



# The Omicronicle

**Theta Tau Omicron**  
**The University of Iowa**  
**Fall 2016**

## Regent

After two semesters as Regent of this organization, I am very proud of the growth of Omicron chapter. Our recruitment process has improved drastically, as we had a massive increase in student interest during our rush events at the beginning of the semester. We ultimately were able to initiate 23 new members, our largest pledge class in quite some time. With over 60 active members next semester, we will be one of the largest student organizations within the College of Engineering.

Our next challenges within the fraternity are to better structure the pledging process to

ensure that each new initiate feels comfortable around all active members and is able to name them all. This was a lot easier when we only had around 30 actives and 10 pledges, but I know that we are in capable hands moving forward. We are also looking to increase the amounts we are able to fundraise each semester, as we are hoping to increase the amount of activities we are able to participate in with the growing membership.

After two semesters leading this great organization, I am glad that I am able to hand over the reins to Riley Deutsch, as I know the chapter will be in great hands moving forward.

In H&T,  
Tyler Harken

## Alumni Relations

This semester was a great time for Alumni Relations! We had a very successful Pig Roast this year with several alumni attending as well as over 20 active members attending. We were also involved in the retrieving of Arnold this year, which was entertaining for the committee since we were able to give him to an alumni member for their wedding!

*Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Board and Committee Heads!*

**Regent:** Riley Deutsch

**Vice Regent:** Anna Seydel

**Scribe:** Emily Moore

**Inner Guard:** Athena Nicklaus

**Outer Guard:** Tyler Chlystun

**Marshall/Risk Management:** Tyler Harken

**Alumni Relations:** Emma Ciborowski

**Philanthropy:** Keegan Parizek

**Rush Pledge:** Peter Burelbach and Taylor Walkner

**Brotherhood:** Samuel Maloof

**Fundraising:** Matthew Parker and Gwen Gardner

**Marketing:** Nick Rafacz

**Professional Development:** Madison Chrisman



As a committee, we continue to try to keep in touch with the newest alumnus nearest to Iowa City by inviting them to chapter meetings and larger events like Formal Initiation. We are hoping for a great spring semester and look forward to seeing more of our alumni at events!

## Brotherhood

It was a fun-filled semester for our chapter! Not only did we get to see the Cubs win their first World Series in 108 years, we also participated in various activities throughout the semester. The return of Theta Tau Thursdays was a success and it was a great way to bond with the large pledge class.



In October, we hosted a tailgate for the Wisconsin game and later in December had an

ugly sweater party with our new initiates. These events, along with other unprompted study-sessions and dinners have brought our chapter closer together.

## Professional Development

This past semester, the Professional Development Committee worked very hard to host professional development presentations and organizing mock interviews. As with every semester, our main focus was on the Professional Development Brunch. This year, it was hosted at Blackstone Iowa City and it was an enormous success! We had the typical 10 company representatives, and will continue to look for more as this next semester rolls around. In this upcoming semester, our committee hopes to organize more company presentations, nail down more professional development talks, and recruit more companies for the brunch. Keep in touch!



## Philanthropy

This past semester, members of the Omicron chapter participated in three different Habitat for Humanity build days. During each build, members of the chapter were able to get their hands dirty to finish up houses for members of the Iowa City community. From painting the garage to cutting and installing wood trim to getting on the roof to finish the outside of the home, members bonded and had fun while simultaneously creating a long standing home for a deserving family. This semester, we originally planned two build days, but due to the



large amount of interest in the builds we ended up adding on an extra build day at the end of the semester. We also worked on the same home at the beginning of the semester and the end of the semester, which means we were able to see the progress of this particular home from a bare bones structure to a home almost complete with appliances, carpeting, and fixtures.



This home will be cherished by a refugee family from Zambia. Pongo and Bawili and their six children lived in a refugee camp in Zambia for 12 years, after coming to the US they found friends in Iowa City and look forward to living in their new Habitat home.

## Rush Pledge

Recruitment was extremely exciting this fall! With over 50 applicants and one of the biggest pledge classes in quite some time (23 new members!), the fraternity has gained several wonderful new actives. However, the larger number of applicants reminded the fraternity how difficult the recruitment process can be. Because of this, the fraternity decided that—throughout the next few semesters—we will implement a more organized and specialized selection process and a more informative pledging process. We look forward to the upcoming semesters and the revitalized rush pledge process.

We held weekly meetings, including a Brotherhood Event organized by the pledge class, to provide the pledges with information

regarding the fraternity's history, goals, and standards. This semester, we tried our best to follow the guidelines set by the new Standard Model of pledge education, which laid out the requirements of every meeting this semester. It was a useful model for pledge education, and helped us set the standards of the weekly meetings from the beginning.



Additionally, we held three rounds of PAABB (Pledge, Active, Alumni, Brotherhood Bonding) and the pledge class organized the Brotherhood Event to help the actives get to know the large class. The pledges chose to play dodgeball, and it was a lot of fun for everybody involved! It was such a great year, and the fraternity is hopes to see an equal increase in interest in the fraternity during the Spring semester.

## Fundraising

In Fall 2016, the Fundraising committee worked to raise money for Theta Tau events such as the professional development luncheon and national conference. Local restaurants helped the committee raise money by allowing a fraction of the profits for a designated time period to be allotted to the fraternity. Buffalo Wild Wings and Bartot helped the committee do this, allowing us to raise over \$300. The marketing committee helped advertise these fundraisers throughout campus. In addition, Theta Tau worked the Party After the Parade event by hosting booths with games for University of Iowa families during homecoming week, which raised an additional \$100. Furthermore, can koozies with IOWA ENGINEERING have been ordered to be

sold early spring 2017 and throughout future years if leftover. These seem to be popular among the university, and we hope to generate lots of funding from those sales. Thank you to all the committees and alumni that helped us make these events and sales happen.

Overall, our chapter had a very busy, and successful fall semester. We could not be where we are today without the continued support of our donors. If you would like to contribute to our organization and help us to continue to maintain and promote our professional and fraternal development, you can send donations to:

The University of Iowa  
3100 Seamans Center for the Engineering Arts and Sciences  
Iowa City, IA 52242

Please make checks payable to Theta Tau. We greatly appreciate your support.

Congratulations to the newest members of Theta Tau!

