

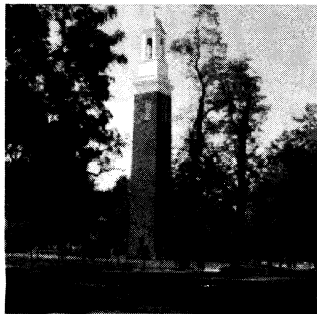
WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA

Volume 2004, Issue 2

Spring 2004

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- Corporation President's Report
- Rush Advisor's Report
- New Initiates
- Alumni News



ALUMNI GROUPS

Muskogee

William S. Warner
918-687-9394

Norman

Grover Ozmun
405-364-9764
sozmun@aol.com

Oklahoma City

Warren "Doc" Jordan
405-843-5158
docjordan@aol.com

Tulsa

Michael B. Tolson
918-747-5948
Mtolson@tolsonlaw.com

Dallas, Texas

Winfree Courtney
214-238-5993

Chapter President's Report

A YEAR OF BETA DOMINANCE!

Things couldn't be brighter for the men at 800 Chautauqua. Winning grades for the fall semester with a **3.10** made it the 5th semester out of 6 for the men to capture this title. Helping out tremendously, **Mark Bicket, Chris Cross, KW Cryer, Michael Flint, Keystone Hughes, Carter Jennings, Brian McCall, Nathan Merideth, Clark Neely, Timmy Nisbet, Matt Pappas, Kenneth Pope, Zane Weaver, Robbie Crosier, Justin Edmiston, Grant Shawhan, and Jared Storts** all received a 4.0.

We also received **1st place** in Homecoming-teaming up with the women of Chi Omega, and **2nd place** in University Sing- participating with the women of Alpha Omicron Pi. Placing **2nd** in the intramural basketball tournament put the men back into the top 3 behind the Chops

and the Sig Eps, concluding our dominant fall semester.

We entered into the New Year with the election of new officers, bringing new goals and aspirations for the house but keeping in mind our ultimate goal, which was set at the beginning of the year, to win the President's Trophy. On April 2nd, the executive officers attended the President's Trophy Banquet. This application for the award consisted of 4 categories: Academics, Campus Involvement, Community Service and Multicultural Activities. Winning grades in the fall secured the academics section. This year four Beta brothers, **David Proctor** (Big Red Rally), **Grant Jones** (Homecoming), **John**



800 Chautauqua

Simpson (College Bowl), and **Brandon Smith** (Sooner Scandals) all held executive Campus Activities Council chair positions—more than any other fraternity on campus. This alone, not including the numerous positions held by other Betas on Campus Activities Council, gave the men a huge advantage in the Campus Involvement section. The new members teamed up with the Salvation Army and put together a 'Trick or Treat' festival, giving inner city children the opportunity to participate in a safe Halloween.

(Continued on page 4)

Corporation President's Report

WORK CONTINUES ON HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Many thanks to all of you who participated in our 2003-04 Donors Campaign. This year's campaign broke all the records with **264** alumni generously contributing **\$46,745** to the preservation of 800 Chautauqua.

This was easily the most successful campaign since the inception of the Donors program.

John Orr '34, Don Cies '59, Dan Moody '69, Fred Turner '72, G. R. Talley '74 and Mike Scherlag '90

were particularly generous with gifts of \$1,000 or more. The Class of '85 led all pledge classes with 15 donors, followed by the Classes of '74 (14 donors), '71 and '72 (11 donors each) and '63 (10 donors).

Our Donors program funding has facilitated several important chapter house improvements. These include our recent replace-

(Continued on page 10)

Rush 2004

**Recommendations
Needed Now!!!**

Email Rob Robertson:

rrobertson@gablelaw.com

Rush Advisor's Report

2004 RUSH TEAM READY TO KICK OFF ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

"The fraternity that rules rush rules campus!" – Socrates-

Well, maybe Socrates didn't actually say it, but its true. Rushing and signing the best young men at OU ensures that the Beta House will continue to be the best fraternity on campus for years to come.

Although summer is still a few weeks away, plans for summer rush have been underway at the Gamma Phi Chapter for several months. In March, the Chapter elected an outstanding new Rush Team: head rush chairman **Ben Burnett** (*San Antonio '06*), and assistants **Joe Kokojan** (*Hinton '06*), **Brad Brown** (*Tulsa '07*), and **Trevor Potts** (*Ardmore '07*). The Rush Team plans to host several rushees at the annual Beta Lei function at the end of April, and is excited about shifting summer rush into high gear after the conclusion of the spring semester in May.

This is also the time of year that Gamma Phi alums and friends are asked to provide their support for rush. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Chapter is perhaps in its best shape ever, recently winning the prestigious President's Trophy as the best fraternity on campus in 2004. The young men who have been recruited to become Betas over the last several years are now consistently winning grades again – six of the last seven semesters for the first time in almost 20 years. They also hold numerous leadership positions on campus, and are at the tops in intramurals. Beta is once again viewed by most as the best fraternity on campus. Of course, this success would not be possible without strong alumni support for rush. Fundamentally, rush is the root of success for any fraternity, and that is nowhere better illustrated than with the Gamma Phi Chapter over the last several years. Due to success in rush in recent years, the IFC Scholarship Trophy is now once again becoming a permanent fixture at 800 Chautauqua.

However, success cannot lead to complacency. To maintain Beta's posi-

tion on campus, the Chapter must continue to rush and sign the top young men entering OU. This requires strong alumni support on three fronts.

First, referrals and recommendations of prospective rushees are needed *as soon as possible*. Please take a few minutes of your time to provide us with information on the young men that you know who may be attending OU next fall. Although pledges cannot be signed until the conclusion of formal rush in August, it is essential that the Rush Team has the opportunity to contact prospective rushees during the critical early weeks of the summer. Although complete resumes are preferred for each candidate, a name, high school, approximate GPA, and at least one telephone number where the young man can be reached after May 20, 2004 will do.

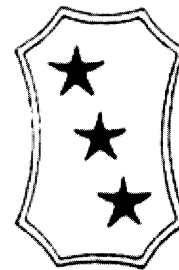
Second, strong financial support is the cornerstone of a strong rush. In the past, thanks to the generosity of our

only a small amount. As the saying goes, "every penny counts."

Finally, as always, help is needed in hosting early-evening "alumni barbeques" in your homes during the summer, especially in the Tulsa and Oklahoma City areas. The rush team is also considering hosting one barbeque in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. For those of you who may not know, rush barbeques are non-alcoholic events where a few alums host 30 to 50 active members and rushees for two or three hours to enjoy casual food (burgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and chips) and conversation. Anyone who can volunteer to host a barbeque for one evening this summer should contact **Dave Hughes** (Tulsa area - dhughes@mcelroymfg.com) or **Rob Robertson** (any area other than Tulsa) as soon as possible. For those who have hosted and attended such events in the past, it has been a rewarding experience and a good excuse to get together with some of the Good Brothers for a Good Time.

Please send your rush recommendations (preferably by email) and rush contributions to:

Rob F. Robertson
Chapter Rush Advisor
 One Leadership Square, 15th Floor
 211 N. Robinson
 Oklahoma City, OK 73102
 (405) 235-5558 (office direct)
 Email: rrobertson@gablelaw.com



Rush 2004 Referrals & Donations Needed Now!!!

Email Rob Robertson:

rrobertson@gablelaw.com

alums, our rush teams have been able to effectively compete with the other top houses on campus during summer rush. However, more financial support is needed each year to stay competitive with the other top houses on campus. Everyone is strongly urged to make a donation to rush this year, even if it is

Official IFC Scholarship Rankings for Fall 2003 Semester

Fraternity	Active Members & Pledges	Chapter GPA
1 Beta Theta Pi	164	3.1054
2 Lambda Chi Alpha	164	3.0574
3 Pi Kappa Phi	107	2.9760
4 Sigma Alpha Epsilon	139	2.9725
5 Delta Upsilon	113	2.9678

44 NEW MEMBERS INITIATED ON JANUARY 23, 2004

The living room of 800 Chautauqua was packed tight for one of the best-attended initiations in several years. No doubt the initiation of **16 legacies** was a significant factor in the large

alumni turnout. However, the number of alumni attending without direct ties to any initiates indicates the high level of continuing interest and dedication that exemplifies the spirit of Beta Theta

Pi. **Ryan Collins** (son of Lorenzo Collins, *Oklahoma '79*) was selected as the winner of the Ralph Gordon Thompson Memorial Award given each year to the Outstanding Pledge.

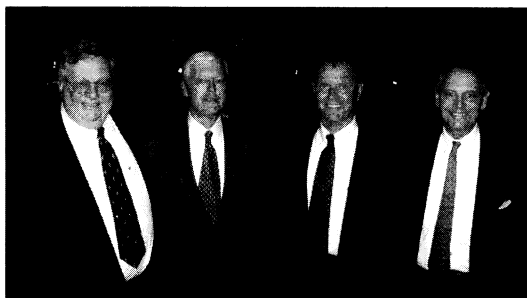
2581	Neal Joseph Sparks	Capitol Heights, MD	2603	David Lee Dickinson	Ardmore
2582	Dan Dixon	Tulsa	2604	Richard Brent Gathright*	Tulsa
2583	Lorenzo Ryan Collins*	Ardmore	2605	David Blair Leonard	Yukon
2584	Justin Lee Edmiston	Sapulpa	2606	John Hughes Barghols*	Edmond
2585	Lindsey Bailliere Hicks*	Boerne, TX	2607	Andrew Bryce Cartmell	Bethany
2586	Robert Bryan Crosier	Pauls Valley	2608	Grant Denver Sheperd	Sentinel
2587	Michael Loyd Tinsley	Norman	2609	Jeffrey Ray Vandagriff*	Marlow
2588	Steven Lane Harral*	Tulsa	2610	James Robert Klabzuba*	Edmond
2589	Kyle Joseph Wittrock	Bethany	2611	Tyler Dan Peterson	Lawton
2590	Beau Robert James	Boise City	2612	Jonathan Roger Allen	Hinton
2591	Bryson Cole Maxwell*	Pauls Valley	2613	Steven Chance Clinkenbeard	Ft. Gibson
2592	Henry Dinkheit Nguyen	Bethany	2614	Michael Paul Dickinson	Ardmore
2593	Bradley Joseph Brown*	Tulsa	2615	Derrick Whitney Lippert	Edmond
2594	Colin Cassidy Drake	Arlington, TX	2616	Grant Tyler Richards	Plano, TX
2595	Steven David Johnson*	Kingston	2617	William Christopher Coberg	Norman
2596	Thomas Paul Schroedter*	Tulsa	2618	Kaben Lynn Smallwood	Muskogee
2597	Bren Fredric Schmidt	Norman	2619	Jared Lee Storts	Ardmore
2598	Brett William Butner*	Seminole	2620	William Trevor Potts*	Ardmore
2599	David Lee Rorabaugh	Oklahoma City	2621	Clay Curtin Dalheim	Arlington, TX
2600	Grant Lawrence Shawhan*	Spring, TX	2622	Ryan Paul Manning	Yukon
2601	William Major Dittner	Marlow	2623	James Evan Nixon*	Norman
2602	Daniel Andrew Balderston	Spring, TX	2624	Ryan Andrew Berry*	Tulsa

* Legacy

JOE SPARKS INITIATED

Gamma Phi is very pleased to announce the initiation of Joe Sparks into Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. Joe is a 1966 graduate of Lehigh University; however, he is better known in Oklahoma as the owner of Legends Restaurant in Norman and a long time friend and supporter of Gamma Phi, its alumni and undergraduate members. Among other courtesies to the Chapter, Joe has made available Legends' private room for the initiation of President Banowsky, for the first Chapter Leadership Conference and for our first Fraternal Fifties Recognition Dinner.

Joe and his wife, Rebecca, have also given extra efforts in providing won-



Fallis Beall #803, Don Cies #959, Joe Sparks #2581 & Wayne Copeland #1165

derful food and staffing at numerous alumni receptions at the Beta House.

In addition to Joe's support of Gamma Phi Chapter, he and Rebecca are both

recognized as outstanding public servants to the Norman community. They have donated time, energy, facilities, food and beverages to numerous civic activities, including the Norman Public School Foundation, the Norman Chamber of Commerce (helped establish the Norman Convention and Visitor's Bureau), the Firehouse Art Center (former President), the Norman Park Foundation, and Friends of the Norman Library.

Needless to say, we are proud to honor Brother Neil Joseph Sparks, Roll No. 2581, as a member of Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

“MOM OVERTON SAYS ...”

Here we are at the end of the 2003-2004 school year and it has been a wonderful and exciting year at the Beta House. Everyone returned from break



Sue Overton
Housemother since Fall 1997

excited about the activities beginning the second semester. The Loving Cup social was a huge success and I was very proud of my young men and their dates as they boarded the buses in formal wear. You were a handsome group!

We all came back from Spring Break safe and sound; everyone had a great time, even Mom. I went to Dallas to

the Big 12 Girls Basketball Tournament which was wonderful since we won! I left Dallas after the tournament and took a road trip to Georgia to visit family, spent St. Patrick's Day in Savannah after a stop over at Destin, FL and Hilton Head, SC for a visit to the beaches. I had a wonderful Spring Break!

We have had a very busy March and April this year. The Fraternity has won the President's trophy, first in Sooner Scandals, the College Bowl, ranked in the top three of Intramurals and even with all this excitement going on we won grades.

David Proctor ran for UOSA (student body) President this spring. Although he was defeated in a run-off on April 8th, he is to be congratulated for the fine effort he and his supporters put

forth.

We have had a wonderful parents club to help us out this year. They are still adding new equipment to the kitchen and many other items on our wish list. The guys are certainly enjoying their new water fountain and looking forward to Finals Food. The House looks beautiful both inside and out and we have a wonderful yard to enjoy.

I have had a great slate of officers to work with this year and look forward to working with the new officers next year. The strength of our leadership is evident every day and makes our Fraternity strong year after year. I wish all of you a happy summer vacation and hurry back for Chapter in August safe and sound.

Chapter President's Report

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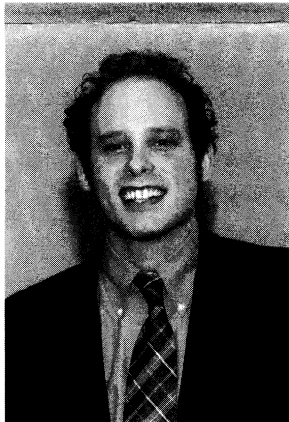
The men also participated in almost every sorority's philanthropy dinner, and co-hosted the annual International BBQ with the women of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

At about 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd day of April, the men heard the words of President Boren, **“THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENT'S TROPHY FRATERNITY WINNER IS...BETA THETA PI!”**

With President Boren's stamp of approval, the Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi received formal recognition as being the best fraternity on campus. On the following Saturday, Beta received **1st place in Sooper Scandals**- participating with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta. This first place finish left the men placing in either first or second in every major campus activity event.

With this new found Beta Spirit, the men are enthusiastic for another successful rush. They have paved the road this year for excellence and know an even better year is to come with signing our best pledge class yet. **Ben Bur-**

nett, Rush Chair, along with Joe Kokojan, Trevor Potts, and Brad Brown, will lead rush for the men of Beta Theta Pi. At our annual Spring Date Party, 'Beta Lei', the chapter will commence 2004 rush activities.



Mike Kurtz
Chapter President

This will be the first Beta date party attended by rushees. The Rush Team has done their job thus far and the men are now eagerly awaiting Beta Lei. With no doubt in our minds nor the University's, the 2003-2004 year has, is, and will continue to be the most successful year the

Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta at the University of Oklahoma has ever had. Nevertheless, the men aren't settling here. We have worked hard to get to this position and will work even harder to stay where we are. We are all excited to be a part of this great fraternity and the 'first mark of Beta' is instilled in all the members.

Michael Kurtz '05
Chapter President

Chapter Officers

President Michael Kurtz '05
VP(internal) Nick Holman '06
VP(external) Brian Dude '06
Secretary Henry Nguyen '07
Treasurer Mark Graves '05
Social Chair Joe Kokojan '06
Philanthropy Chair Jay Malone '06
Rush Chair Ben Burnett '05
Pledge Educator Timmy Nisbet '06
House Manager Derrick Lippert '07
Philanthropy Chair Jay Malone '06
Intramural Chair Brad Brown '07
Scholarship Chair Tom Gilliland '06
Campus Activities Chair Ben Gravley '06
Ritual Chair Austin Dilling '05

The officers are all extremely proud to be representing Beta and are determined to make the rest of this year and next the greatest yet.

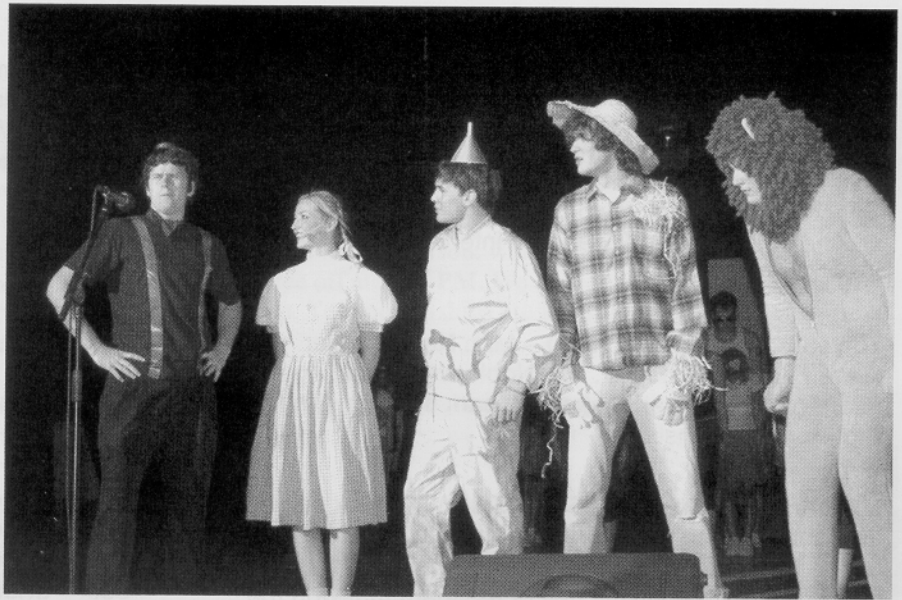


HOUSE TEAMS WITH KAPPA ALPHA THETA TO WIN SOONER SCANDALS

Many nights of hard work paid off on April 3rd as the Beta Theta Pi/Kappa Alpha Theta performance of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" swept the awards at the 2004 Sooner Scandals. The group not only won First Place Overall, but also was selected as Crowd Favorite, Executive Favorite, Best Choreography and Best Musical Production. The Saturday night performance was before a record crowd of 3,200.



Sooner Scandals 2004
Kappa Alpha Theta & Beta Theta Pi

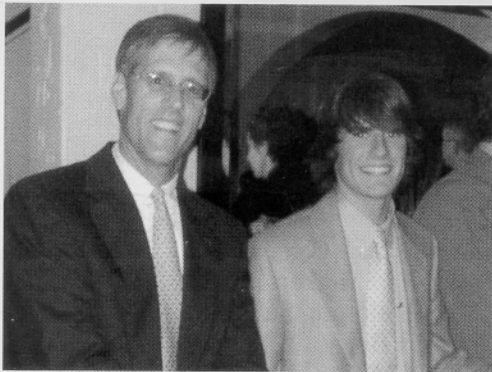


The Wizard (Ben Burnett), Dorothy (Jacki Taylor, Kappa Alpha Theta), the Tin Man (Chris Jones), the Scarecrow (Collin Drake) and the Cowardly Lion (Bryson Maxwell)

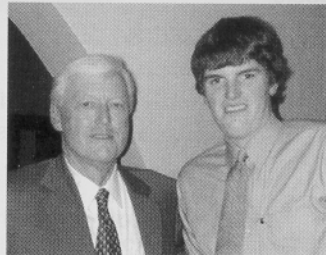
A new twist on an old classic.
BΘII and KAT
(Somewhere Over The Rainbow)
The Wizard of Oz



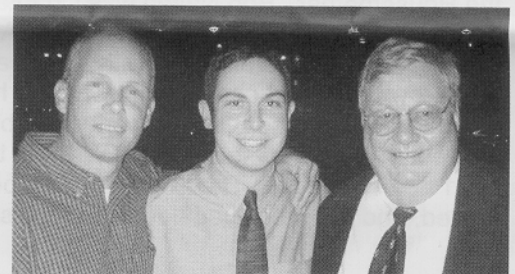
LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON - INITIATION NIGHT



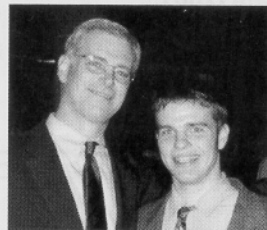
Rennie Collins #1672 with his son Ryan Collins #2583, the 2003-04 Outstanding Pledge



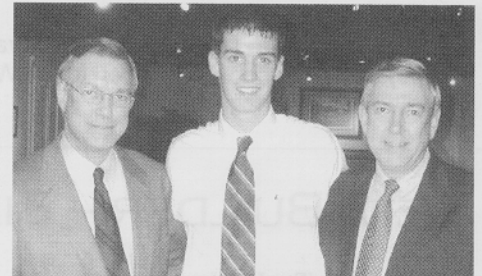
Don Cies #959 with his grandson Evan Nixon #2623



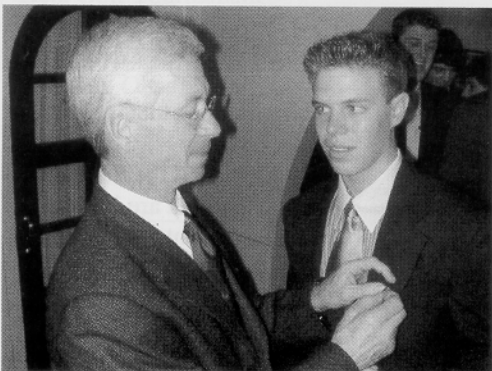
Brent Gathright #2604 (center) with his father Cary Gathright #1774 (left) and grandfather Fallis Beall #803 (right)



Steve Barghols #1486 with his son John Barghols #2606



Steve Harral #2588 (center) with his father Don Harral #1400 (right) and uncle Larry Harral #1258 (left)



Bob Klabzuba #1380 preparing to pin the Beta badge on his son James Klabzuba #2610



Ryan Berry #2624 with his father John Berry #1109.



Paul Schroedter #2596 with his father Thomas Schroedter, Duke '76.



Jim Hicks #1772 with his nephew Brad Brown #2593

LOOKING BACK

100 years ago (Spring 1904) – The February 18, 1904, issue of the Norman Transcript noted that “A Gamma Phi fraternity has been organized among the boys. This is the first frat. at the University.” Wallace Perry was elected President of the Freshman Class. Five members of Gamma Phi participated in the University Grand Concert. John Darling won the Gold Medal for all-around athlete at the Oklahoma intercollegiate field and track meet in Guthrie.

75 years ago (Spring 1929) – Mrs. Ned B. Miller served as Housemother. Bill Noble was a starting guard on the Sooner basketball team that won the first Big Six championship.

50 years ago (Spring 1954) – Mrs. W. P. Vick served as Housemother. Fred Wewerka was Chapter President. Roger Clark played at No. 2 singles on the varsity tennis team and was half of the team that won the Big 7 Tennis No. 1 doubles crown. In Intramurals, the house won the “B” basketball championship and second place in team table tennis.

25 years ago (Spring 1979) – Oklahoma Sain served the Housemother. Bob Naifeh was Chapter President. The Scholarship Trophy was reclaimed. At the request of the General Fraternity, and with significant assistance from the OSU chapter, the Chapter hosted a Regional Beta Workshop that was attended by the General Secretary. The workshop concluded with the initiation of 21 new members. The living room carpet was removed, and the hardwood floor was refinished.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denzil D. Garrison (1951, #669) and **Ryan T. Tate (2001, #2350)** each had books reviewed in the Winter 2004 issue of Beta Theta Pi Magazine.

FRATERNAL FIFTIES—2004

The following Gamma Phi members were initiated in 1954:

Roll	Name	Comments
869	William B. McMurry	Lost
870	Wayman Jackson Thompson, Jr.	Deceased
871	James H. Finney	
872	John L. Prince	Deceased
873	Mac D. Sanders	Lost
874	Lawrence T. Stone	Deceased
875	Robert Morris Caron	
876	John H. Dykes, Jr.	
877	William J. McKinney	
878	Roy C. Williamson, Jr.	
879	Robert A. Reid	
880	Thomas Patrick Hallren	
881	Lonnie B. Chesnutt	
882	James R. Callan	
883	Robert B. Brown	Deceased
884	Robert L. Hall, Jr.	Deceased
885	Charles L. Priddy	Deceased
886	W. Lawrence Eakin, Jr.	Deceased
887	Strauder G. Nelson, Jr.	Deceased
888	William M. Obering	
889	William A. McAlpine, Jr.	
890	Philip L. Devanney	
891	Lester J. Burkett	

MYSTIC SHRINE

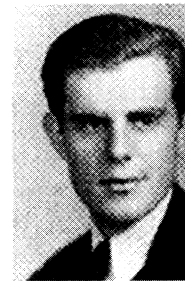
The deaths of the following Gamma Phi members have been reported to us since our previous issue.

Roll	Grad	Name	Date of Death
329	1933	William Robert Clark	02/02/2004
481	1941	William Earl Tankersley, Jr.	02/23/2004
484	1939	Robert E. Morganthaler	7/21/2003
549	1944	Everett E. Berry, Jr.	12/15/2003
662	1950	Robert L. Myers, DDS	02/08/2003

BETA BUILDER – BILL TANKERSLEY, JR. (1919-2004)

William E. Tankersley, Jr. P.E. (1941, #481), died February 23, 2004. His father **William E. Tankersley** (1920, #120) built the Chapter house at 800 Chautauqua. Bill, Jr. graduated from OU with a BS in Geological Engineering. After serving in World War II, he returned to work in the family business, Builders Construction Com-

pany. He completed the kitchen addition in 1964 and summer repairs to the chapter house for twenty (20) years. He was predeceased by his father and his brother **Dan A. Tankersley** (1944, #563). He is survived by two Beta sons, William E. Tankersley III, *Kansas '69* and Christopher K. Tankersley, *Kansas '72*. Brother Tankersley's con-



William Earl Tankersley, Jr. in 1941

tributions to Gamma Phi, the University of Oklahoma and the State of Oklahoma are lasting, significant and admired by all Gamma Phis.

BETA GOLF TOURNEY TO BE HELD JULY 24TH

Dear Fellow Beta:

We are pleased to announce the third annual **Beta Theta Pi Alumni Golf Tournament**, hosted by the alumni of the Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi. As a fellow Gamma Phi alumnus, we hope you can join us this year.

The tournament will be held at the **Jimmie Austin University of Oklahoma Golf Course in Norman on Saturday, July 24, 2004**. The tournament will be a four-man scramble. The entry fee is \$100.00 per person, which includes green fee, cart, lunch, prizes and awards party. Registration begins at **10:00 AM** and we will tee off at **1:00 PM**. We encourage you to make your own foursome or you may enter as a single and we will assign you to a group. Tee sponsorships are available for \$100.00. Donations for prizes, lunch, awards party or beverage carts will be appreciated.

If you are like us, we are sure you frequently find yourself telling fellow alumni, "We should get together sometime." Well, the time is now, and this is your opportunity. Please forward this to your pledge brothers; we had **19** teams last year and would like to increase that for 2004.

Not only will this be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, you will also have the chance to meet and play with Gamma Phi actives. Although this is mainly an alumni affair, the Chapter also hopes to host **legacies and other rushees** at this event. If you have a son, nephew or grandson, please bring him with you. The same goes for any other rush prospects you might like to bring along. **Other friends and family members are welcome to participate.**

Please note that this event is not part of the chapter's fundraising efforts for rush, house improvements, etc. Entry fees merely cover the cost of this event. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in the latest of Gamma Phi's many rich traditions. Please send in your registration form and entry fee check to the address below by **July 9, 2004**. Entry fee checks should be payable to Beta Theta Pi. Please call or email if you have a questions or comments. **We look forward to seeing you.**

Yours in _ kai _,

John W. Ritz '71
Tournament Co-Chair
jwritz@ou.edu
405-325-0463

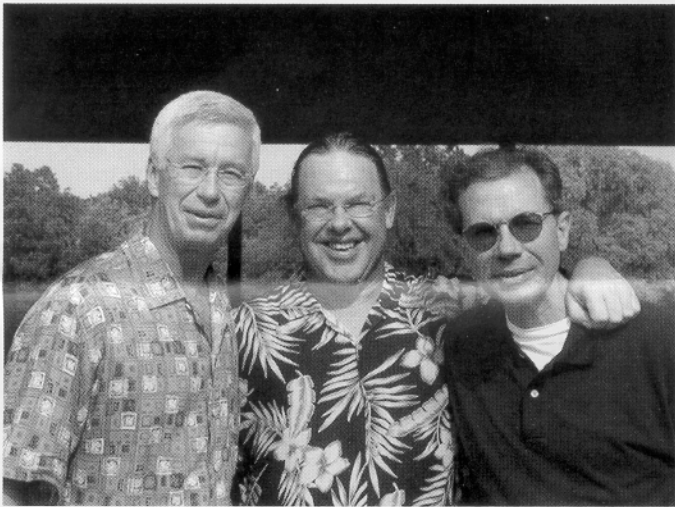
John Hillis '82
Tournament Co-Chair
john-hillis@ouhsc.edu
405-271-2851

Please return your registration form and check payable to Beta Theta Pi to:

Beta Golf Tournament	Registration:	10:00 AM
C/O John Ritz	Lunch:	11:00 AM
1300 Winding Ridge Road	Shotgun Start:	1:00 PM
Norman, OK 73072	Awards:	5:30 PM

Individual Registration: \$100 Team Registration: \$400

Name: _____	Phone: _____
Handicap _____	Alumnus? _____
Legacy? _____	Rushee? _____
(If legacy or rushee, year of H.S. graduation: _____)	
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Handicap _____	Alumnus? _____
Legacy? _____	Rushee? _____
(If legacy or rushee, year of H.S. graduation: _____)	
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Handicap _____	Alumnus? _____
Legacy? _____	Rushee? _____
(If legacy or rushee, year of H.S. graduation: _____)	



Donald D. ... 1931, ... Ryan T. ... 1949 ... 1948 ...

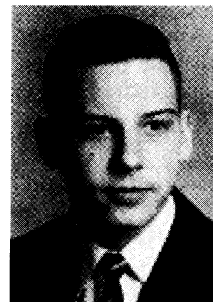
BETA BUILDER - BILL W. NICKERLEY, JR. (1919-2004)

William E. Tankersley, Jr., P.E., (1919-2004) died February 23, 2004. His father William E. Tankersley (1920-2001) built the Chapter house at ... with a BS in Geological Engineering from ... He remained to work in the family ...

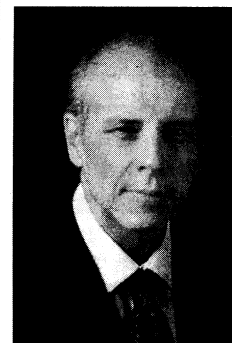
WOOGLIN SMILES - BENTON C. CLARK III

Benton C. Clark III (1959, #937), currently serving as the co-investigator for the Mars rover missions and chief scientist for the space exploration group at Lockheed Martin, was the subject of an extensive article in the Science & Health section of the March 23, 2004, edition of *The Oklahoman* (formerly known as the *Daily Oklahoman*). The article traced Brother Clark's Oklahoma roots, his growing up in Oklahoma City, and his graduating from OU in 1959 with a BS in Physics. He then obtained a Masters

Degree in nuclear physics from the University of California at Berkley. After a period in the Air Force during which he worked on a program that studied the effects of radiation on astronauts, he moved to New York where he earned a doctorate from Columbia University and met his wife. After their wedding and a short stay in Tulsa, the Clarks moved to Colorado. His younger brother **Jim Clark** (1962, #1038) runs the family jewelry business in Oklahoma City.



Benton Clark in 1957



Benton Clark in 2004

GIFT TO MUSEUM

Fred E. Brown (1934, #362), who died in August 2002, left a testamentary gift of \$500,000 to the Sam Noble

Oklahoma Museum of Natural History to fund an endowment for the acquisition of Native American works in fine arts genres to enhance the existing Fred E. and Enid Brown collection of

Native American art which he and his wife donated to the Museum in 1993.

Brother Brown retired in 1988 as President, Chairman and CEO of J. & W. Seligman & Co., Inc.

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT CHIEF

It has been a busy year for District 23. We launched the school year with the great news that Gamma Lambda's charter at Oklahoma State University would be restored in February. Oklahoma City launched their alumni club with great success.



Everett C. Lees,
Oklahoma '99, District
Chief for District 23

From what Oxford says it is one the most successful start-ups they have seen; a great thanks goes to Gamma Phi alums, **Doc Jordan** and **Tony Bumpas**. If you are not on our email or mailing list please contact Hank Ryan and add your contact

information. We would love to see you at the next meeting.

In February the installation ceremony for Gamma Lambda was held at the Oklahoma State Student Union Ballroom. Several hundred attended this celebration. General Fraternity Presi-

dent, Bob McKinley, passed on a challenge to the men of Gamma Phi, to increase their attendance at summer leadership events. The Gamma Phi chapter has made a commitment to increasing their involvement. You can help in this endeavor by sponsoring a Gamma Phi undergraduate to the summer leadership programs. \$395 will send one undergraduate to The Institute for Men of Principle. This highly successful program teaches undergraduates how to lead in today's culture, to better understand our three great principles, and to effect change in their chapters. Please consider helping the Gamma Phi chapter by contributing to this effort. Contact Martin Cobb at 800-800-BETA to contribute.

You may have heard of the Upon These Principles Campaign the General Fraternity is undertaking. This is the largest fundraising effort in the history of any fraternity or sorority. With a goal of \$15 million, we have raised over half that amount in under one year. **James Elder**, Oklahoma '69, is the contact person in the state for this

campaign. Please contact him if you have questions about the campaign.

Finally, the men won the coveted President's Trophy. Instituted by President David Boren upon his arrival, the President's Trophy seeks fraternities and sororities to be their best. They are judged by their campus involvement, community service, cultural involvement, and academic performance. The guys in the chapter in the late '90s remember the hard work many put into winning this trophy, yet it eluded us year after year. We can appreciate the hard work it took to win this award. Tom Greenlee, OU Greek Advisor, told me "Beta is setting the example of how to operate in today's Greek environment." This award is a tremendous accomplishment and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the chapter. With the requirements of this award so similar to the Knox award, hopefully the chapter will bring that award home from convention.

Corporation President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

ment of the main electrical box (long overdue) and repairs of significant roof leaks at the rear dormer and south hip. With the assistance of the Parents Club, new exterior lighting has been installed on the south and rear facades which illuminates the basketball and volleyball courts. We are also presently proceeding with the installation of "moonlight" effect lighting within the front yard trees and additional flood lights which will better illuminate the portico columns.

Our most recent "surprise" just presented itself - replacement of the house's two hot water tanks, which were originally installed in 1968 and 1983. Installation of new tanks is now underway at a cost of \$11,600.

Additionally, we anticipate making major equipment upgrades in the kitchen this summer (~\$5,000-\$8,000). Other improvements under study include installation of a video surveillance system (~\$10,000), which will deter future recurrences of last fall's unfortunate vandalism incident, and replacement of the kitchen and basement HVAC system (~\$5,000-\$8,000), and yet another major roof repair (~\$13,000). Certainly, other needs are sure to present themselves.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the completion of our historic chapter house at 800 Chautauqua. Not only is it the oldest fraternity house presently in use at OU, it's a magnificent architectural structure which has virtually defined the Beta experience at OU since 1929. As Gamma Phi alumni, 800 Chautauqua is a special place to all of us. We can take pride that, through alumni stewardship, the Beta house endures and remains a testament to Beta's long tradition of excellence.

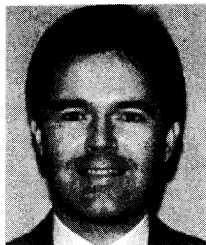
Of course, our motivation is not simply preservation of a physical building. Our mission is to ensure that the

Gamma Phi Chapter thrives as an institution at OU which profoundly enriches the university experience of its members. In this regard, the outlook could not be brighter. The Chapter has won grades 5 out of the last 6 semesters. This April, Beta won the prestigious President's Trophy for Outstanding Fraternity at OU. Betas broadly occupy positions of leadership and campus involvement, exemplified most recently by the Beta Theta Pi - Kappa Alpha Theta sweep of *Sooner Scandals*. Nationwide, Gamma Phi is the largest chapter within the Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity. Stated simply, Beta sets the standard at OU.

As good as its present situation may be, Gamma Phi is not content with the status quo. The Chapter will continue to pursue ever-present opportunities for improvement with the goal of widening the distance between Beta and its rivals. For example, the Chapter recently adopted sweeping changes to its residency rules and procedures which are intended to assure that at least 72 men live in the chapter house. Gamma Phi now turns its attention to summer rush with the objective of decisively dominating its rivals. As always, academic excellence will remain a priority.

Thanks again to all of you who have generously supported Gamma Phi and made this good news possible. With your continued loyalty and assistance, there will be more to come.

Zach Allen '85
Corporation President



Zach Allen '85
Corporation President

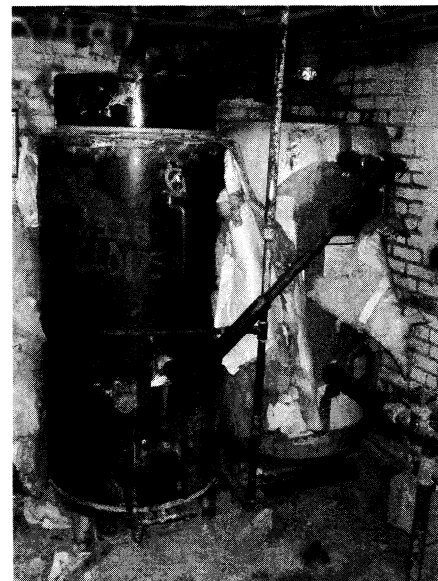
Corporation Officers

Zach Allen '85 - President
Fallis Beall '55 - Vice President
Tom McCasland, Jr. '56 - Vice President

Fred Turner '72 - Vice President
Curtis McCarty '92 - Vice President
Bill Sherman '74 - Treasurer
Mike LaBrie '90 - Secretary

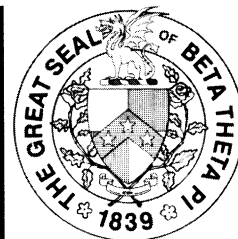
Corporation Members

Grover Ozmun '59
James Elder '69
Hank Ryan '72
Harbour Whitaker '73
Steve Barghols '73
Robert Beall '80
John Hillis '82
Rob Robertson '84
Don Andrews '86
Dave Hughes '87
Brett Robinson '87
Michael Hall '88
Todd Booze '90
Blaine Matray '93
Everett Lees '99



Replacement of these hot water tanks, circa 1968 and 1983, is presently under way.

Our chapter was the top recruiter among all Beta Theta Pi chapters this past Fall Semester. 56 men pledged Gamma Phi. Gamma Lambda chapter at Oklahoma State University signed 44 pledges, the second-largest pledge class. Gamma Phi currently has 181 active members & pledges, the most of any Beta Theta Pi chapter.



2003-2004 DONORS

1934

John Kniseley
John K. Orr**

1937

Louis Stuart

1938

Lyle Ozmun

1941

William P. Jolly

1942

Sam Allen III
Robert S. Frantz

1943

Robert W. King

1945

Frank G. Gatchell
Bill Hemphill

1946

Robert W. Allen

1947

Strat Tolson

1949

Goodwin Broaddus
John A. Croom
Martin Dyer
W. S. Warner, Jr.

1950

John P. Harlan
Lloyd A. Lynd, Jr.
John A. Reid
Dick Walton

1951

Jason T. Massey

1952

Richard R. Hefton
William M. McGee
William J. Ross
D. P. Sobocinski

1953

Dwayne Godsey*
Warren Jordan
J. Hugh Roff, Jr.
Byron H. Schaff
James R. Snider

1954

Robert W. Baker, Jr.
R. E. Bartheld
John Culbertson
Richard D. Haynes
Millard Ingram
Keith Langford, Jr.
Bark Mordy
Lee B. Thompson, Jr.
James H. Warram

1955

Fallis A. Beall
John Culbertson
Geo Lampton
Tom H. McCasland, Jr.
John W. Pettit
James Weed

1956

Thomas G. Norris
Mark H. McKinsey
Frank Mitchell
Ralph G. Thompson

1957

Lester J. Burkett
James R. Callan
Robert M. Caron
Pat Hallren

1958

William R. Broach
Philip D. Hart
William McCoy, Jr.
T. Joseph Semrod
Don N. Smith
Sam Wilhite

1959

Bill Athey
Richard L. Boone
Don Cies
Phillip W. Kyle
V. Bryan Medlock, Jr.
Robert P. Osborne
Neil E. Stanfield

1960

Gary D. Baer
Charles Long
Joe R. Love

1962

Tim Larason
John M. Yeager

1963

Peter Adamson III
Guy Bacon
John M. Coffey
Jim Copeland
E. P. Couch
C. Dale Klingensmith
Richard W. Moore
Louis V. Priebe
Jerry Richardson, Jr.
Roger S. Van Dyke

1964

H. Grant Fair
Regis L. Mullen

1965

Chuck Coward
John L. Graves
Charles D. Watson, Jr.

1966

J. Philip Adamson
Charles M. Cole III
Doug Frantz
W. Carlisle Mabrey III
Joe McMillin
Kent Sloan
C. Micheal Smith

1967

John C. Carter
J. William Conger
Richard J. Gore
Jerry Hassebroek
John Lynn
Daryl Spence

1968

Ron Shotts

1969

Don V. Cogman
Braden R. Cross
James C. Elder
Bradford Johnston
Wm O. Johnston
Dan A. Moody**
Richard D. Padberg
G. Blaine Schwabe III

1970

Steve Glasser
Don Harral
John Lockard
James W. Sharrock
Charles P. Rainbolt

1971

Guy L. Berry III
Chris Brown
Steven Cochran
R.D. Folsom
Elden Hoffman
Robert R. Klabzuba

1972

Mike Lynch*
Hank Meyer
R. Marc Nuttle
Peter G. Pierce III
John W. Ritz

1973

Rufus Bandy
Charles Buland
Paul Carlile
Levoy C. Ellsworth, Jr.
James R. Gotwals
Larry C. Houchin*
Steve Miller
John G. Moore
Louis Stuart, Jr.
Fred O. Turner**
Wayne Wasemiller

1974

William L. Berry
John H. Coker, Jr.
Stan Defehr
Mark Harris
David R. Hicks
Thomas T. Moore
Harbour Whitaker
Bob Yeatts

1974

Richard Baptist
Steven L. Barghols
Ronald E. Bowden
Gary Brown
Tom Hamlin
Jerry E. Kelly
John A. Klabzuba*
Joe P. Klabzuba
Chris Pierce
Scott Rayburn, Jr.
Bill Sherman
G. R. Talley**
Frank Thompson
Wes Wilson

1975

Richard B. Bates*
Andy Bishop
William H. Creel II
William A. Gossett
Layton J. Hill III
Robert Morgan
Steve Van Aken

1976

Mark Curnutte
John A. Fuller
Brad Hoopes
John S. Klabzuba
Graydon D. Luthey, Jr.
Patrick L. Mandeville
Jack E. Rayburn, Jr.

1977

Kim R. Hauger
Donald P. Maxwell, Jr.
James Read
Neil Sisson

1978

Kevin Foxx*
Donnie M. Hughes
Steven C. Jordan
Bradford Kemp
Warren Kruger
John Munger
Jeff Niemeyer
David E. Rainbolt
Thomas S. Stapleton
Michael J. Sutherland

1979

Lorenzo T. Collins
Richard C. Greer
John Huff
Martin Jones
Doug Kinzie
Robert N. Naifeh, Jr.
James W. Taylor

1980

Robert S. Beall
Mike Bickford
Brian Busby
Richard T. Lane
Jesse Leeds
Jeff Scott
Adam Wagner

1981

Tom H. McCasland III
R. Kevin Redwine
W. Dale Reneau
Adam C. Wagner

1982

Bradford Boone
John E. Campbell, Jr.
Cary Gathright
John R. Hillis
Greg T. Jones
Lance Tolson
Michael B. Tolson

1983

William S. Banowsky, Jr.
Donnie Lehman
Andrew Louis
Brooks G. Mitchell

1984

R. Tyler Boone
R. Todd Boone
Jay S. Edzards
Stuart Emmons
Rob F. Robertson
Steven D. Tolson

1985

Zachary W. Allen
Jon Baccus
Robert L. Barr IV
Charles L. Dobbbs
Robert R. Felton
Todd Huckabay
Dow Hughes
Kevin James
Charles F. Knapp
Brad H. Liebmann
Mark Meyer
Charles E. Towe, Jr.
Jay Wade*
Randy Wells
C. Robert Wright

1987

David Kitchen
Dave Hughes

1988

Michael Hall
Mike Krampf
Guy Lamb
Marice Lampl
Scot A. Sullivan

1989

Matthew Akin
Frank Ayres
Daniel Medley
Roger Reneau

1990

Todd Booze*
Mike J. LaBrie
Mark M. Lauer
Mike Scherlag**

1991

Keith R. Moore
Jay Penn

1992

Kevan Higgins
James T. Johnson
James T. Kern, Jr.
John L. Lauer

1996

Kendall J. Little
Blake B. Williams
Don Kirkpatrick

1998

Chauncey D. Klingensmith

1999

William J. Elder

2000

Justin C. Briggs
Zack N. Hall

Others

William Speller

* \$500-\$999 ** \$1000 or more

BETA THETA PI WINS PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

The Chapter won the President's Trophy for Outstanding Fraternity this Spring, besting the thirteen other fraternities that competed.

The Trophy is awarded on the basis of exhibiting excellence equally in:

- Academics
- Campus Activities
- Community Service
- Volunteerism
- Multicultural Activities.

Factors contributing to the win included:

- Participating in this year's:
 - Big Event
 - Adopt-an-Area Program
 - And Adopt-a-Faculty program.

Members were involved in many different organizations, including:

- UOSA Student Congress

- J. C. Penney Leadership Group
- The Student Business Association
- OU Cousins
- College Democrats
- Young Republicans
- Crew Team

Additionally, the Chapter:

- Earned 200 honors and awards,



OU President David Boren presents the President's trophy to Chapter President Michael Kurtz.

Recognized as
The Outstanding Fraternity
at the
University of Oklahoma

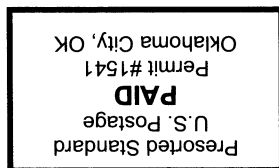
and performed 300 volunteer service hours

- Had 45 members participate in Trick or Trunk with the Salvation Army
- Held 67 Executive officer posts on campus
- Co-hosted a barbecue for international students.

The Trophy includes a cash award to the Chapter of \$5,000. The Chapter was also the winner in the specific Academics category with a GPA of 3.147.

The President's Trophy for has been awarded annually since 1996.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Gamma Phi Chapter
Beta Theta Pi
Two Leadership Square, 14th Floor
211 North Robinson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102