

ALPHA XI, established on 14 February 1883, at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey, by Frank VanVleck, North McLean, Charles Walter Thomas, William Norris Stevens, Simeon Martinez, Daniel Curtis Williams, Jesse Homer Sanford, and John Austen McCulloch.

STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY at Hoboken, New Jersey, was founded in 1870 by Edwin A. Stevens, a man at that time preeminent in engineering. It was the first college in the United States to graduate men trained as mechanical engineers and soon gained recognition from the engineering world. Shortly after its founding, four national fraternities were chartered, and a local society called Alpha Psi was established. Some of the members of Alpha Psi knew at Chi Psis at Rutgers and approved heartily of the spirit of the Fraternity. They decided to apply for a charter which, after a wait of two years, was granted.

Frank VanVleck '84 was initiated at Alpha Rho, and on 14 February 1883 the other seven charter members, McLean, Thomas, Stevens, Martinez, Williams, Sanford, and McCulloch, were initiated at Hoboken. In this way Alpha Xi of Chi Psi began its career. From the first, the Brothers not only ranked high in scholarship, but held enormous college honors. The Alpha prospered and became highly respected by both faculty and students. During the first two college years, meetings were held in a room at One Washington Street, with other rooms being rented for initiations. On returning to college in the fall of 1884, the Alpha rented a small apartment at Ninth and Hudson Streets where meetings and initiations were held and where the Brothers lived; Xi thus became the first fraternity at Stevens to have a home of its own. A few years later, a larger Lodge was secured to accommodate a greater number of live-in Brothers and provide a location in which to prepare meals for the Brotherhood.

Early in the 1890s, the Alpha became more involved with the faculty and several campus organizations, and this marked the beginning of fraternity interaction with faculty, administration, and the general student body on the Stevens campus. During the 1896-97 school year, the Institute celebrated its 25th anniversary, and a number of Xi



Edward Segal '67 accepts 1967 Thayer Trophy.

alumni participated by exhibiting models, machinery, and scientific instruments which they had made or invented. Although the student enrollment and Fraternity membership decreased near the turn of the century,

the spirit and standing of the Alpha remained good. In 1891 and 1900, in fact, the 50th and 59th Conventions, respectively, were held in New York under the auspices of Alpha Xi.

During the first decade of the new century, under the administration of a new Stevens' president, the Alpha boasted the highest scholastic average on campus, as well as its largest membership in 20 years. Despite the considerable mounting antagonism between fraternity and non-fraternity students, the fraternities began to play a more prominent role in the Hoboken campus. At this time the "honor system" was tried, the results of which proved so satisfactory that the faculty decided to continue the system. A year later the new Stevens athletic field, strikingly located on an elevation above the surrounding parts of Hoboken, was dedicated and opened, marking the new era for the Institute. Four years later, in 1911, Stevens Castle was opened as the first dormitory. This affected



The Lodge of Alpha Xi at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey.

fraternities, for the freshmen were obligated to live there during their first school year. In 1916, however, following the administration's permission for fraternity's to purchase building sites along the perimeter of the athletic field, the Alpha Xi Land Company secured a Lodge at 829 Hudson Street, and the Brothers moved in.

The entrance of the United States into World War 1 in 1917 was soon felt by Alpha Xi. Altogether about 65 actives and alumni of Alpha Xi were in the Army, Navy, or other government service during that war. In 1918, the Lodge was given over to the government as quarters for the Army officers stationed in Hoboken. This continued until the Armistice, after which, with the Brothers returning and the resumption of activities in the Lodge the Alpha began its recovery. During the early 1920s, the active membership resumed to pre-war levels, and once again it reigned as the academic powerhouse among fraternities. The Alpha was also very active in campus activities, and the formation of a new Parents' Association was a perfect means of further interesting the boys' families in the Alpha.

With the succession of a new president at Stevens, new steps were taken to increase the enrollment and to attract students from all parts of the country. A new and larger Stevens was planned, and this new Stevens meant new, larger tuition charges. Around this time, Xi's membership began to diminish, and recovery was slow. In 1930, with the assistance of Visitor "Billy" Rock, the membership noticeably picked up and prosperity again appeared on the horizon. By 1932, the Lodge was full and Xi held most of the important college offices again. This continued for six years until suddenly signs of "slipping" again surfaced. The 1937 "recession" was partly responsible for this de-

cline, and some of the Brothers were forced to leave school because of financial difficulties. But, with the help of the alumni, the end of the 1930s was once again bright for Alpha Xi. In June of 1940, the Alpha Xi Alumni Association replaced the Xi Land Company, and they spent a great deal of time and money redecorating the Lodge on Hudson Street.

During 1941-42, while the war was raging in Europe, the Lodge membership remained strong and active. But as Demarest Romaine, the Alpha Editor, wrote in March of 1942, "The present emergency makes itself felt in the fact that two Brothers are pretty well slated for the Navy." Two months later, because Stevens was a technical school, the curriculum was extended from nine months to a year, and for every two terms a student spent in school he was required to work one in industry. The seniors were scattered among the various armed services, and in 1943, the campus itself resembled a military academy since the Institute had agreed to sponsor the V-12 Navy Personnel Training Program.

While Stevens experienced "uniform minded days," the Alpha still remained active during one of the most turbulent periods of American history. The fraternities survived primarily because of the V-12 program's support of the Greek system; while Brothers left school to join the war effort, they were replaced by enthusiastic Navy trainees. Even as late as April 1945, the Alpha included 18 actives and 10 pledges.

With the triumphant conclusion to the Second World War, the universities and fraternity systems across the country began to grow. During the late 1940s, college campuses were forced to expand their facilities to accommodate increased enroll-



The charter members of Alpha Xi in 1884

ment, and the fraternities were experiencing their greatest membership in many years. The Lodge at Stevens was completely filled with Brothers, and this prosperity positively affected scholarship and campus activities: once again the Alpha ranked #1 academically among fraternities. Throughout the early 1950s they dominated campus scholarship, and 1951 was highlighted by the Alumni Association's acquisition of a brand new Lodge at 804 Castle Point Terrace.

The building itself was dedicated to G. P. Richardson, '97, who had donated a great deal of his time to the Alpha and had single-handedly nursed it through some of the more

Stevens Institute of Technology

OVERLOOKING the Hudson River and midtown Manhattan from Castle Point in Hoboken, Stevens is committed to sustaining "a community of individuals who are dedicated to the achievement of excellence and who share a vision related to engineering, management, and applied and pure science."

The college is named for a distinguished family who perpetuated a tradition in American engineering dating back to the early days of the Industrial Revolution. John Stevens, a colonel in the Revolutionary War, purchased in 1784 from the state of New Jersey the land included in the present-day campus. Before 1800 Colonel Stevens was a pioneer in the development of the steamboat, and by 1825 he had designed the first American-built steam locomotive, which he ran on a circular track in Hoboken to demonstrate the practicality of steam-powered transportation on land. The school opened its doors in 1870, after a member of the Stevens family bequeathed a generous gift for land, buildings and endowment.

Three-quarters of the students come from New Jersey, with most of the rest from New York and Connecticut, and 83% of the students are male. All freshmen are required to purchase a DEC 350 personal computer. Fraternities provide about the only social activity on campus, although Manhattan is just a short ride away.

difficult periods. Alumni Association participation sky-rocketed throughout these post-war years, helping with structural and aesthetic improvements to the Lodge and the implementation of the successful "Alumni Day" celebrations. The traditional Parents Club contributed to the Alpha Xi resurgence by sponsoring yearly Christmas party extravaganzas and spring "card parties." This alumni and parent enthusiasm was a great source of motivation and excitement for the actives, and in 1959 Alpha Xi not only recaptured the IFC Scholarship Trophy, but also brought the coveted Thayer Trophy to the Lodge for the first time in Xi's history.

As the student body increased, larger quarters were needed to accommodate a growing administration. Therefore the popular Stevens Castle was raised and the modern Stevens Center was constructed in its place. Two new dormitories were also built to facilitate a change from a predominantly commuter oriented school to a residential college.

The early 1960s were just as prosperous for the Chi Psis at 804 Castle Point Terrace. They retained their academic supremacy on the Stevens campus and won Chi Psi's 1963

Goodbody Trophy. They became more politically powerful on campus, and several Brothers held positions in the Student Council, the Interfraternity Council, the student-managed Honor Board, and in 1965 two Brothers were elected president of the freshman and sophomore classes. As a supplement to their academic and campus organization prowess, the Lodge included Brothers with exceptional athletic ability. They placed second in the all-sports trophy competition, and proudly produced two All-American lacrosse players. At the 1966 Convention in Columbia, South Carolina, the Brothers of Alpha Xi once again took home the Thayer Trophy.

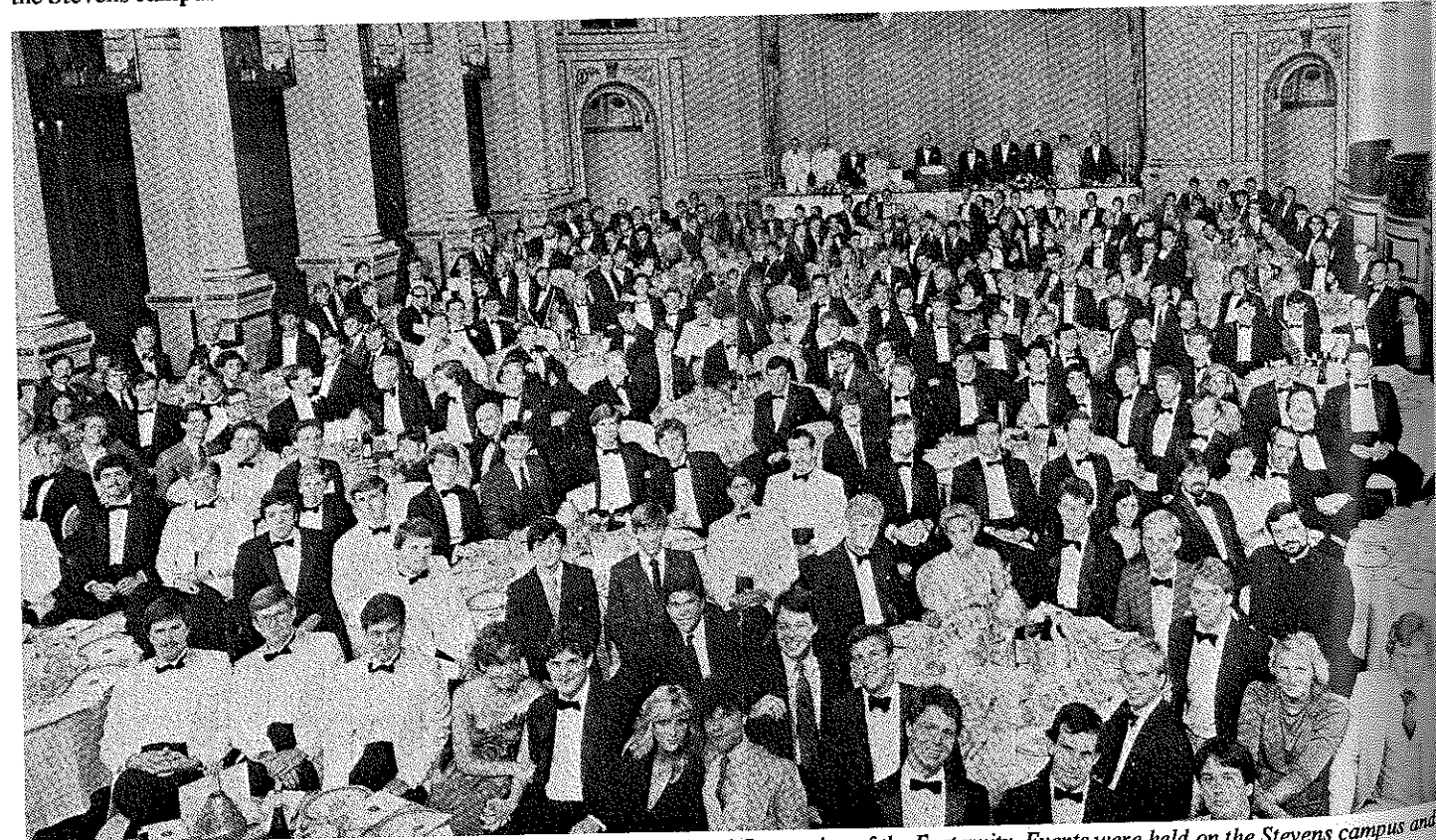
Alpha Xi fared well in the later part of the 1960s, but the early '70s brought the free speech movement, questions of U. S. involvement in Vietnam, and general apathy to the Stevens campus. As was the case at most college campuses during this era, the fraternity system did not fare well during the time of campus unrest. For the first time in a number of years, Alpha Xi's scholarship plummeted, and the Alpha found itself crippled with financial problems. By 1975, however, the Brothers regained their aca-

demical and financial composure and were awarded the first Chi Psi Founders Trophy honoring the most improved Alpha for that year.

In 1983, Alpha Xi celebrated its centennial anniversary of continuous existence with a banquet at the Lodge on 14 February. In August, the 142nd National Convention honored the Alpha by coming to Stevens. Formal sessions were held at the Newark Airport Holiday Inn, some dinners and receptions were held at the Lodge in Hoboken, and the final banquet was held in the Grand Ballroom of New York's Plaza hotel. This Convention chartered a new Alpha at Texas Tech and, in honor of 100 years at Stevens, named it Alpha Xi Delta.

As has been the case so many times at Stevens, the fortunes of Chi Psi are closely linked to the rise and fall of the fortunes of the school. As Chi Psi turns 150, enrollment is down at Stevens, and membership in fraternities is at its lowest level in years. The Alpha has bounced back so often before, and there are great hopes and expectations for prosperity for Chi Psi and for Stevens Institute in the years ahead.

—Kris A. Donaldson, ΔΔ'81 & WSH



The Centennial of Alpha Xi was celebrated by hosting the 1983 National Convention of the Fraternity. Events were held on the Stevens campus and in Hoboken, business sessions near the Newark Airport, and the final Banquet was in the Grand Ballroom of the Plaza Hotel in New York City.

CHI PSI FRATERNITY

ALPHA LISTINGS

Alumni of
CHI PSI FRATERNITY

XI

STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECH., 1883

CLASS OF 1884

Frank VanVleck**
b. 01/07/1863, Napanock, NY; 1884 ME Stevens, 1885
John Hopkins, '04 PhD George Washington; d. 02/23/
39.

CLASS OF 1885

Anson Wood Burchard**
b. 04/21/1865, Hoosick Falls, NY; 1885 ME Stevens, '26
LLD Union College; d. 01/22/27.

Barton Haxall Coffey**
b. 01/31/1865, London England; 1885 ME Stevens; d.
05/14/37.

Leon Greenbaum**
b. 04/14/1863, Sacramento, CA; 1885 ME Stevens; d.
12/00/35.

Simeon Martinez**
1885 ME Stevens; d. 1923.

Jesse Homer Sanford**
b. 12/16/1861, Vienna, OH; d. 04/05/37.

William Norris Stevens**
1885 ME Stevens; d. 12/28/22.

Daniel Curtis Williams**
Brother H. D. Williams; d. 02/27/31.

Harvey Daniel Williams**
b. 02/24/1864, Shaftsbury, VT; 1885 ME Stevens;
Brother D. C. Williams; d. 03/09/31.

CLASS OF 1886

William Fox**
1884 BS CCNY, 1886 ME Stevens; d. 05/04/39.

William Lescuer Haynes**
Rugers, 1886 ME Stevens; d. 09/07/23.

John Austen McCulloch**
1886 ME Stevens; d. 07/07/38.

CLASS OF 1887

Joseph Aloysius McElroy**
b. 03/20/1859, Bridgeport, CT; 1887 ME Stevens; d.
04/28/34.

Washington Everett Parsons**
b. 03/04/1860, Salisbury, MD; 1887 ME Stevens; d.
10/31/40.

Alfred Henry Schlesinger**
b. 01/07/1865, College Pt., NY; 1887 ME Stevens; d.
02/18/33.

William Ernest Schoenborn**
b. 03/08/1865, Washington, DC; 1887 ME Stevens, 1889
LLS Nat. Law Univ., MPL Columbian Univ.; d. 06/05/
38.

George Darius Willits**
b. 03/03/1860, Adian, MI; Stevens, MI Agr. College; d.
05/19/39.

CLASS OF 1888

Robert Millington Blankenship**
b. 05/05/1866, Richmond, VA; 1888 ME Stevens; d.
01/22/04.

CLASS OF 1889

Joseph Augusta Coen**
Walter Weldon Jackson**
b. 01/04/1870, East Orange, NJ; 1889 ME Stevens; d.
01/02/35.

Robert Elting Wyant**
b. 02/13/1868, Orange, NJ; 1889 ME Stevens; Father R.
Wyant, Uncle D. W. Barron; d. 12/01/29.

CLASS OF 1890

Alberto Carlos Atristain**
1890 ME Stevens; d. 03/09/24.

John Somers DeHart, Jr.**
b. 02/14/1869, Jersey City, NJ; 1890 ME Stevens; Father
S. DeHart, K. DeHart, Uncle C. A. Fuller Jr.; d. 12/24/27.

Arthur Herbert Hall**
b. 12/05/1869, New York, NY; 1890 ME Stevens; d.
12/26/31.

Harford Toland Marshall**
b. 04/03/1869, Mexico City, NY; d. 11/26/32.

Albert Bridges Moore**
b. 04/04/1868, Elizabeth, NJ; 1890 ME Stevens; d. 05/19/
32.

CLASS OF 1891

Alexander Dow**
1891 ME Stevens; d. 08/25/34.

John Gardiner Gould**
Stevens, Princeton; d. 12/00/38.

Julius Oelbermann**
b. 12/24/1868, Philadelphia, PA; 1891 ME Stevens; d.
12/28/28.

George Simeon Perkins**
1891 ME Stevens; d. 06/22/33.

CLASS OF 1893

George Clinton Mackenzie**
b. 07/09/1872, New York, NY; Stevens, Columbia, Ecole
des Beaux Arts; Brother W. P. Mackenzie, Cousin H. E.
Williams; d. 03/10/40.

CLASS OF 1894

Andre Herman DeValliere**
d. 10/15/1891.

Alfred Bond Howell**
d. 11/21/1891.

CLASS OF 1895

John Fayerweather**
Cousin D. D. Cooke; d. 10/02/1898.

William Davidson Kirker**
b. 1874, Paterson, NJ; Stevens, Columbia; d. 11/20/34.

Adams Child Sumner**
b. 10/24/1872, Brooklyn, NY; 1895 ME Stevens; d. 03/
31/31.

CLASS OF 1896

Edward Campbell**
b. 09/15/1874, Liverpool England; 1896 ME Stevens; d.
12/16/39.

CLASS OF 1897

Frederick Edwin Scott**
1897 ME Stevens; d. 1910.

George Danforth Williamson**
b. 02/11/1876, Jersey City, NJ; 1897 ME Stevens; Cousin
J. A. Williamson, Cousin J. A. Williamson Jr.; d. 09/19/
30.

CLASS OF 1898

Emil Henry Frank, Jr.**
1898 ME Stevens; d. 04/29/26.

Luther Halsey Johnson**
b. 10/12/1877, Newark, NJ; 1898 ME Stevens; Brother
W. C. Johnson; d. 06/13/40.

Ralph Clapp McLain**
b. 1877, Baltimore, MD; Stevens, EE Columbia Univ.

Arthur Underhill**

CLASS OF 1899

Harold Robert Sanson**
b. 11/30/1876, East Orange, NJ; 1899 ME Stevens;
Brother F. B. Sanson, Uncle A. M. Sanson Jr.; d. 12/30/
33.

Clarence King Underhill**
b. 07/04/1877, New York, NY; Brother A. Underhill,
Brother E. Underhill, Cousin H. L. Underhill.

CLASS OF 1900

Harold Edward Williams**
b. 04/24/1877, Newark, NJ; '00 ME Stevens; Cousin G.
C. Mackenzie, Cousin W. P. Mackenzie.

CLASS OF 1901

William Alexander Tennille**
b. 04/00/1876, New York, NY; d. 11/11/39.

CLASS OF 1902

Edward Betts Brisley**
'02 ME Stevens; d. 01/08/08.

David Dudley Field**
Boston Tech. Inst., Stevens; Brother E. M. Field, Brother
W. H. Field, Brother T. F. Field, Brother J. A. Field; d.
03/00/04.

CLASS OF 1903

Raymond Searing Baldwin**
b. 05/22/1881, Newark, NJ; '03 ME Stevens.

Joseph Starr String**
b. 12/19/1879, East Orange, NJ; '03 ME Stevens; Brother
J. F. String; d. 05/17/37.

Daniel Coryton Woodbury**
'03 ME Stevens; Nephew E. Nicoll.

CLASS OF 1905

Edgar Harrington Bedell**
b. 12/04/1883, Newark, NJ; '05 ME Stevens.

Walter Otto Borchardt**
b. 06/06/1883, Chicago, IL; '05 ME Stevens; d. 04/25/39.

George William Knight**
b. 09/13/1882, Newark, NJ; '05 ME Stevens; d. 11/21/26.

Colton David Noble**
b. 02/13/1882, New Britain, CT; d. 07/03/37.

CLASS OF 1906

Reginald Wilson Murray**
b. 09/15/1884, Dupont, IN; '06 ME Stevens; d. 11/20/30.

CLASS OF 1907

Harold Woodhull Adams**
b. 1886, Newark, NJ; Stevens; Brother R. C. Adams; d.
1906.

CLASS OF 1909

Howard Marsh Chandler**
'09 ME Stevens; d. 10/14/11.

Denning Hansell**
b. 11/29/1885, Hartford, CT; '09 ME Stevens; d. 03/00/
34.

CLASS OF 1910

C. Frederick Cunningham**
b. 05/17/1889, Paterson, NJ; '10 ME Stevens; Cousin J.
M. Rogers.

Thomas Hinckley**
b. 08/04/1888, Washington, DC; Stevens; d. 11/06/18.

Edward Harsen Little**
b. 11/04/1884, Morristown, NJ; '05 AB Princeton, '10
ME Stevens.

CLASS OF 1911

Charles Edward Wessels**
d. 08/04/10.

CLASS OF 1912

Cleland Coldwell Ross**
b. 11/18/1889, Newburgh, NY; '12 ME Stevens; Brother
C. A. Ross.

CLASS OF 1913

Edmund Deats Fryer**
Stevens; d. 09/20/30.

E. Van Dyke Wetmore**
Edward VanDyke Wetmore**
b. 12/28/1826, Albany, NY; '13 ME Stevens.

CLASS OF 1914

Arthur James Waterlow Ford**
b. 10/29/1890, San Francisco, CA; Father R. W. Ford,
Brother S. W. Ford, Brother N. W. Ford, Brother G. W.
Ford.

CLASS OF 1915

Lawrence Ten Broeck VanVechten**
b. 04/04/1891, South Orange, NJ; '14 ME Stevens;
Cousin J. M. Firth, Cousin S. M. Firth, Cousin S. F.
Lawrence; d. 02/28/25.

CLASS OF 1916

William Clayton Farris**
b. 10/02/1894, Ft. Smith, AR; '16 ME Stevens; Father
W. C. Farris Jr., Nephew W. H. H. Clayton Jr.

Stanley T. Held**
John Clifford Yordon**
b. 11/19/1894, Ft. Plain, NY; '16 ME Stevens; Brother E.
W. Yordon II.

CLASS OF 1917

William W. Goodrich**
James Algernon Peale**
b. 12/19/1894, Montclair, NJ; Stevens; d. 07/22/16.

Robert Reveley Wyant**
b. 01/03/1896, Shelton, CT; '17 ME Stevens; Son R. E.
Wyant, Cousin D. W. Barron.

CLASS OF 1918

Frederick Charles Ayling**
b. 08/12/1894, Syracuse, NY; Son C. F. Ayling.

William James Huckin**
b. 05/14/1896, Englewood, NJ; '18 ME Stevens, '36
DDS NYU.

Edgar John McKay**
b. 12/20/1893, New York, NY.

George Parker Toms**
b. 10/21/1893, St. Louis, MO; d. 02/03/37.