



# THETA CHI

## FRATERNITY

Richard P. "Rich" Santoriello (Epsilon Sigma/Wagner 1987)

*Nominated by: Delta Rho/NC State*

### Education:

B.S. – Computer Science, Wagner College

### Summary of Professional Background:

Rich Santoriello has built a distinguished career spanning nearly four decades in Information Technology, cybersecurity, and executive leadership within global manufacturing environments.

He began his career in technology sales in 1987 before joining RJR Nabisco, where he supported engineering systems for large-scale food production. It was here that he developed a passion for manufacturing operations and the role technology plays in enabling efficiency and growth.

Rich later joined Lenox China in Kinston, North Carolina, where over a 10-year tenure he advanced through multiple leadership roles. By the end of his time there, he held responsibility for enterprise IT operations across five manufacturing plants, two distribution centers, a team of 15 professionals, and a \$5 million budget.

Following Lenox, Rich transitioned into consulting with Camstar Systems, advising major global organizations including Johnson & Johnson, Abbott, and KCI on manufacturing systems and operational technology.

In 2005, Rich relocated to Raleigh, NC, to serve as Chief Information Officer for Nomacor, a global wine closure manufacturer. Today, he serves as Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Butterball, where he leads cybersecurity strategy across 28 locations and more than 8,000 employees, managing a budget exceeding \$31 million. He takes great pride in supporting a company whose mission is to "feed the world each and every day."



### Summary of Service to Theta Chi as a Collegiate Member:

Rich joined Theta Chi at Wagner College in Fall 1983 and quickly became deeply involved in both the Fraternity and campus life. He served as Chapter Secretary and spent three years on the Interfraternity Council, including one term as IFC President. Beyond Theta Chi, he contributed as a yearbook editor, campus radio DJ, and Student Activities Board member, helping bring major programming to campus. Rich led multiple philanthropic initiatives benefiting multiple sclerosis and the Boys & Girls Club of New York, earning a Distinguished Leadership and Service Award from the Wagner College President.

He attended the 1984 and 1986 Conventions and multiple Chapter Leadership Conferences, earning Key Man Awards with "E" designation at each. Following exposure to anti-hazing discussions at the 1986 Convention, he helped lead efforts within his chapter to eliminate hazing practices, an early example of values-based leadership that continues to guide him today.

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### **Summary of Service to Theta Chi as an Alumnus:**

Rich's lifelong commitment to Theta Chi began in 1988 after reading a call for volunteers in *The Rattle*. He answered that call and has served continuously ever since.

Over the years, he has held numerous roles including Junior Regional Counselor, Regional Counselor, Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) Adviser, CAB Ambassador, and Mentor. He has supported chapters across the NJ/NY region and, following his move to North Carolina, became instrumental in advising Delta Rho/NC State.

One of his proudest accomplishments was helping develop Delta Rho from 15 members to over 80 brothers, as well as playing a key role in the chapter's successful Reinstallation in 2019-2020 amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has served as faculty for multiple Initiative Academies (2015, 2017, 2019, 2025), Conventions (2016, 2018), and every Theta Chi University since 2014. His teaching focuses on real-world skills including personal finance, resume development, networking, interviewing, and career advancement. For the past four years, Rich has had the honor of serving on the Grand Chapter, where he has worked collaboratively with fellow members to guide the Fraternity through a period of both challenge and opportunity.

During his tenure, he has focused on strengthening our cybersecurity posture, strategic execution, supporting chapter sustainability, and ensuring that Theta Chi continues to deliver meaningful value to its undergraduate and alumni members. His leadership reflects a balance of operational discipline and a deep commitment to the Fraternity's core values.

**Awards:** George T. Kilavos Alumni Award (from the Grand Chapter), Citation of Honor (from the Grand Chapter), David E. DeVol Award, Silver Legion

**Honorary Memberships:** Gamma Sigma/Durham, NC, Delta Rho/NC State, Epsilon Rho/Rider, Zeta Beta/Adrian, Theta Nu/Rowan, Kappa Iota/U.S. Military Academy

### **Summary of Volunteer Service Beyond Theta Chi:**

Rich has been actively involved in his local community, serving on his Homeowners Association Board since 2013. After two years as Vice President, he has served as President since 2016. Under his leadership, the community has improved financial management, enhanced landscaping and shared spaces, expanded amenities, and completed major renovations to the clubhouse, pool, and tennis facilities.

### **Summary of Vision for Theta Chi's Future:**

Rich believes Theta Chi's future depends on strong execution, member-focused programming, and unwavering advocacy for the Fraternity experience. His priorities include:

- Advancing the Theta Chi 175th Anniversary Strategic Plan through 2031
- Advocating for fairness and due process for fraternities on college campuses
- Expanding programs that prepare members for life after graduation
- Ensuring every brother has a meaningful and memorable collegiate experience

Above all, he is committed to listening and understanding what members need and delivering outcomes that matter.

### **Additional Relevant Background/Experience that Qualifies for Service on the Grand Chapter:**

Rich brings a unique combination of executive leadership, board governance experience, and over 35 years of continuous service to Theta Chi. As a former CIO/CTO and current CISO, he understands how to lead organizations through complexity, manage risk, and build strategies for long-term success. He applies these same principles to his work on the Grand Chapter focusing on sustainability, accountability, and member impact.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Rich and his continued commitment to Theta Chi. He looks forward to connecting with brothers at this year's Convention in San Antonio and continuing to serve the Fraternity with dedication, integrity, and a passion for making a difference. *It is truly a great time to be a Theta Chi!*