



MANIFESTO

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GAMMA UPSILON RECEIVES RECORD ELEVEN CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARDS AT THETA CHI'S 2008 SCHOOL OF FRATERNITY PRACTICES

BY BOB CARROLL '88 (708.720.2397 OR WOOCARROLL@AOL.COM)



Bob Carroll '88

The Grand Chapter and the International Headquarters of Theta Chi Fraternity recognized the continual improvement of our Gamma Upsilon Chapter by bestowing eleven chapter excellence awards upon it at the 32nd School of Fraternity Practices at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, Indiana in July 2008. The eleven awards received are:

- ALUMNI PROGRAMMING
- CAMPUS PROCEDURES AND INVOLVEMENT
- CHAPTER FINANCES
- CHAPTER OPERATIONS
- NEW MEMBER EDUCATION PROGRAMMING
- PHILANTHROPY PROGRAMMING
- RECRUITMENT PROGRAMMING
- RISK MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
- THE RITUAL
- SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMING
- THETA CHI PROCEDURES AND INVOLVEMENT

The only award that Gamma Upsilon did not receive was in the twelfth category for Internet Technology, which is more than just having a functional website and includes using email and web-based communications to reach undergraduate and alumni brothers. While some of these awards have historically been earned by the chapter each year (Alumni Programming, Chapter Finances, The Ritual, and Scholarship Programming), several were earned for the first time this summer (Campus Procedures and Involvement, Chapter Operations, New Member Education Programming, and Recruitment Programming). Kudos to the chapter's Alter Award Application Committee and its chairman, **DAVID STAREK '10**, for their excellent work.

These awards measure the effort that went into, and the success that sprang from, Gamma Upsilon's operations and programming during the 2007–08 academic year. Not only do these awards recognize the hard work our undergraduate brothers put in during the past year, but they also raise the bar for our expectations for them and their expectations for themselves during the 2008–09 academic year. No longer will “good” be good enough, now “great” or “outstanding” is the standard.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR CHAPTER BROTHERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND SUCCESS OVER THE PAST YEAR!

GAMMA UPSILON TO CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY ON MAY 1, 2 & 3, 2009

BY BOB CARROLL '88 (708.720.2397 OR WOOCARROLL@AOL.COM)

Thursday, April 30, 2009 will mark the 60th anniversary of the installation of Gamma Upsilon into Theta Chi Fraternity. To celebrate the occasion, the Gamma Upsilon Alumni Corporation is planning the Diamond Anniversary Reunion for the following weekend. Those brothers who have attended our 45th, 50th, and 55th Anniversary know that these reunions are truly special occasions vastly different from our usual celebrations at Homecoming each fall.

To try something different for the 60th anniversary, the reunion will be held not on the campus of Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, but instead at the Pheasant Run Resort (pheasantrun.com) in Saint Charles, Illinois, in the far western suburbs of Chicago. Pheasant Run is a destination resort featuring two 18-hole championship golf courses, two indoor pools, a spa and salon, three bars, three restaurants, a video arcade, an ice cream shop, a gift shop, a Zanies comedy club featuring stand-up comedians, and the Pheasant Run Theater featuring stage plays and musical reviews. In short, it has something to offer Theta Chis of all ages and their families, which is why it was selected as the host site. We encourage you to save the date on your calendar now and to start making your travel arrangements.

We also strongly encourage you to arrive on Friday, May 1, to join us for a Welcome Dinner that evening in The Atrium, where a gourmet buffet will be offered. That night, you could attend a show at either the comedy club or the theater or simply relax poolside with a drink. Saturday will begin early with a round of golf (18 holes) for brothers and their guests on one of the courses which regularly host the Illinois Amateur Open and the Illinois Professional Golf Association Championship. The Gamma Upsilon Alumni Corporation will meet that afternoon in a forum to allow brothers to ask questions and receive answers about our current and future plans. That evening will feature the Red Carnation Recognition Dinner in a private dining room. The weekend will conclude where it began, The Atrium, on Sunday, with a Farewell Brunch.

While we strongly encourage all brothers to stay for both evenings and bring their families, those who wish only to make a day of it on Saturday are allowed use of the locker room facility on the premises to shower and change clothes between golf and dinner.

Invitations with more details and prices will be available at Homecoming, then posted on the website (alumni.buox.org) afterwards and mailed shortly after the First of January, 2009. Start saving your pennies (or nickels or dimes or quarters) now and make plans to join us in what is sure to be one of the most fun weekends you and your family will ever experience as a Theta Chi!

FIRST ANNUAL THETA CHI ALUMNI GOLF OUTING SET FOR FEBRUARY 26, 27 & 28, 2009

BY BOB CARROLL '88 (708.720.2397 OR WOOCARROLL@AOL.COM)

Theta Chi Fraternity is busily planning its first annual alumni golf outing for the weekend of February 26–28, 2009. The event will be held at the Crosswinds Golf Club in Savannah, Georgia. Alumni of all ages from all across the country and around the globe are invited to take part in a golf fiesta that is sure to offer something for golfers of all skill levels.

To open the weekend, a nine hole par 3 warm-up event will be held under the lights on the evening of Thursday, February 26. Friday, February 27 will feature the four-man scramble event, while Saturday, February 28 is devoted to the individual stroke play contest, both gross and net. This is the first opportunity our hard-core links specialists, regardless of chapter, have to meet and play with other brothers. Chances are you will find a brother in or around your hometown with whom you can schedule additional play in the future. Competition may exist, but the weekend is designed around fellowship, camaraderie, and brotherhood.

To learn more, go to the Fraternal website at thetachi.org now.

STATE OF THE CHAPTER

BEN BLOMBERG '09, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Brothers,

As president it is my duty, privilege, and honor to inform you of the state of the undergraduate chapter of Theta Chi Gamma Upsilon.

Spring 2008 was a prosperous semester for the undergraduates of Gamma Upsilon chapter. We had fantastic spring recruitment and considerably improved our campus involvement. Morale is at an all-time high and the brothers are excited for the fall semester and ready to hit the ground running and start the new semester strong.

As every brother of our illustrious fraternity knows, striving for academic excellence is the number one goal of Theta Chi. Here at Gamma Upsilon chapter we diligently pursued that goal. The executive board decided that improving overall GPA was the primary goal for the Spring 2008 semester, as well as for Fall 2008. Due to the chapter's hard work, with **MARK BLOMBERG** at the helm as scholarship chair, we rose to number two highest GPA among fraternities, as well as achieving an overall GPA higher than the all men's average.

Along with maintaining a high GPA the chapter has undergone a considerable increase in size. We held two initiation ceremonies in the spring of 2008 and initiated a total of five new brothers. Thirty undergraduate brothers will be returning in the fall of 2008. Recruitment chair **MIKE DICKEN**, along with the rest of the chapter, hopes to reach forty members through fall rush. The chapter has plans to continue recruiting men after rush by utilizing its members living in the dorms to meet new people.

In the spring of 2008 thirteen brothers lived in-house. In the fall of 2008, it will be up to fifteen living in-house, which is the highest number since before the reorganization. We would still like to have more brothers in-house, so our goal is to move some of the freshman we recruit into the house in the spring semester. We are confident that the number of in-house brothers will continue to grow.

As new brothers are always coming to Bradley, so are older brothers graduating and leaving Bradley. Three brothers graduated from Bradley this spring semester of 2008: **MATT BOLTE**, **JAMES HUNSBERGER**, and **BEN RHOADES**. Their work over the years helped lay the foundation for our ever-growing chapter, and while their presence on campus and in the chapter house will be missed, we look forward to their continued support as alumnus brothers.

Bradley decided to have its alumni weekend while the students were on break, so the chapter held its own informal alumni weekend. We had an excellent turnout and enjoyed dinner at Logan's Steak House while alumnus brothers recounted tales from their time at Bradley. We hope the fall alumni weekend is just as much fun, and I encourage as many brothers as possible to come. Remember it is October 3–5, 2008.

The chapter has been working to improve in all areas, not just academics and recruitment, so philanthropy chair **ANDREW GERACI** encouraged the chapter to work hard on our philanthropy—which had been a little weak in the past. We held a chili cook-off which turned out to be a great success, and were able to donate a significant amount of money to the Center for Prevention of Abuse. We have completed preliminary plans to bring back the Queen of Hearts philanthropy. We also participated in every sorority philanthropy pageant, with freshman **ALLEN GOEBL** winning the Sig Delt Dude competition.

The undergraduate chapter had a fantastic spring semester and, I believe, will have an even better fall semester. Things are looking good for the chapter, and we encourage all alumnus brothers to visit us and witness our progress first hand.

THETA CHI FOR LIFE.

HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES AND CLASS OF 1958 REUNION SET FOR OCTOBER 3, 4 & 5, 2008

BY BOB CARROLL '88 (708.720.2397 OR WOOCARROLL@AOL.COM)

Brother, if you are reading this article and summer is on the wane, it must be time to think about autumn. For undergraduates, that means preparing to return to school to start a new academic year. For alumni, it means making plans to attend the annual Homecoming festivities of our old alma mater, Bradley University.

In the interest of keeping the weekend affordable, with the Diamond Anniversary Reunion also set for the 2009–10 academic year, we are encouraging, but not requiring, alumni to reserve their rooms at the Baymont Inn (baymontinns.com) at 2002 W. War Memorial Drive (309.686.7600) at the Northwoods Mall. Mention Bradley University Homecoming to save off the \$89 standard rate.

As usual, the initial Theta Chi event for the weekend will be the 7th Annual Golden Guard Luncheon at the Lariat Club Steakhouse. As always, it will be held at noon on Friday, October 3. The Lariat Club is located at 2232 W. Glen Avenue (309.691.4731), just east of the intersection of Glen and Sterling; call John Johnson (309.589.8577) for reservations. Brothers and their guests will set up their own tabs by ordering from a limited but tasty menu. Representatives of the alumni corporation and undergraduate chapter will be present to answer questions.

Saturday, October 4, will feature not one, but three Theta Chi events. The first is the 1st Annual Gamma Upsilon Disc Golf Tournament set for a noon toss at the course at Bradley Park. We are providing a prize for the brother with the low score. The rain date for this event is the following day. At 3:00pm that afternoon, the Gamma Upsilon Chapter Alumni Corporation Annual Meeting will be held at the chapter house (1308 W. Fredonia Avenue) to allow brothers to meet the directors, as well as ask questions and receive answers about the direction and future plans of the organization. At 6:00pm that evening, the annual Theta Chi Alumni Dinner will be held at Johnny's Italian Steakhouse (johnnysitaliansteakhouse.com) at 5201 W. War Memorial Drive (309.692.3887), where War Memorial meets the north end of the U.S. 474 bypass. As with the Golden Guard Luncheon, brothers and their guests will set up their own tabs by ordering from a limited but gourmet menu. Space is limited, so please reserve your seat by calling **ALEX WOLF '85** (847.401.2553).

The final event of the weekend is the Homecoming Brunch at the Michel Student Center at 10:00am on Sunday, October 5; Theta Chi has reserved several tables for the event, which is served buffet style, so look for the Theta Chi flag and letters upon entering the room.

Brothers from the Class of 1958 should be certain not to miss either the 50 Plus Club Reception on Thursday afternoon at the Student Center Ballroom or the Class of 1958 Luncheon on Saturday at the Mount Hawley Country Club. These are the highlights among the official Bradley events for us this weekend. Contact the Alumni Center for more details (800.952.8258).

Brother, for most of us it has been at least a year since the pleasure of each other's company, so please make your reservations now and we look forward to seeing you in October.

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

- **Bradley 50+ Club Reception** 4:00pm Michel Student Center Ballroom
- **Centurion Dinner** 6:00pm Michel Student Center Ballroom

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

- **Founder's Day Convocation** 10:00am Dingledine Performing Arts Center
(installation of Bradley Centurions)
- **Founder's Day Luncheon** 12:00 noon Michel Student Center Ballroom
(presentation of BUAA Recognition Awards)
- **Theta Chi Golden Guard Luncheon** 12:00 noon Lariat Steakhouse
(John Johnson at 309.589.8577 or bigjohnpeo@aol.com)
2232 W. Glen Avenue (309.691.4731)
- **Pirates of Penzance** 6:00pm Hartmann Center Theater
- **Bradley University Men's Soccer Game** 7:30pm Shea Stadium

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

- **Tippet Memorial 5K Run** 8:30am Michel Student Center
- **IFC/PHC Greek Games** 10:00am Meinen Field
- **Bradley University Class of '58 Reunion Luncheon** 11:30am Mount Hawley Country Club
(800.952.8258 or alumnirelations@alum.bradley.edu)
- **Gamma Upsilon Disc Golf Tournament** 12:00 noon Bradley Park
- **Gamma Upsilon Alumni Corp Annual Meeting** 3:00pm Chapter House
(Bob Carroll at 708.720.2397 or woocarroll@aol.com)
- **Tailgate Party, 4:00pm, Shea Stadium Parking Lot**
- **Theta Chi Alumni Dinner** 6:00pm Johnny's Italian Steakhouse
(Alex Wolf at 847.401.2553 or closer25@aol.com)
5201 W. War Memorial (309.692.3887)
- **Bradley University Men's Soccer Game** 7:30pm Shea Stadium

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

- **Homecoming Brunch** 10:00am Michel Student Center Ballroom
Make sure to look for the Theta Chi table(s)!

For reservations for Bradley Events, please contact the Alumni Center at 800.952.8258.

SPRING '07 ALUMNI WEEKEND RECAP

ALLEN GOEBEL '11

Our spring alumni event met with great success this year. We met for dinner at Logan's Roadhouse on Friday night and filled at least seven tables with alumni and undergraduates. There was a lot of talk throughout the dinner as alumni and undergraduates exchanged stories and discussed the state of our fraternity. This dinner was also the first time that many alumni had met our fourteen new members and the first experience many of these members had of meeting our alumni. The next morning the undergraduate members hosted a brunch for the alumni. Following the brunch Chapter president **BEN BLOMBURG '09** gave a detailed speech about the state of our chapter which was followed by GUCAC Vice President **ALEX WOLF '85** with a speech on GUCAC's plans for the upcoming chapter renovations. This was followed by my favorite part of the weekend: the alumni gavel pass. During the gavel pass alumni from several different periods of the chapter narrated humorous stories about their undergraduate years which ranged from walkouts gone wrong to pranks on DU. As always our alumni weekend was a lot of fun. Make plans to join us for Homecoming in October.

QUEEN OF HEARTS IS MAKING A COMEBACK!

JOSH RICKARD '10, VICE PRESIDENT, QUEEN OF HEARTS CHAIR

On September 29–October 2, Theta Chi at Bradley University will hold the Queen of Hearts Pageant to raise money for the American Heart Association. This is the first time the event has happened in over five years. Queen of Hearts is a week-long competition between representatives from sororities and the dorms. The events include raising money at Bacci's (a local pizzeria on campus), raising money at a barbeque put on by Theta Chi, attending a heart disease survivor function to raise awareness about heart disease, and finally a pageant to determine who will be Theta Chi's Queen of Hearts. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 and to reestablish this philanthropy on Bradley's campus. As the pageant draws near, the men of Theta Chi are getting excited to host this philanthropy.

CHAPTER RENOVATION PLANNING CONTINUES

MIKE SCHEVE '02, GUAC FACILITY MANAGER

Since I was an undergraduate, and even before then, I always heard stories about replacing the boiler. "Replacing the boiler" became synonymous with the Cubs winning the World Series with a "maybe next year" mantra. As our heating system ages and as energy prices surge, it's become more and more imperative to upgrade our mechanical systems for improved reliability, reduced maintenance costs, and reduced energy bills.

This year, with the help of alumnus brother Tony Ranallo with Meilner Mechanical Sales, the GUAC was able to obtain detailed information on boiler systems and a quote to replace the current system with a new, updated boiler. We are currently in the process of obtaining bids for installation of this new system, bringing us one step closer to finally getting the old Century II boiler replaced!

We have also been working recently to take a long hard look at how the chapter uses the living space in the chapter house. In an effort to increase the usable living space in the chapter house, and also increase how many brothers can live in the house, the GUAC has decided to renovate the rack room. This renovation plan will subdivide the rack into 6 lofted rooms. Each room will have custom furniture including a lofted bed, desks, and storage space. All six rooms will be climate controlled and will house two brothers each.

Costs of this renovation have been estimated at around \$60,000. Although that seems high, this project is an income producing investment for the GUAC. With more undergraduates living in the chapter house more rent can be generated that will be poured into future renovations including the kitchen and the bathrooms.

I encourage all brothers to join the Annual and/or Capital Campaign Drives. With your donations we can make these projects come alive, and ensure that Theta Chi remains strong on Bradley's campus for another 60 years!



Mike Scheve '08

ALUMNI UPDATE

DICK STERLING '58 One of the primary reasons so many alumni brothers in the Golden Guard and especially the Class of 1958 are looking forward to Homecoming this fall is the chance to see Dick and Barb Sterling once again. Highly respected for his accomplishments in the engineering industry, Brother Sterling is only one of four Theta Chis who have achieved membership in the Bradley University Founder's Society.

KEITH ALM '62 Since retiring as President and Chief Executive Officer for Hallmark, Inc., Keith continues to provide leadership to American industry as Chairman of the Board of Directors for O-sage Power Equipment LLC. Brother Alm also provides leadership to Bradley University by serving as a member of the Board of Trustees. Keith is also only one of four members of Gamma Upsilon who are also members of the Founder's Society for cumulative giving to Bradley University.

PAUL MOORE '62 Since retiring as Vice President for Asian Marketing for Caterpillar Inc., Paul has given a great deal of his time to promoting Bradley University. Paul serves as member of the Bradley University Council, a fundraising advisory committee to the University, as a member of the Braves Club Council, an advisory committee for the Department of Athletics, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Bradley University Alumni Association, of which he has served as President-Elect (2005–06), President (2006–07), and Past President (2007–08).

CHUCK EBELING '66 Since retiring as Vice-President for Communications for MacDonald's Inc., Chuck has served as a mentor for students at Bradley University majoring in public relations. In 2003, Brother Ebeling created the Ebeling PR-ize, a contest held each semester for senior students in the program's COM 480 class. The contest pits teams of students against each other to determine the best means to raise funds, publicize a charity event, and raise awareness for a local not-for-profit organization. The winning team members get to attend a luncheon with Chuck where they each receive a \$500 check and a letter of recommendation. Chuck was recently profiled in the Summer 2008 issue of Hilltopics.

RANDY JACOBS '66 For the 2007 fiscal year, Gamma Upsilon brothers were generous in our contributions to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, the Fraternity's educational foundation. We tied for ninth among all Theta Chi chapters internationally in terms of the numbers of donors (38) and finished fourth in terms of amount of contributions (\$6,870). This was due, in large part, to the extraordinary generosity of brothers such as Randy. In 2007, Brother Jacobs became only the second member of Gamma Upsilon to enter The Foundation Chapter's Freeman Fellows giving society, with lifetime donations exceeding \$5,000. Randy is also only one of four Theta Chis who are members of the Founder's Society at Bradley University, with lifetime donations exceeding \$50,000.

LARRY HIMMEL '68 In October 2007, people across the nation were introduced to Larry Himmel, already well-known in Southern California for his Larry Himmel at Large segments on CBS News 8 in San Diego. When reporting on wildfires in the area, he reported on the destruction of his own home. Luckily, Brother Himmel and his family escaped unharmed and are doing well. Larry is also well-known throughout San Diego for his Force 8 project, teaching high school students how to resolve conflicts and assert themselves without resorting to violence. Larry, by his own admission, remains positive proof that you can construct a successful career without having to work a day in your life, parleying nightclub comedy into a successful career in both radio and television entertainment and journalism. He has received eight Emmy awards while with CBS News 8 for his local spot reporting and features. Larry was recently profiled in the Spring 2008 issue of The Rattle.

DRU NEIKIRK '88 Already greatly respected for his contributions to Bradley University, such as creating the William Jordan Endowed Memorial Scholarship, the Neikirk Family Endowed Scholarship, and the Neikirk Family Annual Scholarship, Dru become the fourth and youngest Theta Chi to enter Bradley's Founder's Society for cumulative giving. Brother Neikirk also recently became the first, but not the only, member of Gamma Upsilon to enter the Freeman Fellows cumulative giving society for his contributions to The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity.

OSCAR GILLESPIE '01 At Bradley University's Red Tie Gala on April 24, marking the public phase of the Renaissance Capital Campaign, 600 limited edition prints were distributed to the invited guests. These prints of the Bradley rose were designed and created by Oscar, who is a professor of art at Bradley and faculty advisor to Gamma Upsilon chapter, and Paul Krainak, chairman of the department of art. Brother Gillespie has taught art and printmaking classes at Bradley since 1986 and his artwork is on display at numerous galleries around the United States. This production process was detailed in the Summer 2008 issue of Hilltopics.

THETA CHI FRATERNITY
Gamma Upsilon Chapter
1308 West Fredonia Avenue
Peoria, IL 61606

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY DALE TAYLOR, ALPHA PHI/ALABAMA '69, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There was always something special each fall as I came back to school and walked into the Fraternity house. It was not just the excitement of another year of school, nor was it the anticipation of seeing everyone again after the summer break. I actually believe the house had a certain smell, just like a new car smell, that was only there at that house and at that time. Yeah, I know, stale beer and leftover food can do that after three months, but it was not that. Actually, it was the smell of brotherhood to me. It meant we would soon be asking new men to join our Theta Chi — a chance to make new friends, some of whom would be lifelong friends.

You do develop connections to smells, sights, and words in your mind so that one triggers other thoughts. Those of us from that time still refer to the “new” house although now it is almost 50 years new. That facility, with its smells and look, triggers lots of great thoughts for me about the Brotherhood I joined those many years ago.

Facility can be much more than something to bring back memories, it can be the agent that brings on change, or improves morale of the group, or encourages more men to pledge or offers new connections to those already members in our Fraternity. We have had several groups build new facilities lately thanks to those alumni who remember their fraternal experience and want to insure that others have the same opportunities to develop memories and to join the great connecting brotherhood of Theta Chi. The alumni of Chi Chapter at Auburn University are a great example of taking a vision and turning it into something that benefits the development of the chapter. A dream of many years came to fruition last year under the leadership of many loyal alumni and followers of the Tigers.

We need to believe that it can happen everywhere with increased chapter involvement of our alumni brothers and with help in developing the undergraduate members. Our creed begins with “I believe in Theta Chi...” so let us all believe and remember — for me the smell and the individuals, for you the trigger may be different.

Clasp the hands of your friends, your brothers, and make it “We believe.”

My best wishes to you for a great 2008 and always.