



WOOGLIN

on
Chautauqua

1998 Pledge Class Among Best Ever

Gamma Phi completed its 1998 rush with the **signing of 62 outstanding pledges**. This class was the largest among all fraternities at OU, making up a whopping 12.52% of the 495 pledges who signed with a fraternity in fall rush.

At first glance, one might infer from the size of this class that Beta simply signed as many pledges as possible regardless of their credentials. But anyone jumping to that conclusion would be dead wrong. The size of this class is rivaled only by the superb quality of these pledges from top to bottom.

This may be one of the best pledge classes ever signed at 800 Chautauqua. The average ACT of this class is 26. The average GPA is 3.66. Nine pledges have an ACT of 30 or better; 33 have a GPA of at least 3.8. The class includes 5 national merit scholars, 3 members of OU's President's Leadership Class and at least 9 valedictorians. There are also at least 9 all-state athletes from various sports, including football, baseball and track. Perhaps most importantly, these young men exhibit quality character and great enthusiasm for becoming Betas.

Another exciting aspect of this class is its restoration of Beta's presence in many key cities and schools throughout the state. These include Ada, Bartlesville, Enid, Ponca City and Putnam City North. It also represents one of the biggest years ever for pledges from the Tulsa area.

This class is the result of a diligent, well-organized rush by the Chapter, headed by Rush Chairman, Joe Ford ('00 Shawnee), and Assistant Rush Chairmen, Matt Blue ('99 Midwest City), Fenton



Banners hanging from the portico welcome rushees to 800 Chautauqua for the first evening of a very successful rush week.

Sanger ('99 Lawton) and Richard Stafford ('00 Lawton). The rush team's strategy was simple: begin early, maintain extensive one-on-one contact with all rushees throughout the summer and conduct as many rush events as possible. So successful was this strategy that Beta turned away many rushees at the conclusion of formal rush. The rush chairmen estimate that they could have signed as many as 80 pledges had they not adhered to their strict academic criteria.

But the Chapter could not have achieved this rush victory on its own. The kind of rush effort necessary to sign a pledge class of this nature is expensive. It can be financed only with substantial support from alumni. Gamma Phi's alumni support is unmatched among fraternities at OU. This year, over 100

alumni generously contributed nearly \$13,000 to the Chapter's rush campaign. Many alums also provided much needed organizational support and rush referrals. This financial and organizational help provided the decisive edge to Beta. Our alumni deserve much credit for Gamma Phi's banner rush victory.

The Chapter extends special thanks to those alumni who referred rush prospects to the rush team. These rush referrals are absolutely critical to a successful rush effort. The Chapter signed a very high percentage of these referrals, many of whom the rush chairmen would not have learned about until rush week. Many of these rushees probably would have signed elsewhere were it not for the early summer contact which alumni rush referrals permitted.

Chapter Looking Forward to Rush in 1999

It's never too early to start thinking about next year's rush. The Chapter has already elected a Fall and Spring Rush Chairman, Matt Clouse ('01 Grove).

ALL-FRATERNITY PLEDGE CLASSES

FALL '98

Rank	Fraternity	No.
1.	Beta Theta Pi	62
(12.52 % of total)		
2.	Lambda Chi Alpha	56
3.	Phi Gamma Delta	54
3.	Sigma Phi Epsilon	54
5.	Delta Tau Delta	51
6.	Pi Kappa Phi	31
6.	Sigma Alpha Epsilon	31
8.	Kappa Sigma	30
9.	Sigma Chi	28
10.	Delta Upsilon	21
11.	Alpha Tau Omega	17
12.	Kappa Alpha	14
13.	Alpha Sigma Phi	13
14.	Sigma Nu	12
15.	Pi Kappa Alpha	11
16.	Phi Kappa Sigma	6
17.	Triangle	4
	Total Pledges	495

Last year, the Chapter began the practice of electing a Fall and Spring Rush Chairman to begin compiling a rushee list for next summer and coordinate rush-related activities during the school year, such as Barn Dance and Beta Lei.

Rush will be in fine hands with Matt. Like outgoing Rush Chairman, Joe Ford, Matt was a highly recruited rushee. Coming out of Grove, Matt was valedictorian of his graduating class, an all-conference athlete in football, baseball and basketball. He was also a member of OU's President's Leadership Class and a University Scholar. Matt has quickly assumed a leadership role in the Chapter. He was president of his pledge class and is now the scholarship chairman overseeing the studies of the new pledge class.

Matt and countless other enthusiastic actives are eager to capitalize on this year's rush success with an equally strong pledge class next year. Do you know any good rush prospects for next summer? If so, please let the Chapter know about them!

Zach Allen '85
Rush Advisor

Rush Referrals

Referrals of outstanding seniors by loyal Beta alumni were a major factor in the chapter's success in rush in 1998.

In addition, many of our pledges have told us that alumni in their hometowns convinced them to think seriously about Beta.

We need this kind of help from our alumni every year. If you know of a high school senior who you think would make a good Beta, please send us a letter with as much information about his grades, ACT scores and high school activities as possible. We also need his address and telephone number so we can contact him.

Please send all rush referrals to:

Beta Theta Pi
c/o Zach Allen, Rush Advisor
Two Leadership Square, 14th Floor
211 N. Robinson
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Telephone: 405/235-5581
FAX: 405/235-0333
Email: zallen@msweb.com

1998 Rush Alumni Contributors

Steve Van Aken	Wayne Copeland	John R. Hillis	Tom H. McCasland, III	Byron H. Schaff
James P. Akey, Jr.	Charles S. Coward	G. Elden Hoffman, Jr.	William M. McGee	James W. Sharrock
Robert W. Allen	Harry H. Diamond, Jr.	Richard T. Howell, Jr.	Edd McNeil	William M. Sherman
Zachary W. Allen	Robert W. Dow	Kenneth V. Hughes, III	Scott D. Millington	Carl M. Smith
Guy Bacon	M. W. Eddleman	Millard Ingram	Dan A. Moody	Robert S. Smith, Jr.
Steven L. Barghols	James C. Elder	Lon T. Jackson, Jr.	Robert N. Naifeh, Jr.	Don A. Smith
Fallis A. Beall	Levoy Ellsworth	James T. Johnson	R. Marc Nuttle	James R. Snider
Robert Beall	Kevin L. Foxx	Wm. O. Johnstone	Brian E. O'Hara	Michael H. Strong
Guy L. Berry, III	J. Dougals Frantz	Robert R. Klabzuba	John K. Orr	Louis V. Stuart
W. Anderson Bishop	Bennett E. Fuller	C. Dale Klingensmith	James Pickens	Louis V. Stuart, Jr.
William H. Boies	Charles P. Gotwals, Jr.	Scott D. Lawrence	Chris H. Pierce	Arthur H. Thompson
Bradford L. Boone	Jim Gotwals	Don & Anne Lees	Richard Porter	Lee B. Thompson, Jr.
Todd Booze	Wilburn L. Griffith	Donald Mason Lehman	Jack E. Rayburn, Jr.	Charles E. Towe, Jr.
Gary L. Brown, III	Elmer "Bud" Hale, Jr.	Todd J. Lisle	Bill K. Reed	Fred Turner
Patrick Campbell	Don Harral	William P. Longmire, Jr.	W.T. Richardson, Jr.	Jay Wade
Paul Carlile	Mark & Anne Harris	John Lynn	John W. Ritz	John Waldo
Michael A. Cawley	Jerry C. Hassebroek	W. Carlisle Mabrey, III	Rob F. Robertson	W.S. Warner, Jr.
Dewey W. Chambers	Robert R. Hayes	George S. Mason	Cooper Brett Robinson	Charles D. Watson, Jr.
Brett A. Chandler	Richard R. Hefton	Jack T. Massey	J. Hugh Roff, Jr.	Sam L. Wilhite, Jr.
W.R. Clark	William J. Hemphill	T.H. McCasland, Jr.	William J. Ross	C. Robert Wright

President's Report

Gamma Phi has started out the 1998-1999 academic year very well. The Chapter began by signing a pledge class of sixty-two outstanding men. It is the largest pledge class on campus. The credit for this incredible class goes mostly to our Rush Chairman, Joe Ford ('00 Shawnee), and Assistant Rush Chairmen, Fenton Sanger ('99 Lawton), Richard Stafford ('00 Lawton) and Matt Blue ('99 Midwest City).

Philanthropy, Etc.

In addition to our rush successes, Gamma Phi has been involved in several worthy projects. The Chapter has been in the student newspaper three times already for our programs. The first program to be in the paper was the Alcohol Awareness Program which was a seminar on the dangers of drinking, co-sponsored with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta. The entire Chapter, including pledges, attended.

Earlier this fall, the Chapter co-hosted, with the women of Kappa Kappa Gamma, the International Barbecue, to welcome international students to life in Oklahoma. Several Betas made the cover of the *Oklahoma Daily* with a full color photo of the event, and the paper published two separate stories about the barbecue.

Pledge Program

As part of the pledge class academic program, Gamma Phi held an Academic Seminar, which was presented by a university staff member. The seminar covered topics such as time management, effective study habits, and test taking skills. The Chapter's pledge program heavily emphasizes the importance of academics. Pledges attend proctored study hall 15 hours each week (6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday), and attendance is strictly enforced. In order to monitor the pledge class's progress, each pledge is required to provide an interim grade report. Any pledge with a deficient study hall attendance record or a poor grade report must do additional study hours with a designated member.

Consistent with past traditions, Gamma Phi continues to attach much importance to the pledge program. In keeping with state law, General Fraternity rules and OU Student Code, the Chapter adheres to a non-hazing policy. However, this is **not** to imply that membership in Beta Theta Pi is given to those who simply walk in and sign a pledge card. Our pledge program continues to emphasize strongly that admission to the rolls of Gamma Phi is to be **earned**.

As described above, the pledge class academic program is the cornerstone of the Beta pledge program. Further, pledges hold house cleans each Friday and Sunday. Each week, they take a lore test which covers the principles and history of Gamma Phi and the General Fraternity and knowledge of the Chapter's members. Of course, the pledge program is also structured to promote a positive social experience during the pledge year. Unfortunately, OU has recently prohibited pledge functions. Therefore, all social events which pledges attend are chapter-wide functions.

A recently implemented tradition for the pledge program is the Senior-Pledge Retreat. Held recently, this event was a weekend retreat (this year, near Marlow) for the pledges and is hosted by members of the senior class. At the retreat, the pledges get better acquainted with the seniors, and each senior shares with the pledges his advice about and reflections on the Beta experience and college in general.

University Sing

The Chapter entered two acts in University Sing, a University sponsored event involving several student organizations held on Dad's Day, October 31.

The Beta Five won Audience Favorite and Best in Show for small acts for the second straight year. The Beta pledge class teamed with the Delta Delta

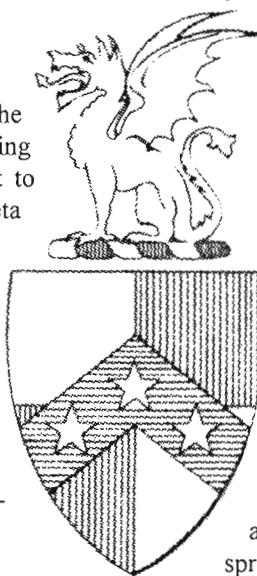
Delta pledges for a nostalgic medley which placed second in the large act category.

Proceeds from U-sing go to charity.

Intramurals

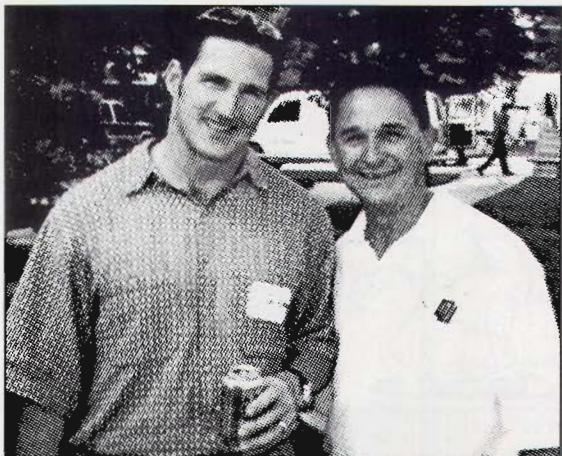
Intramurals have gone very well. The Beta flag football team placed second in the pre-season tournament and third in the all-campus tournament. The team also finished the season by placing third in the IFC tournament. Beta is currently third in the overall IFC intramurals standings. Beta's strongest sports - basketball and softball - will be held in the spring. The Beta teams in these sports will be powerhouses and considered the preseason favorites among all fraternities. The Chapter is in an excellent position to capture the All-Sport Intramurals Championship next spring.

*Ryan Harris ('99 Edmond),
Chapter President*



A NEW TRADITION: STEAK AND LOBSTER SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

As part of Gamma Phi's efforts to stress the Second Principle of Beta Theta Pi, (scholarship) the Chapter has begun the tradition of holding an Steak and Lobster formal meal once each semester. This dinner specifically honors those members who distinguished themselves academically during the preceding semester. All men who achieved at least a 3.00 GPA during the preceding semester are served **steak**; all men with at least a 3.75 GPA are served a **lobster** with their steak. The rest of the brothers are served **chicken**. The latest Steak and Lobster Dinner was held October 19, at which seven men received lobster and 33 received steak. All pledges ate chicken.

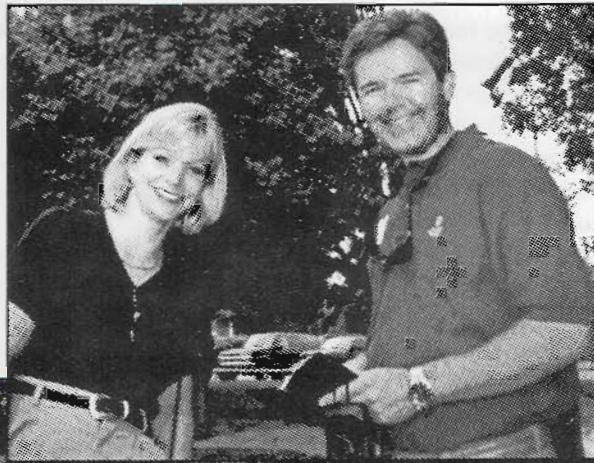
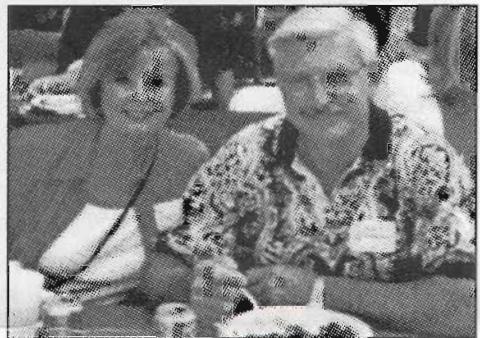


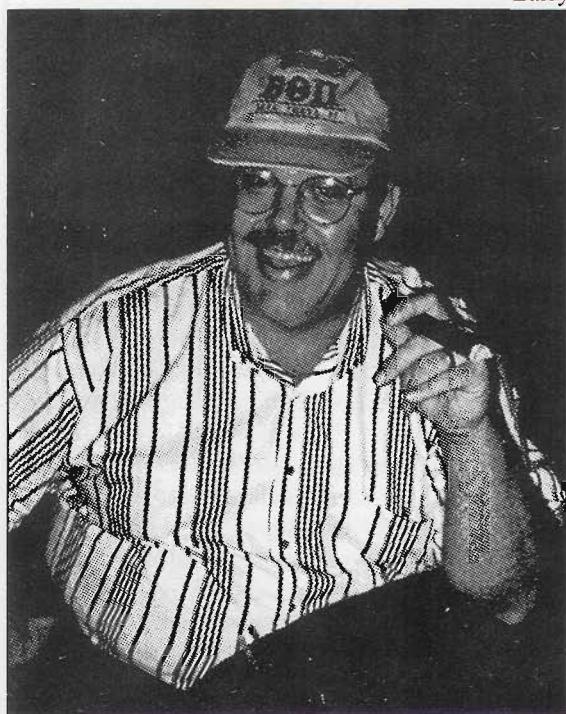
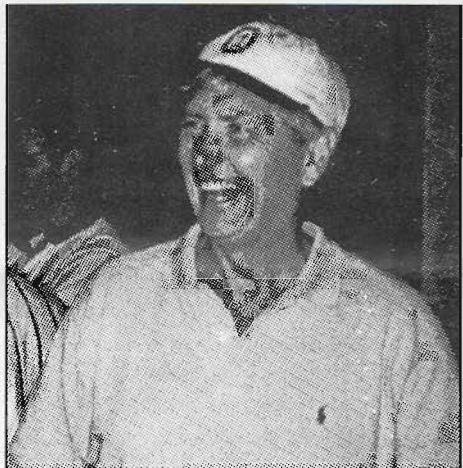
Chapter Hosts Second Annual Alumni Reunion and Barbeque

On September 19, Gamma Phi hosted the second annual *Beta Beer and BBQ Alumni Reunion*. As was the case last year, the reunion was a tremendous success. At least 500 alumni, actives and family members attended. Once again, all had ample opportunity to reminisce about the days of yore and see many old friends. It was also an excellent opportunity for the alumni to meet active members and the new pledge class.

Again, special thanks goes to Brett Chandler '82, whose **Rib Crib Restaurant** generously provided outstanding BBQ for all to enjoy. House Mother Sue Overton and Beta Moms President, Anne Harris, also provided invaluable assistance in making arrangements for the reunion.

If you haven't yet attended one of these reunions, you're missing a great time! We hope to see you next year. The reunion will be held each fall before a night home football game, probably in the latter part of September.





Class of '72 Holds Reunion Before OU - California Game

Fifteen members of the class of '72 attended a reunion on Friday night, before the California game. The group also attended the Alumni Reunion BBQ at the Beta house on Saturday before the California game.

Mom Dorothy Greer, housemother in the '70's, attended the dinner Friday evening.

Members of the class attending included Jim Gotwals, Wayne Wasemiller, Andy Vogt, Fred Turner, Rack Brown, Rick Dimick, Levoy Ellsworth, Hank Ryan, Larry Houchin, John Moore, Rufus Bandy, Chuck Buland, Warren Bickford and Steve Miller.

The annual Alumni Reunion BBQ is the perfect weekend for class reunions.



Beta Donors Campaign Begins

This year's campaign for the **Beta Donors Program** has begun. If you have been a past contributor, **I hope you will renew your commitment**; your loyalty and generosity has made a difference! If you have not yet become a Beta Donor, **please seriously consider doing so this year**. Your assistance will do much to preserve the rich traditions of Beta at OU.

We very much appreciate the great response to last year's campaign for the Beta Donors Program. 221 alumni from 53 classes collectively contributed \$29,241.

The Chapter is experiencing a positive year in many areas, as I believe is evidenced by other articles in this newsletter. We are particularly pleased with the Chapter's efforts in summer 1998 rush.

We believe this latest pledge class is the "break-through" class which will mark Gamma Phi's return to preeminence on campus. Alumni financial support for rush efforts during the last few years is critical to this resurgence. Please keep up your support for rush because it is the key to our future!

As for academics, there has been a meaningful return to a structured study hall program for the pledges. This effort is being led by Wade Christian '00, the Pledge Trainer, and Matt Clouse '01, the Scholarship Chair, both of whom are doing a fine job. Further, the house as a whole is more focused on grades; members are studying with pledges; tutors have been employed where necessary; and there is a serious desire "to win."

As you may know, the Chapter received an "excellent" financial rating from the General Fraternity for each of the last two years, as well as the Sisson Award for both years. Under the leadership of President Ryan Harris '99, the Chapter is taking its first steps to satisfy the stringent requirements for the new Knox Award for Chapter Excellence. Based on an article in the current Beta magazine, only South Florida and Yale received this award in 1998.

Your financial support makes the difference for Gamma Phi Chapter, just as it does for the University or for politicians or civic groups. We solicit contributions twice a year, once in the spring for rush and once in the fall for the Beta Donors Program. As you are aware, the purpose of the Donors Program is to preserve and modernize (when possible) the Beta House at 800 Chautauqua.

During the past year, we replaced one large air-conditioner at a cost of \$5,650, we installed a new City of Norman required fire warning system at a cost of \$8,600, we replaced part of the guttering system on the south part of the roof at a cost of \$3,850, we replaced kitchen equipment at a cost of \$2,200, we made repairs to kitchen equipment at a cost of \$1,700, we paid for \$650 of plumbing repairs, we contributed \$2,500 to the cost expended by the Mom's Club for remodeling the House Mother's suite and we paid another \$5,000 for painting and refurbishment of the entry area, the stairs to the basement and the basement itself. All of this was possible

because of alumni financial assistance.

One of our current goals is to enlist the participation of even more alumni as Beta Donors - *i.e. we are pushing to increase the percentage of our alumni who actually "give back" some of what we received as undergraduate members.* The Class of 1985 set the standard for pledge class participation in the Donors Program when **21** of its members contributed last year. But there's no reason why other classes can't meet or exceed this level of participation.

If you are a Beta Donor, please take it upon yourself to call two or three members of your class and encourage them to support our fund-raising efforts. If you are not currently a Beta Donor and if you have not contributed to rush, please consider the impact that multiple new contributions of \$100 or more will have. For example, if we received 100 new contributions of \$100 each, we could replace the worn-out wood floor in the living room; if we received 200 new contributions of \$100 each, we could completely renovate the second floor bathroom, which is in need of our help; if we received 300 new contributions of \$100 each, we could repair the limestone face of the north porch of the Beta House, which recently collapsed.

We are again asking each of you to consider making a gift to the Beta Donors Program of \$100 or whatever you can afford. If you have the ability, please consider donating \$200 or more. The Chapter hosted a reception for Beta Donors on **Saturday, November 21, 1998**, after the OU/Texas Tech football game. Even if you were not able to attend the reception, please seriously consider making a contribution. This is a year-long effort to raise money necessary for preservation of the Beta House. It is not a price of attending a reception, at which at all Betas are welcome. **Please send all contributions to:**

Beta Theta Pi
c/o James Elder, Corporation President
Two Leadership Square, 14th Floor
211 N. Robinson
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

As a final matter, **a number of individuals have truly gone the "extra mile" for Gamma Phi Chapter during the last year.** Elmer "Bud" Hale, Jr. '41, Fallis Beall '55, Bill Reed '55, Guy Bacon '63, Mike Cawley '69, Dan Moody '69 and Levoy Ellsworth '69 have continued to be very significant donors to rush and to the Beta Donors Program; Bill Sherman '74 has undertaken the enormous job of handling Chapter and Corporation financial matters; Fallis Beall '55, Fred Turner '72, Mark Harris '73 and Todd Booze '90 have made multiple contributions in the area of house maintenance, repairs and refurbishment; Zach Allen '85 is doing an outstanding job as Rush Advisor; Hank Ryan '72 is providing invaluable, behind the scenes service as Alumni Secretary and Chapter Archivist; and Grover Ozmun '59 continues to serve as an excellent Chapter Counselor. **When you have the opportunity, please express your appreciation to these loyal Betas.**

In addition to our fellow Betas, Parents Club President, Anne Harris, and Housemother, Sue Overton, must receive our special thanks for their continuous, dedicated service. Anne has completely reinvigorated the Parents' Club and has been largely responsible for existing refurbishment of the first floor on the Beta House. Mom Overton is exceptional in every way. As a full time resident of the house, she has restored much of the civility that we needed; she has taken charge of the kitchen; and she has truly served as a "mom in residence" to our active members and pledges.

Again, we encourage your support of Gamma Phi. Progress is being made!

James Elder '69, Beta Corporation President

IS YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT?

The Beta Corporation maintains its own database of addresses for Gamma Phi alumni (which is generally more current than the General Fraternity's database). **Did you receive this newsletter at your current address?** If not, or if your address changes in the future, please advise us of your current/new address by sending it to:

Beta Theta Pi
c/o Zach Allen, Rush Advisor
Two Leadership Square, 14th Floor
211 N. Robinson
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Telephone: 405/235-5581
FAX: 405/235-0333
Email: zallen@mswerb.com

You may send address updates to the General Fraternity at the following address:

Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity
5134 Bonham Road
P.O. Box 6277
Oxford, Ohio 45056
Attn: Anne Haas
Telephone: 800-800-2382
Fax: 513-523-2381
Email: ahaas@woolin.com

Have you been receiving your Beta Theta Pi magazine? If not, you may resume delivery of this magazine, which is published by the General Fraternity free of charge for all Beta alumni, by sending a request to the General Fraternity at the above

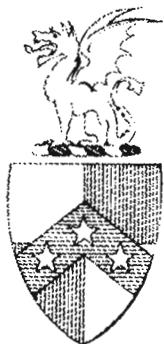
PLEDGE CLASS 1998

Matthew Allen,	Robin McCalla, Lawton
OKC School of Science & Math	James McCulley, Westmoore
Jack Amyx, Deer Creek	Matt McMurry, Shawnee
Nick Anderson, Cushing	John McPhetridge, Pittsburg
Casey Barto, Bartlesville	Zach Meadows,
Matt Blevins, Piedmont	Edmond North
Ryan Briggs,	Dustin Mills, Seminole
Tulsa Holland Hall	Justin Moore,
John Buxton, Ada	Edmond Santa Fe
Steven Carter, Lawton Ike	Raub Nash, McCloud
Travis Caves, Jenks	David Owens,
Lee Cavin, Edmond Santa Fe	Putnam City North
Danny Chaffin, Atoka	Christopher Pahlke,
Stephen Collins, Ponca City	Edmond Santa Fe
Seth Crawley, Savanna	Keith Perram, Broken Arrow
Rob Cunningham,	David Phillips,
Midwest City	Metro Christian
Kevin Dare, Binger-Oney	Adam Pierce, Broken Arrow
Edward Downing,	Isaac Pierce, Broken Arrow
Putnam City North	Matt Pollock, Duncan
Mike Elder, Norman North	Randy Royce, Washington
Cody Fleming, Enid	Alex Sanders, Broken Arrow
Paul Fleming, Broken Arrow	Ryan Scherer, Broken Arrow
Matt Garner, Tulsa Union	John Sevier,
Brett Hawkins, Duncan	Putnam City North
John Haynes, Ada	Jonathan Shepherd, Shawnee
Austin Johnson, Chickasha	David Smith, Henryetta
Erik Johnson, Overland, CO	Chris Speller,
Will Johnson, Edmond North	OKC Heritage Hall
Eric Kernan, Broken Arrow	Brian Torgerson,
Sean Kirksey, Westmoore	Norman North
Brandon Kissack, Bartlesville	Geofferey Underwood,
Jordan Knutson,	Lawton Christian
Overland, CO	Bryson Varner, Pauls Valley
Wade Kovash,	Jeff Warden, Henryetta
Ft. Worth Nolan Catholic	O.J. Williams, Norman High
Brandon Lee,	Matt Wilson, Tulsa Kelley
Tulsa Holland Hall	Rich Zamor, Owasso.
Mason Mayhue, Ada	

The name of
Phil Kyle
Class of '59
was inadvertently left off
the list of 1997-98
Beta Donors
Our apologies.



Beta Theta Pi Pledge Class 1998



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



H. G. Ryan III (1972, #1421)
2616 NW 68th
Oklahoma City, OK 73116-4710

Parents and Alumni:
Please send us address updates!