



“I Could Be Just Like Him”

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

I am sure that other Foundation volunteers and Development Office professionals will view this as heresy, but I am not going to use this column to ask you for money, (well, maybe a short plug at the end for a very worthwhile and special project). Rather, I want to talk to you about what I perceive to be a special need of our undergraduate brothers, and propose a way our alumnus brothers can “give back” to Theta Chi Fraternity by extending a “Helping Hand” in the form of your time and talent, rather than a part of your “treasure.”

Our 18–23 year old undergraduate brothers certainly live in a different world than when we went to college, whether it was in the '50s, '60s, '70s, or '80s. So many of the undergraduate brothers I meet have grown up in single parent homes. They do go back to Connecticut or California, or wherever, for holidays and typically the summer months to work. However, I often hear them talking about looking forward to going “home” after the holidays or summer vacation. Of course, “home” means back to campus and the chapter because so many of them think of the Fraternity as “home.”

Our undergraduate brothers have also been exposed to the corporate scandals like Enron, Worldcom, Adelphia and the like which gives them a false, unethical, and distorted perception of how one conducts oneself in the “real-world.”

Their home lives and today's society fail to provide that anchor which can set them on the proper course in how responsible, accountable, values-based individuals should behave, perform, and work in our society.

Our Fraternity provides a number of national educational and leadership programming activities for our undergraduate brothers at different venues throughout the year, to which you could contribute. In addition, there are many opportunities to interact with our undergraduate brothers on the chapter and regional levels. What I am proposing to my alumnus brothers is to get involved with our undergraduate brothers. Other alumni who are already involved as volunteers will be pleased to meet you along the way, and young men will be also, as they need your guidance, friendship, and your brotherhood. I think time spent with the undergraduates is so rewarding. You will meet many “stars of tomorrow” and you will hearken back to your college days when you were 18–

23 years old, full of optimism and promise, but a bit leery of what the future may hold.

Whether you become involved as a chapter advisor, serve on an alumni house corporation, or participate in Regional or National leadership events, your participation will not only have a profound influence on our undergraduate brothers, but you will be enriched by the experience. The undergraduates will relate to you, knowing you too were once an undergraduate Theta Chi brother and they will be inspired by what you have achieved in life, be it success in business or your profession, high standing in your community, or distinction among your peers. No matter the venue, this would be a time for you to demonstrate to our undergraduate brothers that you were once where they were and here you are now, at a place in life that each of them can attain with your guidance and mentoring. There is no greater reward than to hear an undergraduate brother say about you: “I could be just like him.”

For information about how you can get involved, please contact the International Headquarters of Theta Chi Fraternity at ihq@thetachi.org or me at jjmoylanlaw@aol.com.

The Sesquicentennial Celebration

You all know that we will be celebrating the Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary of the founding of Theta Chi Fraternity in July 2006 at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. The Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc. has accepted a challenge from the 2006 Sesquicentennial Committee to raise \$100,000 to fund the educational programming that will be offered during the event. In the months ahead, please watch for information about our 2006 Campaign and give as generously as you can.

Thank you, Brothers.