

**INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
TO
THE GRAND LODGE
AND
2007 PRESIDENTS ACADEMY**

29 December 2006

In accordance with Bylaw 22.5 of the National Constitution, the Theta Xi Committee on Nominations presents this interim report to the Grand Lodge and 2007 Presidents Academy, including the names and qualifications of its nominees for the 2007-2009 Grand Lodge. The Committee will continue its work in the Spring, when it will consider candidates for election to the Order of the Unicorn.

The Committee on Nominations is pleased to announce that it will nominate the following brothers for election to the 2007-2009 Grand Lodge at the 143rd Anniversary Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in August 2007:

National President (2007-2009)	Jon T. Luning, Beta Omega 241
VP for Administration (2007-2011)	James O. Pike, Jr., Alpha Zeta 550
Director (2007-2009)	Dr. David Schwab, Beta Pi 53 (<i>candidate for re-election</i>)
Director (2007-2009)	Donald S. Meringer, Iota 1093
Director (2007-2009)	David Reap, Theta 1266
Director (2007-2009)	Dick Rushton, Nu 700

Vice President for Alumni Affairs Peter Handrinos, Pi 1072, and Vice President for Chapter Affairs Dennis E. Marstall, Alpha Iota 587, are not up for re-election in 2007 and will continue in their respective positions until 2009. There are also two undergraduate Directors to be elected in 2007, but the Committee on Nominations does not nominate candidates for the undergraduate Director positions.

Brief biographies of each of the nominated brothers is attached to the end of this report.

The Committee on Nominations started its work in August 2006 by interviewing all current members of the Grand Lodge, to learn the future plans of members whose terms are expiring in 2007 and to identify perceived strengths and weaknesses in members of the current board. The Committee used these findings to identify how many new members would be required and what kind of qualities and skills the Grand Lodge most needs. The current Grand Lodge is composed of the following alumni Officers and Directors:

National President (2005-2007)	Michael A. Pitcher, Alpha Omicron 634
VP / Administration (2005-2007)	Jon T. Luning, Beta Omega 241
VP / Alumni Affairs (2005-2009)	Peter Handrinos, Pi 1072
VP / Chapter Affairs (2005-2009)	Dennis E. Marstall, Alpha Iota 587
Director (2005-2007)	Jeffrey W. Arnold, Alpha Eta 357
Director (2005-2007)	James O. Pike, Jr., Alpha Zeta 550
Director (2005-2007)	Dr. Michael T. Kelly, Gamma Kappa 34
Director (2005-2007)	Dr. David Schwab, Beta Pi 53

President Pitcher, whose term is expiring in 2007, stated that he did not wish to be renominated

to the Grand Lodge; this is customary for National Presidents of Theta Xi. Brothers Arnold and Kelly also declined renomination for personal reasons; Mike and his wife recently had their first child, and Jeff's business responsibilities have grown significantly in the past two years. On behalf of the entire Fraternity, the Committee on Nominations wishes to thank Brothers Pitcher, Arnold, and Kelly for all of their work over the past two years and previously. They have served the Fraternity with distinction, and we are a stronger and better organization today because of their efforts.

The Committee then solicited nominations for the open seats from chapter presidents and key alumni volunteers, including representatives of all chartered alumni associations and all chapter advisors. Members were encouraged to propose others or themselves for consideration. The Committee eventually received the names of and considered 16 brothers for possible nomination, all of whom were known personally by at least one member of the Committee. The Committee also consulted with members of the previous Committee on Nominations (that nominated candidates in 2005), to obtain information about potential candidates. Between September and December 2006, the Committee held a total of seven conference calls to discuss its activities. In between calls, members of the Committee consulted individually with the potential candidates, other members, and each other. At least four of the five committee members were present in all but two of the conference calls, and all members were present for the Committee's votes. All of the Committee's votes were unanimous.

The Committee on Nominations first considered the candidate for the two-year term of National President. The Committee quickly agreed that Brother Jon Luning, Beta Omega 241 is its choice for the next President of the Fraternity. Jon has excelled on the Grand Lodge in a variety of roles and capacities since his election in 1999 and is currently the Fraternity's Vice President for Administration. The Committee believes that Jon will do an outstanding job as the next President of the Fraternity.

To replace Brother Luning as Vice President for Administration, who also serves as the Fraternity's Chief Financial Officer, the Committee sought a candidate with financial and business expertise. It considered candidates from within the Grand Lodge, as well as other candidates who are not currently serving on the board. After reviewing the qualifications of several possible candidates, the Committee agreed that Brother James Pike, Alpha Zeta 550, who currently serves as a non-officer Director of the Grand Lodge, is best qualified for the Vice President for Administration (a four-year term). Jim possesses an MBA and has many years of experience as the Chief Financial Officer of a public company. The Committee believes Jim's expertise will be invaluable in his new responsibilities. The other two Vice Presidents, Pete Handrinis and Dennis Marstall, are each in the middle of four-year terms and not up for nomination this year.

The Committee then considered the tenure of the current non-officer Directors (Brothers Jeff Arnold, Mike Kelly, Jim Pike, and David Schwab. As noted above, Brother Pike will be nominated for the position of Vice President of Administration, and Brothers Arnold and Kelly declined renomination. The Committee determined that it would be appropriate to renominate Brother Schwab for a second two year term. Dr. Schwab, a Professor of Biology at Southeast Louisiana University, brings many years of higher education experience and work with undergraduates to his tenure on the Grand Lodge. The Committee is pleased to nominate him for a second two-year term.

The Committee then identified three other non-officer Director candidates, whom the Committee believed most complimented the current makeup of the Grand Lodge through their personal

skills, leadership experience, and local and national Theta Xi involvement. The Committee placed its emphasis on looking for candidates with specific business and legal skills and other corporate board experience; the Committee believes that the Grand Lodge would benefit from more members possessing these traits. In addition, the Committee considered other factors, including maintaining a geographic balance on the Grand Lodge – insuring that all Fraternity Districts and areas of the country are represented – and a distribution of ages of the members.

After many hours of conference calls, deliberation, consultations, and personal interviews, the Committee on Nominations unanimously selected Donald Meringer, Iota 1193, David Reap, Theta 1266, and Richard (Dick) Rushton, Nu 700, for two-year positions as non-officer Directors on the Grand Lodge. Information on each of these candidates is attached. Brother Meringer, who has previously served on the Grand Lodge, was selected for his legal expertise and his long record of leadership within the Fraternity. Brother Rushton also has a record of leadership in service to the Fraternity. Brother Reap brings extensive experience on corporate and non-profit boards, and a record of success in helping companies perform business turn-arounds. While his fraternal resume is not as lengthy as some other candidates, the Committee believes he will bring invaluable business expertise to his service on the Grand Lodge.

With regard to the brothers who were considered but not nominated at this time, the Committee wants to note that it identified several outstanding members of great leadership potential. The Committee will transmit all candidate information to the next Committee, so those Brothers can be considered for future leadership roles. The Committee encourages all those who were considered for nomination to continue their active involvement.

Attached to this report is a summary of the qualifications of each of the candidates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theta Xi Committee on Nominations

Steve Baker, Delta 814, Chair
Bob Veenstra Jr., Mu 740
Dr. Richard McCormac, Beta Epsilon 131
Dick James, Upsilon 591
James Scotto, Alpha Eta 550

Jon T. Luning
National President
2007 - 2009

Brother Luning, Beta Omega 241, was initiated into Theta Xi in 1986 at Virginia Tech, where he served his chapter as Scholarship Chair, Membership Education Chair, and President. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering, Brother Luning managed Operations and R&D for technology companies in the Northeast. In May 1996, he founded Planet Earth Projects, Inc., a software consulting firm, which he leads as President today. Jon, his wife Pam, and their son Leo live in New York State.

Brother Luning was first elected a Director on the Grand Lodge in 1999, was re-elected in 2003, and was elected National Vice-President for Administration in 2005. Jon has served as chair of the Committee on Expansion, the Committee on Financial Policy, and the Committee on Recruitment. He has been a member of the Committee on Constitution and the Committee on Information Technology, and has served as Parliamentarian for the National Convention. Jon has volunteered as a faculty member for the Presidents Academy and the Rising Star Academy.

Brother Luning has served as a facilitator at District Leadership Conference and has served the Beta Omega Alumni Association in several capacities since his graduation.

James O. Pike
Vice President for Administration
2007 - 2011

Brother Pike, Alpha Zeta 550, was initiated into Theta Xi in 1965 at University of California Los Angeles. He graduated from UCLA in 1969 with a Bachelor's degree in economics and subsequently received an MBA from USC. Brother Pike, a consultant and principal of Business Solutions, Inc., is married and lives in the Los Angeles area.

Brother Pike was first elected a Director on the Grand Lodge in 2005. During that time, Jim has served as a member of the Grand Lodge's Committee on Financial Policy. In addition, Brother Pike has remained actively involved with Alpha Zeta chapter since his graduation. Jim has been an active member of the Alpha Zeta Alumni Association since the 1970s and served as the President of the Alpha Zeta Alumni Association Board from 1997 through 2004. Brother Pike has been chapter advisor for Alpha Zeta since 2004.

Brother Pike has attended the last four National Conventions and has been actively involved in serving as the liaison between the Alpha Zeta chapter and the National Fraternity at various levels over the past several years.

Brother Pike brings to the Grand Lodge years of business, financial management, and fraternity experience, and continues to provide representation from the west coast region.

Dr. David C. Schwab
Director 2007-2009

Brother Schwab, Beta Pi 53, was initiated as a member of Theta Xi at Southeastern Louisiana University in 1966. Dr. Schwab received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Southeastern Louisiana University and his Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1972. He is currently a professor in the department of biology at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

Since his initiation Dr. Schwab has been actively involved in Theta Xi at the local, district and national level. At the local level he has served as the treasurer of the Beta Pi house corporation since 1998 and as the faculty advisor to Beta Pi from 1995 to present. At the District level Dr. Schwab served as Assistant Regional Director of the Bayou Hill Region (District) from 1976 to 1978 and again from 1991 to 1993. He was the Bayou Hill Regional Director from 1978 to 1991.

At the national level, Dr. Schwab has served on the Committee on Expansion, Committee on Ritual, Committee on Scholarship and Committee on Membership Education. Dr. Schwab served as Chairman of the Committee on Ritual from 1988 to 1991. He has served on the faculty of the Presidents Academy in 2000, 2001, 2005 and 2006, and for the last two years has been a director on the Grand Lodge.

Dr. Schwab has been actively involved with Theta Xi since his initiation and attended his first convention in 1968. The 143rd Anniversary Convention will mark his attendance at nineteen national conventions.

Donald S. Meringer, Esq.
Director 2007-2009

Brother Donald Meringer, Iota 1093, has been an attorney in private practice for more than twenty years. Don is a trial lawyer, and most of his practice involves defending large corporations in complex products liability claims. He is a 1985 honors graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, where he was recognized with the Cunningham Award for outstanding service to the law school. Don obtained his Bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1982.

While an undergraduate at Washington University, Brother Meringer was initiated into the Iota chapter of Theta Xi, where he was active in chapter leadership. He served two terms as Treasurer, one term as Vice President and two terms as chapter President. Following graduation, Don remained active as an alumnus, returning to Iota chapter regularly for Homecoming and Founder's Day.

In 1991, Brother Meringer was elected as a Director on the Grand Lodge. He was re-elected in 1995, and in 1999, he was elected to a two year term as National Vice President. While serving as a Director on the Grand Lodge, Don also served as Chairman of the Committee on Constitution. He continued to serve as a member of that committee while Vice President and resumed as its Chairman in 2001, a position which he still holds today. While a Grand Lodge Director, Don also served as a member of the Special Committee on Risk Management and was Chairman of that committee from 1993 to 1997. Don has also served the Fraternity on several special committees and panels which dealt with such topics as reorganizing the Fraternity's fee structure, the relationship between the Theta Xi Foundation and Theta Xi Fraternity and most recently, the Special Committee on Governance.

While serving the Fraternity at the national level, Brother Meringer has also been actively involved with the Omicron Chapter and alumni association at the University of Pennsylvania. He was involved in the Omicron's re-organization and re-chartering in 1996 and has served as its Chapter Advisor since then. In 1996, Don received the Fraternity's Distinguished Service Award for his efforts in the Omicron re-chartering. He has also served as an officer of the Omicron Alumni Association since 1997, when he was elected President. In 1999, he was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Omicron Association, a position he still holds.

David E. Reap
Director 2007-2009

Brother Reap, Theta 1266, was initiated into Theta Xi in 1984 at Purdue University, graduating in 1988 with a degree in Humanities, Social Science & Education. Currently, David is the Senior Director of New Project Planning for Marriott International, where he is responsible for real estate development valuations and business planning for both The Ritz-Carlton Club & Marriott Vacation Club brands. He is married with two daughters and lives in Orlando, Florida.

Brother Reap is active in the local community and has served on several boards and commissions, including the Orange County Community Development Advisory Board, the Urban Redevelopment Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Wabash Valley Trust. He also served on the board of Starnet International, a publicly traded corporation that specializes in the manufacturing of specialty aluminum space-frames and architectural structures. He was a key board member responsible for facilitating Starnet's acquisition by Conservatek in 2004. The University of Central Florida's Office of Research & Development appointed Brother Reap as its Entrepreneur in Residence to provide growth plans and strategic marketing advise to the 60+ small business participants in the UCF Technology Incubator program.

Brother Reap served on the Corporation Board of Theta Chapter from 1996 to 2000, serving as its President for one term. He received the 1997 Theta Chapter (Billy D. Christianson) Outstanding Alumnus award and a Distinguished Service Award from Theta Xi National Fraternity in 1998. In 2006, he was appointed to serve as the Southeast Regional Director.

Brother Reap will bring extensive corporate board experience, expertise in business turn-arounds, and geographic diversity (representation from the southeast) to his service on the Grand Lodge.

Richard P. (Dick) Rushton
Director 2007-2009

Brother Rushton, Nu 700, was initiated in 1977 at the University of California, Berkeley. Brother Rushton participated in the re-colonization at Nu Chapter and was the first initiated member of the re-chartered Chapter. He served as the Chapter Treasurer and was selected as the Western Region's delegate to the Student Advisory Council (to the Grand Lodge) in 1978. He attended National Conventions in 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1980. Dick graduated from Cal in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in political science. He lives north of the Sacramento area with his wife and daughter.

Brother Rushton served as the Nu Chapter Advisor from 1979 to 1981, when he joined the California Highway Patrol and was transferred out of the area. When he returned to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1995, he was appointed as the Western Regional Director from 1995 – 2001. He was awarded the outstanding Region and outstanding Regional Director in 1997, during which time he was also involved in expansion efforts at Fresno State.

Dick was appointed as a Trustee of the Nu Chapter Trust Board in 1995 and has served as President of the Trust Board since 1996. He has served two terms on the Special National Committee on Risk Management from 1997-2001, and is currently the Regional Director, West District, Region 2. He has attended National Conventions in 1997, 2003 and 2005 as an alumni member.

Brother Rushton has been a uniformed member of the California Highway Patrol for over 25 years. His current assignment is the Sergeant in charge of Aviation Maintenance for the Department, involving materials procurement, contracting and an annual budget of over \$10,000,000.

