

# THE DELTA DIAL

Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at Rensselaer

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## Alumni Profile

### Bill Windle '86 Traveled World and Built Successful Career All the While Carrying Fond Memories of Theta Chi

Life has taken **Bill Windle '86** around the globe, but fond memories often take him back to Theta Chi at RPI.

"Every day when I put on my class ring," Bill says, "I see the Theta Chi embossed on the stone and think about the lifelong friends that I met there."

After growing up in Holden, Mass., Bill earned his B.S. in Chemical Engineering at RPI.

However, Bill says, "In some ways, I don't really think I went to RPI... I went to Theta Chi. Joining Theta Chi was one of the best decisions of my life. If not for the friendship, camaraderie and brotherhood nurtured at Theta Chi, my college experience wouldn't be nearly as fond a memory."

Following graduation, Bill entered US Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, and was then stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

"Not too shabby a place," says Bill.

During his five years of active duty, he completed three Western Pacific Deployments, visiting exotic locations such as Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Kenya, Pakistan, and Australia. Bill continues to serve in the US Navy Reserve as Strategic Plans Officer for the Commander, US Seventh Fleet (Yokosuka, Japan) and he was recently promoted to Captain (O-6).

#### *"Joining Theta Chi was one of the best decisions of my life."*

After leaving active duty, Bill earned his MBA at Rice University in Houston, Texas, where he met his wife of 14 years, Sally Ann. They have two young daughters, Hannah Glen (7) and Rebecca Jane (5).

"They are Southern girls, like their mother, so they each need two names," Bill explains.

With MBA in hand, Bill then went to work in the energy sector (electrical power and natural gas) and eventually made his way to the now-infamous company Enron.



**Bill Windle with his daughters Hannah Glen (left) and Rebecca Jane (right).**

"You may have heard we ran into a few problems... or should I say misunderstandings," Bill says jokingly.

After Enron, Bill and a group of colleagues started an energy commodity trading desk for a large insurance company. It was a great professional opportunity, but after commuting weekly to New York City from Houston, for three and a half years, Bill and some colleagues left and started their own hedge fund in Houston. They've since sold the fund to another large insurance company, and trade the same energy commodities for their account.

Bill emphasizes that, "I am not responsible for the high gasoline prices."

With his normal work and Navy reserve commitment, Bill doesn't have much free time. Yet, he manages to coach his daughters' under 6 and under 8 soccer teams.

Bill says, "I know nothing about soccer, but it's more about having a good snack and a cool team name."

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## Second Century Campaign Reaches 75% of \$1 Million Goal

### Healthy Competition Between Classes Helps Boosts Pledge Amounts

The public phase of our capital campaign has begun in earnest with alumni volunteers from all eras making personal contacts with other alumni to enlist their support for the campaign. Having received pledges for nearly 75% of the campaign's one million dollar goal during the initial phase of the campaign, we were ready to go "public" in June.

Taking the lead for the public phase are the class agents, alumni who have agreed

to make personal contact with all of their classmates in order to maximize participation. Their efforts are already beginning to pay off – new pledges for over \$95,000 have come in since the middle of June.

Healthy competition between classes is beginning to develop. Large donations have come from the '60's, '70's, and '80's, but the most recent graduating classes have the highest percent participation. Individual

donors are being recognized in an Honor Roll and recognition of class efforts will be made during the Centennial Celebration that is being planned for November 8, 2008.

Many thanks go to the campaign volunteers and to all who have given so generously. Your reward will be seeing the men of Theta Chi continue to be leaders on the RPI campus for Delta Chapter's second century.

## Make Plans - Delta Chapter Centennial Celebration is Growing Near

By Lew "Tex" French '83, Centennial Celebration Committee Chairman

As part of Alumni Weekend, Delta Chapter is planning to celebrate its centennial on Saturday evening, November 8, 2008, at the Heffner Alumni House on the Rensselaer campus. The Centennial Celebration is being arranged by a committee mainly comprised of Brothers from recent classes who have volunteered their time and effort to plan and coordinate the event. The semi-formal event will feature a cocktail reception, dinner, and speakers from the Rensselaer administration, Theta Chi National headquarters, and Active Brothers. Also under consideration for the event is recognition of Second Century Campaign contributors and presentation of

various Theta Chi alumni awards.

Delta Chapter selected November 7-9, 2008 as Alumni Weekend to coincide with the last regular-season football game to be played on '86 Field, Saturday afternoon, November 8, 2008. It is expected that all former athletes who played on '86 Field will be invited to return to bid farewell to the field, most likely during halftime ceremonies. Starting in 2009, football games will be played at the new football stadium in the new East Campus Athletic Village (ECAV), opening in the fall of 2009.

Please visit the Delta Chapter website ([www.deltachapter-thetachi.org](http://www.deltachapter-thetachi.org)) frequently

for up to date news, details on how to contribute photos for presentation during the event, and the opportunity to purchase commemorative polo and tee shirts. The committee plans to sell the commemorative shirts to defray the cost of the event. Any funds remaining after the Centennial Celebration will be donated to the Second Century Campaign. Please look for your formal invitation to arrive in September and plan to RSVP by mid-October. Please plan on attending this once-in-a-lifetime event to celebrate the legacy and future of Delta Chapter.

## Alumni Reunion

Several Class of '85 brothers gathered in the Capital District at the end of June for some golf and camaraderie; they also stopped by the chapter house to look around.



**Front (L-R):** Bill Oстераas, Tom Uhlig, Matt Siegel; **Back (L-R):** Doug Jablonski, Barry Essig, John Lonati, John Nebens, Rip Collins, George Quigley, Kyle Schlosser.

The class of 1968 was in Troy in June celebrating its 40th reunion. The following '68 Theta Chi alumni and wives stopped by the chapter house for some snacks before their class dinner:



**Front (L-R):** Bill & Nancy Ablondi, Debbie Clapper, Murph & Phyllis Rostker; **Middle (L-R):** Mary Lou and Joe Zirnheld, Jim Clapper, Lee White; **Back (L-R):** Rich Mowrey, Nick Balogh.

# Alumni President's Report

## Ray Moran '95 Follows Large Footsteps and Becomes New President of Alumni Board

By Ray Moran '95; President, Delta Theta Chi Corporation

Brothers,

It is an honor writing to you as the new President of the Alumni Board.

I am following in the large footsteps left by **Greg Willmott '87**. Greg served as President for three years guiding the Board and all of Delta Chapter through challenging times. Thank you for your service and remember that you are still on retainer!

**Paul Silhan '71**'s time of service also concluded this June. Paul's four years on the board saw him serve as our webmaster, *Delta Dial* Publisher, legal document writer/consultant, and sage voice of reason. He will continue on as our webmaster and a trusted advisor.

At our June Board meeting, Greg and Paul were presented with memorial clocks as a token of appreciation for their years of service. Both are pictured below next to the piano with their clocks.

I would like to welcome **Todd Snelson '86** and **Dan Moellman '74** onto the board and introduce the complete list of Board members on page 1.

Since the last *Dial*, the board has been busy with the Capital Campaign, providing guidance on the Centennial Celebration and mentoring current brothers on Rush. Going above and beyond, **Todd Snelson '86** has provided tutoring sessions for actives helping to foster better study skills and habits.

Thank you to the **Classes of '68 and '85** for taking time out of your reunion and golf outing to celebrate both the past and present at 2100 Burdett Avenue! (See pictures)

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, in Watertown, Massachusetts at Sasaki Associates' home offices, **Matt Patricia '98** gave a keynote speech for Rensselaer Athletics and the East Campus Athletic Village unveiling to local Alumni. Matt gave a passionate speech and it was great to see the following Theta Chi Brothers in attendance including **Rob McIntosh '60** and

his lovely wife Jane, **Bob Maloney '94**, **Mark Barnes '96**, **Mike Mucci '96**, **Angelo Vissas '97**. I am sorry if I missed anyone.

As we move forward in 2008 (heading into Delta Chapter's 100th Anniversary), it is very clear to me that we are as strong as ever. From a bright past, we strive for an even brighter future with the continued support of so many Brothers, and take solace in knowing that the current Brothers have what it takes to perpetuate our traditions of excellence.

Outgoing Alumni Board members **Paul Silhan '71** (left) and **Greg Willmott '87** (right) were presented with clocks for their years of dedicated service to Theta Chi.

*Engravings on the clocks:*

Presented to Greg Willmott  
By Delta Theta Chi Corporation  
For Three Years of Outstanding  
Leadership as President of the  
Alumni Board of Directors  
June 8, 2008

Presented to Paul Silhan  
For his outstanding four years of service  
On the Theta Chi Fraternity Alumni  
Board of Directors  
June 8, 2008



## Alumni Profile

(Continued from Page 1)

Bill recalls many fond memories of Theta Chi and RPI such as band parties, Springfest, intramural sports, rush, and hell week. One particularly fond memory is driving cross-country after graduation with **Phil Theiller '86** and **Todd Snelson '86**, and ending in Chicago for **Tim Grewe's '86** wedding.

One somber moment Bill recalls is the passing of his classmate, **Don Kobis '86**, during their junior year. Don was a large,regarious person who made everyone laugh.

"I still remember Don's smile," Bill recalls.

Bill is working with his fellow 1986 classmates to pool their contributions to the Theta Chi Second Century Campaign and submit the total in Don's memory.

"I fully support the campaign and I applaud those folks who are not only contributing their financial resources, but perhaps more importantly, those who are contributing their time to make the campaign a success," Bill says. "We need to ensure that future Theta Chi brothers

can have the life experiences we enjoyed at RPI."

Bill manages to keep in touch with several of his classmates (**Dale Wiggins '85**, **Jeff Masucci '86**, **Craig Woolhiser '86**, **Vinny DeRobertis '86**, **Phil Theiller '86**, **Chris Latran '86**, **Dave Smith '86**).

"I love to get the Christmas cards with family pictures and letters outlining the goings-on of the past year," Bill says.

Bill invites any brothers passing through the Houston, Texas area to look him up.

## Undergraduate Report

### Undergrads Receive 4-Star Rating and Initiate 17 Men in 2007-08 School Year

By Jacob Kalencik '08

As the undergraduate president and a graduating senior in December I cannot say enough about Theta Chi and how it has grown in many directions through the years. I will begin with our proudest achievement this past year, rush.



Jacob Kalencik '08

In the fall we initiated 12 new members, ten of which were freshmen.

Our most effective recruitment tool was our evening dinners, which are held Sunday through Thursday every week at 7 p.m. during football and 6 p.m. during the off-season. Everyone in the house gets together to feast on great meals prepared by other actives, but most importantly to tell stories about the day and bond together.

Dinner together has been a tradition at Theta Chi since before I was a pledge, so I take it for granted, but when visitors come from national or other chapters, they tell us

they don't have this daily form of connection among brothers.

Back to the topic of rush, bringing kids up to the house after practice for home cooking really filled their stomachs and minds as they saw us all having a genuinely good time. The efforts of upper-class athletes **James Porambo, Justin Heafy, and Ian Johnson** really pushed the new athletes to come experience the house on a daily basis. In the spring we initiated five more pledges, bringing our yearly count to 17, a number the house hasn't seen in years.

Next year we are shooting for over 20 and with so many young actives, we should have no trouble meeting our goal.

Aside from rush, we have been bonding as a brotherhood through our new tradition called "move-in" week. All the actives living in-house move back a week before school begins and everyone participates in daily activities like cleaning the house. This allows us to share stories about our summer experiences. The

cleaning ranges from organizing the kitchen to mowing the lawn, and even painting the ceilings and doors. Again, if you are in the area, please give us a call.

This past year Theta Chi was awarded the Greek 4-star rating, on a one to five scale. The rating is posted on the IFC website for incoming freshmen and families to view. Over 30 houses were evaluated and only about four received five stars. We just missed receiving five stars by a few points in an overall fraternity scoring system that covered every aspect of the house from ritual to maintenance. With the direction we are headed in the next years, there is no doubt in my mind that we have the capabilities of becoming a 5-star house.

I have so much I'd like to inform you of in the small amount of space, but this is all I can fit. If you have any questions or are interested in giving us a hand on a weekend, please give me a call at (860) 389-4418 or email me at kalenj2@rpi.edu.

*Recent Successes Point to Bright Future for Theta Chi...  
Details Inside!*

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Delta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity

