

# WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA

Volume 2007, Issue 2

Fall 2007



800 Chautauqua

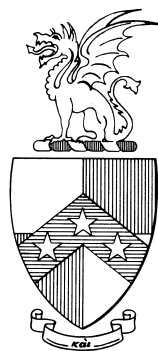
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## CENTENNIAL DVD

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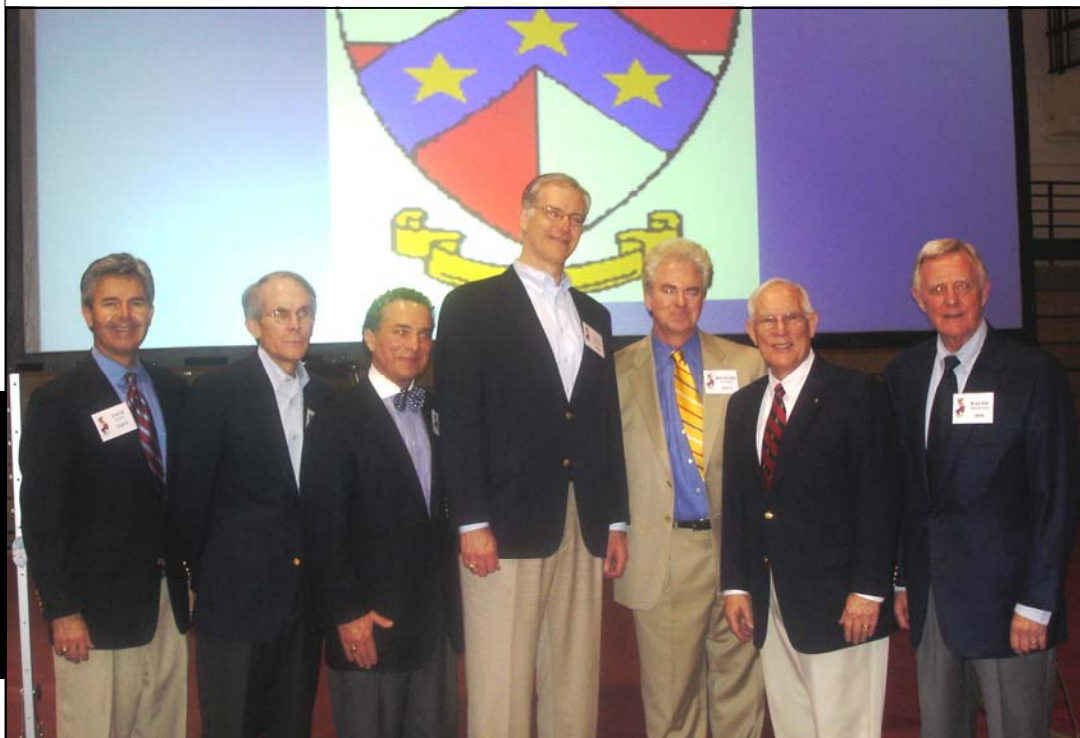
## House Phones

President - 405-360-1257

Housemother - 405-364-0457

Kitchen - 405-321-5985

## GAMMA PHI CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL



Zach Allen (#1873), James Elder (#1327), Tony Bumpas (#1588), Steve Barghols (#1486), Rich Taylor (#1373), Dr. P. Thomas Purinton (*Kansas State '63*) and Ralph Thompson (#850)

### One Hundred Years of Excellence --- Past Achievements and Future Promise ...

Over seven hundred Beta Theta Pi alumni, actives, pledges and their guests gathered October 20, 2007, at the McCasland Field House on the campus of the University of Oklahoma to celebrate the Centennial of the establishment of the Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at the University on October 18, 1907. The chapter began as a local fraternity in February 1904 and is the oldest fraternity at the University. Coincidentally, the State of Oklahoma also celebrated its Centennial in 2007, having become a state on November 22, 1907. Thus, Gamma Phi is the only Beta chapter that was granted its charter at a pre-statehood institution.

With more than 150 current active members and 50 pledges, Gamma Phi is the largest chap-

ter in the General Fraternity. The chapter house at 800 Chautauqua was built by chapter alumni in the late 1920s and, except for a period during World War II, has been continuously occupied by the active members. In 1982 the chapter house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places --- one of the first Greek houses in the nation to be so designated. The chapter has enjoyed substantial success throughout much of its history both on the campus of the University of Oklahoma and among all Beta Theta Pi chapters.

Planning for this once-in-a-lifetime event began over three years ago. Several pledge classes held gatherings prior to the Saturday-night Gala. Rich Taylor, *Oklahoma '71*, Chair of the Weitzenhoffer Department of Musical Theatre, served as Master of Ceremonies for the Gala.

(Continued on page 4)

### Chapter President's Report

The spring semester is about to begin and there is a lot to be excited about for the men at 800 Chautauqua. We're looking forward to initiating another great pledge class into membership of Beta Theta Pi. This year's pledge class has already distinguished itself from all others on our campus by winning University



Matt Brown  
Chapter President

Sing with the women of Delta Delta Delta and by winning intramural football. With participation from every pledge class, freshman through senior, we enjoyed another great homecoming week with Kappa Alpha Theta. Several of our members enjoyed individual successes this past semester as well which have brought special distinction to our chapter. Senior Kelly Mercer was recognized as OU's Outstanding Senior Man and junior Dewey Bartlett was recently elected as the IFC (Intrafraternity Council President).

During this past fall's football season, the Beta house hosted tailgate before or

after each home football game. Courtesy of the recently revised university alcohol policy, alumni, parents and actives were able to come together to celebrate the rich tradition of OU football at the Beta house with a couple of beers and good food this season. I encourage everyone to attend these events next season to see old friends, make new ones and enjoy a good time at the Beta house!

The most exciting development of the semester was the resurgence of lost traditions during Barn Dance Week. For the first time in over ten years, we constructed a 20' x 30' barn in the front yard. We were joined throughout the week by a number of guests including a donkey, two pigs, two goats, a chicken and a turkey. Six different sororities joined us on different nights to celebrate barn dance with line dancing, 'smore making and bobbing for apples. Nearly everyone who participated believes this was the best week of Barn Dance they've experienced during their time at OU. I'm confident with a little work and creativity, next year's Barn Dance will be even better.

Just recently we elected a new executive committee to lead us for the next year. We are all very confident in their

abilities as we truly believe these are the best men for the job. Under their leadership and given our current successes, our chapter is poised to compete and win another President's Trophy. The President's Trophy recognizes the most outstanding fraternity and sorority on campus with special emphasis in academic excellence, service, leadership on campus and multicultural involvement— all areas in which we have been fortunate enough to be successful.

Looking forward to the upcoming semester there is a lot to be excited about. We will be preparing another winning show for Sooner Scandals with the women of Kappa Kappa Gamma. We have also already begun planning the third annual Patrick James Frensey Memorial 5-K Run. With a very capable and enthusiastic chair in Jeff Vestring and the support of our membership, this year's 5-K promises to be the best yet.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to all our advisors, parents and alumni whose support allows our chapter to be successful each and every year.

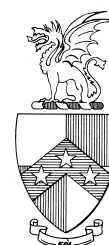
*Matt Brown, '09  
President, Gamma Phi Chapter*

### Chapter Officers

**President** - Matt Brown  
**VP (internal)** - Steven Fisher  
**VP (external)** - John Gaway  
**Secretary** - Jakeb Black  
**Treasurer** - Cory Christopherson  
**Pledge Educator** - Tony DeGiusti  
**Rush Chair** - Eric Combs  
**Rush Secretary** - Gray Thomas  
**Philanthropy Chair** - Matt Whitaker  
**House Manager** - Brady Sisson  
**Scholarship Chair** - Jim Tate  
**Social Chair** - Jake Baldwin  
**IFC/CAC Representative** - Kelly Mercer  
**Ritual Chair** - James Simpson  
**Song Chair** - Brad Cantrell  
**Intramural Chair** - Blake Belanger  
**Alumni Relations Chair** - Spencer Kinzie

### Official IFC Scholarship Rankings Spring Semester 2007

	Fraternity	Active Members	Chapter GPA
1	Sigma Phi Epsilon	168	3.24328
2	<b>Beta Theta Pi</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>3.11328</b>
3	Lambda Chi Alpha	151	3.08320
4	Phi Delta Theta	103	3.07622
5	Pi Kappa Phi	34	3.03837
6	Alpha Tau Omega	38	3.01674
7	Delta Upsilon	116	3.00505
8	Delta Tau Delta	61	2.97525
9	Sigma Alpha Epsilon	178	2.96206
10	Delta Chi	22	2.86254



## FALL 2007 PLEDGE CLASS



### Fifty-five Pledges

- Thirty-nine from Oklahoma
- Sixteen from Texas
- Three National Merit Scholars
- Nine University or Regent Scholars



- Eight President's Leadership Class members
- Seven valedictorians
- Five All-State athletes.
- Twenty-three members with Beta relatives.

Name	Hometown	Name	Hometown	Name	Hometown
Clay Algeo	Tulsa	Caleb Green	Ardmore	Evan Moore *	Tulsa
Matthew Athey *	Enid	Jerry Greer *	Spring, TX	Mack Morgan	Norman
Jeff Bakamjian	Tulsa	Jay Harper *	Pauls Valley	Alex Palmer	The Woodlands, TX
Tyler Barnes *	Claremore	Blake Harrington	Lawton	Brandon Patrick	Norman
Colton Bartholomew	Moore	Alex Haynes	Claremore	Clay Quinn *	Dallas, TX
Max Barton *	Keller, TX	John Hill	Norman	Camron Sanford	Katy, TX
Evan Breault *	Dallas, TX	Colton Hinds	Claremore	Peter Schmidt *	Oklahoma City
Thomas Brown *	Miami	Chris Hoch	Oklahoma City	Dan Sewell	Edmond
Spencer Campbell *	Lawton	Stuart Hofmann *	Ardmore	Christopher Spicer*	Tulsa
Steven Cobb	Midland, TX	Taylor Huff *	Edmond	Jeff Stewart	Tulsa
Morgan Connelly	Oklahoma City	Sean Hughes	Edmond	Bo Talley	Ardmore
Adam Cothren	Lawton	Brendan Hurley *	Norman	Arthur Thomas	Spring, TX
Matt Dzura	Colleyville, TX	Ted Johnston *	Oklahoma City	Luke Toho *	Hinton
Blake Eaves *	Keller, TX	Brian Kelley *	Oklahoma City	Sam Tullius	Norman
Matthew Evangelista	Spring, TX	Dylan Kinkead	Tulsa	Tyler Vaughan	Oklahoma City
Rick Farbro *	Claremore	David Kruger *	Tulsa	Travis Wagner *	Midland, TX
Kyle Freas	Plano, TX	Christopher Lake	The Woodlands, TX	Brandon Walker	Lawton
Matt Graves	Oklahoma City	Sam Liverman	Plano, TX	* Beta Relative	
Max Graves *	Norman	Martin McDuffie	Spring, TX		



## Corporation President's Report



Zach Allen '85  
Corporation President

Our 2007-08 *Beta Donors* campaign is continuing, thus far with outstanding results. To date, **283** alumni have contributed **\$51,744** to the cause of preserving 800 Chautauqua. This is a wonderful response and yet another testament to the tremendous support our alumni provide to ensure Gamma Phi's future.

Due in no small part to this unmatched support, Beta remains a model of tradition, strength and excellence on the OU campus. Academics remain a top priority, and the Chapter hopes to again take home the President's Scholarship Trophy this spring. Beta continues to be a dominant force in rush, as evidenced by the most recent pledge class. Beta is also unmatched in matters of leadership and extracurricular involvement. The Chapter boasts more members of the President's Leadership Class than any other fraternity. Kelly Mercer '08 was recently named OU's Outstanding Senior Man. Dewey F. Bartlett III '09 was elected IFC President just a few weeks ago. Those are only a couple of examples, and many more Beta accolades

are expected in the coming spring.

The continuing good news from 800 Chautauqua wouldn't be possible without generous support of alumni. As our *Beta Donors* campaign continues, we hope to hear from many more of you. If you'd like to become a Beta Donor, please mail your contribution to:

**Beta Theta Pi**  
**Two Leadership Square, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**211 N. Robinson**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73102**

As many of you know by now, President Boren amended the University's alcohol policy to permit fraternities to host alumni events, complete with alcoholic beverages. We took full advantage of this change by hosting alumni events on each of this past fall's game days. These events provide a great venue for our alumni to connect with the undergraduates and their parents, not to mention the opportunity to reconnect with the brothers of their respective eras. A number of classes have even used these events to stage class reunions. These game-day events have been very successful, and we to continue them in the future, hopefully with even broader participation from our alumni. As you make plans for

## 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  
Harbour Whitaker '73 - Secretary  
Bill Sherman '74 - Treasurer

## Corporation Members

Grover Ozmun '59  
James Elder '69  
Hank Ryan '72  
Steve Barghols '73  
Robert Beall '80  
Michael Bickford '80  
John Hillis '82  
Rob Robertson '84  
Don Andrews '86  
Dave Hughes '87  
Brett Robinson '87  
Michael Hall '88  
Todd Booze '90  
Matt Clouse '01

next fall's football season, please make a point of visiting 800 Chautauqua!

Thanks for your support of Gamma Phi!

Zach Allen '85  
Corporation President

(Continued from page 1)

Speakers at the Gala included:

- Dr. Chris A. Purcell, Vice President of University Governance at the University of Oklahoma (and the mother of two Gamma Phis)
- Dr. P. Thomas Purinton, *Kansas State* '63, General Fraternity President
- Matthew K. Brown, *Oklahoma* '09, Chapter President
- Zachary W. Allen, *Oklahoma* '85, Beta Theta Pi Corporation of Oklahoma President
- The Honorable Ralph G. Thompson, *Oklahoma* '56, U.S. District Judge (Retired), United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma

The evening was a relaxed, casual affair consisting of cocktails, a buffet dinner, speakers, singers, a video collage of 100 years of chapter memories (prepared by Ted West, *Oklahoma* '79), Judge Thompson's stirring keynote address "One Hun-

dred Years of History in Twelve Minutes Flat", and dancing to the music provided by RSVP led by singer Ron James, *Oklahoma* '71.

The lowest chapter roll number present at the gala, Dr. Chas Graybill, *Oklahoma* '42, #492, and the highest chapter roll number, Steven Berklacy, *Oklahoma* '10, #2784, were introduced to each other amid cheers and applause.

A resounding hit with all present was the singing performance by the Beta Dragons octet consisting of actives Jakeb Black, *Oklahoma* '08, Brian Bond, *Oklahoma* '09, Brad Cantrell, *Oklahoma* '10, Joe Con-sedine, *Oklahoma* '09, Keith Henry, *Oklahoma* '08, Spencer Kinzie, *Oklahoma* '10, Cory Lloyd, *Oklahoma* '10, and Travis Storts, *Oklahoma* '09. Directed and coached by Dick Anderson, *Oklahoma* '54, this group has rekindled the spirit of singing among the actives. The group has subsequently been inundated with requests to perform at various Beta alumni functions,

both regional and national.

Steve Barghols, *Oklahoma* '73, served as Chair of the Centennial and successfully managed the production of "an event planned by guys". Preparations began in early 2003. Brother Barghols was assisted by Harbour Whitaker, *Oklahoma* '73, Rich Taylor, *Oklahoma* '71, Bill Sherman, *Oklahoma* '74, Tony Bumpas, *Oklahoma* '76, Ted West, *Oklahoma* '79, Marc Nuttle, *Oklahoma* '71, Louis Priebe, *Oklahoma* '63, Ron James, *Oklahoma* '71, and Hank Ryan, *Oklahoma* '72.

Era histories prepared by Alumni have been posted in the Archives of the Gamma Phi Alumni web site at [www.oubeta.net](http://www.oubeta.net). The Gamma Phi Actives web site is [www.oubeta.org](http://www.oubeta.org).

The Gamma Phi Actives and Alumni look forward to a second century of excellence in continuing the traditions and brotherhood of Beta Theta Pi.



Centennial Chairman's Final Report

Brothers,

The Centennial Gala generated receipts of \$50,373.38 and disbursements of \$40,381.80. The \$9,991.49 net proceeds have been paid to the Beta Theta Pi Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.

I want to thank everyone who assisted with and participated in this historic event. I especially want to thank the following Gamma Phi members who, although they were unable to attend the Gala, sent contributions to support our event:

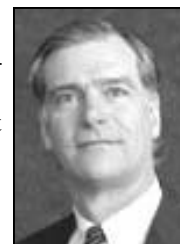
- William Hemphill
- Robert Millsbaugh, Sr.

- James W. Meek
- Frank Paget
- Max P. Lorenz
- Bryan Medlock, Jr.
- Paul A. Bering
- Buster F. Wilburn
- Lawrence Reams
- Fred L. Patrick
- Kevin M. McGee
- Kim Andrew Ryan
- Adam Wagner
- Charles A. Warren
- Michael R. Hall

And I want to thank Jim Langdon for contributing the printing of the invitations and Ted West for contributing the preparation of the video and slide show that were shown at the Gala.

Sincerely and in \_ kai \_,

Steve Barghols  
Oklahoma '73



Steve Barghols '73  
Centennial Chair

Rush Advisor

Matt Clouse (#2328) has been Gamma Phi's Rush Advisor since 2007 and was Assistant Rush Advisor in 2006. As Rush Advisor, Matt works extensively with the rush chairmen in formulating the Chapter's rush goals and strategies. He also acts as the principal liaison between the Chapter and our alumni concerning rush planning, fund-raising and prospect referrals.

Before graduating in 2001, Matt served the Chapter as Rush Chairman in 1999 and was an invaluable source of strong leadership during a challenging time for the Chapter. His experience and dedication make him ideally suited for this critical advisor position.

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

Matt Clouse

1601 NW Expressway

Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Email: mclouse@vbank.com



Matt Clouse '01  
Rush Advisor

Chapter Counselor

Steve Sinos (#2451) is the Gamma Phi Chapter Counselor. As Chapter Counselor, Steve provides insight and advice on many different issues facing the Chapter.

As an active, Steve served as Chapter President for two years. His experience as Chapter President and his ability to relate to the current actives provides a valuable bridge between the actives, the alumni and the University administration.

All Gamma Phi alumni and actives appreciate the many hours he devotes to maintaining Gamma Phi's position at the premier fraternity at the University of Oklahoma.

Brother Sinos may be reached at ssinos@ou.edu and at (405) 361-1075.



Steve Sinos  
Chapter Counselor

## BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME?

One facet which historically distinguishes Beta from all other OU fraternities is the broad extent of its alumni support. This support comes in the form of not only financial assistance, but also the many alumni who assist the Chapter as advisors and housing corporation trustees. For generations, this alumni guidance and organizational support has been instrumental in maintaining Gamma Phi's stability and facilitating its success story.

Even though we are presently blessed with the wonderful help of many alumni, **there is still substantial need for a few more good hands.** We could use more help in many ways: certainly, advisors who can spend some personal time with the undergraduates, whether to counsel them in specific areas such as academics, rush,

pledge education, etc. or simply attending chapter meetings, are always in great demand. But there also countless other ways to assist, which may not even involve direct interaction with the Chapter actives. Volunteers can make a huge difference by lending support and assistance even within narrowly defined areas such as physical facilities (the house), fund-raising, finances, newsletter or rush publications, information technology, social events, our scholarship foundation, the chapter/alumni website, to name a few . . . and perhaps others we haven't even thought of. In today's technology age, living near Norman is not necessarily a prerequisite, depending on the nature of assistance.

Many of us can look back on our college days and think of alumni of that era who

made a difference for the enrichment of our Beta experience (even though we not have always fully appreciated it at the time). If you're interested in taking your turn at offering assistance; if you have the ability and genuine desire to lend your time for the Chapter's benefit in one way or another; or if perhaps your line of business might be of some aid to the Chapter by way of services, merchandise, equipment, etc., . . . **we'd love to hear from you!** If you'd like to explore ways you can help out, please contact me at (405) 235-5581 or [zallen@msweb.com](mailto:zallen@msweb.com).

Zach Allen '85  
Corporation President



# 2007 BETA BARBECUE

## SEPTEMBER 8, 2007





# 2007 BETA BARBECUE

## SEPTEMBER 8, 2007



Ellen Kelley, Vanessa Pierce and  
Jerry Kelley (#1491)



Rob Lockard (#1554) and  
his daughter Shelby



Maggie Ryan Coulter and  
Larry Edzards (#1549)



Chauncy Dale Klingensmith (#1095) and  
Pamela Bell



Jim Bailey (#1403) and Chuck Buland (#1431)



Elden Hoffman (#1379) and Ken Privett (#1430)



Rennie Collins (#1672)



Ed Luke (#966)

## LOOKING BACK

**100 years ago (Fall 1907)** – Twenty-three Gamma Phis were initiated into Beta Theta Pi on October 18, 1907. .

**75 years ago (Fall 1932)** – Mrs. Ned Miller served as Hostess. Alvan Muldrow served as Chapter President.

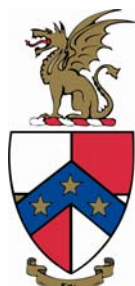
**50 years ago (Fall 1957)** – Mrs. W. P. Vick served as House-mother. Jerry Fronterhouse served as Chapter President.

**25 years ago (Fall 1982)** – Grace Osachuck served as House-mother. Brooks Mitchell served as Chapter President.

## FRATERNAL FIFTIES - 2007

The following Gamma Phi members were initiated in 1957.

Roll	Name	City
970	Laurance Standish Reid, Jr.	Norman
971	John T O'Neal	Boston, MA
972	Jerry Leon Smith	London, England
973	Richard F Fellrath	Blackwell
974	Raymond O Smith, Jr.	Oklahoma City
975	David G Howard	Mission Hills, KS
976	Preston G Gaddis II	Oklahoma City
977	Frank H Robertson II	Newport, RI
978	Donald L Wiley	(Deceased)
979	Lawrence Glenn Hill	Big Pine Key, FL
980	Robert H Mitchell	Oklahoma City
981	Samuel Wesley Pangburn	Palm Springs, CA
982	Gary Dee Baer	Oklahoma City
983	Robert Burns Ringo Jr.	Lincoln, CA
984	Roger Braxton Bowman	(Deceased)
985	John Fletcher Sharp, Jr.	Nichols Hills
986	Joe Robert Love	(Deceased)
987	James Larry Goff	Tempe, AZ
988	Dan Edwin Chesnut	Oklahoma City
989	Robert A Cates	(Lost)
990	Ronald Hughe White	Oklahoma City
991	George E Durfee, Jr.	New Hampton, NH
992	Kenneth E Carpenter	Baton Rouge, LA
993	Richard H Schwartz	(Deceased)
994	Richard Harold Reid	(Deceased)
995	Buster Franklin Wilburn	Washington
996	Robert E Slocum	Richardson, TX
997	John A Nance	(Deceased)
998	Charles Raymond Hahn	Vancouver, WA
999	J. William Cheek	(Deceased)
1000	David Wayne Dreisker	Bartlesville
1001	Harold V Ritcheson	(Deceased)
1002	Douglas Ian McDonald	Lone Tree, CO



## Norman Transcript October 24, 1907

### GAMMA PHI INSTALLED.

**Lage Number of Betas Attend Installation and K. U. Game Banquet at Oklahoma City.**

Fifty-five members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity representing colleges in almost every section of the country arrived in Norman Thursday and Friday to participate in the installation of the local Gamma Phi chapter.

Friday afternoon the visiting Betas were shown through the University and about the city.

That evening the members of the Gamma Phi were initiated into the Beta Theta Pi fraternity by the Kansas chapter, assisted by other Betas who have been out of school for a number of years. The installation was very successful and the most auspicious in the history of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Saturday afternoon the visitors were taken to the football game as guests of the local chapter.

That evening the Oklahoma Alumni gave a banquet in Oklahoma City at the Hammond Cafe in honor of the baby chapter.

An informal program was rendered with Clake J. Tisdell of Muskogee acting as toast master. Speeches were made by Dr. David R. Boyd, president of the Oklahoma University; Judge W. W. Hyams of Tulsa; Dr. E. E. Davis, of Oklahoma City; E. Ray Adams, of Tulsa and Frank Burford of Bartlesville, and others.

While there the Gamma Phi chapter received numerous telegrams from various chapters welcoming it into the Beta Theta Pi.

Those present composing the chapter installed as Gamma Phi chapter of Beta Theta Pi are:

Tom B. Matthews, A. M. Kingkade, J. Kingkade, J. W. Perry, C. D. Storm, J. C. Darling, C. E. Dutton, G. G. Caudill, E. W. Ratliffe, S. R. Hadsell, O. C. Acton, Carlton Weaver, J. L. Waller, N. D. Menifee, E. B. Johnson, J. V. Walling, R. P. Calvert, Frank Rollow, W. A. Thompson, J. G. Hardie, F. R. Williams, Earl E. Sneed and W. K. Larimore.—Umpire.



## 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
319	1932	Francis James Fleming, Jr.	11/14/2006
339	1931	Wilbur Linn Griffith	3/20/2004
376	1936	Jack Kinloch Fleming	4/2/2006
408	1938	Melvin Wright Jaquier	3/4/2007
444	1940	Charles Nelson Berry, Jr.	10/26/2007
517	1943	Robert Lee Lunsford III	2/24/2007
595	1945	Harvey A Heller, Jr.	9/10/2006
597	1944	Johnny Rudd Castle	8/17/2007
598	1946	John Creig Coogan II	5/3/2004
606	1944	John Norman Dew	6/22/2007
639	1950	Robert Marshall Keith	6/10/2006
646	1951	C. Warren Fatheree	4/24/2002
1149	1964	Samuel Lee Beck	4/26/2004
1262	1968	Steven Eaton Moore	9/22/2007
2137	1994	James Michael Wehmuller	10/5/2007



The Oklahoma Alumni Club of Beta Theta Pi

The Band of Beta Brothers was organized in Fall 2003 by the late 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:

Tony Bumpas  
405-607-5633  
tbumpas@netzero.net



## Know These Guys?

You might recognize this picture. For the past few years it has served as the "banner" for the General Fraternity's on-line Membership Directory. These five Gamma Phis are all members of the Fall 1968 Pledge Class. From left: Ron Rogers (#1439), Levoy Ellsworth (#1436), Jim Gotwals (#1417), Fred Turner (#1405) and Joe Hardberger (#1438). The General Fraternity's Membership Directory is available on the General Fraternity's web site at [www.betathetapi.org](http://www.betathetapi.org).

# CENTENNIAL GALA

## OCTOBER 20, 2007



Richard C. Taylor, *Oklahoma* '72, Master of Ceremonies, introduced the various speakers and programs.



The Honorable Ralph G. Thompson, *Oklahoma* '56, U.S. District Judge (Retired), presented the keynote address, "One Hundred Years of History in Twelve Minutes Flat".



Dr. P. Thomas Purinton, *Kansas State* '63, General Fraternity President presented the greetings from the General Fraternity.



Matthew K. Brown, *Oklahoma* '09, Chapter President, presented the State of the Chapter address.



Dr. Chris A. Purcell, Vice President of University Governance at the University of Oklahoma (and the mother of two Gamma Phis) presented the greetings from the University of Oklahoma.



Zachary W. Allen, *Oklahoma* '85, Beta Theta Pi Corporation of Oklahoma President, presented the State of the Corporation and the State of the Foundation address.



# CENTENNIAL GALA

## OCTOBER 20, 2007



Over 700 Gamma Phis, their spouses and guests filled the OU McCasland Fieldhouse floor for the Centennial Gala. Entertainment was furnished by two bands and the Beta Dragons. Video and slideshow presentations spurred many memories (and disclaimers). For most attendees however, the highlight was reminiscing those special days at 800 Chautauqua.



The lowest number on the Gamma Phi Chapter Roll present at the Centennial Gala Chas Graybill (#492) and the highest number on the Chapter Roll Steven Berklacy (#2784) greet each other.



The Beta Dragons, an *a cappella* octet directed by Dick Anderson (#796), performed several songs at the Centennial Gala. From left: Brian Bond (#2715), Cory Lloyd (#2769), Spencer Kinzie (#2741), Keith Henry (#2683), Jakeb Black (#2670), Travis Storts (#2701), Joe Consedine (#2739), and Brad Cantrell (#2750).



## CENTENNIAL GATHERINGS

### OCTOBER 20, 2007

## FALL 1968 PLEDGE CLASS



Members of the Fall 1968 Pledge Class gathered for a “warmup” prior to the Centennial Gala at Hank Ryan’s house in Norman . Ron Rogers was unable to attend but sent the shower curtain that the pledge class had signed during their “walkout” to Kansas City. Pictured at left are Larry Houchin, Bob Dow, John Moore, Steve Miller, Barry Biggs, Rick Dimick, Wayne Wasemiller, Jim Gotwals, Randy Brown, Hank Ryan, Andy Vogt and Fred Turner. Levoy Ellsworth arrived after the picture was taken. Lou Stuart and Chuck Buland were too busy playing golf in Louisiana to attend.

## FALL 1981 PLEDGE CLASS



Members of the Pledge Class of 1981 in attendance at the Centennial Gala were Chuck Knapp, Charlie Towe, Zach Allen, Dow Hughes, Ray Thatch, Brad von Liebmann and Stan Vlasimsky.

Brothers Knapp and Vlasimsky assured all they wore their kilts in an “authentic” manner. (Everyone chose to take their word for it.) Also attending the preceding night’s reunion for the Pledge Classes of 1981 and 1980 were Jeff Norman, Steve Mareburger, Gary Dew, Paul Bevilacqua, Carter Baumert and Link Barr (1981) and Jay Fitzgerald, Stuart Emmons, Rob Robertson, Peter Emmott, Todd Lisle and Russell Reneau (1980).



# FOUNDATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS



The Beta Theta Pi Foundation awarded four scholarships for 2007. Pictured above are Foundation President James Elder (#1327), Tyler Nunley (#2761), TJ Hutchings (#2781), Tony DeGuisti (#2731), Koby Harrington (#2690) and Corporation President Zach Allen (#1873)

## Foundation President's Report

Beta Theta Pi Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc. was incorporated in 2005. It is exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide financial assistance in the form scholarships which may be awarded to recognize outstanding academic achievement and/or exemplary leadership or to address financial need.

Foundation goals include establishment of an endowed base for all scholarships. Presently, the Patrick James Frenley Memorial Scholarship is endowed, and both the Class of 1959 and the Class of 1961 have commenced efforts to endow scholarships in the names of their respective classes. However, whether contributing to

a proposed endowed scholarship or not, every dollar is important, because general contributions will be used for "Gamma Phi Scholarships," as determined by the scholarship selection process. We also very much encourage non-Betas, such as parents, friends, surviving spouses and children and others to make contributions in honor of or in memory of a member of Gamma Phi. Think about it - the establishment of a permanent base of financial assistance for members and pledges of the Chapter will provide lasting mutual assistance to those who follow.

Yours in \_ kai \_,

James C. Elder '69

### **Foundation Officers**

James Elder '69 - President  
Fallis Beall '55 - Vice President  
Fred Turner '72 - Vice President  
Michael Bickford '80 - Secretary  
Bill Sherman '74 - Treasurer

### **Foundation Directors**

Tom McCasland, Jr. '56  
Hank Ryan '72  
John Huff '79  
Robert Beall '80  
Zach Allen '85

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO - 1982



Through the efforts of several alumni, 800 Chautauqua was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 2, 1982.

## BARN DANCE 1982





# BARN DANCE 2007

## NOVEMBER 16TH & 17TH



*Around the Campfire*



*Pledge Austin Brown brags about his best date ever.*



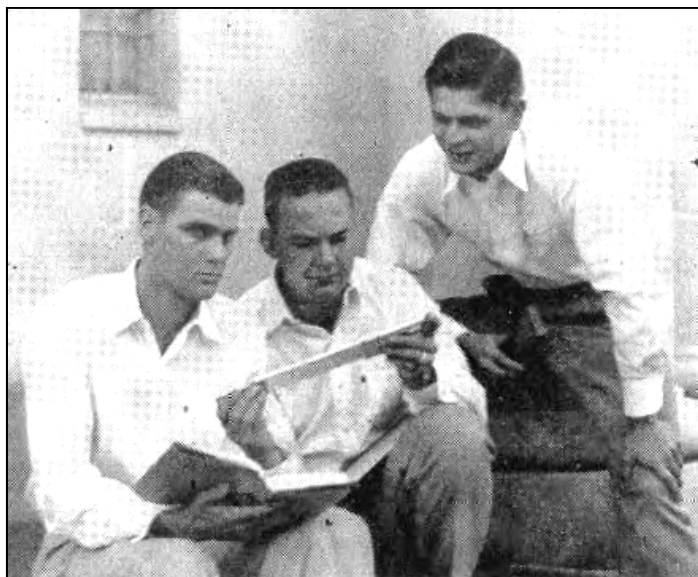
*Boot scootin' on the Side Court*

## 2007 RUSH DONORS

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## Who Are These Guys?



### **The Bottom Line on what you can do to support Beta Rush in 2008:**

- Please send your **Beta Rush Referrals** (preferably by e-mail, and preferably *before May 1, 2008*) to our Chapter Rush Advisor, Matt Clouse ([mclouse@vbank.com](mailto:mclouse@vbank.com)). Remember to include, at minimum, rushee name, high school, address, phone number, GPA and ACT/SAT.
- Please send your **Beta Rush Financial Contributions (\$\$\$\$)** to:  
Beta Theta Pi  
Two Leadership Square, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
211 N. Robinson  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
- Please volunteer to **host a Beta Rush Summer Function**. Even if you are not ready to commit to a date, or you are just curious to learn what is involved in hosting an event, please e-mail or call Matt Clouse (405.286.5720) as soon as possible. It really requires less effort than you may think, and it is always a rewarding experience for the host and other alumni who attend.

### **Donating to Gamma Phi?**

At this time we receive three types of donations:

**The Foundation.** Donations to the Beta Theta Pi Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc. are used for scholarships and are, generally, tax deductible.

**The Annual Donor Fund.** This fund is managed by the Beta Theta Pi Corporation of Oklahoma and is used for maintenance, repairs and improvements to the chapter house at 800 Chautauqua.

**The Rush Donor Fund.** This fund is managed by the Beta Theta Pi Corporation of Oklahoma and is used for rush expenses.

Questions? Contact Zach Allen at [zallen@mswerb.com](mailto:zallen@mswerb.com) or 405-235-5581

## Housemother

Gamma Phi undoubtedly has the best fraternity housemother at the University of Oklahoma! Sue Overton has served as the Gamma Phi Housemother (a/k/a House Director) since August of 1997. During that time she has been selected as House Mom of the Year at OU and has served as President of the OU House Directors Club.

A graduate of Wetumka High School and Oklahoma State University (B.S., Education), Mom Overton taught Home Economics at Oklahoma City's Classen, Central and Northeast high schools. Her late husband Claudell Overton was an All-American athlete at East Central State College in Ada, a professional basketball and baseball player, and a successful basketball coach at Addington, Edmond, Drumright and Capitol Hill High Schools and Bacone College. Her son Bo was the high school basketball Player

of the Year in Oklahoma, a three-year starter on the OU basketball team, and an assistant to OU women's basketball coach Sherri Coale. Bo is now the General Manager and Head coach for the Chicago Sky of the Women's National Basketball Association. Sue also has two daughters, Dee Solomon and Cara Overton, and five grandchildren.

In addition to planning and hosting for various social events, including Parents' Weekend, Homecoming and alumni functions, Mom Overton oversees the house kitchen (managing the house staff, planning meals, purchasing food and supplies, etc.), provides etiquette instruction to members and pledges, co-ordinates repairs and house maintenance with the Corporation President, and counsels members and pledges when requested.



**Sue Overton**  
Gamma Phi Housemother  
since Fall 1997



## House Staff

Essential to the smooth running of 800 Chautauqua are **Irene Lambert** (at left), who has served as the Cook since Fall of 2004, and **Shelly Jones** (at right), who has served as Housekeeper since Fall of 2003.



# CENTENNIAL GALA DVD AVAILABLE

Ted West (#1682) has produced a DVD of the Centennial Gala that includes not only shots from the floor of the McCasland Field House and the program speakers, but also the video and slide show that were shown at the Gala. The cost of the DVD is \$25.00, including sales tax, shipping & handling (to U.S. addresses). If you would like to order a copy of the DVD, send a check for \$25.00 payable to "Gamma Phi Centennial DVD" to:

**Beta Theta Pi**  
**Attn: Centennial DVD**  
**Two Leadership Square, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**211 N. Robinson**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73102**

More information is available at [www.oubeta.net/CentennialMain.htm](http://www.oubeta.net/CentennialMain.htm)



# 2007 ANNUAL DONOR PARTY

## NOVEMBER 3, 2007

### STEVE BARGHOLS SELECTED AS 2007 OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS!



Steve Barghols '73 (#1486), was recognized at the 2007 Donor Party as Gamma Phi's 2007 Alumnus of the Year. Steve's tireless work and dedication over the past 3 years as the Chair of the Gamma Phi Centennial is appreciated by all alumni.

### SPENCER KINZIE RECOGNIZED AS OUTSTANDING FALL 2006 PLEDGE!



Corporation President Zach Allen '85 presents Spencer Kinzie '10 (#2741), son of Doug Kinzie '79 (#1677) with a Beta ring commemorating Spencer's selection as the Ralph Gordon Thompson Memorial Award winner as the Outstanding Pledge in the fall 2006 pledge class.

## KELLY MERCER NAMED OU'S OUTSTANDING SENIOR MAN



Kelly Mercer '08 (#2364)

This fall, Kelly Mercer '08 became yet another Beta to be named OU's Outstanding Senior Man. Since coming to OU from Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, Kelly has exemplified Gamma Phi's high standards of academic excellence and leadership. Among Kelly's many honors and activities, Kelly was a member of the President's Leadership Class, a Top Ten Freshman, Secretary for the Chapter, Vice-Chair of the Campus Activities Council, Chair of Crimson Club and IFC/CAC Delegate. Currently holding a 3.97 GPA, Kelly will attend medical school next fall.



# THE BARN RETURNS TO BARN DANCE!



Through a well-organized effort, the men of Gamma Phi were able to revive the tradition of building a barn façade on the front lawn of 800 Chautauqua for Barn Dance festivities. The temporary structure required detailed plans and specifications to obtain approval from the City of Norman for its construction. Alumni contributed funds for the materials. The plans, approval and construction were accomplished by the actives and pledges.

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