

The Omicronicle

Theta Tau Omicron
The University of Iowa
Fall 2013 - Spring 2014

Fall 2013 Semester

Rush/Pledge

This rush/pledge semester started off with two weeks of Rush events to get to meet new potential members and tell them about what Theta Tau is and what we do as a chapter. These events included a pizza party, an informational session, Frisbee and lawn games, and a Buffalo Wild Wings dinner. Once we met the potential members and determined their interest and potential assets to the fraternity, bids were delivered.

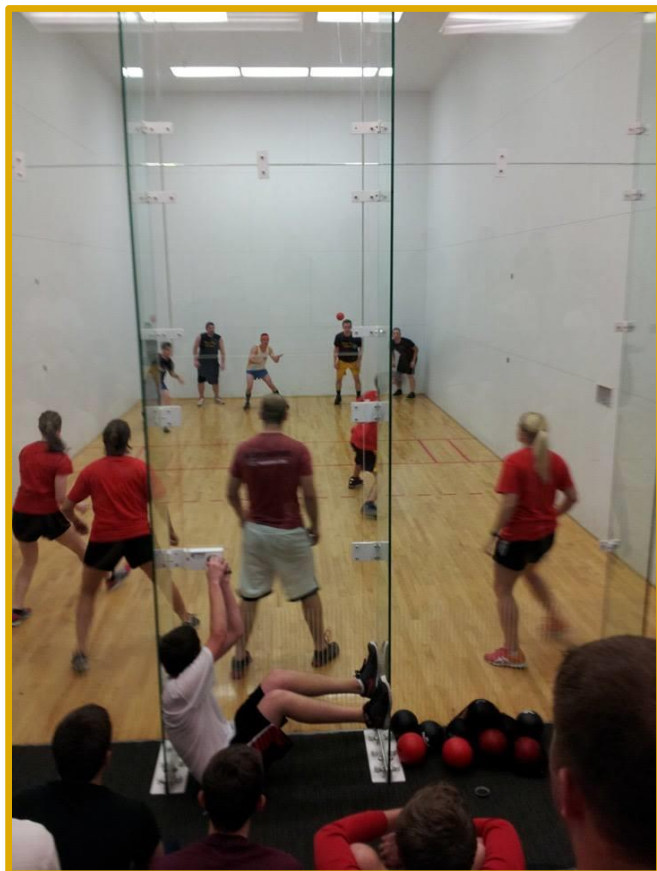


Pledge event 2013

We had four Potential Members in Training: Shandy Porter, Danielle Culver, Sam Fox, and Anda Shi. These four students excelled

in their pledging semester and all passed their Chapter and National Pledge Tests on the first try. They were asked to host a pledge event for the actives as a way to introduce themselves to the fraternity and they chose to host a game night at the Engineering Building. Brothers came together for a fun night of food music and games! It was a great way for everyone to hang out and get to know the new potential members!

We ended a great semester with Formal Initiation and added four new members to Omicron chapter!



Dodgeball champions at regionals

Fundraising

After a changeover of fundraiser chair positions, we executed a very successful shirt sale which was coordinated by our new chair. We allowed students/alumni to pick between six different shirt designs themed off of each engineering discipline offered at Iowa. Our new fundraising chair showed a lot of initiative by stepping up and taking charge of the operation on such short notice and we had fantastic results! We are hoping to build off this success for future fundraising events, as the shirt concept has been very popular in the engineering community.

Regent

I took over as Regent right away after getting elected. There were some issues that I felt needed to be addressed as well as trying to go back to our actual Chapter bylaws. The biggest issues that we needed to address was the low turnout to everything that was Theta Tau related. During late Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 the regular chapter meetings were only attended by on average a third of the chapter. I felt this was due to a relaxed attitude of the officers pertaining to attendance as well as a waning interest by our seniors that then spread to everyone else in the Chapter. The attitude of not caring I felt stemmed from our older members being disenfranchised by the long

standing Regent that did not want the position during Fall 2012. To combat this decline in interest I wanted to try a few tactics.

First of all our chapter was not following the chapter Bylaws pertaining to meeting attendance. In the bylaws there is a tier and fine system in place. This essentially made it mandatory for everyone to attend certain events and only miss a certain amount of others without excuse. This was implemented mainly to show that we are going to the basics and actually doing what we actually should be doing.



Hawkeye football game

Next to really get people to meetings by wanting to show up, there was instituted a couple of things. First off we implemented an “Ice Breaker” at the beginning of every meeting. This allows us to interact with each other in different ways and build a better bond



E-week competition team

of brotherhood between our members. This seemed to work as we would now not be all serious at the meetings and allow a bit of fun at them.

Thirdly we implemented a reading of the National and Chapter Constitution and Bylaws at every meeting. We were always supposed to be doing this, but since I had been a member we had never done that in a meeting. I feel this brought a feeling that we are in a national group and that Theta Tau is something more than just a group.

Professional Development

The next thing we implemented was a Professional Development presentation at every meeting. There was rumblings that even though we are a professional engineering fraternity, we do not really do many professionally related events. All I had seen was a pitiful Professional Dinner at the end of the

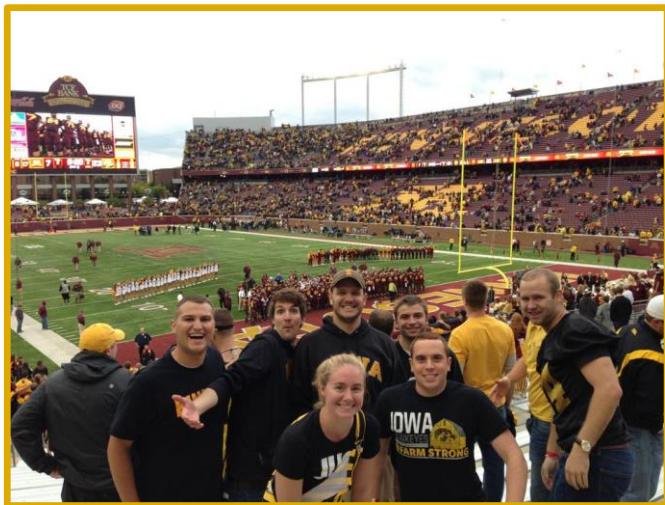
last couple years that was poorly attended and without any professional speakers and then the Regionals that we hosted (which a majority of the Chapter felt we never would have done anything professional that semester if we were not forced into it). This addition of a short Professional Development presentation brought us closer to what we are meant to be, help our members out professionally.

This leads us into the next thing that we implemented during the semester. We tried to have more professional development events during the semester. We had two great events that everyone that attended really enjoyed.



Blanket-making Philanthropy

well as they took questions from us in a panel format. I feel both of these were very well organized and much appreciated by the Chapter as a whole. I heard back from many Brothers that this was the reason they wanted to join Theta Tau in the first place, to help them on their professional path.



Visiting Alpha Chapter

The first event we had was to invite two speakers to come in and talk about their professional careers and answer questions. The second was we had a professional dinner with three speakers from different companies come in and talk about professional development as

Brother of the Month

I implemented a Brother of the Month award. This did not take off as well as I thought it would, mainly because it is new and we are still trying to figure out what to do with it. I hope that this continues into the future because I heard some Brothers talk about it and

be excited to be appreciated by the Chapter. The final thing that I feel was a big positive this semester was the four pledges that we initiated in January. All four of them bring a unique view to our Chapter and I feel that at least two of them will be a future Regent if they so choose. It was not a large group but I feel it is definitely a highly motivated group and will not be a group known for its "resume builder" Brothers.



Fall 2012 Pledge Class



Fall 2013 Formal Initiation

improved over the semester. I cannot take any of the credit for this though. All I did was give the vision I had to the rest of the Officers and Brothers and they are the ones that made it come to fruition. I feel we are a stronger, more tight knit fraternity of brothers than I had ever felt while in Theta Tau.

Spring 2014 Semester

Reflections on Fall 2013

On a whole I am very happy with my tenure of Regent. There were a couple things that did not get done, better alumni relations and more brotherhood events, but I feel that I fulfilled the majority of the things that I wanted to accomplish in the short time of a semester. I feel that the brotherhood, professionalism, and the overall happiness within the chapter had

Rush/Pledge

This semester we held a two week rush period that included an information session, a pizza night, game night, movie night, a froyo get together, and a Buffalo Wild Wings night. These events allowed the potential new members come meet the actives and get to

know more about Theta Tau and the opportunity it has to offer.



Spring 2014 pledge class

We had 16 potential new members and gave 10 bid offers (Abhinav Sharma, Adrian Guzman, James Gorospe, Jeffery Martin, Kayla, Racinowski, Nicole Tatro, Parker Koch, Timothy O' malley, Tyler Harken, Zachary Roley). Throughout the past few weeks of getting to know our new members, they have already expressed high enthusiasm for Theta Tau. They will soon be pinned and obtain their official pledge status, and will then start their six week training period. We are excited to have them start their journey in Theta Tau and see what they have to bring to our organization!

Regent

This semester Omicron chapter is working on event attendance by the brothers.

We are pursuing this by suspending and our ghost members as well as using GroupMe for quick reminders. This semester we sent five actives, including myself, to the regional convention in Detroit, Minnesota. I hope to attend the regional conference in Lawrence, Kansas in April as well, since it is a much closer drive. The brothers came back from the regional conference with the idea of having a lock in for the chapter. A committee has been formed and plans are now being discussed for our first retreat in the beginning of the Fall 2014 semester. The chapter would also like to start a scholarship for incoming engineering freshman



Spring 2014 Formal Initiation

at the University of Iowa. We think this could help with our freshman recruiting and support the university. We completed our biennium visit with the Grand Outer Guard, Stuart Kardian, in early March. We went ice-skating with him and took him to The Vine and Bo-

James. He was able to meet our entire pledge class and stay for a chapter meeting. The chapter is currently weakest with officer changeovers and would like to work towards creating physical binders or officer folders.

Alumni Relations

This semester Alumni Relations hopes to continue this semester with recognizing an Alumni of the month. We also plan to maintain contact and continue building a strong relationship with Alumni. This will be beneficial to maintaining our chapter's professional development and expand our active member's network base. We also want to build this relationship also in order to encourage a higher alumni attendance at meetings, brotherhood events, and the pig roast. We hope to maintain this goal throughout the semester.

Arnolds Travels



Arnold at Purdue



Arnold at Regionals (Purdue)



Arnold taking the golf cart for a spin



Arnold getting back in touch with nature



Arnold visiting Alpha Chapter



Arnold leaving Purdue



Arnold at a guest lecture