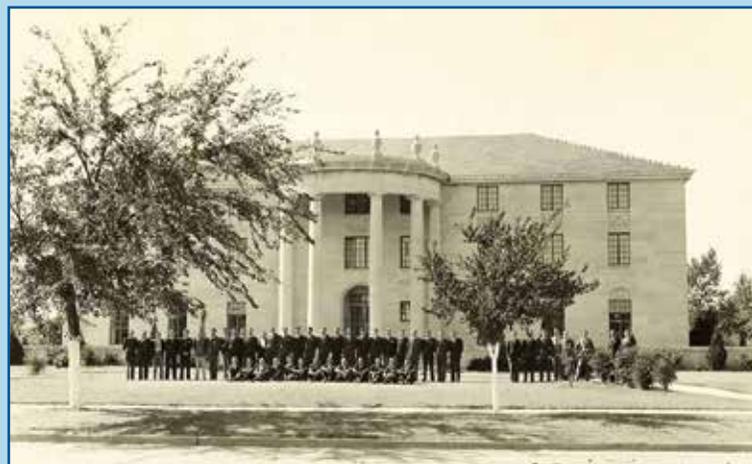




WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA



The Beta house at OU has stood the test of time for Gamma Phi. It's a symbol of our fraternity and our brotherhood.

House Corporation Explores Chapter's Needs Vision Set to Modernize House

The house at 800 Chautauqua is one of the most recognizable Beta fraternity houses in the country. Having no identification on the outside, everyone on the Norman campus knows it is the Beta House. Our alumni built a landmark building back in 1928, and their leadership is what propelled Beta to the top of all fraternities at the University of Oklahoma.

Gamma Phi Largest Beta Chapter in Country

Our chapter is the largest Beta chapter in the country, and recently turned 110 years old. With our ever-growing numbers, expanding the facility to accommodate our members is a topic often discussed by the House Corporation. The house has served us well, but it is now time to examine how this 85-year-old structure is meeting the needs of Gamma Phi.

Looking Toward the Future

The Corporation has started discussions of what needs to be done to improve the house while maintaining its architectural integrity and character. These discussions are centered on creating a comfortable living environment that advances the social aspects of a fraternity, while providing ample space to achieve the academic goals of the chapter. The Corporation's vision



Paul Bevilacqua '85, his wife, Anne, Bryan Lansford '85, Pam Cavitt, and Zach Allen '85 enjoy a day at the Beta house for a pre-game tailgate.

is for the Beta House to once again take its place as the flagship facility at the University of Oklahoma. Read on for other areas of discussion.

Dining Hall, Kitchen Need of Expansion

Many alumni will remember coming to the Beta House as pledges for formal meals with members. That tradition no longer exists because the dining hall will only accommodate about 70 people for a sit-down meal, and today there are consistently pledge classes of more than 50. As the university has grown, so has the popularity of being in fraternities. Among other necessary

improvements, the kitchen and dining hall need to be reconfigured to meet the size requirements of the chapter.

Quality Study Space a Priority

Beta has come first in grades 64 times—six times more than any other fraternity—and the facility should support this great accomplishment. Another one of the renovation goals would be to create study rooms and a study hall that will reflect the importance of academics within the Beta House.

Cement Beta's Place as OU's Preeminent Fraternity

The House Corporation recognizes it is time to invest in the Beta House in order to compete with the other living options in Norman. We want members to be proud of the house and feel that it is a privilege to live there. The Corporation will keep you informed of any plans as they develop. We all believe Beta is the best fraternity and our traditions are unrivaled. It is now time to think big and restore the house at 800 Chautauqua to the undisputed number-one fraternity house.

Yours in _kai_,
Robert S. Beall '80
(817) 946-2799 / rsbeall@aol.com



Once a Beta, Always a Beta

Will Obering '57 Grateful for Fraternity Experience

For Will Obering '57, his Gamma Phi experience has played an instrumental role in his life. When he began college, the fraternity provided a social in, and Will went through the recruitment process. After meeting with several fraternities, as well as taking a recommendation from his OU sister ("who did not date at the Beta house but considered it the best fraternity on campus"), he decided that Beta Theta Pi was the path he wanted to take. "I made a decision that I have never regretted. The brotherhood in the Beta chapter was the best in the school," he said.



After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor of science in geology, Will went to work for a small oil company in southeast Asia during the height of the Cold War. "Being over there gave me a different perspective on things. I really enjoyed it," he said. After, Will went to work in South America for work which eventually paved the way for him to own a domestic oil company today.

I believe in the fraternity system as a way to educate our young men about how to conduct themselves in their daily lives. I believe in preserving that experience.

Looking back on his Beta experience, Will sees the impact that the fraternity had on his life. He was able to meet several influential people, had positive role models in the chapter, and matured as a person. "It was an experience that I certainly wouldn't have wanted to miss." Will's favorite memories included social gatherings with various sororities on campus and football Saturdays.

When asked about Gamma Phi, Will talks about his fraternity experience and how it has impacted him for more than 40 years in the oil business. "I believe in the fraternity system as a way to educate our young men about how to conduct themselves in their daily lives. I believe in preserving that experience."

Will still keeps in touch with his pledge class today and the group has gotten together for reunions over the last 30 years, from California to New Mexico and even Wisconsin. "It is a lot of fun to get together and catch up on life with everyone. Sometimes I think I enjoy them more now than when we were undergraduates!"

Will and his wife, Julie, live in Wilson, Wyoming, and have three children and one grandchild. In his spare time, Will enjoys fishing, skiing, hunting, and collecting American art. He is also involved with the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City and the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. You can contact Will at wobering@helnenergy.com.

Brad Liebmann '85 Credits Gamma Phi for Leadership Experience and Lifelong Friends, Encourages Alumni to Reconnect

Brad Liebmann '85 was recruited to Gamma Phi during the summer of 1981. "The class of '85 was almost entirely recruited during the summer process. I instantly clicked with many of my pledge brothers at my first Beta recruitment party, which was a canoe trip down the Illinois River," he said. "We all more or less decided to pledge Beta that day and we remain very close. **Bill Banowsky '83**, **Jeff Dietert '83**, and **Richard Howell '83** put together a great group of young men."

After graduating with a bachelor of science in finance, Brad worked in commercial real estate in Dallas and New York, and then investment banking in New York and London. He was senior vice president of technology mergers and acquisitions with Lehman Brothers when he decided to start his own company, Simply Business, in London. The organization had over 225,000 business customers and 200 employees when Brad sold the company in July 2013 and retired to St. Lucia.



Blessed with a variety of career experience, Brad encourages undergraduates to surround themselves with smart people who are passionate about what they do. "At Lehman Brothers I always tried to work for the smartest bankers from whom I could learn the most. As an entrepreneur, I hired people who were smarter and better than me at something. Whether you work for them or they work for you, being part of a smart, passionate team is critical for success. I was able to learn that in Gamma Phi."

When asked about his time in the chapter, Brad mentioned the lifelong relationships he formed but also cited the importance to prepare undergraduates for a successful future. "Gamma Phi made me well-rounded. The close bonds I formed, particularly with my pledge brothers, taught me that there is so much more to being successful than money. Some of us from the class of '85, including **Link Barr '85**, **Brad Durham '85**, and **Stan Vlasimsky '85**, have been fortunate enough to retire already and spend more time with our families and other pursuits," he said. "We were privileged to enjoy such an empowering experience, and we still benefit from those close bonds because of the generosity of the alumni who preceded us."

Brad and his partner, Michael, live in St. Lucia, British West Indies, and they have two children. You can contact him at brad.liebmann@gmail.com.

Gamma Phi Actives Inspired by Alumni Involvement

Beta Theta Pi at OU Remains Strong

Greetings, alumni, and welcome to the fall edition of *Wooglin on Chautauqua*. It is an exciting time to be an alumnus of the University of Oklahoma, as well as a member of Gamma Phi. We are thankful for all of your support and are enjoying our most successful semester yet at OU.

Summer Recruitment a Success, Fraternity Excels in Academics

Beta had an outstanding recruitment this summer. Led by **Bill Johnston '15**, the chapter signed 58 men. This class has an average GPA of 3.78 and an average ACT score of 27, some of the highest scores we have ever seen. For the actives, this marks the third consecutive semester the chapter has finished first in grades among the large fraternities. With a great pledge class on its way, this is a record the chapter plans to extend in the coming years.

Chapter Leads the Way for Campus Involvement

As campus leaders, Beta strives to make a great impact on campus. **Skyler Sikes '15** serves as Interfraternal Council chief justice, **Conner Davey '14** serves as chair of Relay for Life, and **Jackson Lisle '15** serves as vice chairman of Soonerton (formerly dance marathon). Relay for Life



The 2013 Gamma Phi Chapter with a variety of awards from the year.

and Soonerton are two of the biggest events on campus and both raise more than \$100,000 annually for cancer research. **Luke Tucker '13** has been appointed by the OU Board of Regents to be on the Price College of Business Dean Search Committee. Everywhere you look on campus, it is easy to recognize the influence Betas have.

Giving Back to the Community

This fall, the brothers of Gamma Phi spent time volunteering in Moore, Oklahoma, to help with tornado relief. When this tragedy struck our community, the chapter felt obligated to help with both a financial gift from our social fund and individual volunteers to help rebuild.

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.



Yours in _kai_,
Mark Stoltz '14
Chapter President
(281) 638-1724 / mtstoltz@ou.edu

WELCOME, 2013 PLEDGE CLASS

Cade Baldwin '17
Duncan, Okla.

Garrett Chase '17
Fort Smith, Ark.

Connor Gohlke '17
Aubrey, Texas

L.L. Humphreys '17
Velma, Okla.

Cass Meyers '17*
Norman, Okla.
(**Forrest Weirick '59**)

Troy Schoepel '17
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Logan Banfield '17
Broken Arrow, Okla.

Mason Dicks '17
Claremore, Okla.

Chris Greer '17*
Sugar Land, Texas
(**Jerry Greer '78**,
Richard Greer '79,
Jerry Greer Jr. '08,
Cullen Greer '08, and
Ronald J. Cullen '20)

Forrest Johnson '17
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Matt Mills '17
Dallas, Texas

Reed Scroggs '17
Tulsa, Okla.

Grayson Barghols '17*
Oro Valley, Ariz.
(**Steve Barghols '73**,
Brad Barghols '85,
John Barghols '07)

Chris Dillahunty '17
Mangum, Okla.

Mark Dintino '17
Fort Worth, Texas

Garrett Guinn '17
Katy, Texas

Jake Khoussine '17
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Ledger Newman '17
Broken Bow, Okla.

Bear Smith '17
Dallas, Texas

Kraig Behrens '17
Denton, Texas

Austin Dobbs '17*
Edmond, Okla.
(**James Dobbs '87** and
Charles Dobbs '85)

Chris Hahn '17
Jenks, Okla.

Cole Lindley '17
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Cole Nimmo '17
Ponca City, Okla.

Blake Smith '17
Tulsa, Okla.

John Robert Bell '17
Tulsa, Okla.

Robert Evans '17*
Fort Smith, Ark.
(**Andrew Evans**)

Jennings Hammack '17*
Oklahoma City, Okla.
(**Templin Hammack '13**,
Robert Hammack '68,
James Hammack '63,
William Hammack '75,
Kurtis Hammack '04,
and **Gene Hammack**)

Alex Malati '17
Bixby, Okla.

Joe Pauly '17
Eden Prarie, Minn.

Alec Spring '17
Edmond, Okla.

Ben Bevilacqua '17*
Tulsa, Okla.
(**Paul Bevilacqua '85**)

Garrett Fraley '17*
Oklahoma City, Okla.
(**Tom Fraley III '86**,
Tom Fraley Jr. '56)

David Havala '17
Plano, Texas

Sam Marino '17
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Will Payne '17
Tulsa, Okla.

John Stout '17
Ada, Okla.

Nathan Blakely '17
Edmond, Okla.

Rob Frantz '17*
Enid, Okla.

Austin Hazlewood '17
Tulsa, Okla.

Tyler McGinnis '17
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Philipp Piplits '17
Tulsa, Okla.

Evan Taylor '17
Broken Arrow, Okla.

Adam Bouvette '17
Edmond, Okla.

(**J. Douglas Frantz '66**,
Robert S. Frantz '39,
Harry P. Frantz Jr. '38,
Kurt S. Frantz '70,
Harry S. Frantz '70, and
Harry P. Frantz '16)

Nick Heller '17
Ardmore, Okla.

Ernie McKee '17*
Tulsa, Okla.
(**Mike McKee '07** and
Matt McKee)

Reed Prado '17
Sugar Land, Texas

Dalton Thompson '17
Ada, Okla.

Saxon Bryant '17
Tulsa, Okla.

Rob Frantz '17*
Enid, Okla.

Nick Heller '17
Ardmore, Okla.

Colten Meek '17
Marlow, Okla.

Nick Psencik '15*
Oklahoma City, Okla.
(**Greyson Psencik '12**)

Ethan Walker '17
Edmond, Okla.

Arian Burdge '17
Denton, Texas

Rob Frantz '17*
Enid, Okla.

Nick Heller '17
Ardmore, Okla.

Cooper Metz '17*
Edmond, Okla.
(**Paper Metz '79**)

Vijay Raj '17
Edmond, Okla.

Kameron Woolfolk '17
Crowley, Texas

*Legacy; relatives
in parentheses



Old Beta cowhides used to be displayed in the chapter house.

Corporation Embarks on Collecting Beta History and Relics

Over the years, many of the mementos from the Gamma Phi Chapter have been misplaced or lost. If you have any Beta relics, we would like to have them donated or returned to the chapter archives. The Corporation is going to construct a safe and secure place for the chapter history to reside. Items that we are looking for might be any of the following: cowhides, Beta documents, books, booklets, party invitations, photos of any type, Beer Bowl programs, plaques or items that once hung in the Beta house, trophies, Beta pins, Barn Dance or other party photos, and Beta party favors.

If you have anything that helps tell the history of the chapter, we would like to know about it so it can be included in the archives of the chapter. It has been 110 years since those young men on the OU campus started Gamma Phi, and to adequately tell the story of our history, we need the items that contributed to it. Please contact **Michael May '08** at (405) 642-2454 or mmay@praywalker.com if you would like to donate. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

Chapter History Online

For historical information on Gamma Phi Chapter, please check out our website www.oubeta.net/archives.htm. The **oubeta.net** website contains information on chapter history, past newsletters, the chapter roll, directory, and much more.

Chapter Officers

President
Mark Stoltz '14
Houston, Texas
(281) 638-1724
mtsoltz@ou.edu

Vice President, Internal
Stephen Hoch '15
Fort Worth, Texas

Vice President, External
Connor Walker '15
Houston, Texas

Recruitment Chairman
Bill Johnston '15
Oklahoma City, Okla.
(405) 623-9923
billjohnston@ou.edu

Pledge Educator
Eric Sarani '15
Edmond, Okla.

Programming Chairman
Drew Boone '15
Tulsa, Okla.

Treasurer
Nick Stephens '15
Edmond, Okla.

Secretary
Mitch Holliman '16
Edmond, Okla.

Ritual Chairman
Joseph Nigh '15
Tulsa, Okla.

Social Chairman
Colin Murray '15
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Scholarship Chairman
Jeff Bissinger '15
Plano, Texas

House Manager
Clay Hooton '14
Ada, Okla.

Philanthropy Chairman
Tanner Hanstein '15
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Alumni Relations Chairman
Connor Lisle '16
Edmond, Okla.

Intramural Chairman
Chad Smith '15
Carrollton, Texas



WOOGLIN ON CHAUTAUQUA

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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.



A recent alumni tailgate at the chapter house.

Active Chapter Holds Alumni Tailgates

The beginning of football season signifies the start of gameday tailgates at the Beta house. Alumni, active members, pledges, family, and friends all gather at the house to have some food and drink before every home football game. It is always great to see the alumni welcomed back on game days and talk about their time in the house, as well as the current state of it. Please join us at the Beta house two-and-a-half hours prior to kickoff and help continue this tradition for the rest of the season and years to come.

Yours in _kai_,

Connor Lisle '16

Alumni Relations Chairman

(405) 420-4357 / connor.p.lisle-1@ou.edu