

# The Phi Arrow



## Inside This Edition



**We Need Your Input!**  
Please respond to a 4 question survey regarding programming and volunteering



**Active Chapter President Sam Smith** provides insight into life as an undergrad



**Alumni Council President Brian Larson** reflects on the challenging year and encourages future involvement



**Holding Company Treasurer Jason Gates** gives a campaign update as well as more news regarding the chapter house



We remember our good friend Jason "Teddy" Ramstad upon news of his passing



**Alumni Treasurer Cory Loveless** provides an update on the Steinway project

## Alumni Council Members

<b>President</b>	Brian Larson ('91)
<b>President Elect</b>	Rob Neubauer ('13)
<b>Past President</b>	Dale Wunderlich ('82)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cory Loveless ('12)
<b>Member (1 yr)</b>	Mike Sprenger ('89)
<b>Member (2 yr)</b>	Jon Zimmerman ('13)
<b>Member (3 yr)</b>	Vacant

## Alumni Council President Update

**Brian Larson ('91)**

Greetings Brothers!

It has been nearly two years now since the brothers of Phi Chapter of Theta Chi have got together at an Alumni Council sponsored event. The 2020 and the 2021 Pig Banquets were both canceled, along with the 2020 Homecoming. The 2019 Homecoming activities were canceled due to a winter-like storm that fall. This means the last event that we held was the Pig Banquet in March 2019. This is a long time to go without interaction with brothers. Hopefully you have all been able to continue your traditions of get-togethers and annual events that many of you have established with each other over the years.

The Council recently met and agreed to plan a Pig Banquet for March 2022. The Council also kicked around some ideas for some social gatherings of Brothers for possibly this spring, but more likely for this coming summer and/or fall. Please respond to the survey below to help us plan and make preparations. If any brother has any idea of something the Council could do please share it with a Council member and maybe it will become a reality.

When we think of past Pig Banquets the first thing most Brothers remember are the fond memories of seeing old friends and catching up. One thing we don't always think of is the annual meeting. One of the more important items of business during meeting is election of Council members. We are on the verge of two years of canceled meetings which means we are two years behind on replacing Council members. In the near future or possibly it has happened already, some of you may be contacted by a Council member with the intent of recruiting you to serve on the Council. Please give it some serious consideration if contacted and even if you are not contacted, give it some thought and let a Council member know if you would like to throw your hat in the ring. Serving on the Council is a great way to become involved again and get to know Brothers that are from a different era.

Take care everybody.

Fraternally,

Brian Larson '91 "1296"  
Alumni Council President



## An Assisting Hand We Need to Hear From You!



As we navigate back into our traditional schedule of events, we need to hear from alumnus brothers. Your voice is needed so that the Alumni Council can continue to provide opportunities for brothers to enjoy our fraternity.

Please respond to the following survey regarding a gathering in Summer 2021 and to indicate whether you'd be willing to offer an Assisting Hand in the business of our fraternity.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)



## Active Chapter Update

**Sam Smith, '22**

### Active Chapter President

**How many active chapter members are there currently? How many live in the house?**

There are currently 44 active members, 21 of which live in the house.

**How has recruitment been? How many men were initiated last semester? How many potential new members are there? How has COVID-19 impacted recruitment?**

Despite the complications that COVID-19 has brought upon our chapter, last fall we were able to get a pledge class of 8 and this spring we currently have 10 potential new members. COVID-19 has been less than ideal for recruitment, but we push on. We are no longer able to set up tables in the Memorial Union or go into any on campus residence halls. We have had to step up and rely on our advertising around campus. We are Utilizing the Memorial Union's TV ads as well as posting physical ads on bulletin boards across campus. We plan to implement one or two recruitment 365 events during this semester as well.

I am happy with the numbers that we have been able to get during this time, but I am expecting and encouraging the chapter to make the most of this coming Fall semester as the world begins to normalize. We are one of the Fraternities with the highest number of initiates last fall as well as the number of potential new members this spring.

**What has life been like in the chapter during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Life in the chapter at the beginning of the pandemic was hectic. A lot of

people moved back home last year in the spring and we had to deal with the complications of running the chapter virtually, but our previous President Tyler Blegen did a great job at navigating that. As we returned to campus this past fall, the chapter was eager to get back the slightest bit of normalcy. Instead, we were hit with a 2-week quarantine by the state of North Dakota as one of our members had COVID-19 and was not aware of it when he moved in. It was not ideal, but we had some great times being stuck in the house. It is one of those things that makes your college experience. Who else can say they were stuck in a house for 14 days straight with 29 of their closest friends and brothers? After that quarantine we created our own COVID-19 plan modeled after North Dakota's. We dictated how many guests could be over at the house at one time, guests had to check in when they arrived and have their temperature taken, as well as wear a mask while they were here. We were quarantined one other time later in the semester as COVID-19 silently swept through the house and that time there were only 4 of us that did not contract it. We have had our fair share of quarantine moments. As stated before we were able to get a pledge class of 8 but they too were affected by COVID-19. There were many of them that contracted it towards the end of the new member process, therefore we had to move our initiation weekend back. We eventually got those 8 members initiated as full-fledged members of Theta Chi. Even through these trials and tribulations we are focused and determined to keep this Fraternity alive and thriving.

**What is the active chapter G.P.A.? How many men are on the Dean's list?**

The current active chapter G.P.A is 2.938, and there were 22 members on the Dean's list for the Fall 2020 semester.

**Can you give a brief update on the different majors or activities within the chapter? What other leadership roles are brothers in?**

There are a multitude of majors within the Fraternity, they include computer science, construction management, biology, marketing, business, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and

agrobusiness, to name a few. We have members involved with student government, the congress of student organizations, Order of Omega, Army ROTC, the Interfraternity council, along with others.

**Anything else to add as active chapter president?**

We are currently in the process of hiring a new chef. Last year we hired Octavio Gomez but decided to part ways after some misunderstandings this past fall. We wish him nothing but the best. We are currently talking to the chef at Sigma Alpha Epsilon who has expressed interest in cooking for both of our Fraternity houses. No decision has been made on the matter yet. Otherwise, we are easing back into being active within the Greek community again as COVID has forced us to take a break from being social with other organizations. We are doing it safely and abiding by all social distancing guidelines. We have already had one social with Kappa Alpha Theta and have one planned with Alpha Gamma Rho, as well as Alpha Gamma Delta. If you would like to follow along with the activities of the chapter, make sure you give @ndsuthetachi a follow on Instagram! I am proud of our work throughout this pandemic and optimistic that we will come out of these trying times as a stronger and more capable brotherhood than before.

To all of the brothers before us:  
Love and Respect,  
the Active Chapter.



*Brothers and guests from Kappa Alpha Theta gather for a game night social*





## Holding Company Update

**Jason Gates, '01**  
**Holding Company Treasurer**

Hello Fellow Alumni!

I hope all of you have been staying healthy (and warm!). This marks the end of my 2<sup>nd</sup> year as serving as the Holding Corporation treasurer, so far everything has been going well.

Some repairs we have made in the past year include fixing plumbing issues in the 2nd and 3rd floor heads, adding a heater in the kitchen, replacing a sump pump, adjusting interior doors, and replacing a control board on 2 of the 3 boilers. This past fall we installed gutter guards to keep the gutters flowing freely and heat tape along the roof edge to prevent ice dams. Over Christmas break this year we had a pipe freeze and burst which caused water damage in a bedroom and the ceiling of the music room on main, this has all been repaired. Looking forward, we have some projects to consider including adding insulation to our 4<sup>th</sup> floor ceiling to prevent snow melt on the roof (which causes the ice dams) and installing a battery or backup generator for our sump pumps. Needless to say, our 94-year-old house will continue to require ongoing maintenance and repairs.

We would like to have more alumni

involved in our Holding Corporation and the maintenance of our chapter house, if you are interested in helping please reach out to me.

This year our Phi Now campaign pledges are nearing their conclusion. Our current tally is \$1,493,249 in received donations and \$17,867 in pledges remaining. What an impact this campaign has had on our chapter house and alumni network! Over 378 alumni have donated to the campaign and we had over 500 attendees at our centennial celebration. It has truly been an exciting time to be an alumni member of Phi chapter.

Looking forward we will need to keep this energy up – I hope you have stayed in touch with your Phi chapter brothers through the past year. If you have not already, [sign up for Theta Chi for Life](#). This is a pledge to donate \$200/year. These donations make a HUGE impact on our organization and enable us to continue maintaining and improving our historic chapter house. If you are unsure of how to sign up just send me an email. Take care everyone and I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Fargo again soon.

Faternally,  
Jason Gates "1563"  
[jgates97@gmail.com](mailto:jgates97@gmail.com)  
701-367-0471

# Phi Now!

Theta Chi Fraternity  
North Dakota State University

Phi Chapter's Centennial Campaign, by the numbers:

Total Amount Pledged  
**\$1,515,116**

Total Amount Collected  
**\$1,497,792**

Collection Rate  
**98.9%**

Total Contributors  
**378**

Participation Rate  
**31.1%**

**Thank You!**

*Numbers as of 3/31/21*



## Saving the Steinway

**Cory Loveless, '12**  
**Alumni Council Treasurer**

In the spring of 2018, a "concerted" effort was made to gather funds to restore the Steinway piano that has been a part of the fraternity for decades. Thanks to the generosity of many brothers, \$10,000 was raised and the piano was sent to a local luthier and repair shop.

As of March 2021, the piano restoration is nearing completion. The instrument itself is mostly complete, but the COVID-19 situation has delayed completion of the exterior refinishing. The project is scheduled to be completed in May or June of 2021. Thanks again for your generosity!





## Remembering "Teddy"

**Cory Loveless, '12**

**Alumni Council Treasurer**

Jason "Teddy" Ramstad is a familiar face for many Theta Chis, especially those who preferred to unwind at Chub's Pub on South University. Teddy is always a smiling face when you walk in the door and a good source of conversation.

In 2018, after suffering a heart attack and respiratory arrest, Teddy's liver and kidneys began failing. Multiple, stubborn infections and complications made him increasingly confused and inactive. Teddy was a blood clot or bout of pneumonia away from certain death. He wasn't expected to live through the end of the year. At one point, Teddy was in a coma. For the full story, visit

<http://www.inforum.com/community/people/4433715-back-brink-popular-fargo-bar-manager-has-miracle-recovery>

Almost miraculously, Teddy made a recovery. However, the medical bills added up and there was a financial need for support. A fundraiser called Tedstock was held to benefit Teddy and help him handle some of the medical bills. The official total raised was \$26,903 at that event, and almost 500 friends and family attended in support of Teddy.



*Above: the stage of the Sanctuary Events Center decorated by a TedStock banner in 2018*

Teddy was an ardent supporter of Theta Chi. He donated money to the chapter house during our own fundraising efforts in 1996, plowed our parking lot on multiple occasions when the snow had piled up, and graciously hosted many pig banquet social gatherings with a welcome sign and 2 for 1 drink tickets. More than that, Teddy's hospitality and interfraternal support meant a great deal to all Theta Chis.

Teddy was a fraternity member himself. At Moorhead State University, Teddy was initiated into the Phi Omega chapter of the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity. I had the opportunity to speak with a former roommate, fraternity brother, and close friend of Teddy named Matt Entzion. Matt was part of a team that helped organize Tedstock, and had many great things to say about his good friend and brother.

"Teddy was Phi Sig of the Phi Omega chapter at Moorhead State, but that doesn't mean he wasn't your (Theta Chi's) brother. He was everyone's brother because he lived the ideals to which all brothers aspire.

Loyalty. Community Involvement. Stewardship. Honor.

Teddy was the brother that taught you how to tie your tie for a formal meeting. He was the one looking out for you if you were struggling in academics. He was the social chair that persuaded that sorority to get out of their house. He was the one that took seriously his role in the big brother/both sister program.

Teddy was dedicated to a life of service in his undergraduate life if brotherhood, and carried that forward in a life of service in the community.

A life well lived indeed."

We will all miss Teddy. For many of us, Chubs is the "public house" that we return to be with our family of fraternity brothers to catch up, to celebrate, or to mourn. The next time you're in Fargo and happen to stumble into Chubs, be sure to raise a glass and remember our good friend and brother Teddy.



A long time rendezvous destination for Theta Chis, the iconic Chubs Pub sign invokes memories for brothers, including many conversations with Teddy.



The flowers above were donated on behalf of Theta Chi at Teddy's prayer service. The white ribbon reads "Friend of Theta Chi" and the message on the card is copied below:

"The men of Theta Chi fraternity remember our dear friend 'Teddy' and offer our condolences to family. Rest in Peace.

- Theta Chi Alumni"

