

FINAL... Theta Chi Colonization Program

Sunday, October 1st, 2017

Good afternoon! What a terrific day this is...to be here at this wonderful University and with “brothers” and friends, renewing friendships and creating new ones and celebrating the return of Gamma Mu Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity to the campus of Bowling Green State University! A very exciting day...along with a very inspiring ceremony!

AND....

Congratulations to each of you and welcome to Gamma Mu Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity as Pledges committed to the future growth and leadership of this outstanding fraternity and chapter and it’s contributions to BGSU...which I love very much!

As you made your decision for Theta Chi, I know that you asked James and John and Roc and others...“what is my future in Gamma Mu of Theta Chi?” Even at this moment the question is still unanswered! You are also asking yourself...“What is my future at BGSU?” Gentlemen, I have that answer for you! But first, I want to share a story! A 58 year old story!!

Just a short walk to the western edge of campus from where we are right now, stands Shatzel Hall which was a freshman men’s residence hall. In September of 1959 a loaded station wagon...that was the SUV of the day...arrived with two parents and their son, all three of whom were beginning their BGSU Experience. When everything was moved in and the good byes and good lucks were exchanged, along with the usual tears...although somewhat hidden...the station wagon moved out and my BG life began.

Fraternity life was of interest to me because my Dad was a fraternity man while completing college during the depression. Over the years his fraternity’s National magazines came to our home...he was a PHI GAMMA DELTA... which was not at BG in those years...and I often read them growing up. Dad shared stories of his “brotherhood experiences” and encouraged me to consider fraternity life as I saw it at BG. He guided me to look for commonality with the

brothers along with the fraternity's strength of presence and leadership throughout the campus as well as the very important challenge of maximizing myself and the chapter academically.

Obviously, Theta Chi became my fraternal home as it did for all the Gamma Mu "brothers" assembled here today as well as those who could not make the journey and of course those who are in The Chapter Eternal!

Because of the belief in Theta Chi and the impact that Gamma Mu had on each of us from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's, YOU are being presented with the very unique opportunity and responsibility to re-colonize and take Gamma Mu to heights in this University that were only dreamed of in past decades. Look around this room at the assembled "brothers". Get to know us and hear our stories! This will answer the questions of "What is my future in Gamma Mu of Theta Chi" and "What is my future in BGSU"? The answer is right here in front of you. 70 year olds and 60 year olds and brothers at 50 and 40 are here because of 4 wonderful years experienced in this brotherhood and on this campus! A LIFETIME OF VALUE!!

If each of you "give your time, talent and commitment" to your chosen fraternity and your chosen University, as all of these men did in their years and strive to contribute in the classroom and through all the "communities" and "organizations" and "activities" within BGSU, you will leave here in 2021 well prepared for your life Beyond BG! But most importantly, you will have the Gamma Mu/Theta Chi Spirit that created this day for YOU, bringing you back in 2067 to assist our new pledge brothers on their 50 year journey! Mark my words, it will happen! "BELONG--STAND OUT--GO FAR"

Congratulations and "welcome home"!

William H. Ficken, Jr

Gamma Mu 1963