

Boston University Colony of Theta Tau

Newsletter: Fall 2015

New Leadership

We are proud to introduce several new chairpersons for the spring 2016 semester, including two brand new positions, Athletic Chair and Master of Ceremonies, as well as a judiciary board. Congratulations and good luck to our newly appointed brothers! We know you will do a wonderful job.

Fundraising Chair	<i>Jillian Yong</i>
Athletic Chair	<i>Michael Schuller</i>
Rush Chair	<i>Brandon Webster</i>
Pledge Instructor	<i>Tania To</i>
Master of Ceremonies	<i>Jenna Schroeder</i>
Judiciary Board	<i>Jenni Asaro, Sierra Lanfranco, Chris Considine, Michael Schuller, Jim Kennedy</i>

Gamma Class Initiation



Following a successful second rush period at the beginning of the semester courtesy of rush chair Sara Ekhlas' hard work, we selected a group of talented and friendly engineers to carry on the legacy of Theta Tau at BU. On December 4th, 2015, the members of the Gamma pledge class were finally initiated as brothers of our colony. After the ten week pledge process led by pledge instructor Alec Wong, we are proud to introduce these new members and know they will do so much to help progress the colony in a positive direction. Their accomplishments thus far are already promising. Prior to their initiation, the

members of the Gamma class efficiently planned and carried out a nacho eating contest which was open to the entire BU community. They did all of the advertising and worked to receive food from multiple donors for both participants and spectators. If they continue to put as much effort and care into their endeavors as full-fledged brothers, they will absolutely do great things in the future. Congratulations Gamma brothers!

National Outreach

This past summer we sent two brothers, Meadow Lakin and Sierra Lanfranco, to Atlanta for the annual Theta Tau Leadership Academy. Through workshops and conversation with brothers from chapters across the country, they gathered a wide selection of ideas on how to improve the colony in the upcoming year. They also had the opportunity to meet brothers from chapters very close to Boston University, including University of Rhode Island and Syracuse University. We are certain that these new contacts in the national Theta Tau community will lead to collaboration and visits, so that all of us can continue to learn from each other.



Brotherhood

We had a record number of brotherhood events this semester, and brotherhood chair Vivian Ramirez has set the bar high for whomever will follow in her footsteps in upcoming years. In early October, we visited Honey Pot Hill Orchard for apple picking and other fall activities. We enjoyed cider, donuts, and cider donuts as well as a hay ride. While we did not have time to attempt the corn maze, we are certain that this group of engineering minds could have easily completed it. This was a great way to get out of the city and temporarily alleviate the stresses of the semester. In December, we hosted our first Date Party at Wonderbar in Allston, where everyone enjoyed a night of music and dancing. Additionally, we all attended a colony retreat during which we participated in team building games and activities in addition to in depth conversations about how to improve the colony moving forward. This was a great way to express visions for Theta Tau and what the colony means to them. After this semester's collection of brotherhood events, we are all in agreement that these events should become colony traditions for years to come, and that brotherhood should remain a top priority no matter what challenges we face as a group.



Community Service



This semester we focused our community service efforts on building new connections with local organizations with which we would like to continue to work in the future. Service chair Aubrey Giasson has worked tirelessly to pursue opportunities for us to give back to the community in many ways. A small group of brothers was able to visit Community Servings, a charity that packages and delivers meals to individuals and families that are living with chronic and critical illnesses. We packed hundreds of meals as well as donated canned and packaged foods to be delivered throughout the city to those in need. We look forward to maintaining a relationship with this wonderful organization in the future and are excited to introduce new community service projects to our colony this spring. We already have a number of projects planned, including working with Theta Tau's national charity, Habitat for Humanity.

Professional Development

We have continued to refine ourselves professionally and prepare for the future with a number of helpful and informative professional development workshops hosted by chair Josh Liebowitz throughout the semester. We collaborated with the Career Development Office for an advanced LinkedIn workshop to make sure our online profiles are in great shape to take on the modern networking world. We also hosted our first ever alumni networking event for brothers and the incoming pledge class, and experienced brothers in the Boston area workforce shared their experiences. We were all able to make valuable professional connections through this event. Finally, we hosted a workshop before the fall engineering career fair to practice and perfect our elevator pitches and learn strategies to take full advantage of opportunities the career fair had to offer to participants. We are so excited to have made connections with the CDO and with local Theta Tau alumni and expect to continue these relations for many years to come.

Community Involvement

As a BU student organization, we consider it an important venture to be an active and positive part of the community by attending university wide events such as Splash as well as smaller actions and events to benefit all of BU's student population and attract new members. Over the summer we released a Summer Spotlight series on our Facebook page that detailed the accomplishments and contributions of many of our rising senior brothers. It is important to recognize the individual contributions of our brothers, both to the colony and to the wider community. We are proud to have so many talented and well-rounded members in our midst, all of whom are motivated to take part in university-wide events. This semester we participated in intramural sports for the first time. Our volleyball team finished out the season in a respectable third place, only missing the playoffs by one slot. This was an impressive feat considering that many of the brothers who participated had never played volleyball before. Additionally, we sent a group of brothers to help the College of Engineering office with stuffing folders and informational packages to be sent out to newly accepted students. With our help, the task was completed in one day rather



than the entire week of stuffing that was expected. In October, we were invited to take part in the Engineering Student Government's HallowENG Halloween celebration. We hosted 'Witch Pitch,' a candy toss game, which was a lot of fun and a huge success. This was a wonderful way to get our name out to ENG students who were looking for some pre-halloween fun and mingling. We are looking forward to attracting more incredible individuals and growing this quality group of people with this spring's rush period, and we are positive that our community involvement will only grow as we do.



Noteworthy Experiences

Throughout the past few months, many of our brothers have traveled or worked on impressive projects that deserve acknowledgement. Five brothers (Alec Wong, Ryan McNaughton, Jillian Yong, Josh Liebowitz, and Pat Williamson) successfully finished the BAA Half Marathon in October. Alec Wong also visited Peru over winter break, and had the opportunity to hike part of the Inca Trail and see Machu Picchu with his brother. Meanwhile, Jim Kennedy spent some of his break working on his dad's 1969 Camaro doing a ground up restoration to make it a street/strip racing car. He also made test plates to a drawing for spacematic tools that his father sells to companies like Boeing. Over the summer, Aubrey Giasson received a Clare Boothe Luce Scholar Award through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program to do research in Professor Dennis' lab. She established procedures for protein purification that will be used in her senior project, Optimizing of a Quantum Dot/Fluorescent Protein FRET-based pH Biosensor. Meanwhile, Michael Schuller was acting as the power subsystem leader of a nanosatellite project. He worked on developing any electronic power distribution/generation/consumption components that the satellite needs to operate properly. The satellite, designed to measure solar storm effects on the Earth's atmosphere, will be launched from a NASA space vehicle this summer.



Looking Forward

At the end of the fall 2015 semester, we welcomed an official visit from representatives of the Theta Tau national office and put in an enormous effort to complete our petition to become a chapter. We plan to submit our finalized application within the coming weeks, and if all goes well, we will have our official chapter certification by the end of the spring 2016 semester. The transition from a colony to a chapter is an exciting one, marking our tremendous growth as an organization over the past year and a half since our induction. On an individual level, many of our seniors have begun making exciting post-graduation plans. Our regent, Ryan McNaughton, is looking forward to enrolling in a Ph.D. program specializing in bionanotechnology. He aims to develop noninvasive medical devices that can be implanted within the body or interact with the body on the micron scale. Ultimately, he hopes to use his research in a doctoral program to discover less harmful methods of cancer detection and treatment. Julianne DePaoli has accepted a technology consultant position at Accenture in Boston following a successful summer internship at their Hartford office in Connecticut. Michael Schuller plans on staying in Boston as well and will likely continue working as a manufacturing engineer at Mide Technology Corporation. Rebecca Rucks has reserved a month to travel Europe after graduation and would also like to spend some time in South America. Following her travel plans Rebecca will work for Epic, a Wisconsin based company, in their technical services department. Akshay Ajbani has accepted a position at Paytronix in Newton, MA, and will work there as a technology consultant. Bandhan Zishanuzzaman will be working as an infrastructure and security analyst in the New York City office of Accenture. We are so proud of all our seniors, and look forward to hearing about their future success!

Stay tuned for next semester!

