



Wooglin on Chautauqua

Published by the Gamma Phi Chapter
of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Oklahoma

NORMAN, OK

SPRING 1985

Beta Donors Reunion Kicks Off Drive

HOUSE RENOVATION UNDERWAY

Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Oklahoma is proud to report that the annual "Beta Donors" program has been established, with a goal of raising funds to help refurbish the chapter house.

Already, over 100 alumni have made donations of \$100, giving the program a fine start in its first year.

Our Board of Trustees hosted a "Beta Donors Reunion" with a cocktail buffet at the chapter house after the Missouri game, to kick off the drive. The event was very successful, with a turnout of over 50 alumni and their ladies in attendance. Our Mother's Club, under the leadership of Mrs. Neil Stanfield, served up a delicious meal for our members who traveled back to Norman for the event. Brothers came from all over the nation to attend; one noted attendee, Fred Brown '34, journeyed all the way from New York to join us.

In addition to the important goal of raising funds for the renovation of the chapter house, the Beta Donors Reunion served as a bridge between different generations of Beta alumni and actives,



HOME AGAIN: Doc Jordan '53, Burke Mordy '54, Byron Schaff '53 at the first annual Beta Donor's Reunion held in November 1984.

helped us identify members who are willing to give of their time for the benefit of the fraternity, and opened lines of communication for improving our rush

program. We hope to see the reunion expand and become an annual tradition.

The second annual Beta Donors Reunion has been scheduled for November 16, 1985, corresponding to the date of Homecoming at the University of Oklahoma. Please plan to join us for a weekend of brotherhood, fine food and drink, and exciting football action as the Sooners engage the University of Colorado on the gridiron. We encourage each member to recruit one or two classmates to join us, and thereby expand the event.

The Beta Donors Program centers on an aspect of vital importance to all members: the refurbishment of the chapter house. The building, which is now on the rolls of the National Registry of Historic Structures, is 57 years old. It was built in the spirit of the times, and designed for the lifestyle of the 1920s...back then there were no stereos, microwaves, or even any televisions;

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FAMILY REUNION: Paul Marsh '55, Fallis Beall '55, Bill Reed '55, and Tom McCasland '56 at the Beta house after the Missouri game.

Wooglin on Chautauqua is published by the men of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity at the University of Oklahoma for members and friends.

News items, photographs and changes of address should be sent to Gamma Phi of Beta Theta Pi, Newsletter Program Headquarters, P.O. Box 708 Kansas City, MO 64141

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HOUSE RENOVATION, *Continued from page 1*

girls were not allowed in the rooms; fuel was plentiful and inexpensive. Despite the fondness we all share for the house as the physical manifestation of our brotherhood, it is not a building well-suited for life in the 1980s, and beyond.

The upstairs of the house needs major renovations. The downstairs looks adequate, and the boys are showing some pride in it, but is not as fine as it might be. We are fortunate to have a house-mother, Mrs. Barbara McCain, who demands manners and pride, and the spirit of cooperation from the boys is the best we have seen in 20 years. Now is the time to act. Every alumnus is invited to become a Beta Donor and help perpetuate the fraternity experience that has had such a profound influence on our lives.

The greatness of a fraternity is measured by the men on its rolls, not by a structure. However, the chapter house is a place where young men live for years and form lasting impressions about the camaraderie of our brotherhood, many lifelong friendships are born there; the chapter house is a place where alumni return again and again to renew old friendships and form new ones. For these reasons, we must strive to make our fraternity house the best it can be, and support it with our time, our funds, and our continued interest.

Yours in —kai—

Fallis A. Beall,

Trustee Board President

President's Message

Gamma Phi Leads Campus

The Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi continues to maintain its prestigious position as a leader in academics, athletics, and social activities on the University of Oklahoma campus.

We finished the fall semester with a cumulative GPA of 2.929, barely more than eight hundredths of a point below a housewide 'B' average. The brothers are currently working on another good scholastic rating this semester, in order to capture the scholarship trophy once again at the end of the 1984-85 academic year.

With half of the intramural sports season left at press time, we are holding a strong third place position, with hopes for improvement in the remainder of the year. We are counting on strong finishes in wrestling and softball, traditionally Beta-dominated sports, to boost our ranking even higher.

We are proud to report that Gamma Phi has been chosen by the general fraternity to host a regional workshop later this year. Members from several chapters in the southwest will travel to Norman for the event. We want to show our visitors that we consider their presence an honor and a privilege.

On the social scene as well, Betas have

been busy upholding our fine reputation. One area of particular note will be our defense of last year's sweep of all the awards in "Sooner Scandals." Though our success last year will be a "tough act to follow," the members of Gamma Phi will be teaming up with the talented women of Kappa Alpha Theta to entertain OU moms and others at this year's competition, and we are confident of another top finish.

This newsletter itself is evidence of another step we are taking to maintain and improve our position on campus, by building stronger ties with you, our alumni. We plan to publish "Wooglin on Chautauqua" at least twice a year, and we hope you enjoy it.

As you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, we are also building more Beta pride in our chapter house as the Beta Donors Program begins the drive to put our home back in tip-top shape. The undergraduate members of the chapter want to thank the many alumni who have already invested their time and money in this vital effort. We are working hard to protect your investment in the future of Gamma Phi Chapter.

Yours in —kai—
 Chuck Knapp, Chapter President

Major Improvements in Alumni Relations

Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi recognizes that alumni support and involvement is our chapter's greatest strength. As we look to you for help in renovating the place we call home here at the University of Oklahoma, for your recommendations of new members in our brotherhood, and for the more intangible but equally important spirit of involvement that is part of the Beta tradition of brotherhood for life, we have begun a new program to keep you better informed and involved, by publishing an alumni newsletter for all our members nationwide.

This is the first edition of our chapter's new publication for alumni. There will be at least two issues each school year, spring and fall. We hope you enjoy and find it informative. If you have any suggestions, photographs, anecdotes from your college days, or other materials you would like to share with brothers, please send them in for use in future issues. After all, "Wooglin on Chautauqua" is

your newsletter!

On the back page, you will find news of individual alumni in their many walks of life...we hope you will enjoy reading about the current activities of your classmates as much as the activities of the chapter. Gamma Phi is fortunate to enjoy a diverse and talented body of alumni, leading successful lives all across America. Please let us know of your own activities, so we can report them to your classmates.

Finally, let me extend an open invitation to alumni to visit us any time you are in the area. Whether you find yourself nearby for business, for an OU football game, or just passing through, please drop by and see us. As the saying goes, "Our house is your house."

In —kai—
 Jim Kelly,
 Alumni Secretary

Alumni Help Needed

High Hopes for 1985 Rush

"Extremely bright" best describes the outlook for our 1985 rush program at Gamma Phi, with Blake Stanfield '87, Steve Kitchen '86, and myself in charge. We are aware that the long-term success of our chapter will be strongly influenced by our ability to induct top-quality men into our ranks today, and we are committed to continuing the fine traditions of leadership passed down by our alumni.

The rushee turnout at our traditional barn dance was nothing short of overwhelming. The event provided us with the opportunity to meet and acquaint ourselves with the cream of OU's crop of new students. Thanks to the prestigious history of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Oklahoma, as well as our current hard work in attracting the best potential members from hundreds of students who will join fraternities this year, we feel confident of reaping a harvest of fine young men for Gamma Phi.

Looking forward to the spring semester, we have great plans for the annual "Beta Lei" party, another excellent event for exposing us to the best new faces on campus.

Over the summer, Blake, Steve, and I will travel the state in search of outstanding candidates. We will be looking

for men of academic ability, athletic prowess, and good character to carry on the traditions of Beta Theta Pi.

Our goal is to pledge 45 of the top young men on campus into our brotherhood, in order to fill the very big shoes left by our graduating seniors.

As always, the advice of alumni is important in our choice of new members. Rush recommendations, legacies, and tips about outstanding young men in your community who will be studying at OU are always welcome. I would like to encourage any alumnus who knows the name of a potential Beta to contact me personally at any time. I can be reached at (405) 366-0082 before May 10, or at (405) 722-8420 over the summer. You can be sure that any young man recommended by a Gamma Phi alumnus will receive serious consideration by the chapter, and will receive a fair chance to become a member of the world's greatest fraternity. Your input is important to us, and your effort is appreciated.

With your help, we will insure that Beta Theta Pi remains the top fraternity at the University of Oklahoma.

Respectfully in —kai—

Kevin Akin,
Rush Chairman

Newsletter Program Highlights Alumni

Beginning with this issue of *Wooglin on Chautauqua*, all brothers of Gamma Phi will be receiving an alumni newsletter on a regular basis throughout the year.

The primary goal of the newsletter program is to bring our alumni into closer contact with the chapter, carrying on the Beta Theta Pi tradition of brotherhood before and after graduation.

The program is designed to improve the frequency and regularity of communication between the undergraduate chapter and alumni by keeping all brothers informed about the chapter and about each other.

Not only will *Wooglin on Chautauqua* cover the latest in chapter news here at the University of Oklahoma, it will also include an "Alumni Newsnotes" section to report on the accomplishments, lifestyle, views and comments of our graduate brothers. Personal notes, photographs, newspaper clippings and articles by alumni are encouraged and will be used in future issues of the newsletter.

The newsletter's format, with well-written articles and photographs, will be a major improvement. The program will be funded completely through voluntary contributions and will show a team effort by alumni and undergraduates.

With the active chapter and alumni working together, the newsletter will be a major improvement in keeping everyone informed and involved. Your participation and support will insure that *Wooglin on Chautauqua* becomes a Gamma Phi tradition here at the University of Oklahoma.



Chapter House Named Historic Building

Two years ago, our chapter house was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. While all brothers of Gamma Phi agree that our home is a place of "historic" significance, the recognition of the chapter house as such by an "objective" outside organization is indeed an honor. But like many other privileges in life, this honor carries a great deal of responsibility with it.

Among other requirements for national historic registry, a building must be well maintained. Further, no structural modifications which would significantly alter its historical architectural qualities may be made.

The undergraduate members of the chapter have first taken steps to insure that no damage is done to the house. Unlike many fraternity houses, Gamma Phi's is treated with care and respect by our members.

Additionally, thanks to the generosity of actives, parents, and especially our alumni, funds are now being channeled into the refurbishing of the Beta homestead at 800 Chautauqua Street. Some major projects already completed include the placing of fire doors and stairwells on the second and third floors, a complete renovation of our Housemother's living quarters, the addition of a tasteful ladies' lounge and restroom facility, and many improvements in the basement.

Our Beta Moms have made some major contributions as well, providing chairs, a couch, and a ping-pong table. They also arranged for the mahogany doors that grace our front entrance to be completely redone.

The chapter house is a physical symbol of our brotherhood, and we are working hard to maintain and improve it. The help of alumni, financial and otherwise, is welcome and appreciated.

Yours in —kai—
Mark McDaniel, House Manager

Gamma Phi Looks at Our Alumni

Steven Tom West '75

Dick is the senior chemical engineer for the Shell Oil and Gas Production division in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is also a member of NACE.

Initiated into Gamma Phi in 1946, Dick received his MPE in petroleum engineering in 1950.

He is married to Isabel W. Holt,

Tom is a marketing representative for the Woods Petroleum Corporation in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Initiated to Gamma Phi in 1972, Tom was the lore chairman for the

chapter. He received his BS in history in 1975.

You can find him enjoying the single life at 3228 Castlerock Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

Ralph G. Thompson '56

Brooks is an accountant for Regier, Carr, Monroe & Wallace, an accounting firm in Oklahoma City, OK.

An initiate of Gamma Phi in 1980, Brooks majored in accounting, receiving his BBA in 1983. He served

a registered nurse and graduate of Columbia University. They have three children, Richard, Roger, and Margaret. Dick's brother, Roy B. Dannenburg, and his cousin, Everett E. Berry, are both members of Gamma Phi.

Drop him a line at 6409 York Street, Metairie, LA 70003.

Ralph is a federal judge for the US District Court in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He has been a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and was appointed US District Judge by President Gerald R. Ford. He has also served as a colonel in the US Air Force Reserve.

A Gamma Phi initiate in 1953, Ralph served as chapter president in 1955. He received his BBA in business in 1956, and his LLB from the University of Oklahoma College of

Law in 1961.

He is married to Barbara Hencke, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and a member of Chi Omega sorority. They have three children, Lisa, Elaine, and Maria. His father, Lee B. Thompson, his brother, Lee B. Thompson Jr., and his nephew, Lee B. Thompson III, are all members of Gamma Phi.

Get in touch with Ralph at 1109 Huntington, Oklahoma City, OK 73116.

William Jarboe Ross '52

as president and treasurer for Gamma Phi, and was also on the Inter Fraternity Council. Both his father and uncle are members of Gamma Phi.

Write to Brooks at 829 NW 49th, Oklahoma City, OK 73118.

Bill is a senior partner attorney in the law firm of Rainey, Ross, Rice, & Binns, located in Oklahoma City.

He was initiated into the Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi in 1949. His BBA in finance and economics was awarded in 1952. While living at the Gamma Phi house, Bill served as secretary for the chapter, and reports that he was involved in "many" campus activi-

Brooks G. Mitchell '83

ties. He received his LLB in 1954, from the School of Law at the University of Oklahoma.

In May of 1962, he was married to Mary Lillian Ryan, also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, and a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. They have three children, Rebecca, Robert, and Molly.

Take a minute and drop them at line at 6923 Avondale Court, Oklahoma City, OK 73116.