



# WOOGLIN

## On Chautauqua

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



So far, the 1996-1997 school year at Gamma Phi has been a highly successful one. The year got off to a great start with an outstanding pledge class, one with a number of National Merit Scholars, All-State athletes and quality young men. The class average ACT was 25. Credit goes to the rush team, Bryan Brown '97, Carrick Carpenter '98 and Erick Barnett '98. Spring Rush Chairman Matt Titus '99 also did a tremendous job in securing a solid 8-man spring pledge class. The total number of fall and spring pledges signed is 45.

Last fall, the Chapter finished fifth in grades (out of 22). This was somewhat disappointing considering our third place finish in the spring semester of 1996. However, the member average of 2.96 was second on campus. While fifth would be a great finish for some houses, we are well aware of how it stacks up against traditional Beta finishes. We are committed to placing higher this spring.

Campus involvement and community service remain top priorities at the Beta house. Betas hold prominent positions in Student Congress and IFC. Don Kirkpatrick '98 is currently IFC Vice-President and Ryan Harris '99 is chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee for Student Congress. Todd Gladfelter '98 will serve as IFC's Summer 1997 Rush Chairman. Brother Kirkpatrick was a candidate for UOSA Vice President but narrowly lost in a runoff. Philanthropy projects include work with the American Red Cross, the

Jacobsen Foundation and the Children's Burn Awareness Program.

On behalf of the Chapter, I would like to thank the countless Gamma Phi alumni who provided essential support for the Chapter last summer and during the school year. A few of these include Fallis Beall '55, Bill Reed '55, Corporation President James Elder '69, Fred Turner '72, Financial Advisor Bill Sherman '74, Brett Chandler '82, Don Lehman '83, Rush Advisor Zach Allen '85 and many others. We also sincerely appreciate Parent's Club President, Anne Harris, and her husband, Mark Harris '73.

I firmly believe that Gamma Phi chapter is heading in the right direction in all areas. *Jay Harvill '97, President*

### ATHLETICS

In intramurals, all of the chapter football teams advanced to the playoffs, but couldn't crack the top four in any of the divisions. However, thanks to great success in several minor sports and participation sports, Beta entered the spring semester in fourth place. The spring began very well in basketball with our B Team winning the B League championship. Our A Team made the playoffs but was eliminated in the semi-finals. We presently stand in fourth place and are very optimistic about the prospects for our highly regarded softball team, which looks to defend its championship in the Kappa Alpha All-Campus Softball Classic. With strong finishes in the remaining sports, Beta still has a realistic shot at a top finish in intramurals. Finally, our basketball team traveled to Eastern Kentucky University to defend last year's championship at the

Beta National Basketball Tournament. Our team narrowly missed out on a repeat and placed second. *Matt Blue '99, Intramurals Chairman*

### PLEDGE PROGRAM

Our 39 Fall 1996 pledges took part in a pledgship program which complied with University and General Fraternity pledgship guidelines. This program also focused on building unity among the pledge class and instilling the principles of Beta Theta Pi.

A typical week for the pledges included 15 hours of proctored study hall, Sunday through Thursday, 6:00-9:00 p.m., a multitude of intramural sports, from football to handball and other campus activities. During the fall semester the pledges combined with Gamma Phi Beta to put together a superb University Sing act. The pledge class was also led in song practice by Phillip Todd '97. On Friday of most weeks, the pledge class had an alumni supervised house clean. At these cleans, lore and member facts were taught to the new pledge class. On Sunday, to finish off the week, the pledge class had another house clean and their weekly lore test. These tests covered everything from national fraternity information to member facts.

Overall, our pledge program was very successful. The pledges responded well, and they learned what it means to be a Beta. Perhaps most important, they came together as an outstanding pledge class. The pledge class fall grades were disappointing, but the class is working hard to redeem itself the spring. Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to all alumni who generously served as

mentors to our pledges. *Matt Titus '99, Pledge Trainer*

## SOCIAL LIFE

The brothers of Gamma Phi chapter enjoyed an eventful fall social calendar. The year started off quickly with our newly signed pledges meeting the ladies of Delta Delta Delta at a bid day function. Two weeks later, we shared in the traditional Loving Cup ceremony, followed by a mixer with our national sister sorority, Alpha Chi Omega. Victory Party soon followed on Homecoming Weekend.

Instead of ending October with the usual Halloween party, we decided to hold an Oktoberfest celebration. A polka band complete with lederhosen played the event, and the unusual party idea shared with the women of Chi Omega turned out to be one of the best of the semester.

The fall's social calendar ended on a high note with the annual Barndance. The pledges managed to construct a sturdy barn which was used as a dance floor for pledge functions throughout the week. The weather managed to cooperate until the final night, when the festivities were forced to conclude early due to the weather. Gamma Phi chapter enjoyed a full calendar of events and improved relations with the sororities on campus.

Plans for the spring semester are already in the works and functions with Kappa Kappa Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, Chi Omega, Pi Beta Phi and Delta Delta Delta have tentatively been scheduled. *Ryan Kolkman '98, Social Chairman*



## SPRING RUSH

It is with great enthusiasm that we report on spring rush. Before the actual rush week, we reviewed countless applications and met many rushees. This groundwork proved invaluable when the rush week began. When rush week finally started, we knew exactly

which men we wanted. The rush team, the entire chapter and the fall pledge class worked together to put forth a superb rush. The organization and diligence paid off with eight outstanding spring pledges, more than any other fraternity. The pledge class boasts an average ACT of 27 and includes a walk-on member of the OU football team and a former junior college baseball player. Without a doubt, we have the best spring pledge class on campus. *Matt Titus '99, Rush Chairman*

### Spring Pledges

Zane Benson	Garber
Jeff Curtis	Duncan
Jeremy Eaves	Norman
Brett Goodner	Medford
Jeff Hill	Jenks
Richard Lines	Bermuda
Michael Pruett	Lewisville, TX
Cullen Yates	Jenks

## GEARING UP FOR SUMMER RUSH

With the arrival of spring, Gamma Phi is turning its attention to summer rush. This year's rush team will be headed up by Rush Chairman, Matt Titus (Tulsa '99), and Assistant Rush Chairmen, Sam Eiser (Marlow '99), Jeff Elder (Norman '99) and Ryan Kolkman (Broken Arrow '99). We have every confidence that this rush team will be among the best which Gamma Phi has had in many years. The signing of 8 outstanding pledges in spring rush (the most among all fraternities) is a testament to our rush chairman's commitment.

Gamma Phi presently faces many challenges which, ultimately, must be remedied through aggressive, well-managed rush. Such a rush effort requires not only hard work by the Chapter, but also broad support from the Chapter alumni. Last year, the alumni generously provided much needed support in the form of financial contributions, rush parties and rushee recommendations. This year, Gamma Phi will again ask the alumni for assistance in yet another crucial rush year.

Fraternity rush has seen many changes over recent years. During the late 80s and early 90s, the University imposed restrictions on summer rush that were so stringent that most fraternities, including Gamma Phi, virtually abandoned summer rush. Contact with rushees during the summer was drastically limited and rushees could pledge only at the end of formal rush during the first week of the fall semester. Unfortunately, pledge numbers among all fraternities - Gamma Phi being no exception - dwindled during these years. Another consequence of this policy was the loss of much tradition and knowledge within Gamma Phi about summer rush and the proper means to conduct it.

The University has only recently relaxed its restrictions on summer rush, which will begin this June. An unlimited number of contacts with rushees and rush events are now permitted throughout the summer, but rushees still may not pledge until the end of formal rush in the fall. An aggressive summer rush is now essential for a successful pledge class signing in the fall. The rush team must actively seek out and recruit prospective rushees, many of whom are surprisingly ambivalent about joining a fraternity. However, the rush team and the other actives are handicapped by the fact that they have had little, if any, exposure to a quality summer rush program which many of us alumni took for granted during our tenure at 800 Chautauqua. This summer, various trustees for the Corporation and other alumni will be providing advice and assistance to the rush team in order to rekindle Gamma Phi's tradition of rush excellence.

New rules (at least new to most alumni) must also be taken into account. The use of alcohol is strictly prohibited, and women are not permitted at any rush event. Additionally, contact with rushees is generally restricted to in-home visits and so-called rush "barbecues" (i.e., pre-arranged, all male, non-alcohol parties). As a practical matter, it has proved difficult to attract large numbers of rushees to these barbecues. Although there are benefits to these policies, they also emphasize the importance of one-on-

one, state-wide contact with rushees. Extensive cultivation of rushee relationships is more essential now than ever.

These challenges are even more heightened by the fact that the "top tier" of fraternities with whom Gamma Phi must now compete has substantially broadened to include at least eight other fraternities. Another problem is that there is now considerably more parity among the fraternities than in past years. At the same time the pool of available rushees is relatively small. No more than 600 rushees are expected to go through rush and substantially fewer will end up pledging with one of 20+ fraternities at OU. Suffice it to say that rush is now extremely competitive.

Despite these challenges, the Chapter has set a lofty goal of signing 50 pledges this fall (the maximum permitted). In choosing these pledges, however, the rush team intends to be selective to ensure that the new pledge class is comprised of young men of quality character and intellect. Meeting this goal will require a 100% effort by the Chapter. Again, however, it will also require broad, active alumni participation and financial support.

The rush team is already compiling a list of summer rushees. If you know of any prospects in your hometown or elsewhere, please let us know! *Zach Allen '85, Rush Advisor*

#### **RUSH REFERRALS NEEDED!**

Please send your rush referrals to  
Zach Allen  
Beta Theta Pi Rush Advisor  
211 North Robinson, 15th Floor  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
(405) 235-5500

### **CORPORATION REPORT**

This brief message will attempt to recognize some of the individuals who have provided outstanding assistance to the Chapter and to the Corporation.

#### **Chapter House Maintenance**

As you know, one of the primary purposes of the Corporation is to try to maintain the Chapter House. Before Rush Week last year, Guy Bacon caused the living room oak floor to be repaired, cleaned and waxed; Fallis Beall '55 completed roof, gutter and exterior lighting repairs as well as repairs to all bedroom doors, including replacement of lock sets; Todd Booze '90 worked on plumbing and drainage repairs and installation of certain new metal doors; Mark Harris, '73 and his wife-President's Club President, Anne Harris, provided new area rugs, carpeting for the front stairs, and cleaning/waxing of slate floors.

Since first semester Fred Turner '72 has spent enumerable hours working on plumbing, electrical, drainage, sanitation and other problems. He "secured" a majority of the block facade from at the DU House (as it was being demolished), and he has continued work on cabinets, locks, storage areas, etc. With the direct financial assistance of his pledge brothers, Levoy Ellsworth, '72, Jim Gotwals, '72, John Moore '72, and Wayne Wasemiller, '72, Fred has also taken on the parking lot, which needs a great deal of work.

The above described individual efforts have kept the House from slipping into disrepair. However, we must continue to remember that it is approximately 70 years old and that it has had about 200 years of use. Anyone who visits the Chapter House will conclude that we need a substantial annual budget for refurbishment, repairs and improvements.

#### **Work With The Chapter**

District Chief Stan Ward '61, Chapter Counselor Grover Ozmun '59 and Corporation officers Fallis Beall '55, Tom McCasland '56, Fred Turner '72, Bill Sherman '74, and Zach Allen '85, joined by a number of concerned alumni, including Fred Gipson '55 and Bill Reed '55, have continued to guide the Chapter in its abandonment of a hazing program, in collection of house bills, in adherence to a budget and in maintenance of the Chapter House. There have been many challenges during the last eighteen months, but the Chapter, led by its

officers Jay Harvill, '97, Bryan Brown, '97, Chan Klingensmith, '98 and Brandon Neary, '99 have responded well. In fact, the Chapter has undertaken the extremely difficult responsibility of removing from the Fraternity a number of members who would not adhere to basic obligations. As a result, we are a smaller but higher quality group. *James Elder '69, Corporation President*



### **HELP US FIND THE GREG BURNS PAINTING**

Many of you may remember the Greg Burns water color rendering of the Beta House which was commissioned in 1988. Two hundred limited edition prints of the painting were purchased by actives and alumni. Unfortunately, the original painting disappeared in the early '90s. It is believed that a member, alumnus or parent took custody of the painting one summer for safekeeping. However, no one presently connected with the Chapter can recall who that person was. The Chapter is desperately trying to locate this painting, which is among the most treasured pieces of Gamma Phi memorabilia. If anyone has information about the present whereabouts of the painting, please call James Elder at (405) 235-5500.





## DONORS CAMPAIGN

The 1996-97 Donors Campaign has produced \$20,315 to date from 178 alumni and friends. This generous support has been critical! We have separately thanked the donors, many of whom repeat from year to year and also support the Chapter's Rush efforts. In regard to Rush, the emphasis we have placed on a quality Rush for 1997 should be evident from reading this Newsletter. Suffice it to say that your financial assistance for the Rush effort is now probably as important as your help in maintaining the physical structure of the Chapter House.

Of our 1600 readily available alumni, the Chapter and Corporation receive regular financial support from only ten to 15 percent. This is a relatively low percentage of support in view of the history of Gamma Phi Chapter and impact upon all of us.

Editorializing briefly, active involvement with the Chapter as currently demonstrated by Grover Ozmun, Fred Turner, Bill Sherman, Zach Allen, the Harrises, etc. and earlier by Fallis Beall, Tom McCasland and Bill Reed, requires a great deal of time and commitment. Even if one is not able to commit time to the Chapter, he should be able to "fork over" contributions twice a year—once in the Spring for Rush and once in the Fall for the Donors Fund. Donations to these efforts are greatly needed and they benefit our Chapter and the sons, grandsons, nephews and cousins of our Fraternity brothers. Most if not all of us owe much to our Gamma Phi experience. Active alumni involvement and financial support is a means by which we can preserve this experience for future generations.

The "spirit" is still alive at Gamma Phi, and we are making progress. Your concern and assistance are important! *James Elder '69, Corporation President*

## FRATERNAL 50's

Congratulations to the following alumni who are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their initiation in to Gamma Phi:

Robert W. Allen	Ardmore
Charles W. Brown	Albuquerque, NM
Roy B. Dannenberg	Effingham, IL
Clyde W. Fatheree	Amarillo, TX
William D. Ford	OKC
Leigh H. Hammond, Jr.	Cookson
Herbert F. Hewett	OKC
Ted S. Hine	Muskogee
Robert M. Keith	Topeka, KS
Philip J. Lunsford	St. Simons Island, GA
Jack T. Massey	OKC
Thomas M. Meason	Tulsa
J. Keith Miller	Austin, TX
Robert L. Myers	OKC
Lee W. Parrish, Jr.	Enid
William E. Reardon	Albuquerque, NM
Howard A. Smith, Jr.	Muskogee
Robert S. Smith, Jr.	San Antonio
Richard L. Walton	Dallas, TX



Gamma Phi Chapter  
Beta Theta Pi  
c/o 211 N. Robinson, 15th Floor  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

