

THE TAU NEWS

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

Volume AH, Issue 2

Monday, April 11th, 2016

82 3rd Street, Troy, NY

The Spring 2016 Issue



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New Brothers

Join us in welcoming our new brothers, the Fall 2015 pledge class! Headed by Pledge Educator Zachary Shute along with Pledge Examiner Patrick Clinton, PCF '15 persisted through the pledge program and showed that they will make great additions to our chapter. Our new brothers are Joshua Anthony Berman '19, Connor Benjamin Pitcher Glasier '19, Robert Beckwith Manson '19, Jihoo "Brian" Park '19, Jonathan Scott Robinson '18, Andrew John Volent '19, and Charlie You '19. Wasting no time after their initiation, many of them are already taking on active roles in the chapter. Brother Glasier is serving as V.P. of Community Service for the Spring term, and many others are serving as second in command in their respective committees. We look forward to seeing the many contributions they will no doubt make to this chapter.



PCF '15, in row order from left to right: Charlie You '19, Connor Glasier '19, Jonathan Robinson '18, Robert Manson '19, Brian "Jihoo" Park '19, Josh Berman '19, Andrew Volent '19

Local Business Spotlight

Congress Street Chicken is a new take out restaurant that opened just right around the corner from the house. Offering good food at good prices, it quickly became popular with many brothers for a quick delicious meal. We recently stopped in for a brief chat with the owner, a cheerful fellow name Ahmed.

You can check the place out yourself at 93 Congress Street, Troy NY!

Can you describe what it is you sell here?

We have fast food, particularly halal food.

What about it makes it “halal”?

Halal is the way they slaughter the animals. It's more humane. I'd recommend Googling it if you want to know more, it's very interesting.

What made you decide to get started here?

Looking for better opportunity, better living, you know.

Have you always lived in this area?

No, I'm from Brooklyn.

What was it about Troy that made you want to come here?

Particularly in Troy, there's the downtown area, and college students, and colleges around here.

It's not bad. It's more down right now, it's usually more alive when the students are here. When the students are back there's more. Else it gets quiet.

Have you faced any challenges with the restaurant?

There's always challenges. You try to improve, try to do something the best you can. Get more variety of stuff to bring in, trying to bring in more customers the best way, trying to be your best with the customer. Trying to make it so customers don't have to wait, try to communicate the best you can. That's the most challenging part: to get people's trust with the food. The most important thing is you get people's trust. It's really difficult. Trust is always everything. You get them to trust you, and then it'll be easier to trust that place.

Are there any particular foods that you enjoy here?

Our chicken. Our chicken and halal chicken over rice and fried chicken.



Housing Developments

Even though the semester feels as though it has just started, there have been many major housing developments for Tau Nu. First of all, a new system of Floor Representatives has been implemented by the Housing Vice President, Brother Geoffrey Rosenthal. This promotes a certain level of cleanliness on each floor of the house throughout the week, rather than just during Sunday work parties. With this system, Brother Rosenthal has written an all new Housing Bible to outline what to clean at every work party and, more importantly, how to clean.

Adding to this system, Housing has spearheaded many new projects to increase the undergrad's standard of living. This includes adding an additional counter for food preparation in the kitchenette, storage shelves on each floor for bathroom and cleaning supplies, as well as royal purple curtains in the lounge, graciously hemmed by Alpha Omega Epsilon sister Megan Donnelly. Also, with the advent of a new contractor, we have been able to fix loose problems occurring throughout the house that require professional care. It might be hard to believe, but the house is looking better than ever.

With many new projects on the horizon, there is a lot to look forward to seeing for Pig Dinner.



Making the house beautiful. Left: Blake Lingenu '17; right: Jonathan Yax '17.

Scholarship

The scholarship program for our chapter has been completely redone to encourage greater academic success in our brotherhood. To start, every brother will set a personal GPA goal that they feel they would like to obtain that semester. To help them achieve this goal, each brother is assigned an academic advisor. Brothers will meet with their academic advisor and the frequency will be based on their last term GPA. Meetings consist of advisors checking up on their advisee's progress, making sure they are completing major assignments on time, giving advice about courses and professors, and so on. Pledges are also included in this program.

The scholarship committee has also set up programs to encourage and incentivize scholarship throughout the semester. At the beginning of each semester, a prize is given to the brother with the highest GPA and the brother with the most improved GPA. The committee also hosts sessions twice per semester to upload back work to the server for future reference. Improvements to the library have also been made, making it the main area for brothers to get together to study and collaborate. With these new programs in place, the scholarship committee is optimistic about the chapter's overall academic performance for this semester.

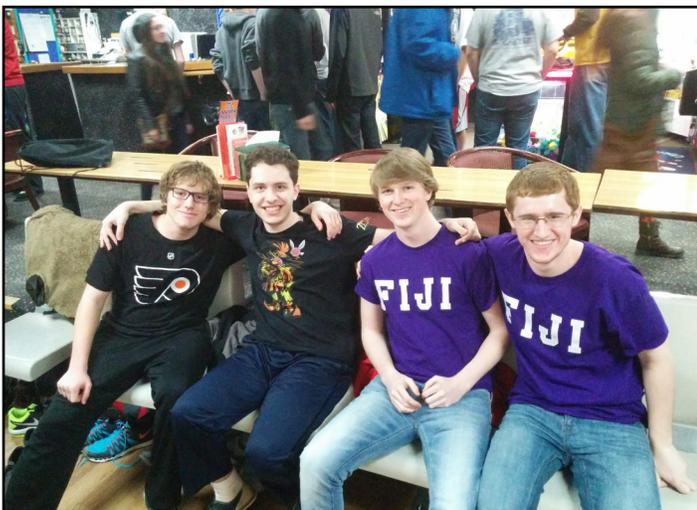


Studying in the library. From left to right: Mike DiBuduo '17, his girlfriend Megan Donnelly, Patrick Hesselbach '17, Zach Vanderzee '16.

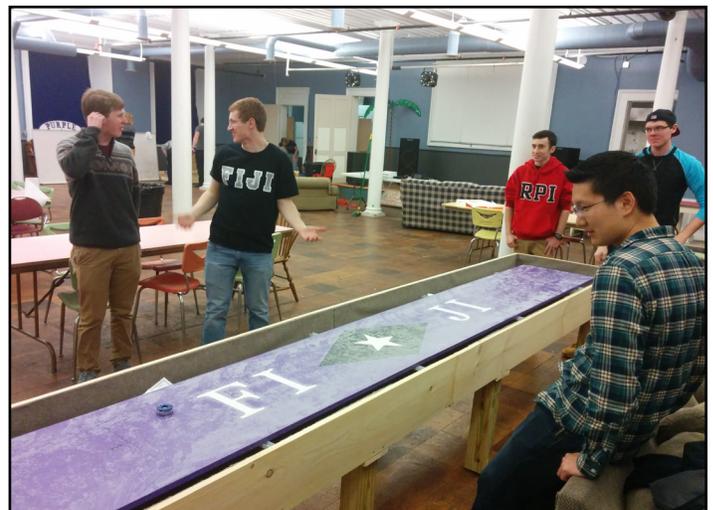
Recruitment

In the Spring 2016 Recruitment season, the chapter adopted a new strategy - hosting events approximately every other day to give brothers some time to meet in smaller groups with potential new members. In addition, the chapter started using ChapterBuilder.com to keep track of potential new members' contact information and to assign recruitment tasks to brothers. This strategy will continue to keep Recruitment more organized in the future and to help the chapter maintain contact with those individuals who were extended bids but decided not to pledge themselves to the chapter yet.

The Recruitment season started out on January 30th with a trip to the trampoline park in Albany, followed by bowling at Uncle Sam's lanes on Feb. 1st. After that, there was Wednesday night dodgeball in the 86 gym and Games Night at the house on Friday the 5th. A surprising number of new faces were seen at Games Night. The brotherhood held a Netflix and Chili event on the afternoon of Saturday the 6th which involved several movie screenings as well as the ever-present Super Bowl event the next night. After a day off, the brothers were fresh for poker night on the 9th and a "Summer in Winter" (lawn games played inside) event on the 11th. On the 13th, extremely cold weather necessitated that the planned snow tubing event be replaced by rock climbing at the Albany rock gym. Recruitment ended with our bid dinner on Tuesday the 16th of February, with a meal of chicken parmesan.



Bowling with recruits at Uncle Sam's Lanes.



Games night at the house. From left to right: Robert Manson '19, Connor Glasier '19, Colin Higgins '19, Charlie You '19, Jonathan Robinson '18.

Community Service

It's been a productive semester for the Community Service Committee, as we've been working diligently to foster relationships with our new neighbors through a variety of different activities. Thus far into the semester, the Tau Nu chapter has taken part in a charity dodgeball tournament, a philanthropy-driven 5k road race, RPI's Winter Carnival, our traditional high school programming tutoring, and had great attendance at campus charity concerts and events.

Beyond the chapter-specific events, individual brothers have been involved in various on campus organizations such as the American Cancer Society and Circle K.

Currently in the works are plans to work with the local Farmer's Market, participate in Relay for Life, take another trip to Dyken Pond, as well as host our Islander Week for the second year in the row. We will keep you updated as these events happen!



Brothers at the Alpha Gamma Delta Dodging Diabetes dodgeball competition. From left to right: Jonathan Robinson '18, Nick Seguljic '17, Kenny Schmitt '18, Patrick Clinton '18, Robert Manson '19, Liam Wingert '15.



Brothers volunteering at the Troy Farmer's Market.

Got something for us to help with? Let us know!

community_service@taunufiji.com

Weekly Brother Spotlight

Each week, 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 benefited the brotherhood as a whole. For this, we thank them.



Week Of January 17th: Geoff Rosenthal '17

As the new housing chair, Brother Rosenthal was instrumental in preparing the house for the beginning of the spring semester as well as during rush. His iron-fist leadership style has kept the house clean and our work parties smooth.



Week Of January 24th: Tyler Shepherd '18

Brother Shepherd wasted no time as our new web chair, working to make changes to our website as well as transferring content from our old Facebook page to our new one.



Week Of January 31st: Mike DiBuduo '17

Leading up to the career fair, Brother DiBuduo, our scholarship chair, arranged for a representative from the CCPD to come to the house to speak and help the chapter prepare for the career fair.



Week of February 7th: Geoff Rosenthal '17 and Dylan Lingenau '17

Brothers Rosenthal and Lingenau went above and beyond in making Valentine's Day cards for the sororities on campus by hand making 5 cards with some hand-made beautiful calligraphy.



Weekly Brother Spotlight (cont.)



Week of February 14th: **Lloyd Jones '17 and Mike DiBuduo '17**

When a surprise mega-blizzard hit Troy this week, Brothers Jones and DiBuduo took it upon themselves to shovel the walkway and sidewalk in front of the house. If you've been in downtown Troy for one of its serious winter storms, you know how much painstaking effort this was.



Week of February 28th: **Jonathan Robinson '18**

When one of the regular scheduled cooks could not make it to his shift, Brother Robinson stepped in last minute to help cook some particularly delicious breadsticks, spaghetti, and sauce for that night's meal plan.



Week of March 6th: **Zachary Shute '16**

As brotherhood chair, Brother Shute organized numerous intrabrotherhood tournaments, from ping pong to cornhole to frisbee. He is also organizing a brotherhood getaway trip to Montreal for the end of the semester.



Week of March 13th: **Josh Goldberg '15**

As a graduate brother and former Publications chair, Graduate Brother Goldberg has proved himself invaluable in the process of the Tau News. His guide to the process is now the backbone of the committee, and his advice has been beneficial up through this issue.

Scholarship, Fraternity, Self.

Graduate Updates

In this issue, we decided to reach out to some recent graduates of the Tau Nu chapter to catch up with them on the daily happenings of their lives.



Michael J. Schrider Jr. (PCF '11)M is currently working for SUBMEPP as an engineer at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. focusing on maintenance of the Navy's Virginia Class fast attack submarines. With his time off, he likes to visit breweries all over New Hampshire, particularly locations with great stouts such as StoneFish Brewing Co. He has also been getting into recreational golf as well as flying around the country with fellow graduate brother Brendan Cazier (PCF '10).



Adam Haglegans (PCF '09) is currently working for American Airlines as a structural repair engineer. The job has him traveling often, and at the time of this writing, he was at work in Hong Kong. Some of his recent favorite trips have been vacationing in El Salvador and hiking in the Sai Kung Country Park. He also works closely with Tau Nu graduates **Mike Tricanowicz** (PCS '08) and **Sam Slusky** (PCF '09).



Benjamin A. Pringle (PCF '11) is currently working as a software engineer at Google in New York City working on some awesome technology in their ads platform. He is currently engaged (and soon to be married!) to his longtime girlfriend and friend of the house, Malea Grubb, who was lavaliered by Tau Nu in Spring 2013.

We at Tau Nu would like to extend well wishes to all our grads and we look forward to seeing many of you at Pig Dinner. Let us know how you're doing; we'd love to catch up!

Grads, make sure you register for the next Grad Weekend & Pig Dinner!

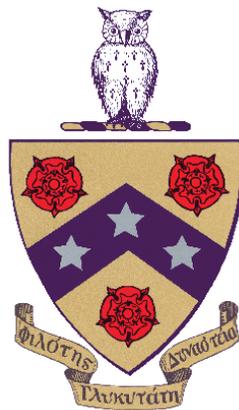
www.taunufiji.com/pigdinner

Looking forward to seeing you here!

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 considering the work of the House Corporation, neither this article nor its contents would have been possible.

Additional thanks to Josh Berman, Mariah Anne Cody, Mike DiBudo, Connor Glasier, Josh Goldberg, Nate Greene, Patrick Hesselbach, Lloyd Jones, Blake Lingenau, Steve Neyen, Joe Pringle, Connor Rhoads, Jonathan Robinson, Geoff Rosenthal, Tyler Shepherd, Ananth Sridhar, Timothy Tse, David Vanderzee, Jonathan Yax, and Charlie You for providing content inception, writing, and editing services.



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