



PENN THETA CHAPTER

The Thetan: Fall 2015



**PENNSYLVANIA THETA CHAPTER |
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**

Spring 2016 Phi Kappa Psi Pennsylvania Theta Officers



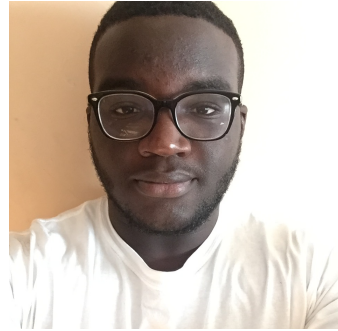
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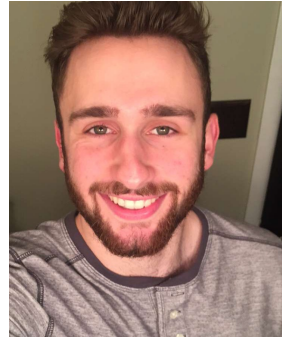
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**We're all looking forward to a
great semester serving Penn
Theta!**

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Discoveries in DC

During the summer of 2015, I worked at Clark Construction Group, LLC in Washington D.C. as both a field and office engineering intern. My primary jobsite (on 6th street in the SW quadrant) had an impressive view of the city, and was located between the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol. The twelve-story office building is approximately 360,000 square feet, and features three levels of below-grade parking.

By the time I began my internship, we had completed the building's structure, and were moving to complete the skin and prepare the building for the commissioning process. At this stage, work on the jobsite was dominated by our MEP, drywall, elevator, and glass/glazing subcontractors. My onsite role involved planning, monitoring, controlling, and communicating progress on the jobsite; in practice, this included reading and interpreting drawings, writing RFI's, dealing with submittals, evaluating requisitions, scheduling work, etc.

Something I didn't expect going into my internship was, despite the stress and continuous demands of the environment, how much fun work could be. There was a spectrum of personalities across all of our subcontractors, while the Clark team was especially great to work with. There were a few things however that I couldn't have been prepared for. No classroom for example would have taught me what to do when a man instantaneously breaks his neck and lies lifelessly on the ground in front of me.

A couple memorable Clark moments (both on and off the jobsite) include the rush of climbing our site's crane which towered over the D.C. skyline, as well as seeing Kevin Hart perform a show live at the Verizon Center. It was also valuable having Brother Adam Grey as a resource throughout my summer; he was always a quick and casual phone call away, and is simply a chill dude. Finally, Clark's emphasis on philanthropy and community service resonated with me. The teams I worked with had the opportunity to serve a homeless shelter in Columbia Heights as well as DC Central Kitchen, strongly emulating some of the core ideals defining a member of Phi Kappa Psi.

Ollie Fosu '17... 1668



Ollie has a number of wonderful qualities, but if you asked his friends, they'd tell you that primarily he is a caring, hardworking, driven individual. During his time at Penn Theta, Ollie has served as the chapter's chaplain and scholarship chairman. Under his supervision, the brotherhood earned the highest GPA among Lafayette fraternities two semesters in a row, which helped the brotherhood eventually win Chapter of the Year for the school year of 2014-2015. Ollie has found a niche in the fraternity as a leader, and is the first destination for anybody looking for advice or just somebody to talk to. As a junior civil engineering major and involved Marquis Scholar, he is constantly striving for perfection. When he is not dedicating his time to the brotherhood or community service efforts, he is busy applying his work ethic to his schoolwork. Ollie puts his passion for success into all of his endeavors, and we are lucky to have him around for one more year before he graduates. Ollie can be reached at (703) 585-0931, or by email at ollieisk@gmail.com.



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Moving On

Over the summer, I contemplated on what career path to take as any senior in college would. Even after three years of college I had no idea what direction I wanted to take. I knew I wanted a job that would allow me to work with a team, problem solve and most importantly travel. Going through the job search was not as stressful for me as I thought it would be. The hard part was balancing mechanical engineering, being a senior admissions interviewer, fraternity educator and vice president of engineers without borders on top of applying to companies. I truly believe the key to my success this semester was using Google calendars. I was able to effectively plan out my time while executing my daily tasks. After having three job offers in three completely different industries I am happy to announce I will be working at Amazon as a Team Operations Leader. The position will allow me to lead and develop a team of 150-200 people. The position is similar to being a fraternity educator but just a larger scale. Although my job at Amazon will not allow me travel, I am hoping that in the near future I find a position that will.

Steven Shaw '16... 1643



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As one of Penn Theta's most involved brothers both in house and out, Steven Shaw has left a lasting legacy on this brotherhood. He is a real workhorse, and when he is not locked up in Acopian with engineering work, he is dedicating his time to helping out the brotherhood using his wide variety of talents. These include helping brothers with work, pitching in where help is needed, and successfully choreographing and leading the Penn Theta chapter to two consecutive dance marathon wins. He was the fraternity educator for the most recent pledge class and he was last year's chaplain. On campus Shaw remains active and successful as an orientation leader, senior interviewer, and vice president of Engineers Without Borders. As excited

as we are to see what he has in store for the real world, we will be sad to see him leave, as he has spared no energy during his career here making a positive impact on this house. If you would like, you can contact Steven at (646) 327-4153.



Shaw (left) with a few of the brothers at Phi Psi Rutgers

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From Rush to Brother

Being a Phi Psi is a title that only a select few are able to proudly carry. It is a symbol of loyalty and respect to not only our brothers, but also to the community and those who we encounter and interact with on a day to day basis. This house has really been a very impactful place for me these past couple of months. It went from the beautiful house on March Field that I would've killed to just sit on the porch to a second home to me and shelter to me. Every time I walk into the house, I feel the love and support of my 69 other brothers and amazing alumni. This house has helped me to find out things about myself that I never knew before and most importantly, it has taught me the skill of patience and how to be humble. Coming from not only a huge high school of 4000 students, but also a tiny family of three, I never had anything more than 1 brother in my life. The members of Phi Kappa Psi give me not only their love, but also their understanding of not only who I am as a person, but also where I come from and of my culture.

Rush was a huge moment in my life. I learned a great deal about Phi Psi and the process really gave me a new outlook on my own life. Rush taught me about what it really means to trust the brother you have next to you. Not everything in life is achievable if we try to conquer it all on our own. Brotherhood and the comradery of the house just made me fall in love with my fraternity that much more. I am surrounded by a great number of people that I can not only trust with my entire life, but also people who want to be successful in life and will not stop or settle with the status quo. The great joy of serving others is a value that Phi Psi stands by and faithfully practices very often. Whether we are volunteering at a breast cancer awareness event, playing basketball with the boys and girls club in Easton, or helping students with their homework, Phi Kappa Psi is always willing to lend a helping hand to those who may or may not need it. Imagine every brother asking themselves “What can I do to serve someone who may be less fortunate than me” and then putting that idea into practice. Phi Psi all around the country is willing to help those who are less fortunate. Phi Kappa Psi is a fraternity that demands its members to unlock better versions of themselves everyday to bring to the outside world to make the community better. We are always reaching new levels and are solely based on the integrity of our brothers.

If you were to ask me in my freshman year of college, “Why Phi Psi?”, I would probably respond with the fact that I loved the Old Grey Barn that the brothers lived in and their level of friendship and brotherhood that you can see on campus when you go to the dining halls, in the gym, and even when you walk into Markle Hall. A very superficial answer that needed to be worked on if I ever wanted to be a member of Phi Kappa Psi. If you were to ask me that question during the rush process, my response would have been because I feel at home and safe around my brothers. But now as an official brother and Sophomore who is half way done this year, if someone was to ask “Why Phi Psi?”, I would wholeheartedly respond in the following manner. Phi Kappa Psi is not only a home to me, but it is also a safe space for me to go on campus when I need to rely on my brothers. We have fun, argue every other day about a cleanup, and we help each other when a brother is in need. Being a Phi Psi has not only changed how I view myself, but also how I conduct myself as a human being when I am at school, at home, or even out of the country. Being a Phi Psi has taught me that there is more to life than what I

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want or what I believe is right. Being in this brotherhood has shown me how to unlock that better version of myself and care about the needs of others who may be less fortunate than I am. Joining Phi Kappa Psi has been the best decision of my life and will always be near and dear to my heart until the day I die. Phi Psi has shown me that fraternity life does not end when a member graduates their undergraduate stage of college. As we can see with our amazing alumni base, being a Phi Psi means replacing yourself when your time has come, but also remaining involved as a mentor and more importantly a brother. Every day, my love for each and every one of my brothers grows exponentially and I cannot wait to see what the Spring semester has in store for me.

Live Ever, Die Never

Christopher Felix '18...1693



Although Christopher Felix is one of the new boys, it can sometimes be hard to tell, as he has already contributed so much to the house. Already Chris has tackled being the house Commissar and has done a brilliant job with it thus far. While acting as the current Commissar, Chris is currently also Penn Theta's Corresponding Secretary. The passion that he exhibits for his in-house duties are second only to his ear-to-ear smile and his booming laugh, both of which have become a common sight around the Old Grey Barn. His devotion to the brotherhood doesn't prevent Chris from remaining active on campus, as he is a resident advisor, research assistant, rugby player, and barista at Lafayette's library coffee shop.

Chris is a true Phi Psi, and we can't wait to see what kind of positive impact he will have on this house in the coming years. You can reach Chris at (215) 833-3328, or at felix.christopher2014@gmail.com.

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Pegs and Jobs

It's the fall semester of senior year, and the job hunt around campus is wholeheartedly underway. My engineering peers have all applied to and are accepting engineering jobs; a square peg in a square hole, a perfect match. My finance and economics comrades have all applied to and are accepting jobs with banks and other financial institutions; a triangular peg in a triangular hole, another perfect match. The list of perfect matches goes on and on, and as I looked around, I couldn't help but begin to feel the hot whips of panic. What type of jobs would I, a jack of all trades, master of none type student be able to apply to and actually be offered? There seemed to be no perfect disciplines for a multifaceted, jagged, and crooked peg like myself to fit into.

I am not unique in this feeling. Across the country, undergraduates have increasingly been unable to perfectly match their technical skills to an ever-changing and evolving job market. So, I went back to the basics. What skills have I actually learned while at college? I haven't learned how to test tensile strengths of different materials. But I have learned how to analyze, synthesize and use complex arguments to my benefit. I haven't learned how to count cancer cells, but I have learned how to collaborate with a team in solving a problem and then effectively communicate our results. In other words, my future was not as bleak as I may have previously thought.

So, with a renewed vigor, I began looking for jobs that maybe didn't necessarily match the technical skills I had or had not acquired over my tenure. Instead, I began looking for jobs that emphasize effective communication, writing, collaboration, international experience, and second language skills. I had always known that many of those skills fall under the heading of "lawyer", and from the beginning of my time at college had kept that option in my back pocket. I have also always wanted to be able to help people with their problems and make a difference in their lives. Becoming a lawyer has often felt like the best way to achieve that. Therefore, this past summer and fall, I began to strengthen that option. I took an LSAT Prep class over the summer, and eventually took the LSAT in October. Still though, I was not entirely convinced that law school was the perfect option for me, especially right out of college. So, I began adding yet more complications to my already convoluted path.

I have always wanted to work in some sort of international sphere, so I began looking for short term options. One short term option that immediately caught my interest was teaching english in Spain for an academic year. This would provide me with a livable salary while doing something I enjoy in a country I love. It did not take much convincing for me to be sold on the idea, and I quickly began researching ways to go about teaching english in Spain.

I also know that earning money and gaining some preliminary experience in the legal field before entering law school could go a long way in my future career, both academically and professionally. So, I have also been researching law firms with paralegal programs that I could partake in. A paralegal position for a few years would help me get a grasp of the legal world and earn some money while doing it.

All of these intricacies are currently at play in my job hunt. If I had to give a concrete answer as to what exactly I will be doing over the next five years, my best approximation would be going to Spain for a year to teach english, working as a paralegal for another year or two back in the States, and then

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going to law school at Boston College, Boston University, Cornell University, or the University of Southern California. Long story short, I'm no longer a misshapen peg trying to fit into a square hole. I'm a self made, adaptable peg ready for anything that comes my way.

Brian Dierze '16... 1652



Brian Dierze is arguably the happiest person to ever come through this brotherhood, and possibly Lafayette College. Brian's constant positive energy and beautiful whistling skills play a much loved role in the atmosphere around the Old Grey Barn. During his time with Phi Psi Penn Theta, Brian has worn many different hats. He has been grievance chair, chaplain, and vice president, and has taken on each of these roles in stride, applying his signature Dierze "touch" to each one. In addition to his electric personality and accolades within the house, Brian is a Government/Law and Spanish double major with a minor in Economics, and spends much of his time buried in his books. However, neither his dedication to the house nor his work stops him from lending his time elsewhere. On campus, Brian is a program coordinator for LANDIS, Lafayette College's on campus community service group. He is also the vice president of the Order of Omega at Lafayette. Brian is one of a kind in every sense of the phrase, and we wish him luck as he prepares to graduate this spring and start the next chapter in what is sure to be an exciting and successful professional career. If you would like to contact Brian, you can reach by phone at (978) 998-2458 or by email at brdierze@gmail.com.

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Upon his graduation in the spring, Brother Jesse Baer, the Philosophy and Government and Law double major will be headed to the heart of Manhattan to work in investment sales for the midtown-based hedge fund, Stabilis Capital Management, LP. Stabilis Capital is a fund specializing in distressed commercial real estate. At his job, Brother Baer will be working with the sales and deal sourcing teams to network with mortgage brokers and other relevant industry professionals to place short term loans ranging from \$3 to \$50 million in size. Jesse most looks forward to working deals through the system and truly learning the intricacies of how deals get done.

Baer has already had some experience with this. For the past two summers, he has been an intern with Stabilis working in the same department, making cold calls to drum up business. He was so successful that he was invited to join Stabilis again the following summer. Baer recounts that upon starting the second summer, his bosses told him he would have to accept this internship without any hope that he would get a job offer, as everyone in the office was at least seven years his senior with industry experience. Yet, as he proudly recounted, he had a groundbreaking summer, bringing in millions in deals and discovering some great new contacts for the business to the point that by summer's end, he had secured a tentative offer, which was finalized in October.

Baer met his future boss at a friend's dinner party where they had a wonderful conversation and was contacted months later to ask whether he would be interested to interview for an internship. Brother Baer will be the first to tell you how much Phi Psi helped him on his quest for employment: "Other than understanding how important a first impression can be, PKP has helped me understand the importance of running with any opportunity that comes your way and that there is always room to do more, better, even when your chances for success are low."

Jesse Baer '16... 1650



The champion Penn Theta Intramural Floor Hockey team



When we think of courteous and cultured, we think of Jesse “Brother Baer” Baer. During his time in the house, Jesse has been recruitment chair, commissar, and has served twice as the community service chair. His devotion to the house, and the values that we strive to embody as Phi Psi’s, has served the house well, and continues to do so even as he enters his final semester here at Lafayette. On campus Jesse played for the Lafayette College Hockey Team for three years and was the team president for the last year. In fact, his skills with a hockey stick recently paid in dividends for the brotherhood, as he helped lead Penn Theta to an intramural floor hockey championship this past fall. Jesse’s relaxed demeanor, wisdom, and bright smile will be missed dearly next semester. That being said, we are excited to release him and allow him to impact others in the same way he has impacted the brotherhood. Once Jesse starts work, he will be living in Brooklyn, New York. If you’d like to reach out to Jesse for anything from networking to potential apartment leads, you can reach him at baer.jesse@gmail.com, 203-241-0193, or add him on LinkedIn.

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A New Beginning

The 2016 Spring Semester has brought about a trying but defining time for the Penn Theta Chapter. In the beginning of January, a sprinkler head burst on the second floor of the house, bringing water through the house from the second floor bathroom side, through the first floor living room, and into the basement. Luckily, current junior and house resident, Ivan Rudd, was at the house on the scene to conduct preliminary damage control. He made the phone calls to the necessary parties to begin damage control and within hours, Penn Theta Alumni, Plant Operations of Lafayette, and Public Safety were at the house identifying the best course of action to take care of this unpredictable mess.

At the beginning of the semester, the living room as well as the four bedrooms most effected have been closed off until construction completion. The residents of those four bedrooms: Brian Dierze `16, Cody Renfrew `17, Bailey Mckenna `18, and Aditya Mehta quickly found temporary housing. Furthermore, daily operations of the house have continued as normal including Brothers Meetings, meals, committee meetings, et cetera.

All of these things said and problems addressed, the 2016 Spring Semester active members have stepped up to make this experience a unifying one. House Managers Corey Mckenna and James Erario (both `16) have taken the reins in the day-to-day management of the house via consistent but calculated house cleanups, and off-campus seniors have made their presence known at meals as well as spending time with the sophomores and juniors currently living in the house. Despite the large loss of many Class of 2016 members to various study abroad programs, Spring 2016 has a bright outlook for Penn Theta with the strong leadership demonstrated by practically all members on campus from the start, making the case for Grand Chapter this summer a highly realistic goal.

Ryan Beebe '17... 1666



(From left to right) Brothers Ryan Beebe, Colin Gallagher, Jason Shavel, Ian Gaffney, and James Andreacchi celebrate their 2nd place finish at the Desales Business Ethics Bowl this past semester.



Ryan Beebe is without a doubt one of the most cultured brothers in the house, and enjoys spending his time exposing himself to as many new experiences as he can. As a junior, Ryan served as the Phu for a semester, and continues to serve the house in other ways on a daily basis. Ryan's high energy and winning attitude are only part of the reason why he has had such a strong impact on the Old Grey Barn. Out of house, Ryan remains one of the most involved people on campus as an EXCEL Scholar, tour guide, and a member of Lafayette's POSP. As an International Affairs and Economics double major, Ryan has found himself deeply interested by the conflicts in the Middle East, and is preparing to write his thesis on the topic. Ryan is a diverse and crucial part of Penn Theta and we are eager to see where his ambitions take him. He can be reached at (862) 266-5144, or at ryanbeebe39@gmail.com.



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Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for keeping up with the lives of your undergraduate Penn Theta brothers. If you have any further questions or would like any additional information on the happenings at the Old Grey Barn, please feel free to contact me at beggsee@gmail.com or (617) 967-2559 or our new alumni relations chair, Aditya Mehta, (mehtasanjad@gmail.com) or (610) 333-5109.

Please see below for upcoming events and news. It has been a joy serving as your alumni relations chair, and I am excited to continue my service to my chapter and to my community.

Amici,

Stephen Beggs '17...1663
Phi Kappa Psi Penn Theta Undergraduate Alumni Relations Chair
Editor-in-Chief of "The Thetan"

Keep up with Penn Theta on social media

- Facebook: Phi Psi Lafayette, Phi Kappa Psi-Lafayette College, Phi Kappa Psi Penn Theta Alumni
- Twitter: @pkplafayette
- Instagram: @phikappapsi_pentheta

Upcoming Events:

- Cherry Alley: February 20th
- Do you want to be a mentor and help our undergrads learn about the post-grad life? Sign up for the Penn Theta mentoring program! If you would like to help out please contact Mike Gaykowski at elmikey066@gmail.com and visit <http://sites.lafayette.edu/phikappapsi/mentorship/>. Note: if you are already involved in the program, please take a few minutes to update your information using the link above.

Thank you for your time. Live Ever, Die Never.



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