




Editor: Cheney Neesen (AT 2230)

All inquiries regarding this newsletter and how you can get involved with the chapter can be made to Ben Theye at [alumni@beta.unl.edu](mailto:alumni@beta.unl.edu)



 Beta Theta Pi Fraternity  
1515 R Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

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



[WWW.BETA.UNL.EDU](http://WWW.BETA.UNL.EDU)

# THE DRAGON'S TALE

JANUARY 2011

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

## ALPHA TAU WELCOMES 27 NEW BROTHERS

On Saturday January 15th, Alpha Tau welcomed 27 new members to its rolls. The initiation ceremony took place at noon on Saturday, and was followed by the traditional visit to Valentino's buffet by the actives and new initiates.

This year's pledge class worked hard during their pledge semester in terms of academics and community service. Four members of the class attained 4.0 GPAs, and had a cumulative GPA of 3.526, much higher than the all university men's average of 2.949 and the all Greek men's average of 3.117.

Pledge Educator, Andrew Dowd (AT 2225), said, "This class was awesome. It was obvious how much they cared about Beta and they showed it by working hard to attain success socially, academically and in the community."

The initiation banquet was held the next day at the Wick Alumni Center across the street from the chapter house. Actives and the new initiates' parents were invited to attend the lunch to celebrate the semester's worth of hard work.

This year's alumni speaker was ex-general fraternity president, Robert Schaupp. Brother Schaupp is the grandfather of this year's honor pledge, Kurt Siebert (AT 2259). In his speech, brother Schuapp spoke of the many accomplishments of Alpha Tau including our 16 Sisson awards and record 9 Knox Awards. Even saying, "It would be hard to argue that Alpha Tau is not one of – if not THE – best Beta chapters in North America."

As well as brother Schaupp, sophomore fellow, Jake Schumacher (AT 2256) and honor pledge, Kurt Siebert spoke. Both spoke of their journeys as out of state students, and the role Beta played in helping them adjust to college life.

After the speakers, all brothers in attendance joined in on the loving cup ceremony. Kurt Seibert said, "It was an awesome end to a great week and great semester."

All are excited and proud to see 27 more outstanding men join the lifelong brotherhood of Beta Theta Pi.

*Pictured above:*

*Back row from left to right:* JR Bloom, Michael Schwabe, Andy Johns, Rohan Sohi, Kevin Broderson, Nick Jester, Nate Watley, Nolan Johnson, Jason Barker. *Middle row:* Pat Lusk, Jeff Sheets, Grant Smith, Tyler Carpenter, Spencer Morris, Quentin Orr, Kurt Seibert, Taylor Frederick *Front row:* Grant Fehr, Adam Salistean, Jayk Wilson, Jeff Rosno, Nate Dederman, Tate Schad, Matthew Moore, Daniel Baylog, Abe Karimi



## MEET NEW PRESIDENT: ANDREW DOWD

This year's president Andrew Dowd didn't have the usual journey to becoming a Beta. After attending Lincoln Southwest High School, Andrew decided to attend Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. But after first semester Andrew decided to transfer back to Lincoln.

After living at home his second semester, he decided to take part in the rush process the summer before his sophomore year. He was helped along by his father Dr. Michael Dowd (AT 1450), DDS, who was a Beta graduate back in 1978.

"I was really drawn to Beta because of their academics, campus wide involvement, leadership development, and social network."

Andrew took leadership positions in the house from the start. He was elected as a rush cabinet member



the summer after his first year in the house, and was elected pledge educator this past year. Not only does he have a strong passion for Beta, but he is also heavily involved in the American Can-

cer Society Relay for Life. Acting as an executive member for the city wide event held in the beginning of April. The event raised over \$36,000 last year for cancer research projects.

Being involved heavily in Beta and on campus does not leave a lot of time for class work, but somehow Andrew is able to juggle it all while still maintaining an excellent GPA. He is a pre-medicine biochemistry major with math and chemistry minors, and hopes to attend the University of Nebraska Medical Center some day.

"This coming year, my goal is to maintain the standard of excellence Alpha Tau has experienced the past few years."

If you would like to contact Andrew with questions or concerns he is available via email at [president@beta.unl.edu](mailto:president@beta.unl.edu)

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S DECEMBER GRADUATES

- Scott Barker
- Ross Weiting
- Tyler Hawkins
- Carson Vaughn
- Adam Peterson

### NEW EXEC MEMBERS ELECTED

With over 8 hours of discussion and voting, Alpha Tau elected a new exec team on Sunday November 14th. Many qualified candidates ran, and 11 members were decided upon. This year's exec team consists of four sophomores and seven juniors. Four are returning exec members, and the seven new members hope to make their mark as leaders in the house.

A new position was added to the exec team this year, Alumni Relations. The position is normally a cabinet position which generally goes to a freshman. This year the house decided more emphasis was needed at fostering better relationships with our alumni through improved

communication and a fostering of Beta brotherhood.

A key goal of this year's alumni relations chair, Ben Theye, is to have alumni come to Monday night formal dinners. "I think this is a great way for alumni and actives to get to know each other on a personal basis," said Ben Theye. "Not only do we as actives get to know some older brothers, but they also get to come back and experience Beta again."

If you would like to come to a formal dinner, feel free to contact Ben Theye at 402-806-3284 or [alumni@beta.unl.edu](mailto:alumni@beta.unl.edu).

President – *Andrew Dowd*  
 Vice President – *Miles Tommeraasen*  
 Treasurer – *Joel Jacox*  
 Secretary – *Cheney Neesen*  
 Scholarship – *Steven Ebers*  
 Risk Manager – *Jake Kauffman*

Philanthropy – *Rahul Batra*  
 Social – *Parker Smith*  
 Alumni Relations – *Ben Theye*  
 Recruitment – *Jacob Hedgecock*  
 Pledge Educator – *Michael Mumaugh*

# ALPHA TAU CONTINUES ACADEMIC SUCCESS

## HAS HIGHEST AVERAGE GPA AMONG UNL FRATERNITIES

Beta continued its strive for academic success this past semester. The house claimed an all house average GPA of 3.516. This is the highest GPA the house has achieved in 5 years, and ranked the house number 1 among all fraternities. The GPA was enough to beat out rival Farmhouse who fell short by a hefty margin of .119 (attaining a 3.397).

The all University GPA for males was 2.949, over a half point lower than Alpha Tau's average. Also, the all-fraternity male average was 3.117, 11.3% lower than the average member of Beta.

The house GPA improved from a 3.451 last semester- con-

tinuing the trend of semester by semester improvement.

The GPA improvement was helped along by a total of 16 perfect, 4.0, GPAs, including 4 from this year's pledge class.

This year's rush chair, Jake Hedgecock said, "Coming in first in grades helps a lot with recruitment. Kids want to join a fraternity they know will help lead them to academic success. By coming in first we are showing them what is possible if they join Alpha Tau."

Not only does academic success help the house in recruitment but it is also taken notice by faculty on campus. Rahul Batra said, "It's awesome how professors realize the hard work and effort the house puts into school work. It's almost like they hear 'Beta,' and automatically respect you a little more than an average student."

Beta also takes pride in the fact that it has a large diversity of majors, from engineering and business to piano performance and philosophy. This draws many rushees to take a closer look at Beta. Nick Jester, a freshman vocal performance major said, "I was really drawn to Beta because of the fact that my major is so unique. Many times I think fraternities are stereotyped as being all business majors."

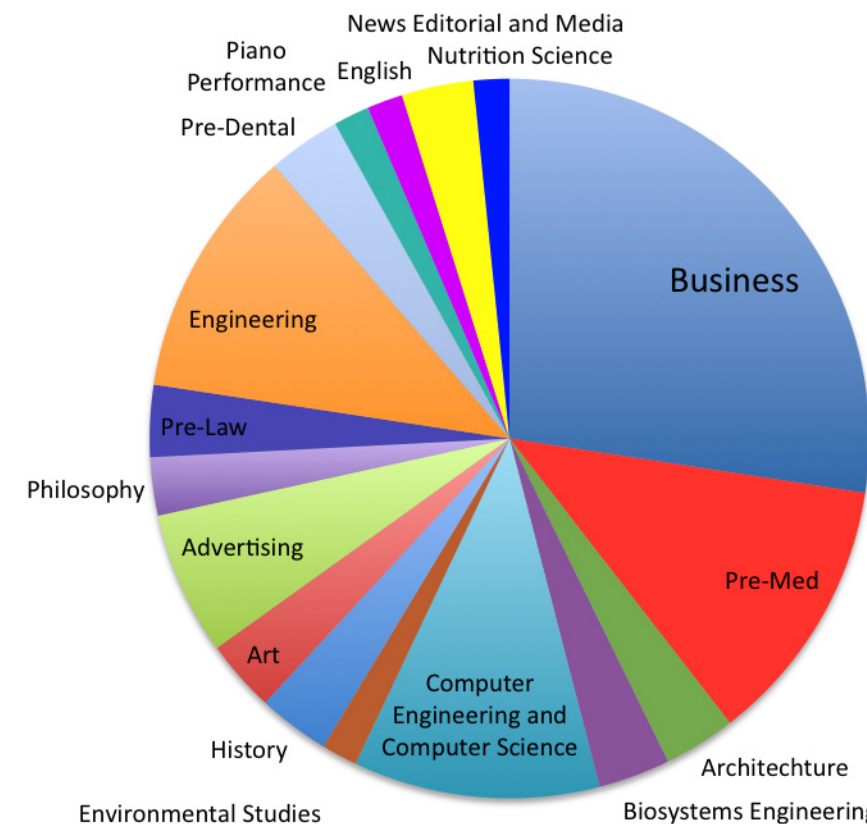
The graph featured to the left demonstrates this diversity.

Once again the record shows, Beta continues to be dedicated to academic success year in and year out.

### 1. BETA THETA PI - 3.516

2. Farmhouse - 3.397

3. Sigma Phi Epsilon - 3.368



\*Business includes Accounting, Finance, Economics, Business Administration and International Business

\*\*Engineering includes Mechanical, Electrical and Civil