President in 2012 and 2013. In 2012 he served on the Homecoming Planning Committee and ultimately was selected to the 2012 Homecoming Court. In 2013, he was Senior Speak Student for the College of Engineering and Architecture and published advice for incoming freshman in a university newsletter. In 2010/2011 and 2012/2013 he was nominated as a Student Leader of the Year.

Within the NDSU Greek Community, Sebesta participated in a number of events and projects hosted by the fraternities and sororities at NDSU. Sebesta was selected as the 2012 Greek Man of the Year, a 2011 Greek Man of the Year nominee, a 2012 Chapter President of the Year nominee, and was the winner of March 27, 2013's "Wear Your Letters Wednesday".

Scholastically, Sebesta maintained a 3.898 Grade Point Average, well above NDSU's All Men's Average of 2.810 and the All Fraternity Average of 3.031. He made the Dean's List in the College of Engineering and Architecture every semester in college and was also admitted to Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society which is composed of the top 10% of the Senior Class. He was also a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and Order of Omega. He participated and served in the American Society of College Engineers, Institute of Transportation Engineers, where he organized a spring break trip for fellow students to tour four major airports to learn about airport engineering from top professionals in the field.



2011 Colley Award Recipient Cory Loveless (r) visits with Kyle Sebesta in 2012 to congratulate him for his nomination to NDSU's Homecoming Court

Service to others was a critical component of Sebesta's time at NDSU. He became a member of the Blue Key Honor Society and served as Alumni Secretary as well as the Producer of Bison Brevities 2013, raising nearly \$2500 for charity. He is also the Planning Committee Chair for the Blue Key Honor Society 2014 National Leadership Conference where he has invited over 70 participating colleges and universities and is scheduling nearly a dozen guest and keynote speakers.

He also found the time to work with two NDSU Faculty Members to found and charter the NDSU-Fargo Lions Club. As a Founder and Charter President, Sebesta increased membership from 8 to 50 in ten months. The Lions Club was nominated in 2010/2011 for NDSU Student Organization of the Year.

He participated in a number of activities in the NDSU/Fargo community including: Special Olympics, Fargo Marathon Kids' Run, Pray for Grey Foundation Benefit, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Miracle Network Phone-A-Thon, MLK Jr. Day Service Plunge, TNT Gymnastics Open Gym, Hoops for Hannah Spaghetti Feed, Dorothy Day Food Pantry, Fill the Dome Food Drive, Dance Marathon, Relay for Life, and several blood drives. He was also involved in a number of NDSU homecomings and commencements.

Brother Sebesta's leadership potential was recognized within Phi Chapter as he was elected Recruitment Chairman, Vice President, and ultimately, Chapter President. As a senior, he was elected to serve as Chaplain to aid the chapter in remaining true to Theta Chi's values and principles.

He lead countless committees and chapter retreats and assisted with updates to the chapter's alumni database. He started an

annual award for Phi Chapter Alumnus of the Year at Phi's annual Pig Banquet event.

Sebesta participated in a number of regional and national Theta Chi leadership events including attendance at the Mid-Year Leadership Conference in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 as well as the 2011 Deranian Presidents Conference and the 154th National Convention in Orlando, FL in 2010

Phi Chapter President Daniel Kvasnicka noted, "What amazes me is his work ethic with everything he does for the Fraternity. He pushes himself and his brothers to constantly be thinking of how the chapter can be better." Kvasnicka added, "Leading the way with recruitment (recruiting over 20 men while Recruitment Chairman), Kyle is continually searching for men who have shown potential to be great brothers. Although I was someone who vowed never to join a fraternity, I am so grateful he recruited me to join as a junior."

Phi Chapter voted Sebesta as the 2010/2011 Chapter Member of the Year, the 2010/2011 Scholar of the Year, the 2011/2012 Chapter Member of the Year, 2012/2013 Scholar of the Year and won the "Slugger Award" for Highest GPA with the most credits on three separate occasions.

Past member Theta Chi Fraternity's national board of directors, the Grand Chapter, and Phi alumnus, Dr. Jim Hardwick, acknowledges the significance of the Colley Award recognition. "To be recognized as a leader among leaders attests to the commitment that Kyle has made to the mission and success of Theta Chi Fraternity and North Dakota State University." Hardwick continued, "The first time that you meet Kyle Sebesta, you are impressed with his genuineness as a person and his passion as a community and campus leader. He is a mission-centered student leader who challenges members to live the values of the organization."

Hardwick also noted, "Past Colley Award winners are recognized as successful leaders who continue their selfless service after college in their professions, communities and congregations. Kyle Sebesta exemplifies the standard of lifelong excellence in the leadership identified in past award winners." He continued, "The fact that Kyle is the second undergraduate from Theta Chi Fraternity at NDSU to receive the Colley Award in the past three years is a testimony to the outstanding leadership culture in the fraternity chapter."

As the 2013 recipient, Sebesta joins three other recipients from Phi Chapter member: 1934's Roman E. Meyers, 1941's Maj. Gen. Larry F. Tanberg and Cory Loveless, who received the Colley Award in 2011.

Cory Loveless noted, "I have had the pleasure of knowing Kyle throughout his time as an undergraduate, and I have seen him develop into the student leader he is today. His commitment to his academic pursuits, his dedication to his fraternity, and his character that upholds our shared values in Theta Chi makes me immensely proud to be his brother." Loveless continued, "As a past Colley Award Recipient, it means a lot to see another Phi chapter brother win this award. While the award recognizes a sin-

gle undergraduate, it carries more weight with me that my chapter continues to develop more young leaders to perpetuate our great fraternity. Kyle represents the best of Theta Chi in my eyes, and I am very proud of him."

Phi Chapter alumnus member Ben Buresh commented, "Kyle exemplifies leadership by working with his brothers to get things done while maintaining harmony in the chapter. His pragmatic style has been critical to Phi chapter's success, both as president and as a member. I have no doubt that the skills Kyle has developed will serve the chapter in his final year as an undergraduate and himself as he enters the work force."

The Colley Award applications were reviewed by a committee composed of top Theta Chi alumni from around the country, primarily consisting of past Colley Award recipients. The committee reviewed hundreds of pages' worth of applications submitted by applicants from around the country. The committee was chaired by Theta Chi National Vice President William W. Palmer.



Kyle Sebesta

"With so many applications this year, it was a challenging process. But the results speak for themselves: The "Best of the Best," and in a few instances, barely a razor-width of difference in the vote count among the top candidates," Palmer said. "Our country and our beloved Fraternity are indeed lucky to have such young men as our future leaders and decision-makers."

First presented in 1929, the Colley Award is named for Reginald E.F. Colley, a World War I veteran and past member of Theta Chi's board of directors, the Grand Chapter. It is interesting to note that brothers Colley and Sebesta share the same alma mater. As a member of Phi Chapter, Brother Colley developed a celebrated reputation as a campus, community and civic leader. He graduated in 1915 and eventually headed overseas to fight for the U.S. Army on the Western Front. Brother Colley died at the age of 39, but his legacy of leadership continues to inspire future generations of talented Theta Chis. Today, the Colley Award is treasured as the Fraternity's most prestigious undergraduate honor.

Alpha Pi Reinstallation

One of the most meaningful aspects of brotherhood is legacy—those ties of tradition and fraternity that link each of us to brothers who have come before, to those who have poured their lives and treasure into strengthening individual chapters and the international organization.

I was privileged to witness the impact of legacy firsthand on December 7, 2013, when the Alpha Pi Colony at the University of Minnesota was re-installed as the Alpha Pi Chapter. The young men of the colony—its founding fathers—were participating in a re-birth they will remember for the rest of their lives. For the alumni of Alpha Pi, the return of the chapter to their alma mater was a vindication of their hopes and efforts. For me personally, it was a testament to the force of the determination of the colony members and alumni—it was only on December 8, 2012 that I witnessed the colonization ceremony in a campus building. Now, less than a year later, the colony had achieved its existential purpose. At the end of the ceremony, Theta Chi welcomed 42 new brothers into the fold.

The Alpha Pi Chapter was first installed at the University of Minnesota on March 8, 1924. During its heyday, Alpha Pi was one of the most impressive chapters of our fraternity and produced such brothers as past National Presidents William F. Frantz and Paul Norstrom. However, a variety of pressures came to a head in the late 1990s and the chapter was forced to cease operations on February 14, 2000. Ever since that day, the alumni of Alpha

Pi dreamt of and planned for the return of their chapter. After an abortive attempt at colonization several years back, International Headquarters and local alumni were determined to make a successful, concerted effort that would bring Theta Chi back to the U.

In the fall of 2012, IHQ sent two Leadership and Education Consultants—Joe Macko and Phi Chapter's own inimitable Cory Loveless—to plant the colony and get it off the ground. Joe and Cory provided invaluable assistance to the group of young leaders that would become the colony's core.

When asked about the influences and lessons he hoped he imparted as a LEC, Cory responded: "I hope that the men of Alpha Pi realize that they have such a unique opportunity in their lives to develop themselves and each other by becoming a brother in Theta Chi. We told these men that they had a chance to redefine what it means to be a 'Fraternity Man' and I hope they don't forget that. I want them to remember that the ideals of Theta Chi center around being great students, great leaders, and great people."

I have had the honor to act as a graduate advisor for the colony and chapter, and I can confidently say that the men of Alpha Pi are committed to the ideals of Theta Chi. Too often in our society we bear witness to a poisonous view of fraternity, one that is at least partially perpetuated by members of Greek organizations themselves. Alpha Pi is helping combat the stereotypes through





emphases on scholarship, service, and brotherhood. It's rare to come across such an impressive group of students, and the efforts of Joe Macko and Cory Loveless in growing a strong seed group for the chapter were inestimable.

Both before and after colonization, the alumni of Alpha Pi and other chapters provided valuable guidance and generous monetary support. Thanks to their contributions, the colony was able to move from meeting in the student union building to its own dedicated space at 326 17th Avenue SE, Minneapolis. The new space is attractively furnished and occupies a prime location on Fraternity Row, and I would invite brothers passing through the Twin Cities to call ahead and drop by the location. Alpha Pi couldn't have returned without the alumni, who were highly motivated to see the successful conclusion of the project. In the words of Creig Andreasen, Alpha Pi alumnus and Treasurer of the Theta Chi Alumni Association of Minnesota, "The return of Theta Chi to the University of Minnesota was unfinished business for me. I always felt that we should have been able to do something to keep our chapter alive, but this always rests in the hands of our undergraduate members. They have to be willing to do what's necessary to build a strong chapter."

Alpha Pi is fortunate to have its members dedicated to the chapter's vitality and growth. Fargo native Austin Cariveau took up the significant challenge of becoming the colony's first president. In his words, "Being a founding father has been an amazing experience for me. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to assist 41 other great men in starting a chapter of Theta Chi fraternity. For me, being a founding father is more than a title or just being the first of something. A founding father is someone who sets down the foundation for the future...someone who cares not only about where their chapter will be in 6 months, a year, or even 4 years. I hope that I can look back 20 years from now and see how the future brothers of Alpha Pi have built on the foundation we provided to become a strong and dominant chapter at the University of Minnesota that continues to strive for excellence and provides opportunities for men to better themselves." Austin's leadership was central to ensuring the success of the nascent colony, and he will be remembered as a significant contributor to the chapter's legacy.

The newly-minted chapter held elections at the end of fall semester 2013, and the new executive board has taken their places of leadership. I can say with confidence that the brothers of Alpha Pi have chosen capable and passionate men to lead the chapter through its first challenging steps as a re-emergent Greek organization at the U. When asked to look at the coming year and assess its challenges and opportunities, President Nick Lambert responded: "Recruitment will undoubtedly be our greatest challenge, as interest and involvement in Greek life at the U of M is far lower than other Big Ten schools. While becoming a chapter was a massive success, maintaining our drive and avoiding complacency will be another large challenge as we seek to really take off as a chapter. That being said, there's a lot to look forward to. For one thing, we should be full members on IFC this semester, which will allow us to build connections with the other houses and also participate in all-greek events such as Homecoming and Spring Jam. Additionally, I think that our opportunities for community involvement and philanthropy are limitless. As a nascent chapter, we are at a point where we can pursue whatever kind of events and community service work we want, and that is pretty exciting." The road ahead is not an easy one. That said, if the active members and alumni pursue the ideals of Theta Chi with the same dedication they displayed over the last year and a half, the chapter will both live up to its strong heritage and begin building a new history in which all Theta Chi brothers can take pride.

The re-installation of Alpha Pi marked the end of the colony and the beginning of its new life as a chapter at one of the nation's premier public research institutions. For the alumni of the chapter—and for those other alumni who extended an assisting hand—the return of Alpha Pi is a triumph of legacy.

As a final word, I would urge all brothers to make an effort to attend the Theta Chi Convention, which will be held this summer in Minneapolis from July 16 to 19. Those attending the Convention will have the opportunity to connect with brothers from across the nation and, of course, see the progress Alpha Pi has made in such a short time.

Fraternally,
Jordan Hogness 1836 Φ

NDSU National Championship: Frisco



As brothers in Theta Chi, we all share the common sentiment that we should do all in our power to further the cause of the university in which we were established. This is because North Dakota State University is of course what brought us all together in the first place, and we are all united in our love for the Yellow and the Green. This support comes in many ways; it could be a window decal or a license plate, it could be a volunteer position at an event or in a committee, or maybe it could even be a gift to the NDSU foundation. However, none of these methods is as conducive to showing our Bison Pride as supporting our athletic teams in their endeavors.

We celebrate victory, we console each other in our defeats, but more than anything we stampede into battle with our athletes by supporting them at the event. There is no better example of this camaraderie than marching to the FargoDome during a Bison football game. We even prepare for this excitement with a few hours of fellowship in the form of tailgating, an activity that has become a time-honored tradition amongst thousands of proud NDSU alums. You will find the Bison faithful out in folds in sub-zero temperatures, resolute in their passion for NDSU Football. Their warmth doesn't only come from the many retrofitted charter buses emblazoned with yellow and green, nor the ice-houses and other standing heaters. The real warmth, of course, comes from the sense of community you feel as a part of the NDSU family. As a visitor, you can walk into almost any of the carefully allocated tailgating locations and you will be accommodated graciously with food and drink (provided you are wearing some Bison gear and you never speak of the other "school" up the road).

We have witnessed that this tradition and this community is not restricted to the confines of the FargoDome. The hard work and athletic prowess of our football program has propelled us to the national stage in 2011 and 2012, and each time our NDSU family showed up in throngs. When the Bison took us back to what has seemed to become an annual event at the FCS Championship, the Herd made the most impressive trek south to date. With estimates putting NDSU attendance above 18,000, it would appear that the only thing missing in Texas to disambiguate the experience from a home game in North Dakota was the actual FargoDome.

In proportion to the increased attendance of NDSU fans this year, there was a sizeable increase in Theta Chi participation as well. Phi chapter alumni collected friends, chapter brothers, and their families together in several camps outside of FCS Dallas stadium before the game for a great tailgating experience. Around 75 brothers were estimated to be in attendance, and even some brothers from our newly installed Iota Sigma chapter at Towson University came by to experience some inter-chapter brotherhood. The Bison handily defeated Towson 35-7 to cap the experience.

Kyle Kemmet (98') mentioned that out of the two years he has been present for the event, 2013 was head and shoulders above 2012. "The sheer number and location this year made for an incredible experience." Kemmet mentions that while the experience of tailgating and seeing all of the brothers in Frisco was palpable, the most memorable moment happened after the conclusion of many of the festivities. Kemmet shared that on the drive home from Frisco, TX back to Fargo, ND that his charter bus broke down and he, along with the rest of his family, were seeking assistance in case they were not able to get their transportation up and running. Within a relatively short amount of time of posting on Facebook and Bisonville, brother Kemmet mentioned that he had received many different messages offering help, about 8 of which were Theta Chis in vehicles headed in that direction. "It was unfortunate to be broken down, but seeing that 'assisting hand' being extended was pretty incredible," Kemmet said. Kemmet and his family made it home safely, as did the many other fans who made the trip to witness history in Texas. The experience of community, as well as the story of brother Kemmet's experience, remind us of the famous quote:

*"For the strength of the Herd
is the Bison
And the strength of the Bison
is the Herd."*

It is my sincere hope that I may write another article like this in the near future, brothers. I hope to see you at a Bison game soon!

Fraternally,
Cory Loveless 1767 Φ

ESPN College GameDay

The sun began to rise over the Fargo skyline, and the game day was finally here! NDSU just recently played against Kansas State and came out victorious. Now the Delaware game was beginning to take motion. The anticipation was nerve-wracking, considering all of the national recognition it would bring to NDSU. When College GameDay arrived, I was initially shocked because I was unaware that they always arrive several days earlier. They mainly do this because their goal is to build up excitement for the game. Throughout the day there were events and activities to get the community engaged. Thankfully, with everything that was going on around the FM area, the weather couldn't have been more phenomenal and everything quickly transitioned into what seemed like a pre-homecoming week.

As actives, not only did this include long nights of irresponsibility, but we also got a chance to participate in the events being held during the day. Conveniently almost everything before Saturday took place on Churchill field. As the events took place, music would be playing along to activities such as obstacle courses and campus wide beanbag tournaments. Fortunately several of our brothers were able to win VIP passes to the show Saturday by getting first place on the obstacle course. In addition, we even had some brothers place high enough in the Bags tournament to win the boards and bags made by Home Depot! Another company who sponsored the event was Coke Zero. For Theta Chi's, this meant free items all over the place. Two days straight, we had an endless supply of Coke Zero and Domino's pizza. Afterwards, near the end of one event, they had left over coke and we were able to bring several cases back to the house with us.

As Theta Chis the most exciting part was filming the All-Greek segment that was played during the show Saturday. They asked

for NDSU to pick one house and have all of the Greeks chant and cheer at that location. Obviously we are not the only ones who think our house is the best because they chose to show case Theta Chi. During the filming, we had many brothers hanging out of nearly all of the windows while the other Greeks were in a line in front of the house. In the middle of the yard Jon Lawler and I charged through the crowd of Greeks with the Bison Head for Red Carpet. The producers liked this so much that they made it the center of the filming.

The show itself was a blast as well. Most brothers were up until around 3:00 am the night before and got up at 5:00 am to head downtown. Several people didn't even go to bed. When we got downtown it was full of people and was getting more compact with every minute. The excitement there was immense, especially when the cameras were on the crowd. When I look back on it all, I can honestly say it was one of the highlights of my college career and gave me memories I will remember for the rest of my life.

Fraternally,
Anthony Miller 1820 Φ



Left to Right: Anthony Miller, Jon Lawler

Homecoming @ NDSU

One of my favorite times of the year is celebrating homecoming. For an alumnus, this is the perfect time to come back to Fargo and celebrate with fellow alumni and active brothers. This year, I traveled several hours playing the songs we used to listen to all the time in college like Thunderstruck, Friday, Championship, and maybe some Cleveland Rocks (modifying it of course to the Fargo version). The excitement built as I got fired up to be back to my stomping grounds!! The first stop is always Chubs Pub for some frosties! Walking into Chubs Pub, I saw all my brothers from the past and met some of the newest brothers of the house. I began rekindling old relationships and was just in my "happy place" where all is good and fun times are about to begin.

Saturday was game day and holy man was I fired up! I had my bison/OX hoodie and green and gold gear on with a few drinks in my hand and off I was to tailgating. Bison tailgating is one of the

greatest college experiences and brotherhood building activities you can possibly have. You again get to catch up with your fellow brothers and meet some more new ones as you partake in the tailgating festivities. If you're lucky enough you might even get to try a specialty drink from Peter Gates. Then it's time to head into the dome to experience one of the greatest games in all of college football. I got my Bison Pride on by yelling, screaming, and shouting all game long!! After the game we celebrated the hard earned victory with a stop at the Bison Turf, and then back to the house for more brotherhood building. Once Sunday hits, I knew that it was all over but would come again in 364 days!

"Go Bison!"

Fraternally,
Ben Nicholas 1796 Φ

Theta Chi For Life 2013 Donors

Dennis Agnew	Bill Flaget	Craig Johnson	Jeremy Mueller
Michael Anderson	Scott Fournier	Kyle Kemmet	John Nordgaard
Rod Bertsch	Peter Gates	William Kranzler	Erik Peterson
Kyle Blake	Greg Gebeke	Craig Kubik	Gary Rosevold
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James Clysdale	James Hardwick	Mike Loughheed	Mark Williamson
Bernie Dardis	Kevin Helland	Cory Loveless	Richard Wollenberg
Stan Dardis	Clarence Holloway	Jeff McInnes	Dale Wunderlich
Jon Dickson	Adam Homelvig	David Miller	
Steven Erbstoesser	Dave Hynek	Glenn Mueller	

Transfer to Phi Chapter

Within two weeks after returning home for the summer from my freshman year at Ripon College, I knew I was going to be transferring to North Dakota State University. I had not quite come to terms with it though. My good friend Isaac Svebakken helped me make the decision, and with the promise of already having a friend at my new school, I decided to transfer. This was a big leap and a bold move for me. Never in my life had I made a conscious decision to leave such good friends behind, knowing that my relationship with them would never be the same. I was nervous, and scared, but tried not to let it show. The joy of summer break and the time spent with old friends back home proved to be an excellent distraction. Yet, in the back of my mind lingered the nagging knowledge that I still had to tell my friends from Ripon College about my decision. It would not be easy to do.

The first two of my friends that I told were also two of my closest friends from my previous alma mater. They came and visited me in the beginning of July, and it was during their visit that I told them my plans. I figured I should tell them face to face. I told the rest of my friends over the phone, which made it easier and less dramatic for me. By the end of July, all of my friends from Ripon knew that I would not be coming back. I felt bad, but a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. Now I was free to enjoy the rest of my summer, and the fast approaching first day of school became my new main subject of concern.

Being a part of Theta Chi Fraternity and knowing that I would be living with my fraternity brothers helped remove some of my worries. I knew that I would be able to ask for help whenever I needed it, and that I would quickly make friends. I did not foresee, though, just how quickly I would make friends. It took me an entire two days to feel comfortable speaking with everyone in Phi chapter. It was a pleasant surprise, my first two days at Ripon College were not nearly as easy and it took me weeks to finally have a solid group of people to spend time with. Not at Phi chapter. I walked through that door and was welcomed into a home full of love, and respect.

Two major decisions of mine have been reassured since I have transferred to North Dakota State University and Phi Chapter of Theta Chi, the first being that joining this fraternity was a great decision. I am constantly in awe with the assisting hand. The second is that joining the community at NDSU has given me a network of friends that I will enjoy for the rest of my life.

Fraternally,
Jay Homan 1917 Φ

International Member of Phi Chapter

Growing up in India, I always had a dream of pursuing higher education in the U.S. As this dream started coming closer and closer to reality, I started researching seriously about the American college life and the complete college experience. Naturally, I fell upon the “Greek system” during my research. The more I looked into it, the more I thought to myself, “It’s all about partying.” I wasn’t sure if it would be the right thing for me. And I left the idea at that.

Fast forward to fall 09, when I started my semester at NDSU, and I happened to stop by at the Theta Chi table at the fall Student Org fair one day. I casually chit chatted with brother Dean Derfus who following the standard recruiting norms, invited me to stop by at the house sometime, which I decided to do so later. And that right there was the start of my lifelong association with the Phi chapter. I realized how wrong I was when I thought the Greek system was all about partying. I slowly started learning the ideals of Theta Chi and what “brotherhood” really meant. Being one of the first international members of the Phi chapter, all the actives at that time showed special interest and at times went out of their way to ensure I was comfortable in this new “culture”.

In no time, I found myself as part of the Phi family. This new family helped me understand and assimilate into the American culture and traditions, which obviously were foreign to me. Whether it was learning that Ronald McDonald house does not actually belong to a certain Ronald McDonald, or finding out how Paul Bunyan ran all over Minnesota once, or learning about the Thanksgiving meal tradition in America, and countless other things about the American way of life, I was able to assimilate effortlessly, thanks to the Phi family.

Similarly, I enjoyed sharing stories about India and my culture back home, introducing Phi brethren to Indian food and fostering closer bonds at the same time was a thoroughly memorable experience. One of the many things that made Phi chapter unique and

stand out from the other fraternities on campus was its ability to assimilate actives quickly. During my years as an active, we saw even more international students join. Every year, NDSU gets exchange students from all parts of the world for a semester or two. At one time, we had actives from India, Sweden, Netherlands and England, which made Phi chapter diverse.

Brother Alessandro Firetto, who was part of the Phi family for a year recalls how he was made welcome by the actives here, and how this part of the U.S education system was nothing he had seen back home in England. Brother Otto Velander, from Sweden mentioned how joining Theta Chi helped him learn and absorb the upper mid-western culture. Brother Steffen Axel Talman, from Netherlands mentioned how the fraternity system is nothing like the education system back home. He said apart from the wonderful social and philanthropical aspect, what made Phi chapter unique was its strict emphasis on academic excellence. The constant stress on high grades was what made him achieve his goal GPA with ease.

Looking back, I think having international students as actives was a great idea that enriched Phi chapter in numerous ways. The things that myself and other brothers from various countries learned, and the various things that we got to share with the actives from U.S was truly unique. Learning about “Extending a helping hand” and living the ideals of Theta Chi in the everyday life even after leaving NDSU is the legacy that has left the strongest impression on me from my time at NDSU. I hope Phi chapter will keep recruiting international students in times to come. Without this, I would not have been able to be, where I am today.

Fraternally,
Sandeep Loi 1826 Φ



Left to Right: Lief Pearson, Dave Enyart, Joe Heruth, Steffen Tallman, and Sandeep Loi

Memories with Alumni

Looking back on Phi Chapter's history, we've had many actives graduate and take the next step of becoming alumni. When these brothers leave the house, the current actives are left responsible to pass down the traditions and ideals of Theta Chi. As the editor of the Phi Arrow, I had the honor of meeting with Jason Gates ('02) to ask him a few questions on what his memories and traditions of Phi Chapter consisted of:

Q: While in Theta Chi, what Philanthropy events do you remember being the most rewarding? What made them rewarding and worth the extra effort for your community?

A: *The Johnny Holm Dance. It took place during the first week of school every year. It was a huge event and big fundraiser, usually we had 4000-5000 attendees. Another thing our chapter played an active role in was helping the YWCA. We would usually do painting, moving stuff, or whatever they needed done. It was an enjoyable experience because we were motivated to give back and help the community. Another main motivator was that it was a lot of fun just hanging around the brothers and having a good time.*

Q: During Rush, what are some of the events that you guys came up with? Would you say they were successful on getting people interested with the house and the fraternity? How big were your usual pledge classes?

A: *Some of the things we did were touch football in Churchill Field, a car smash, 4th floor drop, and sledding at the dike. These events all seemed to bring people to the house and give us a chance to get them interested in Theta Chi. We usually had 15-20 guys in the fall and 5-10 in the spring.*

Q: During your time, have there been any Alumni that you've met that really stood out? If so, what made them stand out among other alumnus

A: *My rook dad Dennis Agnew, he is a memorable guy. If you put 50 people in a room that didn't really know each other, most of them would remember Dennis before the end of the evening. He usually did something that got everyone's attention. While being a lot of fun, he always got the work done and is a great leader in Theta Chi and his community.*

Q: What was the most memorable trip you went on with your fellow brothers? If so, what was it? Why was it a memorable past experience?

A: *During my freshman year, I came to the house after class on Friday, and Pat Rodgers said, "Let's go to Winnipeg!" I replied with "Sure, I suppose I could do that." Then I got stuck driving. We managed to get two other guys to go along with us and left*

moments later. Let's see, what did we do... a lot of fun was had in Winnipeg, we'll just leave it at that. By the time we got back to Fargo it was around 5:00 a.m. and definitely time for shut-eye. But that was not going to happen, because at 7:00 a.m. there was a revving chainsaw (ran by none other than Andy Rodgers) to wake me up. I had forgotten we were going to cut wood on Saturday! This made for a long day of cutting up dead Elm trees at a farm outside of town. (Which were contaminated with Dutch Elm Disease we later found out from the Fargo forestry service.) That night there was a "gathering" at the house too, which made for a long stretch of little sleep, but it was a great time.

Q: If you lived in the house, what did you enjoy most about the experience? Would you recommend to other new actives if asked?

A: *I lived in the house for eight semesters while at NDSU. I think that all members should live in the house at some point. It offers an experience that can't be obtained from living out of house. You learn how the chapter operates, get to know everybody and it's hard to miss events that are going on. It's probably the only time of your life you get to live under the same roof as 30 of your closest friends.*

Q: When looking at fraternities, why did you end up deciding on Theta Chi? What did Theta Chi offer, that others didn't?

A: *I didn't consider any of the other fraternities because there was a large group of friends from my hometown that joined Theta Chi. My first night in the dorms I was dragged over to the house by Troy Hedberg and Aaron Ramsdell. After that, I began to meet other Theta Chi's and had my mind made up before rush week. I liked that Theta Chi offered a diverse group of people.*

Q: Reflecting on main, what events were your favorite to participate in? What made you want to participate?

A: *I can remember a lot of red carpet wrestling. One night I knocked back one of my front teeth. My parents would not be impressed! Luckily, we got it pushed back into place that night and later I visited a dentist to fix it up. There were fun times had on main, as well as the rest of the house. Overall I couldn't have asked for a better college experience.*

Jason Gates was born and raised in the town of Mohall, ND. He came to Phi in the fall of '97 where he made the decision to become a pledge. In his time at Phi Chapter, he served as the President ('02) and Treasurer. Jason has served his fraternity in leadership, and numerous philanthropy events over the years and still continues to serve as the Alumni Council Treasurer.

Career Connections



As a recent graduate, I'm realizing more and more how important professional networking really is. That old adage "It's not what you know, it's who you know," for better or worse, holds a lot of truth in the real world. That's bad news if you spent all of your time studying locked up in your dorm room, but great news if you joined an awesome fraternity like Phi Chapter of Theta Chi! Since the founding years, Phi Chapter has consistently remained as a terrific networking tool for both potential employees and employers (see Theta Chi, Bobcat Chapter).

Now having an "in" at a company is beneficial for internship seekers and new graduates for obvious reasons. However, using Theta Chi as a hiring pool can be greatly beneficial for employers as well. Having that common bond of brotherhood in a fraternity can do a lot for building an instant rapport with your potential employees. In essence, this means there is a certain degree of higher obligation that active members hold when working with alumni.

In addition, you are picking from an already pared down group of individuals. Since Phi Chapter's beginning, its main purpose has been to make better men through the means of high academic achievement, and brotherhood. To this day, we still instill these standards for both pledges and active members. Therefore, there is a high likelihood that the majority of potential job fillers from Phi Chapter will meet and exceed academic job requirements. In addition, the recruitment process, in general, does a pretty good job of eliminating the "riff raff" - something that you don't always get when you recruit at a career fair, where anyone can show up.

Some other benefits of hiring out of Theta Chi:

- **Leadership Training** – Many majors (e.g., engineering) don't provide very much as far as formal leadership training goes. Active members have opportunities to take on Executive roles in the house and gain leadership and organizational skills not attainable in standard coursework.
- **Plays well with others** – Phi Chapter is a melting pot of personality types all under one roof. Active members constantly need to resolve disagreements in order to achieve the overarching goals of the chapter. This ability to effectively interact with many different types of people is directly translatable to the workplace.
- **Inside Information** – Speaking with recently graduated alumni and actives can give you great recommendations for interviewees. There's a good chance you can get accurate inside information on individual skill sets prior to an interview.

Recruiting through Theta Chi is a great way for Alumni to give back to Phi Chapter, and also a great way to eliminate a lot of the guesswork that goes along with recruiting. I know being a member of Phi Chapter has not only made me a better man, but a better employee.

Fraternally,
Joe Heruth 1794 Φ

If you're looking for possible interns, or new hiring, contact:
president@phionline.org

Big Farms, Younger Farmers

By: Jonathan Knutson (Forum News Service)



Dana and Travis Dagman farm near Enderlin. Their operation is about 2,500 acres, big by historical standards, but relatively modest in current agriculture.

Until a few years ago, Travis Dagman was an architect in the Twin Cities. His wife, Dana, was a facilities manager there.

Now they farm about 2,500 acres near Enderlin. By historical standards, that's a large farm. By current standards, it's not.

The Dagmans say they want to build a business and raise their three children in a rural setting.

“What really drew me into this is the quality of life,” says Dana, who grew up in a Minneapolis suburb.

The Dagmans and their farm reflect two important trends in Upper Midwest agriculture.

Both in their early 30s, they are among a growing number of young farmers, a generational turning of the guard.

Though there aren't hard numbers to document it, area farmers, on balance, almost certainly are younger today than they were in 2007, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture put the average age of North Dakota farmers at 56.5.

The Dagman operation also reflects that farms, on balance, keep getting bigger.

In 1992, there were about 15,400 farms with 500 to 2,000 acres in North Dakota. In 2007, the last year for which statewide data is available, the number had declined to about 10,200, according to the Census of Agriculture, which is conducted every five years.

In recent years, the number of farms with 2,000 to 4,999 acres — once considered relatively large — has declined, too. North Dakota had 5,276 farms of that size in 2007, down from 5,484 in 2002.

In contrast, the number of North Dakota farms with more than 5,000 acres rose from 552 in 1992 to 1,000 in 2002 and 1,214 in 2007.

Farm machinery keeps getting bigger and more complex, which favors bigger operations, says Andy Swenson, North Dakota State University Extension Service farm management specialist.

Also, strong farm profits in recent years encouraged large operators to buy or rent farmland at high prices, sometimes at the expense of smaller operators who had farmed the land, Swenson and others say.

Travis says the biggest operations have some advantages over medium-sized farms such as his.

Bigger operators “can afford some nicer equipment, if they want to. But I think we can do things efficiently enough so that we're not at a huge disadvantage,” Travis says.

“We can update equipment and move into precision agriculture when we have to,” he says.

As for buying land, “We can't be making any big splashes. We can't go out and buy two quarters of land,” he says. “But we're still looking for opportunities to grow.”

Regional Trend

The trend toward bigger farms exists across the region. According to USDA:

- In South Dakota, the number of farms with 2,000 to 4,999 acres fell from 3,674 in 2002 to 3,550 in 2007. The number of farms with 5,000 or more acres rose from 1,819 in 2002 to 1,942 in 2007.
- In Montana, the number of farms with 2,000 to 4,999 acres fell from 3,909 in 2002 to 3,632 in 2007. The number of farms with 5,000 or more acres rose from 3,207 in 2002 to 3,224 in 2007.
- In Minnesota, which has more and smaller farms than Montana and the Dakotas, the trend exists, too, but in different categories. The number of Minnesota farms with 1,000 to 1,999 acres fell from 4,554 in 2002 to 4,264 in 2007. The number of farms with 2,000 to 4,999 acres rose from 1,715 in 2002 to 1,767 in 2007.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture found that Montana farmers on average were 58.4 years old, with Minnesota farmers averaging 56.3, South Dakota farmers 55.7 and U.S. farmers overall 57.1. In contrast, the average age of all workers was 41 years, according to U.S. government figures.

The 2012 Census of Agriculture will be released later this year. It's expected to show the average age of farmers across the region has declined since the 2007 census, in part because attractive crop prices encouraged more young adults to begin farming.

The new census also is expected to show that farms, on average, have continued to get bigger.

"I don't think there's any doubt about that," Swenson says. Nor does he see any reason to think the trend will end.

"The only thing that, potentially, could stop it would be a change in government policy," one that would favor smaller operations over big farms, he says.

"I'm not saying that would be good or bad. I'm just identifying it as something that could stop the trend," he says.

Farms of relatively modest size can continue to succeed, provided they're managed well and have access to land, Swenson says.

Virgil Dagman, Travis' father, says small- and medium-sized farms face "challenges" today. But he's optimistic that his son and daughter-in-law will succeed.

Having access to land is a big plus for them, he says.

Travis and Dana rent some of the land in their operation. But much of it once was farmed by Virgil.

"Unless you have a connection to somebody with land, it's almost impossible to get started in farming," Travis says, echoing a point made by almost everyone in agriculture.

It also helps that Travis has off-farm income from his part-time job with an Enderlin tax preparer, Virgil says.

Off-farm income always is helpful for farm operations, particularly ones of modest size, Swenson says.

Travis and Dana also say they saved quite a bit of money from their pre-farming jobs, which provided a big boost when they entered farming.

Moving to the farm

Travis, 33, grew up on the family farm near Enderlin.

He attended North Dakota State University in Fargo, where he met Dana, 30. They and moved to the Twin Cities and pursued their respective careers.

In 2008, however, Travis began coming back to work on the farm part-time while continuing to work as an architect.

In 2011, he and his wife moved their family to Enderlin to become full-time farmers.

"It was hard to leave the job," particularly since it offered health insurance, Travis says. "But we weren't getting any younger, and we just decided it was time to make the move."

He says it's good he worked outside agriculture.

"I'm glad I had the chance to do something else. If I hadn't (and gone straight into farming), I might always have wondered if I should have tried something else," he says.

His father feels the same way.

"We're so glad he came back. But it's important to try different things, too," Virgil says.

'Patient growth'

The Dagmans raise wheat, corn and soybeans. Wheat generally is planted and harvested earlier than corn and beans, allowing the Dagmans to spread out their work load.

Travis says he and Dana seek to "make the most efficient use of money."

That means updating their farm equipment, but not buying new. Most of their equipment is at least 10 years old; the newest piece dates to 2006.

"You can still get work done with older combines and older tractors," Travis says.

Building two new grain bins was a prudent investment, too, he says.

The Dagmans are looking for opportunities to expand their farm. "Growth is always the objective. But it needs to be patient growth, finding the right opportunities," he says.

He also thinks farms will continue to get bigger.

"But I think there will still be opportunities for people who want to have smaller farms," he says.

VP of Health & Safety



From, ThetaChi.org

Theta Chi Fraternity launched Sacred Purpose, a movement to improve the health, safety and overall wellbeing of its members. As part of Sacred Purpose, the Fraternity has created an international Director of Health and Safety Programming, and will create two additional leadership positions to serve at the local and chapter levels.

Undergraduate Theta Chi leaders can be elected to the Vice President of Health and Safety, the third-highest ranking officer in the Fraternity's chapter leadership structure, and Theta Chi alumni can serve as the Health and Safety Advisor.

These on-campus leaders will be charged with recognizing the emotional, physical and relational needs of chapter members and proactively facilitating access to assistance and resources for those members. In addition, Sacred Purpose leaders will twice

annually host educational programs that are open to the entire campus community, and coordinate guest speakers who will provide inspiration, ideas and resources for advancing Sacred Purpose within each chapter.

"Inspired by our most deeply cherished fraternal value—the assisting hand—the mission of Sacred Purpose is simple: to inspire a better brotherhood and deeper level of mutual caring for one another," said Shawn Bennett, director of health and safety programming for Theta Chi. National President Dick Elder affirms, "This is a bold move for Theta Chi, but we have never been afraid of being bold and taking on leadership roles by making decisions that support our values and our lifelong commitment to the 'Helping Hand' while enhancing the Theta Chi experience."

Executive Director Mike Mayer is also committed to the initiative. "The Sacred Purpose movement is an essential strategic initiative for the Fraternity." "It is encouraging to see members deepen their commitment to one another and to Theta Chi." "Sacred purpose is a big idea that is widely supported at all levels of the Fraternity." "Most excitedly, it is an idea that was sparked by an undergraduate task force composed of chapter presidents."

Shawn Bennett
Director of Health & Safety Programming

Announcements

Births:

Casey Severance: Stephanie and I had our first boy,
Harrison Robert Severance
Born on 6/8/2013

Erik Peterson: Sabrina and I had our first boy,
Deklan Myher Peterson
Born on 10/2/13

Travis Dagman: Dana and I had our third boy,
Grayson Travis Dagman
Born on 11/29/13

Matt Olson: My wife Mackenzie Burkhammer and I had our first boy,
Judson Henry Olson
Born on 12/15/13

Joey Specht: Traci and I had our first boy,
Born on 1/3/14

Ben Frick: Jessica and I had our first boy,
Preston Robert Frick
Born on 01/23/14

Lori and James Clysdale: had our first girl,
Agnes Marie Clysdale
Born on 8/18/13

Marriages:

Erich Bittle: Lindsay Bittle and I were married on 3/23/13.

David Eisenbraun and **Lindsey Anderson** will be getting married June 21st 2014 in Fargo ND at fargo first assembly. Ceremony is open to all!

Congratulations Everyone!

Editor's Note

In a state where the winter seems like an everlasting tundra, I'm delighted to say that summer is on its way! Before we all know we'll be going swimming, fishing, and enjoying everything that the great outdoors has to offer! Mainly however, I'll be looking forward to creating new memories with my fellow Theta Chis. Being recently new to the fraternity, in my short time I've already met brothers that I'll remember for a lifetime. When I first joined, I was surprised on how much the concept of brotherhood was emphasized. Although, I guess I didn't truly know the pure meaning of brotherhood yet. It's something that has to be earned, and I'm still earning it as of today. To summarize this, I basically just wanted to take the time to write out my appreciation for being a part of this outstanding group of individuals. I can't wait to get to know future activities, and old alumni!

To touch a little more on the *Arrow* side of things, this whole experience has been nothing but phenomenal! As the current editor of the *Phi Arrow*, I've been gifted the chance to get to know many terrific brothers. Just simply having the privilege of being able to get to know others better through interviews and articles make this job priceless. Without a doubt, this is something I'll look back on for future years to come and be honored that I was able to be apart of this experience. As always, extend the helping hand, support your fellow brothers, and live according to the principals on which Theta Chi was founded upon. I wish you all the best of spirits, and health!

Fraternally,
Brandon Davis 1926 Φ

Pig Banquet 2014

2014 Pig Banquet, 3/29/14

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