



The
Bulletin
of
Theta Gamma
Fraternity
2018 - 2019



Dedication

To Mr. Greg Gilbert Gamma Fall 1971 Buffalo, NY

Grand Council — Constitutional Committee
Treasurer, GTG, Inc. — 2014 - Present
Gamma Chapter President — 1975-1976
Gamma Chapter Treasurer — 1974-1975

This year's dedication goes out a brother who exemplifies service to Theta Gamma and professionalism in its business dealings. A natural leader, Greg brings to the table a grounded sense of logic and critical thinking. When he talks, people listen. Greg's days as a Theta Gamma man began in the Fall of '71. During his time as an active brother, Greg served as President and was a force to be reckoned with, mastering the art of parliamentary procedure. He played an integral role in the purchase of the Gamma Chapter house in 1975, which has now been owned and operated by the Gamma Corporation for 44 years now! As an alumnus, Greg took a step back from Theta Gamma work to raise his two sons with his wife, Sue, and pursue a career in the food service industry. After selling his restaurant and embracing the lovely world of retirement, he saw a need to get involved again with his home chapter. Greg rolled his sleeves up and got to work, leading a committee that revised the corporate constitution and put into place critical checks and balances that were previously non-existent. The Grand Council took note of his accomplishments within the Gamma Chapter and sought his assistance in the revision of the Theta Gamma Constitution, which was presented and ratified at the 2019 Grand Council Convention. Greg's dedication to Theta Gamma has spanned decades. He has been a mentor, advisor, confidant, and friend to countless brothers, always telling it like it is. His guidance within our organization has helped prepare the next generation of brothers take the mantle of leadership to continue our noble work.

Due to the example he has set toward truthfulness and worthiness, and as a special thank you for his continued service to Theta Gamma, this year's Grand Council Bulletin is dedicated to Brother Greg Gilbert.

The Theta Gamma Bulletin

Volume 107

November 11th, 2019

Number 1

The official organ of Theta Gamma Fraternity, published under the authorization of the Grand Council.

Editor

JOSEPH C. BITHORN
Rochester, New York

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

It my honor and privilege to present you The Bulletin of Theta Gamma Fraternity for the 2018-2019 school year. The rollout of this year's issue is exceptionally overdue. I offer my sincerest apologies. I would like to explain the reason for its delay, for I believe that honesty and frankness will do any group more good than an attempt to deceive and put one over on the other fellow. In the weeks leading up to the 2019 Grand Council Convention, I had received little participation as far as content for the Bulletin. At the time, I felt that it was pointless to put together an issue with little material and waste the Grand Council's money. In my Editor's report at the convention, I had explained the situation, and promised to complete the Bulletin by May 2019. Additionally, I gave every attendee of the convention my word that I would mail them a copy, since I could not provide one to them that weekend. Even though I was elected VGEM at that convention, I gave them my word. Well, as we know, life gets in the way. Months went by and I had yet to produce an issue. Although it is unfortunate that it has taken this long, I am a firm believer that my word is my bond, and I owe it to you, the membership, the opportunity to have a Bulletin for this past year. Again, I offer my deepest apologies, and hope you enjoy the content within. It is a lot of work to put together a Bulletin, but it is a labor of love. Happy reading my brothers!

EVOLUTION OF A BULLETIN



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The Grand Council

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FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND EXALTED MASTER

Brothers All,

I am honored to once again be addressing you as the Grand Exalted Master of the Theta Gamma Fraternity. It is hard to believe that a year has passed since our last Grand Council Convention. I am excited to say that it was a productive year for the Grand Council. Due to the hard work and dedication of many Brothers of all ages much has been accomplished over this past year. Though our work is far from done, the steps that we have taken over the past several years have enabled us to lay much of the groundwork which will be necessary to propel our Brotherhood into the future. At the 2018 Convention several actions were taken which will assist us as we move forward.

We were able enact revisions to “The Code of Conduct of Theta Gamma Fraternity” that were necessary to align this document with the needs of this digital age. This document provides us with a list of the rights, responsibilities, and behavioral expectations of our members, along with the judiciary process that will be followed in dealing with violations of this code. The ethos of this document are based in the fundamental teachings of our order, and serve to further refine those beliefs while aligning them with needs of our times.

Amendments were made to the “Theta Gamma Fraternity Constitution and By-Laws”. These amendments were necessary in order to dissolve the position of the “Grand Secretary and Treasurer”, allowing for the creation of two offices the “Grand Treasurer” and the “Grand Secretary”. This move splits the responsibilities of the original office allowing the burden of that office to be divided accordingly among the two new offices. Changes were also made regarding the duties and responsibilities of the office of “Grand Alumni Secretary”. These changes were made in an effort to bring the role of that office more in line with the needs of the time we are currently in.

The 2018 Convention also brought with it a “Ritual Workshop” conducted by the Grand Chaplin. This workshop was viewed by those in attendance as a great success, and a very educational experience. Our purpose in holding this workshop was to reinforce the long standing stance of the Grand Council, that it is our Rituals which bind our Chapters and our Brothers together. Though discussion has arisen in the past amongst our members calling for the development of a so called “Universal Pledge Program”, the reality is that such an endeavor would be an effort in futility. The variables of Chapter traditions, education in specific Chapter procedures, and the guidelines set forth by the Institutions at which our Chapters are located make such an idea an impossibility. It is our desire to continue to reinforce the bonds between our Chapters through continued education in the Ritualistic works of Theta Gamma.

Lastly, the 2018 Convention brought with it the presentation of the “Grand Council President’s Binders”. Each of the active Chapter Presidents were given a binder containing information to assist them in working with the Grand Council, and provide them with the most current documents regarding the Fraternity such as the

Grand Council Constitution and By-Laws, the Code of Conduct, the Ritual of Funeral service, an information submission schedule, etc.... This binder is to be passed from President to President and brought to convention for updating on an annual basis. Though the first year of this approach has been a bit rough with regards to the communication aspects, there is little doubt that as we move forward this will become a valued tool to our Brotherhood.

This past year our major focus has been on the Constitution. A Constitutional committee was established last year with the purpose of revising the Grand Council Constitution. This committee met bi-weekly for several months by teleconference, and with the aid of Google Docs revised the entire Constitution. From there we have continued to refine, revise, and format the Constitution in our efforts to develop it into a functional document encompassing the needs of our Brotherhood in this day and age. It is our sincere hope that the 2019 Convention will bring with it the ratification of the proposed revisions to the Constitution allowing us to move on to the next steps in our journey.

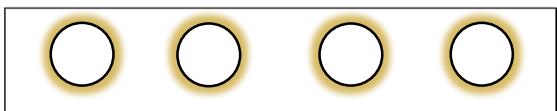
With the aforementioned work behind us the Grand Council will now be shifting our focus toward the next two major tasks at hand. First, we will be placing a major emphasis on the further development of the Theta Gamma website. Second, we will be making a concerted effort to move forward with the expansion of our Fraternity. Both of which are going to be herculean tasks, and will require the assistance and support of all of our membership. As such the Grand Council will be calling on all Theta Gamma Brothers to assist us in any way that they possibly can. So what is it that we will be asking you to assist us with?

We will be creating a “Website Committee”. Because the maintenance and upkeep of the website falls under the duties of the Grand Editor he will be the head of this committee. What we wish to accomplish on this front is to make our site the central hub of all communication relating to the Fraternity. The possibilities that can be achieved through this site are truly limitless, as are the benefits that you as Brothers of Theta Gamma can be provided through the site. What will be needed to accomplish the goals of this Committee will be continuous updating, and this can only be achieved through constantly being provided with updated information to put on the site. If you are interested in assisting on this front, please contact either the Grand Editor at ge@thetagamma.com or myself at gem@thetagamma.com.

An “Expansion Committee” has been formed and is being headed by Brother Patrick Defoe. Much work is needed on this front also. Brother Defoe and I have been working over the past few months in developing procedures for our expansion efforts, including a “Constitution Template” for new Colonies, risk management policies, and the like. There is still much work to be done on this front also, but we still need a great deal of assistance in further development of all of the key components that will be necessary in the expansion process. If you feel that you can be of assistance in these tasks, please contact Brother Defoe at expansion@thetagamma.com or myself at gem@thetagamma.com.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:
The proposed revisions of the Constitutional Committee were ratified at the 2019 GCC. The revised language is now the official governing document of the fraternity.

I hope that this upcoming year will be as successful as the last, and that you will all do your part to promote unity throughout our Brotherhood. Above all else I ask that you all keep at the forefront of your thoughts and your actions “Beta Lambda Epsilon Omicron”. I am always available to any Brother, and hope that you will not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts, ideas, or concerns.



Always In The Bonds,
Patrick Carey

GRAND SECRETARY

I'd first and foremost like to thank my fellow board members for making the transition to this position a really positive experience. I've learned a lot and appreciate the hard work put forth by everyone involved in the numerous endeavors throughout the last year. A special thank you to the constitutional committee for their time and effort putting together the new and improved Constitution. Thank you Greg Gilbert for getting us off the ground. Without your knowledge and experience, it would have been a lot harder to pull off, so Thank You sir! Thanks for your support, encouragement, trust and friendship throughout this year brother Pat Carey, I appreciate it.

This past year, I lost my big brother (blood) Christopher to alcoholism, he was 40. I want to utilize this platform to offer any and all support to any of my brothers that are struggling with addiction. It's an absolute crushing disease that affects everyone and everything around it. There is help, and if you need it, your brothers are right here.

Thank You!
Luke Wilkinson F'04
Grand Secretary

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
[HTTP://WWW.THETAGAMMA.COM](http://www.thetagamma.com)**

BROTHERHOOD: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The concept of brotherhood is deeply rooted in the common experience for those of us who pledged Theta Gamma. Today I see many of us that still remember and some that I do not think fully understand the teachings of this concept. I understand that our fraternity is a living and evolving entity that must change and adapt as time passes. Brotherhood should not be one of those evolving concepts. “Three weeks for a lifetime”; a motto, a mantra, a saying that, to me and many of my generation, was more than just words. In today’s society, brotherhood has come to be

Be sure to continue reading toward end of this bulletin to read publications from 1919, 1922, and 1930! Authors include our first honorary Dr. J.M. Payson & past GEM N.C. Searles.

a term used by any group sharing common goals. This is not meant to a slight to any of those organizations, but ours should be more than that.

I have not been as active as I once was because life happens, but I have tried to keep in touch with how our fraternity, its chapters, and brotherhood are doing. Many discussions I have had with some brothers lead me to believe some brothers view our brotherhood from the perspective of "What can you do for me?" John F. Kennedy said it best when he asked America "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." When I started pledging in the Fall of 1987 I was not pledging for community service, philanthropic causes, and the desire to be a better man. I wanted to drink beer, chase women, and have a good time. The brotherhood, through pledging and shared experiences showed me how and why I had to be this man. Somehow we need to instill this attitude back into more of our brotherhood.

I may be wrong, but I see more of the brotherhood seems to have become, "Anything goes if you are a brother." I also see "brotherhood" used as an excuse to avoid personal accountability, responsibility, and as a pass to behave badly. It should not be expected to forgive any sin and allow any transgression simply because we are brothers. We need to hold each other to higher standards than the people around us. We all make mistakes. We all have transgressions. How we handle them and how our brothers handle them is what will define us amongst the general population.

BROTHERHOOD, as instilled by my Pledge Master, my brothers, through time and teaching is what I was willing to do for my brother. We have all taken the solemn oaths of our rituals. It is not a matter of receiving, but a matter of giving. It is not a matter of avoiding personal accountability, but of accepting responsibility. It was not a matter of being forgiven any sin, but to try and avoid it. It's about living up to the standards required to be a member of this brotherhood. I knew I would always have the love and support of my brothers and they would have mine. I also knew that I would never be allowed to dishonor them through my actions and be allowed to continue in the brotherhood. I was required, and to some extent forced, to live specific values and ethics if I was to have the privilege of being a brother. It was never a matter of entitlement, because I made it through three weeks; it needs to be earned every day.

Theta Gamma and its brotherhood have given me more than I can ever repay. It is still here, and I have witnessed it in others over the past year because I have been at funerals, reunions, picked up the phone to a brother that was having troubles and him acknowledging the thanks to me and the other brothers that also reached out.

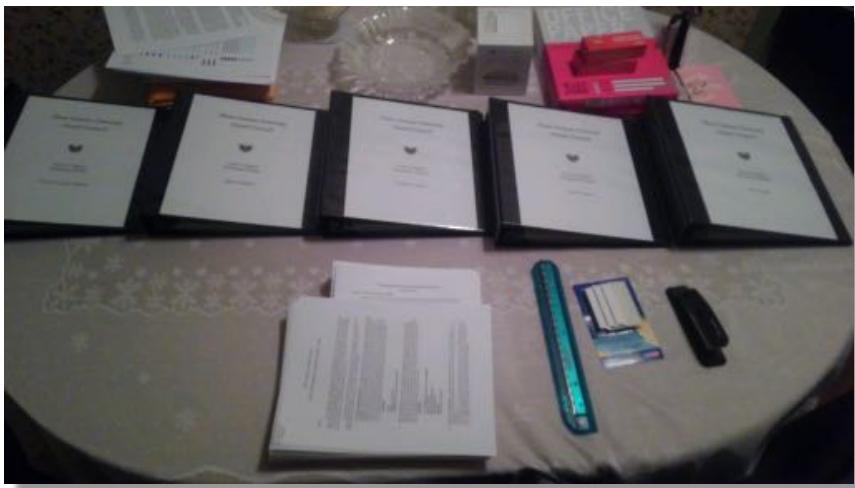


"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try." John F. Kennedy. I will continue to try, and be a better brother.

Mick Collins – Grand Advisor
Alpha Fall '87

THE PRESIDENT'S BINDER

Provided by the Grand Council E-board to each Active Chapter



Mr. President,

The Theta Gamma Fraternity Grand Council, in our efforts to assist the Active Chapters of our noble order, offer to you this binder. It is our sincere hope that the information provided within its pages may assist you in your fraternal work. We ask that you take the time to familiarize yourself with the documents within it.

The Council trust that you will treat this binder with great care, and concern. The documents within this binder are for the eyes of the members of our Brotherhood only, and as such it is to be stored securely in a safe place.

This binder is to be passed on to each successive President upon their installation. Each Chapter President, and the Grand Exalted Master have been provided identical binders. This binder is to be brought to the annual Grand Council Convention so that it may be audited, and updated.

In The Bonds,
The Grand Council Executive Board

THE BULLETIN, AND ITS MORAL AUTHORITY

It is a rather curious thing to conceptualize what motivates one to be a good man. Is it his upbringing, his experiences, his environment? Has he been exposed to influences in such a way that, had they not existed, would result in a lesser moral compass and capability? In Robert Frost's famous work "The Road Not Taken", a question is presented whether to take one of two paths. Each results in a different

outcome. The moral is to choose the one less traveled, which makes all the difference. Applying this philosophy to our lives, as we approach a crossroad with paths leading to numerous future outcomes, it is important that we choose the path that makes us a better version of ourselves in the long run. It is for this reason that we seize the opportunity, when it presents itself, to always better ourselves in mind, body, and spirit. The Bulletin is that opportunity.

"Just as significant to the neophyte is his pledge manual, so too the councilman is his Bulletin".

Last year, I described the "what" in regards to what the bulletin represents; this year I describe "why" it holds its sacred representation and how that applies to the brother in the field reading and absorbing its content. I wrote the above quote a while back and included it into last year's Bulletin. The motive behind this thought was that, due to one's exposure to Bulletins of the past, keen insight can be brought forward and applied to our behaviors and actions of today. Just like the Bible teaches how to live a moral life, so too does the Bulletin for the Brothers of Theta Gamma.



When we enter this organization, we build our pledge manual and are given the content within. In it are the histories and instructions on an individual's entrance into fraternalism. Whether it's understanding Theta Gamma's roots, aspects of rushing, or inter-fraternity relations, this guide serves a purpose for the neophyte. But what about the prophete? What consumption can be provided to the brother in the field, performing our order's noble work each and every day? The Bulletin is the answer. If you are one of the lucky ones reading this, I recommend to you that you not take for granted the content within this publication. I charge you to have a willingness to learn from the messages, morals, lessons, and advice from others. You

are your brother's keeper. The authors within the Bulletins, both past and present, understand and are hopeful that their word may someday help their brothers be better versions of themselves. And if you, at some point, encompass and embody perceptive wisdom that would benefit your brothers, I charge you to write your thoughts down and share it with your Grand Editor. Your wisdom may show up in the next issue of the Theta Gamma Bulletin.

WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?

SERVING THETA GAMMA IS SOMETIMES A THANKLESS, YET NECESSARY JOB. OVER THE YEARS, COUNTLES BROTHERS HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL, WHETHER IT BE ASSITING AN ACTIVE CHAPTER, CORPORATE BOARD, OR GRAND COUNCIL. THE STATE OF THE FRATERNITY IS AS STRONG AS THE MEMBERS SERVING HER. WHEN WE LACK STAFFING OR THE DRIVE TO ROLL OUR SLEEVES UP, THE FRATERNITY SUFFERS. ON BEHALF OF THETA GAMMA, THE GRAND COUNCIL ENCOURAGES YOU TO SET ASIDE TIME TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. LET'S GET TO WORK!

---- Joseph C. Bithorn ----

2018 GRAND COUNCIL CONVENTION

2/23 – 2/25: Lake George, NY – Meeting Minutes

Roll Call:

Grand Exalted Master: Patrick Carey, Delta, F'91

Vice Grand Exalted Master: Joe Alamia, Nu, F'02

Grand Secretary/Treasurer: Richard Mason, Alpha/Gamma, F'94

Grand Chaplain: Daniel Horton, Delta, S'01

Grand Alumni Secretary: Angely Ortega, Gamma, F'14

Grand Historian: Roger Willingham, Alpha, F'94

Grand Editor: Joe Bithorn, Gamma, S'04

Grand Advisor: Pat Boire, Alpha/Nu, F'84

Greg Gilbert, Gamma, S'71

Steve Bond, Alpha, F'82

Ray Spears, Alpha, F'84

John Weeks, Alpha, S'87

Gary Lee Vaughn, Nu, F'88

Jonathon Side, Nu, F'90

Jerrod Ogden, Nu, S'97

Jason Fitzgerald, Gamma, S'98

Pasquale Crivelli, Delta, S'98

Luke Wilkinson, Nu, F'04

Don Miller, Delta, F'05

Thomas Kacalski, Gamma, F'06

Michael Finger, Gamma, S'10

Torr Micah, Gamma, F'12

Thomas Mangiacasale, Gamma, S'13

Cristian Mendoza, Alpha, S'14

Patrick Defoe, Gamma, F'14

Chase Boyer, Alpha, S'15

Thomas Germain, Alpha, S'15

Matt Cunningham, Gamma, F'15

Damian Holman, Alpha, S'16

Zachary Speckczynski, Gamma, F'16

Steven Degroff, Delta, F'16

Anthony Sottile, Delta, F'16

Otis Edwards, Alpha, S'17

Matt Georgia, Nu, S'17

Pat Martin, Nu, S'17



The 2018 GCC was held at the Fort William Henry Hotel & Conference Center in Lake George, NY, from February 23-25. Brothers from Alpha, Gamma, Delta, and Nu came together and conducted the annual business of the fraternity. Afterwards, the younger brothers enjoyed the nightlife of downtown Lake George, while the “old farts” held down the fort down at the hotel bar.

A huge thanks goes out to Brother Tom Wysocki (Alpha F'83), Director of Sales and Marketing, for helping to organize the event and make sure the hospitality was first-class.

Day One: 2/23/18 – Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Brother Carey leads in opening prayer.

Brother Mason reads 2017 Grand Council Convention minutes

MOTION TO ACCEPT 2017 GRAND COUNCIL MINUTES BY BROTHER OGDEN, SECONDED BY MANY. MOTION PASSES.

Proposal to split Grand Secretary/Treasurer position into two separate positions:

- Grand Treasurer
- Grand Secretary:

MOTION TO BE TABLED, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

Code of Conduct proposal

MOTION TO BE TABLED BY BROTHER OGDEN, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

Officer Reports:

GEM

- A big thanks goes out to PB for helping out getting the Convention together and a big Thank You to brother Gilbert for helping get the Constitution committee going with Brother Collins.
- On expansion
 - Farnham University of Virginia has been interested and communication has begun. Though the school is not allowing new Greek Organizations at this time, we are still involved and communicating.
 - University of Connecticut: Student has ceased contact with Brother Carey at this time but will be contacted again to keep interest.
 - BETA chapter reformation could be, possibly, just beginning.
- Town Hall meetings were not attended by many but we're still going to have them in the near future, need more involvement in order for them to be successful and last.
- Social Media is a double edged sword, we need to learn how to use these platforms for positivity and communication, but the negative things need to stop.

VGEM

- Brother Alamia: Thanks Pat, for moving this forward.
- All chapters were contacted, only one physical visit to Nu chapter was completed, rest by phone, Gamma, Delta, Alpha
- SWOT Analysis will be reviewed tomorrow.

Grand Secretary/Treasurer:

- Now using Community Bank, NA for our banking.
 - Checking: \$ 7,719.16 (Deposit of 216.96)
 - Savings: \$8,654.19
 - PayPal: \$0.00
- Dues collected before conference were in the amount of \$925.00
- Chapter Dues:
 - Last Year ('17) for DELTA, What about a "pitch-in" collection for \$80, which seems fair

- GAMMA missing 2014 dues but only that year, not since. Call it \$200.00 to catch it up? Any objections to either? – No objections
- GST will follow up with Brother Collins for Old GC/Miller money.

Grand Chaplin:

- Brother Horton: New robes bought and most chapters have them. Sorry for the delay and thank you to Brother Carey for helping out
- Ready for wall run-throughs which will be very important, something that needs to be done the same for each chapter.

Grand Alumni Secretary:

- Brother Ortega: I have a calendar ready for Chapter, Grand Council and other events and if everyone would send me chapter activities, we can add them for everyone to see.

**MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR GRAND EXALTED MASTER,
GRAND CHAPLIN, GRAND EDITOR, POSSIBLE GRAND SECRETARY
BY BROTHER CAREY, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.**

**MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR GEM, SECONDED BY MANY.
PASSES**

- Joe Alamia- 2nd by many. Accepts
- Pat Carey- 2nd by Brother Boire/many others. Accepts
- Joe Bithorn- 2nd by many. Accepts
- Angely Ortega- 2nd by many. Accepts

**MOTION TO TABLE NOMINATIONS UNTIL DAY 2 BY BROTHER
OGDEN, SECONDED BY BROTHER SIDE. PASSES.**

**MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR GRAND CHAPLIN BY
BROTHER ALAMIA, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.**

- Dan “Wyo” Horton- 2nd by many- Accepts

MOTION TO TABLE NOMINATIONS, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

**MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR GRAND EDITOR BY
BROTHER ALAMIA, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.**

- Joe Bithorn- 2nd by many-Accepts

MOTION TO TABLE NOMINATIONS, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

MOTION TO OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR “POSSIBLE” GRAND

SECRETARY BY BROTHER ALAMIA, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

- Angely Ortega- 2nd by many-Accepts
- Joe Bithorn-2nd by many- Declines

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Day Two: 2/24/18 – Meeting called to order 8:00 a.m.

Brother Horton leads prayer

Brother Bithorn handed out Theta Gamma bulletin for 2017-2018

Brother Boire and Brother Gilbert lead breakout sessions, listed as follows:

1. Active Development program lead by Boire

2. Constitution re-vamp lead by Gilbert
New Councilmen are initiated

Meeting called back to order at 10:21 a.m.

Breakout sessions reviewed with Brother Alamia:

- Breakout Session 1
 - Brother Boire thanked everyone involved in the session and explained that it went well due to all the participation
 - There is a need to breakdown the stigma that is present with “old” vs. “new” brothers. It can be intimidating.
 - Continue to ask for help, we’re all here for the greater good of Theta Gamma
 - Brother Ogden: We need to start some sort of resume critiquing; we have enough brothers in positions to help newer brothers with their professional development. I know we all care about beer and chicks, but let’s start worrying about success of our brothers for their future as well!
 - We need to do a better job of understanding the roles of each governing entity of Theta Gamma from Chapter, Corporate Board and Grand Council
 - Brother Ogden: We need to start communicating the correct things regarding responsibilities so that it’s clear
 - Brother Wilkinson: It’s a lack of education problem.
 - Brother Boire: We need to make the transition to roles easier and concrete. Need a journal of some sort.
- Breakout Session 2
 - Brother Gilbert stated that we have a lot of work to do.
 - The session went well, a committee is forming to look at, and amend the Constitution.
 - Will hopefully have the Constitution updated prior to 2019 Grand Council Convention.

Officer Reports Cont'd:

Grand Editor:

- Brother Bithorn really enjoys Staples
- Social Media can be a strength but still has its problems with negativity, it is an open forum.
 - With that said, we would like to see an increase in exposure of the GC Website. We had a slow summer
 - TROLLING sucks and currently working with the “Flock” to minimize the stupidity.
- Bithorn read through the stats from the website. Really need to promote the website.
- Big thanks goes out to Brothers Mike McCormick and Angely Ortega for their continued contributions and help with Website development.

Grand Historian:

- Research from lost chapters is going really well. Would like to get some help, anyone interested, contact Brother Roger Willingham
- We know Captain (Brother Dan Waldorf) has a ton of stuff
 - We could possibly develop a sort of “Museum” on the website.

Chapter Reports:

ALPHA Active:

- 4 Actives at this point
- In order for us to get back recognized with the school, we need to perform 500 hours of Community service by August 1st. As of now, we have 162 hours and that was completed by 4 guys, 1 of which is in the military.
- No pledging until Spring ‘19, so we have 1 year.

ALPHA Corporate Board – by Brother Ray Spears:

- Tough financial situation with only 4 active brothers.
- We have our Alumni weekend the first weekend in June, would love to see brothers come up, from all the chapters. The unity would help out a lot!
- We have a conference call set up for the 2nd Tuesday of every month and would love call ins.

GAMMA Active:

- We had an OK year.
- Relatively low numbers, with 9 active
- We have a pledge class of 11 for this spring, which is huge numbers wise.

GAMMA Corporate Board – by Brother Greg Gilbert:

- We have suspended our capital improvements for the house. WE need brothers to live there, but the school puts a lot of influence on how and when we move off campus. Things keep changing in regards to regulations.
- Please go to Clambake this year which is the 1st weekend of May
- We have an Alumni weekend on March 24th weekend.
- Overall, doing well. New pledge class will be very helpful.

DELTA Active Chapter:

- We’re currently in a rough spot with the house, no brothers are currently living there.
- University not allowing anyone to live there.
- PIG ROAST scheduled for September 29th.

DELTA Corporate Board:

- Corporate Board meeting will be held on March 24th, 2018.
- Will be meeting with the school, in March and we’ll go from there.

NU Active Chapter:

- Doing well, we have 19 actives.
- Dealing with the anti-Greek climate, especially with another Fraternity being kicked out due to hazing pledges.

- We are now the oldest Fraternity on campus, which is great for recruiting new members.
- Going to work on communication with other chapters. Focus more on positivity, do a much better job removing alumni that are negative and there to be destructive, rather than helpful.

NU Corporate Board - Report by Brother Olmer, read by Brother Willingham.

- Corp Board wants to better relationship with Grand Council through open lines of communication.
- Banquet will be held on April 27th at Dana's Rusty Anchor in Plattsburgh.

Old Business:

MOTION TO REOPEN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GRAND COUNCIL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

MOTION TO REVISE ARTICLE VI – GRAND COUNCIL, SECTION 4 – OFFICERS, SUB. SECTION 3 POWERS AND DUTIES, PARAGRAPH 3, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

MOTION TO PASS AMENDMENT, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

MOTION TO REOPEN DISCUSSION ON CODE OF CONDUCT, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

- Brother Ogden: Strike word “Outside” law enforcement
- Add:
 - Any conduct unbecoming of a brother
 - Any action or inaction that puts a brother or the Fraternity in Peril.

MOTION TO TABLE CHANGES UNTIL THE ACTIVES RETURNED BY BROTHER OGDEN, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

MOTION TO PASS REVISIONS ON CODE OF CONDUCT BY BROTHER ALAMIA, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

New Business:

MOTION TO OPEN DISCUSSION FOR 2019 GRAND COUNCIL CONVENTION BY BROTHER CAREY, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

- Lots of discussion about where to have it.
 - Most of the brothers in the room, if not all, really enjoyed having the convention at the Ft. William Henry
 - Brother Boire and Brother Carey pointed out how much 1 conference room costs, let alone the three that we receive and it's absolutely FREE, which was reiterated by brother Wilkinson, many, many, many times.
 - Need to determine date
 - Brother Carey options for talking to the Hotel and having a date and time for the 2019 Grand Council Convention within 30 days of today.

MOTION TO REOPEN POSITIONS BY BROTHER ALAMIA, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

MOTION TO CAST WHITE BALLOT FOR GRAND EDITOR, GRAND SECRETARY, AND GRAND CHAPLIN, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

- Grand Chaplin- Dan "Wyo" Horton
- Grand Secretary- Luke Wilkinson
- Grand Editor- Joe Bithorn

MOTION TO REOPEN NOMINATIONS FOR GEM BY BROTHER BITHORN, SECONDED BY BROTHER ALAMIA. PASSES

- Joe Alamia- Accepts
- Pat Carey- Accepts
- Joe Bithorn- Declines
- Angely Ortega- Declines

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR GEM, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

Congratulations Pat Carey, GEM.

MOTION TO GIVE GRAND COUNCIL POWER TO HANDLE EXPANSION UNTIL REVISION TO THE CONSTITUTION IS COMPLETE, SECTION 7 BY BROTHER CAREY, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

Brother Ogden brings up having a super majority to make any decisions with the vote needing to be 5/8s.

Brother Carey states that when decisions like this need to be made, the board likes to be unanimous and this has worked in the past and will continue.

Announcements:

Brother Carey: Our many thanks goes out to Mike McCormick for his help.

Brother Carey read some ideas that Mike came up with regarding website usage.

Brother Willingham adds that anyone interested in helping him with the history, research, he would appreciate it.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING BY MANY, SECONDED BY MANY. PASSES.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



2018 GC Executive Board (from left to right): R. Mason, P. Boire, P. Carey, R. Willingham, L. Wilkinson, J. Bithorn, J. Alamia, D. Horton, A. Ortega

CHAPTER VISITS

In accordance to the Constitution & Bylaws of Theta Gamma Fraternity, the Grand Council conducts annual chapter visits, by which to assess a chapter's strength & sustainability. It is important to ensure that our active chapter members are upholding the values of Theta Gamma, while also maintaining the idealistic standards of living in service. Traditionally, it is the VGEM's responsibility to conduct the visit. The host chapter is to entertain him while at their chapter.

The following are the Chapter Visit Reports that were presented at the 2019 GCC:

ALPHA CHAPTER

Conducted by Brother Angely Ortega on 1/19/19



- **Actives: 2, Fall 18 was 3 GPA: 3.75**
- There was no real transition of officers this year due to lack of numbers.
- In order to get back to good standing with the school, which is still a positive relationship, need to complete the 500 hours of community service. Looking for new community service opportunities.
- 270 Hours completed, but still require 230 – difficult to get with the current numbers.
- Rushing – looking at getting quality brothers and quantity. Targeting the gamers.
- Relationships with other Greeks and campus groups is getting better.
- Compared to other organizations, we have low membership.
- Pledging program, due to low membership, PM would like help with pledge process from Alumni.
- House looked really good, in good shape. Cleaning the house needs to be a priority and saving money on it the best we can.
- Need a new shadow box
- Relationship with alumni is solid, but they come and go.



GAMMA CHAPTER

Conducted by Brother Joe Bithorn on 1/26/19



- **Actives: 14 GPA: 2.92**
- President: Adam West
 - Chapter GPA – 2.92 (with two brothers below 1.0)
 - Transition between officers – Discussion among top 7 let a top 5 officer remain an officer if they have below a 2.5 GPA and not live in the house.
 - Living in the house rule is loosely enforced because of lower numbers (14 start of spring)
 - Keeping records/notes that are passed down to the next officer.
 - Relationship with school – Good terms
 - Off of probationary status in September '18
 - Gamma helps other Greeks/sports teams who throw parties to learn risk management practices. This is recommended by Spencer Peavey (Greek Senate Advisor, Assistant VP of Student Affairs)
- Vice President: Rich Dean
 - Community service – Average 40.74 hours per brother, 692.5 hours collectively
 - Scraped/painted church in Andover, NY
 - In the works – veterans outreach out of Wellsville
 - Woodsman competition
 - Shoveled sidewalks
 - Philanthropic efforts
 - Relay for Life (\$12,000)

- Haunted house (\$665 – Alfred fire dept. and Relay for Life 50/50)
- Relationship with community – good due to clean property
- Rush Chair: Nick Fazzolari
 - Rush successes – 6 definite, 12 maybe (contingent on grades)
 - Rush difficulties – Tring to get main campus kids. Wellsville students primarily interested. Alfred is boring so kids go home for weekends.
 - Qualities desired in a rush: Academics, respect, sense of humor (“gotta be a sketch-ball”)
 - Rush Guidelines – All brothers mandated to attend rush events unless there’s a legitimate reason not to. Prospects need to be serious, not inviting friends of brothers.
- Greek Council: Jon Weaver
 - Relationship with other groups – No major issues. Great relationship with Kappa Sigma Epsilon (old rivals). Any issues are on a personal level and do not affect house relationship.
 - Expectations of governance board – Complete mandated community service.
 - Standards points (out of 100). Under 50, punishment. 50-55 probation. 55 & up is recognized. Last year Gamma was 73 (average among Greeks). Presentation to Greek board was stellar.
 - TG compared to other groups?
 - Kappa has better rapport with the school – clean image
 - TIE (teamwork interactive experience) program
 - Brothers dress up on campus
- Pledge Master: Adam West
 - Program Goals – Put the greatest amount of quality brothers through. Fill the house.
 - Program strength/weaknesses
 - Strengths – No drinking during pledge events
 - Weaknesses – Putting a pledge class through with only 3 older brothers – draining on those brothers.
 - What would you change? Discussion about positive/negative outcomes of past pledge methods that today could be deemed as hazing and are prohibited.
 - Rituals – Handled well. Need new mask.
 - Traditions - After skit night – Shaving cream battle! “Why can’t we be friends”. Then pledges kidnap APM and throw in snow or splash with water.
- House Manager: Tanner Bulmer
 - House Tour – House is clean and in decent shape
 - Current House Projects
 - Door trim

- Side door
 - Side/back door window (vandalism)
 - Toilets (flush valves)
- Planned House projects
 - Pledge project – Paint 3rd floor
 - 2nd/3rd back bathrooms
 - Kitchen sewage pump
- Safety
 - Fixed fire escape – missing rods
 - Fire extinguishers getting recharged/inspected
 - Replacing batteries for fire alarms
- Chaplin: Rich Dean
 - Ritual Equipment – Need new mask, GTG brand (not Phi)
 - Ritual Questions/Issues – none
 - Items needed – pledge pins
- Alumni Director: Tony Woodward
 - Alumni letter? None for fall. Spring coming soon...
 - Alumni in bad standing
 - Adam Pawlak (vandalism)
 - Darien Woodard (rent)
 - Mike Devito (threw a grill in the creek at 3am)
 - Purpose of GC/CB
 - CB – Manage affairs of the chapter inside and outside throughout the whole year.
 - GC – works to intertwine all chapters to work toward the greater goal as a fraternity as opposed to a single chapter
 - Relationship w/Alumni – (Off the record discussion)
 - Situation with vandalism (side/back door window)
- New Members: Gavin Homer (“Pockets”)
 - Best/Worst Part of pledging
 - Best – getting to know pledge brothers more
 - Worst – Not knowing what is going on at all times. Getting screamed at.
 - Most memorable moments – Bowling night (pretend pledge drop).
 - What would you change? No change.



DELTA CHAPTER

Conducted by Brother Spencer Brink on 1/19/19



- **Actives: 6, but about to be 4 GPA: 2.27**
- Feels as though things are going in the right direction, with the relationship with the school. It's a positive outlook ahead.
- There is currently no pledging going on this semester. Planning on going through with pledging as of the Fall
- The transition period with officers feels a bit “lost in translation,” so that needs to be addressed and fixed.
- There isn’t currently anyone living in the house. We can float the house for another 1 year, but that’s about it (WYO)
- The ritual equipment is in disarray, considering the GC spent a lot of money on it all.
- The Chapter needs to get back on track, but the outlook is super positive!



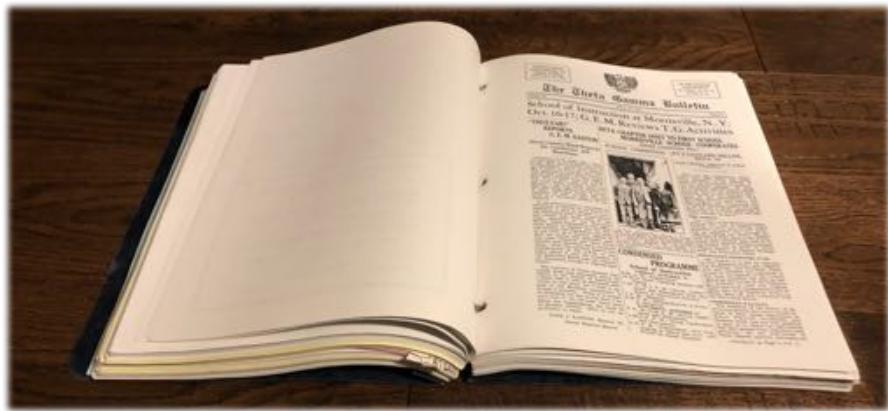
NU CHAPTER

Conducted by Brother Luke Wilkinson on 2/2/19



- **Actives: 14 GPA: 2.49, down from 2.62 in the Fall.**
- Four pledges set to get in this Spring.
- Phil Perazzo is the current President and feels like the Past President set him up well. Currently using on campus resources and Greek Life resources as well.
- We're on the last semester of probation: Currently no red flags about the push up allegations or at least haven't seen one yet. We agreed to do most of our pledging on campus.
- Relationships with other Greeks is going really well.
- We can't do blood drives for community service right now because all of us got Tattoos.
- We're talking to the highway dept. For "Adopt a Highway" but we did raise 689.80 for Cystic Fibrosis and 1,835.50 for our main Relay for Life and Camp Tekumpta.
- No real issues with the community. We did have an issue with our neighbor, but it has since been resolved.
- For Rushing: Showing guys how tight we all are, Us vs. National and what that looks like,
- Our weakness right now is the number of us that live off campus, we need to spend more time on campus without letters.
- Looking for dedicated, hard working freshmen to bring along the process. We've been more selective.
- Our newest brother thought we should have kept up with the tabling on campus, we're more visual by doing so.
- Pledging will be both night and day due to probation. We'd prefer to do it more old school and traditional, but were handcuffed right now with that.
- The House's third floor was a mess, has food from 1944 in the sink. Had to move our composites to make room for new brother. Two empty rooms, so composites went in there. Door to the first floor that was supposed to be put in by landlord is still on the porch in a box.

OWN A PIECE OF OUR HISTORY!!!



Are you a collector of old TG relics? Would you like to own a treasure trove of Theta Gamma history? Well, look no further. The Grand Council has opened its vault and begun reproduction of “the old Bulletin book” which contains the first 50 years of publications produced by the Grand Council, Chapters, and Alumni groups. A limited 100 copies will be made and available for sale at the 2020 GCC for \$100. Following convention, the remaining copies will be available to all brothers and can be shipped to you if requested. Please contact an officer of the Executive Board if interested.

As a teaser, please enjoy the following three articles from the “old Bulletin book”:

(From the 7th Annual Banquet: Alpha of Theta Gamma Fraternity Chapter House. June 7th, 1919)

Thirty-nine of the one hundred and eight men enrolled in Alpha Chapter of Theta Gamma, have served in the armed forces of the United States during the World War. This is a record of which we can well be proud. These men have been representative of nearly every branch as well as rank of the service. Nearly all reached France and although some were taken prisoners and some were wounded, none were called upon to make the supreme sacrifice. Theta Gamma rejoices at the return of her loyal and patriotic sons.



“But greater than to be an American citizen is it to be a world citizen, that is, to acknowledge one’s relations and obligations to all men. Our boys have gone forth in acknowledgement of their relations to all the world.”

—Dr. J. M. Payson.

(From The Theta Gamma Bulletin archives: 1922)

EXPANSION OF THETA GAMMA FRATERNITY

By Grand Exalted Master N. C. Searles

If I were to write an article to the Theta Gamma brothers on the expansion of their fraternity, I should first refer them to the Secretary's report on the last annual meeting of the Grand Council held at Alfred with Gamma chapter. For at that meeting the pros and cons of this subject were discussed. Also, the advisability of a slow, steady, expansion over a fast, wide spreading national organization was given much thought. The former was adopted.

A live organization must be a growing one or else it will become stagnant and eventually die out. Therefore the need of expanding our fraternity. Nevertheless, we cannot expect to be a nation-wide organization overnight, because as sure as we do that we will find our central body (The Grand Council) too weak to carry its burden. There are many agricultural schools in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Ohio where Theta Gamma ought to be established before pushing further to the south or west.

Every brother of Theta Gamma has duty to perform for his fraternity if he wants to hear the pass-word wherever he goes in the agricultural world. Namely, get leads in the agricultural schools of the above named states and send them to any Grand Council officer. Then, with your help, we will do the rest.

Let's go to it fellows! Boost Theta Gamma! When spoken of to a schoolmate you boost your chapter, when you refer an outsider to it, boost the national organization

(From The Theta Gamma Bulletin archives: Vol. 14. Number 1. 1929-1930)

FRATERNALISM AND LIFE

"Life is given to everybody in order that each may become somebody."

"Character may be compared to your complexion, reputation to the color of your talcum."

During our days of life we give very little thought as to what it is all about and we continue on knowing very little of the influences which might lighten our pathway. There are certain conditions constantly working to make our lives more full and complete. We are not aware of all these things until something fails us. It seems a natural instinct for all human nature to place very little thought upon the resources of our happiness as long as the supply does not cease to flow.

When we consider life and what we should do with it there remains only two things. One can either extinguish it or go through it the very best way we know. Any vital situation is as simple as one treats it, life can either be rich or completely bottomless. It has not been the plan of our Creator for us to live alone or things would have been entirely different. In life we are placed up against the problem of brotherhood and what should be the manner in which to deal with it. Perhaps one could live by himself and endure for some time indefinitely, but the hardships both mental and physical would soon prove that such a course was absolutely contrary to nature.

In life we are forced into the problem of the brotherhood of mankind. With

each other we share our burdens as well as we do our success and life is made so much the richer through our contact with each other.

Anything that has been considered worthwhile has been given the attention of human thought. Mainly through our contact with others the idea of fraternities, which is nothing less than plain brotherhood in a specialized manner, has originated. No matter what our profession or trade may be, our interest seems to be the ultimate one to us. We are keen to forward such an interest.

In numbers we find strength, the power which brings about success. Centuries ago the idea was conceived to band together those of similar thoughts in religion, business, social life, professions and trades. In some instances, this was done for financial protection and it was not long before people desired to form together for special protection also.

At the present day we have what we call the fraternity or brotherhood to multiply the interest of people of similar thought. In our schools the youth chooses his life work and his interest becomes centered. But then he is to labor in a world of various trades and ideals. It seems as if the latter place in life is served the best by our fraternity if we have one School life furnishes us with the food we most desire but when we launch out into life, then comes the time for co-operation. The reaping of the fraternal advantages comes when one enters the alumni division. Friendships become richer as the years pass by.

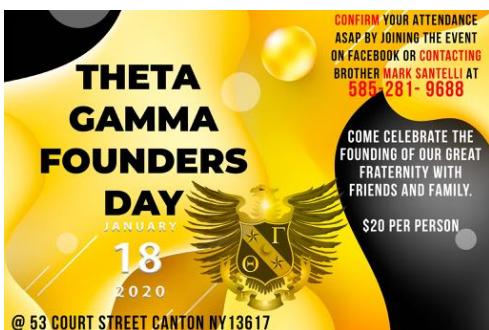
Surely old theta Gamma cannot fail in her duty if everyone takes to heart what his service to his brotherhood is now, and what it will mean to him in the ripened season of life. Never fail your fraternity, stand by her to the last, and whatever is spent cannot help but return to the investor a hundred fold. In final, dare we say, "Fraternialism for life and life for fraternalism".

R. K. B.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

FOUNDERS DAY DINNER

Celebrating 108 years of Brotherhood



Event times:

1:00 p.m. Brothers Meeting
5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner

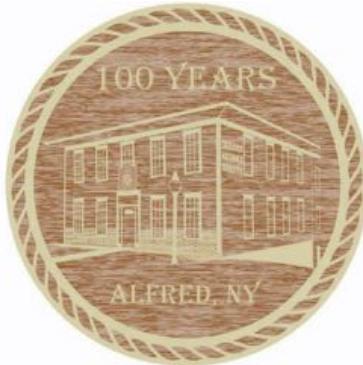
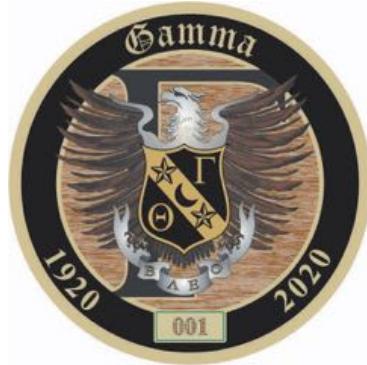
Email Brother Mark Santelli at mssantel@rochester.rr.com for more information.

2020 GRAND COUNCIL CONVENTION

The 2020 Grand Council Convention will be held again at the Fort William Henry Hotel & Conference Center in Lake George, NY on February 21st-23rd. We will have a block of rooms reserved at a discounted rate, so be sure to mention that you are with Theta Gamma Fraternity. The address is 48 Canada St, Lake George, NY 12845 and the phone number is (518) 668-3081. Wives and girlfriends are welcome, as there will be wine tasting and shopping while we have our meeting. Children are also welcome, as the convention takes place on the last weekend of Lake George's Winter Carnival, where there are plenty of fun outdoor events. For more information, please contact our Grand Advisor, Patrick Boire "PB" (Alpha/Nu Fall '84) at (518) 222-8065.



GAMMA CHAPTER CENTENNIAL



Gamma Theta Gamma, Inc., SUNY Alfred, and the Active Brothers of Gamma Chapter cordially invites you to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Gamma Chapter. The celebration will take place in Alfred, NY, on June 19th-21nd, 2020. As



we are all Theta Gamma Brothers, the centennial celebration will be open to all chapters, and to members in good standing, along with spouses & children. There will be a meet & greet at the chapter house Friday night, and campus tours on Saturday followed by a formal dinner at the dining hall. The house will be open and on display, but will not be available for overnight accommodations. Registration for the weekend's events will be on SUNY

Alfred's website, where you can choose what events to sign up for and also reserve a room on campus at the new townhouses.



DELTA CHAPTER CENTENNIAL

Event details are not yet known to the Editor. However, our beloved Delta Chapter will also be celebrating their 100 Year Anniversary in 2020. A date has been set for September 26, 2020. Keep an eye out for announcements on Facebook and our website.



THE BLACK AND GOLD

*To the Black and to the Gold,
All respect and love we hold,
To thy praise, Oh Theta Gamma,
For ever we will sing,
As we clasp each other's hand,
In that strongest iron band,
That holds us one and all,
In Theta Gamma*

*As the Years go slipping by,
Tho'ts of you will never die,
These same years will simply strengthen,
Our respect and love for thee,
Tho we cannot clasp each other's hand,
In that strongest iron band,
That holds us one and all
In Theta Gamma.*