

Spring 2019

The Phi Arrow

Inside this issue...

Join us for Pig Banquet 2019

Pig Banquet is a time to celebrate the founding of Theta Chi annually with brothers from Phi chapter. See Page 7 for full details!

Chapter Updates

Get the latest reports from the Alumni Council, The Holding Company, and the Active Chapter. We have much to celebrate and much to accomplish!

Front-yard Facelift

Thanks to the efforts of several volunteer alumnus brothers and the generosity of brother Chris Bergen (Φ '85), the front yard received a much needed update to match the building construction update. Read the full details on page 5.

Benefits for Brothers and Friends

One of the most important parts about our fraternity is our mission to lend an assisting hand. Inside this issue you can read about separate benefits for brother Robert "Yabo" Gjellstad (Φ '73) and a Jason "Teddy" Ramstad, a friend of Theta Chi and general manager of Chub's Pub and Package place.

Theta Chi National Convention

Theta Chi gathers biannually to conduct the business of the fraternity and experience brotherhood on a international level. In 2018, our convention was in Las Vegas, NV and a group of Phi chapter brothers made the trip to represent our chapter. Read more about it ... "Viva La Theta Chi"!

Football: Fargo to Frisco

Hear more about the historic seventh FCS Football title earned by the Bison and updates from this season's tailgating experience.



Table of Contents

Benefits for Yabo, Teddy.....	2,6
Alumni & Active Chapter Updates.....	2-4
Front-yard Facelift.....	5
Theta Chi National Convention.....	6
Football: Fargo to Frisco.....	7
Pig Banquet 2019.....	7

Special points of interest

- Pig Banquet is March 29-30. You can RSVP @ www.phionline.org/pig-banquet. Please update your contact information!
- Consider continuing your PhiNow pledge after the end of the campaign



"A Helping Hand" | Benefit for Yabo

On July 29th this past summer, a benefit was held in Velva, ND to assist with medical expenses for one of our ΘΧ brothers, Robert "Yabo" Gjellstad, as he has taken on an unexpected battle with Mesothelioma. For this benefit, our Theta Chi Fraternity brothers showed up in droves, coming from all over North Dakota and as far away as the twin cities and Louisiana to partake in this event. Below is a letter from Yabo expressing his gratitude for the Theta Chi support, demonstrating the true meaning of the "Helping Hand of Theta Chi":

"Brothers,

In April of 2018, I had the misfortune of being diagnosed with Mesothelioma. I had a lot of support from family and friends. That local support really escalated when the Velva Fire Department decided to sponsor a benefit for me last July. The event was well attended, not just locally, but the Theta Chi attendance was overwhelming. I regret I could not attend due to health reasons. Even though I was not there, I truly felt the 'Helping Hand of Theta Chi'. Thank you to the 'Brothers' for all of the support and prayers!

At present, I'm still undergoing treatments.

Fraternally,
Yabo Gjellstad '1080' "

I believe this expresses the true deep-down meaning of Theta Chi, the traditions and ideals it was created for, and the life-long friendships it creates!

God bless you Yabo, our thoughts and prayers are with you!



Brothers in attendance for the Yabo Gjellstad Benefit

Back row: Mark Nelson, Brad Tewes, Kevin Effertz, Dale Wunderlich, Kirby Mueller, Brad Haugen, Roger Effertz, Dennis Wunderlich, Alan Effertz, Neal Swenson, Neil Effertz, Ryan Westgard, Gordy Wertz, Dave Backlund, Roger Grant, Joe Ness, Chad Effertz, Steve Morris, Jarrett Mogen, Dave Miller;

Front row kneeling: Dave Jones, Roger Gjellstad, Mark Backstrom, Greg Gebeke, Gus Mueller, Russ Handegard, Ken Schwebach, Brad Westrum, Al Christianson.

Alumni Council

President: Dale Wunderlich '82

Treasurer: Cory Loveless '12

President Elect: Brian Larson '91

Past President: Kelly Linster '91

1 Year Term: Rob Neubauer '13

2 Year Term: Corey Haller '16

3 Year Term: Mike Sprenger '89

We are always looking for brothers willing to step up and help provide updates and programming for alumni! If you or someone you know might be a great fit for the Alumni Council, please let us know by contacting Cory Loveless at Cory.Loveless@gmail.com

Alumni Council Update

I have truly enjoyed my time thus far on the Alumni Council. The last two years with all the renovations going on with the chapter house remodeling it has been a great time to get re-connected with Fraternity life and functions at NDSU.

If you haven't been back to the remodeled chapter house in the last year or two, I highly encourage you to stop in and see the new product. Pig Banquet on March 30th would be a great time to schedule this! Not only is it great to see the result of the hard work of all the volunteers helping with the project, it tends to take one back in time thinking about all the great times we had during those college years. In my opinion, it makes you feel younger thinking about all those memories that seem like yesterday.

With a year passing since we have residents in the house again, all is back on track with normal campus Greek life. As I was proud of our chapter house when attending college, serving on the Alumni Council, and helping with the house remodeling, I am now more confident than ever that ΘΧ has the best house on campus. Not only from an architecture standpoint, but also from the standpoint of the quality of our brotherhood.

We do have to fill the upcoming alumni council vacancies, President-elect and a council member. Please consider one of these roles as the 2019 Pig Banquet approaches. Please feel free to contact myself or any of the council members (*left*) if you are interested.

Fraternally,

Dale Wunderlich '82

Alumni Council President

Active Chapter Q&A with Callahan Stewart, President

Q1: How many actives are there?

A: We currently have 40 active members. Four are graduating this spring, one is moving on to graduate school.

Q2: Pledge class sizes? Last spring? Last Fall? Current pledge class?

A: Last spring we had a pledge class of 8, this last fall we had a class of 6 students. This semester we are on track to get a class of around 10 students which is the highest on campus.

Q3: Chapter GPA? Any associated Greek or Campus awards associated?

A: As of Fall 2018 our chapter GPA is 3.182 which is above the all Greek average. Our chapter has had the 2nd highest GPA for all-male fraternities. We also have 21 members on the Dean's List with 6 achieving 4.0 GPAs.

Q4: What's life like in the remodeled house?

A: Although I've never lived in the house before renovation, my experience of living in the new house has been entirely a positive one. To shed more light; Derek Hatzenbuehler, who has lived in house pre and post renovation, had this to say:

"I feel lucky to have seen and lived in the house both before and after renovations. We all know the house before renovation had its fair share of bats, random bat stains, wall scratches and holes, and a range of other miscellaneous issues, but it also had character and stories, some of which I will never forget. Although I only got to experience it for about a year, I will always cherish the time I got to spend with brothers hanging out in TV rooms, singing in the coal bin, and washing dishes while jamming to music. With about 30 guys in the house, there was always someone to hang out with. TV room doors would always be open, and it was a welcoming environment.

The renovated house has its own charm as well, part of it being Main. It keeps the old, classic feel of the house but also introduces something modern. One of my favorite things to do was sit by the fireplace on cool winter nights. The shared spaces in between sleepers are slowly getting repainted which has brought back some of the subtle touches of the old house. On most days, guys still spend time in their common rooms, and the two social rooms have adopted their own atmosphere. Third floor has a more tech-based social room while second floor usually hosts movies and video games. And then there are Loaf runs where brothers will go on group trips to Loaf N Jug for snacks – always a fun time. Memories are still being made and brotherhood is still being formed – just maybe a little differently than before the renovation."

Q5: Any actives make it to Frisco?

A: This year only one active member went to Frisco (Paul Witte) I believe this is because attending the national championship has lost its charm with the onset of championship wins the Bison have achieved in the past decade.

Q6: What are typical rush activities? What is the most successful? Has the remodeled house been a factor?

A: Typical rush activities include playing board/video games inside of the freshman dorms, destroying a car in a car smash, playing mini-golf within the house, hosting coffee within the union, dodgeball tournaments, and house tours. Ironically, the most successful events tend to be the easiest ones to set up. These are typically events that focus more on interactions between actives and the new members rather than the event itself. The renovated house has been incredibly helpful as it serves as a meeting location for people to hang out after the events have occurred.

Q7: Is the house full? How do expenses compare to campus and/or apartment life?

A: The house is not completely full, but even without the couple extra in-house brothers, total dues for in-house members are only around \$2,500. To put this in perspective, if you were to live on campus \$2,500 would just cover the meal-plan.

Q8: What are the majors that the actives are currently taking?

A: We currently have a good distribution of members with the most prominent majors being computer science and mechanical engineering. Along with this we have 5 members pursuing a double major and 2 taking on a triple major along with 4 members planning on attending some form of graduate school.



Help "Military Red" Go "Green!"

The Phi Chapter Alumni Council is changing with the times!

In the future some of the Phi Arrow issues may be e-mailed instead of mailed to save on printing and postage costs; which is about \$1,500 per newsletter.

Also, if you would like to receive electronic communication from the Alumni Council about events such as Pig Banquet and Homecoming gatherings please send your preferred e-mail address to Sarah Gates (PhiNow Campaign Coordinator & Data Keeper) at sbgates17@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Sarah Gates



Holding Company Update

Hello fellow Phi alumni!

With the completion of our landscaping at the chapter house this past fall we have closed the final chapter on our renovation project. We should all be proud of how well this project has gone.

Back in 2011, an architecture firm estimated our project would cost \$1,500,000 to \$1,700,000. Our actual construction expenses were \$1,280,389 - 7 years later. Wow, how often do you hear of a construction project finishing under budget? This was only possible due to the dozens of alumni and actives that rolled up their sleeves and pitched in. We had alumni at the site almost every day installing windows, flooring, doors, landscaping - you name it. Credit for coordinating this great volunteer effort goes to Russ Handegard, who acted as our general contractor and was at the site throughout the 15 months of construction. We are very fortunate to have a resources like Russ and Jeff Wrede (who donated all architectural work) making sure that all work was performed to a high standard and costs were kept under control.

Of course this project would not have been possible without a successful fundraising campaign. To date our campaign has collected \$1,350,521 in donations out of a total of \$1,535,241 that was pledged. This leaves us with \$184,720 outstanding which we expect to receive over the next few years as the last pledges are finished. We will use the remaining donations to replenish our Holding Corporation accounts, which were drawn

down to pay for the construction and fundraising costs. By the way, our total fundraising costs (which includes the feasibility study, architectural renderings, campaign consultant, campaign coordinator, newsletters, printing, postage, credit card fees, etc.) came to \$189,137 or 12% of the amount raised. A typical capital campaign has fundraising costs in the range of 10-15%; so we did well in this area too.

Looking forward, we need to stay vigilant with our annual fundraising efforts. With the new state-of-the-art mechanical and life safety equipment we installed comes increased annual maintenance and inspection costs. It is important that we continue supporting Theta Chi for Life to ensure that we have the resources necessary to keep our house in excellent condition.

In closing I want to thank everyone that either contributed financially, donated materials or donated their time to assist with the construction. We truly have the house that brotherhood built.

Faternally,

Jason Gates
Holding Company Treasurer



The House that Brotherhood Built

Left to Right: Dave Hynek, C.J. Brereton, Brad Westrum, Russ Handegard, Rick Buresh

Front-Yard Facelift

With the inside remodeling completed, the summer of 2018 focused on updating the outside. Russ Handegard still had the Bison by the horns in spearheading the remodeling project.

This year, Russ and his crew focused mainly on updates outside of the house during the summer. Improvements included removal and replacement of all sidewalks from the boulevard sidewalk inward. The window wells under the French doors on main and the south side of the house were removed and replaced. There was a dire need to replace the window wells, as the concrete they were constructed with had cracked and shifted to the point where there was an 8" difference from one end to the other of the window well under the French Doors on main. A lawn sprinkler system was installed, and new grass was seeded late last fall.

Many Thanks to Chris Bergen for supplying the plants, bushes, and trees to complete the outside renovation. Many thanks to the many volunteers who helped with this project. I am excited for this spring and summer to see how good things will look.



Top, Middle:
New sidewalks on the East and West side of the house

Bottom:
New dirt prepped for landscaping in the front lawn

***Many Volunteer brothers were present to help with the house renovations.
Much thanks to everyone involved!***



Landscape crew at work:
Russ Handegard and Dave Hynek



Rocky Bertsch looking for someone to train him in shovel operations



Testing the sprinkler system

“An Assisting Hand” | Benefit for Teddy

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.

Earlier this year, 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 has begun to make a recovery. However, the medical bills added up and there was a financial need for support. Recently, a fundraiser called Tedstock was held to benefit Teddy and help him handle some of the medical bills.

Teddy is an ardent supporter of the chapter, having donated money to the chapter house during our own fundraising efforts in 1996, plowing our parking lot when the snow has piled up,

and graciously hosted many pig banquet social gatherings with a welcome sign and 2 for 1 drink tickets. The alumni council of Phi chapter has unanimously agreed that we should try and offer an assisting hand to Teddy in his time of need.

In total, \$3,105 was raised by Theta Chis for Teddy, including \$500 from the Alumni Council.



Jason “Teddy” Ramstad, general manager of Chub’s Pub and pictured with his mother, Jan, survived a heart attack and multiple organ failures and has experienced a dramatic turnaround.

David Samson / The Forum



Top: Derek Hatzenbuehler (‘18) delivers his speech after being recognized at the convention as the 2017 Colley award recipient.

Bottom: Cory Loveless (‘12) and Kelly Linster (‘91) were present as alumnus members. Loveless was a facilitator and Linster was the alumni delegate.

“Viva la Theta Chi” | Convention 2018

I was offered the opportunity to be the alumni delegate for Phi Chapter at this past year’s 162nd Anniversary National Convention in Las Vegas, NV. It had been over 20 years since I have last attended a National convention (Phoenix Convention).

Being removed from national convention for way too long, it was fun to re-experience as an older alumnus. The list of speakers and breakout sessions were relevant and of the highest quality as it pertains to today’s fraternity life.

It was fun to bump into brothers from past leadership events, whether it was Joseph Couch, retiring National President who was at Phi’s 100th celebration; or the ever entertaining Al Calarco from past national conferences and his visit to Phi Chapter way back when I was in the house and we had him stay in the Pit (still talks about this); or Paul “Yogi” Nordstrom from the Chapter Leadership conferences hosted by Hamline, River Falls, U of MN and, yes, even NDSU! It was great to catch up and see that brotherhood never really stops. I witnessed brotherhood from chapters all over the country. It reminded me that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Brotherhood always remains!

But ultimately what sticks out the most was the demonstration of the Helping Hand by hundreds of alumni brothers from all across this great country; alumni brothers who are all passionate about perpetuating the ideals of Theta Chi. It reminded me of the adage “to whom much is given, much is expected.” I challenge all my fellow brothers of Phi Chapter to assist in the helping hand by the giving of your talent and treasure to ΘΧ. I know I will be!!

TAG YOU’RE IT!!!

Kelly J Linster ‘91 / ‘1341’

Pig Banquet 2019

Pig Banquet is set for Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Avalon Event Center. I sincerely hope you can make it this year.

The schedule of events can be found on the sidebar to the right.

RSVP online at: <http://phionline.org/pig-banquet> or by returning the form on the back page.

The cost for the banquet is \$45 / person.

Blocks of rooms have been set up under "Theta Chi Alumni" for Friday, March 29th and Saturday, March 30th at the following hotels:

Holiday Inn:

701-282-2700, \$105/night for 2 queens

Express Way Suites:

701-239-4303, \$95/night

Home2 Suites:

701-492-5402, \$94/night king, \$104/night for 2 queens

Both the Holiday Inn and Expressway Suites offer rides to the Avalon, and this must be pre-arranged with the hotel during the day of the event. The Avalon has a limo that will provide rides back to any of the hotels mentioned above. Any questions please contact Dale Wunderlich at dale.r.wunderlich@gmail.com or by phone at 701-680-0508.

Football: Fargo to Frisco

January 5, 2019 was the end of another National Championship season by the Bison football team. This year's undefeated season marked the 7th National Championship in the last 8 seasons.

Homecoming this past year was on September 29th with the Delaware Blue Hens who came out on the short hand of a 38-10 game, GO BISON!

I would like to express a special Thank You to the Larimore and Tolna alumni who let us share their tailgate location as a ΘX gathering location. Tailgating continues to be a great venue to meet up with brothers and friends from the past. If any of you happen to be in the Fargo area this next fall, please make an effort to take in a game and stop by the tailgating area to reminisce. For myself, it seems that at least once every year I reconnect with someone I have not seen since my days at NDSU and ΘX. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

-Dale Wunderlich



Above: Active members at the Homecoming Parade

Below: brothers gathered at one of the ΘX Tailgating spots



Pig Banquet Schedule

Friday March 29

1-4 PM

ΘX House tours at your leisure

4-8 PM

ΘX Social & Buffet
Cash bar, taco buffet
(private room)

Herd & Horns

1414 12th Ave N,
Fargo ND

8 PM

Chubs Pub

Saturday, March 30

10:00 AM

House Tours

Noon

Pig Banquet in basement
of ΘX house

2:00 PM

Alumni Meeting
and Special Event:
3rd degree ceremony

Century Theatre in the
NDSU Memorial Union

5:00 PM:

Social hour

Avalon Events Center
2525 9th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58103

6:30 PM: Banquet

Pig Banquet Registration Form

Name: _____

Number of Meals Saturday: ____

Address: _____

x \$45

Total Cost: ____

Graduation Year _____

Please Remit with Payment to

Guest Name(s) _____

Theta Chi Alumni

P.O. Box 5767

Days Present:

Fargo, ND 58105

Friday ____ Saturday ____



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Theta Chi Fraternity

Alumni Chapter

P.O. Box 5767

Fargo, ND 58105

