

Winter 2016 | Undergraduates

First and foremost, we need to apologize for the lack of adequate communication from the undergraduates.

As you are probably aware, B-Section was recently re-colonized due to issues with the school. As a result, both A- and B-Sections have begun major changes in our operations to better promote the bonds of Theta Xi. We are very excited about 2016!

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Active Membership Update

A-Section:

There are currently 16 active brothers working to restore Theta Xi at Kettering to the strength that it once was.

We have increased our academic achievement ranking from 10th to 5th among fraternities in the past two years and are continuing to improve. This past term there were 7 brothers that made Dean's List with 2 brothers who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA (Preston DuFresne and Benjamin Fick).

During this past Summer Term, the brothers logged a total of 565 hours of community service in activities ranging from student mentorship programs to campus and national charity events.



B-Section:

The recent re-colonization was led by four A-Section brothers (Nathan Albitz, Phillip Morris, Benjamin Fick, & Cameron Stadler) with help from National Headquarters' Director of Operations (Ian Pellerin).

These efforts resulted in the successful Association of 3 new members (Robert Ditzhazy, Andrew Hallead, & Lucas Sweet) that are primed to hit the ground running to build a chapter of their own.



Parents Weekend

Newly Elected Executive Council:

President & Membership Educator:

- Ben Fick – KΣ 1377

Vice-President:

- Cameron Stadler – KΣ 1380

Treasurer:

- Matt Gee – KΣ 1382

House Manager:

- Matt Hoskins – KΣ 1374

Public Relations Chairman:

- Rich Gamble – KΣ 1383

Secretary:

- John Kish – KΣ 1385

Scholarship Chairman:

- Ethan Holper – KΣ 1387

Comptroller:

- Brendan Book – KΣ 1386



Upcoming Events

- **A-Section Initiation** – Feb. 29, 2016
- **B-Section Initiation** – Apr. 6, 2016
- **152nd National Convention** – Aug. 4-7, 2016
 - The Commons Hotel in Minneapolis, MN
 - Registration now open at thetaxi.org
- Alumni Cookout – April
- House Re-Dedication – Apr. 30, 2016
- Alumni Golf Outing – Jun. 1, 2016



We hope to have a large turnout for all of these events, so please get in touch with your pledge class and mark your calendars!!

Academy Descriptions

Supported by Theta Xi Foundation, these academies promise to be an incredible weekend filled with activities designed to support the development of All True Men.

Presidents Academy:

The Vredenburg Presidents Academy focuses on learning to apply a set of leadership competencies needed by chapter presidents. These include influencing followers to grasp a shared vision, motivating/empowering chapter members for engagement, and decision-making skills. The activities are designed to include significant time for them to talk/work in small groups for common problem-solving, support, and sharing ideas.

Rising Stars Academy:

The Rising Stars Academy concentrates on providing attendees an opportunity to develop their leadership styles and skills, in an interactive setting. Along with meeting new members from across the country, they gather ideas they can take back to strengthen their chapters in all areas of operations. Team building skills are strengthened by accomplishing tasks presented on an outdoor leadership challenge course.

Leadership Academy Testimonials

Presidents Academy:

The Presidents Academy was an enlightening experience, and it was an honor to be able to attend.

There were many collaborative exercises between presidents from all other chapters in the nation. It was great to work as a team and learn from other presidents.

There were main topics of having a vision, setting goals, and effective delegation. There were many discussions held and different activities. There were even a few outdoor obstacle challenges, one that had to be completed alone and a few others that required everyone to work as a team to overcome the challenge. We all definitely appreciate any alumni donations that have been made, and that are continuing to be made, to help make this program possible.

Written by KΣ 1366

Rising Stars Academy:

Rising Stars academy of 2016 was an incredible experience that helped bring me closer with many brothers I never would have had the opportunity to meet otherwise. Brothers or not, a complete lot of strangers had the opportunity to grow as a team. Through various activities we learned how similar, and different we really are, but also why we shared the same values and grew to be Theta Xi men.

After this experience, I came back from Missouri full of inspiration to better our chapter. If a complete group of strangers can come together and accomplish things through teamwork and persistence there was no reason I couldn't inspire greatness within my own chapter!

Written by KΣ 1381

A few weekends ago one of my pledge class brothers and I went to the Rising Stars Academy. For this retreat, we went to a YMCA camp outside of St. Louis and met with a ton of newly initiated Theta Xi men from other chapters. We did team building activities and shared ideas about how we each conducted different fraternity events like rush, public relations and initiation.

Even though I was only there for one weekend, I really bonded to these other TX men. I didn't think I would like people from an entirely different part of the country, but I was wrong. Even three weeks later I am still in contact with them. Theta Xi really does have good people at all of its chapters.

Written by KΣ 1382



If you would like to help sponsor a brother attending these academies, please contact us at thetaxi.ku@gmail.com



Where Are They Now

Brothers,
I assume that I am not alone in wondering where Theta Xi alumni are in their lives outside of the brotherhood. Where are they working now? Have they accomplished major milestones? Are they married? Do they have families? The questions could go on forever.

This is why we are asking you, our alumni, to send us information! Whether it is a Pledge Class update, or a feature story on the accomplishments of a fellow brother, we are interested in sharing our stories beyond college.

Also, if there is anything that you would like to see in future Growl's of you would like to submit an article of any kind, then PLEASE send them to us at thetaxi.ku@gmail.com.

Displaced Initiations

A-Section Initiation at the School:

We were proud to welcome our three newest brothers to the bonds of Theta Xi on February 26. We welcomed Brendan Book KΣ 1386, Ethan Holper KΣ 1387, and Mitchell Marcotte KΣ 1388.

Our initiation was held in the International Room of the Campus Center which raised a lot of concern with regard to keeping the ceremony a secret and performing it the way it is supposed to be done. In the end, we dedicated two brothers to guard the entrances to the room.

The setup was another concern, but we were still able to have every piece of the normal Chapter Room including a temporary Board for the active members. The brothers really came together to pull off the ceremony with the same quality that we would if we were in the House.

We are very sorry for the short notice about the ceremony details. We wanted to wait as long as possible in case we could get back into the House. Also, we owe a huge thank-you to the recent alumni, Nick Orlando, Alex Mikolaizik, and Nathan Albitz for coming on such short notice. Especially Nate for volunteering to participate in the ceremony!

Written by KΣ 1377

Upcoming B-Section Initiation

We will be initiating our 3 B-Section Associate Members on April 8th. If the House is finished by then, we will have it in our normal Chapter Room, otherwise we will do it in the International Room again.

Since there aren't any actual B-Section positions, we will be filling the roles with A-Section brothers, so if any alumni would like to participate in the ceremony, please contact me at 734-678-4723 or benkfick@gmail.com.

Written by KΣ 1377

Phil Morris pinning Lucas Sweet during B-Section



Associate Member Pinning Ceremony

For both A- and B-Section, we are now honoring our new members with a public Pinning Ceremony. During this ceremony, our bid acceptees become officially associated with Theta Xi by receiving their Big B's, their Associate Member pins, and their Quest for Theta Xi.

This year we invited our Associate Members' families and friends, our advisors, and Kettering faculty. Moving forward, everyone is welcome to this event, so be on the lookout for more information about next year's ceremonies for both sections.





Family Weekend

This past summer we hosted a weekend of activities designed for the brothers' entire families to get to know the Flint area as well as other parents.

The events included a pig roast, House tours, and city-wide scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt included stops at some of Flint's popular attractions as well as some of the brothers' favorite hang-outs where families would pick up small trinkets and the next clue. Some of the sites include White Horse Tavern, Flint Institute of Arts, and the Kettering Bulldog.

Char cooked up some burgers, brats, and hotdogs with the help of a few parent volunteers. We are hoping to find a date for this summer to host this event again.

It was a great time to get to know some of the parents and siblings of brothers.

Recruitment Events

New Events introduced in 2015:

In 2015 we introduced two new rush events: Dizzy Sports and Bubble Ball. Both of these new events yielded large numbers of Potential New Members (PNMs) and provided a good environment to get to know PNMs.

The new Dizzy Sports event was based on the Dude Perfect Dizzy Sports Battle Youtube videos. The premise is you spin around a bat ten times then try to hit a ball off a tee, kick a soccer ball, punt a football, and throw a Frisbee as far as possible. Points were assigned to the three people who kicked, hit, or threw the furthest and whoever had the most points at the end of the event won. Roughly 20 PNMs showed up to this event.

In the fall, to help rebuild B-section, we rented Zorb balls and played bubble ball on the basketball court in the rec center. How it works is you put on a giant inflatable ball and then play soccer, but contact is encouraged which makes it a very exciting game with a latent "Hunger Games" feel. About 30 PNMs showed up to this event.

If you have any recommendations on how we can improve our recruitment efforts, please contact me at phillipks1367@gmail.com.

Written by KΣ 1367

Upcoming Events for A-Section:

This summer we are looking to continue to mix things up and add events to keep potential new members as well as brothers more engaged throughout our recruitment season. To do so we are adding more events to fill our calendar after bids are extended and adding some new types of events to get more freshmen excited about coming out to the house.

Our first formal event will be our seafood dinner with yard games at the house called "Surf & Turf." This will be an event intended for people to see our newly renovated house and start to get to know brothers without the hectic atmosphere of more organized events.

We are also adding a broomball event at an ice rink in Burton, partially because we weren't able to play intramural broomball this winter due to the weather, but mostly because we have heard a lot of people who love playing this wacky version of hockey.

Written by KΣ 1367

House Re-dedication

On April 30th, we will be holding an open house to celebrate the newly renovated House. We hope that we can get as many brothers, active and alumni, to attend as possible. We will be inviting our advisors and Kettering faculty, so this will be a great opportunity to show the school and the community that Theta Xi is not only an undergraduate venture, but a lifelong commitment to a brotherhood that means so much to so many! We hope you are able to attend! See you all there!!

