



The BATTLEFIELD SIG

Fall 2023

THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Another Milestone in Theta History

160 YEARS OF BROTHERHOOD

2023 is no ordinary year for the men of Theta Chapter. In fact, it marks another milestone in the legacy of our chapter—160 years have passed since Sigma Chi first arrived in Gettysburg.

WILL WE SEE YOU THERE?

To commemorate this remarkable achievement, the House Corporation will be hosting a 160th Anniversary Gala on March 23, 2024, to celebrate our storied history. See the back page for more detailed information!

HONORING OUR BROTHERHOOD

Members of the House Corporation and Theta alumni have partnered with the undergraduate brothers to instill our history and the impact Sigma Chi has made on all its members and community throughout the decades. Our goal is to reinforce those values at each chapter meeting so they may serve as a reminder of the true meaning of our brotherhood.

Due in part to the House Corporation's continued engagement and investment in the chapter, we have earned the Outstanding House Corporation Blue Award for the second consecutive year. This is an unprecedented feat in the history of the House Corporation. The achievement

was awarded to only 22 house corporations throughout the fraternity.

FRATERNITY HOUSING AT GETTYSBURG

In other news, Gettysburg College is seeking to homogenize their housing contracts with each fraternity in college-owned housing. Considering this development, the House Corporation is zealously advocating for a fair housing agreement with the Office of Student and Greek Life that not only favors our undergraduate members but the residential Greek community as a whole.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Be on the lookout for more information regarding alumni events, chapter and campus developments, and opportunities to engage with the chapter. The House Corporation actively operates alumni groups on both Facebook (Sigma Chi Theta Alumni Network) and LinkedIn (Sigma Chi Gettysburg Alumni Network) to quickly share any Theta-related news and events, and to help our undergraduates build their first professional networks.

In Hoc,
Kevin M. Isky '21
iskyke01@comcast.net



Kevin Isky '21 and Peter Halsey '23 with Grand Consul Bob Wilson, Fort Hayes '81, accepting the chapter's Peterson Blue Award as facilitators at KTLW 2023.

It's Easier Than Ever to Give

Did you know you can support Theta Chapter by donating online? It's as simple as scanning this QR code or visiting tinyurl.com/SXGettyGiving to make a gift for our annual campaign.

There are many ways to support Theta Chapter, but the most direct way is through financial contributions. Please consider a gift today!



THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS

We appreciate these loyal alumni who have chosen to financially support Theta Chapter this year. Your devotion to Sigma Chi proves you value the future of our brotherhood at Gettysburg College.

Col. Fred B. Hoenniger '52
Frederick E. Kauffman Jr. '59
Dr. Ronald L. Paul '59
Richard C. Purdy '59
Robert C. Strait '60
Alexander G. Chatkewitz '62
Carl G. Yingling '62
Raymond C. Truex Jr. '63
Curtis P. Cheyney '64
William O. Norton II '67
Dr. Richard A. Renza Sr. '67
C. Craig Guers '68
Michael C. Ramsey '68
F. Thomas Kull Jr. '69

Tom B. Atherholt '71
Charles A. Darlington III '71
George W. Volkman '71
Andrew G. Mays '75
Peter N. Herring '76
J. Matthew Skinner '78
John W. Welch '80
Robert L. Komoroski '82
Michael J. Stankevich '85
Michael C. Manzo '97
Raymond Luis Morales III '12

Brick Paver Donors
Janet Davis

Margaret Kolb
Maryann McQuiddy
Michael D. Paul
Patricia Randle
Georgia Sabo-Gier
Dr. Ronald L. Paul '59
Carl G. Yingling '62
Gary Bootay '63
William O. Norton II '67
Edwin P. Gilbert '68
Geoff Geffken '72
Dr. Scott Schaffer '76
Jeff Hoachlander '78
J. Matthew Skinner '78

Douglas X. Womer Jr. '78
Jeff Arnold '83
Ed Benz '85
Dr. Ken Shockley '85
Bill Madden '86
Jim Dugan '87
Joseph F. Santacrose Jr. '87
Andrew Corry '88
Neil Metzheiser '92
Christian Dreyer '94
Chris Young '94
Scott Metzger '97
Geoff Horsfield '10
Allen Jones '10

Jason Joseph '10
Brian Lemak '10
Michael Sass '10
Daniel Chibbaro '12
Raymond Luis Morales III '12
Jonathan Mateer '13
Samuel Blum '15
Scott Magers '15
Michael Boncardo '18
Drew Edelson '18
Samuel Gohn '19
Peter Brainard III '20
High Garst '20
Jack Kenyon '21

If there is an issue with your listing, we sincerely apologize.

Please contact our communications coordinator, Dan, at dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com to submit corrections.

ANOTHER YEAR TO REMEMBER

Recent Events and Growth

Brothers, I hope this update finds you all well. Theta Chapter extends its sincere regards to each of you as we dive into the new semester. The past few months have been exhilarating for our chapter, and we are excited to share some of the highlights.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Theta Chapter is in high spirits and eager to see what the fall semester will bring. The brotherhood feels stronger than ever as our 34 brothers reconnected after a productive summer break.

FRATERNAL HONORS

For the 14th year in a row, Theta Chapter received the highest honor a Sigma Chi chapter can earn: the Peterson Blue Significant Chapter Award. The brothers continue to bring honor through excellence by upholding the high standard set by our brothers before us.

The chapter is also proud to have won the Order of Omega's Highest Chapter GPA Award and Best New Member Education Award for the fifth year running.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Theta's annual Derby Days fundraiser, benefiting the Huntsman Cancer Institute, raised more than \$30,000 this year. In achieving that goal, Theta brought together more than 300 participants from Gettysburg's sororities and members of the community and other student groups.

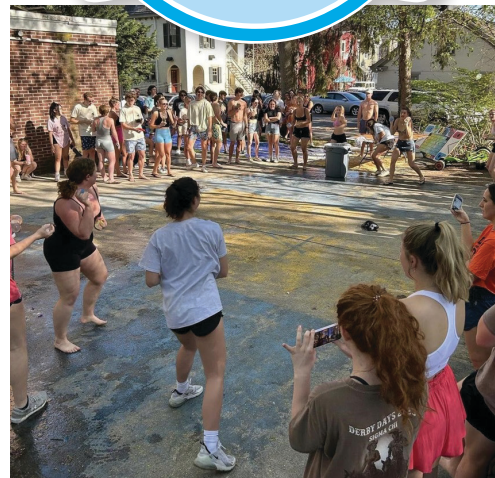
KEEPING CONNECTED

Remember that our fraternity thrives when we all actively engage and participate. Whether it's attending events, getting involved in philanthropy, or simply spending time with your brothers, there are countless opportunities to strengthen your connections within our remarkable fraternity.

As we continue this journey together, let us embrace the spirit of brotherhood, leadership, and service that defines our chapter and Sigma Chi. We are excited to see what the future holds and cannot wait to reach even greater heights together.



In Hoc,
Sam DeBrandt '24
Tribune



Gettysburg College students enjoy a water balloon fight for Derby Days.



Brothers Mason Dillon '25 and Peter Halsey '23 participate in our annual Derby Days trike races.

Do We Have Your Current Email?

We enjoy sending you physical mailings to stay connected throughout the year, but what about the news that can't wait that long? That's when it's crucial to connect with alumni online.



If you aren't getting chapter emails or can't remember if we have your preferred address, please email us at updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com with "Sigma Chi Gettysburg Email Update" in the subject line and tell us which email you'd like to use. (Or check your spam folders—you never know.)

Thank you for helping us stay connected!

Don't worry—your email is safe with us! We do not share your info outside of our organization.

Help Us Grow the Brotherhood



Send Your Recruitment Referrals

Do you know a young man at Gettysburg College who would be a great fit for Sigma Chi? Please submit a recruitment referral to Recruitment Chairman **Mikey Fellman '25** at (240) 671-9200 or fellmi01@gettysburg.edu. Please include the student's full name, hometown, major, and any legacy connections.

Welcome, New Members

The chapter was pleased to initiate four new members in the Spring. It has been a pleasure to watch them all grow as men and brothers, succeeding in our community in exceptional ways. I am also delighted to mention that the brotherhood extended bids to seven promising young men this fall. We hold great expectations for everything they are set to accomplish.

Matthew Catalano | Douglassville, Pa.

Luca Matonti | Saddle River, N.J.

Alex McDonnell | Wilton, Conn.

Connor McPartland | Doylestown, Pa.

Alvaro Rocha | Managua, Nicaragua

Benjamin Sarnitsky | Bethlehem, Pa.

Liam Weinberger | Long Island, N.Y.

WHY THEY JOINED

"My rugby mates from Sigma Chi invited me to the house last year after the first game of our season. I immediately felt the bond of brotherhood and hospitality from the brothers at Sigma Chi, and I knew this was a place I belonged."

—Matthew Catalano '26

"I wanted to be in a fraternity that will help me achieve my goals and to become a better person."

—Connor McPartland '26

"I really like how I can have a one-on-one with any brother and leave knowing I've made a real friend."

—Benjamin Sarnitsky '26

"For the strong connections that will last longer than my four years at Gettysburg."

—Alex McDonnell '26

Alumni Update

Chapter Eternal

Ulo Riivalo '64 – January 23, 2022

Catch Up with Scott Metzger '97

Scott resides in Rutherford, N.J., and was recently inducted into the Southern Regional Hall of Fame for soccer. Scott played at Gettysburg, where he was an honor student with six varsity letters, became a basketball MVP, won the Ocean County Sportsmanship Award, was named Homecoming king in senior year, and was soccer and basketball captain in senior year. Scott is just the 10th soccer player inducted into the hall of fame.

Email: scott.metzger@caa.com

Chapter Goals

1 Raise over \$50,000 for Derby Days 2024.

2 Maintain highest chapter GPA on campus.

3 Improve our conduct and dedication to our community.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Consul

Michael Baehre '24

Pro Consul

Henry Schmeltzer '24

Quaestor

Salim Aliwazir '24

Annotator

Logan Sodl '24

Magister

Anthony Sanchez '24

Tribune/IFC Representative

Samuel DeBrandt '24

Kustos

David Goldman '24

Ritual Chairman

Malcolm Lathrop-Allen '24

Risk Manager

Aidan Cohen '24

Brotherhood Chairman

Ethan Anderson '24

Social Chairman

Hunter Sundlun '24

Chapter Editor

Aidan Lee '25

House Manager

James Weedon '25

Philanthropy Chairman

Conor Vienneau '24

DEI Chairman

Alex Saville '25

Peterson Chairman

Trey Mitchell '25

Historian

Daniel Soloway '24

Recruitment Chairman

Mikey Fellman '25

(240) 671-9200

fellmi01@gettysburg.edu

Chapter Advisor

Richard Krisch '73

(717) 475-7689

rgkdck@outlook.com

SAVE THE DATE

On **Saturday, March 23, 2024**, Theta House Corporation is hosting the 160th Anniversary Celebration at the Gettysburg Hotel. Celebrate this historic day with your spouse and enjoy the open bar and three-course dinner provided with your ticket.

While dining, **Alan Fuerstman '78**, CEO of Montage Hotels and Resorts, will be our special keynote speaker. We hope to see you there!

WELCOME BACK HAPPY HOUR

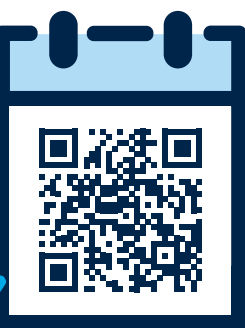
That's not all! For those arriving early, join us at the Pub Mural Room above the banquet hall on **March 22**.

INITIATION AND BARBECUE

We encourage all brothers to attend the spring initiation ceremony at the Masonic lodge just across the street that Saturday morning. Following will be a barbecue cookout hosted and provided by the House Corporation that you won't want to miss. Stay tuned for details!

RSVP

To get your tickets for the event, please visit tinyurl.com/Theta160Anniversary or scan the QR code here.



Address Service Requested



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SIGMA CHI

Gettysburg College

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Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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Theta's First Brothers

In the Days of the Founding

Our history begins on April 3, 1863, mere months before the Battle of Gettysburg. **Simon Mikesell, Philip Biklé, Thomas Billheimer, John Weils**, and **Henry Ziegenfuss** received the charter establishing Theta as the ninth chapter of Sigma Chi.

BUILDING THE BROTHERHOOD

Weils had transferred to Gettysburg, then known as Pennsylvania College, from

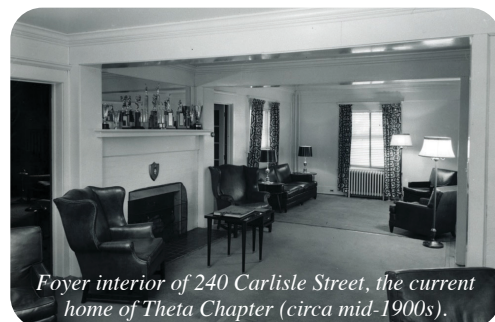
Washington College in his junior year. At Washington, Weils had been initiated into the original Nu Chapter, which itself had been suspended due to its brothers answering the call to war. It was Weils' familiarity with Sigma Chi that led to our Theta's founding.

Weils and Mikesell became acquainted on campus. Presumably they met Biklé, Billheimer, and Ziegenfuss along the way. Mikesell eventually petitioned Gamma Chapter at Ohio Wesleyan University for an official charter, and a date was scheduled for the founders' initiation. Apart from Weils, who was already initiated, the four founders of Theta transitioned from collegiate men to Sigma Chis under the ritual performed by Omicron Chapter at Dickinson College.

ANSWERING THE CALL

This celebratory period was short-lived, however, because the Confederate army loomed on the horizon. Brothers Billheimer, Mikesell, and Ziegenfuss all participated in the Battle of Gettysburg and surrounding skirmishes.

Though none were killed, Ziegenfuss was taken prisoner and forced to tend to Confederate wounded until their retreat. After the Battle and the war concluded, the men of Theta had resumed their studies.

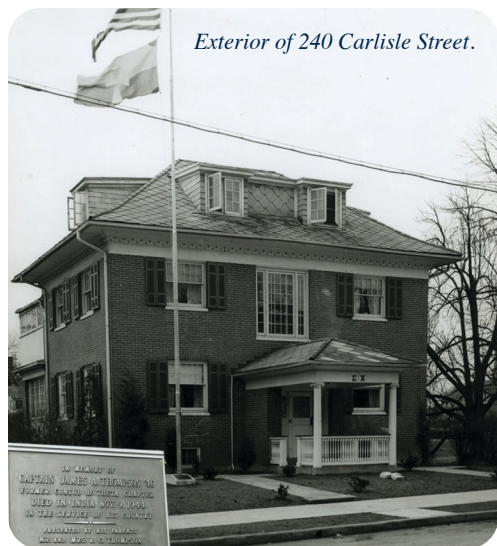


Foyer interior of 240 Carlisle Street, the current home of Theta Chapter (circa mid-1900s).

MOVING FORWARD

From that time until 1891, the men of Theta held their meetings and conducted business in room 28 of the Eagle Hotel on Chambersburg Street (the hotel was destroyed in a fire in 1960). Theta faced friendly but tough competition. Three other fraternal organizations already existed on campus: Phi Kappa Psi (1855), Phi Gamma Delta (1858), and Zeta Psi (1861). Around one-third of the all-male student body belonged to one of these organizations. From its outset, Theta sported the largest pledge class of them all with 10 men initiated in its very first year.

Theta Chapter's history is both rich and unparalleled in the story of our fraternity. Of the 24 original chapters, only 13 remain today, including our little home at 240 Carlisle.



Exterior of 240 Carlisle Street.