

ALUMNI CEREMONY

A. Preparation.

The Alumni Ceremony is used to establish a bridge from undergraduate membership to alumnus status. The Ceremony should take place close to the time of graduation. It is appropriate to hold the Ceremony following a dinner in celebration of graduation. It may be held in the Chapter House, a private room in a restaurant, or a private residence. Appropriate non-member guests may attend. Alumni Brothers must play a major role in this activity. Although this is a serious ceremony, it is not a somber one. It is, in fact, a celebration of a rite of passage.

1. *Personnel required:*
 - a. Four alumni with designated speaking parts.
 - b. Chaplain. May be substituted by an alumnus.
 - c. Undergraduate Alumni Programs Chair.
 - d. Three undergraduates to serve as voices.

2. *Properties required:*
 - ✍ Theta Chi Fraternity Flag
 - ✍ Altar of Theta Chi (See Page 9, Private Ritual)
 - ✍ United States Flag
 - ✍ White Altar Cloth
 - ✍ Canadian Flag
 - ✍ Bible, opened to Genesis 1:2
 - ✍ Three tall red tapered candles in clear or white glass individual holders
 - ✍ One large red candle, at least three inches in diameter, lighted
 - ✍ White candles, with wax catchers, one for each graduating Brother to hold
 - ✍ Listing of the following:
 - ✍ Alumni Corporation officer addresses
 - ✍ Dates, times and places of upcoming alumni events

3. At the opening of the Ceremony, all undergraduate members, including the graduating seniors, should form a hollow square. The four alumni with roles in the Ceremony should be seated behind the altar. Other alumni present may be seated inside the hollow square, leaving room in front for the graduating seniors to assemble when called. Advisor should conduct the Ceremony with the assistance of the necessary number of undergraduate Brothers. Proper attire is normally coat and tie.

4. The Undergraduate Alumni Coordinator should have an alphabetical list of all graduating seniors present for the Ceremony.

B. Script for the Alumni Ceremony

FIRST ALUMNUS – We are here today to celebrate the works of our graduating seniors. Their record of caring will always be ingrained in the hearts of Theta Chi Brothers who have known them, or who will in the future know them. Please give your attention to the Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN – The Lord said to Abraham, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.” Please bow your heads.

In all of history, O God, You have called each of us from the security of our family to go forth to the fullness of our own lives. We ask Your blessing now on these members of our Fraternity family. They go forth from undergraduates to graduates, from a community of living close together to walking different paths. Keep us always close to one another in our hearts, and help us always to offer the Helping Hand to each other. Let each be a blessing to one another and to Theta Chi Fraternity, forever and ever. Amen.

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI COORDINATOR OR ALUMNUS BROTHER – Brother
(Name of FIRST ALUMNUS), I bring you _____ seniors, ready to continue their journey in Theta Chi Fraternity. They are: (*Reads alphabetical list of names of all graduating seniors present*)

FIRST ALUMNUS – (*Addressing the seniors*) We welcome you to this moment in the history of Theta Chi Fraternity and express our happiness that on this day, you begin the next stage of your journey in our Fraternity. The only difference between alumni and yourselves is that we have graduated. In the eyes of Theta Chi Fraternity, we are the same.

SECOND ALUMNUS – All living things must draw nourishment and strength from their present environment and transform this energy into life. So it is with Theta Chi Fraternity. So it must be for each of us.

Brothers, you have known the beauty, the strength and the power of our Brotherhood. This gift has been handed on from Brother to Brother through the years. It is, however, a fragile gift, like life itself. It must be cared for, defended, enriched and cherished.

It is for this purpose that we meet today to welcome you to the alumni ranks of Theta Chi Fraternity. We also ask you to renew your intention to live our Brotherhood as alumni members. We ask you to not only strive for your own integrity, but to work hard for the growth and development of the whole Fraternity. We ask you to make “Theta Chi for Life” not a slogan, but truly a way of life.

THIRD ALUMNUS – There are needs within Theta Chi Fraternity that only its alumni can meet. We can only meet them if you remain an active part of our Fraternity. We need alumni Brothers to extend the Helping Hand at the international, regional, and local levels. The quality and vision of leadership is in direct proportion to the volunteers from the ranks of the alumni. We all have responsibility for the quality of life in each chapter. Each chapter needs the time and resources of its alumni. This Fraternity needs guidance that does not control, but enables, enhances, and promotes further maturity. Each chapter needs the support of alumnus Brothers at Homecoming, on Founder's Day, reunions, anniversaries, and other social occasions. These are the elements of our environment from which we draw strength in life and consolation in death. This is why Theta Chi is for Life.

FIRST ALUMNUS – Brothers, we have often recited our Creed, but let us recite it now as an affirmation of our ideals, and a pledge of loyalty to the perpetuation of these ideals. All Brothers, please stand. *(Pause)* Together, slowly and thoughtfully, let us recite The Creed of Theta Chi.

ALL BROTHERS – I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose. It has taken its place among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advance of culture, and a builder of character.

It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, Temperance, and Tolerance, extols virtue exacts harmony and extends a helping hand to all who seek it.

I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and my fellow man.

FOURTH ALUMNUS – Alumni Brothers may be seated. *(Pause)* Brothers, we see before us a flame that symbolizes the way of life we profess. Each of us, like the flame, needs care and tending. There is a frailty about all life, but there is also a power, a promise and a destiny. Our bonds of Brotherhood are strength for each other in any circumstance. Do not allow time and distance to separate you from something you truly care about.

Alumni now pass unlit white candles to each senior.

FIRST ALUMNUS – The red candle symbolized the burning light of Brotherhood from which we each draw strength. Brothers, light your white alumnus candle from the flame.

Wait until each senior lights his candle. Pause further, in silence, before proceeding.

FIRST ALUMNUS – Though miles and years may from this time and place separate us, the lighting of these candles signifies our commitment to keep the ties and light of Brotherhood and Fraternity connected.

SECOND ALUMNUS – The light of our red Brotherhood candle is magnified by the white candles we hold. Brotherhood shines brighter when those who have gone before us return to our halls. It is brighter because we have left a part of ourselves behind in this Chapter; brighter because our ideals are now shared with the larger Brotherhood of Theta Chi alumni members in many cities and countries; brighter because new witnesses and examples are now present who demonstrate the commitment of “Theta Chi for Life.” We now have a new role in Theta Chi Fraternity, yet still retain our ties to _____ Chapter.

The following four undergraduate voices should come from various points around the Hollow Square, behind the graduates. The tone of the voices should be concerns, not sarcastic.

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI COORDINATOR – At times we, the undergraduate Brotherhood, question one another.

Pause.

FIRST UNDERGRADUATE VOICE – Where are our alumni?

Pause.

SECOND UNDERGRADUATE VOICE – Why don't they visit?

Pause.

THIRD UNDERGRADUATE VOICE – Why don't they take an interest in us?

Pause.

FIRST ALUMNUS – Remember when you asked those same questions? You are now alumni of Theta Chi Fraternity. From now on, you must share in the responsibility for the answers. Your participation as an alumnus will answer these questions with an affirmation that Theta Chi is for Life. Actively seek to assist our Fraternity, no matter where you reside. When called upon to serve our Fraternity, accept that call to the best of your ability.

FOURTH ALUMNUS – Graduation is both exciting and somber. It is difficult to say good-bye to friends and Brothers you love and respect. As you continue your journey, seek fulfillment in your life. You will not be alone.

THIRD ALUMNUS – Let us sing our Fraternity Anthem.

In some chapters it is customary for a token or gift to be presented to each graduating senior. This would be an appropriate time for the presentation.

FIRST ALUMNUS – This concludes the work of the Alumni Ceremony. Brothers, you may extinguish your candles. Safe journeys to you all. I now declare this gathering informal for the purpose of congratulating our new alumni of _____ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity. Love and respect all of your Brothers.

Printed information regarding officers of the Corporation Board, Alumni Association, and upcoming alumni events may be provided to each alumnus present at this time, if not done earlier at some informal stage of the gathering.

Finis, Alumni Ceremony