



THE TAU NEWS

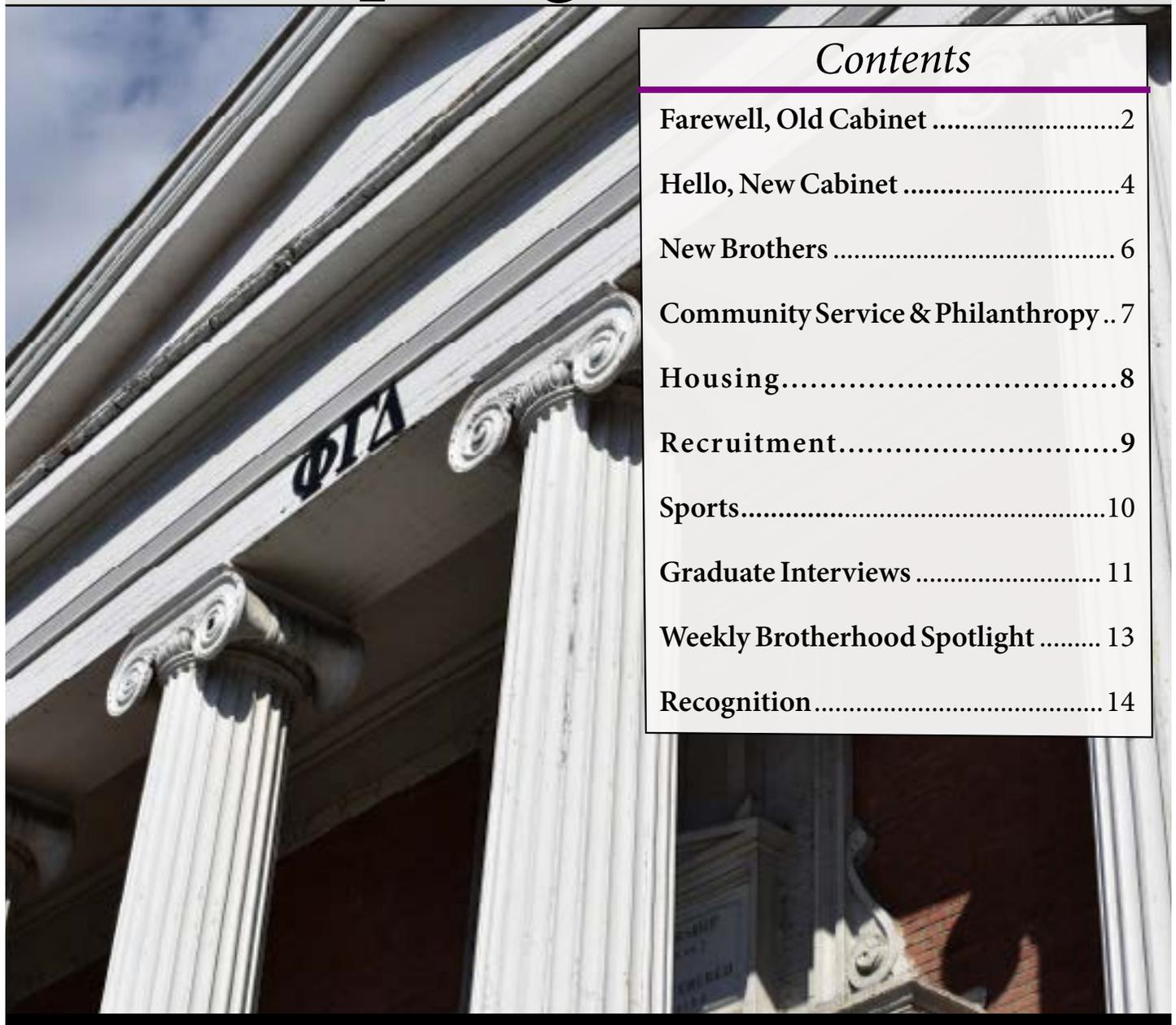
Official Graduate Brother Newsletter - Tau Nu Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta

Volume AJ, Issue 1

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82 3rd Street, Troy, NY

The Spring 2017 Issue



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Goodbye, Old Cabinet!

Last year's cabinet positions are complete, and we would like to thank them for their selfless and tireless work for the chapter. Their guidance helped make the chapter even better, and lead us toward greater endeavors.



Nick Seguljic
President, 2016

Serving as President was a privilege and an honor that I will remember for the rest of my life. Seeing the chapter blossom in the church under my and the rest of cabinet's leadership is truly a beautiful thing, especially considering the amazing work done by committees such as Scholarship and Rercruitment. We should all aspire to lift ourselves and our brethren to the high standards of this esteemed publication, for it truly embodies the spirit of persistence, excellence, and qualitative perfection put forth by the Immortal Six. Overall, I know that I will continue to use lessons learned from leading cabinet to guide my actions the rest of my life.

Patrick Clinton
Treasurer, 2016



First and foremost, I would like to thank my brothers for endorsing and believing in my competency to lead the chapter to bigger and better things. As I would like to thank my other cabinet members for their contributions to a successful year under our oversight. The chapter has, in my opinion gained some extremely competent new members that will lead us into a golden age of recruitment, philanthropy, and campus presence. While I attribute none of this success directly to myself, I am glad to have been apart of it. Our old cabinet members are some of my closest friends through bearing this burden of responsibility together and I am forever grateful for all it has taught us about each other.

Goodbye, Old Cabinet! (continued)



Evan Doukas

Recording Secretary, 2016

I am incredibly honored to have served as the chapter's recording secretary. Having a role in serving as a deciding factor of the future of the fraternity was not only something I am incredibly proud of and grateful for, but something that elucidated me to the depth of the brotherhood's fortitude and drive to do what is best for the chapter.

Nathan Greene

Corresponding Secretary, 2016



Serving as corresponding secretary for our chapter was certainly one of the absolute highlights of my time here at RPI. I feel that our cabinet made some incredible strides to move the chapter forward while positioning it to continue to grow and excel long after our term had ended. I want to sincerely thank the chapter for placing their trust in us as a cabinet and myself as corresponding secretary. I also want to thank my fellow cabinet members for their hard work and dedication. The chapter's future is incredibly bright thanks to our amazing crop of new brothers, who I have full faith in even bettering the chapter when it comes to things like recruitment, brotherhood, and campus presence.



Patrick Hesselbach

Historian, 2016

My term as Historian was the most rewarding opportunity I've had with the Chapter. The position was greatly different than my expectations. Although I am sad to pass on my position, I have the upmost confidence in my successor, Graigor P., and the rest of the new cabinet members. I expect great things from all of them. The chapter has seen many great changes the past few years and they will continue this trend.

Hello, New Cabinet!

We welcome this new Cabinet, led by the youngest President in recent years. Even with that, we know they will guide this Chapter to further heights.



Rob Manson
President, 2017

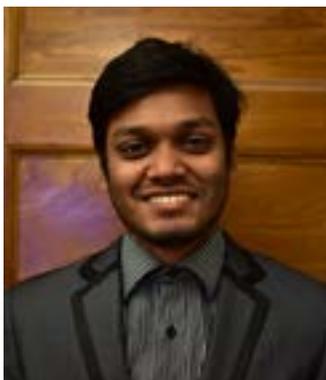
It is an honor to be elected to this position and to lead this chapter. I am only a sophomore, and have been a brother for only one year, but I believe that my devotion to FIJI and my relationships with those I serve will make my term a great chapter in this fraternity's history. I strive to improve the connections between brothers and will encourage more brotherhood events designed to make us closer. These connections will enable us to reach our pinnacle by helping us work together better. I look forward to using this opportunity to make us the best FIJI we can be.

Tyler Shepherd
Treasurer, 2017



I am remarkably excited that I have been given the honor to serve as Treasurer of this Tau Nu chapter. My plans include keeping a tight eye on the budget and managing our expenses well. I am certain that our cabinet will be able to continue serving this chapter to its highest regard and, with our guidance, will make this chapter thrive and grow into something even greater.

Hello, New Cabinet! (continued)



Aniket Mitra

Recording Secretary, 2017

I am very excited and happy to serve as the recording secretary for this chapter for the coming year. It is an honor for me to be elected and I will make sure that I will perform my duties to the best of my abilities. My goals for my term include organizing all the information and making it accessible for all and foster a strong communication channel between the cabinet and the chapter. I look forward to the coming year and paying back the trust put in me.

Andrew Volent

Corresponding Secretary, 2017

I am very happy and pleased to be the new Corresponding Secretary. I am honored that my brothers trust this position and everything it entails with me. I am excited to be able to serve the fraternity in new ways and help in important decision-making for the chapter. During my term, I hope to foster new and stronger relationships with other organizations on campus and to increase our presence on campus as a whole.



Graigor Pierre-Noël

Historian, 2017

As historian I want to make a strong push to make sure all undergraduates have a strong understanding of the rituals and tradition of the chapter and do what I can to bring our new members up to speed. I would like to see the changes I made as Housing VP further improved upon and to see a culture switch to a more proactive approach to upkeep of the house. When all is said and done I want this chapter to have a firm standing in the past and present so we can put our best foot forward in the future.

New Brothers

This year's fall rush was one of the best the chapter has seen in recent history. From rush, we signed 12 pledges, and this past fall semester we inducted the men of PCF '16 into our brotherhood. The men of PCF '16 are Matthew Donald August '20, Matthew David Bisson '20, Thomas Robert Buzek '20, Cole Abraham Carpenter '19, Nicholas Charles Johnson '20, Gavin Gao Mays '20, Daniel Michael Milton '20, William Thomas Pedoto '20, Sergei Nikolaivitch Piskun '20, Kevin Frank Presing '20, Paul Anthony Scalia '20, and Robert Karl Schoen '20, with the pledge program headed by Pledge Educator Timothy Tse and Pledge Examiner Connor Glasier. Throughout their pledging, PCF '16 showed that they want to have an impact not just at FIJI, but within the RPI community as well. With presence in organizations such as RPI Ambulance, The Rusty Pipes, RPI Pep Band, as well as many other clubs, we are confident that PCF '16 will help spread the positive name of FIJI throughout the RPI community.



*Back Row: Brother Buzek, Bisson, Carpenter, Milton, Piskun, and Schoen.
Front Row: Brothers August, Johnson, Mays, Pedoto, Scalia, and Presing.*

Community Service & Philanthropy

Brothers have continued to show their support for Troy's local Waterfront Farmer's Market, volunteering every Saturday from 9AM to 3PM, helping with setup, takedown, and selling tokens to customers. This has been a major community service event for the brothers at FIJI, and it still continues to be a big part of our weekly routine!

In efforts to get our name out there, FIJI has entered the "Adopt-A-Highway" program. We recently "adopted" a 1.7 mile stretch of highway stretching from Route 155 to Lisha Kill Road. The program entails that brothers clean the highway of trash and other detritus twice a semester, and in return, get a sign on the highway saying Tau Nu FIJI sponsors this section of highway!

We've also started volunteering our time to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Center. This involves us sorting bottles and cans that people donate to the center, as well as cleaning toys, blankets, and towels for the cats and dogs. We will likely be donating the proceeds of Islander week to this organization.



Brothers volunteering at Terra Cafe in EMPAC.



Brothers DiBuduo and Yax-Argueta filling toys for dogs with treats and peanut butter.

Housing Developments

FIJI brothers continue to uphold and maintain the original cleanliness and image of the house by participating in weekly work parties. We work to clean all three floors, including the rec room and sanctuary. Most recent in our work party endeavors are the bottle collection and renovating the rec room. Brother Mays has been working consistently on building and decorating new decor in the rec room, making substantial, unprecedented progress on it. Also, the spring pledge class of 2016, along with many brothers who have volunteered their time, have worked to continue, and finish the bottle collection. We plan to have it done well before the start of this years Pig Dinner.

In other big news, Brother Berman has worked tirelessly to obtain a permit to erect our house chapter marker from the city of Troy, and as of March 1st, we obtained it! The letters have since been placed on the front of house.



The new chapter marker outside of the house.

Recruitment Events

Spring Rush kicked off on Friday, January 20th with house tours. The next night, on Saturday, we held Poker & Prime Rib at the house, where we served delicious prime rib, and had six tables of Texas Hold 'em. The next day, we had our first event outside of the house for the semester at Sky Zone. This is another favorite, and was standalone the largest turnout we had for a rush event this year. After the event, rushees were invited back to the house for a pizza dinner.

On Monday night we went to Uncle Sam Lanes for a low key night of bowling. After taking Tuesday off to recuperate from the weekend, on Wednesday we played pickup basketball at the 87 gym. Everyone had a great time, and most of the rushees came back to the house for meal plan after. On Friday we held Games Night at the house, with rock climbing in Albany the following day. On Tuesday we hosted Summer in Winter at the house, turning the rec room into a beach complete with palm trees and flamingos.

On Thursday we went to ECAV to play dodgeball. Saturday brought our invite trip: snow tubing at West Mountain. On Sunday Brothers and rushees gathered to watch the Superbowl in the rec room. We provided wings and pizza, and Brotherhood organized a bet for some friendly competition. The bid dinner on Tuesday marked the end of Spring Rush, with six pledges to show for it.



Brothers and rushees rock climbing.



Brothers and rushees hanging out at Games Night

Sports

FIJI's involvement in sports is at an all time high, with brothers participating in sports ranging from indoor soccer, outdoor soccer, ice hockey, floor hockey, walleyball, volleyball, basketball, and so on. We have also reached out to other fraternities and sororities throughout the semester, participating in philanthropic sporting events like dodgeball and soccer.

The creation of the ice hockey team is a notable event in FIJI Sports. Revived because of strong brotherhood interest, the ice hockey team is back after several semesters, and is already one of the most popular sports for brothers. The team meets regularly during the week to play against various teams, including the women's ice hockey team.

Our two best sports this season have been indoor soccer and volleyball. We have made it to the playoffs of indoor soccer and hope to advance to the playoffs in volleyball. Despite a lack of luck in other sports, our brothers still value our intramural sports as a time to have fun, relax, and bond.



Brothers Yax-Argueta, Manson, Glasier, DiBuduo, Mays, and Mitra at indoor soccer



Brothers and pledges at ice hockey

Graduate Interviews



Brendan Cass

PCF '09

Class of 2012, B.S. IT, M.S Web Science 2013

Current job: General Electric

Current location: Raleigh, North Carolina

How did you first get introduced to FIJI?

Stephen Nettnin. He joined his freshman year and we were floormates in Nason. We became good friends and he wouldn't stop pestering me until I pledged.

What was FIJI like back then?

For one thing, we didn't have the house. We had RAHPs. It was different in that way. My pledge class personally was full of people who were very dedicated to the fraternity, and enjoyed spending time with each other. Most of us gave back to FIJI by joining cabinet or becoming committee heads. I was brotherhood chair, then became Corr Sec.

What was your experience as brotherhood chair?

Aside from sports, the usual job of brotherhood chair, I scheduled monthly karaoke nights where we packed 4 apartments with couches, and just hung out and had a good time. One month we held it at Mother's in the Union and a bunch of comedians sat in and ended up turning it into an open mic night.

Other than that, I brought back the brotherhood retreat, which we hadn't done in a while. By request of a couple of seniors, we all went to New York City.

How about life after college?

Well by the end of college I had a job lined up at GE. I did the IT leadership program and moved quite a bit, from Mebane, NC, to Atlanta and then Chicago, all in two years. Now I'm working as a senior software engineer for GE in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Graduate Interviews (continued)

Sounds like you really like North Carolina!

Yeah, the weather is really nice. The area also has a lot of tech companies and schools here; it's sometimes called the Research Triangle. A lot of people here have moved from the north, so you get a nice mix of southern hospitality and other people from New York. It's not exactly a big city but there's plenty to do. I was pretty sure that if I could get back to North Carolina I would. My wife has family in the area so it actually worked out very nicely.

Do you stay in contact with any grads?

Mainly Steve Nettnin, Zach Strudler, and Ben Chan. They were on my floor in Nason. Sometimes I visit Steve, sometimes he visits me. Sometimes we have meet ups for tabletop gaming conventions and expos. I own a game publishing company.

How did the company start up?

I became a partner in it starting in 2010. I'd been involved with them a little less than a year prior. I knew the guy that started it in 2003 when I was young. I enjoyed gaming and it was an outlet to try game design.

Any popular games come through that company?

We just released a tabletop fantasy campaign setting about 360 pages long! It's called Swords of Kos, named after a Greek Island. I visited there for a weekend for research and it was pretty cool. A lot of work went into that, so I'm pretty proud of it. I'm currently working on a videogame called Little Orc Wars; you can download from the Android Store right now.

See all our past interviews at 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.



January 28–February 11: **Nick Johnson '20**

Nick Johnson, a member of PCF16, hit the ground running as a newly initiated brother by getting strongly involved in rush and taking leadership to ensure all our events went according to plan.



February 11–February 25: **Samuel Davis '17**

Brother Davis showed his commitment and care for the chapter and its house when he went out of his way to repair a door to the sanctuary that had been broken and removed for months.



February 25–March 11: **Joshua Berman '19**

Brother Berman showed his care for the chapter when he went out of his way to work tirelessly to secure a chapter marker permit from the city of Troy. His drive and persistence are what made this endeavor possible.



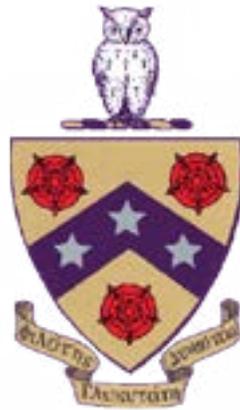
March 18 –March 25: **Graigor Pierre-Noël '18**

Brother Pierre-Noël showed his selflessness and care for the brotherhood by giving up his time to not only help steward with their food gathering, sorting, and cooking tasks, but also to help the PR committee assemble and publish the Tau News.

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 Joshua Goldberg, Ananth Sridhar, Mariah Anne Cody, Billy Pedoto, Kevin Presing, Nick Johnson, Serge Piskun, Geoff Rosenthal, and Will Rigby-Hall for providing content inception, writing, and editing services.



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