



# Omicronicle

April 2009

## Special Interest Articles:

- Come to Formal Initiation!
- Plenty of pictures!

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## Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity

### Chapter at University of Iowa

# Craig Just Speaks at Professional Development Dinner

Dr. Craig Just spoke at the Annual Professional Development Dinner on Friday, April 3, 2009, in the South Room of the Iowa Memorial Union (IMU). His topic was sustainability and he allowed everyone to participate in a conversation on what sustainability meant to them.



Craig Just, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Associate Research Scientist, IIHR-Hydrosience & Engineering, University of Iowa

Craig Just is an associate research engineer at IIHR – Hydrosience & Engineering at The University of Iowa. He is also Vice President for Research and Development at Ecolotree®, Inc. Dr. Just received a B.S. and M.A. in chemistry from the University of Northern Iowa, and a Ph.D. in environmental science from the University of Iowa. He excels at the interface of environmental analytical chemistry and applied engineering in research projects in the areas of:

phytoremediation of explosives; water quality and cyberinfrastructure; fate determination of contaminants during wastewater treatment; and poverty reduction and community building in countries such as Guatemala, Mexico and Haiti. Dr. Just is the coordinator of sustainability programs in the College of Engineering at the University of Iowa. In 2008, he won the University's President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence. As an instructor and faculty advisor, he works with students who aspire to address human development issues in resource-poor nations, from a perspective of sustainable engineering.

## How to Survive Engineering Seminar

In the fall semester, Theta Tau Omicron welcomed new students by hosting a seminar titled "How to Survive Engineering". This one hour seminar gave incoming students a chance to learn some useful pieces of information that make getting through academics, career fairs, and just functioning in Iowa City

easier. Highlights included instructions on how to find free parking in Iowa City, a couple time savers in Excel, study advice, maps of the engineering building, and an overview of student organizations both within and outside of engineering. The material was gathered by interviewing members (and random people in the

hallway) and compiling a list of the things they found most useful throughout their studies at Iowa. Attendance of the program was a bit lower than expected, but several of the attendees decided to join Theta Tau.

In H & T,  
Brother Nikki Becklinger

## From the Regent's Desk



Above:  
New Brothers at  
Formal Initiation

Below: Members  
of Omicron  
Chapter

*"I have been very encouraged to witness the commitment and excitement of my brothers to our continual growth as a chapter."*

Many generations have passed and our roll book approaches 1400. Omicron has grown and overcome many challenges. It is with great pride that I reside over this chapter. The members and new members in training are energized with inspiration that brings life into Omicron. Just last year, we were at a number lower than we have been in several decades. Last semester we were able to double our numbers. It was the effort of one brother, who accompanied me to Nationals that kept me motivated in continuing my cause for Theta Tau and rise up to become Regent. Two more brought forth ideas that enabled us to create events that not only informed others about Theta Tau, but bring insight and connection to the students here at Iowa. Yet another brought old traditions to light by cleaning and organizing our ancient office. Even with other items to attend to and not yet a formal member, one brother

in training attended every meeting, assisted at every event, on time and ready. Although our numbers may still be small, it is through the contributions of a few of our members that our fraternity is able to flourish. This past semester we introduced two new traditions in hope they will continue. The first is to handout to each member and pledge a list of how each person has benefited others in the fraternity. This list was created by the members of the chapter and over 20 pages of compliments were given. Each member received a list and some, though waived in their decisions toward Theta Tau, now hold steady to its purpose. These were handed to members during thanksgiving, as a 'thankful' for Theta Tau reminder. To honor those I was especially thankful for having, a 'key' member award was created for the member who contributed the most to the preservation of the chapter.

Although the first official presentation was not until this year, I have included the names of those recipients from last semester below. I strongly encourage you all to follow in your hearts our motto to do the best we can. If you would like to send in why you are thankful for your fellow brothers or Theta Tau as a whole, write to Omicron, either by hand or by e-mail, and I assure you their reception will be greatly appreciated.

Key members:

- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| John Foster       | Oct. 2008  |
| Andrew Stessman   | Nov. 2008  |
| Nicole Becklinger | Dec. 2008  |
| Adam Smith        | Jan. 2009  |
| Brenton Steinmann | Feb. 2009  |
| Staci Quam        | March 2009 |
| Alyssa Neiers     | April 2009 |

In H&T,  
Christopher Lu  
X! Omicron 1339

## Vice Regent Update



The past year has included its ups and downs as our chapter continues to grow and reinvent traditions. From successful fall and spring pledge classes to professional development seminars and dinners to improved brother building, our chapter is slowly but surely developing into a strong chapter that will continue to be a major asset to the engineering community at the University of Iowa. I have been very encouraged

to witness the commitment and excitement of my brothers to our continual growth as a chapter. An example of this is demonstrated by the mission bestowed upon the current pledges of kidnapping Arnold, our beloved mascot. The confrontations and activities to steal Arnold away from the actives have been fun, great brother builders, and even a little bloody! I personally have bled a

number of times to maintain the actives' possession of Arnold! I am so excited to finally observe chapter growth and brotherhood for Omicron. All is well in Iowa City!!!

Brother Adam Smith  
1356 Omicron Y! VV! XX!  
TT!

## Get Your Game Face On

It all started with a notion about playing some wiffleball. After a couple “Dude, I’ll play” responses, I printed off the sheet and brought it to the engineering building. We had 6 members and a pledge for the wiffleball tournament, and we made it a shindig. We kept up pretty well, keeping the score tied... until they batted for the first time. It wasn’t a pretty game, but it wasn’t a bad one

either, considering it was 8 a.m. on a Saturday. We lost 11-1, but we had the ‘W’ in our hearts.

Since the wiffleball was such a blast, we set up a kick ball team like a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade recess flashback. Nine actives showed up for the game as the team, “1<sup>st</sup> Round Wonders,” for what we thought would be luck. When the first kick sailed

over our heads, we knew we had to kick it up a notch. We were down nearly 16 points, but a rally in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning brought us to 7-19. Unfortunately the time ran out during our rally, but we did leave with another “W” in our hearts.

In H & T,  
Austin Gunn



*Right: Wing Fest at Buffalo Wild Wings*



*Left: Jameson carves the Gear of Theta Tau into his apple*

*Right: Pledge meeting activity: symbol carving in apples*



## New Brothers and New Pledges

On January 30 of this year, our chapter, along with several alumni, initiated 8 new members into Theta Tau. These new initiates have already been very active in the chapter taking positions as Scribe, Corresponding Secretary, and Head Pledge Trainer, as well as many supporting roles. The following week was our spring Rush Week which included both new and traditional activities.

One very fun activity was playing Guitar Hero World Tour on the large projection screens and another was the traditional Wing Fest at Buffalo Wild Wings. Four new pledges are now on their way to becoming members in Theta Tau: Tyler Stockman, Jake Ehrmann, Amy Criswell, and Jameson Schoenfelder. These pledges have already been active in our chapter participating in intramural

kickball and wiffleball, chapter dinners, attempting to steal Arnold, and apple carving. Many activities are planned for this spring including road clean-up on I-80 and a blood drive. Omicron is continuing to grow not only in membership but in brotherhood as well!

In H&T!

Alyssa Neiers  
Corresponding Secretary

*Guitar Hero Jam for Rush Week*



**Omicron Chapter of  
Theta Tau**

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**Come to Spring 2009 Formal Initiation**

Initiation for new brothers of Omicron Chapter of Theta Tau will be held May 1, 2009, at Masonic Temple located at 312 College Street, Iowa City, Iowa, at 6:00 p.m. All alumni are invited and encouraged to attend. Dinner will be served following the ceremony at the same location catered by Hy-Vee. The meal will consist of chicken parmesan, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, and desert, and will cost \$15. Please RSVP to omicron@engineering.uiowa.edu as soon as possible so we can give an accurate count to Hy-Vee.



*Pictures of the Masonic Temple*



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.icaen.uiowa.edu/~omicron/](http://www.icaen.uiowa.edu/~omicron/)



**OMICRON CHAPTER  
OF THETA TAU**

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