



THE DRAGON'S TALE

Editor: Greg Walklin (AT 2077)

All inquiries regarding this newsletter and how you can get involved with the chapter can be made to Greg Walklin at 402-525-8709 or macguy@alltel.net



THE DRAGON'S TALE

HTTP://BETA.UNL.EDU

WINTER 2004

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEBRASKA CHAPTER, THE ALPHA TAU OF BETA THETA PI

ALPHA TAU INITIATES 18 YOUNG MEN



Back Row: Mark Antonson (AT 2103), Russell Swan (AT 2096), Barton Sattler (AT 2098), Matt Breck (AT 2107), Ryan Austad (AT 2110), Adam Goosen (AT 2105), Bret Wergin (AT 2112), Joe Manasek (AT 2104), Jon Brunot (AT 2100), Dan Huter (AT 2102), Jimmy Sevcik (AT 2109) and Ryan Legge (AT 2101). Front Row: Dan Kerr (AT 2111), Adam Barney (AT 2099), Cuyler Gembol (AT 2106), Matt Engler (AT 2095), Cody Kløver (AT 2108) and Pete Sveen (AT 2097).

Eighteen young men have signed their names to the rolls of the Alpha Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

And on Jan. 18, they, their parents and the chapter celebrated with a banquet at the Wick Center.

John Dittman (AT 1608) was the keynote speaker, framing his presentation around the famous "Bridge Builder" poem. Sam Jensen (AT 907) and George Madsen (AT 892) also spoke, and were recognized for being Fraternal Fifties. (For the other Fraternal Fifties, please see page 2.)

Josh Paula, as his last duty as vice president, organized the event. He detailed initiation week to the new initiates' parents, and Brian Butler, the former pledge educator, detailed the hard work done during the past semester.

The chapter selected Matt Engler (AT 2095) as honor pledge, and Neil Wood (AT 2093) as sophomore fellow.

The honor pledge is typically selected for best exemplifying the Beta Spirit during his pledgship; and the sophomore pledge is consider the most outstanding sophomore. Both received unique badges to wear for the next year in recognition of their contributions to the chapter.

The traditional "Loving Cup" ceremony was also performed. The ceremony commemorates the brotherhood of the chapter as well as recognizing John Reily Knox.

The pledges were relieved to get through "I-Week". However, they were also relieved that the chapter has taken steps to ensure a week of constructive activities, free of hazing and other destructive habits plaguing fraternities over the years.

They proved themselves worthy of bearing the badge of Beta Theta Pi.

-Dragon's Tale Redesigned-

In order to modernize a dated look—and in order to align closely the newsletter with the General Fraternity's graphical style—the Dragon's Tale has been redesigned. If you have any questions or comments (such as readability issues, etc.) please submit them to the editor.



THE DRAGON'S TALE



Beta Theta Pi Fraternity
1515 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 15
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

AT CONTINUES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Alpha Tau continued to put on a strong emphasis on academics—evident in this past fall's house average of 3.415.

The chapter finished ahead of the all university average of 3.058; the all university male average of 2.938; the all Greek average of 3.187; the non Greek male average of 2.898; and the all fraternity average of 3.067.

The chapter finished second overall amongst fraternities. However, unlike some other fraternities, Alpha Tau does not engage in the shifting of the roll according to pledge or active member's possible status or GPA. All members, regardless of initiatory status, are counted in the house GPA.

This semester, 11 men achieved 4.00s and 36 achieved a 3.50 GPA or above.

Two men, Russell Swan (AT 2096) and Adam Barney (AT 2099), will receive a \$500 scholarship and a gold Beta ring for 4.00 averages during their pledge semester.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:**

President-Brian Butler
Vice President-Will Norton
Treasurer-Ryan Hiatt
Secretary-Justin Norvig
Risk Manager-Ryan Boyle
Pledge Educator-Greg Walklin
Recruitment Chairman-Matt Sage
Social Chairman-Brad Slaughter
Scholarship Chairman-John Wood

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
NEW CABINET OFFICERS:**

Alumni Relations- Russell Swan
Rush- Jason Renner, Elliot Hohn
Historian-Geoff Mickells
Chaplin-Dan Kerr
Chorister-Jon Brunot
Social- Dan Doyle, Brett Wergin
Facilities- Cody Kluver
House and Grounds- Erik Steckler
Head Hasher-Mark Schmitz
IFC Representative-Matt Roby
Public Relations-Richard Thomas
Intramurals-Pete Sveen, Ryan Austad
Sergeant at Arms-Adam Barney
Involvement-Dave Thomas
Ritual-Zach Martens
Technology-Mark Antonson

OTHER CONGRATULATIONS:

-To Aaron Wiegart (AT 2044), David Ridenour (2013), Justin Sheets (AT 2042) and Andy Wiswall (AT 2031) for getting engaged.
-To Elliot Hohn (AT 2090), Matt Roby (AT 2083), Greg Walklin (AT 2077) and David Thomas (AT 2080) for being selected as Greek Ambassadors.
-To Andy Vaughan (AT 2035) for being a finalist for homecoming king.
-To Josh Paula (AT 2050) and Brian Butler (AT 2051) for being tackled into the Innocents Society; and to Tim Wardell (AT 2054) for being tapped into Mortar Board.
-To Brian Butler, Josh Paula and Will Norton (AT 2056) for being accepted into Order of Omega.

**ALPHA TAU'S FRATERAL FIFITIES
FOR 2004**

Robert Barrett (AT 915)
William Bedwell (AT 909)
Dennis Brune (AT 911)
Gene Christiansen (AT 921)
Edward Cripe Jr. (AT 917)
Frederick Daly III (AT 897)
Gary Epley (AT 920)
John Fagan (AT 903)
Leroy Hefflinger (AT 904)
Ronald Hoel (AT 912)
Walter Horning Jr. (AT 908)
Sam Jensen (AT 907)

William Kampfe (AT 895)
George Madsen (AT 892)
James McGath (AT 894)
John Peterson (AT 918)
Richard Reische (AT 901)
Ronald Schneider (AT 905)
Gerard Stever (AT 906)
Thomas Stitt (AT 910)
Melvin Thornton (AT 893)
Philip Weingart (AT 902)
Emmet Wier (AT 899)

These 23 celebrated their 50th anniversary of being Betas. If any other Betas wish to contact them to congratulate, you can find their addresses online at the Beta Web site, available in the "Members Only" section of <<http://www.betathetapi.org>>.

ALPHA TAU PILOTS GREEK REEVOLUTION

PROGRAM TO HELP IMPROVE NEBRASKA GREEK SYSTEM

Alpha Tau has joined a program seeking to help improve the Greek System at Nebraska.

The program, funded by a two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, started with a two-day seminar for the new executive officers this past January.

Alpha Tau was selected for piloting the program, along with Sigma Chi, Delta Upsilon, Phi Kappa Psi, and Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternities, and Pi Beta Phi and Alpha Omicron Pi Sororities.

The program's goal, according to the Greek Reevolution's Web Site, is to "help our fraternities and sororities in the UNL Greek system become safe living and learning environments that attract high-quality members."

Reasoning for the program: "The achievement of this goal requires a 're-evolution' of the Greek system's association with the negative effects of alcohol. To

return back to our core values, purpose, and activities, we must recognize and change the high-risk drinking culture of Greek members at UNL."

Alpha Tau participated in an alcohol survey, statistically figuring a range of habits involving alcohol consumption; the house then attended a session presenting the results (the results were only made known to the chapter for self-assessment).

According to the web site, the program came into being because of criticism of Greek life: "Many believe that the Greek system itself has become little more than a collection of drinking clubs, and the public perception has led to a decrease in the number of students who join fraternities."

Though Alpha Tau has not had many problems of that sort recently, the chapter still desires to stay proactive and work on eliminating any possible problems.

—HOW TO GET INVOLVED—

**BY GREG WALKLIN
ALUMNI RELATIONS CHAIRMAN**

Todd Mattox (AT 1986), the previous alumni relations chairman, always said this job was about building relationships. He did an excellent job; this past year I've just tried to continue his work to the best of my ability.

I feel we have tried hard to establish an outreach for alumni. This past September Alpha Tau hosted alumni to the chapter house to celebrate 115 years of Beta at Nebraska. We have also hosted individual alumni and groups of alumni at the chapter house for formal dinner. We have had alumni during rush and at our initiation banquet.

Yet, there are many alumni out there who would like to get involved with the chapter—and build relationships themselves.

So I've tried to institute programs allowing willing alumni to get involved with the chapter themselves—and actively pursue improving the chapter if they so choose. We have an excellent support staff of chapter counselors, but we are always open to more input.

These programs will soon be taking shape, and will be mainly spearheaded by the next alumni relations chair, Russell Swan—but for now, I'm happy to work with any alumni to get involved in the chapter.

We will be soon setting up an e-mail listserv so the chapter can correspond with alumni efficiently and frequently (and so an alumnus can reach other alumni, too). If you would like to register for this listserv, please e-mail me (address below), and I will add you to a list that will eventually be converted to a listserv. Eventually, we hope to make this process a part of our chapter web site, which is now in the stages of a major reconstruction.

Also, we have added maintaining an alumni liaisons program to the official duties of the alumni relations chairman. The alumni relations chair will coordinate the program; and he will disperse important information or dates on activities to the class liaisons, who will then be in charge of contacting a certain time span of alums (corresponding with his years in the house). If you would like to volunteer for this program—and volunteers are needed—please contact me by phone or e-mail. I will

then send you more information about the program.

We always encourage alumni to visit the house for a formal dinner, chapter or house tour: they can survey the house for themselves. The men of Alpha Tau always look forward to alumni visits—we are happy to show off the house and all the hard work we have done. Usually, alumni give a short impromptu speech with their recollections about past house experiences. These are enjoyed by the chapter.

There are many alumni out there who would like to get involved in the chapter—and build relationships themselves.

Lastly, if you know someone you think would make a good Beta, please contact Matt Sage, the current recruitment chairman, at sagebrush46@hotmail.com. As many of you know, we do rush in the summer (and have pledged ship the fall semester), and are looking for any

superior high school senior or college freshman ready to improve himself even further.

Or, if you have a nomination for the alumni contribution award (recognized by the chapter at the end of second semester), please send me an e-mail. The chapter votes on this issue later on in the spring semester, but it would be valuable to have some alumni input on who has been working hard.

Thanks for your time. It has been a pleasure serving the alumni of Alpha Tau this past year.

Yours in ___ kai ___,

Greg Walklin
Alumni Relations Chairman
402-525-9709
macguy@alltel.net

ALUMNI THANKS

-Thanks to Dave Holst (AT 1306) for donating \$1000 for chapter improvements, including the purchase of a Chapter Coat of Arms.
-Thanks to Bill Gibson (AT 994) for donating, in the memory of his brother, Bob (AT 1116), \$1000 for living room improvements.
-Thanks to Sam Jensen (AT 907) for a \$100 donation to the chapter