

NEWS FROM NEBRASKA ALUMNI

Change of Address

Harlan Opie '87
10343 South Highland Circlr
Olathe, KS 66061

Ryan Comes '01
1018 West Armitage Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 405-1590

Taylor Faulkner '02
21540 Provincial Boulevard
#114
Katy, TX 77450

Andy Mattox '00
14816 South Bradley Drive
Olathe, KS 66203

Justin Kauk '02
4811 Angelo Court
Columbia, MO 65202
(573) 814-0302

Ryan Lahne '00
610 SE McKenzie
Pullman, WA 99163
(509) 338-0777

"I graduated from Purdue in May and accepted a position at Washington State University. Laura is wishing to continue her work in family preservation services."

Eric Knight '00
105 Signature Way Apt # 726
Hampton, VA 23666
(757) 826-2842

"I work at the 30th Intelligence Squadron at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. We work with the U-2 reconnaissance plans flying in various parts of the world."

Alpha Tau regrets to inform the passing of the following brothers:

Robert Cappel '49
Kenneth Christensen '48
Willard Folsom '42
James Wagner '26



The Dragon's Tale



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The Dragon's Tale

Fall 2002

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

MARCHING ALONG !

Alpha Tau earns seven chapter awards at 163rd Convention

Success and accomplishment were abundant for Alpha Tau at the 163rd General Convention in Kansas City this past August. The Nebraska Chapter brought home seven awards, including our eighth (six consecutive) Francis H. Sisson Award for superior chapter excellence and garnered the highly esteemed John Reily Knox Award for the second time in chapter history. Alpha Tau was presented the John Holt Duncan service award, recognizing our ongoing partnership and mentoring program with Hartley Elementary. The undergraduates also took home the Recruitment Program Award for outstanding efforts in the 2001-2002 academic year. Continued excellence was found in the areas of involvement and academics as Nebraska achieved our third consecutive Virginia Tech (highest overall GPA with a 3.4 and highest in region) and Campus Involvement Awards.

Nebraska undergraduates and Beta ladies (Mom Sharon Gallon and Judy Wiegert) pose with Burton Folsom Nebraska '49 and Colonel Maynard Miller Nebraska '35 at the awards banquet.



L to R:
Mike Worman '70
Joel Wiegert '00
Will Norton '05
Geoff Mickells '05
Andy Mattox '00
Todd Mattox '02
Kyle Johnson '03
Andrew Vaughan '04
Josh Paula '05
Nate Arends '04
David Ridenour '03

Perhaps more exciting than the chapter's success at Convention was the chance for the undergraduates to meet several Alpha Tau alumni. "The most memorable part was seeing Beta history, seeing the men that I had only heard or read about before. The history of our great fraternity came to life, in a sense, in front me. Not only did I get to see these great men, I was able to meet many of them. Talking to them was like talking to an old friend. To me, this demonstrated what being a Beta is all about," commented sophomore Josh Paula (AT 2050). Chapter president Kyle Johnson (AT 2016) spoke of similar comments in regard to his convention experiences. "Meeting Burt Folsom and Colonel Maynard Miller was a genuine honor. It was amazing to meet some of the men who have made such an incredible impact on Alpha Tau and have such a strong place in its history." "The experience of convention really made me proud to be a Beta and proud to be a member of Alpha Tau," remarked sophomore Will Norton (AT 2056).

The Nebraska Chapter looks well positioned for another impressive showing at the 164th General Convention. Alpha Tau will again set their sights on the John Reily Knox Award and aspire to maintain excellence in academics, leadership, philanthropy, pledge education, and recruitment. In addition to chapter awards Alpha Tau competed for the General Secretary's Cup, finishing third in our first appearance. The General Secretary's Cup is comprised of fraternity lore, song performance, and a 5K run.

RECRUITMENT HARVEST

YEILDS 25 OUTSTANDING MEN

Alpha Tau remained consistent in its recruitment goals and pursuits in the summer of 2002. The membership, led by recruitment chairmen Andrew Wiswall (AT 2031), Jared Hardy (AT 2019) and Anthony Hohn (AT 2038), welcomed our largest pledge class since 1998. The pledge class averaged a 3.8 GPA and an average combined score of 28 on the ACT, with several men recognized as JD Edwards and Regent Scholars. In addition, the new members are involved in varsity athletics, student government, volunteer service, and ROTC.

Name	Hometown
Chace Daily	Grand Island, NE (Central Catholic)
Ryan Duell	Omaha, NE (Millard North)
Matt Freudenthal	Aberdeen, SD
(Aberdeen Central)	Elliot Hohn
Sioux Falls, SD (Roosevelt)	David Keller
Newport, NE (Rock County)	Lucas Kellison
Lincoln, NE (Southeast)	
John Kyros	Omaha, NE (Creighton Prep)
Dave Leung	Lincoln, NE (Southeast)
Zach Martens	Seward, NE
Preston Mesick	Omaha, NE (Millard North)
Jason Parsons	Merna, NE (Broken Bow)
Brandon Poppert	Lincoln, NE (Lincoln East)
Jason Renner	Concordia, KS
Matt Roby	Watertown, SD
Matt Sage	Sioux Falls, SD (Washington)
Eden Prairie, MN	
Mark Schmitz	Omaha, NE (Westside)
Dan Sovo	Sioux Falls, SD (Lincoln)
Erik Steckler	Broken Bow, NE
David Thomas	Lincoln, NE (Lincoln East)
Richard Thomas	Scottsbluff, NE
Derek Timm	Brandon, SD (Lincoln)
Greg Walklin	



Chapter president Kyle Johnson accepts the John Reily Knox Award and poses with Senator Richard G. Lugar Denison '54 and General Secretary David Wright Ohio State '67 at the 163rd General Convention.

ALPHA TAU IS FIRST IN GRADES

Nebraska Chapter maintains academic excellence with a 3.51 cumulative GPA

For the spring 2002 semester the undergraduates of Beta Theta Pi posted a collective grade point average of 3.51, placing the chapter first among fraternities for the second consecutive semester. Alpha Tau was again well above the all-men's (3.052), all-fraternity (3.161), all-university (2.941), and all-Greek (3.227) averages.

"BETA THETA PI IS SIMPLY A COLLECTION OF THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST NU HAS TO OFFER. WE TRULY HELP GOOD MEN BECOME BETTER."

ANDREW VAUGHAN
NEBRASKA '04

Eleven men chalked perfect averages of 4.0 with nearly 35 men at or above a 3.50. The collegiate members attribute their academic success to careful selection in recruitment, superior facilities and resources, in addition to substance-free housing, all of which are conducive to the positive learning environment found within the chapter.

Remarking on the academic excellence of Alpha Tau, scholarship chairman Andrew Vaughan (AT 2035) commented, "Beta Theta Pi is simply a collection of the best and brightest NU has to offer. We truly help good men become better."

FOLSOM HONORED FOR SERVICE AND DEDICATION

On August 9th at our 163rd General Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, Brother Burton Folsom was awarded the Francis W. Shepardson Award.

The award, created to recognize exemplary devotion and dedication to the Fraternity, its objects and obligations, is named in memory of Francis Shepardson, *Denison 1882*, distinguished President and General Secretary of Beta Theta Pi. Folsom is one of only two Betas to serve in the top three leadership roles of the Fraternity; General Treasurer (1964-67), General Secretary (1967-71) and President (1987-1990).



Burton Folsom
Nebraska '49

Folsom currently resides with his wife Dell in Temple, Texas. Burton is seventh in an Alpha Tau legacy line, which includes Ernest Folsom *Nebraska 1898* and most recently Kent Folsom *Nebraska 1982*. Eleven members of the Folsom family are members of Beta Theta Pi at Nebraska.

FOCUS ON ALUMNI

The 163rd General Convention brought a second and well-deserved John Reily Knox Award to the men of Alpha Tau. On behalf of the Beta Theta Pi Foundation, let me offer our hearty congratulations. Something else from that Convention has the potential to yield even more for Alpha Tau in the years to come.

At the Convention, the Beta Theta Pi Foundation directors met alone and with the fraternity Board of Trustees to discuss an important initiative that is on our horizon. In the coming months, all Beta alumni and undergraduates will be learning more about the *Upon These Principles: A Campaign for Every Beta* that will generate financial support for Beta's three great principles.

This past year, the Foundation board and fraternity have conducted a feasibility study with the aid of professional counsel, and Beta's leadership has set out the mechanisms for conducting a multi-year capital campaign that will be unprecedented in the fraternity world. An ambitious goal will be announced at the 2003 Convention (Oxford, Ohio). At present we expect that about one-fourth of the campaign will fund our growth and the balance will fund our future. By focusing on three areas (Advisor Leadership and Education, *Men of Principle* Implementation, and Experiential Leadership Programs) the campaign aligns with Beta's three great principles.

As chairman of the Foundation Development Committee this year, I invite your involvements and look forward to working with Alpha Tau alumni and many other Beta brothers across North America. This October, I will travel to Washington DC to meet at the Capitol with US Senator Richard G. Lugar *Denison '54*, the honorary chairman of the campaign, at a working session.

The remarkable recent achievements of our chapter undergraduates, in combination with the rich history of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Nebraska, loudly signal the impact that *Upon These Principles: A Campaign for Every Beta* will have for Alpha Tau.

Yours in __ kai __,



The
**Dragon's
Tale**

Editor: Todd Mattox, AT 1986

All inquiries regarding this newsletter and how you can get involved with the chapter can be made to Todd Mattox *Nebraska '02* at (402) 436-

The world has changed since we were all undergraduates at the University of Nebraska and spent time at 1515 R Street. We have new technology, the world is much smaller and we are able to instantaneously communicate with anyone, anywhere, at anytime. There have been international conflicts all over the world in nearly every region. There is a perception that violence has become a part of the life style many people live today. Our society has terminal diseases such as AIDS/HIV and illegal cultural drugs that were not prevalent when we were in school. Sometimes we might wonder what will happen to our society and world in the future. That is when it is nice to be alumni of Beta Theta Pi and know the character and integrity the undergraduates of today possess.

I have been very fortunate to be the Chapter Advisor for Alpha Tau over the past six years. During this time I have grown to know some of the best and brightest young men anywhere in the world. Knowing these young, bright, and articulate leaders provides me with a sense of relief and confidence. As maturing adults, and in my case a "baby boomer," it makes me smile to know that Beta Theta Pi at the University of Nebraska is helping prepare outstanding leaders who will have an extremely positive impact on our local and global communities.

These men are already creating an impact with philanthropic and service events. They mentor students at a local elementary school, are raising money for many worthwhile local and national projects, and are serving in various leadership roles across the University campus. The Betas at Nebraska have made a positive name for themselves on campus, in the community, and at the level of the General Fraternity for their outstanding contributions.

As alumni members, I hope we are all aware of the impact our chapter is having and that we all continue to support the fraternity and undergraduates in our own way. This may be by visiting the chapter house on game day weekends, assisting with alumni dinners, interviews or ritual ceremonies during initiation week, participating in a shadowing or internship program, mentoring, or providing financial donations for scholarships and improvements. And if any alum needs a dose of optimism about the future, visit the Betas for a Monday night dinner and meeting, speak to the undergraduates, and witness the success of Alpha Tau first hand. Then you will be able to say the future is in good hands and "I am proud to be a Beta."

Yours in __ kai __,

Mike Wortman *Nebraska '70* (AT 1200)