



# The BATTLEFIELD SIG

Spring 2023

THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

## Take Me Out to an ALUMNI MEETUP

### RSVP for Upcoming Events Today!

It is my great pleasure to announce that the Theta House Corporation will be hosting multiple alumni events this summer! Let's get together, enjoy some good old-fashioned baseball, and reconnect with our fellow brothers.

Here are the games we've got lined up:

|                                                                                      |                                                                                      |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>August 12</b><br><b>Phillies vs. Twins</b><br>at Citizens Bank Park,<br>6:05 p.m. | <b>August 19</b><br><b>Nationals vs. Phillies</b><br>at Nationals Park,<br>4:05 p.m. | <b>September 9</b><br><b>Red Sox vs. Orioles</b><br>at Fenway Park,<br>4:10 p.m. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Please visit [tinyurl.com/2zrzptc4](https://tinyurl.com/2zrzptc4) to indicate your interest and provide your contact info for more details.

#### You won't want to miss out!

**Chris Severini '18** has personally promised that he will eat nine hot dogs at the Philly event.

**We'll see you there!**

Go Phils,  
**Alec Cottone '17**  
[cottal01@gmail.com](mailto:cottal01@gmail.com)



*Grab your hot dog and enjoy nine innings with us!*



*This could be you! Join us this summer.*

## CHAPTER GOALS



1. Raise more than \$75,000 during Derby Days.
2. Win Theta's 15th-consecutive Peterson Award.
3. Rank highest in Gettysburg's Greek Evaluation Awards (again!).

## GIVING BACK IS EASIER THAN EVER!



Visit [tinyurl.com/SXGettyGiving](https://tinyurl.com/SXGettyGiving) or scan the code to make your donation today.

Thank you for supporting our projects and your Theta brothers' future!



## FOLLOWING AN UNPLANNED PATH

Ray Truex '63 Shares Journey from Sigma Chi to Private Medicine

From his college years and beyond, **Ray Truex '63** followed a path that he didn't plan for himself, and Sigma Chi was one of the stops along the way.

### TAKING THE FIRST STEPS

Ray liked the men of Sigma Chi and the chapter house itself, and when he joined, he knew he picked the right fraternity.

He didn't join Theta with any thought that he might become chapter president, but his roommate **Pete Yingling '62** encouraged him to run for the position, telling him, "Leaders need a plan."

"He helped me get elected as president when I was a junior and helped me understand that leaders are there to serve—it's not just a popularity contest," Ray recalled. "That has stayed with me my whole life."

Throughout his college years, Ray enjoyed opportunities to bond with his brothers. He had fun as a new member because it brought him closer to the men in his pledge class. He was on

the soccer team with many other Sigma Chis, including **Tuffy Robins '61**, **Bayard Moran '62**, **Charlie Crosson '62**, and **Scott Sturges '63**, and he fondly remembers **Tim Parsons '64** playing folk music on his guitar and singing on the bus rides to away games. He also loved playing on the IFC champion intramural softball team.

### THE NEXT STOP

The next marker along Ray's unplanned path was medical school at Temple University, which required perseverance to succeed.

"College was terrific fun," Ray shared. "I had a great balance between my work life and my academic life, and I had a wonderful time at Gettysburg. Medical school, on the other hand, was nothing but hard work, and it was competitive."

Ray found success and was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. After Temple, he completed an internship and surgical residency at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia before serving as a surgeon in Vietnam with the Marines. When he returned, he completed his neurosurgery residency and Pediatric Neurosurgical Fellowship at Temple, was selected to stay on as a faculty member, and became the chairman of the neurosurgery department at the local children's hospital.

Ray worked hard in his career. He developed a research lab to probe the microscopic structural and physiological changes in hydrocephalus,

or water in the brain, which led to publications in the Journal of Neurosurgery. Some other highlights include receiving the Lindback Award for being an outstanding teacher at Temple and being selected as president of the Temple University Faculty Senate.

### CHANGING THE ROUTE

Working long hours, Ray began to feel burned out. In 1990, he relocated to Reading, Pennsylvania, and began the private practice of neurosurgery at Reading Hospital, which helped him recreate his work/life balance. While there, he was elected president of the Berks County Medical Society, which led him to become involved with the Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, eventually becoming the chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Ray retired in 2017, and after spending a few weeks relaxing, he missed having a purpose in his life and reached out to the Pennsylvania Medical Society; he was hired to be the medical director of its Physician's Health Program and has been employed there ever since.

### ENJOYING THE SCENERY

Complete with two sons and a daughter, Ray has been happily married to his wife and childhood sweetheart, Betsy, for 57 years. His favorite hobbies include sailing, walking, and keeping up with his four grandkids.

You can connect with him at [truex.ray@gmail.com](mailto:truex.ray@gmail.com).

### BROTHERHOOD CONNECTIONS

At Reading Hospital, Ray had the opportunity to teach students from many different colleges, including Gettysburg student **Elliott Hirsch '16**. He particularly connected with **Brandon Kelemen '16**, who decided to join Sigma Chi. Ray attended his initiation and had the honor of pinning Brandon. They have remained close throughout the years, and Ray attended Brandon's Temple medical school graduation. "It's a multigenerational contact with Sigma Chi."

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THETA?

*"The brotherhood immediately made me feel welcomed and included."* —**Patrick Rogers '25**, South Brunswick, N.J.

*"The friendships I had with the brothers. I want to be more responsible as I mature and to make connections that will last a lifetime."* —**Alex Jankowski '25**, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.

*"Because of Theta's values of authenticity, respecting differences, and friendship."* —**Ryder Hobbs '25**, Whidbey Island, Wash.

*"To form life-long relationships with the brothers and to learn how to be responsible and sociable in different environments."* —**James Weeden '25**, New Hyde Park, N.Y.

# HONORING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

## Active Brothers Grow in Number and Influence

It has been an exciting few months for Theta Chapter, and we're thrilled to share our highlights. The brotherhood was in high spirits after the 50 active members reconvened following a productive winter break. In addition to our recaps below, check out photos from some of our events to the right!

### EXPANDING THE BROTHERHOOD

Last fall, the chapter welcomed 12 promising new members. Their initiation brought our brotherhood pride as we have watched them grow as men and make remarkable contributions within our community. Most recently, the brotherhood was pleased to initiate four bright young men this spring; we eagerly anticipate the impact they will have in coming years.

### CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Since our last newsletter, the chapter has focused on enhancing its reputation and accolades on campus. **John Swartz '22** represented Theta Chapter at Alpha Omicron Pi sorority's inaugural Mr. Alpha O competition. He won the Philanthropy King honor after captivating the audience with a comedic stand-up routine. Under his leadership, the Chapter raised over \$2,000 for the Arthritis Foundation, a portion of which will be donated to the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Additionally, our newest initiates raised money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation by performing a spectacular dance routine during Chi Omega's "Chi-O Night Live" show.

### PROVINCE MEETING RECAP

Furthermore, our executive board connected with regional Sig chapters during our annual province meeting. These chapters provided us with new perspectives and strategies for maintaining our integrity as a fraternity. We received a certificate of appreciation from the

Grand Consul in recognition of our initiation assistance with the Alpha Chi Chapter at Pennsylvania State University. We would like to thank all of those involved, especially **Ries Faller '22**, for taking the reins on the preparation and performance of the event.

### RECOGNITION

The chapter received several honors at the fall Greek awards!

- **Peter Halsey '23** was awarded Fraternity President of the Year.
- **Erick Miller '23** was integral in winning for Best New Member Education Program.
- Our chapter was also honored to receive the title of highest fraternity GPA for the second-consecutive year.

### WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

We encourage all members to stay involved and engaged with Theta Chapter, and the fraternity at large. Whether it's attending alumni events, participating in our philanthropy initiatives, or simply reconnecting with brothers past and present, there are always more opportunities to further that bond we all share.

In Hoc,  
**Samuel DeBrandt '24**  
Tribune



*John Swartz '22 wins Philanthropy King at Alpha Omicron Pi sorority's "Mr. Alpha O" competition.*



*Our beautiful house dog, MJ, is a Black Lab, German Shepard, and Bernese Mountain mix.*



*The brotherhood enjoys the 2022 Servo-Thanksgiving.*



*Nothing beats a delicious Friendsgiving meal!*



*The fall 2022 initiates take their first official photo. From left, Salim Alwazir '25, Alex Saville '25, Trey Mitchell '25, Mason Dillon '25, Joe Curry '25, Cort Hobelman '25, Charlie Kiddoo '25, Michael Fellman '25, Jude Belas '25, Quinn Klaiman '25, and Aidan Lee '25. (Not pictured: Ethan Anderson '25)*



*The executive board displays a certification of appreciation, which commemorates Alpha Chi chapter's initiation at Penn State.*

## Chapter Officer

Consul

**Michael Baehre '24**

Pro Consul

**Henry Schmeltzer '24**

Annotator

**Quinn Klaiman '25**

Questor

**Salim Alwazir '25**

Risk Management

**John Caruso '24**

Magister

**Anthony Sanchez '24**

House Manager

**Jude Belas '25**

Kustos

**Antonio Abate '24**

Tribune

**Samuel DeBrandt '24**

Philanthropy Chairman

**Conor Vienneau '24**

Recruitment Chairman

**Mikey Fellman '25**

fellmi01@gettysburg.edu

(240) 671-9200

Chapter Editor

**Aidan Lee '25**

Social Chairman

**Hunter Sundlun '24**

Brotherhood Chairman

**Ethan Anderson '24**

Chapter Historian

**Daniel Soloway '24**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chairman

**Alex Saville '25**

Peterson Chairman

**Trey Mitchell '25**

IFC Representative

**Alex Kagan '24**

Scholarship Chairman

**Declan Sheeran '24**

Chapter Advisor

**Richard Krisch, Pittsburg State '73**

rgkdck@outlook.com

(717) 475-7689



# The BATTLEFIELD SIG

THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

## SIGMA CHI

Gettysburg College

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## REFER A NEW MEMBER TODAY!

*Send Us Your Recruitment  
Recommendations*

**Do you know an incoming student who  
would make a great Sigma Chi brother?  
Refer him today!**

We are always happy to welcome new  
members who embody our values.

Send your referral to  
Recruitment Chairman **Mikey Fellman '25**  
at fellmi01@gettysburg.edu  
or (240) 671-9200.

Please reach out to us with any  
questions, and thank you for helping  
Theta Chapter continue to grow!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Honor 160 Years of Theta Brotherhood

Mark your calendars for the weekend of

## MARCH 22, 2024

Come together with brothers from across  
the country to celebrate 160 years of  
Theta Chapter at Gettysburg!

Stay tuned; more details to follow.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Donald K. Adickes '54** – May 1, 2021

### ALUMNI NEWS

**David C. Mattheiss '60** and his wife, Cathie, remain active at Regents Point Continuing Care retirement community located in Irvine, Calif. Due to age, they are traveling less than before. They celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in February with a cruise to Mexico. Email: dcmattheiss@sbcglobal.net

**Gary M. Bootay '63** shares, "It was my honor to donate funds for a front chapter house walkway. It brought back wonderful memories of brotherhood camaraderie." Gary lives in Hummelstown, Pa. Email: gbootay@comcast.net

**C. Craig Guers '68** sees **Tom Kull '69** and **Dan McGarry '70** in Florida every February. They play golf, have dinner, and enjoy time together. Craig resides in Medford, N.J. Email: craigguers@yahoo.com