

# WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA

Volume 2005, Issue I

Spring 2005

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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**  
 sbarghols@gablelaw.com  
 15th Floor  
 One Leadership Square  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
 405-235-5567

## House Phones

President - 405-360-1257

Housemother - 405-364-0457

Kitchen - 405-321-5985

## Chapter President's Report

### STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

In the last issue of *Wooglin on Chautauqua*, Michael Kurtz spoke about our chapter continuing to strive for excellence. This spring, the young men at 800 Chautauqua couldn't be more proud and truly believe we are on track for success. The election of a new executive committee in February has brought upon many new and exciting changes. Working with the chapter, these new officers have come up with various bright and exciting ideas to achieve our primary goals. Winning the Knox Award for Chapter Excellence is a tough challenge that our members

are excited to face. The Knox Award is given by our General Fraternity and signifies the most prestigious chapters in the nation. We also raised the academic bar by winning first in grades among large fraternities for the second consecutive semester.

This past semester the men of Beta Theta Pi placed second with the women of Pi Beta Phi in University Sing during Dad's Day weekend. This April, during Mom's Day weekend, we will be performing with the women of Chi Omega in University



800 Chautauqua

Scandals. Although the production has not taken place, their hard work and efforts has promoted high expectations of a victorious show by many members of the Scandals executive committee. Next semester, the men will be participating in Homecoming 2005 with the women of Delta Delta Delta in hopes of achieving a win. We will

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## Corporation President's Report

### SEVERAL PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION

As the Chapter closes out the 2004-05 year, we can take pride in many accomplishments and look forward to many opportunities in the coming year. Gamma Phi enjoys a pinnacle position among all OU fraternities. It remains academically dominant. Beta again ranked first among all large houses last fall. Again, the Chapter also received the President's Scholarship Trophy for academic excellence this April. Beta is extremely influential on campus within the extra-curricular, social and athletic

realms. The Chapter recently completed room draw for the 2005-06 year, and the house will again be full with at least 72 residents.

Looking forward, it is time to make decisions regarding a number of capital improvement projects to be undertaken over the summer. The Corporation will consider these projects at its spring meeting this April. Projects to be considered include:

- Extensive remodeling and refurbishment of the downstairs basement and study hall areas.

- Replacement or rebuilding of the front doors.
- Restoration of the chapter piano.

The basement project is the most important project to be considered since the upstairs bathrooms were remodeled in 2001. The basement is generally divided into two areas. The back portion (known to many as the "old chapter room") now serves as a study hall. The remaining basement area has been used as the Chapter's "party room" for several years. As anyone

*(Continued on page 10)*

### Chapter Advisor's Report

Spring semester 2005 finds the Gamma Phi chapter aspiring for greatness. The academic year has been a successful one, as Beta has reclaimed its prowess in academics at O.U. by winning grades fall 2004. The intramural title will be decided in May with Beta Theta Pi near the top. It has been another opportune year at 800 Chautauqua, but not without subsequent challenges to active members.



Blaine Matray  
Chapter Advisor

The newly adopted University of Oklahoma alcohol policy has changed campus life. Members have focused themselves toward developmental goals. For the first time ever, we have SIX actives attending National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ in August. There are three others also attending General Fraternity sponsored summer leadership training courses in

Oxford, OH. The campus changes have brought about a chance for the officers to develop programs and cultures that will mold Beta Theta Pi into the future.

Tragedy struck in April with the passing of one of our beloved N.I.s, Patrick Frensley. Patrick's death has enveloped an enormous bond of brotherhood at the Gamma Phi chapter. It has given everyone a renewed sense of strength and appreciation for our numerous blessings. Though Patrick will be deeply missed, he will be forever honored at the Beta house with a permanent memorial.

All in all, it is a wonderful time to be a Beta. Numerous structural changes to the house are beginning. We have a complete alumni advisory team that has been extremely helpful in assisting me in my first year efforts as Chapter Advisor. Our officers and actives have also been nothing short of exceptional in ensuring that the Gamma Phi chapter continues to be successful at O.U. For that, I am also truly thankful. I close by offering an open request to any Beta for suggestions,

### Chapter Officers

**President** - Joe Kokojan  
**VP (internal)** - Steve Harral  
**VP (external)** - Brad Brown  
**Secretary** - Kelly Mercer  
**Treasurer** - Nick Holman  
**Pledge Educator** - Lin Hicks  
**Rush Chair** - Colin Drake  
**Rush Secretary** - Henry Nguyen  
**Philanthropy Chair** - Justin Edmiston  
**House Manager** - Bryan Luff  
**Scholarship Chair** - Brian McCall  
**Social Chair** - Paul Schroedter  
**IFC Representative** - Eks Wye Pollock  
**Campus Activities Chair** - Matt Mitzner  
**Ritual Chair** -  
**Song Chair** - Charlie Graves  
**Intramural Chair** - Charlie McMahon  
**Alumni Relations Chair** - Mike Purcell

comments, worthy talents, etc. to aid in Beta Theta Pi's continued advancement. Please email me at okmatray@cox.net.

Blaine Matray '93  
Chapter Advisor

### Chapter President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

also be participating in University Sing 2005 with the women of Kappa Kappa Gamma. We hope to improve by achieving "Best Production" in this forthcoming event. Besides these specified events, our members helped a local sorority for Risk Awareness Week by promoting vehicle safety. We taught the women of Pi Beta Phi



Joe Kokojan  
Chapter President

how to correctly change tires, check air pressure, etc. The men of Beta Theta Pi also participated in the University of Oklahoma's Big Event on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Big Event promotes community service and the importance of helping others. For this event, our fraternity did various landscaping along the Chisholm Trail in Yukon, Oklahoma. Big Event provided our members with a good brotherhood opportunity while helping out the community.

We are all excited about everything this spring has to offer. Our enthusiasm for Beta and excitement for the University has had a positive impact on all our members, and we are constantly striving to achieve our goals. With almost another year under our belts, we look forward to beginning rush and thus, another pledge class. I'm excited to see the new recruitments who will continue to uphold the legacy of Beta Theta Pi. With our goals

clearly placed, I am almost certain that our chapter will undoubtedly have yet another triumphant year.

Joe Kokojan  
President



### Official IFC Scholarship Rankings for Fall 2004 Semester

	<u>Fraternity</u>	<u>Active Members &amp; Pledges</u>	<u>Chapter GPA</u>
1	Phi Kappa Psi	18	3.1181
2	<b>Beta Theta Pi*</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>3.1178</b>
3	Sigma Alpha Epsilon	157	3.0281
4	Sigma Phi Epsilon	182	2.9920
5	Lambda Chi Alpha	182	2.9600
6	Sigma Nu	25	2.8860
7	Phi Delta Theta	70	2.8840
8	Delta Upsilon	116	2.8450
9	Pi Kappa Phi	83	2.8350
10	Delta Chi	18	2.8140

se- \*1<sup>st</sup> among "large house" fraternities

# OFFICERS' REPORTS

## Scholarship

The men of the Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi are coming off another excellent academic semester. We tied for first overall with Phi Kappa Psi at 3.12, and blew away the rest of the big houses, the closest being Sigma Alpha Epsilon at 3.03. As always, we look forward to continuing our tradition of winning grades again this semester with new improvements in our Academic Support Program.

We currently have a large collection of old tests and notes that our departed brethren have left for our benefit, and we continually collect new materials from active members. We are improving upon this system by making electronic copies of all of our old and new materials. This will make finding the right tests and notes to study much easier.

We are also building a Class List, a list of classes that every active member of this chapter has taken, and done well in. This way, younger members and pledges can find an older member who has already taken their classes and obtain advice or tutoring from them. Our goal with these new improvements is to cement our place as the top academic house on this campus.

*Brian McCall*  
*Scholarship Chair*

## Intramurals

With spring arriving, Beta Theta Pi takes to the Intramural fields again to resume our role as one of the most dominate houses on campus. The spring semester brings another chance for Betas to shine in many different sports. Our basketball teams are always formidable, and they progressed deep into the campus tournament. Our passing league football team is ready to defend its championship title from last year. After watching one of their games from the other day, it appears that they are poised for a repeat. Everyone is also excited that softball season is about to start. Intramural softball is definitely a favorite around the Beta House. As the school year is winding down, intramurals are definitely heating up. I am

looking forward to heading our intramural teams this coming fall as the new intramural chairman.

*Charlie McMahon*  
*Intramurals Chair*

## Philanthropy

The Gamma Phi chapter has shown an outstanding commitment for the 2005 year. Since January, we have become very involved in our community. We first began by adopting nearby McKinley elementary as our adopt-a-school and have since raised a truck load of needed school supplies. We have also risen over \$900 for the Children's Miracle Network through OU's Dance Marathon. In addition, we participated in a can-food drive and a can castle contest for the campus Health Fair, which benefited a local food bank. We recently received an award from President Boren recognizing Beta as having the cleanest and best looking adopt-an-area on campus. We have spent time with and entertained our new adopted faculty member, who recently attended our last scholarship dinner. For Arbor Day we sent a number of men to plant trees at our Duck Pond.

The Beta house is very excited about the number of participants so far this spring semester. We have fully supported and provided assistance to almost all Greek philanthropy events, as well as other groups events on campus. Currently we are halfway to raising \$1500 for the American Cancer Society through Relay for Life. We have over half of our chapter committed to the Big Event, a central Oklahoma service event. We are also currently in the process of finalizing a partnership with our counties Big Brother Big Sister program. We are fully supportive of our community and are pleased with our progress. We hope to continue our involvement and leave a legacy development on the University of Oklahoma as well as the city of Norman.

*Justin Edmiston*  
*Philanthropy Chair*

## House

Four months into the year and we are already off to a great start at 800 Chautauqua. I am very excited to take over as the new house manager, and I can not wait to see how the rest of the year is going to unfold. In previous years summertime has been the season to update, enhance, and sometimes remodel parts of the house. Projects like the formal living room, dining room, and bathrooms have been, from what I have heard from the older members, HUGE improvements in the general look and feel of the house. After passing around a "wish list" during one of our chapter meetings, the overwhelming request for this summer was to remodel the basement. After passing on the idea to the Beta's Mom Association they took it and ran with it.

The Beta house is lacking an informal and comfortable area where members can congregate, relax, and socialize. If the basement remodel project is passed we will have a space that the members will want to use, and with the new alcohol policy in place, it looks as though the new area will be far less abused. By cleaning the brick walls, painting and repainting certain areas, along with remodeling the bar, building a new entertainment center, and hopefully receiving a pool table; we will find ourselves with a wonderful new room to socialize in. The other half of the project is the study hall. New lighting, conference style tables, comfortable chairs, and thicker carpet will ensure a more conducive studying atmosphere. But, by far the biggest part of the basement remodel project lies in the floor (no pun intended). The two prevailing ideas on how to deal with the floor are either to replace the tile with different, darker tile, or remove the tile all together and stain and seal the concrete.

As I said earlier, I am very excited in my new position and I cannot wait to see how this large project is going to unfold. With the success of the last few major renovations I know that the basement will be worth every penny spent.

*Bryan Luff*  
*House Manager*

## 54 NEW MEMBERS INITIATED ON JANUARY 28, 2005



Roll	Name	Hometown	Roll	Name	Hometown
2625	Steven James Patterson	Edmond	2652	Michael David May	Edmond
2626	Jake Eli Baldwin	Norman	2653	Tyler Ray Jennings	Norman
2627	Daniel Christopher Cooper	Vinita	2654	Patrick James Frensley	Marietta, GA
2628	Garrett Matthew Jones	Tulsa	2655	Adrian James Maurer	West Chester, PA
2629	Brian James Sughrue	Bartlesville	2656	Andrew David Bennet	Tulsa
2630	Matthew Miles Mitzner	Edmond	2657	Ryan Wade Compton	Lawton
2631	Joseph Earl Matthews	Talihina	2658	Ecks Wye Pollock IV	Edmond
2632	Paul Richard Simpson	Charlotte, NC	2659	William Tyler Riley	Ardmore
2633	Christian Alexis Arroyave	Claremore	2660	Justin Michael Young	Tulsa
2634	Kelly Ross Mercer	Tulsa	2661	Bryan Alexander Luff	Oklahoma City
2635	Jonathon Wilson McCartney	Oklahoma City	2662	Adam Giovanni Alonso	Tulsa
2636	Kendall Dee Moore	Dewar	2663	Quinton Ty Bohannon	Tulsa
2637	Christopher Steven Wood	Lawton	2664	William Jordan Bishop	Grapevine, TX
2638	Michael Morgan Purcell	Norman	2665	Jared Nile Seth Keck	Norman
2639	Harry Hunter Hoelscher	Norman	2666	Terrell Scott Pappas	Houston, TX
2640	Ryan Bryson Cook	Montgomery, TX	2667	Christopher James Hillin	Arlington, TX
2641	Tobin James Newcomb	Fort Gibson	2668	Robert Thomas Conwell IV	Lawton
2642	Chalmers Rieger Wood IV	Tulsa	2669	Nicholas Bryan Dollarhide	Spring, TX
2643	Blair Adrian Speer	Norman	2670	Jakeb Ashton Ellis Coon	Ponca City
2644	Matthew Springer Long	Edmond	2671	Cullin Christopher Greer	Spring, TX
2645	Charles William McMahon	Tulsa	2672	Jonathon Simpson Prickett	Colleyville, TX
2646	Andrew Jackson Dunleavy	Edmond	2673	Charles Robert Graves	Norman
2647	Theo Christian Coleman	Carrollton, TX	2674	Jacob Randall McGee	Pauls Valley
2648	Scott Alden Hollingsworth	Tulsa	2675	Dana Ray McCarty	Council Hill
2649	Charles Nole Scherer	Fort Worth, TX	2676	Reid Daniel Thompson	Henryetta
2650	Benjamin Joseph Ikard	Nichols Hills	2677	John Robert Hurley	Norman
2651	John Corbin Richert	Tulsa	2678	Matthew Thomas Whitaker	Tulsa

# PATRICK JAMES FRENSLEY 1986 - 2005

## A SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN

Patrick James Frensley passed away on April 3, 2005 in a jogging accident. Brother Frensley, a native of Marietta, Georgia, was a newly-initiated member of Gamma Phi. All his brothers mourn his death. However we celebrate it, for he was an extraordinary person whose spirit will forever live in our hearts.

When God made Patrick he broke the mold. Being a one of a kind guy, he will forever be remembered for his fiery personality and southern gentleman demeanor. Brought up with a foundation of morality, the southern gentleman, Patrick, found a place in all his brothers' hearts. He was well thought of, held to a high standard, and loved by all. He defined the way he lived his life. He set his goals and always strived to attain them. His passion for life was reflected in his actions and words. He loved Christ and lived accordingly. He touched many lives and for many, led them to be better people. He left a mark on all of us that can never be erased.

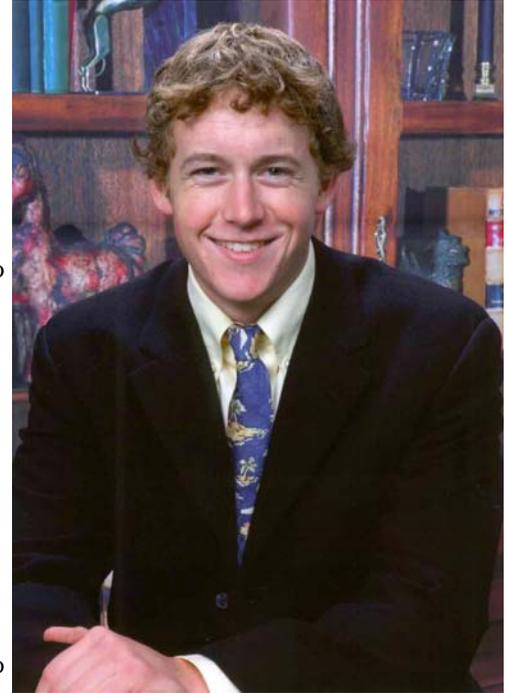
Upon initiation Patrick was elected ritual chair. He took what was more a position of recognition to a position of true influence. He reveled in the idea of ritual because it held what the founders of Beta intended; principles. He liked the idea of courtesy, respect, brotherhood, loyalty, and high aspirations. As ritual chair, Patrick brought these ideals to life by reading passages of inspiration from his Beta manual at the beginning of chapter, encouraging thought. Such an action had not been common place in the past but Patrick saw it necessary for us all to grow and become better people. He used his position to influence the chapter. His love for Beta is exemplified in a letter that was found in his room, written at the end of pledge ship. Patrick said, "Beta Theta Pi is the finest organization a man can join. It is not a "frat" but a fraternity. One that truly stresses brotherhood and love for your fellow man, not only your brothers, but those inferior and superior; a sense of warmth and generosity only Betas feel. Beta Theta Pi, to me, is not only a fraternity or some organization, but a way of life."

We all at Gamma Phi looked forward to having Patrick live in the house this coming year. He had so much to offer and we had so much to offer him. For many of us the loss has been hard to bear and seemingly inconceivable. His spirit lives on within our hearts and for eternity he will be remembered. A favorite passage of Patrick's is Philippians 2:12-18 stating:

There for, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Do everything without arguing or complaining, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life – in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you to shall be glad and rejoice with me.

Patrick loved his brothers and we loved him too. He wrote, "I have been there for my pledge brothers during pledge ship, and I want to be there for them the rest of my life at the drop of a hat." He was loyal to us all and an example of the way we would like to be.



## “MOM OVERTON SAYS ...”



Sue Overton  
Housemother since Fall 1997

The spring semester at the Beta house has been eventful and exciting. We held a formal dinner with Ambassador Edward Perkins as our guest speaker. Other guests included Regional Director Bill Speller from the General Fraternity, Corporation President Zach Allen and our Chapter Advisor, Blaine Matray and wife Stacy.

Our Scholarship dinner was on March 7. Tom Greenlee, IFC Advisor was our guest speaker. Other guests were Beth Stathos, Panhellenic Advisor, and Raylene Cossey, Greek Affairs Office Supervisor. Our new Mom's Club President Julie Tinsley and her husband Loyd also attended. The dinner was a big success. Tom had nothing but good things to say about the Betas. A special thanks goes to Anne and Mark Harris who provided the lobster! The lobster and steak dinner is always a big deal around here. The dining room was full, and all our young men looked great in their coats and ties.

During Spring Break, I traveled to Colorado to visit a friend, Corinne Carpenter, the Zeta House Mother. It snowed while we were there and was just beautiful. We visited Estes Park and went shopping. Had a great time!

I know everyone is interested in hearing how the house is doing during this semester with the new "No Alcohol" policy. The main things I have noticed are that the house is much quieter and cleaner! I have also seen more guys studying.

We are looking forward to some class reunions at the house. The class of '55 will be here in May, and the class of '57 will be here in the fall. There will also be a 50-year reunion visiting the house April 22-23.

The Board of Trustees of Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity has selected Oklahoma City as the host site for its spring board meeting the last weekend in April. Our chapter will host a dinner for them April 30th. We feel proud and honored to have them in Oklahoma and at our house.

We want to express our appreciation to Sherry Muzny for everything that the Mon's Club has done for our house this past year. They brought food for the members to snack on during finals week. Also, all

the poinsettias they bought for Christmas from the university were beautiful. We greatly appreciate all the work they did decorating the house for Christmas. The silent auction during football season has been a great success. The baskets are always beautiful and filled with lots of fun items! The money from this event helps the Mon's Club, along with other projects throughout the year.

Plans are underway for Mom's weekend, which is April 8-9. The boys are practicing hard on their act for Sooner Scandals. It should be a great show. The boys have really worked hard on the President's Trophy. The book looked great! We are hoping for the best and to repeat last year's win.

I have enjoyed working with our out-going officers. They have handled their duties with great responsibility. I am looking forward to working with our in-coming officers. The strength of their leadership is evident every day and makes our fraternity strong year after year.

I wish all of you a fun summer vacation. Be ready for a new year with great expectations!

*Mom Overton*

## HOUSE ACTIVITIES

### SCHOLARSHIP DINNER



Blaine and Stacy Matray, Loyd and Julie Tinsley, Raylene Cossey, Sue Overton

**March 7th** -Each year the men gather for a formal dinner with special guest from the University. The dinner is based on the academic performance the men displayed the previous semester. The food served to each Beta is based on his GPA from the previous semester. The special guests at this year's event were Tom Greenlee (former IFC Advisor), and Beth Stathos (Panhellenic Advisor).



Tom Greenlee, Brad Brown, Beth Stathos



# HOUSE ACTIVITIES

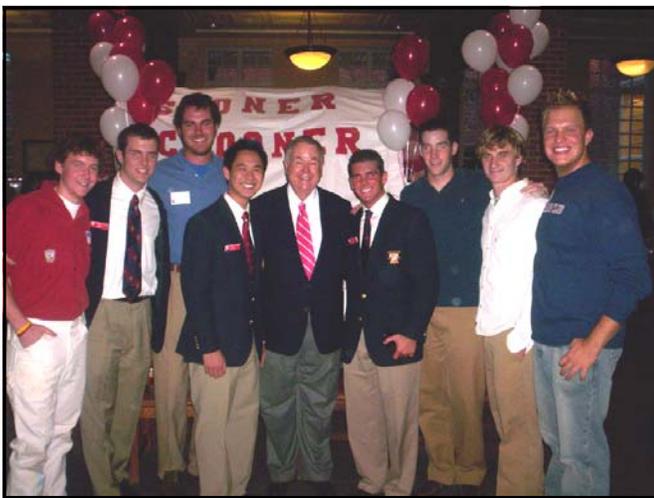
## FORMAL DINNER WITH AMBASSADOR PERKINS



**December 6th** - Edward J. Perkins, former United States Ambassador to Australia, Liberia, the Republic of South Africa and the United Nations, discusses his experiences in the Foreign Service with chapter members.



# CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



**Leadership Table** - Each year President Boren invites campus leaders to carve their name on the leadership table that will be left and displayed in the food court of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. This year we had eight brothers invited to sign the table. From left to right: Patrick Frensley '08, Mark Bicket '06, Brad Brown '07, Henry Nguyen '07, President Boren, Grant Jones '05, Nick Holman '06, Joe Kokojan '05, Brandon Smith '05.



**Dance Marathon** is an annual event held each school year in the spring semester. This year a nine brothers volunteered for the event which benefited the Children's Miracle Network, Oklahoma Children's Cancer Association, Children's Medical Research Institute and Camp Cavett. From left to right: David Proctor '05, Patrick Frensley '08, Brad Brown '07, Michael Purcell '08, Bayley Jordan '08, Adrian Maurer '08, Brandon Smith '05, Ryan Cook '08, Kelly Mercer '08.



**Homecoming** - Grant Jones (left) and David Proctor (Right) were selected to be apart of the Homecoming Royalty Court. David Proctor was crowned the 2004 Homecoming King.



**University Sing** - Betas performing with the women of Pi Beta Phi won second place in this fall semester event.

## LOOKING BACK

**100 years ago (Spring 1905)** – On March 23rd the Norman Transcript noted the “high class training” shown by Gamma Phis Darling and Kingkade at the annual gymnastics exhibition.

**75 years ago (Spring 1930)** – Mrs. Ned B. Miller served as Housemother. Bill Noble was a starting guard on the varsity basketball team. Twelve new members were initiated on March 1, 1930.

**50 years ago (Spring 1955)** – Mrs. W. P. Vick served as Housemother. John R. VanBuskirk served as Chapter President. Gaines Godfrey placed first in Intramural Horseshoe singles and teamed with Charles Ferree to win the doubles. Thirty-eight new members were initiated on March 27, 1955.

**25 years ago (Spring 1980)** – Oklahoma Sain served the Housemother. John Raley was active in Student Congress. Dale Reneau directed Sooner Scandals. Chris Johnson won the free throw competition in the basketball marathon. Thirty new members were initiated on March 26, 1980.

## 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
384	1937	Richard Harold Gilliland	4/3/2005
695	1951	William R. Shirley	8/27/2004
700	1951	John Charles Durie	1/21/2005
829	1953	Douglas Trent Banks	10/16/2004
1332	1969	William Kent Watson	12/24/2004
1931	1987	Todd Ronald Gunn	4/2/2005
2654	2008	Patrick James Frensley	4/3/2005

## FRATERNAL FIFTIES - 2005

The following Gamma Phi members were initiated in 1955.

Roll	Name	City
892	Robert Clinton Eddleman	Deceased
893	David Condon MacKay	Houston, TX
894	Jimmy Frank Drake	Lost
895	Clarke E Bird	San Antonio, TX
896	James Heber Warram, Jr.	Norman
897	Robert Duff Webber	Lancaster, PA
898	J. Stephen Beckman	Lost
899	Dale Byars Sherrod	Longmont, CO
900	Philip Donnell Hart	Oklahoma City
901	Samuel Richard Fryer, Jr.	Southlake, TX
902	William D Durkee	Houston, TX
903	Stephen W. Haines, Jr.	Lost
904	Larry Don Jensen	Fairview
905	Gerald Wayne Fronterhouse	Dallas, TX
906	Delmar Spencer Dykes	Deceased
907	William H McCoy, Jr.	Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
908	John Martin Burzio	Falls Church, VA
909	Charles T McCarter	Lost
910	Gaines L Godfrey	Durango, CO
911	Jay Dean Magness	Newport Beach, CA
912	William R Broach	Buena Vista, VA
913	Sampson Lewis Wilhite, Jr.	Franklin, TN
914	Fred A Tillman, Jr.	Deceased
915	Fred Allen Gipson	Norman
916	David Marshall Giltner	Lost
917	Don Wayne Park	Fayetteville, AR
918	William Lee Epton	Lost
919	Max Paul Lorenz	Marietta, GA
920	Robert Kirk Hunter	Minnnetonka, MN
921	Davis A Coppedge	Richardson, TX
922	Wayne Edwards Sansbury	Stuyvesant, NY
923	Don A Smith	Fort Smith, AR
924	Thomas M Wakely	Norman
925	William W Lindsay	Lost
926	Kent D Hanson	Lost
927	Walter Oakshott North Cooper	Lost
928	Richard G Porter	Brandon, MS
929	James Moore Schwartz	Colorado Springs, CO
930	Jerry Lynn Nelms	Lost
931	William Edward McDaniel	Arlington, TX
932	Joseph T Shelton	Deceased

## MOM GREER - 1909-2005



Dorothy Janice “Mom” Greer, 96, of Duncan, OK, died Thursday, March 3, 2005 in Marlow, OK. Born Feb. 9, 1909 in OKC to Arlington B. and Allie E. Callicotte Silver. Dorothy graduated from Central High School in OKC

and attended Oklahoma City University. She was a homemaker, a former realtor and house mother for Beta Theta Pi & Alpha Gamma Delta at the University of Oklahoma. She was a former organist for a church in OKC and enjoyed playing the

piano. Just last year, she played for all the guests at her birthday party. Dorothy also was an artist and worked with oils. She liked to read and volunteer. Dorothy joined the literacy program and tutored many children and adults. As her eyesight failed she listened to books on tape. She belonged to DAR and volunteered for Youth Services of Stephens County and various other organizations. She was named United Way's outstanding volunteer for the first quarter of 2004. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church and loved her church family, and volunteering at Youth Services. Survived by children Janice Waters, of Duncan, OK,

Tom R. and 'Welema' Greer of Ponca City, OK, Judy and 'Guy' Sullaway of Missouri City, TX, Bill and 'Monica' Greer of Scottsdale, AZ; 8 grandchildren, Nancy Thompson, Candy LuMaye, Deborah Greer, Janiece Smith, Julie Clarady, Christy Crowell, Senee' Bocquin and Larry Greer; 13 great grandchildren and 4 great great grandchildren. Preceded by 2 brothers, A.B. Silver and Paris Silver; a sister, Myona Sullaway; 2 grandchildren, Sherie Greer and Tracy Greer. Memorial contributions may be made to Youth Services of Stephens County, Chisholm Trail Hospice or First Presbyterian Church.

Rush Advisor's Report

## 2005-06 RUSH TEAM READY FOR CHALLENGES OF UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR REFERRALS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT NEEDED "NOW MORE THAN EVER" FOR BETA RUSH 2005-2006

The Gamma Phi Chapter has elected another outstanding Rush Team for the 2005-2006 school year: head rush chairman Colin Drake (Arlington '07), and (in alphabetical order) assistants Theo Coleman (Carrollton Creekview '08), Tyler Jennings (Norman North '08), and Jon McCartney (Edmond Memorial '08). In addition, Henry



Rob Robertson '84  
Rush Advisor

Nguyen (Putnam City West '07) joins the Rush Team in the newly created position of "Rush Secretary" for the 2005-06 academic year. Henry will assist in documenting and monitoring rush referrals, tracking contacts with prospective rushees, such as mailings and other media publications, and overseeing other administrative matters. To continue to build on successful rush efforts of the past several years, these young men need both continued financial support and rush referrals as soon as possible. Gamma Phi alums can be assured their continued generous contributions to Beta Rush for the 2005-2006 academic year will be spent wisely to assure the future success of the Beta House, not only next year, but for many years to come.

The format of fraternity rush at The University for Fall 2005 is somewhat uncertain as of the date of this publica-

tion. However, the 2005 Rush Team is dedicated to adapting to, and is preparing for, new recruitment guidelines that may be applicable during the 2005-2006 school year. Because contact with prospective rushees prior to Fall Formal Rush may be more limited than in the past, the Rush Team will need to rely more heavily on mailings and other media, one-on-one telephone calls and email correspondence to get acquainted with and inform prospective rushees about the Beta House at OU. While one might believe changes to fraternity rush at OU may require a lesser financial commitment on the part of our alums than in the past, **this is definitely not the case!** Mailings and publications, such as the Beta Rush Brochure, are very time consuming to prepare and very expensive, even though they ultimately pay out large dividends when "signing day" finally arrives at the conclusion of formal rush in the fall. In this multimedia age, digital and other electronic correspondence is not only desirable, it is expected. In the past, the costs of publication of the Rush Brochure, alone, even without considering postage, has represented a substantial portion of the Beta Rush budget. To keep the competitive edge on Beta's side will require that even more costs be devoted to multimedia communications to prospective rushees. The costs of critical recruitment media to be provided to prospective rushees are expected to increase

by as much as 300% to 500% during the upcoming year, primarily due to potential new rules that may change fraternity recruitment at OU.

This is also the key time of year that Gamma Phi alums and friends are asked to provide their support for rush by providing **referrals of potential rushees**. Over the last several years, the Betas have been placing first in grade point average among the other large houses on campus. Betas also hold numerous leadership positions on campus, and are at the tops in intramural athletic competition. The Beta House is viewed by most as the best fraternity on campus. Of course, this success would not be possible without strong alumni support for Beta Rush, both financially and in terms of referrals of quality young men who will maintain the Beta House's legacy of success.

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

Rob F. Robertson  
One Leadership Square, 15th Floor  
211 N. Robinson  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
Email: [robertson@gablelaw.com](mailto:robertson@gablelaw.com)  
(405) 235-5558 (office direct)  
(405) 235-2875 (fax)

*Rob Robertson '84  
Rush Advisor*

### CENTENNIAL PREPARATIONS

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](mailto: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](mailto:hank@hgryan.com).



**Help a Neighbor Fix a Flat** - Each year Betas spend a day teaching the women of Pi Beta Phi how to change a flat tire, how to check their oil and other automotive safety techniques.

# THE GAMMA PHI CENTENNIAL

In October 2007, we will commemorate and celebrate the Centennial of Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity at The University of Oklahoma.



Steve Barghols '73

As you remember from your Beta lore studies, in 1903, five young O.U. students assembled at the site of a train wreck in Norman to purchase bunches of bananas littering that location. They returned to a vacant house to share their bounty. Knowing nothing about college fraternities, but wishing to perpetuate their fledgling social relationship, they decided to organize under the name "Good Fellowship" (very soon changed to "Gamma Phi"). Some early-day O.U. administration and faculty members who were proud members of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity chapters at other schools advised and encouraged these young men to seek a charter from Beta. After early setbacks, the vision, conviction and tenacity of the original Good Fellowship founders were rewarded when Gamma Phi was granted a charter by Beta at an installation ceremony con-

ducted in Norman on October 18, 1907.

From such humble beginnings, how could our Chapter's youthful founders possibly have foreseen that the brotherhood they established and nurtured would ultimately become the preeminent men's social fraternity at The University of Oklahoma and one of the largest and most successful of all chapters of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity? Who among them possibly could have imagined that, today, our Chapter would have initiated more than 2650 men, providing its loyal members with unique friendships, experiences, values and opportunities serving us beyond our college days and throughout our lifetimes?

Under the enthusiastic leadership of our Chapter's housing corporation trustees and several committed volunteers, we are organizing a gala event, tentatively scheduled for an away-O.U. football weekend in October 2007 in Norman. We will gather to celebrate our proud and remarkable past, rededicate ourselves to our Chapter's heritage and promise, and fortify our sturdy foundation which will ensure the security and success of our Gamma Phi Chapter for

the next 100 years.

In the meantime, two dozen or so of our brothers already have volunteered or been recruited to serve on a steering committee to plan for and present our Centennial gala. We will be researching, compiling and documenting the history of our Chapter's first century. Captains will be appointed to chronicle each five years of our history. We expect to produce and publish, both electronically and in paper format, a First Centennial Chapter History of Gamma Phi to record for posterity the many individuals, accomplishments, awards and events which have distinguished Gamma Phi from all other O.U. fraternal organizations and other Beta chapters across North America. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this monumental endeavor. The results of this ambitious undertaking will be treasured by all Gamma Phi members--today and for generations yet to come.

Please be sure to watch for further announcements about Gamma Phi's Centennial.

*Steven L. Barghols '73  
Gamma Phi Centennial Chairman*

## Corporation President's Report

*(Continued from page 1)*

who has lived in a fraternity house can appreciate, this use for the basement placed significant constraints upon the extent to which the basement could be decorated and furnished. The basement's



Zach Allen '85  
Corporation President

propensity for occasional flooding (a problem now solved) also discouraged improvements. Consequently, the basement's furnishings are presently limited to a big screen television, a few ratty sofas and several empty pizza

boxes.

However, with the advent of the University's new "dry house" policy, the basement is now out of the party room business. In response, the Chapter has asked the Corporation and Parents Club to remodel the basement on par with the

formal living room so as to create a genuine gathering place for the Good Brothers – something the Beta house has admittedly lacked for many years. Although the formal living room is nicely appointed, it's not really suited for this purpose.

The basement project will likely entail replacement of the existing tile floor (which has already begun to tear away), installation of new lighting, new furniture, cabinetry and wall and floor treatments, etc. The guys have also asked that the new furnishings include a pool table. Given the substantial cost of a new pool table, we are hoping to acquire a suitable used table – either through purchase or donation. If you have a suitable pool table which you would like to sell or donate to the Chapter, please let us know!

As for the study hall area, new chairs, conference-style tables, lighting and carpet are on the agenda. If Gamma Phi is to be regarded as the supreme academic

fraternity at OU, it should have a first class study hall.

The existing front doors have stood for decades and served Gamma Phi well. Many good brothers and friends have passed through these doors. I imagine we all relish the memory of our first passage through those doors (instead of the "pledge" door) following initiation. But as much as we love them, they've given us about all the service they can offer. The possibility of rebuilding these doors over the summer will be considered. Otherwise, there's a good chance that a new pair of doors will greet residents and visitors at the Beta house.

Of course, these improvements will be made possible through the generous assistance of our Beta Donors. Thanks to all of you for your loyal support.

*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	Don Andrews '86
James Elder '69	Dave Hughes '87
Hank Ryan '72	Brett Robinson '87
Harbour Whitaker '73	Michael Hall '88
Steve Barghols '73	Todd Booze '90
Robert Beall '80	Blaine Matray '93
John Hillis '82	Everett Lees '99
Rob Robertson '84	

## SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED

Since 1907, only two entities, Gamma Phi Chapter and Beta Theta Pi Corporation of Oklahoma, Inc. (the housing corporation) have recruited, nurtured, bound together and served undergraduate members of Gamma Phi. This changed on February 3, 2005, when Beta Theta Pi Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc. was incorporated.

The "Foundation" was created for the express purpose of funding scholarships for members and pledges of Gamma Phi Chapter. In this regard, shortly after its incorporation, the Foundation's application for recognition as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization was approved by the IRS. As a result, contributions to the Foundation for purposes of funding scholarships to undergraduates and for paying the cost of fraternity educational improvements (e.g., study hall improvements, etc.) will be tax deductible.

The Foundation will have a Board of Directors and officers who will be separate and distinct from those of the housing corporation. This Board of Directors will govern the Foundation, solicit contributions, determine the manner in which donations are invested, and establish policies and procedures for awarding of scholarships. The Directors may also decide to establish permanent scholarships in the names of specific benefactors or other individuals, e.g. memorial scholarships.

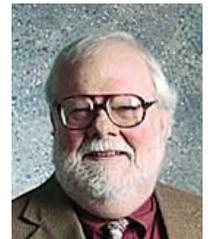
The model for the Foundation is the Zeta Phi Society Foundation, which is the highly successful scholarship foundation created by alumni of the Beta Chapter at the University of Missouri. That foundation now has in excess of \$600,000 in cash, short-term investments, fixed income securities and equity securities. During 2003, the Zeta Phi Society Foundation's receipts topped \$200,000, and in 2004, 24 members of Zeta Phi Chapter received scholarships named after various Zeta Phi alumni who created specific scholarships.

As you are aware, the General Fraternity has operated its own foundation for a number of years. That foundation assists all Beta chapters with various leadership and training programs and provides certain named scholarships to Betas in chapters across the country.

With the establishment of the "Foundation" for the benefit of pledges and members of Gamma Phi, our alumni now have the ability to make contributions which will be used exclusively for the purpose of providing scholarships to deserving members and pledges of Gamma Phi Chapter and for fraternity educational improvements. Moreover, Gamma Phi alumni will be able to make informed decisions regarding scholarship recipients and the use of monies for educational facilities.

Make no mistake, the potential benefits of the Foundation are enormous. Scholarships will certainly promote the Chapter's goal of continued academic excellence, and they may be quite instrumental in retaining pledges or members who experience financial difficulties.

Tim Larason '62, an Oklahoma City tax and estate attorney, deserves a huge thanks for his hard work in preparing and submitting the significant paper work required for the Foundation's creation. Much credit also goes to James Elder '69 for spearheading the Corporation's efforts on this project.



Tim Larason '62

The Foundation's initial fund raising plans have not yet been finalized. However, the Foundation is ready, willing and able to accept tax deductible gifts for use in developing a long term scholarship program for undergraduates of Gamma Phi Chapter. If you are interested in making such a gift, please contact the Housing Corporation President, Zach Allen, at Two Leadership Square, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, 211 North Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102 (Telephone: 405/235-1110; email: zallen@mswerb.com).

# OUR PIANO NEEDS RESTORATION!

It has been there so long, it probably goes unnoticed by many. Perhaps it's taken for granted. Sitting in the southeast corner of the living room is the Beta house's baby grand Steinway piano. Older than even the Beta house itself, it is one of the oldest surviving pieces of Gamma Phi history.

The piano was manufactured in 1917, just 10 years after Gamma Phi received its charter. According to records of Steinway & Sons, the piano was sold and shipped on May 31, 1918 to J.W. Jenkins & Sons Music Co., which was a music publishing company in Kansas City (est. 1878). Interestingly, Steinway tells us that this piano was originally made in finished mahogany. At some point, it was painted with the black lacquer finish we see today.

It's unclear exactly when the Chapter acquired this piano. We have no information about how and when the piano made its way from Kansas City to Norman. However, based upon the piano's appearance in the Chapter's 1923 OU yearbook photo, we know it's been with Gamma Phi since at least 1923. Brother John Orr #367 confirms that this piano was at the Beta house when he arrived in 1930.

If this piano could only talk. How many stories could it tell? Although those stories will never be divulged, one need only look at the piano to know that it's experienced many hard years. Several keys no longer function; those keys which do work are way out of tune; the finish bears evidence of a horrific repainting attempt long ago; regrettably, the original ivory keys were replaced with plastic. The fact is, the piano needs major restoration work.

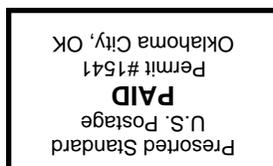
Three experts have examined the piano and attest that it needs far more than a simple retuning and some minor repair work. A complete restoration job is warranted. Albert Evans Music Company of Oklahoma City has provided a \$10,000 bid for this job (the lowest of three estimates), which will take about three months to complete.

This is a lot of money, but is there really any alternative? Surely we cannot allow such an important piece of the Chapter's heritage to sit in a state of unworkable disrepair. The Corporation will consider approval of the Albert Evans proposal this spring. Obviously, the availability of funds relative to other needed projects will be a key factor to consider. Hopefully, the piano will soon be heard again in the halls of Gamma Phi.



*Zach Allen '85*  
*Corporation President*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



Gamma Phi Chapter  
Beta Theta Pi  
Two Leadership Square, 14th Floor  
211 North Robinson  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102