

Do you have a son or daughter who will be enrolled full-time in college this fall? If so, he or she is eligible to apply for the Seth R. and Corrine H. Brooks Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. This scholarship was established specifically to provide financial assistance to the son or daughter of an initiated Beta.

The application can be attained from the Beta Theta Pi Foundation by calling (800) 800-2382. Deadline is April 15, 2002.



<http://beta.unl.edu>

The Dragon's Tale

Winter 2001

Official Newsletter of the Alpha Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Alpha Tau Achieves

a 3.4 GPA

Spring Results of 2001 Show Dedication to Studies

The men of Alpha Tau achieved another successful academic semester by earning a 3.433 Grade Point Average for the spring semester of 2001. This was the 2nd highest house GPA on campus among all Greek organizations, and an impressive improvement over the past semester.

In addition to this academic success, there were 11 men who earned perfect 4.0 GPA's in the spring semester, and an additional 33 men who earned GPA's at or above a 3.5. In light of such success, Alpha Tau is not resting on its laurels. For the fall of 2001, brothers have been pursuing academic excellence yet again. Brother Kyle Johnson (AT 2016), Pledge Educator for the 2001 Pledge Class, has made the commitment to academic excellence an important ingredient in the pledge program. By emphasizing the importance of their studies, Alpha Tau is demonstrating a real and sincere commitment to academics that will last for years to come.

Alpha Tau Earns

Campus Honors

The Alpha Tau Chapter has demonstrated once again its leadership upon the campus of the University of Nebraska, earning numerous campus honors.

In addition, three juniors have been honored with induction into Order of Omega, an organization that identifies and honors members of the Greek system with demonstrated leadership skills. Brother David Ridenour (AT 2013), Brother Bryan Purdy (AT 2012), and Brother Dan Mauler (AT 2032) were named to Order of Omega and were formally initiated into the society in January.

The purpose of Order of Omega is to recognize those members of the Greek system who have attained a high standard of leadership in Greek activities, to bring together outstanding Greek members to create an organization which will help to mold the sentiment of the institution on Greek affairs, and to help create an atmosphere where ideas and issues can be discussed openly across Greek lines and to help work out solutions.

New Officers

Elected!

On November 18, 2001, the Alpha Tau Chapter elected new officers for the 2002 year. While debate and voting required nearly nine hours, the process, though heated at times, was ultimately respectful and enlightening. In light of the recent attacks upon our country, the ability to carry out a basic American ritual – democracy – seemed more important this year than in the past.

Congratulations to our new team of officers:

President – Kyle Johnson (AT 2016)
Vice-President – Eric Johnson (AT 2022)
Treasurer – Matt Jansen (AT 2028)
Secretary – Phil Christensen (AT 2015)
(3 terms in a row! Way to go Phil!)
Risk Manager – Bryan Purdy (AT 2012)
Recruitment Chair – Andy Wiswall (AT 2031)
Pledge Educator – Nate Arrends (AT 2040)
Scholarship Chair – Andy Vaughn (AT 2035)
Philanthropy Chair – David Ridenour (AT 2013)
Social Chair – Anthony Hohn (AT 2038)

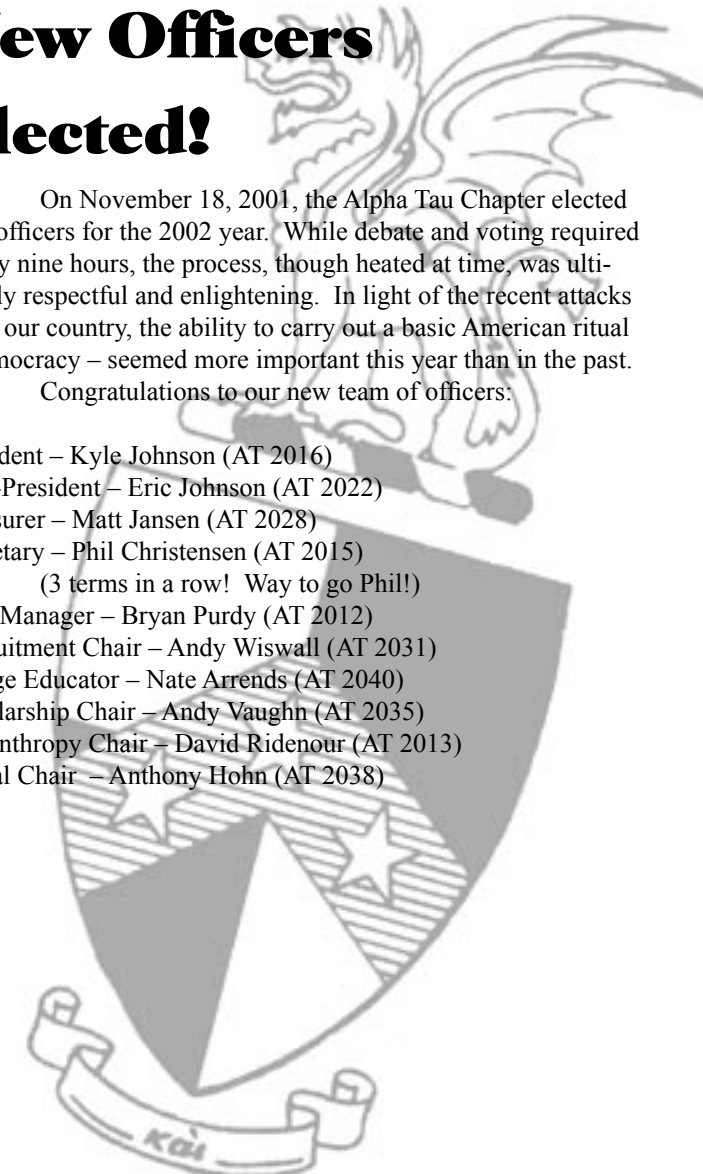


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Success Builds Upon Itself in 2001 Alpha Tau Pledge Class

The Alpha Tau Chapter continued to build upon its previous successes in recruitment by initiating 24 outstanding young men on January 19, 2002. The newest members of our great fraternity represent a diverse cross-section of young men entering the University of Nebraska.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Nate Bahensky | Kearney, NE |
| Ryan Boyle | Lexington, NE |
| Brian Butler | Lincoln, NE |
| Jared Carlson | Lincoln, NE |
| Neil Carmody | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Matt Davis | Lincoln, NE |
| Dan Doyle | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Matt Gartner | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Geoff Mickells | Overland Park, KS |
| Ryan Hiatt | Des Moines, IA |
| Kyle Klemme | Murdock, NE |
| Beau Konz | Sioux Falls, SD |
| David Link | Omaha, NE |
| Mark Ludens | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Will Norton | Lincoln, NE |
| Justin Norvig | Omaha, NE |
| Josh Paula | Bradshaw, NE |
| Keith Purdy | Papillion, NE |
| Jeff Richardson | Sioux Falls, SD |
| John Rosenthal | Omaha, NE |
| Adam Schardt | |
| Brad Slaughter | |
| Adam Stahlecker | |
| Tim Wardell | |

Alpha Tau Captures Homecoming, Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash

In between studying for classes and tests, the men of the Alpha Tau chapter still know how to have a good time. During the University of Nebraska's 2001 Homecoming Week, the Alpha Tau chapter earned top honors in the Fraternity Division. With a truly remarkable (and surprisingly realistic) depiction of a life-sized John Deere combine, Alpha Tau created a fun and unique twist of the theme, "Mowing Down the Competition."

Brother Rick Fuchs (AT 2014) was in charge of homecoming float construction, and Brother Phil Christensen (AT 2015) was instrumental in the design of the combine. The two working together traveled over to east campus to take measurements of actual combines. After some hard work, plenty of cornstalks, and the assistance of the ladies of Alpha Phi Sorority, Alpha Tau had put together an impressive sight. The float won the competition, and also earned Alpha Tau much deserved praise from outside the chapter.

Brother Jon Rosenthal said, "I've never seen a wood and paper combine before, but it was a lot of fun to put together with my pledge brothers and actives. I've gotten closer to everyone in the house because of it."

In addition to dominating the homecoming competition, Alpha Tau placed 1st in the fraternity category of Delta Gamma Sorority's annual Anchor Splash Philanthropy. The competition involved fundraising for some worthy causes, and was capped off by swimming races and the all-revered synchronized swimming competition.



The Homecoming Display of 2001 took 1st place in the University of Nebraska Homecoming Competition.

PRESIDENTIAL FOCUS

Kyle Johnson, AT 2016

Great organizations are the results of the actions of great leaders. A leader must have the ability to motivate people, to organize his surroundings, and to create a vision of where the organization must go. Without these leaders of character, an organization will falter and fail.

What makes a great leader? There is no recipe. When asked the question, we often think of the great leaders of history, a Lincoln, a Churchill, a Reagan. But we often forget that these great men were just that -- men. We too often forget that these men came from ordinary and diverse circumstances, and that they rose to greatness during exceptional circumstances. Just as Beta Theta Pi has made great men in the past, we should expect nothing different in the future.

Brother Kyle Johnson, AT 2016, is one young man who seems destined to make a difference in society. He was elected as Alpha Tau Chapter President on November 18, 2001, and assumed the office of President in late January. Johnson is from Omaha, Nebraska, and graduated from Milliard North High School in Omaha in 1999. He is a Nutrition Science and Pre-Med major.

"I have a vision for the chapter where we not only rise to the high standard that we have set as Betas, but that we surpass that standard, thus setting the bar higher," Johnson said. As for major projects that he wants to accomplish over the upcoming year, "I want to get everyone involved in and excited about the house. I want everyone involved in making this a better house."

Another goal that Johnson has is to increase attendance at the Beta National Convention held this year in Kansas City, Missouri. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Betas of all ages to bask in the Beta spirit, and as Johnson said, "My goal is to strive for another Knox award and to have 30 more active members of Alpha Tau attend. I also want to see as many older alumni there as possible."

When remarking about some of the challenges that will face Alpha Tau this year, Johnson said, "We will have to adapt to Nebraska's new grading scale. This will require even greater academic excellence from the chapter. We must also strive to keep the Beta spirit strong for the entire year."

No doubt these challenges will take planning and hardwork, but with the dedication of the men of Alpha Tau, there is no doubt the Beta Spirit will prevail.



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All inquiries regarding this newsletter and how you can get involved with the chapter can be made to Dan Mauler at (402) 436-7802