



WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA



Alpha Tau Omega



Delta Upsilon



Kappa Sigma



Lambda Chi Alpha



Sigma Nu



Phi Gamma Delta

What Is the Competition Doing? Fraternity Demand Sparks New Construction Boom

The University of Oklahoma has seen an increase in men participating in rush and joining IFC fraternities over the past several years. The fall 2012 formal recruitment week ended with the biggest overall class of new fraternity members in history.

University of Oklahoma Greek Life

According to the assistant director at University of Oklahoma's student life, **Koby Harrington '09**, Greek involvement at OU is at an all-time high. There were 670 men who signed bid cards on formal signing day, which is a 7.7% increase from fall of 2011.

Since 2009, OU Greek life averaged a 5.4% increase in new membership each year, with the largest increase coming this year. There are 2,200 men in IFC fraternities at OU, which is about 22% of the undergraduate male population.

Chapter Houses Must Accommodate Membership

Due to the influx of new members, there has been a flurry of construction of new facilities and renovations at the University of Oklahoma. Sixteen of the 20 fraternities have chapter houses or plan to acquire a chapter house for the fall 2013 semester. All chapter

houses at OU are operated and managed by private housing corporations and several building projects have been announced.

- Delta Upsilon and Lambda Chi both have facilities under renovation that are scheduled to be completed by fall 2013.
- Phi Kappa Sigma has broken ground for renovation.
- Phi Delta Theta is renovating their property.
- Alpha Tau Omega is building a new facility on College Avenue that is scheduled to be completed by fall 2013.
- Sigma Nu and Kappa Sigma have announced plans to build new chapter facilities.
- Phi Gamma Delta completed construction of a new 28,000-square-foot facility.

Since 1928, the Beta house has been the flagship of fraternity housing at OU. With the increase in Greek life, and these new facilities, we must keep the Beta house competitive to attract quality members. We will keep you updated on how Gamma Phi plans to position itself for a prosperous future. As always, I encourage all alumni to stop by the chapter house, meet the undergraduates, and share your Beta memories.

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



BRET CHANDLER '82 THANKFUL FOR BETA EXPERIENCE

Why did you join Beta Theta Pi?

I joined Beta Theta Pi for the traditions and history and a sense of belonging to a group, but most importantly, it was the potential relationships that I could build for a lifetime. What made me stay part of the brotherhood were the friendships I made. I knew that these alliances would ultimately help me in my business and personal life. I also knew that I would learn a great deal about how to be a leader and how to utilize my leadership opportunities. I have gained a lifetime of friendships and success from this group.



What did you gain as a Gamma Phi Chapter member?

I gained a sense of pride in the fact that this organization was formed more than 100 years ago and has stayed strong and unbroken. Gamma Phi Chapter has produced an almost endless list of successful leaders that include businessmen, lawyers, doctors and other professionals. I believe that what makes us so successful is the sense of pride we gained being members of Gamma Phi Chapter that emphasized friendship and principled living. This has spread into all areas of our life whether it is in business, personal relationships, or academics. We are committed to excellence.

How did Beta Theta Pi impact or influence your decision to start Rib Crib?

The oil and gas industry had just gone through the big “bust” of the '80s. This wasn't the best industry to find a job in right out of college. I began working for Mazzio's out of college and got a good sense of the restaurant industry, ultimately opening a Mazzio's in Florida. I noticed the chain restaurant industry had an unfulfilled niche. In May of 1992, Rib Crib was created and we began in a renovated, abandoned house in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I believe that Beta Theta Pi helped me to think outside the box when it came to having success in my career. I could have sulked at the fact that my chosen field was not a lucrative one, but instead I leaned on my principles of hard work and determination and started my own company.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

One of my greatest achievements is being able to give back to the community. I believe that one key to a successful society is people helping others. I enjoy donating to many charities, including the American Cancer Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, March of Dimes, and Saint Francis Children's Hospital. Each year, Rib Crib hosts a golf tournament that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charities.

Dwayne Godsey '53 Remembers Betas Proud to Live at 800 Chautauqua

Why did you join Beta Theta Pi?

I liked the guys that I met at the Beta rush parties. I guess I viewed them as role models. The chapter house was an outstanding structure and I could tell the members were proud to live there. I wanted to be with that group of guys.

What degree did you earn from the University of Oklahoma?

I earned a bachelor's degree in industrial management engineering. It gave me a broad knowledge of business that helped me advance in the “real world.” I worked with Humble and Tenneco Oil Companies in Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma. I began consulting in 1966 and sold my company to Williams Brothers Engineering. In 1981, an opportunity came along and I started an independent oil/gas company. The “crash” in the 1980s wiped me out, but I recovered and retired in 1996, selling my company to my son, **Mark '77**. I occasionally do some investing with him.



How did Beta Theta Pi impact or influence your career?

I think about what the Beta experience did for me almost every day. Living with 50-60 guys taught me how to live with a large group of men. As pledges, we learned to work as a team, occasionally helping a brother who was lagging. This pledgship bonded us and I still feel the bond today. I have several lifelong Beta brothers today. I am certain my Beta life helped determine who I am today and helped develop my career.

Beta taught me how to study as a freshman. We had three-hour study halls five nights per week in the chapter house. It was something we could not avoid unless we were sick. I developed a study habit that lasted throughout my college years. Manners, sadly lacking in today's society, were taught to us at meal times. Honesty, integrity, and ethics were attained as we lived with other guys. We learned to keep our word and do what we said we would do.

Do you have any special memories that you like to look back on?

I enjoyed Saturday afternoon football games in the fall, senior dinners, barn dances, and many other fraternity activities. I also enjoyed meeting new people and learning how to relate to them and work as a team. We helped pick our brothers up during hard times. I met many people that I am still friends with. Beta helped us network at OU and in my profession. It has been a plus to be a Beta.

We had a small reunion about 20 years ago for the classes of '47-'50 that was very well attended. It was an emotional time to talk with brothers and reconnect. I would love to get together again and reminisce about the good times in the chapter house.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

There is something special about living in the house, particularly at mealtime. The discussion at mealtime, the lessons we learned, and the procedures we followed made it a very meaningful experience to live in the chapter house. We need to modernize the house to compete with other places that young men live. The chapter house has to get up to speed with other fraternities and dorms.

Chapter President's Report

Betas Excel on Campus

There are many amazing things happening in our chapter and we are excited to share them with you. The following are a few highlights from the past year.

Another Great Pledge Class Signed

In the fall, we signed 62 men, retaining 56 of them throughout pledgship, for a retention rate of 90%. Along with a good retention rate, the new Freshman Academic Mentor program helped eight members of our freshman class achieve a perfect 4.0 G.P.A.

Gamma Phi Sets Academic Record

After revamping our Academic Assistance Plan, the chapter achieved a G.P.A. of 3.29 and finished first in grades for the spring of 2012. This G.P.A. set a record at the University of Oklahoma and was validation for the strides we have made academically. The chapter followed that up with a 3.24 in the fall, again finishing first among the major fraternities. This marks the third consecutive semester the chapter has finished first in grades among the large fraternities.

Undergraduates Involved on Campus

As campus leaders, Beta continues to strive to make a great impact on campus. **Skylar Sikes '15** started his term as IFC chief justice and **Sam Rainbolt '15** serves as PLC advisor. **Conner Davey '14** has been working hard for the last semester as a chairman of Relay for Life, an event raising more than \$100,000 for cancer research. Everywhere you look on campus, it is easy to recognize the influence Betas have.

Giving Back to the Community

The men of Beta Theta Pi realize the opportunities and good fortunes we have and feel it is important to give back. In the spring of 2012, our 160 members completed more than 2,000 hours of community service. That was followed up in the fall with 180 members completing an average of 15 hours per member. This is a vast improvement from the past and one we feel accurately reflects the culture change that has taken place over the past few years. This spring, we also hosted the 9th annual Frenley 5K race. The race was a great success again and raised over \$4,000 in revenue for the American Heart Association.

Beta Theta Pi Wins the President's Trophy

We are proud to announce that for the year 2012-13, Beta Theta Pi was awarded the President's Trophy. The President's Trophy was created by President David L. Boren to encourage and recognize outstanding contributions to the

(Continued on back page)

RUSH TEAM WORKS TO RECRUIT QUALITY MEMBERS ALUMNI HOST RECRUITMENT EVENTS

Gamma Phi Chapter continues to top fraternity standings in every category on campus. With the great work put in by the last two rush teams, we have successfully restructured our process to be one of the top programs on campus.

The 2013 recruitment team understands the importance of maintaining our excellence. Our efforts would not be possible without the support of our alumni. Every year we have alumni who host great recruitment events in Ardmore, Dallas, Houston, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and many other cities throughout Oklahoma and Texas. These events are some of the most important during the recruitment process, as they show how strong our fraternity has been throughout our existence.

We need your rush referrals. If you know of any outstanding rushees or Beta legacies, please contact the individuals listed below. The more information we can obtain on prospective members the better.

If you are willing to host a recruitment event, would like to refer someone to the recruitment team, or would like to support our efforts in another way, please contact a member of the recruitment team.

Fraternally,
Rush Team

Bill Johnston '15, Rush Chairman **Connor Lisle '16** **Luke Moellers '16** **Carson Dale '16**
(405) 623-9923 • billjohnston@ou.edu (405) 420-4357 (918) 510-9229 (918) 814-6375

BROTHERS BOND DURING LOVING CUP CELEBRATION

Save the Date:
February 22, 2014

For the second year in a row, 125 alumni, 125 active members, and 250 of our guests celebrated a sold-out event at Oklahoma City's historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel. **Matt Brown '09** and **Bill Johnston '15** co-chaired the event. With help from **David Rainbolt '78**, **Robert Beall '80**, and **Steve Jordan '78**, the event was a success. The award for Alumnus of the Year was presented to **Chan Klingensmith '98**, who also serves as chapter advisor. Juli Johnston and Diane Busby beautifully decorated our venue. We thank all alumni, upon whose support the chapter owes its continued success. We hope you will join us again next year.

Bill Towe '91 addressed the gathering and made the following remarks.

"The chapter is the foundation on which we men will spend the rest of our lives building skyscraping achievements for the world to see. Each of us shares in all of our collective achievements.

"Our brotherhood transcends our pledge classes. Our fraternal friendship, this unbreakable bond is greater than the individual classes. This bond, this fraternity is us. We are Beta Theta Pi."

Lee Thompson '26 Honors Brother's Legacy with Ralph Gordon Thompson Outstanding Pledge Award

On March 2, 1902, identical twins **Lee '26** and **Ralph Thompson '26** were born in Indian Territory. Their father was a deputy U.S. marshal and their mother was a schoolteacher. They were raised in Nowata and were inseparable. Their father passed away while they were in high school and their mother had to take in boarders to help pay the bills. Upon graduation, they went to Norman and enrolled in OU.

The brothers pledged Beta in 1922 and did odd jobs to subsist. When their mother passed away, they had no family other than themselves and their Beta brothers. They both excelled in school and graduated from law school with honors. Lee went into private practice and Ralph became the assistant attorney general of Oklahoma.

At age 34, Ralph passed away. Lee wanted to honor his brother and did so by starting the Ralph Gordon Thompson Outstanding Pledge Award at the Gamma Phi Chapter. He chose to honor his brother in this way because of their close ties to the chapter and the fraternal bond formed with their Beta brothers. Lee passed away in 1994, and his sons, Lee and Ralph, carry on the tradition. The award was initially given to pledges learning how to become a Beta, and it is how the award has been given for 75 years. **Lee Thompson Jr. '54** awarded the Outstanding Pledge Award to **Aaron Murray '16** at this year's Loving Cup Celebration.



Pictured at the presentation of the President's Trophy for most outstanding fraternity are Chapter Advisor Chan Klingensmith '98, Chapter President Mark Stoltz '14, Secretary Mitch Holliman '16, former Chapter President and IFC President, Nick Coffey '13 and University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren.

Betas Excel

(Continued from page 3)

University community. The annual award is given to the most outstanding fraternity and sorority, and is based on academics, campus involvement, community service, and multicultural interaction. This award accurately reflects the strides our chapter has made over the past couple of years. Beta Theta Pi has not received this award since 2004 and we are thrilled to return it to 800 Chautauqua.

Your continuous support is greatly appreciated. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions, or comments. We look forward to seeing you at the chapter house.



Fraternally,
Mark T. Stoltz '14
mtstoltz@ou.edu



Seth Fuller '12, Connor Lisle '12, Garrett Magill '12 (bottom), Coalson Hagan '12, Jake Odgers '12, Silas Martin '12, and Aaron Murray '12 watched Brandon Rainbolt '12 compete in the X Games.



Members brought home first prize in College Bowl, a pop culture trivia game.



WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA

BETA THETA PI CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 721805
NORMAN, OK 73070

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
66044
PERMIT #570

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.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Lucas Abbot '13
Tulsa, Okla.

Joshua Eberhart '13
Houston, Texas

Cody Lawler '13
Cowetta, Okla.

William Puckett '13
Edmond, Okla.

Vincent Barone '13
Tulsa, Okla.

Mason Eberhart '13
South Lake, Texas

Donald Lehman '13
Tulsa, Okla.

Brandon Rainbolt '13
Norman, Okla.

Robert Berryman '13
Amarillo, Texas

Matthew Eppler '13
Ada, Okla.

Connor Lisle '13
Edmond, Okla.

Rodrigo Reyes '13
Mexico City, Mexico

Baylor Boone '13
Tulsa, Okla.

Seth Fuller '13
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Garrett Magill '13
Edmond, Okla.

James Ross '13
Norman, Okla.

Joshua Bowron '13
Houston, Texas

Drew Garner '13
Katy, Texas

Silas Martin '13
Alva, Okla.

Jay Scambler '13
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Carter Brumley '13
Ft. Worth, Texas

Gregory Guthrie '13
Norman, Okla.

Jacob Massad '13
Kingwood, Texas

Michael Schluterman '13
Carrollton, Texas

Hayden Bryan '13
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Coalson Hagan '13
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Thomas Mayne '13
Houston, Texas

Joshua Shoemake '13
Yukon, Okla.

Tom Chen '13
Sand Springs, Okla.

Ian Hammond '13
Sand Springs, Okla.

Kyle McCauley '13
McAlister, Okla.

Adam Siddique '13
Tulsa, Okla.

Richard Courtney '13
Bartlesville, Okla.

Austin Harvanek '13
McAlister, Okla.

Greyson McGill '13
Ardmore, Okla.

Baylor Spring '13
Edmond, Okla.

James Crabtree '13
Pasadena, Calif.

Christian Heeney '13
Norman, Okla.

Collin Meadors '13
Holdenville, Okla.

Richard Walker '13
Duncan, Okla.

Andrew Cummings '13
Edmond, Okla.

Skylar Hobbs '13
Edmond, Okla.

Jefferey Moellers '13
Tulsa, Okla.

John Wiggins '13
Edmond, Okla.

Carson Dale '13
Tulsa, Okla.

Mitchell Holliman '13
Edmond, Okla.

Aaron Murray '13
Hinton, Okla.

Mark Wilson '13
Great Falls, Va.

Michael Dillon '13
Houston, Texas

Walter Idlet '13
Denver, Colo.

Jacob Odgers '13
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Isaac Wurth '13
Kansas City, Mo.

Ryan Dodson '13
Castle Rock, Colo.

Sean Koster '13
St. Louis, Mo.

Jacob Politte '13
Austin, Texas

Maxwell Zaluski '13
Houston, Texas