



WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA

GAMMA PHI CHAPTER MAINTAINS STRONG ALUMNI TIES House Corporation and Alumni Secure Future of Chapter

The Gamma Phi Chapter, now in continuous existence for 105 years, is something we all can take pride in. The traditions and loyalty to Beta Theta Pi are evident in all our undergraduate and alumni brothers. The alumni support we have received over the years is vital to our continued success. The house corporation is dedicated to renewing the bonds of brotherhood. We have started that process by redesigning the *Wooglin on Chautauqua* newsletter. The *Wooglin on Chautauqua* is a way for brothers to keep in touch with the chapter and other alumni.

Alumni Events and Chapter Activities Updates

The house corporation realizes that part of our mission is to keep alumni informed. These newsletters are designed to cultivate awareness and involvement with the chapter. *Wooglin on Chautauqua* will contain current chapter accomplishments, alumni news, information on upcoming events, reports on various chapter

activities, and current lists of undergraduate and alumni officers. We plan to publish the newsletter each spring and fall. You can also expect to receive a biographical update in February, which will allow you to update the information we have on record. These updates are a vital tool in maintaining our records and ties with one another. Once you receive the biographical update, please return it with your updated information.

House Corporation Dedicated to the Future of Gamma Phi

With our renewed newsletter, the house corporation can easily keep all alumni updated on current projects and future plans. In the past few years, the University of Oklahoma has undergone significant growth. Although Beta remains a top fraternity at the University of Oklahoma, the house corporation is taking steps to ensure the chapter stays at the top. The alumni in 1928 constructed an iconic structure that attracted the best members. The chapter house

was built to last, but it is now showing its age and must be upgraded to meet the needs of today's student and the chapter's size. Many fraternities are taking steps to preserve their chapters and Gamma Phi Chapter must do the same to remain a leader on campus. The alumni leadership is in the process of developing a long-range plan for the chapter house at 800 Chautauqua.

We hope that through the renewed *Wooglin on Chautauqua* you are reconnected to the fraternity that had an impact on your life. We are always interested in hearing from you, so if you have any suggestions, alumni news, or ideas for articles, please submit them to the address located on the back of this newsletter. If you are ever in the Norman area, I encourage you to stop by the chapter house, take a tour, and meet the undergraduates.

Yours in -kai-,
Robert Beall '80
(817) 946-2799 • robert@rsbeall.com

HOUSE CORPORATION

Zach Allen '85

President

(405) 203-1993

zach.allen@crowedunlevy.com

Fallis Beall '55

Curtis McCarty '92

Tom McCasland Jr. '56

Fred Turner '54

Bill Sherman '74

Matt Allen '03

Robert Beall '80

Matt Clouse '01

Charles Dobbs '85

James Elder '69

Chan Klingensmith '63

Joe Kokojan '06

David Rainbolt '78

Rob Robertson '84

Hank Ryan '72

Rich Taylor '71

Jay Wade '85

Harbour Whitaker '73

Brad Brown '07

Matthew Brown '09

ADVISORS

Michael May '08

David Proctor '05

John Simpsen '05

Tony DeGiusti '09

Michael Purcell '08

Tyler Nunley '10

Will Borden '00

Ted Johnston '11



Bill Reed '55 Reminisces About His Beta Experience

Alumnus Thankful for Gamma Phi Chapter

In rush, Beta Theta Pi stood above all other fraternities. I felt blessed to have received a Beta bid to start my fraternal journey as a Beta new member, but I was very nervous as I moved into the impressive and historic Beta barn. The first person I met was the housemother, who was a classy lady and became the pledges' very best friend. She recognized the need for social graces, skills and polish, and spent hours teaching us etiquette.

My pledge class was the last to live in the house during pledgship. Several military veterans lived in the house and caused a strong boot camp atmosphere to be created. It opened with the famous Line Speech, where we learned that the path of becoming a member is a monumental task. Pledgship left a lasting imprint on each of our lives. Those were happy times because when the members were asleep, and the cleaning was finished, the pledges would play. I still have this mental picture of us building a gigantic human pyramid in the lobby during cleanup. Not only did we acquire discipline and a work ethic, it also united us as a group.

We were constantly encouraged to be involved in intramural sports and student affairs. Saturday football weekends were a very special time for the chapter. The Beta Corporation, which managed the house, met on football Saturdays. As pledges, we were greatly impressed by the distinguished gentlemen who gave their time and charted the direction for the chapter. I hoped that someday I could give back to Beta as they did profusely with their time and their fortunes.

I remember the Barn Dance as the biggest of all fraternity parties. We spent day and night building the barn for this celebration. We also decorated with live animals brought in from a nearby farm. Only half the pledge class could bring a date to this gala event. The other half was instructed to visit and dance with members' dates. It was certainly a time to remember and everyone had fun.

The Gamma Pi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi is the leading fraternity at the University of Oklahoma because Beta pins are not handed out easily and high standards must be met to become a member. The other ingredient is the excellence that is material to becoming a Beta. A distinguished member challenged us in his senior speech to forever seek great raw material in the fraternity and in life. I have lived with those words throughout my life, and each day I realize the true significance of that profound statement.

Our Beta founding fathers recognized a divine creator, as did the founding fathers of our great country. We are constantly reminded of this as the Beta

Doxology is sung at the end of each chapter meeting. As I have repeated many times before in Wooglin, "I thank God I am a Beta."



Yours in -kai-,
Bill K. Reed '55
(405) 642-3401

ALUMNUS PURSUES DREAM THAT STARTED IN BETA HOUSE

Link Barr '85 was persuaded to join Beta Theta Pi because of the members he met during rush. Although his father, **Robert Barr '61**, remained objective, Link desired to carry on his father's legacy. "The biggest factor in signing Beta was the guys I met. They were really good guys and of high caliber. I wanted to be a part of that." Link came from a small town and sought a network that would help him succeed during his college career. "Beta gave me a strong foothold very early in my time at OU. Being a part of Beta was a big help in my collegiate experience."



After earning a bachelor's degree in letters, Link and his father created Barr Energy to assist with the logistics of Pioneer Trucking, LLC. In 2005, Link bought out his father and in 2007 he sold Barr Energy to High Sierra. Link still works with Pioneer Trucking, LLC, and Fluid Service, LLC. He credits Beta Theta Pi for helping him become successful. "Beta gave me the opportunity to see folks who are motivated and natural achievers. I was unable to avoid being impacted by this. It motivated me."

During Link's time in the chapter, there were many undergraduate brothers and alumni who pushed him to be better. "There were certain guys in the house who would sit down with you and really talk to you, not just about the surface issues, but about the topics that were most important to you. These guys really helped open my eyes to see that we had a support structure." Link's father taught him a lot about the importance of values and ethics. Link believes that being a member of the Gamma Phi Chapter helped further instill their importance. "Being around such a good group of guys helped me gain confidence both personally and professionally."

In Link's spare time, he enjoys riding motorcycles. "I've ridden motorcycles since I was eight. I have always had the interest and natural mechanical ability like my grandfather. It might have been passed down genetically." Link and a few friends have started weeklong motorcycle trips. "The whole idea for the world-wide trips began when **Jay Wade '85** and I were freshmen in college. However, like many dreams, there was a lot of talk with no action, until recently. Our plan started to take shape and we mapped out our route." To date, Link has already crossed Canada, the west coast of the United States, and the Baja peninsula of Mexico off the list. In the near future their rides will cover South America, South Africa and Australia. When Link is not on the road, he spends time with his daughters, Kirstin and Ali. Link resides in Oklahoma City and can be contacted at lbarr@highsierracrudeoil.com.

BETA THETA PI ENJOYS CELEBRATION

Join Us for the Next Loving Cup



Conner Walker '15 and Ryan Griffith '15 at the Beta Wooden Institute with Jeffrey Cartmell '09.



John Miller '12, Sebastian Pelky '13, Ryan Kearney '13, Thomas Owens '15, Sam Rainbolt '15, and Mitch West '12 formed a group called the Beta Dragons and sang at Loving Cup 2012.



Spencer Wilson '12 with Matt Holliman '12 and their dates for Loving Cup 2012

Our chapter celebrated the first annual Beta Theta Pi Loving Cup last March at Oklahoma City's historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel. The celebration is for alumni, active members, and our Sweethearts. More than 500 Betas and guests filled the hotel as we shared dinner, drinks and live entertainment. The guests enjoyed performances from the Beta Dragons, our chapter's octet, and recognized **Joseph**



Nigh '11 as Ralph G. Thompson Memorial Award Pledge of the Year and **Robert Beall '76** as Alumnus of the Year.

Your next opportunity to participate in this growing tradition will be Saturday, February 23, 2013, at the second annual Beta Theta Pi Loving Cup. You can register today at www.oklahomabeta.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Undergraduates Strive to Reach Goals

Gamma Phi Chapter Recruits Leaders

Thank you, alumni, for helping make recruitment a success. We could not have signed another excellent, well-rounded, and diverse group without your support. Now that we are well into the fall semester, football occupies our weekends and academics remain our focus throughout the week.

Mentoring Young Brothers

Last spring, we finished first in the IFC grade rankings with a 3.29 G.P.A. It is not only the highest G.P.A. our chapter has ever achieved, but also the highest of any fraternity on campus. We hope to repeat that performance this semester. With support from alumnus **Robert Beall '80**, we have begun a new initiative that focuses on academics. We pair outstanding junior and senior members with four to five new members. These older members serve as academic mentors throughout the semester and make sure the newest class is getting individualized support.

Serving the Community

In the past year, our chapter has renewed our focus of serving the community. More than 40 members participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Other members give back to the community by volunteering at the Regional Food Bank or Salvation Army. Last semester, our members completed nearly 2,000 service hours.

Recruiting Leaders

We signed 60 new members with an average G.P.A. of 3.7 and average ACT of 27. Six are all-state athletes, seven are in the President's Leadership Class, and five are Eagle Scouts. This is a great pledge class and we are excited to have them be a part of our chapter. The pledge class is involved in University Sing with Gamma Phi. With added talent from Gamma Phi, we have a winning show.

We are striving to earn the President's Trophy. Last year, we were the overall category winner in campus activities. With our academic record and the outstanding service our chapter has performed, the Gamma Phi Chapter is positioned to win. In addition to university recognition, we won our 13th Sisson Award.

Thank you, alumni, for the support you provide. As always, we welcome you to visit the house anytime you want.

Yours in -kai-,
Zach Lanier '09
Chapter President
(405) 919-9954
zlanier@ou.edu

	First	Second	Third	Total
Beta Theta Pi	61	25	15	101
Delta Upsilon	9	19	21	49
Delta Tau Delta	3	18	25	46
Lambda Chi Alpha	9	16	19	44
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	2	9	6	17

BENEFICIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

UNDERGRADUATES BRING SKILLS BACK TO CHAPTER

In early August, six members of the Gamma Phi Chapter attended the 173rd Annual Beta Theta Pi Convention in Chicago. The attendees participated in leadership college and gained valuable skills to bring back to the chapter. Chapter President **Zach Lanier '09** served as the delegate to the chapter and voted on several amendments to the Beta Constitution. These amendments included raising the minimum G.P.A. to the all-men's average on the individual chapter's campus, an average the Gamma Phi Chapter always ranks above. On the final night, our chapter accepted our 13th Sisson Award, which recognizes chapter excellence in cultivation of intellect, leadership development, self-governance, member education, responsible personal conduct, recruitment, and brotherhood.



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PLEDGE CLASS

Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is attending the University of Oklahoma, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

Lucas Abbott '16*
Tulsa, Okla.
(Nick Abbott '09)

Vincent Barone '16
Tulsa, Okla.

Baylor Boone '16*
Tulsa, Okla.
(Wally Boone '54, Bob Boone '59, Richard Boone 'YR, Brad Boone '82, Ty Boone '84, Todd Boone '84, Drew Boone '15)

Joshua Bowron '16*
Houston, Texas
(John Bowron Sr. '53, John Bowron Jr. '76)

Stephen Brock '16*
McAlester, Okla.
(Stephen Brock '88, Gail Watkins '76)

Carter Brumley '16*
Fort Worth, Texas
(New Member Hayden Bryan '16)

Chen "Tom" Chen '16
Sand Springs, Okla.

James Chiles '16*
Dallas, Texas
(Thoburn Taggart '1918, Dwight Chiles '42)

Richard Courtney '16*
Bartlesville, Okla.
(Kenneth Spence '41, Scott Spence '75, John Spence '73, Spence Courtney '13)

James Crabtree '16
Pasadena, Calif.
Andrew Cummings '16
Edmond, Okla.

Carson Dale '16
Tulsa, Okla.

Michael Dillon '16
Friendswood, Texas

Ryan Dodson '16*
Castle Rock, Colo.
(James Dodson '84)

Josh Eberhart '16*
Houston, Texas
(Michael Eberhart '12)

Mason Eberhart '16*
Southlake, Texas
(Michael Eberhart '16)

Matthew Eppler '16*
Ada, Okla.
(Greg Mahle '90)

Seth Fuller '16*
Oklahoma City, Okla.
(Guy Fuller '48, Richard Fuller '86, John Fuller '76, Falon Fuller '80, Bennett Fuller '82)

Drew Garner '16
Houston, Texas

Gregory Guthrie '16
Norman, Okla.

Coalson Hagan '16*
Oklahoma City, Okla.
(Mark Hagan '86)

Ian Hammond '16*
Sand Springs, Okla.
(John Miller '13, Greyson Barnes '09)

James Harp '16
Norman, Okla.

Austin Harvanek '16
McAlester, Okla.

Christian Heaney '16
Norman, Okla.

Skyler Hobbs '16
Edmond, Okla.

Mitchell Holliman '16*
Edmond, Okla.
(Matt Holliman '12)

Walter Idlet '16*
Centennial, Colo.
(Ralph Scott '54)

Sean Koster '16
St. Louis, Mo.

Cody Lawler '16
Coweta, Okla.

Donald Lehman '16*
Tulsa, Okla.
(Donald Lehman '83, Paul Schroedter '07, Philip Schroedter '09)

Connor Lisle '16*
Edmond, Okla.
(Lon Jackson '48, Todd Lisle '84, Ken Lisle '73, Mark Lisle '76, Peter Schmidt '11, Jackson Lisle '15)

Garrett Magill '16
Edmond, Okla.

Greyson McGill '16*
Ardmore, Okla.
(Troy Emde '73)

Silas Martin '16
Alva, Okla.

Jacob Massad '16*
Houston, Texas
(Brett Massad '81, Jeff Massad '80, Mike Massad '82)

Thomas Mayne '16
Spring, Texas

Kyle McCauley '16
McAlester, Okla.

Collin Meadors '16
Wetumka, Okla.

Jeffrey Moellers '16*
Tulsa, Okla.
(Matt Moellers '10)

Aaron Murray '16
Holdenville, Okla.

Jacob Odgers '16
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Brandon Rainbolt '16*
Coppell, Texas
(Charles Rainbolt '70, David Rainbolt '78, Sam Rainbolt '15)

Jacob Politte '16*
Austin, Texas
(John Politte '13)

Aaron Puckett*
Edmond, Okla.
(James Langdon '73)

Rodrigo Rivera-Reyes '16
Mexico City, Mexico

James Ross '16
Norman, Okla.

Jay Scambler '16*
Oklahoma City, Okla.
(John Kirschner '47)

Michael Schluterman '16
Dallas, Texas

Joshua Shoemake '16*
Mustang, Okla.
(Kim Shoemake '77)

Adam Siddique '16
Tulsa, Okla.

Baylor Spring '16
Edmond, Okla.

Richard Walker '16
Duncan, Okla.

John Wiggins '16
Edmond, Okla.

Mark Wilson '16*
Langley, Va.
(Marshall Wilson '78)

Issac Wurth '16
Kansas City, Kan.

Maxwell Zaluski '16*
Spring, Texas
(Jeremy Zaluski '14)

*Legacy; family member in parentheses