



# The Omicronicle

*Theta Tau Omicron  
The University of Iowa  
Fall 2014*

## Regent

I was elected as regent at the end of the spring 2014, and began to plan ahead immediately. I started by addressing two main weak points in our chapter and how we could improve them.

Our first weak point was how we didn't plan events in advance enough. Many of our brothers approached me with the concern that they would attend more events if they were notified sooner. Also they felt that for professional or alumni events, the notice was not given enough in advance which prevented them from coming. In order to improve, we decided to have a retreat to discuss events before the semester started. In this

retreat we booked the dates of the Pig Roast, the Professional Luncheon, regionals, all of the meetings for the semester and even had many brotherhood games. We even blocked out certain date regions for different committee events. This Retreat was very successful and improved the chapter's involvement in the decision making process of what happened during the semester.



Another major concern at the time was the fact that two-thirds of our chapter contained graduating seniors, and the remaining third was comprised of members in the junior class. With a chapter of older members, it was time to recruit younger incoming students to sustain the chapter. The rush/pledge committee and the E-Board worked hard over the summer to come up with solutions to attract a large pledge class. We were more than pleased when we had a pledge class of 17 incredible people. We look forward to working with these brothers in training in the future!

Also in order to continue this progress we have started to get our name out to the college of engineering by participating in all engineering student organization fairs, volunteering with the career fair and starting Theta Tau Tuesday's where all of us wear our letters to market ourselves. We have already started to see an increased interest in the general student population to join Theta Tau and we couldn't be more pleased.



After seeing all of these changes implemented for the fall semester, I look forward to seeing our chapter grow, and I am confident we will continue to improve ourselves throughout the spring semester.

## Rush Pledge

The fall semester began with two weeks of rush events. These events included informational sessions, Airliner pizza, Buffalo Wild Wings, and a dessert bar meet and greet for the potential pledges to socialize with our active members. Each of these events attracted numerous interested students. At the end of our fall rush events, we had a total of 32 potential bids to hand out. From the 32 potential bids, we narrowed it down to 21 bid candidates, and of those 21 bids given, 19 people accepted.



The 2014 fall pledge class was our biggest pledge class yet. We held weekly meetings for the pledge class to get to know each other and also learn about our fraternity. During these meetings, we opened with an icebreaker for the pledges, and

then played informational games to help them become acquainted with the history of Theta Tau in a fun and competitive way. The pledges also held a pledge event with food and games in the Seaman Center for all of the active members to attend. Before winter break we proctored the pledge test, which everyone passed after a few attempts. During the course of the pledging process, a few pledges dropped because they felt they did not have the ability to make a full commitment to the fraternity.



Overall, it was a successful semester in which we initiated a total of 17 superb students who will be essential in carrying on the traditions of Theta Tau at the University of Iowa.

## Professional Development

At the beginning of fall semester, a recruiter from Cargill visited and gave a presentation on the topic of professional interviews. This was a good start, and we wanted to make an effort to hold more professional speakers and activities in the future.





Later in the semester, we were pleased to hold a successful professional development luncheon for the members of our chapter. We hosted a panel of outside speakers from different engineering companies such as Rockwell Collins, Whirlpool, Schneider Electric, and more. They attended our luncheon and gave out helpful advice towards our members on their professional development.

## Philanthropy

This was a fun semester for philanthropy. The first event we had was a Theta Tau build for Habitat for Humanity. Members and pledges got to work on different construction tasks to help build a home for people in need. We got to help put the finishing touches on the house. The next event that took place was a tie-blanket making event. The blankets went to support Dance Marathon and to the Children's hospital.



The philanthropy events for the semester wrapped up with cooking a meal for families in need at the Ronald McDonald House. We made a delicious Mexican themed dinner, complete with tacos and Spanish rice, for the families.



## Alumni Relations

During the fall semester, Omicron chapter hosted the annual Pig Roast on homecoming during which the Hawkeyes defeated the Hoosiers in an exciting 45-29 point win. In addition, Alumni Relations has begun accepting nominations for Brother of the Month to recognize the outstanding work of fellow members in the chapter.



We also hope to plan an event in the spring similar to the Pig Roast to allow the alumni and active members to socialize and further build their relationships. Additionally, we will reach out to our alumni and ask for individuals to participate in our Professional Development Lunch during April 2015. It will be advantageous for alumni to share information about their careers, companies and professional contacts with the actives while also serving as an important event to further strengthen our active-alumni member relationships.