



The History of the Iota Phi Chapter

Installed August 22, 2014, the Theta Chi Colony at the University of South Carolina rapidly grew. Led by President Carter Kilmann, the standing executive board was expanded, creating positions such as Brotherhood Chairman and Greek Life Relations Chairman in efforts to further strengthen ties both amongst candidates and amongst the existing Greek life at USC. An event that was a staple to the Colony, Theta Chi Thursday, was adopted to promote brotherhood amongst one another. Additional ties were extended to existing Greek Life by

actively participating in campus-wide philanthropy events, as well as hosting mixers with predominant sororities, therefore asserting a reputation for Theta Chi.

Even through the success of these events, fall rush was the main focus of the Colony. Initially comprised of 32 members, the colony strived to reach the 50 members required to receive a charter. Spearheaded by the VP of Recruitment, Tim Kallal, rush events such as touch football, poker night, and low country broils were held and widely successful. By the end of fall rush, the Colony

surpassed the 50 member requirement by recruiting 28 additional candidates. To continue expansion, the Colony decided to participate in spring rush and successfully recruited 8 more candidates to join the ranks. Over a year after recognition as an interest group, the Colony stood over 60 members strong and prepared for installment as a chapter. As the date grew closer, excitement within the Colony increased, not only because of initiation, but also because of the realization of the enormous potential that we have as a chapter of Theta Chi at USC.

On March 21, 2015, the beginning of that potential was realized. At approximately 2 pm, by lead of Brother O'Connor and Brother Couch, 60 men were initiated into the ranks of Theta Chi. Soon following, the Iota Phi chapter was installed, as Brother Kilmann and the executive board accepted the duties of their posts. Iota Phi now looks forward to continue progress and expansion as an official chapter of Theta Chi.

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The Twenty-First Day of March in the Year

On the 21st of March, 2015, the Theta Chi Colony at the University of South Carolina was installed as the Iota Phi Chapter of Theta Chi. With it, 60 men were inducted into the catalogues of Theta Chi as brothers.

The day began with the Executive Council joining alumni for a luncheon at California Dreaming to become further acquainted. As the luncheon came to an end, the parties went separate ways to prepare for the subsequent events of the day.

At approximately 2 o'clock later that day, the colony members were ushered into a local church where undergraduate and alumni brothers alike had gathered to witness and participate in the

initiation of the candidates. Soon thereafter, the Colony was installed as the Iota Phi Chapter of Theta Chi as President Carter Kilmann accepted the responsibilities of the charter.

After the closed events of initiation and installment convened, the now Iota Phi Chapter hosted an informal banquet open to Brothers, their dates, and honored guests at the Carolina Walk. With clear skies, moderate temperatures, and a cool breeze, the rooftop venue overlooked downtown Columbia and Williams-Brice Stadium, the excitement and relief of each newly initiated Brother was tangible.

To celebrate those who dedicated the most time and effort to the formation of the Iota Phi Chapter, awards were

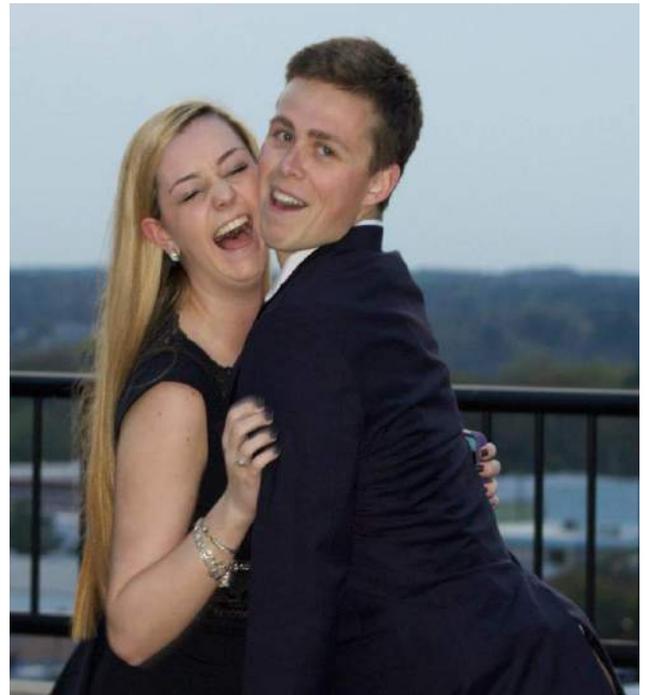
presented by undergraduate Brothers Rajeev and Stevens, as well as Alumni Brothers Sabbagha, Hoffman, and Couch.

Brothers Sabbagha and Couch each shared words of congratulations and wisdom, as well as words of advice and warning for Iota Phi. Brother Couch continued on to update the Chapter on the current events of Theta Chi and the exciting era of forward progress the fraternity is entering.

As Theta Chi improves on a national scale, Iota Phi looks to improve on a local scale. We look forward to becoming something greater than ourselves, while simultaneously bettering ourselves as fraternal men.



Award Ceremony: Brother Couch presents an award to Iota Phi member, John Phifer, for exceeding expectations and always being willing to offer an assisting hand.



Banquet Celebration: Brother Liam Duggan celebrates initiation with his date by practicing his "sorority squat" in front of the camera.

Philanthropy Participation

Philanthropy is vital to the embodiment of a fraternal gentleman. At the Iota Phi Chapter, it is our goal to always offer a helping hand to those in need. The following are just a few of the philanthropy events the chapter has participated in:

USO: Brothers visited and served food to troops at Camp McCrady before deployment every three weeks.

Sesame Street: Brothers went to a USO sponsored event and helped teach children how to cope when parents are deployed overseas.

Walk a Mile in Their Shoes: An annual event in which men strap on high heels and walk a mile to raise awareness of domestic violence and raise money for sexual trauma services.

KD Shamrock Week: A weeklong campus-wide competition that included stuffing teddy bears, participating in percent nights, and donating school supplies. Iota Phi proudly won by a landslide.

Chi Omega Cook Off: The best chefs of the chapter were selected to participate in a campus-wide cook off. This year, \$25,000 was raised for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

ZTA Bras for a Cause: A comical twist on stereotypical gender roles, men strut across a stage, loosely clad in lingerie, while females in the crowd call out and demand a number of poses. All proceeds go towards breast cancer awareness and research.

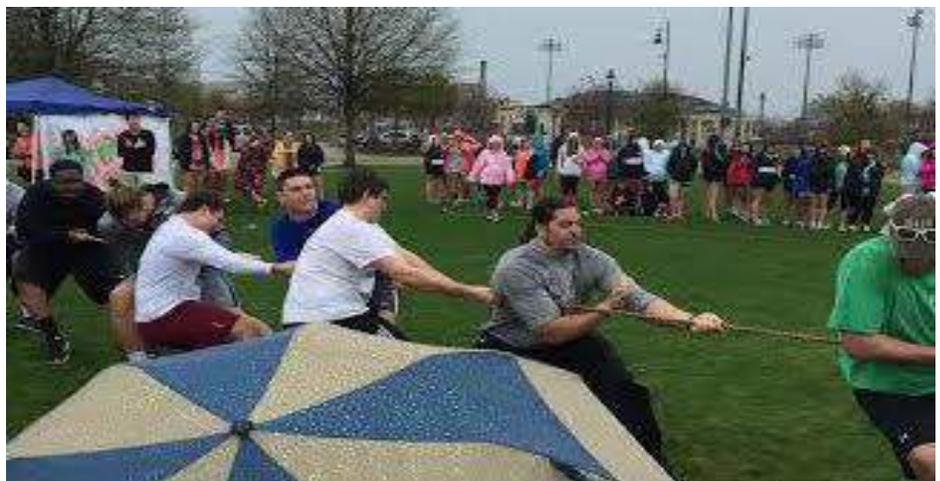
DZ Turtle Tug: A tug-of-war competition over a pit of slime. All proceeds go to the Painted Turtle Camp, a camp designed for speech and hearing impaired children. Iota Phi dominated the competition. **(pictured on right)**



First annual Theta Xmas a huge success

In an effort to alleviate the financial burden on underprivileged families during the holiday season, the Iota Phi chapter of Theta Chi unanimously motioned to host the first annual "Theta Xmas", a culmination of a month-long toy drive, concluded by a date event. For the toy drive, a goal of at least two presents from each couple in attendance was set, in addition to donations from others accumulated over the weeks. For weeks, Brothers spread word of the toy drive across campus through classrooms

word of mouth. To maintain the holiday cheer of the toy drive, the date event was given a "tacky sweater" theme and contrasted by a venue overlooking the Saluda River and downtown Columbia. To conclude Theta Xmas, all donations were collected at the function under a live Christmas tree and later donated to Toys for Tots. In total, the chapter collected and purchased more than 150 toys over the span of Theta Xmas, all of which were donated to deserving children on Christmas Day.



DZ Turtle Tug: With the help of a handful of football players and some local bouncers, Iota Phi won the Turtle Tug with ease.

Process of Understanding Brotherhood

Brotherhood.

That is the answer nearly every brother will provide when asked why he joined a fraternity. It is the accepted response of every fraternal man, the everlasting torch passed down from brother to brother across fraternal generations, continuously smoldering as each new wave of gentlemen is ushered in. Religiously, the flame is rekindled as newly inducted brothers accept the burden and elder brothers watch on with a sense of pride and hesitation, knowing that were the flame ever quenched, the chapter would falter. Because, after all, what is it to be brothers without brotherhood.

Brotherhood?

That is the response of nearly every candidate when asked why he joined a fraternal colony. It is an uncertain answer by an unsure individual that invokes more

ambiguity than conclusiveness. Yet, simultaneously, there exists an underlying conviction, a subtle determination exhibited by a man indefinite of his destination but indisputably approaching it. With guidance and time, the ambiguity fades and the wavering voices solidify as one, the conviction offered as kindling for the fire waiting to be lit.

The now Iota Phi chapter had never experienced such organized chaos as it had in the shadow of installment; yet, it was that hectic buzz that truly illuminated the excitement. After a year of diligent work and much appreciated guidance, we eagerly accepted the lighting of our own torch. We greatly look forward to truly understanding what it means to be brothers of Theta Chi as our chapter grows, and strive to embody the core values of the Fraternity.

Conferences and Conventions

National Conferences are crucial to the development of a chapter. The following are conferences we've attended and the impacts they've had on us, as explained by Carter Kilmann:

MYLC at NC State: This conference was our initial exposure to Theta Chi on an organizational level. We were grateful to sit in on discussions, as well as network with brothers in the region.

National Convention: This was one of the most worthwhile trips I have ever taken. The Convention provided us with invaluable experience and allowed us to develop relationships with brothers nationwide.

Deranian President's Conference: This allowed me to connect with the best and brightest in Theta Chi. It exposed me to the responsibilities of the position from a general, everyday perspective.

Initiative Academy: Here, I was exposed to unique leadership opportunities that developed me as a leader and individual.

MYLC at Alabama: As a developed Colony, we were able to send 20 guys to the University of Alabama to expose them to Theta Chi on a national level at one of the Fraternity's best chapters.



Brotherhood Retreat: Brothers spend the last warm weekend of the year out on Lake Murray. Thanks to Brother Shickre Sabbagha for allowing the use of his lakefront property.

Thoughts on Iota Phi Chapter and Fraternal Life

By S.A. Sabbagha, CAB Chair

At colonization, the candidates were asked... Place alma mater first, and Theta Chi for alma mater, when you sing the OX song, mean it, and live the Creed each day of your life. Do that, and you will be Founding Fathers of a great chapter. On March 21, 2015 Iota Phi became that great Chapter and is now free to choose the path that every new chapter forges, free from the past and not burdened by any ghost from mistakes made by previous members. With this freedom, Iota Phi must be the new men the Brotherhood of Theta Chi needs: not just members of a national Greek organization, but men who actively participate and define what it means to be a brother in a 21st century fraternity chapter.

At my Beta Psi chapter we had a saying, "Theta Chi, Average Guy." We were never that frat-tastic chapter that was too good for everyone else, we were just average guys who won intramural trophies, maintained our GPA, remained active in nearly every college organization: a chapter people enjoyed keeping company with – that was my chapter and that was the key to keeping Fraternity life a key part of collegiate life. If Fraternity life is to succeed, it cannot be a separate or exclusive community, but instead must be a way to experience college life that is more engaged in an active community on campus.

At USC, I've seen that as well – I've seen what it means to be a brother in the Iota Phi chapter: organized philanthropy events; a commitment to scholarship and maintaining a high GPA for both brothers and pledges; student and community organization engagement; and above all, placing the health and safety of brothers and pledges front and center in chapter life.

All fraternity chapters are at a crossroads in America. They stand between being the exclusive, snobbish Omegas and drunk, but lovable losers of Delta House. Neither is a good reason to join a fraternity. The general public sees fraternities as being snobbish racist and misogynistic drunkards who are the worst combo of Neidermeyers and Blutos. Fraternities are Undesirable, Unteachable, Unredeemable rejects to be purged from collegiate life. What a disconnect from what it really means to be a brother in a fraternity – from what it means to be a brother in Iota Phi chapter of Theta Chi at USC.

Instead, I believe Iota Phi's philanthropy, scholarship, leadership, and community are pillars of its fraternal life. Within Iota Phi --Truth, Temperance, and Tolerance guide its brothers to actively provide the assisting hand to any brother in need. Iota Phi brothers are the right men, in the right place, and the right time to be the chapter of brothers Theta Chi needs them to be; to be the chapter Frederick Norton Freeman and Arthur Chase created 158 years ago as one path to virtue all men should strive for when they want to faithfully serve their God, their County, and their Fellow Man.

Theta Chi, by damn.



Upcoming Events

XO War of Wings (April 8th)

Founder's Day (April 10th)

Crescent Classic (Apr 12th)

AXO Jingle for Julie (April 26)

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