

# THE TAU NEWS

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

Volume AJ, Issue 1

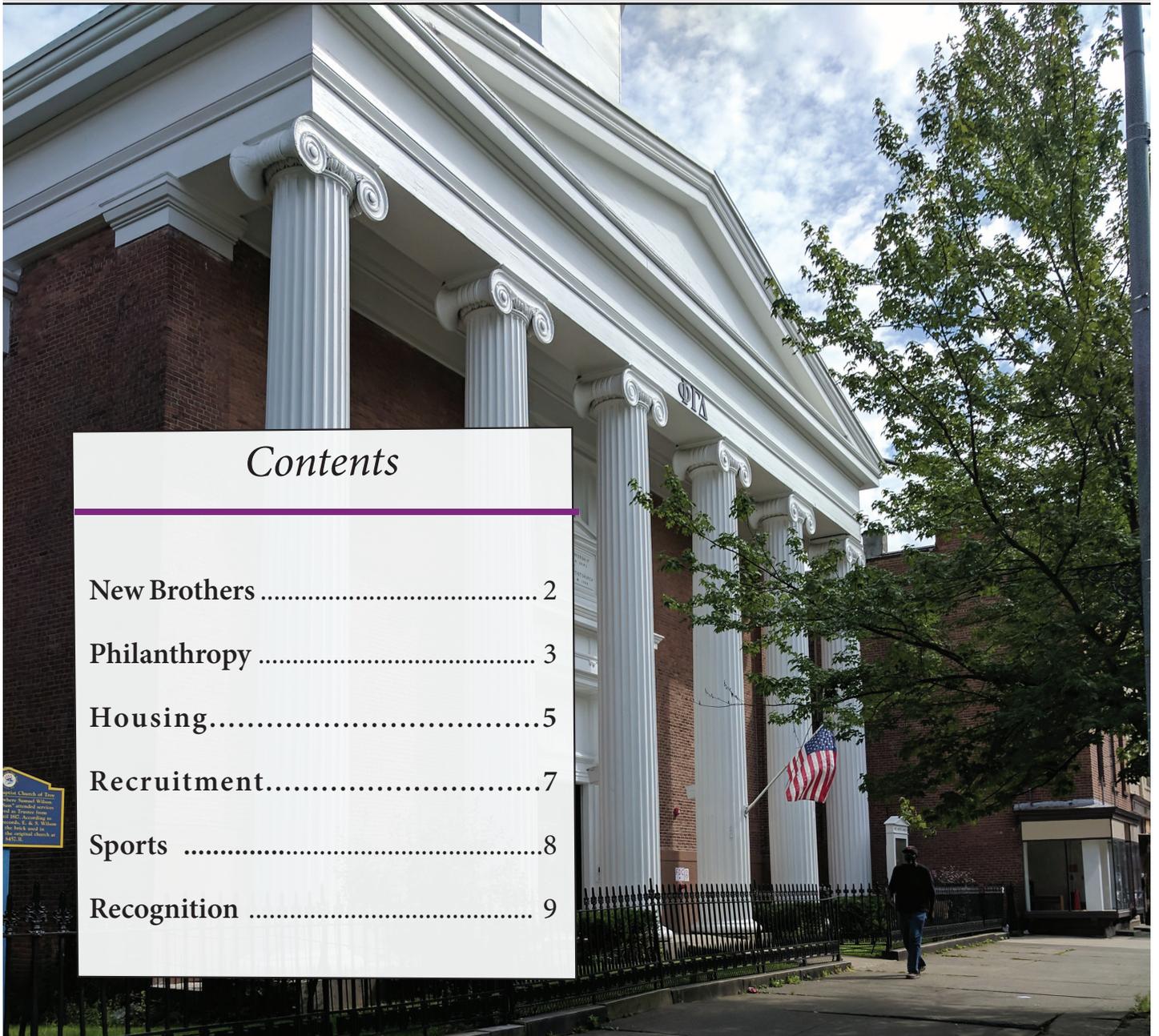
Wednesday, May 2nd, 2018

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

## The Spring 2018 Issue

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## *New Brothers*

We're proud to welcome our newest brothers to the chapter! The brothers of PCS '18 are Baran Baysal '21, Jonathan Chernoch '21, Zachary Taylor '21, Mitchell Marcin '19, and Andrew Nagawiecki '21, who completed the pledge process under Pledge Educator Graigor Pierre-Noel '17 and Pledge Examiner Matthew August '20. Brother Marcin will take on the role of Steward, while his pledge brothers are heavily involved on campus. Brother Baysal and Brother Nagawiecki are class representatives in Student Government, Brother Chernoch is a member of RPI's Men's Ultimate Frisbee team, and Brother Taylor is a Student Orientation advisor for the upcoming year.



*Back Row: Brothers Nagawiecki, Baysal, and Chernoch  
Front Row: Brothers Taylor and Marcin*

## Philanthropy

FIJI participated in and hosted several philanthropy events this spring. We began the semester with the annual American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, which is always a great start to the spring semester. FIJI brothers had fun cooking up countless hot dogs and burgers on the grill to serve to the relay participants.

Shortly after Relay, we participated in APO's Meanest Man on Campus Competition, where FIJI went up against several other fraternities, professors, and students to determine who was the "meanest" on campus. Each competitor chose a charity to sponsor and represent. We elected to raise money for Joseph's House, a local shelter and soup kitchen in downtown Troy. Although FIJI did not win, we still had fun going up against this year's fierce competition.

The end of April brought along FIJI's annual Islander event. This year, FIJI raised money for the United Service Organization, a national charity that raises money for veterans and their



*Brothers selling food during Islander week. Although sunlight and warmth was missing, we still managed to have a good time!*

## *Philanthropy cont.*

families. Despite the uncooperative weather, brothers had a blast during Islander week. Events included a volleyball tournament co-hosted with Lambda Chi Alpha and Pi Kappa Theta, an inflatable obstacle course on the '86 Field, a dunk tank, and, as always, an endless sale of burgers and hotdogs from the grill on the Sage Concourse. At the end of the week, we raised roughly \$1,700 for the USO.

Finally, FIJI ended the year with a trip to Saratoga Springs, where brothers challenged themselves in the Peppertree Dog Rescue's Furry 5K. The weather could not have been better for a morning run! Our brothers had a great time participating in all of the philanthropy events this year, and everyone in the house is very excited for an even better Fall Semester.



*Undergraduate and Graduate Brothers helped clean up Barker Park during our annual Grad Weekend.*

## *Housing Developments*

Following the painting of the steeple, the brotherhood has continued to maintain and renovate the residential section of the house.

The undergraduate Housing Committee has made various improvements to the standard of living in house. The men's bathrooms now have new shower curtains, soap dispensers, storage shelves above the shower benches, and deodorizing blocks in the urinals. In order to better accommodate the number of brothers, the kitchen now has industrial kitchen racks and soap dispensers, and Brother Gavin Mays '20 is leading an ongoing project to repurpose the recycling room into a pantry. The common spaces on every floor have been labeled with room numbers as a tribute to our humble beginnings in the corresponding RAHPs apartments, 71 through 76. Broken and dysfunctional furniture is being disposed of, and there are many other minor projects to improve cleanliness. Ongoing projects include completing the bottle collection, removing Rec Room Jesus to make room for a hand-painted FIJI mural, constructing a dry riverbed for the side entrance, and installing new and colorful steeple lights.

After the trial run last semester, the cleaning system has been revamped to more efficiently clean the house. Daily tasks for garbage and recycling are scheduled more frequently to ensure proper disposal, while less impactful daily tasks have been removed. Floor managers are being reintroduced to better facilitate work party and ensure thoroughness. In true FIJI spirit, brothers continue to make small weekly house improvements during work party.



*Brother Mays painted this mural to replace Rec Room Jesus.*

## *Housing Developments cont.*



*Gamma the Owl and "FIJI" adorn one side of our bar...*

Graduate Housing has made major strides this semester in improving the house after the completion of the steeple painting. Not even two months into the semester, House Corp has repointed bricks in the recycling room to advance the kitchen pantry project, scheduled the installation of exit lights in the sanctuary, and ordered a newer and safer commercial range for the kitchen. Contractors are scheduled to visit the house weekly for several ongoing projects, including replacement of alleyway steps, refinishing of residential exterior windows, refinishing of rec room windows, and installation of storm windows to insulate dorm rooms.

This semester features the close cooperation of Graduate and Undergraduate Housing to better the brotherhood's living conditions and the church as our permanent chapter house. We hope to continue this trend as we begin planning for our Graduate Work Party, currently scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 25.

*... and a painting of the house on a tropical island proudly stands on the other! Brother Mays and Graduate Brother Scott Peters '16 painstakingly painted the bar over the course of several months. The finished product sits at home in our rec room.*



## Recruitment Events

This semester's rush kicked off with a very exciting trip to the escape room at Crossgates Mall. Rushees got a firsthand experience of FIJI collaboration and camaraderie; brothers and rushees worked together in small groups to solve practical riddles and make their escape from various themed rooms. Afterwards, we stopped at Chipotle, where we garnered enough attention to spark a brief social media exchange with the fast food chain themselves on Twitter.

The next weekend started off with games night, which was a good chance to show the rushees how we like to let off steam after a hard week of studies. As usual, it went much later than expected as we got to know our potential new members. Later that weekend, the brotherhood took a trip to Sky Zone Trampoline Park, where the staff gave us our own court to play aerial dodgeball on. The weekend after, rush finally started to wind down with more intimate events. This included a poker and prime rib night, an invite-only snow tubing trip, and finally, a Super Bowl viewing event in the sanctuary, displayed with our brand new projector. We handed out 15 bids immediately after the game, and 8 signed!



*Brothers and rushees went snow tubing and enjoyed a meal at Chipotle. Rush was a success this year!*

## Sports

We are maintaining our strong presence in the intramural sports on campus. This past fall, we participated in dodgeball, basketball, ultimate frisbee, outdoor soccer, touch football, ice hockey, volleyball, kickball, and indoor soccer. Ice hockey, only recently introduced, is one of our most popular sports, boasting the largest brotherhood participation. We play regularly, and many brothers will jump at the opportunity to be on the ice, even outside of intramural games. Sports continue to be an important part of the Tau Nu experience, providing undergraduates with time to relax and have fun with pledges and brothers alike.



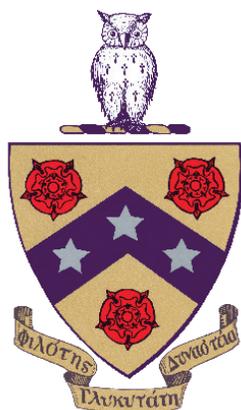
*Our brothers strike a pose after defeating Sigma Chi in the Intramural Frisbee Championship #shirtszn*

## 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 Joey Souto, Billy Pedoto, Cole Carpenter, Gavril Rodriguez-Thompson, Gavin Mays, Nick Johnson, and Andrew Volent for providing articles and pictures.

Additionally, a very special thank you to Rex Hu for providing proofreading and layout input.



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