



WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA



800 Chautauqua
Norman, Oklahoma

Spring 1996

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As newly elected President, I would first like to commend the efforts of our outgoing officers, particularly President Johnathan Nash '96 of McLoud and Vice President Jeremy Stilwell '96 from Seminole. The efforts of our executive officers, particularly Nash and Stilwell, were clearly evident throughout the year. A number of goals set by the Chapter were met the past year, with many steps taken in the right direction.

Our community involvement/philanthropy efforts increased dramatically. Behind the efforts of President Nash and our new house mother Donna Lake, all members and pledges contributed in one way or another, to the community. A few of these programs included Adopt-a-School (an elementary school tutoring program), Number Nyne Hotline (a crises management hotline), Cleveland County Big Brother Association and OCAP (a drunk driving hotline systems). Other activities included Beta-Chi-O litter day in which Chi Omega and Beta beautified the public/ recreation parks in Norman, and Greek Week, in which the Chi-O's and Betas contributed over 600 pieces of clothing, over 3,000 canned goods and many other donations to the needy. Our philanthropic activities will continue to improve as we emphasize this positive aspect of fraternity life.

In the changing Greek community, pledge programs are evolving across the nation. It is no different here at 800 Chautauqua. Led again by President Nash and pledge trainer Damon Gutshall '96 of Pleasanton, CA, our pledge program finalized its transition from the historic Beta pledgship to one of pledge education. We have come to the realization that hazing is and should remain a thing of the past.

As this newsletter will show, the 1995-96 school year was an overall success at 800 Chautauqua. Hopefully, the newly elected officers and I will take what has

been handed to us and continue to build. With the support of our newly elected Corporation President James Elder '69 and Chapter Adviser Grover Ozmun '59, we will continue to strive to be the best of the best in the OU Greek community. Considerably more alumni functions are being planned for the upcoming year, and we sincerely encourage your participation. Please feel free to write or call me and any of my fellow officers.

Yours in -kai-,

Jay Harvill '97



HOUSE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Housemother Donna Lake, pictured above with Vice President Bryan Brown '97, was named House Director of the Year at the 1996 Greek Awards Banquet!

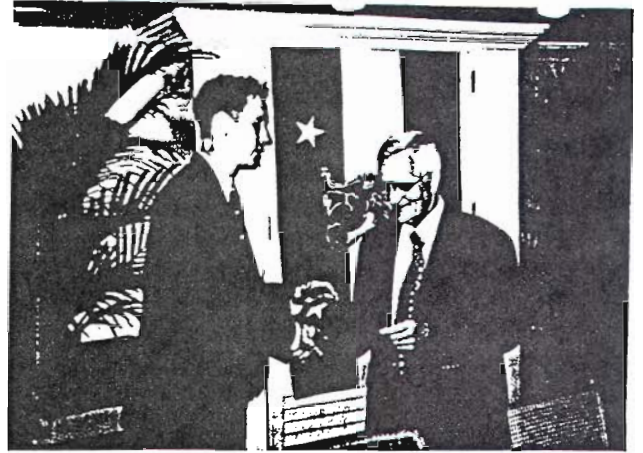
Since joining us last August, Mom Lake has energetically taken charge of our food service, she has patiently revived our housecleaning procedures, and she has greatly enhanced relations with parents and alumni.

After raising five sons, Donna has a great insight to dealing with young men, and we really appreciate her.

PLEDGE CLASS 1995-96

1995-96 saw Gamma Phi initiate a pledge class of 32 young men, raising the latest initiation number to 2293. The newest group of initiates come from a broad range of hometowns, from Illinois and Nebraska to Texas and, of course, the metropolitan and rural areas of Oklahoma. Behind the efforts of rush chairman Trent McIlhaney '96 from Oklahoma City, our 1996 rush brought in four National Merit Scholars, two All-State athletes, several University Scholars and six legacies. The strengths of this pledge class are already evident in scholarship, intramurals, and leadership, with several new members holding prestigious offices in campus organizations and in our chapter as well. The new initiates are as follows:

Randall Agee	Pauls Valley
John Amyx	Frederick
Matt Blue	Midwest City
Raleigh Blumstein	Mustang
Michael Carr	Yukon
Jesse Chapel	Midwest City
Jeremy Christensen	Midwest City
Michael Dobbs	Grapevine, TX
Sam Eiser	Marlow
Jeff Elder	Norman
Austin Fitzgerald	Midwest City
Steve Galoob	Moore
Ryan Harris	Edmond
Ryan Hollenbeck	Ardmore
Jeff Johnson	Broken Arrow
Chris Klaassens	Naperville, IL
Ryan Kolkmann	Broken Arrow
Todd Lee	Kiefer
Everett Lees	Edmond
Mike Monahan	Broken Arrow
Matt Monigold	Lawton
Jeremy Moore	Durant
Brandon Neary	Omaha, NE
Lynn Rash	Marlow
Alex Rideout	Norman
Grant Schwabe	Norman
Matt Stubblefield	Tulsa
Matt Titus	Broken Arrow
Chico Vasquez	Ardmore
Danny Weddle	Norman
Brad Wells	Broken Arrow
Billy Wilson	Yukon



FRATERNAL FIFTIES

Brother Martin Dyer '49, an Ardmore attorney and a member of the first pledge class after World War II, was recently honored as one of Beta's Fraternal Fifties. He is shown above receiving a Fraternal Fifties pin from Vice President Bryan Brown '97.

Brother Martin shared with Chapter members stories of the first days of the Fraternity after the War, and celebrated his long tenure as a Beta.

Fraternal Fifties pins will be presented to other members of Brother Martin's class at the Beta Donors Party next fall.

ATHLETICS

In athletics, we made a jump into the top five in intramurals, with championships brought home in softball and 3-on-3 basketball. Every single Beta team reached the playoffs in their respective sport, and several individuals brought home trophies for individual sports. Our hoopsters captured the prestigious Beta Basketball Championship, a nation-wide Beta tournament held at Eastern Kentucky University. With virtually all starters returning in every sport, our rise in intramurals will continue. Socially, Victory Party and OU/Texas weekend (despite the outcome) were big successes, and the very popular Barn Dance was the talk of the campus, with country western singer David Allan Coe entertaining Betas and their dates.

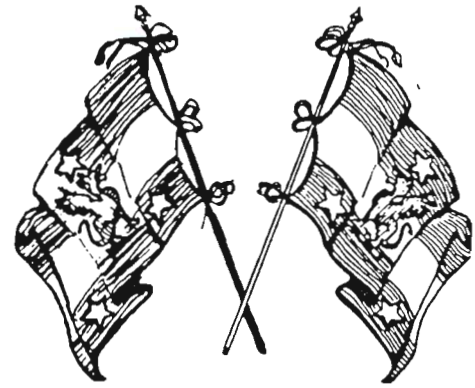
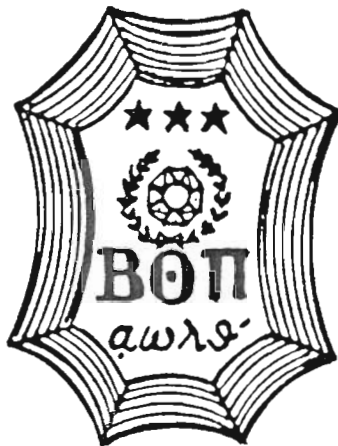
BETA RUSH 1997

Once again support from our alumni and membership will be critical if we are to sign a pledge class worthy of the three stars. During the past few years, the IFC rush system has seen major changes. Unlike rush in the past where very formal structure and mutual selection existed, the rush system today is quite different. Rushees will be able to sign up for rush at any time in the summer (even through the semester), visit the house at any time during rush week, and sign a bid card about three days into the rush week process.

This new rush system is different, but we expect to use it to our advantage through preparation and organization. Summer rush activities and in home visits are unlimited--in fact, the only limits we have are financial. Our newly elected rush chair Bryan Brown '97 of Missouri City, Texas, and his rush team of Durant native Erick Barnett '98 and Carrick Carpenter '98 of Odessa, Texas, are looking for numerous quality men for our next pledge class.

Any information or support you would like to give to our rush efforts will be greatly appreciated. Throughout the summer, any recommendations you have may be sent to the Rush Team in care of the Beta Corporation at the following address:

Beta Rush Team
c/o James Elder
15th Floor, One Leadership Square
211 N. Robinson
Oklahoma City, OK 73102



BETAS ON CAMPUS

The 1996-97 school year saw the continuation of unmatched Beta leadership on the OU campus. For the fourth time this decade, a Beta held either the president or vice-president position in UOSA (University of Oklahoma Student Association). Muskogee native K.J. Little '96 served as UOSA Vice-President, while several other members and pledges served on committees and congressional positions during the year.

In IFC, Jason Lowry '96 from Broken Arrow served as Chief Justice. Much like in UOSA, Betas served in various leadership positions in IFC and Junior IFC. At the Greek Awards Banquet, Lowry received the outstanding IFC executive officer award while Northridge, California native Don Kirkpatrick '98 and Everett Lees '99 from Edmond both received the IFC and Junior IFC outstanding staff awards.

Numerous Betas were involved in academic and honorary societies such as Golden Key National Honor Society, Crimson Club, and Pe-et. President Johnathan Nash '96 of McCloud, K.J. Little, and Jason Lowry were each named a Top Ten Greek (five men received recognition -- three Betas!). The same trio received the University's prestigious Letseizer Award. Little and Lowry were also named Big Men on Campus. With the election of Kirkpatrick as IFC Vice-President and several other younger members appointed to leadership positions, 1996-97 will once again see Beta Theta Pi well represented in OU campus activities.

THE IDEALS OF BETA THETA PI

"They mean something more than banquets and a good time, they mean fellowship and friendship, they bind heart to heart and everyone of our members is a brother to all the rest. We ask not whether he be from Texas or Tennessee, from New Jersey or New Hampshire, it is enough that he is a Beta Theta Pi."

David J. Brewer

SCHOLARSHIP

In scholarship, our Chapter GPA increased from 2.71 to 2.74 from the Spring of 1995 to the Fall of 1995, increasing our standing from 12th to 6th out of 22 fraternities. Then the Chapter GPA increased to 3.04 for the 1996 Spring semester. This earned a third place finish for Gamma Phi. This is a remarkable recovery over the past few years. To accomplish this upswing, the Chapter imposed several requirements on itself. A member study hall was created, and the traditional pledge study hall was continued, with individual tutoring sessions for a number of subjects. Scholarship was also emphasized at every Chapter meeting by members and alumni advisers. Altogether we became more focused on our primary purpose of being in school.



Beta Theta Pi

800 Chautauqua
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

OFFICERS

The newly elected chapter officers and hometowns for the 1996-97 school year are as follows:

President	Jay Harvill '97	Marlow
Vice President	Bryan Brown '97	Missouri City, TX
Secretary	Chan Klingensmith '98	Henryetta
Treasurer	Brandon Neary '99	Omaha, NE
Pledge Trainer	Todd Gladfelter '98	Naperville, IL
Rush Chairman	Bryan Brown '97	Missouri City, TX
Rush Team	Carrick Carpenter '98	Odessa, TX
Rush Team	Erick Barnett '98	Durant
House Manager	Ronnie Nail '98	Mustang
Scholarship	Steve Galoob '99	Moore
Intramurals	Matt Blue '99	Midwest City
Social Chair	Ryan Kolkmann '99	Broken Arrow
Risk Manager	Matt Stubblefield '99	Tulsa

GAMMA PHI CHAPTER:

*is one of the oldest fraternities at the University of Oklahoma

*was founded in 1907 by David Ross Boyd, the first President of the University

*has had 89 years of continued and unblemished existence

*claims four of the Presidents of the University of Oklahoma

*has initiated 2,293 young men as members of Beta Theta Pi