

Mission Statement: To promote knowledge, advance culture, and build character

THE FAXCHI

PHI ARROW



Spring 2006

THE TACH I

Active Chapter President Letter

Hello Brothers of Phi Chapter,

I hope this letter finds you doing well this New Year. This year marks Phi's 89th year and is the 150th year of Theta Chi Fraternity's existence! Actives and alumni around the country are gearing up for the anniversary convention celebration this summer.

Let me first introduce myself and tell you about what we've been up to here at Phi Chapter. I grew up on a small grains farm outside of Mohall, ND. I am currently in my 4th year of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering. I have been a member of Theta Chi since the fall of 2002 and have held the positions of Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, House Manager, and President.

Phi Chapter had a very successful year, receiving its 7th Alter Award last summer. This is very exciting, as we now have the most Alter Awards of any chapter. Last fall we were able to team our efforts with the Women of Alpha Gamma Delta for a very successful homecoming week. The highlight was winning the award for the best parade float at the end of the week. Granted, the weather wasn't as cooperative as we would have liked, but it is always a lot of fun seeing and visiting with the alumni that come back for this great event. We've also been active in intramural sports – softball, basketball, volleyball, and football.



We are now operating in our second year under the Alcohol Free Housing Waiver program. Chapters can apply for a waiver of the Alcohol free housing policy by application process annually if they meet requirements of GPA, risk management, campus relations, and conference participation. Details of the program are available at www.thetachi.org.

Our rush numbers have been very good, and our new members are proving to be men of character and leadership. It's great to see the enthusiasm from our young guys. We've been having mid-year recruitment events, and we're looking forward to a strong spring rush. By the time Pig Banquet rolls around, we should have lots of new faces around here. As always, if you know of any potential new members, please pass that information on to us.

I'd like to take this opportunity to ask that if you know of anyone who isn't receiving the arrow, please ask them to visit the website, phionline.org, to update their contact information. I would also like to encourage you

THE Φ AXCHI

to make use of the Phi Forum, also on the website at <http://www.phionline.org/cgi-bin/ib3/ikonboard.cgi> to see who's planning to attend Pig Banquet and to let people know if you plan to attend. Last year we had a terrific turnout, and hopefully this year's will be even better! If you have any questions feel free to send me an email to phipres@yahoo.com.

Fraternally,
Peter Gates
1677
Phi Chapter President



The logo for Theta Chi, featuring the Greek letters Θ and Χ in a stylized font, with the letters T, H, E, A, C, H, I arranged around them.

A Letter from the Phi Chapter Alumni Council President

Greetings Phi Alumni, Actives and Friends,

It was very gratifying to see an excellent turnout at both Pig Banquet and Homecoming this past year. It's amazing how far a couple of phone calls or emails can go to connect with classmates and make plans to reunite. The guest book shows about 66 attending last year's Pig Banquet. I recall years when we had less than 20, and discussion centered on discontinuing it as an annual event. It has also changed in format over the years ranging from a formal banquet with wives attending and a speaker, to strictly stag at the Chapter House. While the meal has not been considered strictly "stag" the past couple years, there have not been many "female guests" attending. I know a lot of spouses that spent plenty of undergraduate time at the Theta Chi house, and they like to renew acquaintances as well. So, if your significant other would like to attend, that is fine. Just keep in mind they will be a minority.

We received an inquiry last summer from Dick Danielson (who also provided a great tribute letter in this issue) as to when Pig Banquet would be held. Fortunately that was one of our first orders of business to start the year. While the date has been moved some over the 30 years that I have seen, we are trying to standardize on the first weekend in March. But to be sure, check www.phionline.org, as that could vary from year to year, especially when the 1st falls on a weekend.

We have made some progress on researching scholarship options that have been discussed in recent years. Everyone seems to agree that it would be nice, but the task doesn't have the same urgency as rebuilding the chapter house after the fire a few years back. It would take a similar commitment of donations, although to a lesser degree. Please let me know your thoughts on a scholarship fund; either by posting a reply on the Alumni Board under the Phi Forum on the website, or by email. Mortgage payment contributions from the Theta Chi for Life fund helped ensure the House will still be there when you come back for Pig Banquet. In the same way, a scholarship fund would strengthen membership by attracting new members and rewarding them for their service and contribution to the Chapter.

I have enjoyed my time as Alumni President, even though I have found I am not able to commit the time I did twenty some years ago, when I first held the post. Fortunately, things are better organized and the requirements were pretty minor. There will be some new positions up for election, so please give some thought to serving if you are in the area. We have met quarterly this past year, with only a few other obligations.

Thanks for a great year and hope to see you at Pig Banquet

Paul "Otto" Backlund

THE FAX HI

NDSU Research and Technology Park

Greetings Brothers,

I was asked to write an article related to my current position at NDSU working in the Research and Technology Park (RTP). I graduated in 1991 with a degree in electrical engineering and went to work for Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids IA. After 13 years there I found my way back to Fargo in



May 2004 to take a position in the Center for Nanoscale Science and Engineering on campus. It's been a great move. As many of you know NDSU has initiated many positive changes in the last 5-6 years. Some of the more significant changes include the move to D-I, enrollment exceeding 12,000 students the last two fall semesters, and a significant increase in graduate programs and research activities. In addition there are many new and updated buildings on campus. It is a very different university than it was 15 years ago. The Research and Technology Park is located in the northwest corner of campus west of the Fargodome. The first tenant in the RTP was Phoenix International, now part of John Deere, which opened a new product introduction facility in 2001. Two NDSU research buildings have been erected since then which were ingeniously named Research 1 and Research 2. As I write this there are also 3 new buildings under construction in the RTP. Alien Technology Corp, a worldwide leader in RFID (radio frequency identification) products is building their primary production facility here. A Center for Technology Enterprise is being built to serve as an "incubator" facility for new business startups as well as established companies that want to increase their ties to university research. A Candlewood Suites hotel is also going up. So what is the goal of all this? A primary goal is really to stimulate economic development in the state of North Dakota, to create new jobs, facilitate expansion of existing companies, help new startup companies, as well as entice out of state companies to move to North Dakota. It's well known that NDSU grads are very successful out in the workforce. It would sure be nice for them to have more opportunities to be successful here in North Dakota! If you're back in town for Pig Banquet or any other time I'd really encourage you to take a drive around campus and see some of the changes for yourself.

Fraternally,

Aaron Reinholz

Phi 1281

The logo for Theta Chi, featuring the Greek letters Θ and Χ in a stylized font, with the letters T, H, E, A, C, H, I arranged around them.

Brother Dick Danielson sends this letter of gratitude and advice

I don't have much for the Arrow except some drivel about catching up with guys from "the old days". I've had the opportunity to do that recently, when I was in Chicago and took another upperclassman, Clarence Holloway '72, out to dinner. It was a great visit, but the reason for my gesture was to take the time to honor and thank Clarence (known to many as "Ocho") for his mentorship and guidance for me when I was a sophomore. Ocho and another brother, Randy Morris (known to us as "Goof"), took me aside and asked about my academic status. I admitted that I was in my sixth major and wondering about its relevance. Hearing that, my brothers whisked me off to the NDSU Speech and Hearing Department to introduce me to a major I'd never ever heard of before. Here, they said, was the dream major for me: not hard academics, mostly listening and a little writing, and classes filled with good looking girls. Consequently, I joined seven other Theta Chi's and 70 females in the NDSU Speech Pathology department. Ironically, the fit has been perfect for me. Although I later found that classes did get a little harder and the girls were not always gorgeous, I am so grateful for the helping hand that was extended to me at NDSU... introducing me to a career field that, had I gone to any other school or not ever had those brothers in there pitching (to cite the glowing opportunities for audiologists that brother Gus Mueller '69 extolled), I would have missed. Thanks Goof, Ocho, Gus, Steve-O, Erby, Parnelli, and others for helping me.

How might this story be of interest to brothers in the active chapter now? I'd like them to consider this as one example of how fraternity life can mold a man... not just as the recipient of support ... but in how your position as a brother can positively influence others. Through teaching, sharing, and demonstrating new perspectives, you can positively shape your brothers for tomorrow. I sometimes thought, especially when I was trying to get some sleep in the house, that learning "truth, temperance, and tolerance" meant that I learned to accept guys who were totally different than people I'd known in my youth. But there's no doubt that the virtues (and some of the vices) of my fraternity brothers truly widened my world, accelerated my maturity, and added to my education exponentially.

I'm very pleased to read the reports of recognition given to Phi for your contributions and leadership. You clearly have a better standard (or better public relations writer) than we had when trying to avoid Double Secret Probation back then (Animal House was little too close to the truth). Wonderful. Keep up the good work. Like I said, you are influencing other students in a mighty way, including those on campus who have NOT pledged Theta Chi.

Dick Danielson, PhD
(Colonel, US Army, retired)
(Frustrated Fraternity Standards Chair at Phi, 1973)
(Emeritus member, Sleeper 322)

THE Θ A X C H I

150th Anniversary Convention

Taken from Allan J. Calarco's article in *The Rattle*

In the Spring 2005 issue of *The Rattle*, I wrote an article about all the plans for the upcoming 2006 Convention to be held at Norwich University, in Northfield, Vermont, from June 8 to 11. I talked about the list of committees, and ways in which you can become involved. I spoke of the challenge of making the event "the best ever, memorable, and a true celebration of the best our Fraternity has to offer." Here are a few thoughts to consider as you help us fulfill that vision.

- It will simply be the largest gathering of men of Theta Chi in history.
- We are returning to our roots, Norwich University...our home for so long... and the town of Norwich, where it all began.
- We are going to acknowledge the contributions of 150 Brothers and "others" who have made our Fraternity great.
- For the first time in 75 years, the ENTIRE convention will visit the final resting places of Brothers Freeman and Chase.
- The Grand Chapter recently approved, with the agreement of family members, a refurbishing of the Founders headstones. Brother Nick Collins, Alpha chapter, is leading that effort and tells us that "the restoration will last 300 years"!
- We will conduct a memorial service at the Monument in the town of Norwich, the location of our founding 150 years ago.
- It will be the largest reunion of previous Volunteers and Fraternity Staff in history.
- We will demonstrate the oldest known copy of our Fraternity's Ritual.

CONFERENCE FACTS

Other fast facts about the 150th Celebration event:

1. Convention sessions, including Grand Chapter elections, will be the first order of business...
2. All attendees will have their photo taken at the Monument which was dedicated in 1931 in the town of Norwich, Vermont. We will have ceremonies on the town square next to the Monument...
3. The original Alter Award, Colley Award, and a number of other historical items and photographs will be displayed during the event...
4. Special alumni and guest speakers will offer keynote addresses...
5. The closing banquet on the Norwich University campus will be memorable like no other Theta Chi event in recent history...

This event will simply be the largest gathering of Theta Chi members in history!!! A true once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Early Bird Registration, prior to 3/1/06 = \$245

Standard Registration, 3/1/06 - 4/30/06 = \$295

Late Registration, after 5/1/06 = \$395

THE THETA CHI

An overview of national and regional happenings

Over the last year, it has been a privilege to represent Phi Chapter at Theta Chi's national and regional conventions; including the Chapter Leadership Convention (CLC), Mid-Year Leadership Challenges (MYLC), and the B. Nelson Deranian President's Conference. Many members of Phi chapter have attended at least one of these conferences, with six actives going to MYLC last fall.

CLC took place in Dayton, Ohio. The conference consisted of many 'breakout sessions' where members from all over the country get in small groups to discuss things such as risk management, chapter finances, and recruitment strategies. There was also a demonstration of the Alumnus Initiate Ritual. The weekend was highlighted by a Q&A session with Mr. Theta Chi, Howard R. Alter Jr.

MYLC was a slightly shorter drive to Drake University in Iowa. After some slight navigation problems, we managed to find our way there. We participated in several team building activities, a game of Theta Chi Jeopardy, and met some of the men from the Interest Group at Alpha Pi from the University of Minnesota, who should be installed as a chapter by early next year.

Just a few blocks from the International Headquarters in Indianapolis, the Deranian President's Conference was held. There was a stronger focus on officer skills here than at other conferences. Dave Westol, Theta Chi's Chief Executive Officer, also presented a brief 'History of the Fraternity', which included some very interesting things that can't be read in books or on the website.

On the national level, Theta Chi is concentrating on growth and expansion. Showing the success of this new effort, there are currently 11 colonies and interest groups full of men hoping to one day become Brothers in Theta Chi. There is also a lot of work being done to prepare for the 150th Anniversary Convention. I hope to see many active and alumnus Brothers from Phi there!

Fraternally,
Joel Gifford
1696

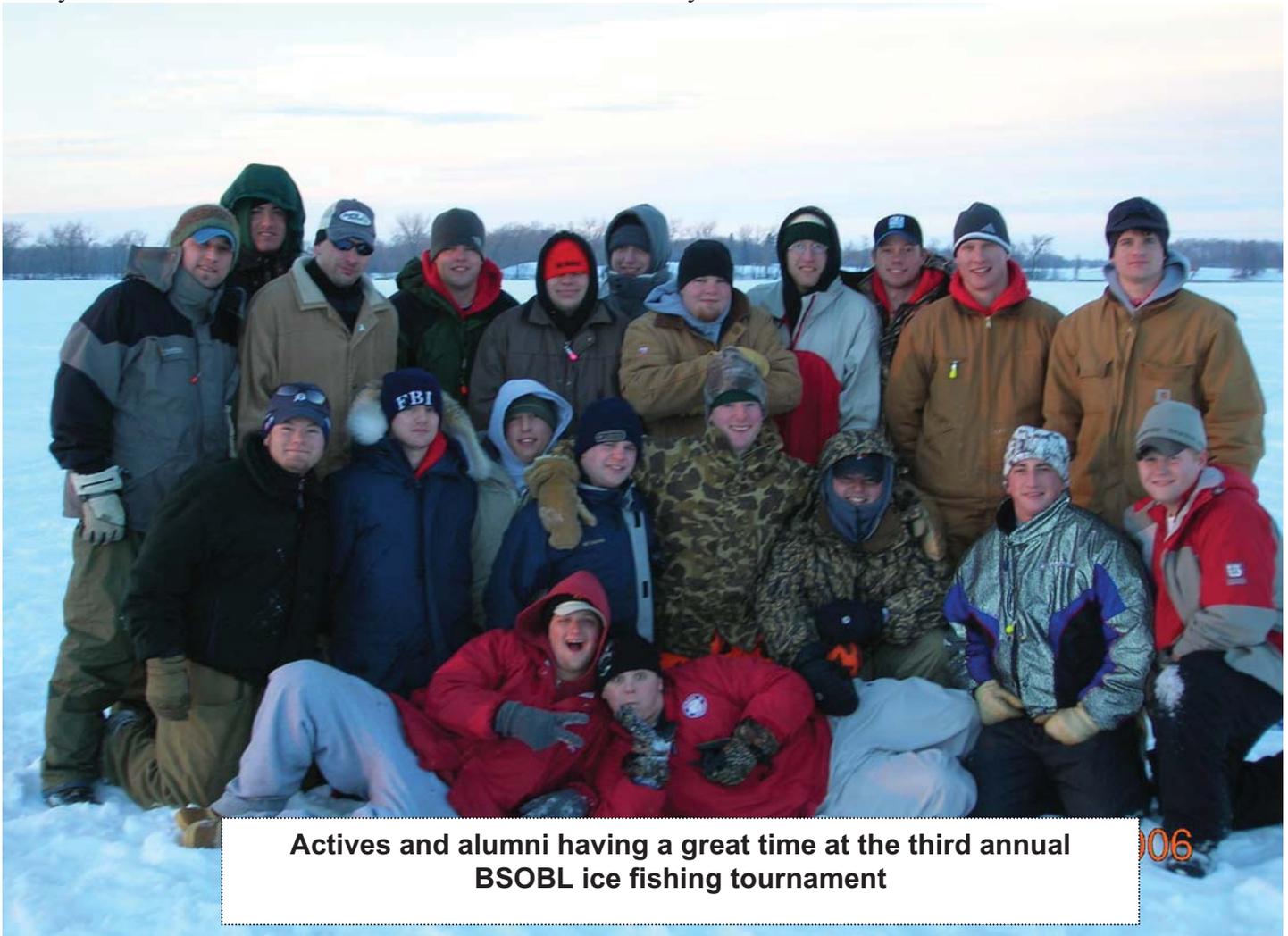


THE AXCHI

Theta Chi Fishing Tournament

The third annual BSOBL (Biggest Son of a Bitch in the Lake) Fishing Tournament was held January 14th. Phi alumni Pat Tobkin and Dave Goetz hosted over 20 Theta Chis and one Dream Girl this year. Festivities began Friday afternoon for those who couldn't wait to get on the ice. They were joined by the rest of the group Saturday morning for the official competition. This year the BSOBL Tournament was held on a private lake near Perham, MN. Because of the warm weather, full-sized vehicles weren't safe to drive on the ice, but luckily Pat has plenty of ATV toys that made quick work of moving gear and fishermen.

The tournament has a \$5 entry fee that goes toward the upkeep of the traveling trophy and to the person who catches the biggest fish. This year the honors went to Nate Pikalik. He won the tournament with a 24 inch Northern using a tip-up. Other BSOBL winners are Petey Knudson (2004) and Josh Scraper (2005). After the tournament, everyone stayed at Dave Goetz's cabin, where jokes were played, augers were tested, and fun was had by all. Thanks a lot to Dave Goetz and the Tobkin family.



Actives and alumni having a great time at the third annual BSOBL ice fishing tournament

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Pig Banquet MARCH 4th



11:30 am
12:30 am
2:00 pm
5:00 pm
6:30 pm

Family Social at Theta Chi House
Lunch at Theta Chi House
Meeting
Social at Theta Chi House or Chubs
Supper at Fargo VFW



More details available at www.phionline.org

THE PHOENIX

Weddings

Bryan McGowan & Melissa Lundberg, Oct. 2, 2005; Shakopee, MN
 Chad Homelvig and Amanda Habiak, Oct. 1, 2005; Minneapolis, MN
 Blake Griffin and Laura McCroskey, Aug. 11, 2005; Las Vegas, NV
 Travis Strand & Cora, August , 2005; Medora, ND
 Erik and Sabrina Peterson, August 13, 2005

Births

Harrison Paul to Rusty & Jamy Hanson on January 5, 2005; 8 lbs. 8 oz., 20.5”
 Jacob Donald to Jamie and Heather Livingston on July 24, 2005; 8 lbs. 3 oz, 20.5”
 Kya Marie to Shawn & Bridget Fredrickson on July 28, 2005
 Maximo Robert Tobosa to Kevin & Shila on January 5, 2005
 Kylin Elizabeth (11lb.) & Preston Lucas Kemmet (11lb. 6 oz.) to Kyle & Kristin on October 7, 2005
 Matthew Joseph Boen to Ryan & Kristi Boen
 Luke James Weng to Jon & Karla Weng
 Jacob Livingston to Jamie & Heather Livingston
 Kya Frederickson to Shawn & Bridget Frederickson
 Michael Bauer, Jason Middaugh and Erick Reek are expecting!

Engagements

Joel Jennissen & Marilee Haas; to be married April 29, 2006 in Sauk Centre, MN
 Robby Knorr & Anna Marie Aja; to be married Feb. 3, 2006 in Phoenix, AZ
 Jason Gates & Sarah Buych; to be married April 22, 2006 in Benson, MN
 Jason Schmitt & Denise Dattomo; to be married May 13, 2006 in Cincinnati, OH

***Please email any Weddings, Births, Engagements or Announcements to:**

Mark Puppe: mark_puppe@hotmail.com


 The logo for Theta Chi, featuring the Greek letters Θ and Χ in a stylized font, with the letters T, H, E, A, and I interspersed around them.

Theta Chi For Life

The Alumni Council would like to extend Fraternity Honors to the following that have made the commitment to the Theta Chi for Life Fund.

If you haven't already, we challenge each and every one of you to commit \$200 per year for the next five years. All funds are sent to the Alumni Treasurer and then put directly towards paying off the mortgage early. If mailing checks, please make payable to and mail to:

Theta Chi Alumni,
P.O. Box 163,
West Fargo,
ND 58078-0163

or register at phionline.org (donations can also be made via credit card). If you have any questions concerning Theta Chi for Life Fund, please contact Bryan Schulz at 701-281-2772.

Theta Chi for Life Contributors

Dennis Agnew	Dale Hetland	John T. Nordgaard
Paul Backland	Adam Homelvig	Christopher R. Olson
Eric Bartsch	Joel Jennissen	Troy Olson
David Berg	Ryan Johansen	Bruce Ovind
Rocky Bertsch	Doug Johnson	Mark Puppe
Chub's Pub – Jason	Kyle Kemmet	Timothy Raap
Jon Dickson	Robert Knorr	Aaron Reinholz
David Drew	William D. Kranzler	Travis Reno
Richard Engvall	Craig J. Kubik	Cameron Rudolph
Steven Erbstoesser	Brian Larson	Bryan K. Schulz
Douglas Gasal	Eric Lembke	John Sherven
Jason Gates	Kelly J. Linster	John T. Sigurdson
Roger Gjellstad	Jamie Livingston	Robert Stein
Jim Gompf	Don McAdoo	Roger H. Steiner
Blake Griffin	Collin Miller	Mike Tobias
Kim Gutenkunst	David Miller	Derek Tossett
Donald Halvorson	Doug Miller	Wes Tossett
Russell Handegard	Eric Miller	Jon Weng
Brian Hankel	Eric Moberg	Roger L. Williams
Troy Hedberg	Jarett P. Mogen	

We would also like to thank the following for their one-time commitment to the Theta Chi for Life campaign:

Thomas J. Beck Φ Rocky Bertsch Φ Wallace E. Bjornson Φ Phi Bradbury Φ Perry Brakke Φ Richard Buresh
Mark Dittmer Φ Robert Gjellstad Φ Allen Hauf Φ Brad Haugen Φ Gary Hendrickson Φ Richard Hill
James A. Huettl Φ Jarrod Kittelson Φ Mark Michaelson Φ Steve Miller Φ Kerry Murphy Φ David W. Skjerven
Jim Spenningsby Φ Gilbert Spooner Φ Todd Stejskal Φ Ed Tyson Φ Dennis Vonasek
Robert J. Wesolowski Φ Jeffery Wrede



Theta Chi For Life Fund

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Email: _____

One Time Contribution: \$ _____

Theta Chi For Life Fund: \$ _____

To be billed: Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly

Pay by Check

Please bill my Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

Account# _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

If mailing checks please make them payable to, and mail to:
 Theta Chi Alumni
 P.O. Box 163
 West Fargo, ND 58078-0163



THE THETA CHI

Phi Chapter's Fantastic Cooks

Iris Gust

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Mahanomen, MN. I moved to Fargo in 1959 after I graduated.

What was your favorite school subject?

My favorite subject was history.

What different jobs have you had?

I work at Teamsters at the same time as Theta Chi. I also worked at Greyhound.

When did you begin working at Theta Chi?

I started working there in 1973.

What did you enjoy about being a Theta Chi cook?

I enjoyed being around the guys. I had so much fun with them. They are almost like family to me.

What is your favorite movie?

My favorite movie is Dances with Wolves.

What is your ideal way to spend a day off?

My favorite way to spend a day off would be to do some shopping and running some errands. I also enjoy playing whist, my favorite card game, on Wednesdays.

Do you have any stories about unusual experiences as a cook at Theta Chi?

My favorite memory would be playing cribbage with some of the guys.

Who was your favorite steward?

I like them all equally. They were all very nice.

Betty Heuer

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Fargo, ND, and raised on a farm near Leonard, ND. I was married and continued to live at Leonard until 10 years ago when I moved to the big city (Fargo!)

What was your favorite school subject?

Good question – how do you expect me that far back? We only had reading, writing, and arithmetic. Oh yes, and spelling. I liked that.

What different jobs have you had?

I spent 37 years as a farm wife raising 3 sons and cooking for men. Other jobs were home health care and cooking in public schools a few years.

When did you begin working at Theta Chi?

In the fall of 1996 and the memorable winter and floods of spring 1997. There were days that the guys came and picked me up and brought me to work in 4 wheel drive vehicles.

What did you enjoy about being a Theta Chi cook?

I enjoy the challenge that I face everyday getting everything pulled together and on the table for lunch. I enjoy meeting each of you – watching you mature into fine, upstanding young men, and watching you go out into the world.

What is your favorite movie?

Classic – “Sound of Music”, Recent – “Walk the Line”

What is your ideal way to spend a day off?

I cherish time to be alone – but usually I am with friends, eating, talking, watching movies, etc.

Do you have any stories about unusual

THE AXCHI

Do you have any advice for graduating seniors?

Go out and get a job that you have a great interest in and good luck with doing so. I wish all of you a great future.



Steward Shawn Carlson

experiences as a cook at Theta Chi?

Either the first or second year I was here after the Halloween haunted house – I came into the kitchen and it was a disaster. The blood and guts were still hanging on my stove and everywhere. Needless to say lunch was put on hold that day. Oh yes, Corey Franck, do you remember the day you pulled the plug out of the 5 gal milk bag?

Who was your favorite steward?

Oh my! There have been so many great guys and I have appreciated their help so much. Chad Daveson was my very first steward, he was a saint to help me and lead me through that first year when I did not know what I was doing!

Do you have any advice for graduating seniors?

Set your goals, have high ideals, and above all have a relationship with God.

A letter from the editor

Dear fellow brothers of Phi chapter,

Thank you for taking the time to read the spring 2006 edition of the Phi Arrow. As a new member, initiated in the Fall of 2005, I am blessed to have been chosen by the active chapter to be the new editor for the Arrow. It is an honor for me, as the new editor, to carry on the tradition of editing such a great publication, like my brothers before me. I hope that everyone living happily and doing well, and I wish everybody the best in the upcoming months.

I would like to say thank you to a few of the people that have helped to make this edition of the Arrow so great. I would like to thank Ben Buresh for helping me through every step of the process. Without you, this publication would not have happened. I'd like to thank Tom Hassenstab, Joel Gifford, Paul Backlund, Peter Gates, Aaron Reinholz, Dick Danielson, PhD, Iris Gust, Betty Heuer, Mark Puppe, Bryan Schulz, Jon Dickson, and everybody else who contributed or lent me support.

I look forward to meeting everybody at Pig Banquet!

Fraternally,

Chris Groth, Phi 1718



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