

***James Madison University  
Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau***



***Petition for Chapter Status***

***James Madison University  
Harrisonburg, Va.***

Mr. Stuart Kardian, Grand Regent  
Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity  
2131 W. Republic Road #528  
Springfield, MO 65807

Dear Mr. Kardian,

Greetings from the James Madison University Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau Engineering Fraternity. We are so pleased to be presented with the opportunity to share our story with you through this petition. Ever since the founding of our candidate chapter in 2018, we have been excited for the opportunity to bring the values of our pillars, service, profession, and brotherhood to our campus and community here in Harrisonburg.

Our chapter has faced some setbacks and extensions as a candidate chapter. Although, all of our members, current and past, couldn't be prouder of how far we have come. Throughout the struggles we all faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, we used this organization as a way to stay connected to each other and the community we have built. Throughout the past three and a half years we have been able to accomplish a great deal and forge connections with organizations on campus and in our local community. All of this has led to a great camaraderie within our candidate chapter; and we were able to accomplish things we previously saw as unreachable. With the work we have done thus far, it will, without a shadow of a doubt, allow us to further flourish and serve the community that has stood with us throughout our entire journey. With this all being said, every one of our members are determined and eager to reach the accomplishment of bringing a chapter here to JMU.

It would be in the best interest of Theta Tau to grant a charter to our candidate chapter because of the positive impact on the JMU engineering department, the Atlantic Region, and Theta Tau itself. By helping and improving this young and unique engineering program, Theta Tau will have graduates of a unique and well rounded curriculum ready to serve a multitude of roles amongst their member base. The Atlantic Region would benefit from a chapter at JMU by having a stable location to host regional events, and a geographically convenient chapter between Psi Gamma, Pi, and Xi Delta Chapters. Theta Tau would benefit from having additional members from a chapter with a healthy size and balanced program. Each of these benefits comes with a group that has solved important problems regarding identity and has established a foundation of finances, recruitment, and good decision making.

As we continue to build upon the unbreakable foundation we have so tirelessly built for our candidate chapter, we hope to continue to use it to execute the pillars we all stand for. We hope to extend the reach of Theta Tau to our fellow classmates and neighbors to allow them to benefit from the service we provide them. We as a candidate chapter are proud to present our petition to gain the honor of becoming a chapter of Theta Tau.

Sincerely,

*Seth Hollatz*

*Seth Hollatz, Treasurer/Petition Chair  
JMU Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau*

Hello Theta Tau Community -

I am writing you this letter as James Madison University Candidate Chapter's President, Willa Denton. I have been a member of our Theta Tau candidate chapter family since my first semester of sophomore year, and I have watched Theta Tau grow at JMU into the inclusive, professional organization it is now.

Theta Tau was formed at James Madison University only a few years before COVID-19, and the aftermath definitely hit our organization hard. When I joined, there were only a few brothers and many who chose to be less active due to the pandemic. After my first semester, I was very excited; there was a lot of room for improvement within, and I had a lot of ideas to help us get there. During my first semester as an officer our organization was less than half the size it is now, but we were all there because we all had the same goals and determination: to make Theta Tau an official chapter so that the legacy could continue.

Theta Tau is supported by three pillars: community service, professional development, and brotherhood. I did not realize how much more fulfilling my time at college would be participating in these sorts of events until I joined Theta Tau.

Some of the most fulfilling events were the ones where we gave back to our community that so graciously welcomes us. I feel more connected to my community through stream cleanups and clothing drives, and as new passionate brothers take on committee head roles, we get to try new things. Next semester, our new community service head is arranging more accessible events like on-campus food drives, collecting recycling, and advocating for mental health.

Professional development is such an important part of the college experience, and Theta Tau allows you to experience it with the camaraderie of like-minded individuals. Everyone in our organization has had opportunities to get headshots and help with LinkedIn. Not only that, we've grown to make connections that will last long after we graduate. One of my best friends, whom I met through Theta Tau, is my partner for our Capstone project required for graduation.

Most of our brothers came to James Madison when classes were online and it was hard to meet people. In joining not only did everyone gain a new circle of friends, everyone gained a new family. I see brothers getting lunch, going grocery shopping, studying in the library, and hanging out every day. Some of my favorite events were doing a ropes course because we all had to work together to finish, Halloween movie night, and supporting one of our brothers and his improv troop. My best friends are in Theta Tau, and I can confidently say my college experience has improved so much upon joining.

Our candidate chapter of Theta Tau is excited to continue to grow on the strong foundation we built and we are excited to see what our future holds. I know that our fraternal bonds will last far longer than our time here at college, and I know that I can not wait to visit JMU as an alumna and see how Theta Tau has grown.

Thank you for considering us for becoming a full chapter of Theta Tau,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Denton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Willa Denton, President/Petition Chair  
JMU Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau*

# *The History of James Madison University and Its Engineering Department*

- *General JMU History*
- *JMU Engineering History*

## *1908-1920*

**1908** - On March 12, Virginia Governor Claude A. Swanson signed the General Assembly bill creating the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg.

- Julian Ashby Burruss became the first president of the school.

**1909** - On September 27, Nannie Sword of Lee County became the first student to arrive at the new school

- The enrollment was 150 students along with 15 faculty on campus.

**1910** - School held its first summer session - which was also the first held in Virginia. Both men and women were students during this session.

**1911** - The first 20 graduates received diplomas.

**1914** - The institution's name changed to State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg.

**1916** - Authorization was received for the school to reward bachelor's degrees.

## *1921-1930*

**1922** - The student run newspaper The Breeze was created

**1924** - Institution was renamed to State Teachers College at Harrisonburg.

**1927** - Hunter Lee Jackson of McGaheysville became the first male student to receive a degree.

## *1931-1940*

**1938** - The institution was renamed Madison College in honor of President James Madison.

- Enrollment passed 1,000.

## *1941-1950*

**1946** - Men enrolled as day students during the institution's regular session for the first time.

## *1951-1960*

**1952** - Madison College purchased an additional 200 acres on what would become East Campus.

**1954** - The college was authorized to award Master's degrees.

## ***1961-1970***

**1964** - Enrollment passed 2,000.

**1966** - The General Assembly approved full coeducational status and men were enrolled as resident students for the first time.

- Sheary Darcus (now Johnson), the first African American student, was enrolled and graduated in 1970.

## ***1971-1980***

**1971** - Academic divisions were reorganized into schools that would become all the different colleges that make up Madison College.

**1972** - First Dorm designated for males, "Shorts Hall" was built.

**1974** - John C. Wells Planetarium was built in memory of a professor in the JMU Physics Department

**1977** - Madison College was renamed James Madison University, effective 1979

## ***1981-1990***

**1980** - The James Madison School of Nursing was created.

**1988** - In December The JMU Greater University Commission produces a report that recommends "JMU establish a program which builds on the knowledge of science and mathematics but incorporates a commitment to society and human beings."

**1989** - The JMU Board of Visitors directs JMU to develop a proposal for a new College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) and President Carrier assembles a "Blue Ribbon Panel" composed of prestigious leaders from industry, government, and education for advice on its structure, curriculum, and programs of study.

## ***1991-2000***

**1990** - JMU formally responds to the Commission on the University of the 21st Century and proposes CAST (later known as the College of Integrated Science and Technology, CISAT) as an autonomous, new college within the university. The proposal is enthusiastically received and approved with funding to hire the first provost.

**1992** - The CISAT provost hires faculty for the ISAT program, the flagship academic program in the college at that time. Industry and government experience are hallmarks for these new hires and they create and develop the first ISAT courses. The State Council for Higher Education in Virginia approves ISAT as a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program.

**1993** - The first undergraduate students enter JMU as ISAT majors. Nine full-time faculty members teach courses to 66 freshmen in a modular building uphill from the Convocation Center.

**1994** - The first Furious Flower Poetry Conference took place at JMU.

**2000** - A Master's of Science in ISAT is created and its first students are accepted.

## ***2001-2010***

**2001** - The Marching Royal Dukes had their first appearance in the Macy's Day Parade

**2005** - JMU purchased Rockingham Memorial Hospital

**2008** - John C. Wells Planetarium underwent a \$1.5 million renovation to help prevent flooding on campus

- Engineering program created at JMU

## ***2011-Present Day***

**2011** - Became an ABET accredited program.

**2012** - The ISAT Department joins the Departments of Engineering and Computer Science in the new College of Integrated Science and Engineering (CISE), when the College of Integrated Science and Technology (CISAT) splits. ISAT faculty member Bob Kolvoord becomes the Dean of CIS

- An outdoor recreational center, UPark, was opened

- The school newspaper, The Breeze, won the Online Pacemaker award, Virginia Press Award for Best in Show for a Non-Daily News Presentation, and a VPA sweepstakes award.

**2014** - Created the MADE engineering xChange as an outlet for junior and senior engineering students to show their work to the world.

**2015** - Created the 4+1 Accelerated Masters of engineering program for students to spend 1 year following undergrad at Virginia Tech to earn their Masters of Engineering.

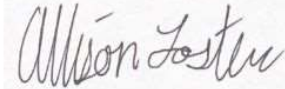
**2019** - JMU was ranked 2nd for public master's degrees by U.S. News & World Report

**2021** - The ISAT/CS building is renamed to King Hall after Charles W. King, Jr., longtime Vice President of Administration of Finance at JMU

The James Madison University Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau, does hereby petition the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity for chapter status. We, the undersigned, have all been enrolled here at James Madison University, and have no affiliations with any organization considered competitive with Theta Tau. The JMU CC of Theta Tau and its members have met all of the requirements to be installed as a chapter.



Eleni Martinez




Allison Foster



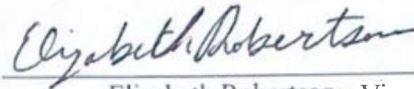
Kayleigh Baxter-Gagen



Trevor Kraeutler



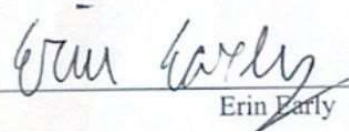
Willa Denton - President



Elizabeth Robertson - Vice President



Alexander Housaman - Secretary




Erin Early



Khalil Abu Elhawa



Seth Hollatz - Treasurer



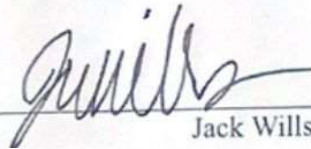
Hannah Snell - New Member Educator



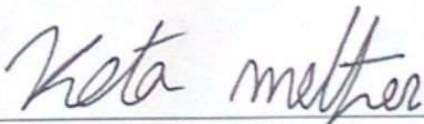
Camryn Glanville



Eric Durham



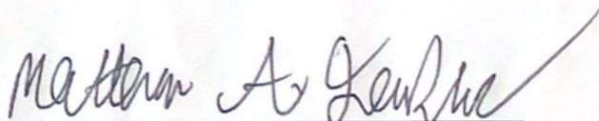
Jack Wills



Kota Meltzer



Liam Herkins



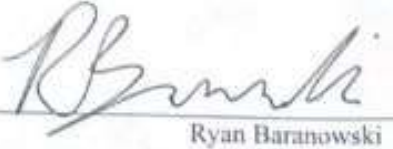
Matthew Jenkins

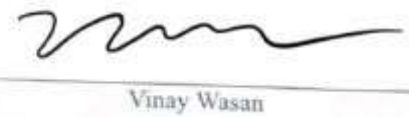


Oliver Hite

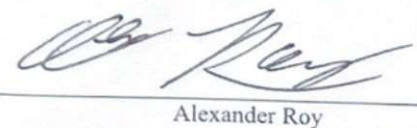
  
Preston Fleitz

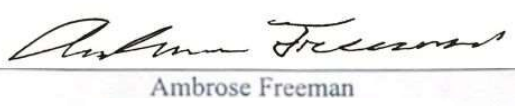
  
Richard McFadden

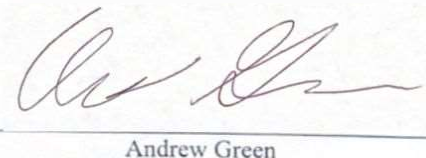
  
Ryan Baranowski

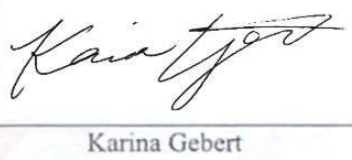
  
Vinay Wasan

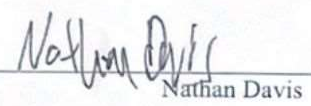
  
William Westerkamp

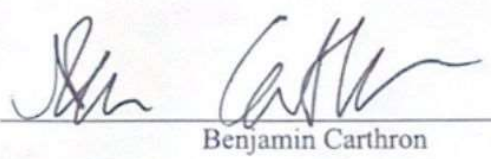
  
Alexander Roy

  
Ambrose Freeman

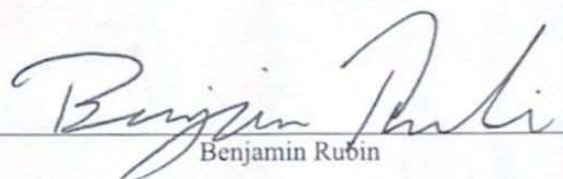
  
Andrew Green

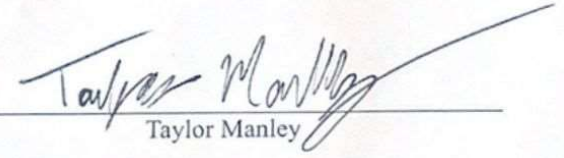
  
Karina Gebert

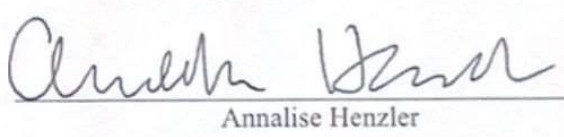
  
Nathan Davis

  
Benjamin Carthron

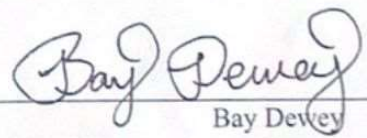
  
Sebastian Erb

  
Benjamin Rubin

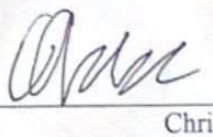
  
Taylor Manley

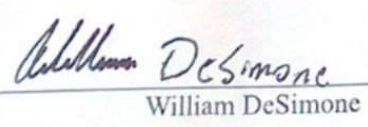
  
Annalise Henzler

  
Carson Peters

  
Bay Dewey

  
Ryan Patel

  
Christian Chase

  
William DeSimone



*Conor*

Conor McFadden

*Ryan Setzer*

Ryan Setzer

*John Quiñones*

John Quiñones

*Hani Malik*

Hani Malik

*Georgia Barefoot*

Georgia Barefoot

*Jessica Reilly*

Jessica Reilly

*Karina Howard*

Karina Howard

*Lorenzo Ashurst*

Lorenzo Ashurst

*Malek Alikaj*

Malek Alikaj

*Nick House*

Nick House

*Patrick Dodds*

Patrick Dodds

*Joshua Crawford*

Joshua Crawford

Eleni Martinez (she/her)  
Current Residence: Richmond, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Graduated: Class of 2020  
Final GPA: 3.6  
Current Occupation: Administrative Assistant  
[elenimartinez3046@gmail.com](mailto:elenimartinez3046@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 1



Allison Foster (she/her)  
Current Residence: Fredericksburg, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Graduated: Class of 2022  
Final GPA: 3.2  
Current Occupation: Systems Engineer  
Past Campus Involvement: Theta Tau President, Theta Tau Treasurer  
[allisonffoster00@gmail.com](mailto:allisonffoster00@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 2



Trevor Kraeutler (he/him)  
Current Residence: Norfolk, Virginia  
Major: Engineering  
Graduated: Class of 2021  
Final GPA: 3.6  
Current Occupation: Project Engineer  
Past Campus Involvement: Engineering Ambassadors  
[trevorkraeutler@gmail.com](mailto:trevorkraeutler@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 3



Kayleigh Baxter-Gagen (she/her)  
Current Residence: Summit County, Colorado  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Graduated: Class of 2022  
Final GPA: 3.5  
Current Occupation: Ski/Snowboard Instructor  
Past Campus Involvement: Theta Tau Treasurer, Triathlon Club  
[kabgagen@gmail.com](mailto:kabgagen@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 4



Willa Denton (she/her)  
Hometown: Alexandria, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.6  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau President Spring & Fall 2022, Theta Tau Historian Spring 2023, ISAT Student Ambassador, and Energy Teacher's Assistant  
[dentonwm@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:dentonwm@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 5



Elizabeth (EV) Robertson (she/her)  
Hometown: Hampton, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: December 2025  
Current GPA: 2.4  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau Vice President Fall 2022, Theta Tau President Spring 2023, Theta Tau Fundraising Chair  
[evrobertson01@gmail.com](mailto:evrobertson01@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 6



Alex Housaman (he/him)  
Hometown: Woodbridge, Virginia  
Major: Engineering  
Expected Graduation: December 2024  
Current GPA: 3.0  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau Secretary Spring & Fall 2022, President of Club Ski and Snowboard Racing Team  
[ahousaman@gmail.com](mailto:ahousaman@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 7



Erin Early (she/her)  
Hometown: Richmond, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.5  
Campus Involvement: Students Against Sexual Assault  
Violence, Theta Tau Vice President Spring 2023, Theta  
Tau Fundraising Chair Fall 2022  
[earlyev@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:earlyev@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 8



Khalil Abu Elhawa (he/him)  
Hometown: Falls Church, Virginia  
Major: Engineering  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Current GPA: 2.8  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau Treasurer Spring  
2022, SJP, MSA, Club Handball, Aerospace  
Engineering  
[khalil3552@gmail.com](mailto:khalil3552@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 9



Seth Hollatz (he/him)  
Hometown: Hampton, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Current GPA: 2.7  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau Treasurer Fall 2022 &  
Spring 2023, Theta Tau Professional Development  
Chair Fall 2022, Club Ski and Snowboard Racing  
Team  
[hollatsg@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:hollatsg@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 10



Hannah Snell (she/her)  
Hometown: Alexandria, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.3  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau New Member  
Educator Fall 2022 & Spring 2023, JMU Chaarg, ISAT  
Student Ambassador  
[snellhm@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:snellhm@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 11



Camryn Glanville (she/her)  
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Major: Engineering  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Current GPA: 3.1  
[glanvicm@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:glanvicm@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 12



Eric Durham (he/him)  
Hometown: Norfolk, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: December 2023  
Current GPA: 2.8  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau People's Chair Spring  
2023  
[ericdrhm@gmail.com](mailto:ericdrhm@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 13



Jack Wills (he/him)  
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 2.1  
[jwills407@gmail.com](mailto:jwills407@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 14



Kota Meltzer (he/him)  
Hometown: Henrico, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.1  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau Scribe Spring 2023  
[Meltzeks@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:Meltzeks@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 15



Liam Herkins (he/him)  
Hometown: Richmond, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 2.9  
Campus Involvement: PBX, CSL Club, Mental Health Awareness Club, Theta Tau Fundraising Chair Spring 2023  
[herkinlj@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:herkinlj@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 16



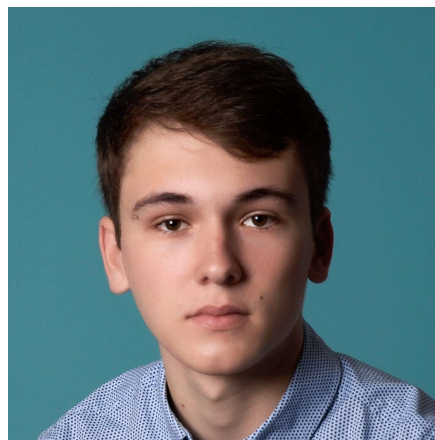
Matthew (Matt) Jenkins (he/him)  
Hometown: Richmond, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2023  
Current GPA: 2.8  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau Brotherhood Chair  
Fall 2022, Madison Motorsports  
[jenki2ma@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:jenki2ma@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 17



Oliver Hite (he/him)  
Hometown: Richmond, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.9  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau Secretary Spring 2023  
[oliverhite1@gmail.com](mailto:oliverhite1@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 18



Preston Fleitz (he/him)  
Hometown: Roanoke, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.4  
Campus Involvement: Esports, Theta Tau Advocacy  
Chair Spring 2023  
[PrestonFleitz@gmail.com](mailto:PrestonFleitz@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 19



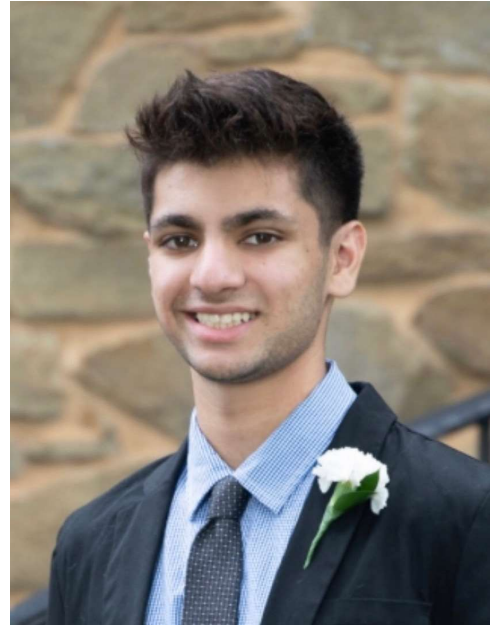
Richard (Rich) McFadden (he/him)  
Hometown: Delco, Pennsylvania  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 2.8  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau New Member  
Educator Spring 2023  
[mcfaddenrichard12@gmail.com](mailto:mcfaddenrichard12@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 20



Ryan Baranowski (he/him)  
Hometown: Herndon, Virginia  
Major: Engineering  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Current GPA: 3.2  
Campus Involvement: Theta Tau Professional  
Development Chair Spring 2023  
[rwbaranowski@gmail.com](mailto:rwbaranowski@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 21



Vinay Wasan (he/him)  
Hometown: McLean, Virginia  
Major: Computer Information Systems  
Expected Graduation: Spring 2025  
Current GPA: 3.5  
Campus Involvement: Club Handball  
[vinay.wasan2@gmail.com](mailto:vinay.wasan2@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 22



William (Will) Westerkamp (he/him)  
Hometown: Gloucester, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: February 2025  
Current GPA: 3.2  
Campus Involvement: Skate Club  
[westerwt@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:westerwt@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 23





Alex Roy (he/him)  
Hometown: Spartan, New Jersey  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: December 2023  
Current GPA: 3.2  
Campus Involvement: Fitness Club  
[royaj@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:royaj@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 24



Ambrose Freeman (she/her)  
Hometown: Richmond, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: December 2025  
Current GPA: 2.7  
Campus Involvement: Fitness Club  
[freemaa@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:freemaa@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 25



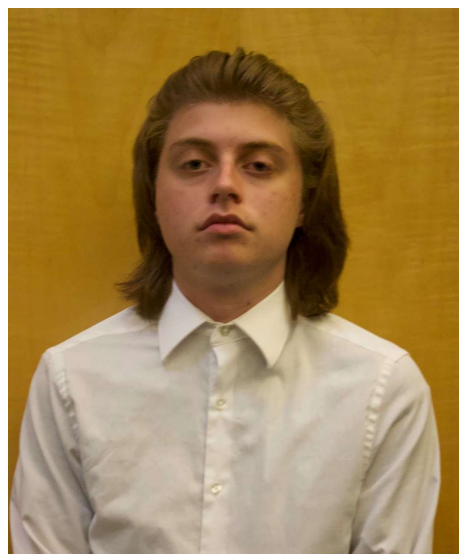
Andrew Green (he/him)  
Hometown: Arlington, Virginia  
Major: Engineering  
Expected Graduation: December 2025  
Current GPA: 3.5  
Campus Involvement: Madison Motorsports, EDM  
Club, Card Sharks  
[green.andrew.a@gmail.com](mailto:green.andrew.a@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 26



Karina Gebert (she/her)  
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Major: Computer Information Systems  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.4  
Campus Involvement: Student-Made JMU, Women in Business, and Women in Technology  
[gebertkn@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:gebertkn@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 27



Nathan Davis (he/him)  
Hometown: Buena Vista, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Minor: History  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 2.5  
[nathan.b.davis20@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.b.davis20@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 28



Benjamin (Ben) Carthron (he/him)  
Hometown: Stafford, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.0  
Campus Involvement: New and Improv'd, Theta Tau Brotherhood Chair Spring 2023  
[carthrbt@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:carthrbt@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 29



Sebastian Erb (he/him)  
Hometown: Burke, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Current GPA: 2.1  
[sebastianxerb@gmail.com](mailto:sebastianxerb@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 30



Benjamin (Ben) Rubin (he/him)  
Hometown: Chesterfield, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 2.1  
[rubinbj@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:rubinbj@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 31



Taylor Manley (he/him)  
Hometown: Fairfax, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.5  
Campus Involvement: Pickleball and Photography club  
[manleytj@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:manleytj@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 32



Annalise Henzler (she/her)  
Hometown: Fredericksburg, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.3  
Campus Involvement: JMU Rowing Club, Fundraising  
Chair Exec, STS Futures Lab Member, Theta Tau  
Community Service Chair Fall 2022 & Spring 2023  
[aehezler@gmail.com](mailto:aehezler@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 33



Carson Peters (he/him)  
Hometown: Madison Heights, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.3  
Campus Involvement: Club Golf  
[carsonpeters16@gmail.com](mailto:carsonpeters16@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 34



Bay Dewey (she/her)  
Hometown: Norfolk, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 2.8  
Campus Involvement: Library, Sports Games, Theta  
Tau Brotherhood Chair  
[deweybk@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:deweybk@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 35



Ryan Patel (he/him)  
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Current GPA: 2.1  
Campus Involvement: South Asian Student Association  
[patel4rh@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:patel4rh@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 36



Christian Chase (he/him)  
Hometown: Leesburg, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.1  
[chasecg@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:chasecg@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 37



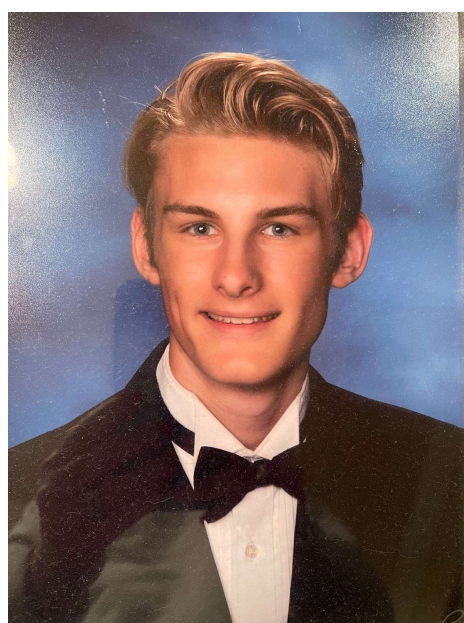
William (Will) DeSimone (he/him)  
Hometown: Charlottesville, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2026  
Current GPA: 3.6  
Campus Involvement: Model United Nations  
[desimowa@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:desimowa@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 38



Conor McFadden (he/him)  
Hometown: Ashland, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: 2025  
Current GPA: 3.4  
Campus Involvement: JMU Men's Club Volleyball  
[mcfaddcp@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:mcfaddcp@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 39



Ryan Setzer (he/him)  
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: May 2022  
Current GPA: 2.6  
[ryanjsetzer@gmail.com](mailto:ryanjsetzer@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 40



John (Johnny) Quiñones (he/him)  
Hometown: Centreville, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 2.7  
[johnquinones110@gmail.com](mailto:johnquinones110@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 41



Hani Malek (he/him)  
Hometown: Arlington, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 2.5  
[malik2hx@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:malik2hx@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 42



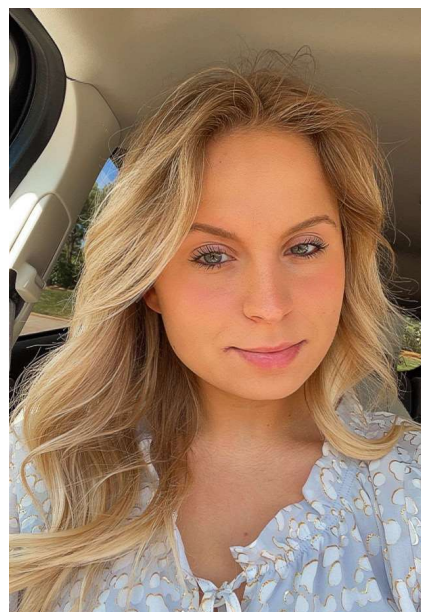
Georgia Barefoot (she/her)  
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.4  
Campus Involvement: Club Climbing  
[georgiabarefoot22@gmail.com](mailto:georgiabarefoot22@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 43



Jessica (Jess) Reilly (she/her)  
Hometown: West Milford, New Jersey  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 3.5  
Campus Involvement: Women in Technology, Society  
of Women Engineers, Make Your Mark on Madison,  
National Society of Black Engineers  
Intramural Field Hockey  
[jessreilly04@gmail.com](mailto:jessreilly04@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 44



Karina Howard (she/her)  
Hometown: Danville, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2023  
Current GPA: 3.1  
Campus Involvement: Alpha Sigma Tau  
[karinahoward23@gmail.com](mailto:karinahoward23@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 45



Lorenzo Ashurst (he/him)  
Hometown: Gainesville, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Current GPA: 3.3  
[LPAshurst@hotmail.com](mailto:LPAshurst@hotmail.com)  
Roll Number: 46



Malek Alikaj (he/him)  
Hometown: Sterling, Virginia  
Major: Computer Information Systems  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Current GPA: 3.1  
Campus Involvement: Association for Information Systems  
[malek.alikaj03@gmail.com](mailto:malek.alikaj03@gmail.com)  
Roll Number: 47





Nick House (he/him)  
Hometown: Ashburn, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: May 2024  
Current GPA: 2.5  
[housena@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:housena@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 48



Patrick Dodds (he/him)  
Hometown: Springfield, Virginia  
Major: Computer Science  
Expected Graduation: May 2025  
Current GPA: 2.7  
Campus Involvement: Safe Rides, Club Handball,  
Beach Volleyball, Works on Campus  
[doddsph@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:doddsph@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 49



Joshua (Josh) Crawford (he/him)  
Hometown: Richmond, Virginia  
Major: Integrated Science and Technology  
Expected Graduation: May 2023  
Current GPA: 2.3  
Campus Involvement: Club Golf  
[crawf2jl@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:crawf2jl@dukes.jmu.edu)  
Roll Number: 50



# A History of the JMU Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau

## A General History

Longing to be a part of an organization that encouraged academic and professional development, a sophomore Integrated Science and Technology (ISAT) student, Juliana May, looked through the organizations that James Madison University had to offer. She tried to join an engineering fraternity but was turned away, due to it being for males only. This led Juliana to research professional fraternities that would create a strong sense of community of all genders within academic life and provide members the chance to further their careers. Theta Tau became the organization of choice because not only is it coed and open to engineering majors but is also open to those with the majors of ISAT, Computer Science, and Computer Information Systems. Theta Tau's core values also encompassed what she was looking for: brotherhood, service and profession.

The idea of Theta Tau was presented to other students with the majors that fraternity accepts to ensure the James Madison Community would benefit from this organization. Juliana was encouraged to form this organization as many students expressed interest. The group reached out to the Theta Tau Central Office to commence the process of becoming an official candidate chapter.

In December of 2017, the Expansion Director, Zack Johnson came to Harrisonburg to hold an interest meeting for potential candidate chapter members at JMU. After this meeting the interested students adopted the bylaws and became a local fraternity. They then elected temporary officers.

After the meeting, the organization strived to reach candidate chapter status and continued their efforts to expand. They had reached out to JMU faculty and administration to become a recognized organization on campus and Dr. Emily York, an associate professor of ISAT, agreed to be their advisor. As a local fraternity the students recruited new members and conducted interviews to further establish Theta Tau.

Fall 2018, the members of Theta Tau held their first general body meeting. The temporary officers that were elected during the first informational session met regularly prior to that. During this meeting, the members discussed the petition and how the organization can achieve candidate chapter status. Members planned various events to establish and strengthen the brotherhood aspects of the organization. These events include brother hang out sessions and playing sports together. The first chair elections were held this same semester.

Fall of 2018 the members of Tau Theta submitted their candidate chapter petition and the petition was approved. The members of Tau Theta still held multiple events before being certified as a colony. These events included camping trips, and Thanksgiving Potlucks nicknames "Thetasgiving".

On January 18, 2019 the candidate chapter at JMU was certified. Shortly after, the JMU candidate chapter held its first executive board election and that spring began its first rush process. Though it was the first rush and new member process, it was nonetheless successful.

The brothers continued to maintain their brotherhood over the summer by meeting up for fundraising events and bonding events and this continued into Fall of 2019.

As the JMU candidate chapter tried to continue to expand, Spring of 2020 we were hit with a global pandemic resulting in all education and most of the world becoming virtual. As incoming students and current members were not on campus for Fall of 2020 it was very hard to recruit new members but the passion within the members was still present.

Spring of 2021 the current members did not want to see all of their hard work of this candidate chapter no longer be present on the campus of JMU anymore. Fall of 2021 we slowly but surely started the rush process and recruited 6 new members and held new executive elections, in the Spring of 2022 we recruited 18 new members.

Fall of 2022, with no more pandemic, a new executive board, and rush committee in place we were able to recruit 27 new members. During this time our previous advisor stepped down and we have since gained a new advisor, Dr. Jared Stoltzfuz. Our new advisor helped us access our student organization mailbox located in the university clubhouse. Our elected secretary goes through a three-day training seminar through the university to be able to secure rooms for meetings, as well as register a room to use for weekly chapter and new member education.

The James Madison Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau has suffered from loss of communication, loss of active members, and poor advertising for new membership. Our organization was able to overcome these difficulties through a dedication to better our organization. We are able to create the most out of less than promising circumstances and regrow with new members who are passionate and excited about the organization's future. Despite the difficulties this candidate chapter faced, and numerous extensions, the current members of our candidate chapter were able to be resilient and secure a strong footing for the future.

# ***Recent Event Summary (2021-2022)***

## **Community Service**

December 2021 Can Recycling Drive

April 2022 Members Volunteered at Mercy House

April 1, 2022 Relay for Life

September 18, 2022 Stream Clean Up

October 19, 2022 Reserved Study Rooms

October 21, 2022 On Campus Trash Pick Up

December 4, 2022 Clothing drive

## **Professional Development**

April 2021 Resume Workshop

October 5, 2021 Resume Workshop

October 22, 2021 Headshots

November 12, 2021 Interview Tips

February 21, 2022 LinkedIn Workshop

September 12, 2022 University Hosted Career Fair and Tips

October 3, 2022 Interview workshop

October 5, 2022 Behavioral Interview Preparation - Using STAR Method

October 10, 2022 Mock Interviews

October 19, 2022 JMU Career Drop-in Hours

November 9, 2022 Professional Headshots

November 11, 2022 Resume Workshops

November 30, 2022 JMU Career Closet

December 1, 2022 Professional Headshot Retakes

**Brotherhood**

March 7, 2022 Brother Picnic on Campus

October 7, 2022 Trivia Night

October 14, 2022 Cookout on Quad

October 22, 2022 Homecoming Tailgate

October 31, 2022 Movie Night

November 5, 2022 Hot Dog Eating Contest

November 13, 2022 Team Building Ropes Course

November 16, 2022 Friendsgiving Potluck

December 2, 2022 Holiday Cookie Decoration Night

December 3, 2022 USA v Netherlands World Cup Watch-Party

JMU Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau  
Professional Engineering Fraternity

---

*Financial Information*

*End of semester Current Balances*

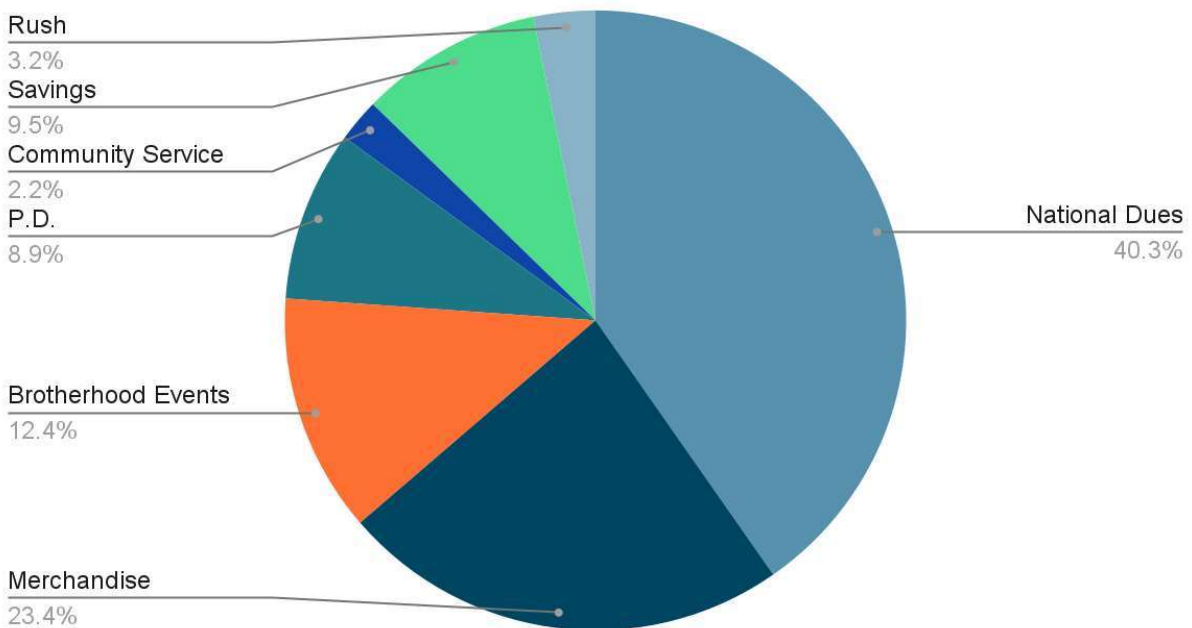
Semester	End of semester funds (Savings)	Amount Changed	Dues Collected Per member
Fall 2021	\$654.08	N/a	N/a
Spring 2022	\$1304.28	\$650.20	\$120
Fall 2022	\$3771.67	\$2467.39*	\$170

\*Large Increase due to winning a national Krispy Kreme fundraiser for our Candidate Chapter gaining \$1600

*Financial Management*

- Below shows the percentage of our funds we used in each section of our candidate chapter.

Money Spent in Fall 2022



## *Candidate Chapter Advisor*

Dr. Jared Stoltzfus (he/him)

“Sustainability is an incredibly large umbrella term and I’m interested in its application to agriculture, energy, and waste. I want to identify best practices at both personal and regional levels for the challenges we face, and explore innovative and entrepreneurial solutions to sustainability problems in the US and abroad.”

Education:

Ph.D. Sustainability, Arizona State University

B.A. Biology, Eastern Mennonite University

[stoltzjt@jmu.edu](mailto:stoltzjt@jmu.edu)



### Experience

- Dr. Jared Stoltzfus is a professor in the Integrated Science and Technology major at James Madison University.
- Assistant Professor, School of Integrated Sciences, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
- Instructor, Science Department, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA
- Instructor, School of Sustainability, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- Stream Health Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department, Harrisonburg, VA



Division of Student Affairs

December 26, 2022

Letter in support of James Madison University Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau

My name is Dr. Tim Miller and I serve as the Vice President for Student Affairs at James Madison University. I have served in this role for almost 5 years and I am proud to work closely with our students and their many organizations on our campus and I am always excited to welcome new organizations to our community. Since 2019, Theta Tau has worked hard to become an integral and valuable part of JMU and live their pillars of professional development, community service and brotherhood.

Theta Tau at James Madison is an organization that is made up of incredible students with a great work ethic who are dedicated to these pillars. They exemplify this through their regular presence on campus, their service work around JMU, their positive support of each other, and a consistent, positive impact on members and potential members through recruitment. Some of the events they have hosted include professional headshots, resume workshops, interview practice, wardrobe tips, and hosting alumni conversations about life after JMU.

Their service work stands out as being more than the minimum and I hope and expect this will continue after their candidate status. Many of our organizations meet the minimum requirements in front of them but Theta Tau seems to have service as a true pillar for their organization. Some of their recent events include stream clean ups, tree planting, clothing drives, and a recycling drive. I expect more of the same in the years to come and hopefully they can be a model for other organizations on our campus. I am proud of the impact they have had on our surrounding community.

Finally, I have been impressed by the brotherhood within this organization. While I have obviously not attended these events myself, in talking with the group I have heard about their times on our ropes course, as well as events like a trivia night, game night, movie night, hosting cookouts, and so much more. Their brotherhood also shone through during the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. They faced diminished numbers of both new members and active members due to the challenges of interaction and engagement. The remaining members were committed to the future of Theta Tau and grew the pledge class from single digits to 27 new members in only three recruitment cycles. This group survived the pandemic and has gone on to be a thriving chapter at JMU.

The James Madison University Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau is an organization that cares for its members and works hard to live their pillars every day. I am proud to support their candidacy without reservation and look forward to having them on our campus for years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim M. Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs  
James Madison University





Re: Recommendation for Theta Tau

To Theta Tau Board or Theta Tau Community:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for James Madison University's (JMU) chapter of Theta Tau as part of its application to become an official chapter. Since I came to JMU, in the fall of 2016, I have had the opportunity to observe chapter members join, participate in, and move on after graduation. These transitions have occurred smoothly, the organization's leadership and members are active, they have recruited in my classes for Theta Tau membership, engage with faculty, and take membership and fundraising seriously. I wish to provide the JMU chapter of Theta Tau with my highest and unconditional recommendation.

I spent a career working with local government, state agencies, the federal government, and the private sector to develop computer simulation models that solve practical problems before moving into academia. I also managed a famine relief program in Africa for three years, spent several years developing low-income housing and have started and been a board member of numerous nonprofits. I mention this as my experience has brought me into contact with people from all walks of life and I feel this makes me more qualified than most to judge the character and aptitude of students and a keen observer of how well-run organizations function. I believe my experience with JMU's chapter of Theta Tau puts me in a unique position to judge the worthiness of this organization.

They do the routine things required to be a successful organization. The membership drives, regular meetings, fundraising, etc. In addition to this, the leadership of the organization has transitioned smoothly. Past activities continue and new activities are developed. They managed to do this during COVID. I know my colleagues feel this way as the College of Integrated Sciences and Engineering uses Theta Tau members to discuss their experiences here with new and prospective students. Recruiting students into STEM fields is a difficult task and one taken seriously by our school. The fact that we rely on Theta Tau members to

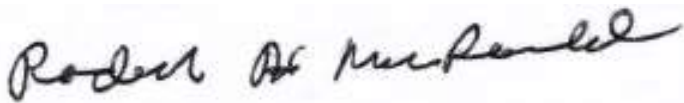
MSC 4102  
School of Integrated Sciences 701 Carrier Drive, EnGeo 2112  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807  
Tel: 540.568.2790 Phone  
Fax: 540.568.2761 Fax

represent us at these events reflects how much respect we have for the Theta Tau members at JMU.

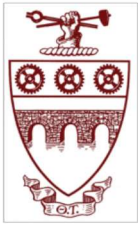
I don't know if it is Theta Tau or our school's ability to attract well round students, but the members of JMU's Theta Tau chapter are smart and well-spoken. The ability of young people to lead such an organization is impressive and their ability to connect with faculty and their peers is something I admire.

Again, I wish to give my highest and unconditional recommendation to JMU's chapter of Theta Tau. If you have any questions or require clarifications, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod MacDonal". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Rod MacDonald, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
2112 EnGeo  
School of Integrated Science  
College of Engineering and Science  
James Madison University  
1402 Carrier Drive  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807  
518-527-8416 (c)  
540-568-2768 (o)  
macdonrh@jmu.edu



**THETA TAU**  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY  
Founded 1904

13 December 2023

Dear Brothers:

In it with immense pleasure that I write in support of the James Madison University Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau's petition for installation as a chapter.

I first met the JMU Candidate Chapter as a student member in Spring 2019 when they attended their first Atlantic Regional Conference following their certification in January of the same year. I was completely struck by their founders' enthusiasm and determination to bring Theta Tau to their university. Their eagerness to engage with other chapters to develop their own culture was inspiring and I recognized immediately that these are the type of people this Fraternity is meant for and needs to have among its membership.

When I started serving as the Atlantic Regional Director in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, I saw first-hand all the challenges that all student members were facing and how some of them were struggling more than others. In working with Candidate Chapter Director, Dan Jensen, it became clear that the JMU Candidate Chapter was hit especially hard. Despite the challenges this situation presented, the sheer will, determination, and perseverance in these newer members parallels what I saw in their founders. When it would have been easier to throw in the towel and disband, they continued to put in the hard work to become a chapter. They continued to engage as much as they could with nearby chapters to learn from their successes and reached out to their Candidate Chapter and Regional Directors whenever they needed assistance.

This group truly exemplifies the purpose, values and spirit of Theta Tau and I have no doubt they will continue to in the future as brothers.

In H&T,

Jean-Marc Cassier  
Atlantic Regional Director  
ΨΓ 202

Theta Tau Community,

I am writing today as the current Treasurer of the Psi Gamma Chapter of Theta Tau to formally recommend the James Madison University candidate chapter to become an officially recognized chapter of Theta Tau. After speaking with their current Treasurer, Seth Hollatz, about the status and function of their candidate chapter, I feel confident that they would be a great fit within our national fraternity. As a whole, they embody the pillars of brotherhood, professional development, and community service in the values they cherish and the events they hold.

The first pillar I would like to highlight is their dedication to community service. Having only recently been formed as a candidate chapter, this group has been able to host a range of community service events with their university and surrounding community. In partnership with James Madison University, this candidate chapter has participated in Relay for Life with the American Cancer Society, and a can recycling effort with the James Madison University Recycling Club. With the surrounding community, they have hosted a clothing drive for the city as well as a local stream cleanup. These strong roots in community service as demonstrated will strengthen the foundation of this chapter for years to come.

For a well rounded chapter, there also needs to be an even distribution of strength across our three pillars. I believe this is demonstrated with the professional development events and brotherhood activities hosted by this candidate chapter over the past year in conjunction with the prior mentioned community service engagement. Current members have been developed professionally through professional headshots and an internship forum. Obstacle courses and movie nights are examples of weekly brotherhood events. Along with well rounded activities reflecting the pillars, this candidate chapter has also demonstrated a huge interest in growth as their candidate chapter size has more than tripled in the past year. There is a strong sense of community and brotherhood between the members of this candidate chapter.

To reiterate, I am writing today to endorse the James Madison University Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau to Chapter status within our national fraternity. I look forward to the integration of this chapter with the surrounding Mid-Atlantic regional chapters. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any further questions or concerns.

In H&T,  
Tatum Butler  
Psi Gamma Chapter  
Z!

## *A Statement of Gratitude*

The James Madison Candidate Chapter would like to thank everyone who has supported us along this journey for everything they have done. The support of Dan Jensen, Rhett Livengood, and Jean-Marc Cassier has been invaluable. The help they have provided us does not go unnoticed, we could not have done this without their support and advice.

Our organization also wants to thank the Theta Tau community for this opportunity. Our time as a candidate chapter has not only grown bonds within our organization, but also has given its members an experience unlike any other that will stay with them for years to come. We have fully enjoyed our chapter candidacy and look forward to the future.

With love,

The James Madison Candidate Chapter of Theta Tau

