



CHI PHI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

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FROM THE DESK OF THE ALPHA

Brothers,

Again, the Alpha Theta Chi chapter is up to all kinds of new business as new challenges face us and new goals for the chapter arise from those challenges. With the addition of a new chapter house only a mile and a half from City Campus, the buzz about what Alpha Theta Chi is going to do next has never been louder.

This year Alpha Theta Chi is preparing to put its strongest foot forward into our recruitment efforts. The summer and fall rush has recently ended with the initiation of four new, outstanding guys, who have already accepted and extended their hand in brotherhood. This coming year, our recruiting team will be built with one head of recruitment, with three dedicated and reliable recruiting assistants.

Due to certain zoning restrictions, the chapter house can currently hold a maximum of six residents, which as of now includes five undergraduate members and the housefather, Adam Rupe. This summer, with the help of a capital campaign, we hope to redesign the second "living" floor, and update the main floor requirements to become a fully functional fraternity house while preserving the building's historic aspects.

The Chi Phi foundation of Truth, Honor, and Personal Integrity, will drive the chapter to be successful in all our goals for the future.

Fraternally,
Ryan Riss
Alpha



LETTER FROM THE HOUSE FATHER

Hello! This is my first year in this role, and I can't be more excited! Not only do I get to be a part of my young brothers' lives and helping to ensure the future of the chapter, but because we haven't had a house for quite some time, I'm also working hard to set a precedent for future house dads.

I'm originally from Valentine, Nebraska, where my parents continue to own and operate an independent motel, which caters to families, outdoorsmen, and anybody else that enjoys a clean room to stay at a great rate. I guess that's where my desire to take care of people and maintain a property comes from. I graduated high school in 2003, and Lincoln has been my home since coming to UNL that fall.

I graduated from UNL in 2008 with dual degrees in Fisheries & Wildlife and Environmental Studies. During my undergrad years I worked for the Federal

government fighting wildfire in the western United States; however, since the fall of 2008 I've been employed with JEO Consulting Group, where I work as a Natural Resources Specialist.

At JEO I work with engineers and planners on ensuring environmental compliance on construction projects and I work with communities across Nebraska on protecting their natural resources. I also serve on the board of the local Pheasants Forever chapter in Lincoln. We work to promote pheasant hunting, wildlife management, and habitat enhancement to both youth and adults throughout the surrounding counties. Outside of work and Chi Phi, my hobbies (when I have time) essentially reflect the rest of my life— hunting, fishing, camping, riding my motorcycle, traveling, finding a good microbrew, and enjoying the company of my friends!

I wouldn't consider myself a "traditional" member of a college men's fraternity, as I pledged my 4th year in school, and was only active for year and a half. However, because I've stayed in Lincoln, and I've always felt a strong commitment to Chi Phi, I've maintained ties with majority of the current chapter and have been available to them over the last three years.

It's my sincere honor and pleasure to be living in the NEW HOUSE with all the young men and getting to know all the new members. I've always felt Chi Phi had a direct impact on my success in life. I hope I can give back to current undergraduate members in the same way!

My door is always open to current undergrads, alumni and their friends and family. I welcome you to stop by when you're in Lincoln for a Husker game or any other reason!

Fraternally,
Adam Rupe
House dad



From the Near South Neighborhood Association

Our newest addition to the Near South neighborhood, Chi Phi fraternity, moved in last summer at 17th & “C” streets. Because the Near South community values its historical buildings and support for urban restoration, the Near South Neighborhood Association is excited to welcome the brothers of Chi Phi as partners in the beautification of section 9.

The Alpha Theta Chi chapter occupies the Weil mansion, built in 1902, and intends to honor the house’s neo-classical revival architecture. Chi Phi has plans underway to repair the front deck to match its appearance in documented photos. The fraternity also anticipates remodeling the second and third floors in the near future to provide housing for more students. The NSNA looks forward to seeing renovations that will preserve the antique nuances of the house.



Built in 1902, the Anniversary mansion had been used as a bed and breakfast for many years before it was closed and abandoned a few years previous to our purchase of it. Since we moved in, there have been many changes made, and there are many more to come. The house is a beautiful neo-classical mansion with a dark wood entry, library, dining room and living room. Besides that, a kitchen and butler’s pantry provide for food storage and preparation (especially frozen pizzas, Joe) to suit our needs very well. The second floor sleeps 5 men, and the occasional woman, with room to spare, and the house father lives on the third floor in a fully furnished one bedroom apartment. However, a lot of that will change, in the near future. In the housing corporation’s plans, renovations will be made so that the second floor sleeps 16 men (and again, the occasional woman) in bunk-bed style dorms, with one large bathroom. The third floor will be renovated to sleep another 4, for a total of 20 available spaces in the house. The first floor will not be changed beyond restoration, given the historical significance of its design.

With a change of rules from the on campus housing association, we feel that the house will be a large asset to us, benefiting our efforts in recruitment and social gathering. We will not be able to house freshman, as they are required to spend their first year either in a registered greek house on campus, or in the dorms, but we will offer the housing option to sophomores and up, and can offer lower housing cost, food, and of course, being surrounded by the best men at UNL.



Upcoming Chi Phi events

December 5- New Alumni dinner
December 8- Chi Phi Christmas
December 11- Remember our Children
December 17-Jan. 8- Christmas Break
Check the website for more events in the spring



Mason Pancake Feed

The Mason lodge on 27th and B streets in Lincoln has a pancake feed every year, this year held on the 19th and 20th of November, and Chi Phi has gone for several years now, helping cook pancakes and serve the community of Masons that provide us with such a great place to do ceremonies. It is a relationship that is beneficial to both the Masons and Chi Phi, and the pancake feed itself has always been fun to attend and serve at.

Boys and Girls Club Trivia Night

The Alpha Theta Chi chapter has made it a tradition over the past several years to provide help for the Girls and Boys Club Trivia night, their main fundraiser throughout the year, held in the Duncan Aviation hangar. This year, the trivia night was held on November 4th, and was tons of fun for those who went. Food was provided by Duncan Aviation, and the people who worked running answers back and forth had fun getting to know the people they were serving. Lots of tables also dressed up in costumes for the event!

TKE annual Football Game

On the 17th of November, 2011, TKE and Chi Phi fraternities walked onto the field to play each other once again, in the noble sport of football.

Chi Phi, hurting from last semester's loss, came ready to play, and play hard. The two teams were neck and neck through the first half, with Skylar Shaw being a star receiver for the quarterback Will Gerber, and with support from his blockers, he had enough time to get the ball off for some outstanding catches from all of his receivers.

However, the second half hit us hard, and when TKE stepped up their game, we couldn't follow, and ended up trailing by 3 touchdowns when the whistle blew for the end of the game.





Tim Uryasz Graduating

Tim Uryasz, one of CHi Phi's finest, is walking across the stage this December, and will be remembered well. Throughout his 4 years in Chi Phi, Tim has held the positions of Recruitment Chairman, Beta, and Alpha for the fraternity, and has gone to congress in Boston and Denver, and 3 Regional Leadership Alliances, in Chicago, Denver, and Austin, TX. He is responsible for a large portion of the success the fraternity has had over the past few years, including the streamlining of the executive board to fit our chapter, and part of the new member education program. We all bid a fond farewell to Tim, and wish him the best of luck.



BIOGRAPHIES FROM OUR NEW BROTHERS



Andrew James Gebara

Hey, my name's Andrew James Gebara II, or A.J. I was born on December 22, 1992 to Andy and Nikki Gebara. I'm a freshman at UNL, studying Biological Sciences, and I am a part of the Navigators and the Biology Club. Of the many things I enjoy, I like hanging out with friends, gaming (especially Halo and Arkham City), and learning new things. Growing up in a military family, I have been all over the country, but the most notable ones, as in the ones I call home, are Warrensburg, Missouri and Lithia, Florida. We lived in Missouri for about seven years, and then moved to Florida until I graduated from Newsome High School. Throughout my childhood, I struggled with a tethered spinal cord, and muscle malformations in my calves and feet, which stopped me from pursuing sports as a kid. However, I soon realized in time that these burdens were just obstacles I needed to overcome. In high school, I wrestled all four years at 152, 171, & 189, and now in college, while I no longer wrestle I still hang out with friends, work out, and enjoy life. Those who know me can easily say that I am a chill guy to hang out with.



Dan Bechtold

Hello, my name is Daniel G. Bechtold. My parents are Linda Bechtold and Chet Hamilton. I was born in Kearney, but was raised in Ainsworth, NE until the third grade then my parents and I moved back to Kearney where I graduated from Kearney Senior High in spring 2011. While in high school, I was a football player and a wrestler, I was involved in Academic Decathlon, I volunteered coaching little kids football, worked on cars, took honor classes and a teacher assistant. I was ranked in the top third of my class and took a lot of vocational classes, like woods, welding, auto motives, to help open me up to being able to work out in the field and it to choose to major in Engineering.

I'm a very outgoing person that loves to have fun. Also, I'm an open person that is willing to speak his mind, not afraid to be proud of himself and what he has done in his life. I like to do all different types of sports, play video games, drive, hunt, fish, Frisbee golf, and work out. I am an only child and when I was six, my real dad died from his second heart attack. A little fact about me is that every year in high school I spent time either in a brace or a cast due to a sport injury and a bowling ball "incident". I also love working on cars and building projects, like a bar top and a table. Finally, I would like to say that I'm happy I decided to join the Chi Phi Fraternity. I joined this brotherhood to better myself a man and to make connections that will last a life time.

Tristan Powers



My name is Tristan Powers. I grew up in Palmyra, Nebraska. Throughout high school I was heavily involved in activities, including being a member of the Track team, National Honor Society, the drum major of the PHS Band and I was a member of the Palmyra Youth Club and the Silver Creek 4-H Club, which both emphasized community service. After graduating I attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where I majored in International Studies. However, after spending last summer working as the Health Aide for the NE State 4-H Camp, I decided to transfer to UNL where I am now majoring in Pre-Nursing.



Weston Stokey

My name is Weston Stokey. I am a freshman going to school for Pre-Med. But recently I have been leaning toward criminal physiology. I grew up in Sutherland, NE my entire life. So I excited to come to a big city! I wrestled from the time I was 4 until 14. Then in high school I ran cross country, played golf, participated in Quiz Bowl, Science Club, Yearbook staff, National Honor Society, American Red Cross Volunteer, Buddy Program, Drama Club, Speech Club, 4-H, and I was part of my school's broadcasting class that commentated various sporting events. In 4-H I rode horses and showed market steers. I have worked on my neighbor's ranch for the past five years. My favorite food is chinese, and I love Starbucks! I enjoy hanging out with friends and I am eager to see where Chi Phi can take me!

Will Gerber

My name is Will Gerber. I am currently a freshman at the University of Nebraska, studying Business Administration. I have lived in several states, but I was born and have lived in Omaha, Nebraska for the majority of my short life. Between sports, the fine arts, and a multitude of other extracurricular activities, I have been a very well-rounded and active young man. I am also a very active outdoorsman. I love to hunt, fish, camp, and do just about any other activity outdoors. Unfortunately for myself, however, while I like to deer hunt, I am often unable to find any deer willing to be my prey. On top of all that is me, I am an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan. I look forward to the next three-and-a-half years and my membership in Chi Phi. I feel that signing my bid card and joining the Alpha Theta Chi chapter of Chi Phi is one of the best decisions of my life and I look forward to all the opportunities that await me in the years to come.



CHI PHI
Authentic