

In the Life of Theta Chi

[Editor's Note: Reading about some of the unexpected, personal, and positive ways that Theta Chi Fraternity touches lives can be enjoyable, interesting, affirming, and an unexpected source of inspiration. This regular feature, reflecting selected correspondence and emails received by the editor of The Rattle, or by the Staff of the Fraternity's International Headquarters, continues to help us enjoy the impact of the Brotherhood of Theta Chi around the world.]

Beta Theta at Drexel: Responding to the Challenges

By Bill Koch ('88)

Faced in late 2003 with a chapter on suspension and a house damaged by fire, the Alumni Association of Beta Theta Chapter was confronted with a true test of commitment. The path of least resistance may have been to allow our chapter to close in the face of these challenges. However, we realized that the opportunity to build relationships in our undergraduate years—relationships we've maintained throughout our lives—was worth preserving. So the alumni banded together to help reorganize the chapter, forge new relationships with the University and IHQ, and commit the human and capital resources necessary to ensure Theta

Chi will continue to be a positive contributor to Drexel's campus life.

Collectively, we decided that it was time for us to 'walk the walk' and put some real meaning behind our oaths of 'Theta Chi For Life.' In addition to our determination, the engine of our 'self-funded' effort is an ongoing \$500,000 capital campaign.

Accomplishments to date include:

- * Reorganized the alumni association. We now have approximately 25 alumni actively involved in all areas of chapter management.
- * Entered into a housing agreement with the University, which provides us protections unique among Drexel fraternities.
- * Reorganized the undergraduate chapter. Subsequent to implementing new housing and alcohol-free policies, we now have 22 quality undergraduate members committed to the ideals of Theta Chi.
- * We've implemented an ongoing "social" program for alumni and undergraduates, that maintains the bond between generations of brothers. Examples include basketball season tickets and events coinciding with University happenings.
- * We've embarked on an ambitious 3-year renovation effort. Our first phase entailed significant structural and life-safety upgrades to the chapter house at 216 N. 34th Street in Philadelphia. Completed work includes



The Beta Theta Chapter House

electrical upgrades, state of the art fire alarm and sprinkler systems, heating and drainage.

- * The undergrads have contributed project work as well—painting interior rooms, refurbishing our antique billiard table, and building a barbecue pit.

Our future plans include two more phases. Phase 2, scheduled to begin in early 2005, will entail cosmetic enhancements and restoration of historic architecture throughout the house, creation of a game room, and the purchase of dorm-quality furniture for all undergraduate suites. Phase 3, scheduled for 2006, will include the creation of a construction account to fund ongoing maintenance, as well as the seeding of a scholarship fund for undergraduate members of the Fraternity.

Theta Chi Brothers Celebrate in Italy

By Rich Santoriello ('87) and Christy Mazurek ('87)

It was early last Fall when several brothers from Epsilon Sigma received an invitation to a wedding in Ravello, Italy, from our chapter brother, Norman Ferren ('86) and his lovely bride-to-be, Dawn Nargi. However, it was not only a wedding but also a week (October 23–31) of fun filled excursions throughout the Amalfi Coast in southern Italy.

Epsilon Sigma alumni who helped celebrate the occasion by making the trip were Richard Santoriello and his wife, Paula; Robert Mazurek and his wife, Christy; Ronald Rainero ('85) and



Theta Chi Alumni from Beta Theta chapter, and friends, at this year's NFC Championship. Go Eagles!

his wife, Fran; Charlie Rizzo ('85) and his wife, Janet; and, Terence Farley ('88).

Our first stop, Naples, set in motion a pattern of enjoying fine Italian food and refreshments, while catching up with old friends. Wives quickly bonded as they listened to Fraternity brothers reminisce about the many, and often embarrassing, escapades shared in college. Several delightful days of sightseeing and shopping helped us get over jet lag and enjoy our fellowship thoroughly, as we prepared for the mid-week wedding.

The wedding was simply magnificent with Dawn looking exquisite and Norman looking the best any of us could remember. Outside, the sightseers not affiliated with the Ferren-Nargi wedding tour speculated on which famous actress or model was being married inside the ancient basilica. When the joyful couple emerged from the church, Dawn was besieged with requests for photos from the happy tourists; odd, Norman was not. The reception took place at sunset overlooking the magnificent Mediterranean, fabulous food and refreshments, and lively music ensured that all had a great time.

A few more days of sightseeing and fellowship passed much too quickly for us all, and soon we were all back home, to our children, pets, and work. From our time together, old and great friendships were renewed, as new ones were forged. More importantly, we Theta Chi brothers are busy planning another vacation together, maybe a cruise.

The "Helping Hand" in Action

By C.J. Bowles (Alpha Rho/Washington '06)

It has been more than two years since I was initiated into the brotherhood of Theta Chi, but it was not until recently that I became truly aware of what kind of power the 'Helping Hand' can have in a time of need.

A pledge brother of mine, Kyle Charvat, has been battling brain cancer since around Christmas, 2002.

Kyle is the kind of person who lights up a room with his outgoing personality and never fails to bring a smile to the faces of those around him. It is very possible that most 19-year-old college freshmen would have been devastated by the news Kyle received, but he was the exact opposite. Not only did Kyle insist that everyone treat him the same as everyone else in the chapter, but, from his actions, no one could tell that he, literally, was fighting the fight of his life.

Kyle has spent the past two and a half years receiving various kinds of treatment for his cancer. Throughout it all, he has continued to be a fulltime student at UW in order to maintain benefits from his insurance provider to pay for his treatment.

During this past Fall Quarter, Kyle learned that the treatment he was receiving was no longer effective against the cancer. One of his medical options was to go to a doctor in



Kyle Charvat and Megan Oldfield at at UW Huskies football game.

Houston who does experimental work with cancer patients and who has been very successful with his work. Kyle is currently under the treatment and it appears to be working well. However it comes with a hefty price tag that is not covered by his insurance.

It was at this point that we, Kyle's brothers at Alpha Rho, stepped in and decided that it was our duty to help the Charvat family in their time of need. Among other fundraisers, we decided to sell Lance Armstrong-style wristbands with the engraving 'A Helping Hand' on one side and 'KC 05' on the other.

Going into it, we didn't know what kind of a response these wristbands would receive. At the Deranian Presidents Conference that was held in Indianapolis in January of this year, two of our brothers who attended took brochures to help promote the bracelets. Within a week of their return, we received phone calls from five different chapters across the country. Each chapter had already begun to raise funds for Kyle. Not only were these chapters buying bracelets for themselves, they were selling them to their friends and classmates at their colleges as well. It blew me away that guys who have never met Kyle would instantly begin raising money for him, solely because of their bonds through Theta Chi.

Deciding to become a brother of Theta Chi Fraternity has been one of the best decisions of my life. I have met life-long friends and made memories I will cherish forever. But the display of our motto in action, which I have witnessed for Kyle, has shown me a side of Theta Chi that



"Carefully, Guys!" Epsilon Sigma chapter brothers, from left, Terrance Farley, Charlie Rizzo (Best Man), Norman Ferren (Groom), Ronald Rainero, Robert Mazurek, and Rich Santoriello, carefully pose Bride Dawn Nargi.

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Alpha Rho chapter brothers, from left, Steve Teselle, Klye Charvat, Jake Erickson, and Justin Kirk.

I didn't know was possible. It has proven to me how special the bond among brothers in Theta Chi really can be.

To learn more about Kyle, log onto www3.caringbridge.org/wa/kylecharvat/. If you would like to receive more information about wrist bands, please contact me by phone (425-941-8760), or by email (cjbowles@u.washington.edu).

The Story of the Delta Phi 50th Anniversary Reunion

By Billy Clyde Price ('62)

At the end of the Korean War, a number of young men returned to North Texas State College to start or continue their lives as college students. Being older than most of the other students, they found it difficult to fit in with the fraternities already on campus and decided to start one of their own. It became Phi Delta Beta, which turned out to be one of the top fraternities on campus. After winning numerous awards on campus, they decided to go National. On May 8, 1954, they became the Delta Phi Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity.

This "Band of Brothers," along with those who pledged during the next decade, became what is known in Texas as a "Tight Bunch." We have continued to get together annually for the past 39 years on the first Saturday night in

December to celebrate the Christmas Holidays with our traditional Champagne Party in Dallas.

Ten years ago, we started having reunions every other year at various resorts around the Dallas area, which included three reunions on the University of North Texas campus in Denton. The reunion is a three-day affair of getting together, playing golf, and generally enjoying ourselves. The Saturday night dinner has become the highlight of the reunion as some of the brothers show-up for the dinner who couldn't make it to the golf tournament. We began to



One of the Delta Phi 2004 Reunion golf foursomes. From left: Don Broome, John Wagner, J.B. Balch, and Dwayne "Pinky" Streetman.

use the dinner as an alumni meeting several years ago and it has worked out well.

The 50th Anniversary Reunion was held last October at Tanglewood Resort on Lake Texoma, which is about 80 miles north of Dallas. Approximately 45 brothers attended, including several "Charter Members" who, by the time this article is printed, will have been presented Theta Chi 50 year membership certificates.

The golf tournament was on Saturday morning, which was the first cool day of the fall. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful day, as you can imagine if you've ever been in Texas during the summer. A meeting at the 19th hole followed our round of golf, and that night brought the dinner meeting, which found some still cele-



Alumni of Delta Phi enjoy renewed fellowship...again! From left: George Hatfield, Scott Buchanan, Dwayne Streetman, John Dorris, Jerry Conditt, John Wagner, David Maxwell, and Bob Plummer.



The Youngest *Rattle* Reader?

Loyal Theta Chi alumnus and dedicated University of Alabama graduate, Jimmy M. Wall (Alpha Phi '53) says: "I had to share this picture of my 16 month-old grandson and future Theta Chi, Will, looking at *The Rattle* with his proud Grandfather. Note the 'Bama rocking chair—my Christmas gift to him."



Gamma Lambda brothers and friends at their 3rd Annual Ski Retreat. Left to Right, front tables: Chris Murphy, Jim Murphy, Joyce Murphy, Jim Moylan, Davis Tuttle, Tim Schroeder, Bonnie Tuttle. Back Row: Josh Carson, Matt Townsend, Nick Sauer, Shad Townsend, Shanna Kearney, Jess Tuttle, Kristin Ptakowski, Rich Ptakowski, Bob Wolper.

Gamma Lambda and Families Reconvene on Slopes

By James J. Moylan (Gamma Lambda/Denver '69)

Spring-like skiing conditions welcomed almost 30 University of Denver-Gamma Lambda Chapter, alumni, family, friends and undergraduate brothers to Steamboat Springs, Colorado for our Third Annual Family Ski Trip.

A number of us were able to ski Thursday, this past January 20th, under clear blue skies (locally, we call these conditions a 'blue-bird') with temperatures in the '40s. For those who came into town on Thursday, we had our welcome dinner, featuring Southwestern fare at La Montana, owned by Brother Tom Garrett (Epsilon Tau/Stephen F. Austin State University '70).

Friday featured another "blue-bird" day on the slopes of Mt. Werner. Friday evening we "dined in" at the Timber Run Condominium Clubhouse, featuring an outstanding chicken chili dinner prepared by Suki and Tim Schroeder (Gamma Lambda/Denver '70), and Pam and Bob Wolper (Gamma Lambda/Denver '70). Entertainment for the evening was watch-

ing a video of the 1989 Summer Reunion in Steamboat. Geez! Were those kids skiing with us this weekend really that little in 1989? The parents, kids, and undergrads got a big kick out of seeing that video from 15 years ago!

This year's reunion must have really been "our turn" as Saturday provided another glorious "blue-bird" for our last day on the slopes. Saturday night we closed out our third reunion with dinner at Riggio's Restaurant in downtown Steamboat Springs.

For those remaining in town through Sunday, we held a get-away brunch at Lucille's Creole Café Down Home Louisiana cooking.

In all, this was a fantastic weekend of skiing, brotherhood, and friendship. The Fourth Annual Gamma Lambda Chapter Family Ski

brating the golf tournament. After the meal, the Reunion Chairman, Gordon Dodson, welcomed all and introduced our Scholarship Committee Chairman, Scott Buchanan, who brought us up to date on the scholarship fund.

Scott was happy to report that we have close to \$40,000 in our alumni endowed scholarship fund. Later, I gave a report to the brotherhood concerning the recolonization of our chapter, which by the way, I could not have done without the help of our Fraternity's International headquarters and staff.

We had a terrific Sunday morning breakfast meeting, which led all to either more golf, or traveling toward home.

We hope to have more of our younger alumni attend the reunion later this year, as we hope recolonization of the Delta Phi Chapter will commence during the 2005-2006 school year. Recolonization will be quite a challenge, and we need all the help and enthusiasm we can get from our younger brothers.

If you have a story of brotherhood that you want to share in *The Rattle*, send your entry to the Editor at 3330 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1333. You can email to el@thetachi.org. Any photo entries sent digitally must be the equivalent of 300 dpi.

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BROTHERHOOD! Gamma Lambda Style. Left to right, front row: Nick Sauer, Michael Lavine. Back Row: Tim Schroeder, Bob Wolper, Josh Carson, Brian Elizardi, Jim Murphy, Jim Moylan, Randy Tuttle.

Trip is planned for January 18–22, 2006 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. All Theta Chi Brothers and family are welcome. Contact me (jmoylanlaw@aol.com) for more information.

15 Years Later, Brothers Meet Again, in Iraq

Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel John Carson (Delta Upsilon/Arizona State '89) recently provided National Secretary and fellow-Delta Upsilon chapter brother, Mike Maloney ('87) photos and information about "me and a guy I ran into out here that is a brother from Long Beach. We both serve on the 1st Marine Division staff and are based just outside of Ramadi (Camp Blue Diamond, home of the first Marine Division, Ar Ramadi, Anbar province Iraq). We actually met in 1989, when we first went on active duty and were 2nd Lieutenants and were attending our initial school...just happened to run into each other in the sand box." The other brother is Marine Corps Major (LtCol Select) Mike Lathrop (Zeta Epsilon '89).

In exchanging Fraternal Greetings via email with these two brothers, as well as getting information about the photos provided showing the



LtCol John Carson (Delta Upsilon '89), left, and Major (LtCol Select) Mike Lathrop (Zeta Epsilon '89)

Marine Corps emblem/Theta Chi sign between them, Lathrop explained, "this door leads from the cat walk that surrounds the building the 1st Marine Division Hqs is in. It is used as a gate that is locked at night and is tied in with concertina wire. It is used for force protection measures. One of the Marines did the artwork."

Lathrop also showed a wry sense of humor, and offered 'the rest of the story' from his perspective, when he shared, "The significance of this, and the LtCol did not tell you, is that he and I actually met over 15 years ago at Marine Corps Base Quantico VA. He was getting ready to depart Quantico and I had just arrived. I had Theta Chi decals on my truck, and as any brother would, he left a note on the car telling me to meet him in the club and he would buy me a beer. We hadn't seen each other since. The truth is (and I swear it), as soon as the LtCol recognized me, he came collecting on that beer."

Beta Epsilon Alumni Reconnect... After 40 Years!

By Chuck Hubbard (Montana '66)

Last October 1 and 2, our chapter, Beta Epsilon, had its first reunion in 40 years. After four decades of little contact, 19 brothers answered the invitation to gather and renew friendships in Missoula once again. Things were a little different, as we had our spouses with us this time. Brothers came from Missoula and elsewhere in Montana, and from Tennessee, California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Dakota, Arizona, and Canada.

On Friday evening at 5 o'clock, brothers began to arrive in the bright, heated tent that was set up in the garden area of the Inn on Broadway. The air was full of anticipation, and perhaps a little nervousness. Would we know each other after all these years? Would we connect easily? All fears were allayed quickly, and brothers recognized one another (well, almost right away), and set about the wonderful business of reuniting. The cocktail hour and dinner passed quickly. There were almost no speeches, but slides, yearbooks, photos, jokes, and lots of time to catch up.

In the morning of the next day, we gathered on the grounds at Fort Missoula for a picnic. The stories, jokes, eating, and drinking lasted well into the afternoon of yet another beautiful Missoula autumn day. After awhile, our Missoula host, Stan Cohen (our chapter's stalwart housefather), led us on tours of the museums there. By the time the group began to break up, all were committed to a second reunion.

The seed for this, our first reunion, was sown when David Steenburg ('64), from Tucson,



Almost all of the Beta Epsilon alumni who attended their first reunion in 40 years. Front row, from left: Andy Utick ('65), Louis Dudas ('63), Ron Edwards ('64), Gary Gallaher ('63), Chuck Hubbard, Barry Reed ('62). Back row, from left: Al Traunweiser ('64), Lee Loomis ('63), Dave Steenburgen, Stan Cohen (honorary!), Austin Mason ('67), Ken Beattie ('67), Gary Svee ('65), Tony Costello ('67), Lowell Tripp, Steve Postle ('61). Not pictured are Rohn Kohler ('65), Mark Crosbie ('68), Bill Thomas ('68).

Arizona, located Lowell Tripp ('65) in Oakes, North Dakota via the internet. He contacted Lowell and arranged a visit to Oakes as part of a summer driving trip in 2003. By the end of their two-day visit, they determined a chapter reunion

was long overdue. Upon his return to Tucson, David, with Lowell's help, and the help of our Fraternity's International Headquarters in Indianapolis, compiled a list of members with graduation dates between 1961 and 1967 (you

A Chapter Mourns—A Nation Says “Thank You, Brother”

By Brett Evans (Theta Sigma/UC-Santa Barbara '93), Alumni Corporation President

I am writing to inform you of some sad news concerning one of our brothers. On February 2, 2005, Captain Sean L. Brock, USMC, was killed in action while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. He had served one tour of duty in Afghanistan and was on his second tour in Iraq.

His wife of barely two years, Navy Lieutenant Heather Brock, 27, is a nurse who had been stationed off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia to assist with the tsunami relief efforts when she received the news. Sean was planning to get out of the Marines soon and come home to finish his Master's Degree and start a family.

He is the first brother from our chapter who has died.

At 29 years old, he was a very well liked, and looked-up-to brother. Sean was someone who made a lasting impression on all who met him. He graduated in 1998.

Sean served as quite a role model for many of our brothers, for his friends and relatives, and his community in Redondo Beach, CA.

On Friday, February 11th, many alumni from our chapter attended Sean's memorial service and military funeral service in the Palos Verdes/San Pedro, California area. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, posthumously. Sean's service and sacrifice put a lot of things in perspective for many of us.

Sean's death has deeply saddened and humbled us as a group. He will be greatly missed by all of us. Thank you, Brother Sean.



Chapter Brothers Enjoy A Win! Eta Alpha (Clemson) alumni and college roommates, Scott Disher ('84), left, and Toby Proctor ('81) got together last November to watch their Tigers of Clemson play Atlantic Coast Conference opponents, the Miami Hurricanes. In the wake of Clemson's upset football win on the 'Canes Orange Bowl home field, both Disher and Proctor vowed to attend future Clemson/Miami football games and catch up more frequently.

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Richmond, Virginia Alumni Gather for Golf

Early last November, Richmond area Theta Chi alumni and undergraduates gathered at the Crossings Golf Course to enjoy some fellowship. Brothers from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU, Theta Xi), Randolph Macon College (Gamma Chi), Michigan State (Beta Zeta), and Virginia Tech (Eta Lambda) enjoyed a great day of golf, food, and refreshments. The VCU undergrads also fielded a team and joined the alumni. Dave Moncure (Gamma Chi '91) was the tournament organizer and awarded the winning team somewhat "tacky" cardigan sweaters that all hope will be passed down from year to year to the future winners. If there are any alumni who would like to participate in next year's event, contact Dave at dmoncure@essexopenings.com. Clockwise, from bottom left: Frank Overbey, Ted Aurelius, Steve Hubbard, Dave Moncure, Dave Wills, John Leimann, Marc Mayette.



have to start someplace!). He began by sending out a letter, email messages, and lists almost a year ahead of the projected date. Stan Cohen, of Missoula, helped to make some local arrangements.

Our chapter, Beta Epsilon, no longer exists on campus today, having closed in March 1993. The chapter hours at 340 University Avenue that most of us knew is also gone, having been destroyed by fire. What does remain, however, are wonderful memories, and since October 2004, renewed friendships and the promise of getting together again before too very long.

The Charter Club of Theta Chi, Gamma Xi Chapter, San Jose State University

By Lee Dugan ('49)

The 1940's were epic years in the history of America. These years covered World War II, the return of millions of veterans in '45 & '46, and hundreds of thousands of veterans using the famed G.I. Bill to enroll in colleges and universities (\$50 per month plus tuition and books). These young men were part of Tom Brokaw's "Greatest Generation."

Fraternalities barely functioned during the war years because most young men were in the service. The returning veterans changed all



Installation Day, May 1948, of Gamma Xi chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity

that. Local and national fraternities across the country became alive with men who were ready to learn, party, live, and love!—To make up for lost time! Most local fraternities affiliated with nationals during 1947–49. Our local fraternity, Beta Chi Sigma, became the Gamma Xi Chapter of Theta Chi at San Jose State College when it was chartered in May of 1948.

90% of the Fraternity brothers were veterans. This was typical of all fraternities at that time. It was a special time at a special place (college). The young veterans were already a

"Band of Brothers" by nature of their military service. They also became brothers in Theta Chi. That rare combination resulted in a very special bonding for the boys of Gamma Xi. Most of us graduated in 1949 or '50. We became college alumni and Fraternity alumni. And, as our chapter's Founding Fathers, we became very special alumni and brothers. We never lost that great bond.

For over a half a century we've kept in touch. We started having lunch meetings together in the '70s. In the '80s we formalized the group



Many of Gamma Xi's Founding Fathers and their wives, 2004

and became the "Charter Club." The club was made up of all the brothers who chartered our chapter in May 1948.

We then contacted the active Gamma Xi chapter at San Jose State and arranged for a joint barbecue luncheon at the Fraternity house to share our history (and theirs) with the "Actives." It was an outstanding success. They loved us and we loved them. We were brothers—though decades apart in years.

Since then the Charter Club has met twice a year for lunch. We meet in May to celebrate our charter date, and again in September, just to celebrate in general. Out of our (present) 35 members, we usually have a turnout of 14 to 18 brothers. Some come from as far away as Virginia, Arkansas, and Florida. One brother from Virginia attends at least once every year.

We regularly hold our luncheons at a fine restaurant in a central San Francisco Bay area location. On occasion some of the brothers will host the luncheon at their homes. Recently we had one at a brother's vineyard ranch in Napa Valley, several in San Jose, and one at La Selva Beach on the Monterey coast of the Pacific Ocean. In these hosted luncheons, wives are welcome. Our luncheon announcements include a copy of our newsletter, the "Frat Chat," with news items about the brothers, as well as past and upcoming events. Outrageous humor is an essential part of this communication.

We are now in our late '70s to mid '80s, but when we are together, it's like we never left campus. We all become young again and continue with brotherhood and fellowship, as always. For more info, call: Lee Dugan (408) 266-7653, Paul Castoro (408) 293-3826, or Marty Brittan (916) 989-4039.



Zeta Delta alumni have canoed these waters on an annual trip for each of the past 30 years.

Zeta Delta Continues Tradition

By Dave Ferdon (St. Cloud State '70)

No cell phones, no voice mail, no email, no TV, and water so clear they drank it right out of the lake. That's what it was like last summer when a group of St. Cloud State University alumni went on their thirty-first annual

Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) trip near the Minnesota/Canadian border.

"Thirty years ago, I never thought we'd still be doing this," says brother Dave Ferdon. It all started in 1974 when Ferdon and Dennis Hines ('74) were making plans to canoe the BWCA, like the French voyageurs did centuries before. By the time they left for that first trip, a half dozen more brothers had joined them. The following year, they all agreed to do it again. An annual tradition was born, one that has lasted for more than thirty years.

Originally the annual trip embarked from the chapter house in St. Cloud, Minnesota, but now it leaves from Hines' residence in a Minneapolis suburb. He provides transportation for the group in his conversion van.

Part of the Superior National Forest, the BWCA is a wilderness area managed by the U.S. Forest Service. It is a maze of lakes connected by streams. Along side of the streams are portages, paths through the forest from one lake to the next.

"We rarely go to the same place twice," says, Brother Bob Mellett ('75), "so each trip is a new adventure." Mellett, a manager at Fuji Film, provides a Fuji CD of photos taken each year to trip participants. "Last year, we hiked along a primitive border trail on a high ridge between lakes," he adds. "You could see Canada on one side of a lake and Minnesota on the other."

On his first trip, Mellett discovered an unnamed lake during an explore. He and several brothers noticed a stream flowing into the lake they were on. Their map showed the stream ending inland with no origin, but they figured it had to be flowing from somewhere. They paddled up the stream to check it out. When it got too narrow for their canoes, they continued on foot. "Suddenly the stream ended, just like on the map," Mellett recalls. Hiking a little further, he came to a clearing where he stood at the edge of a rock cliff. "I was looking down on a hidden lake," he adds, "surrounded by the forest, about a hundred feet below. The stream must have flowed underground from that lake." Mellett called it OX Lake.

"The fishing is great too," explains brother Bill Adams ('73). "I remember when a large northern pike swam up and grabbed a walleye I had just caught. I pulled it in and had both fish in the canoe."

On one trip, brothers discovered wide, flat rapids that they used as nature's water slide.

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Relaxed Zeta Delta alumni enjoy incredible views during their annual canoe trip.

"We put on our PFDs, jumped in, and let the current take us for a ride," says Hines.

Gus Virkus ('75), a teacher, track coach, and outdoor enthusiast, says, "If you can carry a sixty-five pound canoe over your head with a pack on your back, you can do this. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors and learn how to be a good steward of the environment."

"And a great way for friends to stay in touch, away from all the pressures of everyday life," Ken Hermanson ('73) adds.

A total of about two dozen brothers have gone on this historic annual trip. Hermanson has the best record, having participated in every trip during the last three decades. Each year up to nine brothers can attend, the maximum number of people the U.S. Forest Service allows at a single campsite.

When recent participants were asked if they were already planning on next year's trip, they responded enthusiastically, "You bet!"

Zeta Lambda Extends A Helping Hand

By Brian Bauer, Secretary, (Zeta Lambda '06)

The men of Zeta Lambda chapter, located at Westminster College, are getting a lot done and having fun too. We just completed a Date Auction a few weeks ago. Last year we used the money we raised from this event to help a library staff member at Westminster who had cancer. We raised a little over \$1,000 last year.

This year we used the money for one of the brothers of our chapter, Ron Bake ('06), who



Let Us Help Plan Your Reunion!

Don't miss out on the opportunity of getting together with brothers. Let the International Headquarters staff assist you in finding lost brothers and with suggestions for reunion planning. Contact the IHQ staff at 317-824-1881.

was in a car accident late last year. Ron has been in a coma since the accident. He has been fighting hard though. He continues to hang on.

Just last week we all had a scare when his blood pressure bottomed out and they had to work to stabilize him again. But now he is now



Alumnus and undergraduate members of Gamma Upsilon chapter, Bradley University, recently celebrated the April 30, 1949 anniversary of their chapter's installation into Theta Chi Fraternity. Among the chapter's Founding Fathers in attendance at the Peoria, Illinois event, organized by John Johnson ('53), were, from left, Bill Martin, John Farrell, James Olson, and Harry Dunn. Brother Olson entered the Chapter Eternal shortly after the reunion, and his many brothers are grateful for the opportunity to have time with their brother before his passing.

stable again and doing well. His eyes are open and he is moving, scratching himself, holding his mothers hand. But he is not responsive and not awake yet. The doctors are hopeful, but they do not know the extent of any brain damage yet.

We did the Date Auction this year to help Ron. The students of Westminster came together and raised an amount we could never have dreamed of raising. The students raised \$3,600 for Ron, with one student paying \$300 for her date!!

It was an amazing event. We took the money to Ron's mother this past weekend. She was shocked and incredibly grateful to the brothers of Theta Chi for this. The money will help them a great deal and will allow Ron's parents to go back to work. They are going to use the money to pay for a person to come sit with Ron every day. We are also going to try to help out and go sit with Ron for parts of the day. His mother wants someone to be there when he wakes up.

After this event and after everyone on campus found out what we did, I have never been more proud to be a Theta Chi. We are going to continue this event every year. Every year we will find someone in the Westminster Community who needs the Helping Hand and we will extend it.

UC-Berkeley Alumni "Go Fishin'!"

By Douglass Welch (Mu '83)

We organized a reunion and a week's fishing in the Turks & Caicos Islands. We flew in from California, Idaho, and London to fly-fish for bonefish on the tidal flats. A superb week of fishing, eating, drinking, and fellowship was perfectly accented by brother Chickering's catch of the last fish of the week—a heavy-weight 12 lbs. bonefish! We are definitely planning another trip!

Theta Chi Brothers For Life

Groups of Alpha Nu/Georgia Tech alumni from the class of 1960 recently gathered with their spouses in the Southeast, for two week-ends of fun, food, and recollections. National Vice President Don Gehring, who attended both events, reports that, "we all shared a common bond of brotherhood that has lasted a lifetime."



Alpha Nu chapter brothers living in Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, and Georgia reconnect at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. From left: Jim Cromer, Ken Alford, Ralph Heard, Bob Beisner, Bob Belote, Don Gehring.



Alpha Nu chapter brothers from Georgia and Maryland reunite on Saint Simons Island, Georgia, at the home of Ron Bell, second from left. Others pictured, from left: Don Gehring, Doug Duggan, Jim Talentino.