



THE DRAGON'S TALE

FALL 2015

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

HELP US REACH OUR CAMPAIGN GOAL OF \$3 MILLION

Our capital campaign remains near our goal of \$3,000,000. Full figures and the listing of financial supporters are posted to our website, www.1515r.org.

A few points we would like you to consider:

- ◆ For those who have not yet made a pledge, a contribution can still be made, which will help ensure that our chapter remains strong. Payments can still be made over a five-year period, but a one-time pledge reduces our interest expense. See the third bullet point below. The above website includes a pledge form for our campaign.

- ◆ If you have made a pledge, you can increase the amount if you want to further enhance your financial commitment.

- ◆ If you have pledged an amount over a specific period of time, paying the remaining amount now will reduce the interest expenses on our debt. Remember that contributions made to the University of Nebraska Foundation may be tax deductible. Contributions to the Beta Theta Pi Alumni Association of Nebraska are not tax deductible, but they help the campaign. Our campaign benefits either way with 100% of the pledge going toward our goal.

Questions can be directed to either one of us. Thanks to each of you for your consideration, and for your financial and emotional support.

Yours in __kai__,
Campaign Chairmen

Bruce McKeag '65

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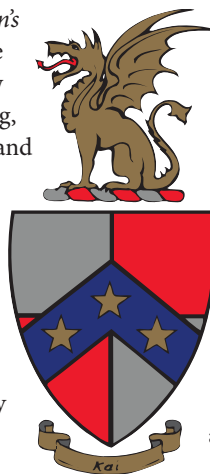
Bill Dana '76

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THE EXPERIENCE COMPANY SERVES AS DRIVING FORCE IN THE FUTURE OF ALPHA TAU

In the spring issue of *The Dragon's Tale*, we introduced you to The Experience Company—the new organization committed to researching, developing, funding, implementing, and administering programs designed to enhance the undergraduate learning experience for Betas and others at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since then, there have been exciting new developments in the leadership program, website, and information system that The Experience Company has helped champion.



On March 13, Beta undergraduates visited Gallup's campus in Omaha to undergo executive-level strengths training with one of Gallup's most experienced strength coaches. With Alpha Tau alumni **Ed Miller '81** and **Jim Krieger '72** hosting the event, undergraduate members came away with a greater understanding of themselves, their peers, and how to best position themselves to achieve career goals.

In an effort to build on the knowledge gained from Gallup's strength day, Chapter Counselor **Mike Wortman '70** and former Alpha Tau President **Kurt Siebert '11** volunteered to coach our undergraduates so they may better understand and apply their strengths. Kurt has been employed with Gallup for the past two years, and Mike recently traveled to Chicago to undergo Gallup's strength coach training. With the help of Kurt and Mike, our strengths-based leadership program implemented in our chapter is certain to grow in effectiveness to benefit our chapter and its members.

Over the past several months, there have been significant developments in The Experience Company's ability to support the Alpha Tau Chapter and the UNL community. The Experience Company obtained designation as a 501(c)(3) organization, a tax-exempt entity. We will be able to accept donations that may be deductible on individual donor tax returns. With this development, we will not only be able to support our undergraduates more efficiently, but also benefit our donors.

The Experience Company's abilities to achieve its goals will be further enhanced by the completion of our new website, www.nebraskabeta.com, in the near future. Users can expect a website that is more attractive, clean, and optimized for desktop PCs and mobile smartphones. Additionally, we will create a database where Betas can update and manage their personal information and contact other Alpha Tau Betas.

The Experience Company looks forward to working with our chapter and the UNL community to improve the college experience for all associates of our fraternity.

Stay tuned for further updates!

Yours in __kai__,

Tyler Carpenter '11, AT 2274

President, The Experience Company

Recruitment near all-time high. See page 4 for more details!

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

Andy Ngo '15 Reflects on Successful Journey as Co-Creator and Innovator

Brotherhood, scholarship, philanthropy, and genuine care for the good of the community. These are just a few of the characteristics that

Andy Ngo '15 uses to describe the Alpha Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi, as he is thankful to be part of an organization that challenges him to exceed expectations and strive for excellence in every aspect of his life. "Beta has supported me and built me into the confident, strong individual I have long wished to become. The continual support and intellectual growth I receive with each interaction I have with my brothers is nothing I will ever give away. The men of Alpha Tau are people whom I consider my best friends and individuals whom I trust and highly respect," he says.

The critical life skills and powerful friendships that Andy has gained during his time in Alpha Tau have encouraged him to excel in his interests as an innovator and co-creator on campus and in the community. "My desire as a co-creator is not only to continually grow and develop newer approaches to innovation, but to also have the willingness to put in the work to make that happen. I serve on the selection team committee and speaker coach committee for TEDxLincoln, a nonprofit organization. My role is to assist with interviews to select speakers for our annual event, then develop speeches to prepare them for the mainstage. Another organization I am involved with is Launch Leadership, a nonprofit organization that consists of an all-volunteer staff that provides year-round services for middle and high school students to promote and develop youth

leadership as a tool with which to better individuals, organizations, schools, and communities. My work with Launch Leadership is that I currently serve

on the new staff training committee, the social media team, and as a co-op leader who facilitates activities at year-round services. These services include school leadership retreats, one-day workshops, and our annual five-day, four-night summer leadership workshop that recently served 433 students across Nebraska and eight other states. It is a truly remarkable feeling knowing that I am able to play a significant role in the development of these individuals' potential and success."

Andy's tremendous commitment to service and innovation has made an incredible impact within the Nebraska community, and he encourages others to pursue their interests and aspirations and make a difference. "Find what you truly wish to be part of and what values

are important to you. Ignite conversations with others to discover their involvement and to see how it aligns with what you want. You cannot find something in which to be involved in or passionate about unless you put yourself in a position to be a part of it. Regardless of what you invest your time and energy in, it will always serve as a learning experience."

When he is not dedicating his time to community involvement and innovating, Andy enjoys playing tennis and basketball, reading, and spending time with friends. You can contact Andy at andymngo@gmail.com.



Andy Ngo '15, Mike Wortman '70, Mark Antonson '06, and Jonathan Mueller '15 proudly accept Alpha Tau's 13th Knox Award and 18th Sisson Award.

Centennial Mall Receives Upgrades

The remodeling of the chapter house three years ago changed very little of the outside appearance of our physical plant. Visitors to the house, however, will notice changes taking place on Centennial Mall, the old 15th Street, just to the west. The mall, first completed in 1967, is receiving an extensive facelift of four blocks stretching from R Street south to the Nebraska State Capitol. The campaign is being led by Mary Arth, widow of **Lawrence J. Arth '62**. Larry was treasurer of the Alpha Tau Chapter in 1966.

OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

Eugene S. Merchant '43 of Lincoln, Neb., entered Our Mystic Shrine on October 6. He graduated from the University of Nebraska Dental College in 1947, and was in private practice in Omaha for many years before holding positions at Creighton University Dental School, and then at the University of Nebraska Dental College (including Associate Dean and Interim Dean) from 1965 to 1988. Eugene is survived by three children.

William H. Hein '48 of Paradise Valley, Ariz., entered Our Mystic Shrine on March 1. William was originally from Alliance, Neb., and graduated from the University of Nebraska Law School. He was in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, and was a member of the California Bar after his military service before retiring in Arizona several years ago. William is survived by his wife of 62 years, Anne, who reported that, "When he couldn't see well, I would read him *The Dragon's Tale* newsletter and the Beta magazine." Anne also says, "My dad was a Beta, and when I was dating, if the man wasn't a Beta, I had to

be home early. I was discouraged from additional dates. When I met William Hein, who was a Beta, my father told me everything was fine and I could even stay out late since my father knew he would be a gentleman."

Thomas E. Harper '51 of Omaha, Neb., entered Our Mystic Shrine on March 28. Thomas is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Medora, and three daughters.

Harlan "Bud" H. Wiederspan '51 of Lincoln, Neb., entered Our Mystic Shrine on September 22. He was a U.S. Navy pilot in the Korean Conflict, and was the owner/operator of Ford Van Lines in Lincoln for 57 years prior to his 1999 retirement. He is survived by his wife, Susan, and seven children.

Donald D. Geis '57 of Lincoln, Neb., entered Our Mystic Shrine on April 20. He was a stockbroker for a number of years in the Lincoln area.



Collin Tussin '13, Hunter Day '13, and Adam Klanecky '13 participated in their last pledge versus active football game.



Philip Melchert '14 and Andrew Palmesano '14 attended the John and Nelle Wooden Leadership Institute at Miami University. This experience provides members deeper insight into Beta's core values and principles, builds leadership skills, and promotes community service projects.



Members enjoyed participating in UNL's annual Children's Miracle Network dance marathon event.

ONWARD AND UPWARD UNDERGRADUATES SHED POSITIVE LIGHT ON CAMPUS

The 2015-16 school year arrived for the Alpha Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi with new opportunities. Last summer, the chapter was successful in winning its 13th Knox Award, the highest award any Beta chapter can win. The Alpha Tau Chapter has earned more Knox Awards than any other in Beta's long history. The chapter was also awarded its 18th Sisson Award. Both the Knox and Sisson Awards are given for chapter excellence. Many new changes are in store this year, from a new house director to a new focus on the social aspect of our fraternity.

Alpha Tau Welcomes New House Director

This fall, we welcomed Josh Gannon as our new house director. Although we were very disappointed when our former house director, Michael Wismer, left for another job opportunity outside of Nebraska, we were excited to have a candidate like Josh available. Josh has exceptional experience in the Greek community as he served as chapter president of his Acacia chapter at Oregon State University for two terms, and as a leadership consultant for Acacia for two years following his graduation from OSU. He has experience in the undergraduate and the general fraternity points of view, and understands the needs of each. Please help welcome Josh to his new home in Lincoln.

36 New Pledges Learn the Ways of Wooglin

The Alpha Tau Chapter pledged 36 new members this summer. Recruitment Chairman **Parker Stock '14** and his team excelled this summer in obtaining a large group of exceptional, quality new members. These young men have been

turned over to Pledge Educator **Jon Latka '14** to impart the lore, songs, and values of an active member of Beta Theta Pi. One of my favorite sayings is, "Show me your pledge class and I will show you what your house will be in two years," because I can confidently say the house is in good hands for the future.

Success Breeds Success

All of the core values of Beta Theta Pi are expected of members, but cultivation of the intellect is perhaps the most stressed. Last spring, the chapter grade point average was 3.337. This mark was good for third place among all fraternities and first place of fraternities with more than the IFC average number of members. Our success in this area comes from Alpha Tau's ongoing hunger to reach ever higher.

An Evolving Social Atmosphere on Campus

Last year, a tragedy occurred on campus with the passing of a FarmHouse pledge. Labor Day marked the one-year anniversary of his death. Reflecting over the past year, the Greek system has not forgotten this tragedy. For Beta and other leading chapters on campus, it means taking a hard look at our culture and educating ourselves on how to prevent a similar tragedy from being repeated. In coordination with the Interfraternity Council, an overhaul of the social standards on campus has taken place. Further, Beta Theta Pi, FarmHouse, and other leading fraternities have formed a committee to hold each other accountable and discuss evolving needs to social change on campus. Hopefully over time, all fraternities on campus will join

this group to have an open discussion about how we, as fraternity men, can ensure the safety and reputation of our friends and brothers.

Thank You, Alumni, for Your Support

The active Alpha Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi cannot thank our dedicated alumni enough for the support we've received throughout the years. We now enter our third year in a renovated chapter house, which without the commitments of many alumni would not have come to fruition. A commitment to brotherhood has helped to build one of the strongest fraternities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and nationwide for years to come.

Yours in __kai__,

Alex Kindopp '13

Chapter President

(402) 650-4420

president@nebraskabeta.com



Actives (wearing black) and pledges (wearing red) line up for the annual pledge versus active football game.

ALPHA TAU CHAPTER RECRUITS 36 NEW PLEDGES, CREATES FUTURE LEADERS



THE DRAGON'S TALE

After months of work and preparation for this year's recruitment, Alpha Tau signed a class of 36 new members from all across the Midwest, which exceeded our average class size of 30 new members the past three years. The chapter worked as a team this summer to show the new members what Beta has to offer them, and we have recruited a class of well-rounded men who exemplify the qualities of Beta. Thanks to the efforts of Assistant Recruitment Chairmen **Nate Morhardt '14** and **Marshall Scott '14**, as well as the incredible recommendations from our alumni, we brought in one of the strongest pledge classes that Beta has seen in several years. Pledge Educator **Jon Latka '14** is doing an exceptional job teaching them the lore and values of our fraternity. We have high hopes for this class, and we are confident in the future of the Alpha Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi that will be in their hands. I would like to thank the outstanding alumni base and active chapter for their help and support in recruiting the best class possible!

Yours in __kai__,
Parker Stock '14
Recruitment Chairman

Beta Theta Pi Alumni Association of Nebraska
P.O. Box 22251
Lincoln, NE 68542

PSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
66044
PERMIT #570

WELCOME, NEW PLEDGES

Alex Bernhardson
 Fargo, N.D.

Chase Caverzagie
 Papillion, Neb.

Mike Charvat
 Omaha, Neb.

Lucas Culbertson
 Lincoln, Neb.

Alan Davis
 Omaha, Neb.

Aaron Ficek
 Lincoln, Neb.

Nathan Goltz
 Aurora, Neb.

Josh Greisen
 Omaha, Neb.

Tyler Groth
 Omaha, Neb.

Ryan Grove
 Elkhorn, Neb.

Tanner Haas
 Lincoln, Neb.

Jake Johnson
 Elkhorn, Neb.

Michael Kardell
 Elkhorn, Neb.

Merrett Lane
 Omaha, Neb.

Sam Maxwell
 Sioux Falls, S.D.

Cole Meister
 Omaha, Neb.

Griffin Mims
 Kearney, Neb.

Connor Mohar
 Overland Park, Kan.

Gage Mruz
 Blair, Neb.

Alex Ober*
 Lincoln, Neb.

Nico Orti
 Lincoln, Neb.

Austen Ortmeier
 Omaha, Neb.

Andrew Person
 Overland Park, Kan.

Nathan Pettid
 Omaha, Neb.

John Pfeifer
 Grand Island, Neb.

Koel Radtke*
 Jefferson, S.D.

Jack Rice
 Lincoln, Neb.

Jesse Rood
 Seward, Neb.

Will Schulenberg
 Winnetonka, Minn.

Preston Schulte*
 Lincoln, Neb.

Max Sealer
 Omaha, Neb.

Jacob Shiohira
 Bentonville, Ark.

Brian Smith
 Lincoln, Neb.

Noah Thornton
 Papillion, Neb.

Jared Tommeraasen*
 Lincoln, Neb.

Cal White
 Lincoln, Neb.

*Legacy

A TRADITION of EXCELLENCE

With 36 new pledges this fall, the Alpha Tau Chapter is in the midst of an exciting period of growth. With so many pledges and 10 of them not living in the chapter house, it will be a challenge to create the sense of brotherhood that every Beta remembers with his pledge class. We are, however, confident that these new freshmen are committed to each other and to the house in order to continue Beta's tradition of excellence on campus.

Pledges and their parents were welcomed with a move-in day lunch on August 20. Chapter Counselor **Mike Wortman '70** and chapter officers provided insight into the Greek system, Alpha Tau, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We are excited to welcome these new pledges, and look forward to their initiation once pledgship has concluded!

Yours in __kai__,
Jon Latka '14
Pledge Educator



WEBSITE
beta.unl.edu



WEBSITE
www.1515r.org



FACEBOOK
Beta Theta Pi -
University of Nebraska



TWITTER
[@AlphaTauChapter](https://twitter.com/AlphaTauChapter)



LINKEDIN
Beta Theta Pi,
Alpha Tau Chapter