

# WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA

## Generations of Gamma Phi Brothers Gather at Dedication to Celebrate Completed House

### \$600,000 Matching Gift Challenge Exceeded, \$10 Million Reached

**B**eta brothers, friends, and guests gathered at 800 Chautauqua to celebrate the dedication and grand opening celebration of the newly remodeled and expanded Beta house on Saturday, September 19. The formal ceremony began with welcomes from Chapter President **Aaron Murray '16**. The Beta Dragons singing group followed with familiar Beta songs. Then President of the Beta Theta Pi Corporation, **Zach Allen '85**, spoke, followed by **Robert Beall '80**, campaign chairman, and Beta General Secretary **David Schmidt, South Florida '92**.

The formal dedication ceremony had about 350 people in attendance. Special guests were Max Weitzenhoffer, representing the OU Board of Regents; **Jonathan Brant, Miami '75**, director of the Beta Theta Pi Foundation; and **Martin Cobb, Eastern Kentucky '96**, editor of the Beta Theta Pi magazine.

A dedication plaque was installed on the building near the new north doorway. The plaque is inscribed: *"In honor of those Brothers*

*who have contributed to present and future generations of the men of Gamma Phi—September 19, 2015."*

A celebration party was held at the house after the OU vs. Tulsa football game. Approximately 700 guests socialized, ate barbecue provided by Rib Crib, and danced to a live band set up on the new basketball court. The entire weekend was made possible by the donation of more than \$10 million by our loyal alumni through the *Honoring Our Traditions, Providing for the Future* campaign. As our active members enjoy the chapter house, we are very proud of our efforts and appreciative of our alumni who made a financial commitment.

### *\$600,000 Challenge Exceeded, but We Aren't Done Yet*

Since announcing the \$600,000 challenge in May, we have raised \$614,377. Thank you to all of the brothers who took advantage of this opportunity and donated to the challenge. We are truly impressed and grateful.

Although we exceeded our challenge and surpassed our campaign goal of \$10 million, we are not done yet. The total cost of the project will be over \$10 million after construction, fees, furnishings, fundraising, etc. are taken into account, and we have \$500,000 set aside to be used for scholarships. If you are on the fence about contributing or stretching your gift, the campaign is not yet complete—please fill out and return the enclosed pledge card.

### *Campaign Ending December 31*

On the heels of a successful 2015 and chapter house dedication, we have made the decision to bring the campaign to a close at the end of this year. If you have not taken the opportunity to give, this should allow time for you to consider a gift. As a reminder, every brother who gives \$2,500 or more will be recognized on a prominent donor plaque that will be displayed in the chapter house. Please take this opportunity to give or increase your gift now to be honored in the halls of Gamma Phi for generations to come.

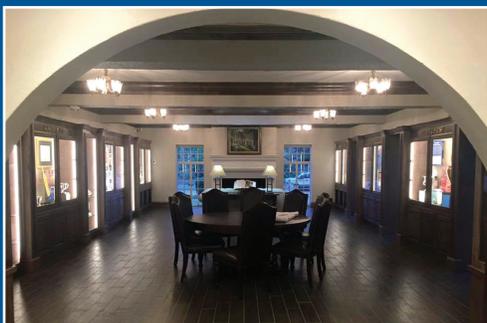
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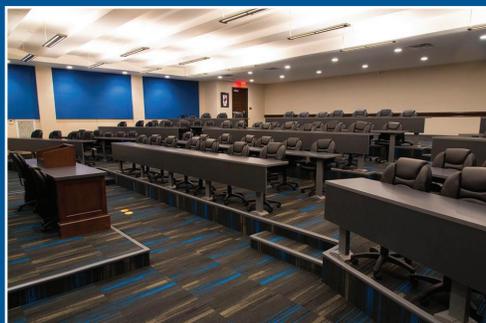
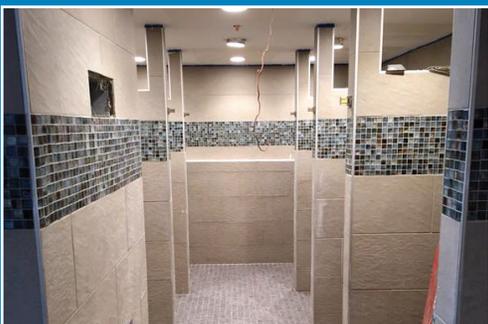
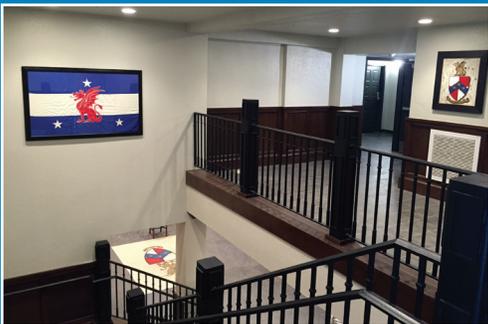
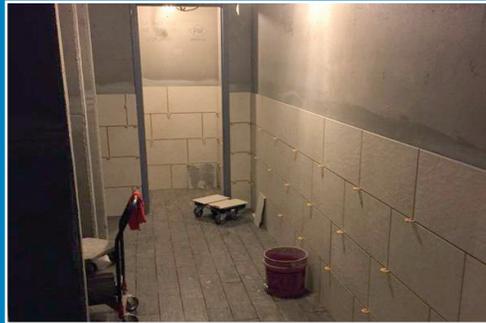
*Gamma Phi's house dedication and ribbon cutting took place September 19. Thank you to all who attended. It was a great day to celebrate a new chapter for Beta at OU.*



# *Our House, from the Beginning*



**B**eta Theta Pi means many different things to many people. We are a brotherhood, a network, a social organization, and an opportunity to develop men of principle. With more than 1,800 living alumni, Gamma Phi has made an impact on many lives in over 100 years. Thanks to the hard work of our alumni leaders, today we are stronger than ever and have an impressive chapter house that will house the finest men at OU and lay a solid foundation for the next 100 years of Gamma Phi.



## Brothers Gather at Dedication (Continued from page 1)

### Thanks to Our Alumni Volunteers

We owe a debt of gratitude to our dedicated house corporation and campaign committee members for their careful use of campaign dollars and for always being willing to give of their time and talent to save money. There are still planned projects to be completed, such as a possible long-term maintenance fund to keep the chapter house looking new for years to come. The house will continue to have ongoing projects and expenses, and we hope every alumnus will be a part of this campaign. This is your last opportunity to pay it forward and show your appreciation for being part of our Beta brotherhood.



The oldest known surviving skin will hang in Gamma Phi's new rec room.



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Gamma Phi brought home its sixth Knox Award, another Sisson Award, and the John Holt Duncan Outstanding Service Award this summer at Convention.



The brothers of Gamma Phi make good use of their new study hall. This year, we intend to win grades for the fifth consecutive semester.

## Alumni Support Is the Catalyst for Another Successful Semester at OU *Recruitment and Academics Continue to Impress*

The members of Gamma Phi Chapter officially moved into our refurbished house on Friday, September 4. Ask any member and they will tell you that the excitement of finally being back at 800 Chautauqua is unmatched by any college experience thus far.

### *Undergraduates Settling In*

With the semester already underway, the 75-seat basement study hall is in full use. There are few times during the day when one cannot find a brother with whom to study in the house. But, this focus on academics has not deterred us from enjoying the more “lighthearted” opportunities the house offers. Numerous pick-up games have been played on the restored basketball court. But not to be outdone is the rec room, which has become the hot spot on NFL Sundays, as the brothers camp out and watch whatever games they can.

### *Alumni Reunite at Gamma Phi*

On Saturday, September 5, we hosted our first alumni tailgate at the new house. The excitement was electric. Countless alumni came to experience the new house and reminisce about the old. As pledge classes reunited, many found their composites throughout the house to snap a quick photo before they found their old rooms to see what had changed.

### *Thank You, Generous Alumni*

All in all, the good brothers of Chautauqua could not be happier with our new living situation. A big thank you to **Robert Beall '80**, chairman of the building campaign committee; **Curtis McCarty '92**

of McCarty Construction; **Michael Hall '88**, house architect; **Ryan Manning '06**, project manager; and the Housing Corporation, led by **Zach Allen '85**. We believe that this house sets an example of the lasting impression Beta Theta Pi has on its members. This fact is seen in our capital campaign as an average one in three alumni donated to the renovation. Actions such as these demonstrate the truth in Willis O'Rob's statement that Beta Theta Pi's spirit is unique.

### *Beta Welcomes 63 New Members*

In addition to moving into the new house, our recruitment team, led by **Reed Prado '17**, worked tirelessly over the summer to sign an excellent new member class. Among the 63 men are five valedictorians, 11 President's Leadership Class members, 12 all-state athletes, and 10 University scholars. We hope and expect these men to achieve first place in new member GPA as we have the last two semesters.

### *Hard Work Pays Off Academically*

The spring semester marked our fifth consecutive semester of the highest fraternity GPA on campus. We intend to work as hard as possible to obtain number six with the help of our “new” chapter house. Thank you to all the brothers who made it possible through their generous donations. We wouldn't be where we are without you.

Fraternally,  
**Aaron Murray '16**  
Chapter President  
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