



# Wooglin On Chautauqua

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Beta Theta Pi at the University of Oklahoma

NORMAN, OK

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## Meet the Pledges of '91

As it is every year, the future of our house lies in our ability to sign a quality pledge class. Grades are always first and foremost. This year we signed 5 valedictorians which includes 1 of the 90 National Merit Scholars that are in the freshman class this year. Two young men from Norman, Travis Blue and Pete Pappas were co-valedictorians with identical grade points (4.0). Pete was a starter and an All-State honorable mention on the Norman High School State Championship basketball team. The other valedictorians consist of Phillip Dunford, Shawnee, Russ Gammill, Duncan, and Glen Hall, Midwest City. This pledge class has the highest cumulative GPA, and highest ACT average of any pledge class in the last five years. Eight of these young men are in the Honors program. We are expecting great things from this group of pledges.

Three of the pledges are currently UOSA congressional interns, and one is a full member of Student Congress, far more than any other fraternity or sorority on campus. They are Chris Swindle, Tulsa, Pete Pappas, Norman, Kyle Roberts, Broken Arrow, and Phil Dunford, Shawnee. These young men didn't just sign up for the positions, they had to go through an interview process and were appointed to these positions.

As far as athletes, we boast 15 Varsity lettermen,

including 2 starters from the Norman High School State Championship basketball team, and Glenn Hall, a starter from the Midwest City National Championship wrestling team. Many of the other pledges lettered in sports such as baseball, football, basketball, track, golf, soccer and wrestling. Not only did they excel on the field in high school, they are already contributing to the house intramural teams. In the future we expect to see many more great accomplishments. A special thanks to all the alumni who helped by sending in recommendations and donation that enabled us to sign such an outstanding pledge class.

Yours in —kai—,  
Eric Warren, Pledge Trainer

## DONOR DINNER

### Donor Dinner Approaching

The date has been set for the annual Beta Theta Pi Donor Dinner. The Dinner is scheduled for November 16, the date of the OSU game. The day will begin as any normal game day, with a gathering of friends and alumni at the house before the game. Following the game (at least the halftime show may be interesting), the Donor Dinner activities will begin. It is during this time that funding for any projects, repairs, or improvements that we would like to make in the house is (hopefully) raised.

Some of the things that may be discussed this year include redoing the bathrooms on the second and third floors, re-sealing the basement against the persistent leakage, blasting and sealing the exterior of the house, and fixing the landscaping around the house. In addition, Donor Dinner provides funds for supplies for work week, during which the house and exterior walkways are repainted, and minor repairs are made.

Last year's Donor Dinner provided funds to replace all of the shower heads, reseal the parking lot, paint window frames, replace the roof, and refinish the front doors.

If you have any questions, call Fallis Beall, Donor Dinner Alumni Chairman, at (405) 255-7280, or Curtis McCarty at (405) 360-1257.



*Many agree that the house is in its best condition in years. This past work week, the windows were repainted to their original black trim, following the discovery of a picture of the house in a 1938 Sooner Yearbook.*

# Rush Is Upon Us

It seems like Bid day was just yesterday, but it's already time to start rush for '92. This year, we've once again signed an outstanding pledge class, and as one of the rush chairmen, I would like to thank those of you who contributed to this year's rush. Although they are greatly needed, monetary contributors are not the only means of helping us out with rush. With rush numbers way down, University-wide, we must work twice as hard to sign the top guys. The recent change (within the last five years) from open to formal rush has also been a thorn in the side of Beta rush. It is crucial that we know well in advance, say, this fall, about any potential rushees from your area that you think possess the qualities to become a Beta. These guys could be high school seniors that you know personally, or that have just

caught your eye in the local newspaper, or even guys that are transferring to OU or didn't go through rush their freshmen year. At any rate, we need to know who these guys are, so that we can plan our strategy for the upcoming rush. Help us to ensure the future of Gamma Phi by taking an active interest in this year's rush.

We are always happy to hear from you, the alumni, so don't hesitate to call with advice, recommendations, or comments. Call Curtis McCarty, house president, at (405) 360-1275, or me, Don Cochran at (405) 447-3485. Mail, of course should be sent to 800 Chautauqua, Norman, OK 73069.

Yours in —kai—,  
Don Cochran  
Rush Chairman



## Trophies Awarded

Salvation Army honors recently were presented to the two groups that raised the most money among the 50 Greek organizations at the University of Oklahoma last year. From left, Capt. Keith Boalt presents the Bell Ringers Trophy to Curtis McCarty of Beta Theta Pi and Kathy Bailey of Delta Delta Delta. Lucy Northcutt (right) is chair of the 1991 Christmas Kettle Campaign. Proceeds are used to help specially designated families during the holiday season and with winter needs.

## De-Bunking a Myth

Make no mistake about it, Beta Theta Pi is in a strong position on the University of Oklahoma campus. Take it from someone who works with OU students six days a week! You can be confident that the young men living at 800 Chautauqua look like Betas, act like Betas and are well respected within the Greek community.

During what was a down year number-wise in OU formal rush the Betas maintained their numbers and pledged first quality rushees the one that had been sought from the beginning. There is a definite emphasis on scholarship in the house and I'm sure Beta will soon move from it's current #2 ranking back into the #1 position where we all expect Beta to be.

So what's the problem? During formal rush there is more negative talk about Beta than any other fraternity. Much of it revolves around the hazing which is said to be involved in the pledge program. Some of the allegations refer to practices dating back over five years and some of the information being dispersed is just not true at all. It's hurting the chapter during formal rush.

"Everyone has always talked about Beta", you say,

"that happened when I was in school." Yes, that's true, but as OU has converted back to a formal system, years of experience in combating negative rush have been lost. In short, the activities are experiencing difficulties in determining the best way of addressing the challenge.

How can we as alums assist the activities in meeting this threat?

1. Spread the word confidently among your associates that the Gamma Phi chapter of Beta is today in excellent shape.
2. Send in rush leads to the chapter and copy the advisory board rush advisor to insure proper follow-up.
3. If you know of families who plan to visit the OU campus, let me know so that we can make certain that a visit to the Beta house is a positive experience. We all know how to put on our proper "rush face" if we receive prior notice!
4. Beta pledgeship is "in-step" with the Nineties. There is no scheduled activity which is emotionally de-grading or physically dangerous taking place. On the other hand the activities are not giving away

## **De-Bunking cont.**

Beta badges to anyone who shows up. None of us want to see that happen. If any alum has a specific question about any pledge activity, Please CALL ME. I will make sure you receive a specific answer to your inquiry. A kind of Beta Hotline!

5. Encourage rushees and their families to be careful about accepting rumors concerning Beta pledgeship as fact without checking further. We used to say "If you want to know about Beta, ask a Beta."

You would be surprised at the "myths" about Beta pledgeship which are circulating throughout the

system. How many of these "myths" were accepted as fact, we'll never really know. I do believe Beta Alums can play an important role in "De-bunking" the myths. If you have any ideas on how we can combat this challenge, I'd be glad to discuss them with you.

Call me at (405) 321-6539 or write me at 903 Woods, Norman, OK 73069. Thanks!

Yours in —kai—,  
Grover Ozmun,  
Advisory Board, Alumni Advisor

## **A Letter From The President**

Dear Brothers:

Once again, signs of the fall semester are all over campus. The Alpha Tau Omegas are throwing parties, the Triangles are studying, and the Deltas are playing football. Of course, the Betas are studying, playing football, and throwing parties. At any rate, the semester is well under way, and it looks like its going to be another good year for Gamma Phi.

Rush went very well this year, thanks to the efforts of assistant rush chairmen, Don Cochran and Jeff Gibson, and to your generous contributions. This year, we had two rush barbecues, one in Oklahoma City and one in Tulsa. Special thanks to Brothers Tad Blood and Pete Adamson, who sponsored the rush barbecues, and to Steve Jordan, who helped out in Ardmore. Thanks again to Rob Lockard, who served as Alumni Rush Advisor this year.

At this year's national convention, we were presented with the Sisson Award for the second year in a row. So far this year, we have had one of two Greek men named Top Ten Freshman, and one of three Greek men named Top Ten Sophomore. The Vice-President of the Student Body, Chris Williams, and the Vice Chair of Student Congress, David Dietert, both reside at 800 Chautauqua. Mike Barnett is president of Tassels, and Gammas Phi also boasts two members of Mortar Board, one member of Gamma-Gamma Order of Omega, and one member of Pe-et.

Intramurals are going well as we hold a strong place, despite a rash of bad luck. Injury has been our biggest adversary this year, but we are still playing strong. Currently, our football team has made the final six in the ongoing Greek Tournament. We are looking forward to an excellent second semester intramurally, with nearly every member of our championship basketball team returning, and several new

players signed. Also, we are looking to finish well in wrestling, coming off of a third place finish last year.

Scholastically, we have vowed to win grades this semester at any cost. Study hall for pledges continues, and on any given night, several members can be found studying with them.

Our social calendar continues to be full, with several functions and a party every month. Victory Party was a bash of "We're going to win the National Championship this year" proportions, and OU/Texas, held with the UT Betas was a bash of "We're not even gonna come close to the championship this year, but let's party anyway" proportions.

Once again, its "Pert' near Barn Dance Time", and this year promises to be one of the best Barn Dances in recent memory. Social Chairman, Chad Beaudry, with the assistance of Brother David Box, has recruited David Allen Coe, one of country music's most popular pickers, to play the "side court shuffle" this year. The brothers have once again put away their razors and hit the smokeless tobacco trail, in anticipation of the week's festivities. The party is already the talk of the campus, so the barn building will begin early this year, to make sure that it is up to par with previous barns.

Well, that pretty much covers everything. Most of the home games are over now, but I would like to invite all of you to come to lunch at the house for the remaining games. If you have any questions or comments about the House or rush or anything, feel free to call me at (405) 360-1257.

Thanks,  
Yours in —kai—,  
Curtis McCarty  
President

# DAYS OF YORE

## History of Gamma Phi to be Written

Nineteen ninety-three will mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of Gamma Phi and the 86th anniversary of our acceptance into Beta Theta Pi. In honor of this occasion, we are compiling a history of the chapter, beginning with the formation of Gamma Phi as the first secret society at any Oklahoma state institution, and continuing to the present. Ideally, the history will contain information on every pledge class and a year by year summary of scholarship and intramural performance, as well as a social section, including parties, philanthropies, and any stories that may be contributed. This project is a huge undertaking, but there is a good deal of excitement about it in the house. However, the success of this project depends heavily on the interest and cooperation of you, the alumni.

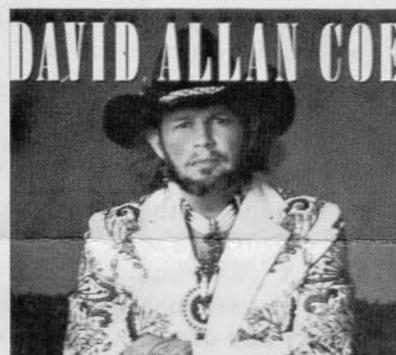
Though the best method of gathering this huge volume of information has not yet been determined, we have been considering asking one member of each

pledge class to compile a history of their pledge year, to be placed in the book. However, this is not set in stone, so any suggestions would be more than welcomed. In any case, the submission of any information, be it photographs, letters, or even verbal stories dictated by phone or onto cassette tapes, will be accepted with many thanks. We will return all photographs and original letters, and cite the contributor of each in the book.

Anyone who is interested in this project can reach me, David Kendrick, at:

(405) 447-4939  
800 Chautauqua  
Norman, OK 73069

We will be getting in touch with you soon, either through newsletter, personal letter, or phone call. In the mean time, be thinking of stories to share with the many generations of Gamma Phis.



*Last year's Barn dance was a huge success, but this year, the performance of country singer David Allen Coe promises to make this year's Barn Dance one of the best in history.*

### Coming Next Newsletter . . .

Big Changes in  
Housing Corporation  
Risk Management  
Fraternal Fifties

If you have any interesting stories or the name of a brother that isn't receiving the newsletter, drop us a line. We would love to hear from you.

Yours in —kai—  
Kevan Higgins  
Chapter Secretary

## Beta Theta Pi

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