



A Publication of the Sigma Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity

361 NW 26th Street

Corvallis, Oregon 97330

"I Was a Theta Chi"

Sound familiar? Since you graduated, how many times has someone asked you if you were in a fraternity, and how many times have you answered, "Yeah, I was a Theta Chi"?

The late Howard R. Alter, Jr. (think Alter Award for Chapter Excellence), Executive Director Emeritus, would remind us that we *are* Theta Chis and the future of a great Fraternity, that must become even greater, depends on us. Now I'm not so deluded to think that every man who is initiated by Sigma Chapter is going to stay involved in the chapter after leaving Corvallis. I know we get caught up in raising families, having successful careers, civic involvement, and countless other endeavors that pull us in many different directions. And the farther removed we get from our college years, the easier it is to distance ourselves from the chapter. It takes effort to stay connected. Even just sending an updated address card to COMCOA, Inc. (or an e-mail message to comcoa@comcoa.com), so you keep receiving the *Tattler* after a move can be difficult to remember with everything else going on in life. But it's those very things that will keep Theta Chi strong at Oregon State.

As individuals, we each got something different from our time at OSU and our years as undergraduate members of Theta Chi. As alumni, these unique experiences shape our

relationships with both the university and the Fraternity. Generally speaking, though, the more effort you put into your college experience, the more rewarding your student years were, and the more likely you are to stay connected after graduation.

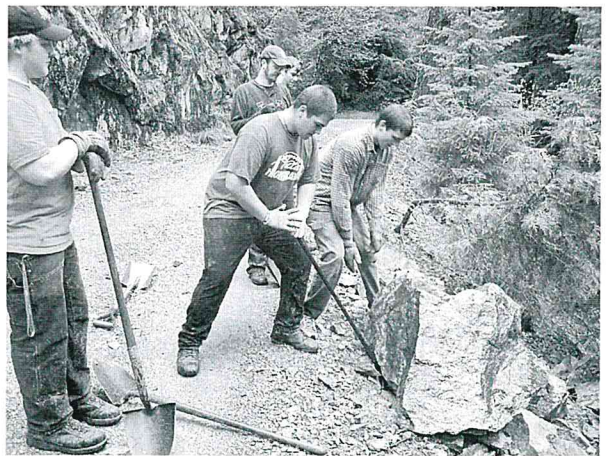
The primary reason so many of us were able to have such a positive experience at 361 NW 26th Street is because of those who went before us, and their commitment to perpetuate Sigma Chapter's existence. They refused to "step away from the flag." I am encouraged by the strong response we have received from the past few *Tattlers* because that response shows that Sigma Chapter has an engaged alumni base that is concerned about the chapter's well-being. We have significant positive momentum right now, and we need to keep it going. Much of the credit goes to current Board members **Gil Miller**, **Roger Rollins**, and **Larry Kamper** for their dedication and guidance during the past five-plus years. Because of their service, we are in a good position to begin exploring a transition of officers. Please consider how *you* might help us to continue holding the Theta Chi flag high!

And the next time someone asks you if you were in a fraternity at Oregon State, you can proudly say, "Yeah, I *am* a Theta Chi."

— Steve Wright, President
Sigma Chapter Alumni Board

Brothers Improve Surroundings at Opal Creek

On a weekend late in May, several brothers traveled to Opal Creek for a community service project. Although the trip was short, it was still productive. Participants did spring cleaning work Saturday and Sunday. Two groups of Theta Chi brothers labored during the weekend. One group stayed near the main campground at Jawbone Flats, moving scrap metal, cleaning debris, and organizing utility sheds. The other group used pick axes, shovels, and similar tools to drain water pools that had formed on the main service road linking Opal Creek's parking area with the campground several miles up. Both groups spent all of Saturday on their respective tasks, and on Sunday we did general clean-up and maintenance work around camp. Everyone had a great time. We got



Blair Goldstein, James Gunther, Jeff Griggs, and Pledge Marc Oriet moved a boulder off the road.

away from school and connected as brothers. The staff at Opal Creek couldn't have been happier to have a group of guys do the chores that had been put on the back burner for a while. The friendly staff-members look forward to working with us again next year. As for the brothers, we share that sentiment. Theta Chi's presence at Opal Creek has become an annual occurrence, one that we expect to become a Sigma Chapter tradition. — Gerald Gale, *Philanthropy Chair*

THE TATTER SIGMA

Summer
2010

From the Vice President: *Chapter Strives to Improve Academics*

Theta Chi has a long-standing tradition of academic excellence. This past year has been a turning point, after a few years of members' complacency and loosening chapter standards in academics. As a chapter, we have re-dedicated ourselves to our fraternal maxim, Alma Mater First, Theta Chi for Alma Mater.

In January 2010, we made it a priority to improve our GPA and be the top fraternity on campus in academics. The last time the university recorded our chapter GPA, it was a 2.7 average. We returned this past spring with amazing results. Not only had our GPA been brought above a 3.0 average, but we also had fewer members on academic standards.

As a result of a paperwork misunderstanding, our success will not be reported to the university until fall, but we are proud of our efforts. Much of our recent success was achieved through the efforts of brother **Alec Campbell '09**. Alec, with the help and input of several others, gave the Sigma Chapter scholarship program a much-needed overhaul. Members are now held accountable for their performance, both personally and fraternally. Not meeting the academic standards set by the chapter is held on the same level as not paying the house bill; both are required to participate in events and live in the chapter house. The entire membership of Theta Chi has pledged and continues to pledge themselves to academic excellence.

During our evaluation of why the chapter GPA had been in decline, we perceived three problem areas: quiet hours, personal and chapter accountability, and study spaces. We have been able to address the first two concerns with minimal assistance. We established mandatory quiet hours Sunday through Wednesday, 10 p.m.-8 a.m., and Thursday through Saturday, 12 a.m.-8 a.m. In addition, we have developed a study hours system for at-risk individuals. A certain percentage of the required study hours must be completed before Thursday, or the individual is placed on social probation for the weekend.

The problem with study spaces has been harder to address. Everyone who has ever studied knows that studying in your own room, surrounded by distractions, does not always lead to the best results. The chapter house has two other options for study spaces, the din-

ing room and the library. The lack of available electrical outlets in the dining room, as well as the constant general activity in the room, reduces its usability as a study space. The library, at this point, is inadequate to accommodate more than one or two brothers at a time for study purposes. The table space and the number of outlets are insufficient, and the room generally is unused.

We would like to remodel the library and make it a more versatile space, able to support the needs of chapter members. A friend of brother **Sam Royster '09** attends an architectural design school and was kind enough to draw up an initial set of plans. One of the drawings is reproduced on this page. Once funding is secured, Sam's friend will make an architectural drawing with specific measurements and

electrical requirements. We hope to do most of the work ourselves, only contracting out the electrical work, in order to save on costs.

Initial estimates put the remodeling cost at around \$5,000, and we have already raised more than \$1,000, thanks to donations we received during Mom's Weekend. We need additional support from you, our alumni, and we thank you in advance for any contributions you can make toward this project.

We are still considering potential names for the library; any suggestions are welcome. Please contact me with any suggestions, questions, or comments you may have. I can be reached at roysters@onid.orst.edu.

— *Sam Royster, Vice President
Sigma Chapter of Theta Chi*

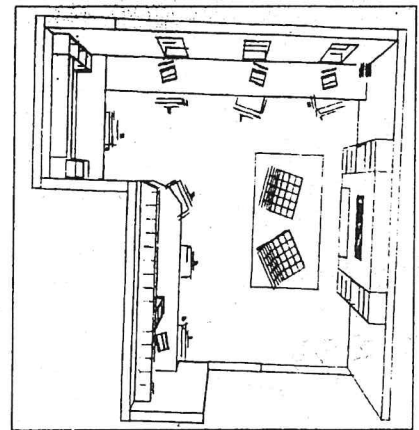
New Academic Goals Bring Results

When I inherited the position of scholarship chair in the winter of 2008, I was left with a program that was essentially broken. Sigma Chapter of Theta Chi had not had a legitimate scholarship program for years. Over the next year, I tried various methods to create a program that actually held our members accountable, but most of the changes I tried to make were to no avail. When my year as scholarship chair ended, I was frustrated because I had not accomplished as much as I set out to do, so I decided to run for the position for another term.

Chapter members understood what I wanted to accomplish if I were to serve another year in the position, and they reelected me as Scholarship Chair. With renewed dedication and energy, I created forms that require members to fill out study hour sheets. The study hour sheets include a required amount of hours to finish within each week, as well as space to list recent and future tests and quizzes. The members record their grades in each of their classes, so that I know where everyone stands week by week. Other forms are used to help members be aware of their academic standing on an ongoing basis, so they can keep up with what needs to be accomplished throughout the term in order to improve their GPA from the previous term.

The importance of setting goals is stressed in this program, so that each brother understands what is necessary to be a member of Theta Chi. Our program has accomplished many of the goals that I set out to achieve for Sigma Chapter. Before the new program was launched, we had 9 live-in members earning a GPA above 3.0; now we have 15 men in the house with a GPA above 3.0. Our cumulative GPA was roughly 2.80 for fall term 2009, and now our GPA as a chapter is just above 3.0. The program is working, and the brothers are showing a new mindset with their studies.

With the addition of a remodeled library and another term of work, I hope our cumulative chapter GPA will continue to rise. Now that a solid program has been created, scholarship chairs in the future can continue to build on it until we have a truly great system. — *Alec Campbell, Scholarship Chair*



Preliminary sketch of proposed library remodel

What Do Moms and Sons Do on Mom's Weekend?

This year's Mom's Weekend, as many said, came and went way too quickly. The weekend began with many moms arriving to see their sons perform in the Greek-wide annual Sing performance. This year, we partnered with the ladies of Sigma Kappa to perform hits from "Journey." In the previous two years, we had placed 2nd and 3rd in the competition, but this year's group was unable to break the top 3, even with a stellar performance. After Sing, everyone came back to the house for some snacks and wine. As the night went on many moms and sons went out to explore Corvallis, and others found their way down to the basement for a little beer pong.

Before we knew it, Saturday had arrived and brought with it many activities. To start the day, we had brunch at the house, followed by "Momosas." After the brunch, some brothers decided to take their moms to the MU quad for "Mom's Weekend Tables," which were filled with T-shirts, glasses, and tons of little gifts. Others decided to take their moms to the Oregon State Football Spring Game to watch this year's players compete against each other. Around 2 o'clock, we began our annual Mom's Weekend auction, which was led by Sigma Chapter President **Kenny Walker**. We saw items such as gift cards, a wide variety of wines, poker sets, a grill, some munchies, and tons of homemade baked goodies go up for auction. After the auction, moms and sons got ready for the semi-formal dinner. Concluding the dinner, everyone went downstairs to be entertained by the brothers who performed in the Kappa Delta Mock Rock philanthropy show.

Then brother **Taylor Burrows** and his mother, Jan Burrows-Walstead, stepped up as dance instructors for many songs, getting many moms and their sons involved in group dances. We danced to songs like *Beat It*, *Thriller*, *Crank Dat*, and the *Macarena*. Jan also went on to win the limbo contest. While many were dancing, other moms decided to take part in a little flip cup competition and some more beer pong.

Next thing we knew, the sun was rising, and Sunday arrived. Many brothers decided to take their moms out for breakfast and a quick run to the stores for some goodies, before their moms left with their purses. Many mothers said how glad they were that they had come for the weekend, and how much they will look forward to coming again next year for Mom's Weekend.

When you hear a mother say, "Thank you for getting my son to join — he has enjoyed every moment and only benefited from joining," you know two things: (1) Everyone had a great time, and (2) Theta Chi is making a difference in a family's life. — *Matt Makarowsky, Alumni Relations Chair*



Obituaries

Donald P. Hotchkiss, '39-258, of Lakeview, Oregon, died March 27, 2010, at age 92. Born into a ranching family, Don managed the Hotchkiss family ranch, known as the 70 Ranch, for 20 years. He handed over the management to his son, Ron, and son-in-law and daughter, Susan McNeley, in 1970, when he became a field representative working with ranchers for First Interstate Bank. Don married Maxine, whom he met when they were both students at Oregon State, in 1946. She passed away in 2007. Don completed his animal science degree at Oregon State in 1940. During World War II, he served in the Army — first at Fort Ord, near Monterey, California, where the base commander put him in charge of the cavalry and stables, saying, "You're the only one that's ever been on a horse, knows what a horse is." Later, Don served in Australia, the South Pacific, and post-war Japan. After his discharge from the Army in 1947, Don returned to the family ranch near Lakeview. Through the years, he was an active member of the ranching community, and served terms as president of the Lake County Stockgrowers, the Lake County Round-Up, and the Oregon Cattlemen. We thank Don's daughter, Susan McNeley, for informing the alumni office of her father's passing.

Robert O. Robbins, '42-351, of Lincoln, California, died December 16, 2009, at age 88. Born in Valley Ford, Washington, he grew up on a farm in Mollala, Oregon, where his ancestors had settled after arriving by covered wagon over the Oregon Trail. During WWII, he served as a field engineer with the Army Air Force, maintaining airplanes at a flight training facility in Lancaster, California. After the war he married Irma, his wife of 64 years, and earned a degree in industrial engineering from Oregon State. He then traveled the country, building and running food processing plants for General Foods and Kraft Foods, before retiring to Roseville, California. He is survived by Irma; a son, Dale; a daughter, Karen Goot; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Richard B. Robbins, '43-363, of Mulino, Oregon, died August 11, 2006, according to Social Security records.

H. Richard Westerberg, '43-378, a lifelong resident of the Ashland, Oregon, area, died February 28, 2006. Born in 1923, he grew up on his parents' farm, and graduated from Ashland High School in 1941. He spent two years at Naval Officer's Candidate School in Miami, Ohio, but was honorably dis-

charged from the Navy due to an injury. He then attended Oregon State, and married Elizabeth Ann Burnell in 1944. The young couple moved to a small house across the road from Richard's childhood home, adding on to it as their family grew to four children. Richard helped form the Southern Oregon Milk Producers League, and later managed Jorgenson's Dairy in Medford. He operated Medford Ice and Cold Storage Company for two years, and in 1974 he formed a corporation with his wife and son to manage and operate Medford Ice Service until its sale in 2003. The family continues to run a cattle operation on the Westerberg ranch. Through his life, Richard held a number of professional and civic posts. He was appointed to the Oregon Beef Council, and served as president of the Western Dairyman's Association, vice president and president of the Greater Medford Chamber of Commerce, board member of the Bear Creek Valley Sanitary Authority, and member of the Ashland School Board. He belonged to Siskiyou Knife and Fork, Elks, Masons, and Order of Eastern Star. He was a member and elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Phoenix, Oregon. He is survived by Elizabeth; children Bruce, Craig, David, and Ann Chase; and 11 grandchildren.

John G. Hunter, '59-682, of Salem, Utah, died January 22, 2010. He earned a degree in general science education from Oregon State, and served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Norway. Upon his return, he married Deanna Kay Dilworth, and they moved to Baker City, Oregon, where John taught junior high school science and coached football and track. Later, he studied and taught in the counseling psychology program at the University of Oregon, after which he began a 30-year career as a psychology instructor, administrator, and counselor at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay. John and Deanna spent 36 years in North Bend, where they raised their family. He served more than 30 years on the board of directors for the Southwestern Oregon Community Action Committee, helping to establish innovative programs to address poverty in the community. He was a chorister and choir leader in his church for many years. John is survived by Deanna; sons John, Brad, Chris, and Scott; daughters Kim Nelson, Lynn Jutila, Ruth Vollmer, and Mary Dickey; 28 grandchildren; and two young men he regarded as sons, Guy and Allen Foster.

Tattle Tales

Curtis C. Tigard, '29-160, writes: "What a write-up in your recent bulletin! It's hard to realize that 101 is now upon us. I have lost contact with all the old guys." Write to Curt at 11778 SW Royal Villa Dr., Tigard, OR 97224.

Fred C. Schubert, Jr., '49-511, reports: "I'm enjoying retirement in West Linn, Oregon. I am a member of Oregon City Rotary. I was sorry to see the names of **Fred Harem ['47-459]** and **Dave Lofts ['48-490]** in the obituary list. They were good brothers and friends." Fred and Jean (ΑΧΩ-U of OR) are parents of Karen, Sandra, Lynn, Fred C. III, David, and Michael, ages 49 through 58. Write to him at 4022 Calapooia Ct., West Linn, OR 97068 (503-636-2568; fredc.s@comcast.net).

Roman P. Makarowsky, '73-897, recently started a new job as a marketing manager in financial services, after being laid off from the Bank of Hawaii in March 2009. He brings 29 years of experience to the position. He enjoys golfing, motorcycling, and playing baseball, and notes: "I look forward to summer activities with the family, including vacationing and attending lots of baseball games with my son, Mychal (14). My older son, **Matt ['09-1581]** (20) is a member, and I really enjoy visiting the house, even after 33 years!" Roman and Julie also have a daughter, Katrina (17). Write to him at 10775 SW Willow St., Tualatin, OR 97062 (romanmakarowsky@comcast.net; 503-612-0920).

Douglas C. Hamilton, '84-1124, reports: "I do a lot of scuba and sailing. I am selling my home in Rio, and plan to move back to Mexico, where I lived for nine years prior to moving to Brazil. I can be reached at 541-479-1930 when I am in the U.S." For now, Douglas receives mail at 10 Rua Ceo, Marica, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His e-mail address is RioDoug@gmail.com.

Scott J. Taylor, '98-1449, is a physical therapist with Tuality Healthcare. He enjoys triathlons, hiking, and flag football, and is a season ticket holder to Beaver football games. He announces: "Cheryl and I got married almost two years ago, and had our first baby, Jordan, in January 2010." Scott receives mail at 4596 SE Lone Oak St., Hillsboro, OR 97123 (503-349-9020; SJT21@msn.com).

2010 Honor Roll of Contributors

Many thanks to the 67 brothers listed below, who have launched the 2010 program year with contributions totaling \$3,730. Your donations to Sigma Chapter of Theta Chi bolster the continuing vitality of the chapter, and help to maintain connections among brothers and friends of Theta Chi. Please add your name to the Honor Roll of Contributors this year!

Name	Init. Yr. & No.						
Curtis C. Tigard	29 160	Kenneth D. Kerri	54	582	Thomas S. Jackson	70	848
Frank H. Allhands, Jr.	36 230	George H. Caspar	54	585	Bradley D. Hagedorn	70	850
Hollis D. Brown	39 268	Norman L. Myers	55	604	Gayle D. Harley	70	854
L. Rex Hiatt	40 285	Donald P. Reiling	56	623	Brian N. Sommer	71	867
John J. Wittkopf	40 295	Gene R. Wall	56	628	Gregory A. Parrott	73	891
Reginald D. Fifer, Jr.	42 346	Michael Wills	58	653	Roman P. Makarowsky	73	897
John C. O'Brien	47 452	Ken S. Hessel	58	654	Steven D. Mullins	78	985
Ellsworth D. Purdy	47 458	Gary W. Hermann	58	658	Rick L. Carlson	79	1005
James L. Apperson	47 460	Jared L. Black	58	660	Kenneth W. Johnson	81	1042
John A. Ielmini	48 481	William A. Lamb	58	667	Andrew J. Niemiec	82	1067
Donald C. Wilson	48 484	Donald S. Wirth	59	671	David A. Smith	83	1090
Ray O. Ruckert	48 489	Joe W. Moore	59	672	Douglas R. Faulkner	84	1121
Ernest W. Templin	48 493	Clyde B. Kernek	59	676	Torri E. Lynn	84	1128
David P. Wilson	49 498	Roger L. Rollins	59	683	Christopher R. Henningsen	85	1133
William E. Young	49 500	Gilbert N. Miller	61	707	Spencer A. Clarke	88	1209
Thomas H. Cotton	49 507	Dwight J. Matson	62	719	Craig A. Keudell	89	1224
Fred C. Schubert, Jr.	49 511	Steven L. Senders	63	732	Derek B. Lawrence	89	1226
Donald A. Noon	50 515	Keith I. Johnson	63	735	Michael G. Prince	89	1232
Jack L. Sturza	51 533	Alan Rockwood	64	750	Jon A. Heuberger	91	1277
Norman L. Wyers	51 549	Bryon H. Van Fleet	65	773	Scott J. Taylor	98	1449
Dallas O. Vestal	54 580	Steven E. Wall	66	781	Dinko Plasto	08	1566
David F. Harra	54 581	Stephen B. Jolley	66	784	Joe Cueller	09	1589
		David W. Hittle	69	833			