

# Wolverine Sig



THETA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY | UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN | SPRING 2014



*Preserving Our Past,  
Securing Our Future*

## Campaign Status At-a-Glance

*As of April 8, 2014*

Campaign Goal  
**\$1.5 Million**

Total Commitments  
**\$949,350**

Mailable Alumni  
**1,507**

## THETA THETA ANNOUNCES PRESERVING OUR PAST, SECURING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

We are pleased to announce the capital campaign that will ensure the future of Sigma Chi at the University of Michigan. Alumni have gathered to form a capital campaign committee and have worked tirelessly to bring us to this critical point in Theta Theta's history. This capital campaign will help us meet the needs of the undergraduates, secure the future of our Chapter at Michigan, and position ourselves to attract top student leaders. As of April 8, more than \$949,350 has been donated by generous alumni, including a \$25,000 donation from the undergraduates.

### *Chapter House Renovation Necessary to Remain Competitive*

As alumni, it is vital we contribute time, energy, and our financial resources to the Theta Theta Chapter. Your financial gift will be an investment in the lives of our undergraduate members and the future of Theta Theta. Several fraternities at the University of Michigan have invested millions of dollars to update and replace their residential facilities. We are fortunate to have such a great location on campus. However, to attract the top men to Theta Theta and provide an attractive home for our alumni to return to, we must complete the renovation work that we began in 1999. We will update the exterior and common areas and set the standard at the University of Michigan for many years to come. The undergraduates have already shown their support and loyalty to the campaign, and we can only achieve our vision if we work together to make this project a reality. It is now time to aggressively realize our goal of completing the renovation and the significant updates our 100-year-old Chapter House requires.

### *Highlights of Our Renovation Plan*

- Replace first floor windows
- Renovate first floor common rooms
- Repair/replace deteriorating walls and flooring in Chapter room
- Reconstruct front and side porches to meet code requirements
- Inspect and repair deteriorating brick exterior

### *Support the Future of Theta Theta*

The success of our Chapter and our alumni is a tribute to the foundation that Sigma Chi instilled in each of us. We urge you to focus on the important task of providing the same experience for future generations of Theta Theta Chapter members. To compete with other fraternities at Michigan, we must revitalize our Chapter House. This will allow our undergraduate men to compete with other fraternities, residence halls, and off-campus living options. We must offer our undergraduates a safe and attractive facility.

We urge your thoughtful consideration of this project and what it means for the future of Sigma Chi at the University of Michigan. Over the next month, please look for more information as to how you can support the capital campaign. The campaign is structured to meet your financial needs and we look forward to your support. Thank you for your loyalty to the Theta Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi.

In hoc,  
**David Train '84**  
House Corporation President  
dtrain@ckgppw.com | (248) 640-7657

# Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future

## 100 YEARS AT 548 SOUTH STATE

### THANK YOU, GENEROUS THETA THETA BROTHERS

We sincerely thank the following brothers and friends for their dedication to the *Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future: 100 Years at 548 South State* campaign. These alumni and friends recognize the importance of ensuring the future of the Theta Theta Chapter and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. Commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni to achieve our campaign goal and complete this major project.

#### **Constantine Circle** (\$100,000 to \$299,999)

William C. Swaney '60  
Jeffrey A. Rich '82

#### **Theta Theta Circle** (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

John W. Madigan '58  
In memory of  
Terry Barr '57  
Bert A. Getz '59  
John C. Crouch Jr. '83  
David P. Shapiro '84  
In memory of  
Thomas C. Cravens '83 and  
Timothy L. Girardot '83  
Robert Zahm '84

Jeff Kuchman '85  
David Nyren '86

#### **White Cross Circle** (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

2014-2018  
Undergraduate Brothers  
Robert H. McCollum '60  
James R. Stevenson III '60  
Todd Halsted '84  
Donald E. Johnson III '86  
Edward F. Neild IV '87

#### **Jordan Standard Circle** (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Sanford R. Robertson '54

John J. Schwarz, M.D. '59  
Tim M. Heinle '61  
Thomas H. Bredt '62  
Frederick W. Lambert '65  
In memory of  
Mary Lou and  
Harry L. Hallock '40  
Brian P. Patchen '65  
In memory of  
Harry L. Hallock '40  
Dodie and Goff T. Smith '69  
Mark T. Malueg '84  
David P. Train '84  
John Hoekman '90  
Michael B. Murray '85  
Steven D. Fretty '86  
Mark C. Mullen '86

#### **Wolverine Sig Circle** (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Stephen J. Bloom '58  
Nicholas T.  
Kouchoukos, M.D. '58  
David R. Smith '59  
C.A. Carlson '60  
Robert E. Hohmeyer '60  
In memory of  
Robert J. Trost '58  
Paul Weyand '59  
M.S. Beall Jr. '65  
Donald A. Lindow '70  
David W. Kowal '85  
Daniel A. Page '87  
Joseph S. Higgins '88  
David Kass '92

#### **548 Club** (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Rick Miller  
Gerald J. Prescott Jr. '56  
Marvin R. Nyren '57  
Jerry Mader '65  
Paul Nelson '86  
Douglas Sprague '91  
Gordon Rubenstein '93

#### **Contributors** (Up to \$2,500)

Jerry Mader '65  
Kreg Keesee '86

All donors contributing a minimum of \$5,000 or more to the campaign, over a five-year period, will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the Chapter House. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please advise our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661. Thank you!

## Upholding a Legacy

### Why Jeff Kuchman '85 Supports the Campaign

Over the last century, Theta Theta has touched the lives of countless men and brought them into the folds of our brotherhood. **Jeff Kuchman '85** shares the impact Sigma Chi has had on his life and why he decided to support the *Preserving Our Past, Securing Our Future* campaign.

#### **Going through recruitment can be an overwhelming process, why did you join Sigma Chi and what made you stay a part of the brotherhood?**

While I'd love to suggest that I made a careful analysis of the pros and cons of each chapter, the simple truth is that I had a crush on a girl in my dorm who invited me to accompany her as a third wheel to a party she was attending with her date, who happened to be a Sigma Chi. Since I wanted to find out more about who she was seeing that's how I came to meet **Dan Lenhard '83**. Dan and I hit it off immediately, and he introduced me to **Fred Schuler '82**, who was the Consul and would later become my big brother, and **Chuck Fleckenstein '82**. Spending the evening with that collection of personalities made a pretty compelling argument to become part of the Chapter. Spending time later with the other personalities at Sigma Chi made the decision pretty simple.

#### **Did you gain a sense of pride as a Theta Theta member?**

Theta Theta was one of the dominant Chapters on campus when I joined, and I loved the guys that I met there, so yes, it was a proud moment to be offered a bid and later to become a member. I would say, however, that I gained more pride after getting to know the members of my class and realized what a talented and personable group they all were.

#### **What is your current position and what do you do specifically? How did you get started in that field?**

I own a real estate company that specializes in retail real estate

development, leasing, management, investment sales and tenant representation. I run the tenant representation group within the firm and we represent over 250 retailers, large and small, helping to develop and implement their real estate objectives. Collectively we have five offices in four upper Midwestern states and employ about 250 people.



#### **How, if at all, did being in Sigma Chi impact your career path?**

In hundreds of little ways such as tackling responsibilities within the fraternity, learning skill sets like cooperation, team building, conflict resolution, presentation skills, and public speaking.

#### **Were there any alumni involved in your Chapter that had a positive impact on chapter operations and your overall college experience?**

There was a gentleman named **Rick Sidlaczek '78** who was our Chapter advisor while I was an undergraduate. I was always amazed by the commitment of time and energy that Sid gave to the house. I probably took it for granted at the time, but now that I'm a husband, father and business owner I'm amazed at how benevolent a person serving in that position truly is. That makes me appreciate all the more the efforts expended by my contemporaries today in the reshaping of the house. People like **Dave Train '84**, **Dan Page '87**, **Todd Halsted '84**, to name just a few, those people dedicate so much of themselves to Theta Theta and its legacy that it's difficult not to want to help contribute to their passion and embrace their enthusiasm. It's really the least we can all do.

#### **Why did you feel it was important to support the capital campaign? What motivates you to support Theta Theta?**

How I'm participating and what I'm contributing is nothing in terms of



# Consistent Improvement

## Theta Theta Shows Strength in Academics, Philanthropy, and Recruitment

The spring semester has been a very successful one for the Theta Theta Chapter so far. Not even halfway through the semester, we have seen the Sigma Chi influence on and representation in the Michigan Greek life community expand rapidly, organized a future philanthropic event, and taken in a fantastic new class of seven. In addition, we have started to take initiative on more expansive communication with recent alumni.

### CHAPTER GPA RANKS IN TOP FIVE

In fall 2013, Sigma Chi earned one of the top five GPAs on campus with a 3.4. To further improve the Chapter's academics, the executive committee decided that in addition to a scholarship chairman, who oversees the academics of the Chapter, we will have one member serve as a professional development chairman, who will help with cover letter and resume writing for members. "We have been making great efforts to help the academic component of our brotherhood, including a new online forum for brothers to share study materials through the university page," Scholarship Chairman **Will Zech '15** said.



Brother Brian Koffler '16 on the field at the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl.

### HIGH GOALS FOR PHILANTHROPY EVENTS

In February, a local philanthropic group named FeelGood cooked grilled cheese sandwiches in our

kitchen, which they sold to benefit the World Hunger Foundation. This event raised over \$1,000 in one night.

### COMPETITIVE RECRUITMENT YIELDS RESULTS

This winter was one of our most successful recruiting terms since our rechartering. Using an approach that heavily utilized social media as a recruiting tool, including a Facebook group that included most potential candidates, we were able to attract over 70 candidates through our doors—the most ever for a winter semester. Out of these 70, we ended up with a pledge class of seven gentlemen who exude the qualities we look for in Sigma Chis. We are extremely excited to welcome them into our brotherhood in April. "We had one of the most competitive recruiting processes in our Chapter's history, extending bids to less than 15% of all those who rushed, and we feel that the utilization of social media in this process was crucial," said **Andrew Polkowitz '16**, recruitment chairman.

### THETA THETAS SHOW LEADERSHIP ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

Brother **Matt Goldstein '14** was in Australia for the entire fall 2013 semester as the chief strategist for the University of Michigan Solar Car team, which finished ninth in the World Solar Challenge in November. Brother **Connor Toohey '15** is the president of Wolverine Capital Investments, a club devoted to learning about the stock market. Brother **Danny Hecker '16** is the director of external affairs for the *Michigan Journal of International Affairs*, an undergraduate periodical that publishes opinion-based pieces on international politics, economics and culture.

payback for the memories that I have or the friendships that I've made as a result of my affiliation with Sigma Chi and Theta Theta. I only wish the scope of the project was more far reaching. Sigma Chi at the University of Michigan should be the first and only place that the strongest fraternity candidates consider joining. We can help today by giving back to the physical plant that is the outward symbol of all of the great things that happen inside those walls.

### How do you think your campaign contribution will positively affect the future of the Chapter?

When we were about 10 years removed from our undergraduate years, **David Geraciotti '85** sat next to me at a Michigan football game and joked, "Kuch, we can't take this for granted. We can't just assume that someone else is going to carry the ball, preserve a great legacy, and ensure that others can always enjoy it the way we have." That comment never left me. It's now up to us to step up on behalf of the brothers that helped pave our way and those who've yet to arrive.

### Tell us about your family.

My wife, Cindy, and I have three children. She grew up as the best friend of another woman who would later marry Gibby (**Greg Gibson '87**) and that's how the two of us met. Our eldest child, Emily, is a freshman at the University of Michigan, where she's a member of Alpha Chi Omega. Her roommate is Catherine Yardley, who is the daughter of **Tom Yardley '86**, one of my little brothers at Sigma Chi. It's nearly impossible to believe that our two daughters, some 30 years after Tom and I met one another, would be such good friends, rooming with one another, and embarking on their own collegiate experience together. We have two younger sons, Taylor and Connor, who are 16 and 11, respectively. We live in Lake Forest, Illinois, about 30 miles north of Chicago. E-mail Jeff at [jkuchman@midamericagrp.com](mailto:jkuchman@midamericagrp.com)

We are always trying to improve our Chapter. This semester, we feel that our goals of greater campus influence and sustained success in the fields of academics and recruiting are finally coming to fruition. The Chapter is becoming stronger by the month, and we encourage all alumni to come to the house when they please. We will always welcome you with open arms. After all, without you, nothing that we do would be possible, so we want to thank you for all that you contribute.

Fraternally,  
**Nick Reade '16**  
Consul  
[njread@umich.edu](mailto:njread@umich.edu)  
(917) 526-0069



The Kappa pledge class.



# Wolverine Sig



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## Special Edition Campaign Announcement

### What's Inside?

- Capital Campaign Donor List
- Donor Spotlight on Jeff Kuchman '85
- How You Can Make the Chapter House Renovation for Theta Theta a Reality

## RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Alumni, we value your referrals on potential Theta Theta members. If you would like to recommend someone for membership, please contact Recruitment Chairman **Andrew Polkowitz '16** at [apolkowi@umich.edu](mailto:apolkowi@umich.edu).

## History Highlights

The brothers take great pride in the house and are very interested in our long Chapter history. Over 110 years has passed since **Orla B. Taylor '86** and **Orville S. Brumback '79** endorsed the plans to build and finance the grand house at 548 South State in 1899. The lot had been purchased from the University in 1900 for \$12,500 when enrollment was 2,500 students. The architect, George D. Mason of Detroit, prepared the plans and a Sigma Chi Building Corporation was founded. The Chapter raised \$40,000, including a \$25,000 first mortgage, \$15,000 in \$500 bond notes, and all present alumni buying at least one share of stock at \$100 in the new company. The corporation was honored with nearly 100% alumni participation.

*Address Service Requested*

## Visit Us Online

Theta Theta Chapter  
[www.thetatheta.com](http://www.thetatheta.com)

Facebook  
Search for MichiganSigmaChi

Twitter  
Search for @UMSigmaChi

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

Consul

**Nick Reade '16**

*New York, N.Y.*

[njreade@umich.edu](mailto:njreade@umich.edu)  
(917) 526-0069

Pro Consul

**Jack Roberts '16**

*Bloomfield Hills, Mich.*

Quaestor

**Jesse Gold '15**

*Marlboro, N.J.*

Magister

**Chris Beindorff**

*Atlanta, Ga.*

Recruitment Chairman

**Andrew Polkowitz '16**

*Marlboro, N.J.*

[apolkowi@umich.edu](mailto:apolkowi@umich.edu)  
(908) 692-6676

Annotator

**Ben Meyers '16**

*Rye, N.Y.*

House Manager

**Austin Nafziger '15**

*Lambertville, Mich.*

Social Chairmen

**Noah Eisen '16**

*Shaker Heights, Ohio*

**Jacob Lutt '16**

*Goldens Bridge, N.Y.*

Risk Manager

**Nikhil Tellakula '16**

*San Jose, Calif.*

Philanthropy Chairman

**Blake Arnold '16**

*Bay City, Mich.*

Public Relations Chairman

**Tommy Hoyt '16**

*Winnetka, Ill.*

Chapter Editor

**Tim Kellett '16**

*Grosse Pointe, Mich.*

Tribune

**Jon Lewis '15**

*Moorestown, N.J.*

Athletics Chairman

**Kevin Cowell '16**

*Rockford, Mich.*

Brotherhood Chairman

**Cal Kevorkian '16**

*Darien, Conn.*

Derby Days Chairman

**Matt Criswell '17**

*Troy, Mich.*

Historian

**Max Behren '17**

*Chappaqua, N.Y.*

Kustos

**Mike Belt '16**

*Dansville, Mich.*

Scholarship Chairman

**Will Zech '15**

*Champaign, Ill.*

Steward

**Jacob Bradburn '15**

*Grand Blanc, Mich.*

Sweetheart Chairman

**Antonio Bosco '16**

*Gurnee, Ill.*

Webmaster

**Tom Erdmann '15**

*Minneapolis, Mich.*