University of California, Merced Colony of Theta Tau Chapter Petition

Merced, CA
January 2012

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University of California, Merced Colony of Theta Tau
c/o Andrena Rodriguez
1972 Pebble Beach Drive
Merced, CA 95340
12/01/2011

Mr. Michael T. Abraham, Executive Director
Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Brothers,

It is with great pleasure and of the highest honor to present our colony's petition for chapter status before you. Over the past year and half since our installation on May 2nd, 2010, our colony has worked very hard to show that we are worthy of chapter status and we believe that this is reflected in our petition.

After colony installation, the ten founders had no idea how quickly the colony would progress or whether the group would be embraced by the engineering student body. However, with the vision of the colony's passionate members, the group rapidly grew and this passion has only exponentially increased. With the addition of new members, the colony has constantly been able to bring fresh new ideas to the table and has since made a positive impact and presence on the UC Merced campus. In addition, our colony has been eager to absorb ideas from other chapters within our region and within the nation by being present at as many events as possible. We have grown professionally over the past year and a half and are significantly closer than ever before.

Today, I cannot be more proud and honored to be representing the UC Merced Colony of Theta Tau. Not only is this group determined and tenacious, but this group has the upmost greatest integrity and character worthy to be incorporated as full members of Theta Tau. I know if granted chapter status, our members will not disappoint the national fraternity, for our journey is only beginning; we have so much more to show since the love that our members have for Theta Tau is so strong. With that said, I hope that our efforts and petition are commendable.

Best Regards,

Andrena Rodriguez
Regent
University of California, Merced Colony of Theta Tau

We, the members of University of California, Merced Colony of Theta Tau do hereby petition the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity for chapter status.

We, the undersigned, are all currently enrolled in the UC Merced School of Engineering and are all pursuing degrees in engineering. We have no affiliation with any organization competitive with Theta Tau and have met all of the membership requirements, and the UC Merced Colony has met all of the requirements necessary to become a chapter.

2. Andrena Rodriguez

5. Gabriel Avila

6. Anabell Gomez

7. Karina Revilla

8. Anthony Saccullo

9. Man Uyen Lau

10. Gabriela Valle Reyes

11. Dafina Amin

12. Charlie Carrillo

13. Israel Juarez Contreras

14. Kim-Alexis Daliva

15. Anibal Espinoza

17. Rebekah Johnson

18. MarwinKo

19. Andrew Luhrs

20. Mauricio Lupi

21. Rafael Ollervides

22. Heidi Stead

23. Jemellee Urbino

24. Ester Aguilar

25. Rodolfo Cruz

26. Francisco Diaz

27. Douglas Hasegawa

28. IsrarHussain

29. Russell LaBrie

30. Clarence Le

31. Ivan Leung

32. Allison Malathong

33. Matthew McDaniel

34. EmerincianaNolasco

35. KarltonQuinsland

36. Azucena Robles

38. Jeffrey Wong

39. Yale Yuen

40. Jose Buendia

41. Jose Garcia

42. Jeremy Ho

43. Astha Karki

44. Erik Lau

45. Bernard Lee

46. Elton Leung

47. David Ly

48. Nathaly Navarette

49. Joseph Ortiz

50. Alexandro Perez-Tovar

51. Andrew Siordia

Founding Fathers

2. Andrena Rodriguez

- *Positions Held:* Regent, Vice Regent
- *Hometown:* Fremont, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:*2.5
- *Campus activities:* Society of Women Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Circle K, Professional Greek Leadership Council
- *email:*arodriguez32@ucmerced.edu

5. Gabriel Avila

- *Positions Held:* Professional Greek Leadership Councilman, Vice Regent
- *Hometown:* Laton, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:* 2.5
- *Campus activities:* Omega Delta Phi, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Professional Greek Leadership Council, UCM Basketball
- *email:* gavila4@ucmerced.edu

6. Anabell Gomez

- *Positions Held:* Treasurer, Rush Chairman
- *Hometown:* Torrance, California
- *Major:* Computer Science and Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* December 2011
- *Current GPA:* 2.4
- *Campus activities:* Delta Delta Delta, Society of Women Engineers, Association for Computing Machinery
- *email:* agomez33@ucmerced.edu

7. **Karina Revilla**

- *Positions Held:* Social Chairman, Rush Chairman
- *Hometown:* Granada Hills, California
- *Major:* Computer Science and Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:* 2.5
- *Campus activities:* Society of Women Engineers, Robotics Club
- *email:*krevilla@ucmerced.edu

8. **Anthony Saccullo**

- *Positions* Pledge Educator, Social Chairman
- *Hometown:* Livermore, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.1
- *Campus activities:* Sigma Chi
- *email:*asaccullo@ucmerced.edu

9. **Man Uyen Lau**

- *Positions Held:* Community Service Chairman
- *Hometown:* Oakland, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:* 2.9
- *Campus activities:* Society of Women Engineers, Circle K, Biomedical Engineering Society, UC Merced iGEM Team, Red Cross, McNair Scholar
- *email:* mlau7@ucmerced.edu

10. Gabriela Valle Reyes

- *Positions Held:* Scholarship Chairman, Treasurer
- *Hometown:* Los Angeles, California
- *Major:* Environmental Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.9
- *Campus activities:* Society of Women Engineers
- *email:* gvallereyes@ucmerced.edu

Alpha Class

11. Dafina Amin

- *Positions Held:* Historian
- *Hometown:* Cathedral City, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:* 2.5
- *Campus activities:* National Society of Black Engineers
- *email:* damin@ucmerced.edu

12. Charlie Carrillo

- *Positions Held:* Community Service Chairman
- *Hometown:* Porterville, California
- *Major:* Environmental Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.5
- *Campus activities:* Engineers for a Sustainable World, Bobcat Band
- *email:*ccarrillo5@ucmerced.edu

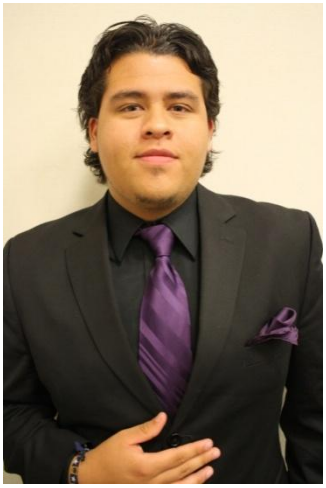
13. Israel Juarez Contreras

- *Positions Held:* Scribe
- *Hometown:* San Jose, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.7
- *Campus activities:* UC Merced iGEM Team, Biomedical Engineering Society
- *email:* ijuarezcontreras@ucmerced.edu

14. Kim-Alexis Daliva

- *Positions Held:* Social Chairman
- *Hometown:* Granada Hills, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.6
- *Campus activities:* Biomedical Engineering Society, UC Merced iGEM Team, Women for the Advancement of a Multicultural Sorority (Delta Xi Phi Interest Group)
- *email:* kdaliva@ucmerced.edu

15. Anibal Espinoza



- *Positions Held:* Vice Regent
- *Hometown:* Hawthorne, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.6
- *Campus activities:* UC Merced Intramural Futsal
- *email:* aespinoza3@ucmerced.edu

17. Rebekah Johnson

- *Positions Held:* Fundraising Chairman, Community Service Chairman
- *Hometown:* Valencia, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:* 2.1
- *Campus activities:* American Society of Mechanical Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers, Distinguished Ladies
- *email:*rjohnson4@ucmerced.edu

18. Marwin Ko

- *Positions Held:* Professional Development Chairman
- *Hometown:* Alameda, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.6
- *Campus activities:* Biomedical Engineering Society, UC Merced iGEM Team, Kappa Sigma
- *email:* mko3@ucmerced.edu

19. Andrew Luhrs

- *Positions Held:* Website Chairman
- *Hometown:* Danville, California
- *Major:* Computer Science and Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.2
- *Campus activities:* Association for Computing Machinery, Bobcat Radio, Robotics Society, UC Merced iGEM Team
- *email:* aluhrs@ucmerced.edu

20. Mauricio Lupi

- *Positions Held:* Risk Management Chairman
- *Hometown:* Fairfield, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.5
- *Campus activities:* American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- *email:* mlupi@ucmerced.edu

21. Rafael Ollervides

- *Positions Held:* Pledge Educator
- *Hometown:* Valencia, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.2
- *Campus activities:* Biomedical Engineering Society, The Other Child Satire Newspaper, Bobcat Radio
- *email:* rollervides@ucmerced.edu

22. Heidi Stead

- *Positions Held:* Rube Goldberg Chairman
- *Hometown:* Van Nuys, California
- *Major:* Environmental Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.1
- *Campus activities:* Engineers for a Sustainable World
- *email:* hstead@ucmerced.edu

23. Jemellee Urbino

- *Positions Held:* Pledge Educator
- *Hometown:* San Diego, California
- *Major:* Environmental Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.4
- *Campus activities:* Engineers for a Sustainable World, Resident Assistant, Pilipino American Association
- *email:* jurbino@ucmerced.edu

Beta Class

24. Ester Aguilar

- *Positions Held:* Athletics Chairman
- *Hometown:* Acampo, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:*2.0
- *Campus activities:* n/a
- *email:*eaguilar5@ucmerced.edu

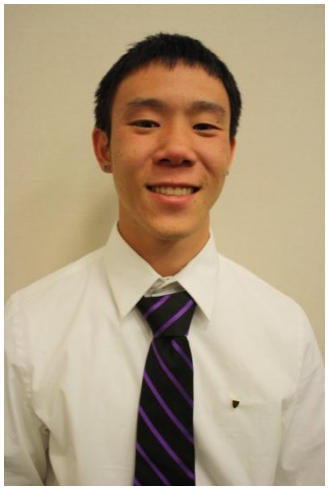
25. Rodolfo Cruz

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Earlimart, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.4
- *Campus activities:* Raza Unida
- *email:* rcruz3@ucmerced.edu

26. Francisco Diaz

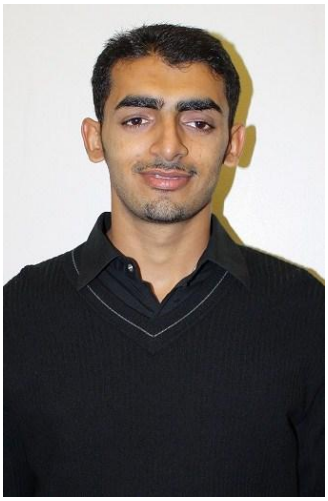
- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Los Angeles, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.3
- *Campus activities:* American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- *email:*fdiaz4@ucmerced.edu

27. Douglas Hasegawa



- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Cupertino, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.9
- *Campus activities:* H.E.R.O.E.S
- *email:* dhasegawa@ucmerced.edu

28. Israr Hussain



- *Positions Held: n/a*
- *Hometown:* Hercules, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:* 2.9
- *Campus activities:* Formula Society of Automotive Engineers, Muslim Student Association, Hermanos Unidos
- *email:* ihussain@ucmerced.edu

29. Russell LaBrie

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Concord, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.8
- *Campus activities:* Resident Assistant
- *email:* rlabrie@ucmerced.edu

30. Clarence Le

- *Positions Held:* Scholarship Chairman
- *Hometown:* Hercules, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.2
- *Campus activities:* American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Robotics Society
- *email:* cle@ucmerced.edu

31. Ivan Leung

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Pleasanton, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:* 2.9
- *Campus activities:* Engineers for a Sustainable World, Biomedical Engineering Society, UC Merced iGem Team
- *email:* ileung@ucmerced.edu

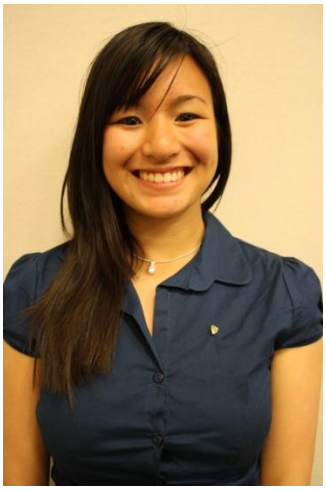
32. Allison Malathong

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Newark, California
- *Major:* Environmental Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2014
- *Current GPA:* 3.0
- *Campus activities:* Society of Women Engineers
- *email:*amalathong@ucmerced.edu

33. Matthew McDaniel

- *Positions Held:* GRE/FE Chairman
- *Hometown:* Napa, California
- *Major:* Materials Science and Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.7
- *Campus activities:* n/a
- *email:* mmcdaniel4@ucmerced.edu

34. Emerinciana Nolasco



- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Grahamn, Washington
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2014
- *Current GPA:* 2.8
- *Campus activities:* American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Women in Science & Engineering, Society of Women Engineers, Robotics Society
- *email:* enolasco@ucmerced.edu

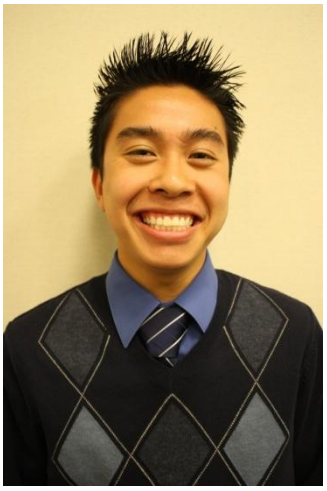
35. Karlton Quinsland

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* San Diego, California
- *Major:* Computer Science and Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.8
- *Campus activities:* Association for Computing Machinery, Bobcat Radio
- *email:* kquinsland@ucmerced.edu

36. Azucena Robles

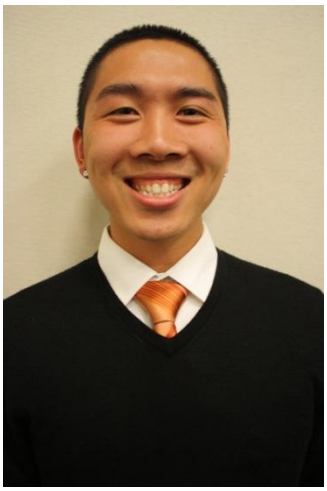
- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Bakersfield, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.8
- *Campus activities:* Society of Hispanic Engineers, M.E.Ch.A
- *email:*arobles5@ucmerced.edu

38. Jeffrey Wong



- *Positions Held:* Professional Greek Leadership Councilman
- *Hometown:* San Francisco, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.5
- *Campus activities:* American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Engineers for a Sustainable World
- *email:* jwong52@ucmerced.edu

39. Yale Yuen



- *Positions Held:* Corresponding Secretary
- *Hometown:* San Francisco, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.2
- *Campus activities:* UC Merced iGEM Team
- *email:* yyuen@ucmerced.edu

Gamma Class

40. Jose Buendia

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Reedley, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.1
- *Campus activities:* Kickboxing
- *email:* jbuendia2@ucmerced.edu

41. Jose Garcia

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Santa Paula, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2014
- *Current GPA:* 3.0
- *Campus activities:* Society of Hispanic Engineers
- *email:* jgarcia228@ucmerced.edu

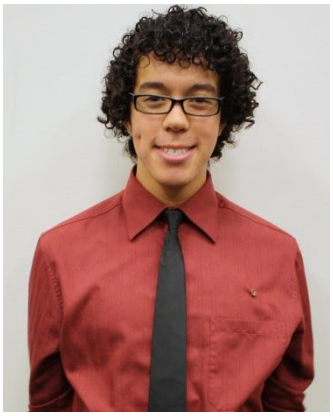
42. Jeremy Ho

- *Positions Held: n/a*
- *Hometown:* San Francisco, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.7
- *Campus activities:* Kappa Sigma, Pilipino American Alliance
- *email:* jho34@ucmerced.edu

43. Astha Karki

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Pacheco, California
- *Major:* Environmental Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2014
- *Current GPA:* 3.5
- *Campus activities:* Intro Dance Team
- *email:* akarki@ucmerced.edu

44. Erik Lau



- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Torrance, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.0
- *Campus activities:* Yosemite Leadership Program, Science and Technology of Aerospace
- *email:* elau6@ucmerced.edu

45. Bernard Lee

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* South San Francisco, California
- *Major:* Bioengineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.5
- *Campus activities:* n/a
- *email:* blee48@ucmerced.edu

46. Elton Leung

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Pleasanton, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:* 3.1
- *Campus activities:* Formula Society of Automotive Engineers
- *email:* eleung2@ucmerced.edu

47. David Ly

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Sacramento, California
- *Major:* Materials Science Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 2.7
- *Campus activities:* Engineers for a Sustainable World, Materials Science Research Society
- *email:* dly7@ucmerced.edu

48. Nathaly Navarrette

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Bakersfield, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2014
- *Current GPA:* 2.9
- *Campus activities:* UC Merced Newman Club, Pilipino American Alliance, Robotics Society
- *email:* nnavarrete3@ucmerced.edu

49. Joseph Ortiz

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Los Angeles, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2012
- *Current GPA:* 2.4
- *Campus activities:* Society of Hispanic Engineers, Green Campus, Volleyball
- *email:* jortiz3@ucmerced.edu

50. Alexandro Perez-Tovar

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* Los Banos, California
- *Major:* Mechanical Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2014
- *Current GPA:* 3.2
- *Campus activities:* Kappa Sigma, American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- *email:* apereztovar@ucmerced.edu

51. Andrew Siordia

- *Positions Held:* n/a
- *Hometown:* San Fernando, California
- *Major:* Materials Science Engineering
- *Graduation Date:* May 2013
- *Current GPA:* 3.1
- *Campus activities:* Materials Science Research Society
- *email:* asiordia@ucmerced.edu

Alumni

1. Evelyn Hoyo

- *Positions Held:* Regent, Corresponding Secretary
- *Hometown:* Gardena, California
- *Major:* Computer Science Engineering

3. Joshua Atlas

- *Positions Held:* Scribe
- *Hometown:* Van Nuys, California
- *Major:* Computer Science Engineering

4. Federico Viscarra

- *Positions Held:* Treasurer, Professional Development Chairman
- *Hometown:* Dinuba, California
- *Major:* Environmental Engineering

History of UC Merced

The history of UC Merced dates back to 1988 when the UC Regents first authorized planning for at least one additional campus based on projections of long-range enrollment demand. From an initial review of more than 80 sites in the San Joaquin Valley, 20 were initially advanced for additional study. Eight sites were then further evaluated and visited by a senior level task force, leading to the identification of three sites which were selected for detailed analysis and for inclusion in a full environmental impact report. Following this careful process, the Board of Regents selected a site in eastern Merced County adjacent to Lake Yosemite Park as the location for the 10th campus of the University of California in May 1995.

The Merced County location was selected based upon a number of factors, including the following:

- The land was to be donated by the Virginia Smith Trust, a charitable trust that provides college scholarships to Merced-area high school students.
- Adequate water was available for University needs.
- The county government had initiated a planning process to assure compatible development of adjacent land and good transportation access.
- Merced is centrally located with easy access from communities in the San Joaquin Valley, including the Valley's largest city, Fresno.

By 1997, UC Merced had established a regional office at Merced College, and the UC Center in Fresno also served as a focal point for the new UC Merced campus.

In 1998, the University joined with the Merced County Board of Supervisors, the Virginia and Cyril Smith Trusts, the City of Merced, and the Merced Irrigation District to initiate a collaborative planning process for the University Community. The planning process produced a concept for a campus and community that could grow together in harmony with the landscape.

That same year, Carol Tomlinson-Keasey was appointed Senior Associate to UC President Atkinson to lead planning and development of the UC Merced campus. In 1999, Tomlinson-Keasey was appointed as founding chancellor of UC Merced, and the Tri-College Center located on the Merced College campus began to present UC Extension courses offered by the UC Riverside, Davis and Berkeley campuses.

As the planning process for the campus and its academic programs continued into 2001, much progress was made including the establishment of a new UC Merced Center in Bakersfield. UC Merced now has four locations spanning the San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada region.

Careful analysis of the environmental factors of the site contributed to a decision to move the campus and community closer to existing urban areas and away from more environmentally sensitive lands. The concepts developed jointly by the community and the university formed the basis for the preparation of the campus Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) and the County draft University Community Plan.

The Board of Regents approved the UC Merced LRDP and certified the associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in January 2002. Merced County approved the University Community Plan in December 2004 and certified the associated EIR. This action was a key milestone for the eventual development of the University Community.

Faculty members began to arrive in 2003 with graduate students in tow and began setting up research laboratories and programs at UC Merced's ancillary research facility on the former Castle Air Force Base, biding their time until buildings were ready on campus. The first graduate courses began in Fall 2004.

The campus celebrated its official grand opening and the arrival of the first class of undergraduate students on Sept. 5, 2005. The first semester saw most activities on campus taking place in the Valley Terrace housing complex and the Kolligian Library, as other campus buildings were not ready for use. The Classroom and Office Building and the Science and Engineering Building opened for use in January 2006.

The UC Merced project has enjoyed strong bipartisan support throughout its history. Conceived under Gov. George Deukmejian in 1988, the campus was sited under Gov. Pete Wilson in 1995. Groundbreaking took place in 2002 under Gov. Gray Davis, and the campus opened in 2005 under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. To date, the state has invested more than $500 million in construction and development of the 2,000-acre site. The university is expected to accommodate as many as 25,000 students when the campus grows to full capacity in about three decades.

-Evelyn Hoyo

History of UC Merced School of Engineering

Since 2001, efforts have been focused exclusively on building an engineering program that is worthy of being part of the University of California, and standing tall with the (eight) other extraordinary Engineering programs within the system. First and foremost in achieving this objective is the goal of assembling a top quality faculty that would establish an engineering school characterized by world-class research and education.

To date, the faculty of the School of Engineering has obtained more than 75 competitive research grants, totaling more than $9-million, with an estimated $3-5 million in additional funding to be announced in the near future. Research projects that have been initiated include collaborations with faculty from our sister Schools at UC Merced, with researchers at other UC campuses, as well as research partnerships with top science and engineering institutions across the nation and around the world.

The graduate programs overseen by the School of Engineering are gaining in strength and graduate student numbers. Approximately 40% of all UC Merced graduate students are under principle advisement by Engineering faculty.

Faculty and staff have been particularly ambitious in acquiring support to build our research and teaching infrastructure both through instrumentation grants and awards, and in-kind contributions from industry and research laboratories. Several major contributions have been obtained for building research and teaching facilities, and the Dean's office staff has been extremely successful in acquiring research equipment, instrumentation, and support infrastructure.

The School of Engineering has taken the lead in developing formal research partnerships with sister UC engineering programs, including participation in a number of large research proposals, and involvement in cross campus research centers and institutes. Most prominent among these is the involvement with the California Institute for Science Innovation (Cal ISI's) known as CITRIS—Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society.

The Cal ISIs was conceived as a catalytic partnership between university research interests and private industry that could expand the state economy into new industries and markets and “speed the movement of innovation from the laboratory into peoples' daily lives” (Governor’s Budget summary 2001-02). In particular, the mission of CITRIS is to facilitate, lead, and coordinate research on problems that have a major impact on the economy, quality of life, and future success of California, such as energy innovation and conservation; educational technology; saving lives, property, and productivity in the wake of disasters; boosting transportation efficiency; advancing diagnosis and treatment of disease; and expanding business growth through much richer personalized information services.

A guiding principle behind the development of the School of Engineering at UC Merced has been the establishment of specific programmatic components designed to enhance student success in Engineering. During its first year of operation, UC Merced achieved an 80+% retention rate among our inaugural students, nearly 45% of whom are the first in their families to attend college. Early discussion among the joint faculties of the Schools of Engineering and Natural Sciences suggested a common freshman year for all students interested in a technical education. Rather than require students to specify their sub-major at the time of application, UC Merced would establish for the first year a curriculum in which students would be able to better understand the differences between the fields of science and engineering, and the career paths therein.

The concept of a common freshman year has been established within the School of Engineering, and is actively assessing its effectiveness in supporting our high retention rates. One of the advantages of building from scratch is the opportunity to adapt the best ideas from sister Engineering programs. A cornerstone of the student retention effort has been the creation of what has become the premier engineering service learning program in the country: the Engineering Projects In Community Service (EPICS) program developed originally at Purdue University.

Under the advisement of a faculty team mentor, students have the opportunity to join teams of peers that work with and for an approved community not-for-profit organization—or client—to solve practical engineering problems. An example would be a team composed of students from the freshman through senior levels who work together to design, develop, implement and test an information system to serve the needs of a local United Way-type organization such as food banks, housing assistance and shelters, women's assistance programs, animal shelter/rescue, or after school programs.

In addition to obtaining practical experience that complements their formal coursework, students gain experience in working in teams, organizing and writing reports and proposals, interacting with clients, performing and evaluating basic engineering designs, and formally evaluating outcomes. Because teams and team activities extend across multiple semesters and years, clients are assured of continuity of technical support and ongoing attention to their needs. It is important to be able to sustain those teaching/learning programs that prove to be most effective.

Another key component of the student retention initiative involves establishing early links with professional engineering societies and organizations. Research shows quite clearly that one of the best indicators of student success in engineering fields is the intensity with which students participate in out-of-class learning experiences, especially peer involvement with student professional organizations. We have formally established eight student organizations and will initiate two additional organizations within the coming year. We have also obtained substantial gift funding to support these programs.

-Evelyn Hoyo

History of UC Merced Colony of Theta Tau

It was in early September of 2009 that the first talks of creating an engineering fraternity in UC Merced began. Evelyn Hoyo, Joshua Atlas, Federico Viscarra, and Andrena Rodriguez noticed that the growing Greek letter community on campus seemed to lack an engineering appeal. Although many national engineering organizations such as SWE, ASME, NSBE, and SHPE were available to students, there was a desire to bridge the gap between Greek life and the engineering students.

Understanding the needs of fellow engineering majors on campus, the four founders began to research the options available to them. After speaking with other interested students, it was decided that bringing Theta Tau to campus would be the best option for UC Merced. Soon after, Evelyn contacted Michael Abraham of the Theta Tau Central Office to find out what steps were needed in order to begin the colonization process. Once the process was outlined, the group began to work on finding an advisor and recognition from the Office of Student Life.

The interested students became a registered organization under the name Theta Tau Mu on campus on October 29, 2009. At this point the group had found an advisor, elected officers, agreed on a name, and continued to recruit more interested students. The students met every week to discuss the progress and possible events for better bonding among themselves. A meeting with Michael Abraham was scheduled for November 10, 2009, to take place in UC Merced. The meeting helped revitalize the members' commitment to the fraternity coming to campus just before Thanksgiving Day vacation. Upon returning from vacation, finals soon arrived and the members had to focus on classes and limit their meetings to one more before the long holiday break.

In January 2010, the members returned refreshed and ready to finish the petition to the Theta Tau Central Office. Unfortunately, during the break they lost their advisor due to unforeseen circumstances. The group decided to meet only twice a month until they could find a new advisor to help in their journey. It was not until March 10, 2010 that the organization found someone as enthusiastic and committed to Theta Tau as they were. After speaking with many potential advisors, Professor Edbertho Leal-Quiros agreed to oversee the group as the official advisor of Theta Tau Mu.

The members met once more on March 14, 2010 to introduce themselves to new potential members and to discuss the final steps before submitting the petition to the central office. On March 19, 2010, Theta Tau Mu finalized and submitted their petition for colonization.

On Sunday May 02, 2010, the interested students were granted the title of University of California, Merced Colony of Theta Tau by the Grand Regent of Theta Tau. The ceremony was attended by brothers from the University of the Pacific, University of California, Davis and alumni. Since the colony's installation, the members have worked very hard and have had several events that have been mutually beneficial to the students.

-Evelyn Hoyo

Risk Management

Our risk-management program has become an important part of the programming of our UC Merced Colony of Theta Tau; we host or participate in an alcohol awareness presentation at least once a semester.

- Alcohol Awareness Presentation: (Fall 2010)
  Our colony showed 100% attendance for our school's annual Alcohol Awareness Presentation, which was originally intended for Social Fraternities and Sororities.

- UCM H.E.R.O.E.S Alcohol Presentation: (Spring 2011 and Fall 2011)
  Members participated in an Alcohol Jeopardy presentation and learned about the effects of drinking and what to do if someone has alcohol poisoning.

- Designated Driver Program: (Spring 2011)
  This program, intended for brothers over the age of 21, is to make sure they have a safe way of getting home late at night on the weekends.

Professional Development

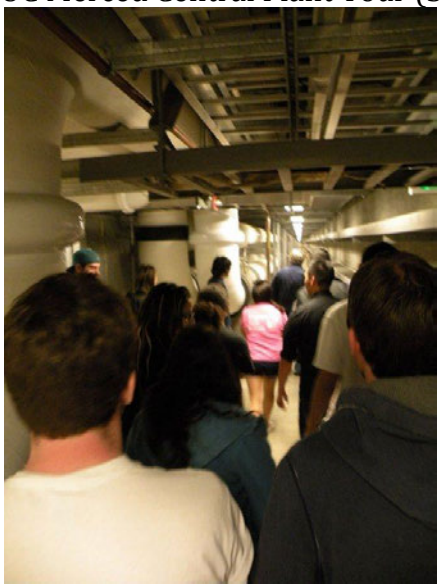
Our professional development program has already incorporated résumé/interview workshops, professional dress, and Robert's Rules seminars as a core part of its curriculum and is hosted every semester. Other events include:

- Coins Program Speaker (Fall 2010):
  Guest speaker Meltem Erol spoke on preparing for graduate school and life after graduation.
- Solar Turbines Tour (Spring 2011):
  Several of our members took a road trip down to San Diego to learn about gas turbines and the different job divisions that Solar Turbines has at their plant.
- UCM Central Plant Tour (Spring 2011):
  Members took a tour of our own campus' central plant and learned about how and where our school's energy is produced.
- Engineering Week (Spring 2011):
  Of all Engineering organizations on campus, our colony was the only organization to promote engineering on campus through flyers and awareness.
- Jelly Belly Tour (Spring 2011):
  After the Spring Western Regional Conference, several members went to the Jelly Belly Tour to learn about how this delicious candy is made and distributed.
- Leadership Academy (Summer 2011):
  Three members traveled to Chicago to attend Leadership Academy where they learned how to improve and excel as a leader. They also were able to learn from several other chapters in attendance and incorporated several of their ideas into the UC Merced Colony.
- Budweiser Factory Tour (Fall 2011):
  Members took a tour of this distillery, which taught them how alcohol is produced.
- Ascend Workshop (Fall 2011):
  This workshop was just one workshop geared towards engineering and natural science majors in a conference for incoming freshman here at UC Merced. The workshop was intended for success in general education courses required for engineering and natural science majors through guidance of how to study for certain classes and different types of learning styles. The workshop was co-hosted with Professor Haik Stevenson and was presented twice, both times exceeded maximum capacity. It also received 100% positive feedback by every freshman who attended and felt that it helped prepare them for engineering and natural science courses at UC Merced.
- Hilmar Cheese Factory Plant Tour (Fall 2011):
  Members took a tour of a nearby cheese factory and learned how cheese is made and how engineering plays a huge role in the process.

Solar Turbines Tour (Spring 2011)

Budweiser Plant Tour (Fall 2011)

UC Merced Central Plant Tour (Spring 2011)



Leadership Academy (Summer 2011)

Hickory Farms Plant Tour (Fall 2011)

Brotherhood

As part of our social aspect of our colony, we try to have at least two events per month to help further our brotherhood. Because of this, we all have become very close. We also try to make as many chapter visitations as possible and learn from other chapters within our region. Some recurring social events include game night, movie night, and potlucks.

- Founder's Day (Fall 2010 & Fall 2011):
  For the past two years, we have had the privilege to spend it with other brothers from Omicron Gamma, Epsilon and UOP Colony at Omicron Gamma's Founder's Day BBQ.
- Intramurals:(Summer 2011 & Fall 2011):
  Our colony has participated in several different intramurals including:
  - Volleyball
  - Basketball
  - Dodgeball
- The Gauntlet (Spring 2011):
  The Gauntlet is a competition held every year, where over 30 on campus organizations compete in either physical or mentally challenging games. In our debut, we finished in 2nd place and made ourselves well known on campus.
- Rubik's Cube Seminar (Fall 2011):
  Our colony hosted a Rubik's cube seminar and social, which taught students how to solve these classic toys.
- Retreat/Road Rally (Fall 2011):
  Members split into three teams (Team Founder/Alpha, Team Beta, &Team Gamma) to compete in a huge hunt all throughout Merced to win the title of 'Best Class.' Afterwards, all members met at one member's house to exchange Christmas gifts and feast.

The Gauntlet (Spring 2011)

Volleyball (Fall 2011)

Founder's Day at Omicron Gamma (Fall 2010 & Fall 2011)

UOP Colony Visit

Epsilon Chapter Installation with National Officers

Game Night (Fall 2011)

Movie Night (Fall 2011)

Rubik's Cube Seminar (Fall 2011)

Service

Community service has been a main focus for the UC Merced Colony, which constantly strives for ways to give back to the community. Several events include:

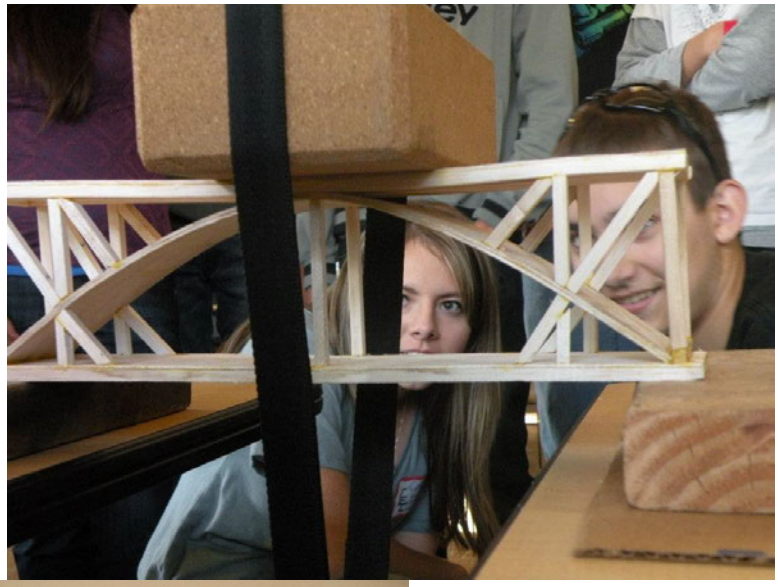
- Habitat for Humanity (Fall 2010 & Spring 2011):
  Every Saturday, members helped Habitat for Humanity build a house for a low-income family in Merced.
- Golden Valley Health Center Clean Up (Spring 2011 & Fall 2011):
  Members participated in the Golden Valley Health Center's clean up days by picking up trash around the Merced area.
- Blood Drive (Spring 2011):
  Members helped save lives by either donating blood or helping host the event.
- Preview Day (Fall 2010) & Bobcat Day (Spring 2011):
  Both Preview Day and Bobcat Day gave the UC Merced Colony opportunities to showcase themselves and give engineering demonstrations to potential incoming students.
- W.A.M.S. Dance-A-Thon & Kappa Sigma Fun Run (Fall 2011):
  Our colony has also pushed for participation in other organizations' community service events. Members participated in W.A.M.S. Dance-A-Thon, where all proceeds went to the American Cancer Society, and Kappa Sigma's Fun Run, where proceeds went to the Children's Hospital.
- Date-A-Tau (Fall 2011):
  Several of our members were put up for auction as dates while all the proceeds went to St. Jude Children's Hospital.
- TTEC (Theta Tau Engineering Competition) (Fall 2011):
  Our gamma pledge class hosted this competition for high school students in the Merced County area. Students competed in several engineering competitions, where they had to build their own bridges, balsa gliders, mouse-trap cars, and egg drop contraptions that were put up to the test. This is planned to be an annual event in the Fall semester.

Habitat for Humanity (Spring 2011)

Golden Valley Health Center Clean-Up (Spring 2011)

Bobcat Day (Spring 2011)

TTEC (Theta Tau Engineering Competition) (Fall 2011)



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November 12, 2010

Theta Tau Central Office
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Theta Tau Central Office,

I would like to commend the membership of Theta Tau for its excellent attendance at our campus's annual alcohol safety seminar for Greek Letter Organizations. While originally intended for social fraternities and sororities, Theta Tau took it upon them to promote the positive learning opportunity to its members as well. One hundred percent of their membership who did not have a class conflict attended the event. I would like to assert my commitment to this outstanding organization for their support of the risk management programs, academic excellence, and the University. Please do not hesitate to contact me via phone (209 228 4201) or e mail (hdoshay@ucmerced.edu) if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Heather Doshay
Assistant Director of Student Life

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95343
PHONE: (209) 228-44411

Dec. 7, 2011

ΘT Executive Council
Theta Tau Central Office
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Theta Tau Executive Council:

I am pleased to write a letter of recognition on behalf of the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity colony for the purpose of chapter petitioning at UC Merced. As the Coordinator for Clubs and Organizations for the Office of Student Life, I have worked with Theta Tau throughout their growth and development and we are very excited for the many opportunities that the establishment of a Theta Tau chapter will present for our students at UC Merced.

Currently Theta Tau has been actively involved in a number of programs on campus and is an active member of the UC Merced Community.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with Theta Tau for many years to come. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 228-2582 or jgreenwood@ucmerced.edu if I can provide further information about the Theta Tau organization at UC Merced.

Sincerely,

Jim Greenwood
Office of Student Life
Coordinator for Clubs and Organizations

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SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95343
PHONE: (209) 228-44411

December 16, 2011

ΘT Executive Council
Theta Tau Central Office
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Members of the Executive Council,

A group of enthusiastic and bright Engineering Students in our University of California Campus have asked me if I could be their Faculty Advisor for ***Theta Tau.*** I am delighted to be the Faculty Advisor on Campus. I am lifetime member of the American Nuclear Society and American Physical Society among others. The Engineering students at UC Merced that are interested in participating as members of ***Theta Tau*** have showed the commitment with the academic preparation, and undergraduate research in Engineering.

I have served as their Academic Advisor and support them in the activities that they are developing on Campus. I joined UC Merced in January 2009 as Faculty member of the School of Engineering. At present I am teaching the Capstone Design in Mechanical Engineering, I teach Advanced Plasma technologies, Power Systems, Renewable Energy, Dynamics and Electrical Circuits. PhD is in Nuclear Engineering

Due to my background as past Dean of Sciences and Technology and Full Professor and Director of Scientific Research Department at Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico for the past 10 years, I have more than 200 publications and more than 20 years teaching, so I am sure that I can collaborate with the ***Theta Tau*** members in their activities.

A professional fraternity will play a very important role in the formation of the team work, collaboration, engineering brotherhood among the members, which is indispensable for the future professional engineers in our society. I strongly support Andrena Rodriguez and the rest of the *Theta Tau* Members, and I want reassured that here at UC Merced campus they are not only excellent students but Engineering role models for the next generations. I am well aware and proud of their performance and their motivation.

Sincerely yours,

Edbertho Leal-Quiros, PhD
University of California Merced
School of Engineering AOB-126
Eleal-quiros@ucmerced.edu
(559) 273-6727

THETA TAU
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY

CENTRAL OFFICE
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205
Austin, TX 78701
512/472-1904 Fax: 512/472-4820
Internet: Central.office@ThetaTau.org
Web: www.ThetaTau.org

November 1, 2011

ΘT Executive Council
Theta Tau Central Office
1011 San Jacinto, Suite 205
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Brothers:

I am pleased to write in support of the petition for chapter status from the colony at the University of California, Merced – the newest campus in the UC system.

In the Fall of 2009, I met with about a dozen UC Merced engineering students interested in Theta Tau. The students knew each other well and wanted to bring a professional fraternity to their campus to unite engineering students at the school. They chose our engineering fraternity as the best way to achieve that admirable goal.

Since then, they have worked consistently to achieve the goal of becoming a chapter. Over the last year, however, they have increased the pace of their efforts tremendously and have succeeded greatly. These achievements are evidenced by the content of this petition. Members of the colony have regularly participated in regional and national events since their colonization. I believe that they have demonstrated that they are ready for the step to chapter status and will continue to be a strong and positive example for Theta Tau on the campus of the University of California, Merced.

I believe this group has the potential to be a valuable asset to Theta Tau, and I recommend your approval of their petition for chapter status.

In H and T,

Michael T. Abraham
Executive Director

December 2011

Dear Brothers,

As the Regent of Omicron Gamma chapter at the University of California, Davis, and as a close comrade to the members of the University of California, Merced colony of Theta Tau, it is my pleasure and honor to recommend this colony for chapter status.

I make this recommendation based on my relationship and continuous interactions with the UCM colony since their inception in May of 2010. I have seen the colony grow and improve in all aspects over the past year and a half, growth which asserts that they are ready for chapter status. Each of the members' brotherhood and passion for Theta Tau is evident from all interactions we have had since first meeting them at their colony certification. The colony has always made an effort to attend events with other colonies and chapters, such as regional conferences, national events, and Founders' Day gatherings hosted by our chapter. Not only are the colony members amiable guests, they are also gracious hosts, proved by my visit to their campus during their Fall 2011 rush week. From this event, I saw firsthand that the colony is well-received and appreciated by the university and the engineering student population at UCM. Their positive impact on the campus was not only evident by the colony members' interactions with their rush guests, but it was also affirmed in a university newspaper feature article.

I am continually impressed by the UCM colony's devotion to Theta Tau and all for which it stands. In the short time that they have been a colony, they have proven that they have the necessary tools and drive required to be a chapter of Theta Tau. There is no doubt I have that they would make an excellent chapter and a worthy addition to our Fraternity.

I wholeheartedly recommend that the University of California, Merced colony of Theta Tau be approved for chapter status, and I look forward to their installation.

In H&T,

Kimberly Rovai
ΟΓ 92 X! YY!

THETA TAU
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY

CHI CHAPTER
University of Arizona
1030 North Martin Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719
Chichapter.com – (520) 505-1904

Dear Brothers,

I am pleased to express Chi Chapter's support for installing the University of California, Merced Colony of Theta Tau as Theta Tau's next chapter.

While we at Chi are not nearby to the Merced Colony, we have met and interacted with many Colony members at regional and national events. The members' participation has been particularly impressive at such events, especially this last regional conference held here in Tucson, to which the Merced Colony sent a healthy contingent of members surpassing in attendance all but one of the chapters in our region. This is by no means due to proximity, as several chapters are closer than or equidistant to the Merced Colony.

It is important to note, however, that this outstanding attendance does not seem to be a one-time occurrence or demonstration, but rather, the Colony has also had impressive representation at previous regional conferences as well as at Leadership Academy and National Convention.

The Colony's participation goes beyond just attending events: at this last regional conference, its members consistently impressed us by their willingness to contribute ideas and learn our own chapter's history and traditions. In addition, Colony members always seemed intent on learning new or different ways to increase rush turnout or improve the pledging experience. This is certainly indicative of a group intent on growing and succeeding as a chapter.

I personally have spoken with many of their members and I am confident in their ability to succeed as a chapter. From the level of commitment members hold to one another as well as towards brothers from other chapters, it is apparent that the Colony possesses the qualities necessary to be a chapter. In addition, I believe the Colony's proximity to Epsilon and Omicron Gamma chapters and the University of the Pacific Colony will allow it to grow into a tightknit and strong chapter.

In the end, the Colony has thoroughly impressed us with its highly motivated members. We believe that their continued participation and desire to improve is the type of dedication and commitment we need in a chapter of Theta Tau.

Once again, I would like to recommend this petition be accepted and I look forward to welcoming them as brothers at their installation.

In H&T,

Franklin Ventura
X1311

Engineering Leaders *for Service, Profession, and Brotherhood*

23 January 2012

Dear Brothers,

I am pleased and eager to support the petition from the University of California, Merced Colony of Theta Tau to become a chapter of Theta Tau Fraternity.

As Regional Co-Director with oversight of this Colony since Fall 2010, I have worked closely with its members and officers, witnessing consistent growth in recruitment, programming, and leadership. When I started, the Colony had ten members, and has since more than quadrupled that, indicating not only a sustainable recruitment program, but also the members' abilities to convey the benefits of membership to their peers. Furthermore, the Colony has amplified the value of brotherhood by embracing Theta Tau's balanced program for its members, such as by executing service projects with Habitat for Humanity, touring the industrial plant of Tesla Motors, and joining with other professional fraternities for a mixer. These examples of our purpose in action will carry them to prominence on a young Merced campus.

The operations and organization of the Colony and its officers have consistently impressed me; their coordination and correspondence is not just on par with, but exemplary for our strongest chapters. In just its first full year, the Merced Colony scored over 700 Schrader points, our threshold for healthy chapter performance; so far this year the Colony is on pace to best that score handily. Colony members have already negotiated common chapter obstacles to design healthy risk-management-and member-education programs in keeping with the noble mission of Theta Tau.

This Colony has bolstered the prestige of Theta Tau outside of its membership with its service to the School of Engineering, which was founded less than ten years ago and remains in flux, seeing three different deans since 2010. The brothers of Merced are active on campus with open study hours and E-Week volunteering, which have earned them the enthusiasm of the current dean and the support of university faculty. Additionally, Colony members have enriched Theta Tau by learning together from recruitment drives with Omicron Gamma Chapter, by attending regional events and the national Leadership Academy, and racking up almost 11 000 member-miles of visits and travel since 2010 to build a strong fraternal network in the Western Region.

The University of California, Merced Colony has shown capability, responsibility, and determination to pioneer Theta Tau at one of our nation's newest universities. This group has already proven to be a valuable asset to its university, to the Western Region, and to the Fraternity. Based on their growth, camaraderie, and maturity, I believe these brothers will continue to be such an asset as a chapter, thus I recommend you approve this petition for Chapter status.

In H & T,

Daniel P. "Xander" White

Daniel P. "Xander" White
ΤΓ18 SSSS! XX! ZZ!
Western Regional Co-Director