

WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA

Volume 2004, Issue 3

Fall 2004

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GAMMA PHI CENTENNIAL

Coming in 2007

As Oklahoma celebrates 100 years of statehood, we will be celebrating 100 years as a chapter of Beta Theta Pi. For information contact:

Steve Barghols
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 15th Floor
 One Leadership Square
 Oklahoma City, OK 73102
 405-235-5567

**Rush 2005
 Recommendations**

&

Contributions

Email Rob Robertson:
rrobertson@gablelaw.com

Chapter President's Report

OFF TO A GOOD START

In the last issue of *Wooglin on Chautauqua* I spoke about our chapter continuing to strive for excellence. This fall, I couldn't be more proud and truly believe we are on track for success. Upon moving into the house the executive committee along with our new advisory council met to examine our goals for the year. Our first and most important goal is to win the Know Award for Chapter Excellence, an award given

by our General Fraternity, and repeat last years achievement by winning the President's Trophy for the university's most outstanding fraternity. We also raised the academic bar. Our chapter goal this semester is to achieve a grade point average of 3.25, and obviously continue to win grades over all the fraternities. Our third and final



800 Chautauqua

goal is to bring back the elusive Campus Intramural Championship Trophy, a task not achieved by the chapter for the past 5 years. With these objectives at hand, the men at 800 Chau-

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Corporation President's Report

STRONG ALUMNI SUPPORT CONTINUES

The state of Gamma Phi remains strong, and we have every reason to expect that only better days are ahead. Beta Theta Pi remains the largest fraternity at OU, and the Chapter house was full this fall with 73 residents. The Chapter completed a dominating rush performance with the signing of 59 outstanding pledges, all of whom remained within the pledge class as of the end of the fall semester (possibly a first?). Academics, achievement and campus leadership remain a priority within Gamma Phi, as evidenced by many recent awards and accolades. The Chapter placed first among all large houses in grades last spring (fall grades are not yet

available as of this writing), received the President's 2003-04 Outstanding Fraternity Award at OU, swept nearly all awards at the spring Sooner Scandals Show (teaming up with the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority), etc., etc.

Donors Campaign

There has been an absolutely tremendous response to the 2004-05 Beta Donors Campaign. To date, **270** alumni have contributed **\$44,830** to this year's campaign. This is likely the best outpouring of support in the 21-year history of the Beta Donors Program. **Thanks to each and every one of you for your generous and steadfast support!** In par-

ticular, John Orr '34, Don Cies '59, Charles M. Cole, III '66, Dan Moody '69 and Todd Booze '90 deserve special recognition and thanks for their generous gifts of \$1,000 each.

As always, donor funds will be used to finance capital improvements and major repairs to the Beta House. Repairs and improvements which are slated or under consideration for next year include the following:

- *The old chapter room in the basement is now used as study hall. Although the Parents Club has helped furnish this room, it's far from what it could be. Given that*

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Rush Advisor's Report**GAMMA PHI AGAIN SIGNS TOP PLEDGE CLASS**

In Fall 2004, Gamma Phi signed yet another outstanding pledge class of 59 young men to conclude what was one of the chapter's most successful rush efforts in recent memory. This year's pledge class is the result of hard work of the 2004 rush chairmen, Ben Burnett (San Antonio '06), and assistants Joe Kokojan (Hinton '06), Brad Brown (Tulsa '07), and Trevor Potts (Ardmore '07), as well as many other active members and alumni.

Gamma Phi signed its full quota of new pledges for 2004 formal rush in record time, and this year's pledge class is again considered the best on campus. Academically, the pledge class boasts over a 26 average ACT score, and the class includes four National Merit Scholars, seven University or Regent Scholars, four members of the President's Leadership Class, and eight valedictorians and salutatorians. The class is complimented by a number of fine athletes, including two all-state award recipients, and two varsity scholarship athletes. A complete list of the young men who pledged in Fall 2004 is included in this newsletter, and it includes 20 legacies, including what may be a record nine Beta sons: Andy Bennett (father Dave Bennett); Jeffrey R. Edzards (father Larry Lynn Edzards '75); Cullen Greer (father Richard C. Greer '79); Benjamin J. Ickard (father James Ickard); Bryan A. Luff (father Mark R. Luff '73); Jonathan S. Prickett (father Josh L. V. Prickett '82); John C. Richert (father William F. Richert '73); Trey Smith (father Rocky Smith '79); and Chalmers Rieger Wood, IV (father Chalmers Rieger Wood, III '77).

The chapter also expanded the geographic diversity of its membership with this year's pledge class, signing young men from Council Hill, Oklahoma, to West Chester, Pennsylvania. The chapter also continued to make significant inroads in the Tulsa area, where it had historically not had the strongest presence. The chapter also signed a strong group of out-of-state pledges, many of whom are Gamma Phi legacies. In keeping with past tradition, almost one-fourth of this year's

pledge class graduated from Oklahoma high schools outside the two major metropolitan areas, including Fort Gibson, Ponca City, Henryetta, Lawton, Ardmore and Dale.

Over the last several years, Gamma Phi has consistently signed the best pledge classes on campus, and the results are evident. Recent successes in rush are the primary reasons the chapter is dominating again in all areas of campus life - academics, leadership, athletics and social. The IFC Scholarship Cup is again becoming a common fixture at 800 Chautauqua, thanks to the recruitment of top quality men through rush.

One of the keys to successful rush is the unparalleled support provided by Gamma Phi alumni. Generous financial contributions, which collectively exceeded \$25,000 from almost 200 donors, enabled the chapter to maintain a strong rush throughout the summer and into the critical formal rush period at the end of August. Many of our alumni answered the call for financial help in August, after early rush contributions dropped off significantly from previous years. A list of financial contributors is included in this newsletter, and the chapter extends a most sincere thanks for the continued support of rush by Gamma Phi alumni from across the nation. In addition to making financial contributions, several alums went out of their way to assist in hosting rush functions or providing other support during the summer. Jay Fitzgerald '84, Steve Miller '72, Don Maxwell '77 and Danny Jordan '78 hosted sum-

mer BBQ's at their homes. A number of our Tulsa area alums, led by Robert Baker '54, hosted a very successful function at Southern Hills Country Club, and our Ardmore area alums once again hosted a function. As in the past, the chapter's Tulsa-area rush advisor, Dave Hughes '87, provided invaluable support in the chapter's efforts in the Tulsa area.

Although high school graduation is still several months away, the chapter must begin now to prepare to duplicate its success in rush in 2004. Because of the extremely competitive nature of fraternity rush, it is critical that the chapter begins developing a list and contacting prospective rushees long before summer rush officially begins. Alumni and friends of the chapter who know outstanding young men who may be attending O.U. next fall are encouraged to submit names and biographical information as soon as possible. Please send the following information to the chapter's rush advisor, Rob Robertson, (see email address on this page): (1) rushee's name; (2) high school; (3) home and cell phone number; (4) street or mailing address; (5) email address; (6) current GPA; (7) current ACT or SAT; (8) academic honors; and (9) activities, including leadership and athletics.

The chapter looks forward to continued success in rush with the help of alumni rush recommendations and continued financial support in 2005.

*Rob Robertson '84
Rush Advisor*

Official IFC Scholarship Rankings for Spring 2004 Semester

	Fraternity	Active Members & Pledges	Chapter GPA
1	Phi Delta Theta	46	3.270
2	Triangle	13	3.138
3	Sigma Nu	20	3.112
4	Pi Kappa Alpha	41	3.094
5	Beta Theta Pi*	163	3.090
6	Lambda Chi Alpha	155	3.088
7	Sigma Phi Epsilon	124	3.080
8	Phi Gamma Delta	105	3.020
9	Sigma Alpha Epsilon	138	2.997
10	Phi Kappa Psi	21	2.996

*1st among "large house" fraternities

2004 RUSH CONTRIBUTORS

Pete Adamson III	Jay Fitzgerald	Mike Krampf	Robert P. Osborne
J. Phillip Adamson	R. D. Folsom	Philip W. Kyle	Lyle W. Ozmun
James P. Akey, Jr.	Kevin L. Foxx	Michael J. Labrie	Jay W. Penn
Zachary W. Allen	Douglas Frantz	Guy Lamb	Jay W. Pettit
Don Andrews	Robert S. Frantz	M. B. Lampl III	James Pickens
Thomas H. Atkins	Bennett Fuller	Larry Lebarre	Chris H. Pierce
Franklin W. Ayers, Jr.	Frank G. Gatchell	Jesse L. Leeds, Jr.	Peter G. Pierce III
Guy Bacon	Cary Gathright	Everett C. Lees	Richard G. Porter
Mike Badgwell	Rick Gibbon	Jason S. Lees	David E. Rainbolt
William W. Bandy	Dwayne Godsey	Donald M. Lehman	Jack E. Rayburn, Jr.
Robert W. Baker, Jr.	Richard J. Gore	John T. Lilly	James B. Read
Andrew Ball	Jim Gotwals	Todd J. Lisle	Lawrence B. Reams
William S. Banowsky, Jr.	Gerald K. Greer	John T. Lockard	R. Kevin Redwine
Steven L. Barghols	Richard C. Greer	Charles F. Long	William Richert
Richard B. Bates	Michael R. Hall	Andrew Louis	John W. Ritz
Carter Baumert	Zack N. Hall	Joe R. Love	Rob Robertson
Fallis A. Beall	John P. Harlan	Rich Love	Brett Robinson
Robert S. Beall	Don L. Harral	Scott Lucas	J. Hugh Roff, Jr.
Guy L. Berry III	Larry S. Harral	Mark R. Luff	William J. Ross
John S. Berry	Loy E. Harris	G. Dean Luthey	Fenton A. Sanger
William L. Berry	Bo Harrison	Michael T. Lynch	Byron H. Schaff
Paul Bevilacqua	Jerry C. Hassebroek	Lloyd A. Lynd, Jr.	G. Blaine Schwabe III
Andy Bishop	Kim Hauger	W. Carlisle Mabrey III	Bill Settle
Bradford L. Boone	Richard D. Haynes	Patrick L. Mandeville	G. Calvin Sharpe
Todd Booze	Richard R. Hefton	Jack T. Massey	Tom Sherman
William R. Broach	Ben J. Heinrich	Mark A. Mathews	Kim W. Shoemake
Randy E. Brogdon	William J. Hemphill	Richard C. Mathews	S. Neil Sisson
Chris Brown	David R. Hicks	Blaine Matray	S. K. Sloan
Goodwin Broaddus	James R. Hicks	Donald P. Maxwell, Jr.	Carl Michael Smith
Lester J. Burkett	Kevan Higgins	Thomas H. McCasland, Jr.	Don A. Smith
Mike Burnett	John R. Hillis	Tom H. McCasland III	James R. Snider
John Burns	Larry C. Houchin	Douglas Ian McDonald	G. L. Smith
Horace K. Calvert	Richard T. Howell, Jr.	William M. McGee	William T. Speller
Paul V. Carlile, Jr.	John N. Huff	James W. McIntyre	Thomas S. Stapleton
Michael A. Cawley	Donnie M. Hughes	Joe B. McMillin	Michael H. Strong
Dewey W. Chambers	Dave Hughes	Drew Millington	Scot Sullivan
Don Cies	Dow R. Hughes	Scott D. Millington	John C. Swineford
Steven B. Cochran	Aaron D. Hutton	Clark Millspaugh	G. R. Talley
Don V. Cogman	Greg T. Jones	Robert C. Millspaugh, Jr.	Chad C. Taylor
Lorenzo T. Collins	Rick Johannes	Robert Park Medearis	Lee B. Thompson, Jr.
J. William Conger	Stan Johnson	J. Steve Miller	Arthur Thompson
E. P. Couch	Brad Johnston	Scott D. Millington	Ralph G. Thompson
Charles S. Coward	T. Mark Johnston	Dan A. Moody	Lance S. Tolson
Braden R. Cross	William O. Johnstone	John G. Moore	Michael Tolson
Mark W. Curnutte	Daniel W. Jordan	Kyle Richard Moore	Charles E. Towe, Jr.
Clarence A. Dover, Jr.	Warren K. Jordan	Richard W. Moore	Fred O. Turner, II
Robert W. Dow	Langford Keith, Jr.	Ronald W. Moore	Steve Van Aken
Trey Dzialo	Jerry E. Kelley	David G. Mordy	Stan M. Vlasimsky
Jay Scott Edzards	Robert W. King	Michael R. Moses	Jay Wade
Larry Edzards	Douglas G. Kinzie	John Munger	Adam C. Wagner
Michael L. Elder	David H. Kitchen	Robert N. Naifeh, Jr.	John Waldo
James C. Elder	Robert R. Klabzuba	Steve Newcombe	Gary M. Walker
Levoy C. Ellsworth, Jr.	C. Dale Klingensmith	R. Marc Nuttle	Gregory C. Wallace
Douglas C. Fellrath	Charles F. Knapp	Brian E. O'Hara	W. S. Warner, Jr.
Rob Felton	John W. Kniseley	John K. Orr	Wayne L. Wasemiller

"MOM OVERTON SAYS ..."

The fall semester of 2004 has started with a bang! Approximately 800 young men came through Rush. Seven groups visited our house each night. We served a delicious buffet dinner to 350 boys each night. The Beta trophies were on display for the prospective members to view. Beta Theta Pi pledged 59 new members.



Sue Overton
Housemother since Fall 1997

The boys celebrated with a Bid Day party in OKC.

The Betas also had a Victory Party after the Bowling Green game. The party and the game were huge successes.

The traditional Beta Bar-B-Que, held before the Oregon game, attracted one of the largest crowds we've ever had. All the parents were involved in the fund

raiser, an auction of beautiful gift baskets.

The first Parents' Club Meeting for the year was held. The pledges' parents and several grandparents attended. The guests met the officers from the House Corporation and the Chapter officers. Officers from the Parents' Club were presented. The Parents' Directories were distributed to new members. The books contained much helpful information.

On September 22nd, the Betas joined the Chi Omega Sorority and the American Indian Student Association for an Indian Taco dinner, a joint philanthropy event. The food was cooked at the Beta House, transported to the Chi Omega House, then served to guests on the basketball court. A huge crowd attended, and over \$3000 was earned. The money will go to the favorite charity of each of the three host groups. Half Our money will be donated to benefit the Dream Catcher Play Ground Foundation, a play ground accessible to handicapped children in Eastern Oklahoma County and the

other half to the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation.

The Pi Phis and Betas celebrated winning the President's Trophy with a 70's party at the bowling alley called "The Best of the Best."

Without a football game, the weekend of September 25th and 26th was fairly quiet. Hopefully, the Betas were catching up on their schoolwork.

We are lucky to have as our new cook, Irene Lambert. The boys are really enjoying the food she prepares. She especially enjoys using our new deep-fryer. The meals are delicious and nutritious. We are also very thankful to have Shelly Jones back. Her assistance in the house has been gratefully appreciated. In my years of being house mother, this group of young men have truly been the most enthusiastic gentlemen and I have enjoyed every minute of this semester serving as mother to this wonderful house.

Chapter President's Report

(Continued from page 1)



Mike Kurtz
Chapter President

tauqua believe we are well on our way of conquering our goals. Through the direction of our intramural chair, Brad Brown '07, the chapter is off to a good start. Both football teams are undefeated heading into the playoffs. We gained our first intramural trophy of the year last weekend, winning the All-Campus Open football tournament for fraternities. We are all very excited about next weeks sporting event, co-ed soccer, with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta. With our restructured pledge participating program for intramurals we expect to retake our spot on top as the intramural champions.

This year during Dad's Day week-

end, the men of Beta Theta Pi and the women of Pi Beta Phi will be performing in University Sing. Although the production has not taken place, their hard work and efforts has promoted high expectations of another victorious show by many members of the U-sing executive committee. Later on this month the men will be participating in Homecoming 2004 with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta in hopes of winning Homecoming for their second year in a row.

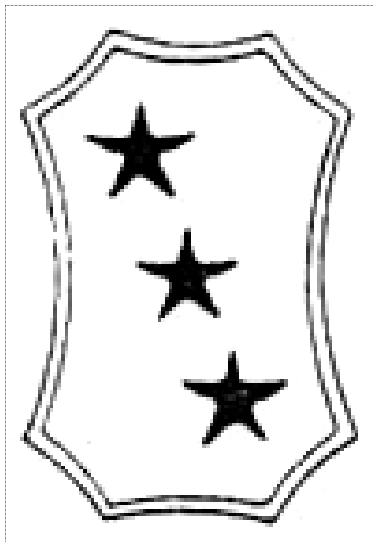
We are all excited about the new members of our fraternity. Their enthusiasm for Beta and excitement for the University has only had a positive impact on the older members, and the potential of these 59 young men has only begun to show. I'm excited to see what else they have to offer to the chapter. Through the combination of these aspects of our fraternity life, I am almost certain that each of our goals planned for the chapter will be undoubtedly met and this semester will lead to yet another triumphant year.

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 FALL 2004 GAMMA PHI PLEDGE CLASS



Name	High School	City, State
Adam Alonso	Tulsa Memorial	Tulsa, OK
Andy Bennett*	Tulsa Memorial	Tulsa, OK
Jordan Bishop	Colleyville Heritage	Grapevine, TX
Cody Boatman*	Broken Arrow	Broken Arrow, OK
Ty Bohannon	Tulsa Union	Tulsa, OK
Ross Clemens	Norman North	Norman, OK
Jay Coffman	Cascia Hall	Tulsa, OK
Theo Coleman	Creekview	Carrollton, TX
Ryan Compton	Lawton	Lawton, OK
R.T. Conwell IV	Lawton	Lawton, OK
Ryan Cook	The Woodlands	Montgomery, TX
Jakeb Coon	Ponca City	Ponca City, OK
Jeff DeFrancesco	Bishop McGuiness	Edmond, OK
Nick Dollarhide	Klein	Spring, TX
Andrew Dunlevy	Bishop McGuiness	Edmond, OK
Jeff Edzards*	Norman North	Norman, OK
Patrick Frensley*	Sprayberry	Marietta, GA
Justin Flowers	Colleyville Heritage	Grapevine, TX
Charlie Graves*	Norman North	Norman, OK
Cullen Greer*	Klein	Spring, TX
Keith Henry	Edmond Memorial	Edmond, OK
Chris Hillin	Arlington Lamar	Arlington, TX
Hunter Hoelscher	Norman North	Norman, OK
Scott Hollingsworth	Tulsa Memorial	Tulsa, OK
J. R. Hurley	Norman North	Norman, OK
Ben Ikard*	Bishop McGuiness	Nichols Hills, OK
Tyler Jennings	Norman North	Norman, OK
Bayley Jordan	Ponca City	Ponca City, OK
Jared Keck*	Dale	Dale, OK
Matt Long	Edmond North	Edmond, OK

Name	High School	City, State
Bryan Luff*	Putnam City North	Oklahoma City, OK
Adrian Maurer	Breed Henderson	West Chester, PA
Michael May	Edmond North	Edmond, OK
Jon McCartney	Edmond Memorial	Oklahoma City, OK
Dana McCarty	Midway	Council Hill, OK
Jacob McGee	Pauls Valley	Pauls Valley, OK
Charlie McMahon	Cascia Hall	Tulsa, OK
Kelly Mercer	Bishop Kelley	Tulsa, OK
Kendall Moore*	Henryetta	Dewar, OK
Tobin Newcomb*	Fort Gibson	Fort Gibson, OK
Terrell Pappas	Houston Memorial	Houston, TX
Matt Pennington	Lawton	Lawton, OK
Braden Pollard	Ardmore	Ardmore, OK
Eks Wye Pollock	Edmond Memorial	Edmond, OK
Jonathan Prickett*	Colleyville Heritage	Colleyville, TX
Michael Purcell*	Norman	Norman, OK
John Richert*	Tulsa Memorial	Tulsa, OK
Will Riley	Ardmore	Ardmore, OK
Charlie Scherer*	Southwest Christian	Fort Worth, TX
Trey Smith*	Katy	Katy, TX
Matt Snider	Edmond Santa Fe	Edmond, OK
Blair Speer	Norman North	Norman, OK
Reid Thompson*	Henryetta	Henryetta, OK
Chase Tucker*	Kerrville Tivy	Kerrville, TX
Zack Weaver*	Ardmore	Ardmore, OK
Matt Whitaker	Tulsa Edison	Tulsa, OK
Chris Wood	Lawton Eisenhower	Lawton, OK
Riegy Wood*	Cascia Hall	Tulsa, OK
Justin Young	Tulsa Memorial	Tulsa, OK

* Legacy

LOOKING BACK

100 years ago (Summer/Fall 1904) – Gamma Phi requested information on securing a charter from Beta Theta Pi. The group consisted of twelve members. The first staff for the Mistletoe, OU's first yearbook, included Gamma Phis Jay T. Conway, Editor-in-Chief, Tom B. Matthews, Manager, John C. Darling, Society Editor, and A. Martin Kingkade, Assistant Art Editor.

75 years ago (Summer/Fall 1929) – Mrs. Ned B. Miller served as Housemother. Preston Jones was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Jones and Harry Turner were members of Phi Delta Phi honorary legal fraternity. Alvin Muldrow was a member of Scabbard & Blade and Bombardiers. The Chapter House moved from Duffy & DeBarr to its current location at 800 Chautauqua. The first Beta Barn Dance was held.

50 years ago (Summer/Fall 1954) – Mrs. W. P. Vick served as Housemother. Ray Lam was Chapter President. Beta placed second in their division in Homecoming decorations. Dan Blankenship served as Vice-President of the Senior Class and Vice-President of the Student Senate. Tom McCasland and Bill Reed served in the Student Senate. Dick Anderson was a soloist with the Oklahoma City Symphony. Gaines Godfrey took first place in Intramurals Horseshoes singles and teamed with Charles Ferree to win the doubles.

25 years ago (Summer/Fall 1979) – Oklahoma Sain served the Housemother. John Raley participated in Student Congress.

The 1932 Tulsa-to-New Orleans River Float

Allen Calvert, Earl Sneed and I graduated from Tulsa Central High School in spring 1930. We enrolled at OU and pledged Beta that fall. In early summer 1932, we were at Earl's home in Tulsa wondering what to do for the summer.

The Depression was bad. I had been thinking about Huckleberry Finn and suggested we build a raft and float down the Arkansas River to New Orleans.

We went to Dola Tyler Millworks to buy lumber to build the raft. Mr. Tyler told us we'd never make it to New Orleans on a raft. He sketched the plans for a small boat and sold us the lumber to build it. For shelter, our boat was fitted with bows and canvass just like the wagons that won the West. We were given an Elto "thumb buster" for power.

We launched the boat ("MISS'ed Prosperity") in the Arkansas River in June 1932, and it took us three days to reach Muskogee. We saw Beta Brother Donk Meyer (who was working that summer with a road crew) as we floated past Muskogee.

Above Baton Rouge we barely avoided being run over by a barge going upstream. It was so close to the left shore we thought it was a dock. I got the engine started on about the tenth try with Earl calling the distance to me.

Building the boat, the trip with a week in New Orleans, buying a Model T two door sedan, and the drive back to Tulsa cost us a total of \$305.00, or a little over \$100 each.

John K. Orr, #367
King George, VA
lejkorr@aol.com

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
346	1934	John Walter Kniseley	10/22/2004
829	1953	Douglas Trent Banks	10/16/2004

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR - HANK RYAN



Hank Ryan #1421 has been named Gamma Phi's 2004 Alumnus of the Year. Brother Ryan was presented with this award at the 21st Annual Beta Donors Reception at the Beta House on November 13th after the OU-Nebraska Game. Congratulations to Brother Ryan for this well-deserved recognition!

Hank has truly been one of Beta's unsung heroes. For many years, he has pro-

vided assistance to the Chapter, largely behind the scenes. Since 1993, he has assembled and maintained our alumni database which, among other things, records addresses and contact information for our many alumni. We have Hank to thank for our ability to stay in contact with our alumni through newsletters and other mailings.

Brother Ryan, who is an independent information technology consultant, also is the designated "computer guy" for the Chapter. He is largely responsible for establishment of Internet access for our actives within the Beta House, a service which is increasingly important in today's age.

Additionally, Hank serves as the Chapter Archivist. As such, he collects and preserves historical information and ma-

terials relating to Gamma Phi. We all treasure the rich history and traditions of our fraternity, and Hank is providing a valuable service to ensure that the legacy of Beta Theta Pi will survive for the enjoyment of future generations. In a related function, Hank is also a member of the newly formed planning committee for the celebration and observance of Gamma Phi's upcoming centennial in 2007.

Most recently, Hank has assumed the role of editor of the *Wooglin on Chautauqua* newsletter.

Hank and his wife, Ann (née Foerster - OU KAΘ) live in Norman. Many thanks to Hank for his valuable dedication to Gamma Phi.

1967 PLEDGE CLASS PARTY



Members of the Fall 1967 Pledge Class met at Legends Times Two in Norman on July 24th.

Front Row: Brad Barron, Elden Hoffman, Marc Nuttle, Bruce Varner, Warren Askew, Bob Klabzuba, Pete Pierce, Vaughn Clark, Tad Blood

Back Row: Brad Buchanan, Steve Cochran, Guy Berry, R. D. Folsom, Dean Spence, Ron James, Russ McDougal, John Ritz, Ken Privett, Nick Anderson

1981 PLEDGE CLASS PARTY



Members of the Fall 1981 Pledge Class met on November 5th & 6th at Possum Kingdom Lake west of Fort Worth, Texas to play golf, drink Beta brews, reminisce days of yore and watch the OU-Texas A&M football game.

Front Row: Zach Allen, Steve Mareburger, Ty Akin, Chuck OU Dobbs, Chuck Knapp, Stan Vlasismsky, Dow Hughes, Jay Pettit

Back Row: Charlie Towle, Scott Rahhal, Mark Fairchild, Rob Felton, Paul Bevilacqua, Brad von Liebmann

GAMMA PHI CENTENNIAL PREPARATIONS

Gamma Phi received its Beta Theta Pi charter on October 18, 1907. Planning is underway for a Centennial celebration in October 2007. Steve Barghols is chairing the Centennial Committee. If you would like to participate on this committee, please contact Steve. He can be reached at 15th Floor, One Leadership Square, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, sbarghols@gablelaw.com, 405/235-5567. Hank Ryan is working on a chapter history to be published in conjunction with the Centennial. Hank can be reached at 823 S. Flood Ave., Norman, OK 73069-4502, hank@hgryan.com.



2004 GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2004 Beta Theta Pi Alumni Golf Tournament was held July 24, 2004, at the Jimmie Austin University of Oklahoma Golf Course in Norman.

The tournament is hosted by the alumni of Gamma Phi chapter and is held annually to provide an opportunity for Beta alumni, actives, family and friends to get together, reminisce and share the Beta spirit. It is not a fund-raising event.

Twenty-six teams participated. As in the past this year's tournament was co-chaired by John Ritz #1366 and John Hillis #1780. Organizing and managing the tournament requires a significant amount of time and effort. The Rib Crib Restaurant (owned by Bret Chandler #1783) also catered excellent BBQ and beverages for the event. Thanks to Brothers Ritz, Hillis and Chandler for making this event a rousing success!



The Jimmie Austin golf course is next to the Charlie Coe Golf Learning Center. Originally from Ardmore, Charlie Coe (#584) won the U. S. Amateur title in 1949 and in 1958. He made 19 appearances in the Masters tournament—all as an amateur. He died in Oklahoma City in 2001.

HOLE	GROUP
1A	Brad Barron, Steve Cochran, Mike Morton, John Ritz
1B	Warren Askew, Brad Buchanan, Tangy Buchanan (spouse), Wayne Copeland
2A	Chris Johnson, Tom Kemp, Pat Metz, Calvin Sharpe
2B	Russ Gammill, Mike Moses, Peter Pappas, Brad Purcell
3	Justin Briggs, Steven Carter, Trey Dzialo, Joe Ford
4A	Jerry Kelley, Scott Rayburn, Tom Urice, John Waldo
4B	Brett Baptist, Brian Dude, David Proctor, Justin Schneider
5	Don Cies, Bill Gossett, Rob Lockard, Mike Wanzer
6	Rick Gibbon, David Hicks, Steve Miller, Clark Millspaugh
7A	Blake Baptist (legacy), Richard Baptist, Hal Holliday, Hal Holliday, Jr. (legacy)
7B	Russell Eiser, Cody Fleming, Ryan Kolkman
8	Steve Daniels, Pat Jordan, Todd Lisle, Bob Mareburger
9A	Matt Card, David Harris, Matt Pollock, Rob Willis
9B	Nick Anderson, Michael Elder, Scott Hawkins, Will Johnson, Bryson Varner
10A	Jim Hicks, John Hillis, Lance Tolson, Mike Tolson
10B	Levoy Ellsworth, Joe Hardberger, Ron Rogers, Harbor Whitaker
11	Kris Akey, Brent Benn, Torsten Cook, Jason Yancer
12	Matt Akin, Zach Allen, Jay Pettit, Bill Towe
13	Sam Eiser, Nate Erdmann (guest), KJ Little, John Nash
14A	Link Barr, Chuck OU Dobbs, Jimmy Dobbs, Rob Felton
14B	Chuck Buland, Jim Gotwals, Evan Moore (legacy), John Moore, Wayne Wasemiller
15	Frank Ayers, David Lau, Daniel Medley, Roger Reneau
16	Bob Berry, Don Fleener, Dick Hefton, Jim Sharrock
17A	John Bell, Phil Bowden, Bennett Fuller, Brooks Mitchell
17B	Todd Booze, Mike LaBrie, Tom LaBrie, Curtis McCarty
18	Steve Emmons, Stuart Emmons, Alex Robertson (legacy), Rob Robertson



1A: Barron, Morton, Cochran, Ritz



1B: Askew, Buchanan, Buchanan, Copeland



2A: Kemp, Johnson, Metz, Sharpe



2B: Purcell, Moses, Pappas, Gammill



3: Ford, Briggs, Carter, Dzialo



4A: Waldo, Urice, Kelley, Rayburn



4B: Dude, Proctor, Schneider, Baptist



5: Lockard, Gossett, Wanzer, Cies



6: Millspaugh, Hicks, Miller, Gibbon



7A: Baptist, Baptist, Holliday, Holliday



7B: Eiser, Fleming, Kolkman



8: Daniels, Jordan, Lisle, Mareburger



9A: Card, Harris, Pollock, Willis



9B: Allen, Elder, Johnson, Anderson



10A: Hillis, Tolson, Hicks, Tolson



10B: Rogers, Ellsworth, Hardberger, Whitaker



11: Cook, Benn, Yancer, Akey



12: Allen, Akin, Pettit, Towe



13: Erdmann (guest), Nash, Little, Eiser



14A: Barr, Dobbs, Dobbs, Felton



14B: Gotwals, Wasemiller, Moore, Moore, Buland



15: Lau, Medley, Reneau, Ayres



16: Sharrock, Fleener, Hefton, Berry



17A: Mitchell, Fuller, Bowden, Bell



17B: LaBrie, McCarty, Booze, LaBrie



18: Emmons, Robertson, Emmons, Robertson

OU GOES DRY

As you have probably heard by now, Spring, 2005 will mark a time of significant change on the OU campus. In the wake of the tragic incident at the Sigma Chi house this fall, President Boren announced in December a series of sweeping reforms which are intended to curb the problem of underage and irresponsible drinking on the OU campus. Perhaps the most dramatic of these changes is the blanket prohibition of alcohol within all campus residence halls and Greek housing, including fraternities.

Arguably, the "dry house mandate" represents one of the most substantial changes in Gamma Phi's history. For the first time, at least in recent memory, alcohol is not permitted within the Beta House, in any form, anywhere, at any time. The University will require Chapter officers to sign a written pledge promising to comply with this mandate. Any individual or fraternity who violates this rule is subject to significant sanctions.

As alumni who enjoyed much broader

freedoms at 800 Chautauqua with respect to "adult beverages," I'm sure we all have our own opinions about this initiative. Candidly, I have my own misgivings about this mandate. Certainly, the problems of underage and irresponsible drinking are serious and warrant remedial action. What remains to be seen is whether the dry house mandate will prove to be the best means of addressing this challenge without inadvertently creating new problems.

However, regardless of one's views on this question, "dry" is now the law at OU. That being so, it is imperative that Gamma Phi comply with this policy and adapt to the new environment which it will bring forth. Those fraternities which cannot or will not do so will not survive for long.

We must also be mindful of the possibility that this new policy will work as intended and prove beneficial, not only to the greater campus community, but also to Gamma Phi. It may, in fact, have a

civilizing influence on life at the Beta House which will better facilitate achievement of the Chapter's goals in areas such as scholarship and campus leadership. Most importantly, we hope this policy will better ensure the health and safety of our actives.

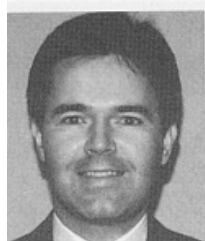
Change is often difficult, particularly within an institution which highly values its history and traditions as we do. But, for better or for worse, change is here, and our alumni advisors are committed to doing everything possible to help the Chapter adapt to, and even be strengthened by, this new environment. Alumni assistance and oversight will be an important element of this transitional phase. I am confident that, with this assistance, Gamma Phi will meet the challenge.

Zach Allen '85

Corporation President

Corporation President's Report

(Continued from page 1)



Zach Allen '85
Corporation President

Beta holds itself out as the premier academic fraternity at OU, the Chapter's study hall arguably should be a show-piece within the Beta house. We would like to effect a major renovation to achieve this goal.

Estimated cost: \$7,500 - 10,000

- *Roof leaks have become a chronic problem which have required annual expenditures of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 (and sometimes more). We are advised that a complete re-installation of the green-tiled roof will be necessary to finally remedy this problem. Estimated cost: \$60,000 - \$70,000*

- *The house's card key access system, an important security feature, needs upgrading or replacement. Estimated cost: \$2,000*
- *The time has come to replace the front doors. Estimated cost: \$8,000 - \$9,000*
- *The women's bathroom on the ground floor needs significant renovation. Estimated cost: \$3,000 - 4,000*
- *In order to save utility costs, we are examining the merits of installing a water well to feed the lawn irrigation system, which has become quite extensive. Estimated cost: \$5,000 - \$6,000*
- *The parking lot needs to be resurfaced and re-striped. Other more extensive improvements, such as installation of additional lighting and a limestone facade at the front, are also under consideration. Estimated cost: \$5,000 and up*

The housing corporation remains committed to preserving 800 Chautauqua and doing everything possible to make it a first class facility which will enable Gamma Phi to flourish and set the standard for excellence at the University of Oklahoma. **Achievement of this goal is possible only with the continued assistance of our alumni. On behalf of the Chapter, thanks to all of you for your loyalty and generosity.**

By the way, the Donors Campaign will continue through mid-spring. If you would like to offer your support, but haven't yet done so, it's not too late. Your gift may be sent to:

Beta Theta Pi

**Two Leadership Square, 14th Floor
211 N. Robinson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102.**

Zach Allen '85

Corporation President

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Oklahoma Alumni Club of Beta Theta Pi

The Band of Beta Brothers was organized in Fall 2003 by Doc Jordan (*Oklahoma* '53), Bert Belanger (*Oklahoma State* '79) and Tony Bumpas (*Oklahoma* '76), as a means for all Beta alumni living in Oklahoma to meet, reminisce and receive updates of current developments in the General Fraternity and the two Oklahoma chapters. The Regional Director, District Chief and actives from the two Oklahoma chapters are available to provide information and answer questions. For information on the next meeting please contact

Doc Jordan docjordan@aol.com

Tony Bumpas tbumpas@netzero.net

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

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT CHIEF

It has been a rough start of the school year for fraternities. Five deaths, involving Greek students, around the country have been attributed to alcohol poisoning. The question many people have is where do we go from here?

Beta Theta Pi's policy has been and will continue to be that they will defer the alcohol policy to the local universities and alumni associations. Several general fraternities, like Phi Delta



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

Theta, have made it policy to have substance free housing; Sigma Nu and Phi Gamma Delta have similar policies. Several universities, Oklahoma State is one, has chosen to have substance free housing. Many alumni fear that going "dry"

will be the death of fraternities. However, all indications are that this is not the case. One of the constant problems is that upper-classmen choose not to live in the fraternity house, creating a real leadership void. Their reason for not living in usually lies with concerns over noise and a lack of environment

conducive to studying. At the Gamma Phi chapter less than 10% of the in-house members are of age to drink, which is a totally different problem altogether. This is a problem across fraternity and university boundaries, the Gamma Phi chapter's problems are not unique. Chapters that are wet typically have lower average GPA's, more risk management violations, and a lower retention rate. Beta Theta Pi recently did an analysis of its own chapters and found membership is growing at a faster pace in chapters that are dry.

Even though OU is now dry, this will fix only part of the problem unless fraternities change their culture. A few years ago OU alum and Delta Tau Delta General Fraternity President, Jidge Verity, wrote an article asking are we alcoholic? Jidge went through the signs of alcoholism in individuals and applied it to the Greek system, and the conclusion for most chapters would be yes we are an alcoholic chapter. Many chapters that are dry by mandate from the university or fraternity choose to ignore the rules and the problems persist because the culture does not change. Several years ago Beta Theta Pi changed their stance on discipline of chapters. They now look more at the culture involved than the severity of the incident. Essen-

tially they ask the question is it an isolated problem or is it chapter wide? If the answer is that the problem resided chapter wide they generally take the more drastic step of closing chapters — Oklahoma State is a prime example. We then try to re-open the chapter in two to four years; we wait for the problem to graduate. This approach has been an overwhelming success with the likes of Nebraska, Miami of Ohio, Oklahoma State, and Indiana all being closed and re-opened. Beta is setting the example for how to change and reform the culture that permeated fraternities in the 90s, by reintroducing the three great principles that John Reilly Knox and his band of brothers developed over 160 years ago.

A special note of thanks goes to Grover Ozmun who has served as Chapter Advisor for the last decade stepped down to take on new responsibilities with the Gamma Phi chapter, thank you Grover for your hard work and dedication.

Blaine Matray has stepped into the role of chapter advisor and has done a great job in leading our team of advisors and serving as a great source for the chapter.

BETA BARN DANCE— A TRADITION SINCE 1929



This Fall marked the 75th anniversary of Beta Barn Dance. The earliest mention of Barn Dance in the Sooner yearbook is in the 1930 edition which covers the Fall 1929 and Spring 1930 terms. John Orr (#367), who pledged in Fall 1930 (after the chapter had moved to Chautauqua), recalls that Barn Dance when he was a pledge was held in the old (vacant?) chapter house at DeBarr & Duffy.

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