

When the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) first opened its doors in 1914, it was as the State School of Mines and Metallurgy first located on Fort Bliss. Over the course of the last century, this school has undergone a relocation, several name changes, expansions, and many improvements. Included among those improvements we can now say is the installation of the Kappa Delta Chapter into the fraternal order of Theta Chi.

One hundred plus years after UTEP's beginning, the Senior Director of Recruitment and Expansion at Theta Chi International Headquarters, JD Ford, would deliver an expansion presentation to the UTEP Interfraternity Council (IFC) and University Officials exploring the possibilities of starting a local colony of Theta Chi Fraternity. On April 8, 2014, the IFC extended an invitation for Theta Chi to expand onto the UTEP campus beginning that fall. In late August, Field Executives Darien Key and Chris Barker arrived on campus and began contacting various students via enrollment rosters to form an interest group. After recruiting the first ten members, the Field Executives began to instruct us on the procedures of operating as a fraternity and becoming a Theta Chi colony.

On September 22, 2014, 15 men pledged Theta Chi. Chris Barker and Darien Key both presided over the ceremony serving as Marshal and Secretary respectively. Among the attendees were UTEP Coordinator of Student Activities and Fraternity & Sorority Life, Kristy Pacheco, and Sororities Alpha Sigma Alpha and Alpha Xi Delta.

Our first challenge as a colony came shortly thereafter as we entered the 2014 Homecoming competition as part of a team with the ladies of Alpha Xi Delta and the men of Lambda Chi Alpha. Although perhaps not the easiest task to tackle as a newly formed colony, this challenge helped us strengthen our ties as brothers and gave us a preview of what being in a fraternity would mean. These events not only taught us to rely on each other, but how to work with other organizations on campus as well.

The colony has since continued to push forward to become a positive force on campus and in the community. We have been a part of numerous volunteer/community service events both on and off campus. To extend "...a helping hand to all who seek it." is something that our membership has taken to heart, and we demonstrated on numerous occasions that we are capable of living up to our Motto of lending an "Assisting Hand."

One of our top priorities as a newly formed colony was to serve our community. Among the first volunteer events we would participate in was the Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home Fall Fest. For this event, several of our brothers attended, and put together and ran an activity booth for children to participate to include providing the prizes they would win. We have continued to volunteer throughout the community and have worked with such organizations as the Candlelighters of El Paso and the local Make-A-Wish Foundation Chapter. We also have helped organize a blood drive on campus, assisted with Magoffin Middle School's Halloween Carnival, and participated in a food sorting and packaging event for those in need with Numana, Inc. In addition, we have participated for the last two years in Project MOVE (Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences), in which we helped restore the Insights Museum at its new location and cleaned up the City's Todd Ware Park and vicinity.

Part of being a chapter of Theta Chi includes participating in a philanthropic event. As a colony, we worked with the local Fort Bliss USO to hold our annual "G.I. Theta Chi" *Snacks for Soldiers* project in which, as the name implies, we collected and donated many snack food items (as well as non-perishable items) and presented them to the grateful USO staff. We have also participated in and contributed to the philanthropy events of the other fraternities and sororities on campus and were awarded a plaque for the most contributions to the Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home charity drive.

As Theta Chi Fraternity, we have also participated in a number of leadership conferences sponsored by our International Headquarters. Our first was the Mid-Year Leadership Conference at Arizona State University where we had the opportunity to meet brothers from many other chapters and encountered our first experiences of what it meant to be members of a large international organization. Our brothers have also had the opportunity to attend the Mid-Year Conference at UT Austin, as well as the Sasser & Deranian Presidents' Conference. As members of the IFC, we have had many brothers participate in the Greek Leadership Conferences here at UTEP. In addition to these meetings we have also had the benefit of receiving several informative briefings from our Security & Safety Advisor, Mr. Joe Molinar, as well as our Faculty Advisor, Dr. Marc Cox's presentation on the Assessment of Campus Concealed Carry.

One of the most important functions of a fraternity is taking a group of men and turning them into a team of brothers. Among all the meetings, fundraising, volunteering, and school work, it has always been a *breath of fresh air* to wind down at our brotherhood events. Whether it be eating out in town, trying to beat each other at bowling or video games, spending a night at the recreation center, or sitting around a warm bonfire making each other laugh, simply getting the time to bond with your brothers is one of the best experiences of being part of this chapter. We would like to give a very special *thank you* to the Portillo family for the many times they have hosted us at their home.

In the spring of 2015, this chapter was recognized for not only having the highest GPA in the Greek community on campus but for also having the highest GPA among all other organizations and groups on campus. In addition to receiving the Gold Star in Academic Achievement, Fraternity & Sorority Life also awarded us the Gold Star in Risk Reduction and Philanthropy & Community Service.

Finally, no retelling of our chapter's history would be complete without mentioning the incredible contributions of our very own Fraternity Advisor, Brother Meigs. From the moment he first heard of our colony he has been nothing but dedicated to our cause. Brother Meigs has been our strongest supporter, a powerful driving force, a source of wisdom and motivation, and a great example of what it truly means to be a brother for life. He has greatly contributed to all aspects of our fraternity from helping coordinate a brotherhood social, selling our fundraiser T-shirts, battling with UTEP administration to set up the Todd Ware Park clean up, to creating our own chapter's website. Truly without Brother Meigs help, we would not be the same chapter we are today.

So we proudly enter our history into record on April 23, 2016 as we just initiated 22 brothers, including 1 graduate, into Theta Chi Fraternity and installed our colony as Kappa Delta Chapter. We will continue to take pride individually and collectively in our strengths of equality, leadership, personal development, solid scholarship, community service & philanthropy, as well as genuine friendships and sound fellowship. Moreover, we will also build up these same qualities in future new members who we recruit. ΘΧ