



# THE TAU NEWS

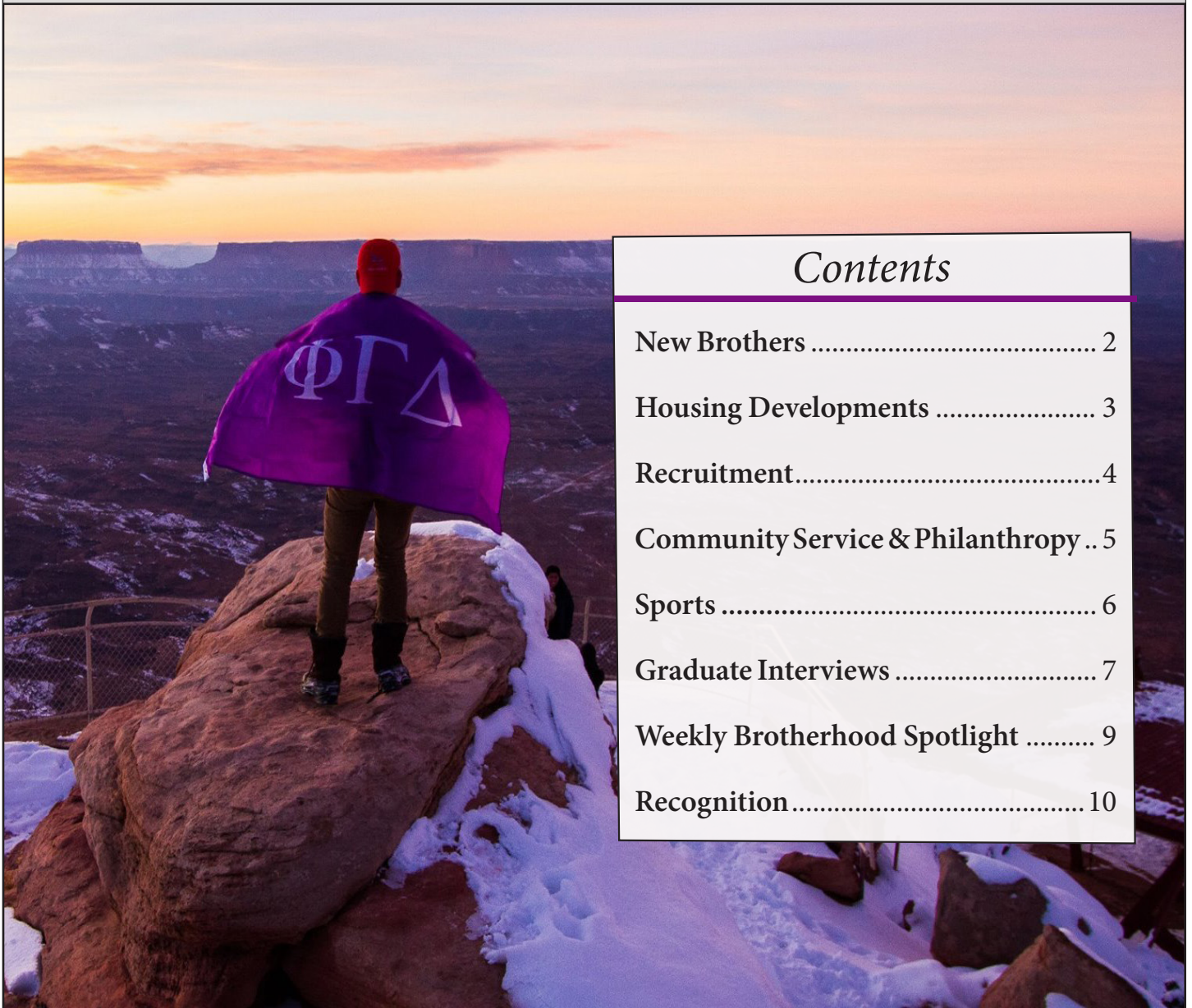
Official Graduate Brother Newsletter - Tau Nu Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta

Volume AI, Issue 1

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

82 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Troy, NY

## The Fall 2016 Issue

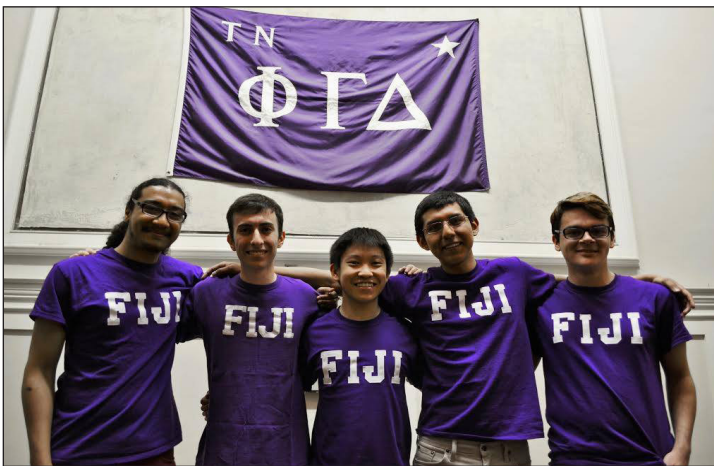


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## *New Brothers*

We would like to welcome our new brothers, the men of PCS '16. Samuel Augusto Protasio Deslandes '18, Colin Eugene Higgins '19, Rex Hu '19, Louis Gerardo Navarro Garcia '19, and Joseph Martins Souto '19 successfully completed their pledge program headed by Pledge Educator Christopher Leong '16 and Pledge Examiner Timothy Tse '17. Brother Deslandes is the current Graduate Relations chair, and his pledge brothers serve on multiple committees. We proudly accept these men into our brotherhood. We know they will do great things for our chapter.



*PCS '16 in their new FIJI letters.*



*Brothers in front of Famous Lunch.*



*(left to right, top to bottom) Brothers Deslandes and Navarro preparing a dinner for guests, Brothers walking by RAHPS, Brothers at grabbing food at Famous Lunch, Brothers Higgins and Deslandes working on the bottle collection, and Brothers Deslandes and Hu working on the shelves for the bottle collection.*

## *Housing Developments*

The semester kicked off with a bang with our annual “work week” which consists of several large projects to improve the house. Brothers came together to make some of the desired renovations the house has seen needed for this past year; this included replacing flooring and doorknobs in some of the house, removing weeds, and maintaining the general outside presence of the house and the courtyard.

In addition to the work week, the brotherhood has preserved the cleanliness and overall image of the house through weekly work parties. Each one has seen great attendance and shows our care for the house by leaving it in considerable condition.

One weekend in particular, Brother Geoffrey Rosenthal '17 and his father Jonathan Rosenthal led a group of brothers working on a number of improvements for the house—one example includes installing a gutter that doesn't allow runoff rain to dump into the front alleyway. They also reset a granite step towards the park. Rotting wood was removed from the base of a front column, sealed, and covered in epoxy. These projects highlight the commitment every brother, pledge, and even family member has to the success of our house.



*Graduate Brother Keith Downes '91 and Brother Jonathan Robinson '19 replacing old flooring.*



*The newly installed gutter.*



*Brother Deslandes '18 fixing lighting on the first floor.*

## Recruitment

Recruitment in Fall 2016 went spectacularly. Brothers were encouraged to continue using ChapterBuilder, an application that centralizes the recruitment process, to keep tabs on networking and recruitment progress. Several brothers helped kick off official recruitment at Meet the Greeks. To kick off the season, we started with house tours followed by poker and prime rib the next night, went to the trampoline park on Sunday, and ended the weekend with flag football. Poker night in particular had amazing attendance despite being one of our more casual events.

For our second round of events we played dodgeball, watched the NFL kickoff, and had a games night with card and board games. We topped off the weekend at Adirondack Extreme Adventure Course, where brothers and potential new members enjoyed rope courses of various difficulties. For our third and final week of official recruitment, we started by visiting Grafton Lake. We then had a movie night, where we watched Neighbors 2. Later in the week we played ultimate frisbee. Finally, to close off the season, we had an invite-only white water rafting trip.

Bid dinner was held in the sanctuary with the traditional meal of chicken parmesan. We have 12 pledges, and they are on track for a successful pledging process. Brothers continue to "rush 365" through community involvement and social events.



*(left to right) Brothers and pledges at the Flag Football event, a raft of brothers and pledges at White Water Rafting, Brother Hu '19 and Brother Rob Manson '19 ziplining at Ropes Course.*

## Community Service & Philanthropy

To start off, the chapter has decided to split community service back into two committees: Community Service and Philanthropy. The goal is to further increase community presence, volunteering efforts, and fundraising capabilities. It's been a productive semester as we've been working diligently to foster relationships with our new neighbors through a variety of different activities. So far, the Tau Nu chapter has taken part in a charity volleyball tournament and had great attendance at campus charity concerts and events. One of these bigger events was the Haunted House,

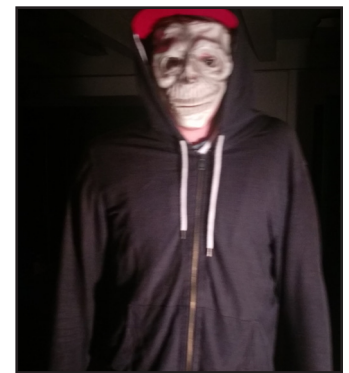
which we co-sponsored with Circle K and Alpha Phi Omega, where we raised \$861. Beyond chapter-specific events, individual brothers have been involved in various on-campus organizations such as the American Cancer Society and Circle K. We are continuing to work with the Farmer's Market, and are planning our first trip to volunteer at Frear Park and to participate in the Puck Run.



Above: Brothers volunteering at the Troy Farmer's Market.  
Right: Brother Shepherd '18 decorating the '87 Gym for the Haunted House.



Group photo of volunteers at the Haunted House.



Brother Robinson '19 dressed up to scare visitors to the Haunted House.



## Sports

This semester, we are participating in a total of eight intramural sports: indoor soccer, outdoor soccer, volleyball, walleyball, kickball, ultimate frisbee, touch football, and dodgeball. Our outdoor soccer and ultimate frisbee teams have not found the same success as in the past few semesters. We finished the outdoor soccer season with a record of 1-1-3, which was not good enough to put us in a position to make the playoffs. We finished the ultimate frisbee season with a record of 0-4. However, two of the losses had to come from forfeit due to the lack of field availability for a reschedule. On a similar note, it was a rough season for touch football. There was only one division available, so we were greatly outmatched. In our last game, we ended up playing the RPI football team and received a crushing defeat, with a score of 60-7.

On the other hand, our kickball season has experienced tremendous success. We finished the regular season with a record of 4-1, putting us in a tie for the second seed in the playoffs. Our only loss came in our first game against Pi Kappa Alpha. We hope to avenge our loss in the playoffs and win the league. Our seasons for walleyball, indoor soccer, dodgeball, and volleyball are just getting underway. We are participating in the IFC league for walleyball and volleyball and hope to continue doing as well as in the past few semesters.



*Brothers and pledges after a kickball game.*



*Brothers and pledges after an indoor soccer game.*

## Graduate Interviews



**Kyle Barden**

PCS '06

Class of 2010, B.S. Mechanical Engineering

Current job: General Electric

Current location: Schenectady

### *How did you first get introduced to FIJI?*

I did track and field during my freshman year. I knew one of the brothers at the time, and that's how I first got introduced into FIJI. I was also rushing with a couple of my dorm mates.

### *Where do you live now?*

I live in Troy. I've lived here ever since I graduated, except for one year. I started off living on Bleeker, which is at the end of Burdett Ave. I then bought a house on Burdett Ave, right near freshman hill, and lived there for three years. After that I moved to Menands for a year with Graduate Brother Adam Bush '11. Finally, I moved back to Troy to live with my fiancée. I live about a block away from the house on 3rd street right near the Takk House.

### *That sounds like big news!*

Yeah, so I proposed to my fiancée, Tori Rodriguez, in August and plan on having the wedding next September. I have known her for about two and a half years now. She has her own art business and has been curating pop-up art shows since the beginning of this year each Troy Night Out. The show is called Troy Pop Up, and we typically rent out a space on 2nd street above Bacchus and hang up a bunch of art pieces from a few different local artists who submit their work for the show. Each month has a different theme to it, and people have the option to buy what they like. I do photography and my fiancée paints and welds metal sculptures. Feel free to check out her business, Tori Does Fine Art, on [facebook.com/Toridoesfineart](https://www.facebook.com/Toridoesfineart) and [instagram.com/toridoesfineart](https://www.instagram.com/toridoesfineart).



*Mastadon made for Cohoes Elementary School.*

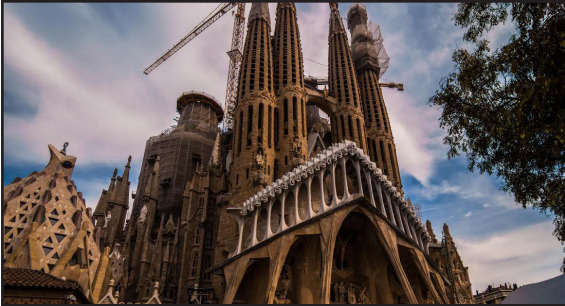
## *Graduate Interviews (continued)*

### *How did you get into photography?*

It's been a hobby of mine for a while. I did a minor in electronic arts and ended up buying a really nice camera in 2013 because I was getting sent to Alaska for work. I've just been playing with it ever since. The business with my fiancée has sort of pushed me into doing more with photography.

### *How was the trip to Alaska?*

It was amazing. Definitely one of the best places I've been to, both including and excluding the ones required for work. I went there back in June of 2013 and stayed for about two weeks. I had a lot of downtime during that trip so I went sightseeing for a good amount of my time there. I flew into Anchorage and did some hiking, then flew to Kodiak Island to work on some wind turbines, the real reason I was there. My fiancée would say Barcelona was the best so far, which we just got back from, because she's more of a city girl. I get to travel a bit because of work and I try to take advantage of that as much as I can. Here are some of the pictures that I have taken.



*Sagrada Familia in Barcelona.*



*Tern Lake in Alaska.*



*Pfeiffer Beach, California.*

### *Any final words?*

I'm glad you guys reached out to me. I think you guys are doing great with community service and helping out the community, since I see you all out at the events like Farmer's Market and a lot of other things downtown, which is great. If the undergrads need anything like repairs or anything else, definitely feel free to reach out to me.

*See all our past interviews at [TauNuFIJI.com/interviews!](http://TauNuFIJI.com/interviews/)*



## *Weekly Brotherhood Spotlight*

We have decided to extend the Brother Spotlight to a bi-weekly period. For each period, the brotherhood—with moderation from the Publications Committee—highlights one or more brother(s) for going above and beyond their normal duties. These brothers put the good of the brotherhood over personal priority and, as a result, benefit the brotherhood as a whole. For this, we thank them.



### August 28–September 11: **Josh Berman '19**

Even before school and rush officially started, Brother Berman made it his goal to interact with the incoming freshmen by helping them move into their dorms and largely hanging out on freshman circle.



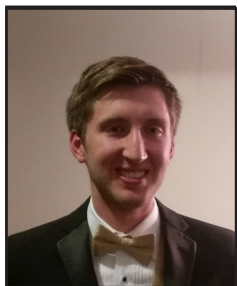
### September 11–September 25: **Nathan Greene '17**

Brother Greene went above and beyond in helping with the logistics of rush events and helping to secure a large pledge class by accounting for headlocking for every rushee.



### September 25–October 9: **Andrew Volent '19**

As the kitchen manager, Brother Volent has put in significant effort in order to make the kitchen more clean this semester. He has facilitated new policies for keeping this cleanliness and helped to ensure that the kitchen keeps improving.



### October 9–October 23: **Tyler Shepherd '18**

As V.P. of Philanthropy, Brother Shepherd did an amazing job working with Alpha Phi Omega and Circle K for their Haunted House and laying the foundation for us to work with the Union chapter for our annual Puck Run.

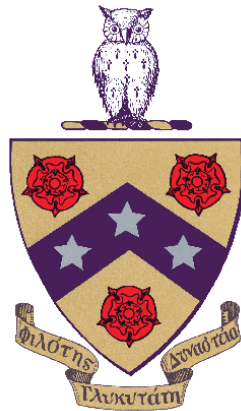
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## Recognition

Many thanks to the generous graduate brothers who have contributed to the Tau Nu chapter of Phi Gamma Delta. Without your hard work and generosity, especially that of the House Corporation, neither this issue nor its contents would have been possible.

Additional thanks to Josh Berman, Mariah Anne Cody, Josh Goldberg, Colin Higgins, Rex Hu, Blake Lingenau, Steven Neyen, Geoffrey Rosenthal, Kenny Schmitt, Tyler Shepherd, Joseph Souto, Ananth Sridhar, and Tim Tse for providing content inception, writing, and editing services.



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