

## Greetings from Tuscaloosa, Alabama

By Dale Taylor, Alpha Phi/University of Alabama '69

It is with a great deal of appreciation to our past National President, Paul Norstrem, that I begin this term of service to my Fraternity. His leadership, and that of the Grand Chapter as a whole, has allowed this new group of alumni Brothers to look toward the future of Theta Chi. All of us wonder, what does that future hold for us in our lifetime commitment to the helping hand? I can tell you that it is an exciting future as we continue to develop undergraduate men to lead our states and nation.

Theta Chi is not an inward looking fraternity, rather it is, as envisioned by our Founders, a group of men who serve the needs of our Nation.

As an educational institution, we support the pursuit of excellence in overall scholarship since that is the purpose for which we attend college.

As a service organization, we seek opportunities to assist those in need in our communities and in our lives.

As a patriotic organization, we support and pray for our country and its leaders and, where appropriate, we work for change by participating in the electoral process or by standing for election to public office.

As a leader in the Greek Community, we share ideas with other like-minded individuals and groups about the growth and development of individuals and organizations within our greater inter-fraternal group.

As a developer of men, we work to insure that both the individual and the chapter to which he belongs see the greater purpose of a fraternity and to assist them in their natural development toward interdependence and relationships.

Lastly, as a fraternity, we pledge ourselves to the ideals of membership as expressed in our ritual and by-laws.

As we do this, we all became, or become, better people—Better Because of Theta Chi!

As we work within our Fraternity, there are opportunities for excellence in many areas:

**New Member Programs:** We are exploring changes to our training programs for new members that will continue through graduation. We are merging various ideas into a program that will link our ritual to our member education.

**Alumnus Involvement:** As we continue to develop better relationships and communication with Alumnus members, we hope to increase the opportunities and ability of our graduated Brothers to return just a little of what Theta Chi gave to them. We need assistance at all levels of our Fraternity and in particular with advising our local chapters. Adult presence with our undergraduate members helps them to know that support is available for hard and difficult decisions. Where we have active alumnus advisors, we almost always have a strong and consistent chapter.

**Education of Our Members through Leadership Programs:** We continue to have great opportunities to teach the basics of operation and per-

sonal development. Our leadership schools remain both viable and well planned. We add new initiatives each year to further the education of our members. The challenge here is to seek development opportunities that would decrease the cost to each participant.

**Communication:** We all know that this generation of young members uses technology differently than even a few years ago. Our improved web presence is only the precursor to more interactive programs using both web technology and outstanding graduate and undergraduate members as resources for our entire Fraternity.

**Alumni Outreach from Headquarters:** With last year's addition of staff member Jereme Grinslade, (Delta Kappa/Ball State '98 ) at the Headquarters, we will increase our outreach to more and more members. This is to increase the numbers of alumni members involved with our chapters and to find and use their expertise in varying ways to support the continued development of alumni organizations and House Corporations. Thanks to the Norwich Housing Corporation for funding these important efforts.

**Stakeholders:** It is the intention of this Grand Chapter to reach beyond the term of our service and to develop broad objectives that involve all stakeholders of our Fraternity—undergraduate members, alumnus members, employees, parents, university personnel, other Greek organizations and, of course, future Theta Chi pledges.

Please accept my absolute best to each of my Brothers in Theta Chi and my thanks for your dedication to our Fraternity and, please, email me about anything of importance to you or to Theta Chi at [dale\\_taylor@bell-south.net](mailto:dale_taylor@bell-south.net).

