



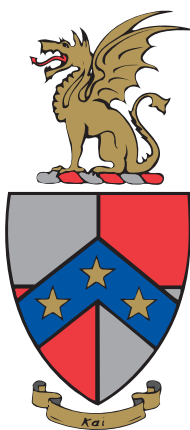
THE DRAGON'S TALE

FALL 2016

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

Building Bonds and Networking Potential The Experience Company Creates a Professional Connection between Alumni and Undergraduates

This semester, Alpha Tau is incredibly fortunate to be working alongside The Experience Company (TEC) that was established by a handful of alumni, including **Grant Gregory '60**, **Steve Andersen '60**, **Bill Dana '76**, **Dave Karnes '68**, **Tyler Carpenter '11**, and **Conner Dana '08**. TEC is confident in the talent of the young men in Beta, who consistently graduate at the top of their classes. One of the multiple benefits available will be internships. Providing the men of Beta Theta Pi with internship and job opportunities using the connections of our extensive alumni base will continue the successes that Beta provides to its members. Additionally, alumni may choose to be paired with an undergraduate member that applies for a mentorship opportunity. It is our goal for these impactful, cross-generational relationships between Men of Principle to open up new professional opportunities and start friendships that will last a lifetime.



alumni's connections, we are excited to move forward with these life-changing new programs.

Grant Gregory, founder of Arbor Bank in Omaha and vice chairman of The Experience Company, and **Kurt Siebert '11**, who is employed by the Gallup Organization in Omaha, spoke at our Parent's Weekend held at the Wick Alumni Center on November 12. A large room of alumni, undergraduate members, and their parents were given an overview of The Experience Company. They also spoke about how thousands of top executives use Gallup Strengths. Every day, these leaders place themselves and others in strategic positions that maximize the potential of their natural strengths. Grant and Kurt continued to explain how these same Gallup Strengths and the accompanying training will be implemented throughout the entire chapter. This program also intends to work with a rippling effect and also impact the parents of our brothers and the alumni who choose to be mentors too.

At the core of this initiative is the undergraduate and alumni database accessible on the new, user-friendly website, www.nebraskabeta.com. All alumni and undergraduate members have an account where their information can be updated and used to reach out to brothers who they have not contacted in years. This website and our LinkedIn group, *Beta Theta Pi, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*, will make it easier for employers to contact potential employee prospects—and vice versa. We are maximizing opportunity areas where other fraternities have not succeeded. With our

The Experience Company is a 501(c)(3) organization that allows tax-deductible contributions to support education and leadership development. If you are interested in learning more about TEC or becoming a mentor, please email experiencecompany@nebraskabeta.com.

Yours in __kai__,
Kaleb Duncan '15

ON THE HOME STRETCH

Alumni Support Needed to Wrap Up Active Phase of Campaign by December 31

The facilities of the remodeled and updated Alpha Tau chapter house continue to be fully utilized; 71 members live in the house. And the building is home to 112 men. Incoming freshmen don't always initially understand brotherhood and Greek life, but the chapter house is a positive point of consideration as they go through summer recruitment. Previous issues of *The Dragon's Tale* and our appeal for funds are available on the new Alpha Tau website, www.nebraskabeta.com. Since the campaign started, most **but not all** of our funds have been raised.

Please Help Us Out!

To complete our announced goal of \$3,000,000 (or more for a slight cushion), it would be great to have the campaign wrapped up by December 31. Pledges made to the University of Nebraska Foundation may be 100% tax deductible, and our chapter receives all of the funds directed to the Foundation. *Checks should be made payable to the University of Nebraska Foundation.*

Whether paying off an existing pledge, which reduces interest costs, increasing an existing pledge, or making a pledge for the first time—pledge forms and other valuable information are located at our website. Contributions can also be

paid to the Beta Theta Pi Alumni Association of Nebraska. *These are not tax deductible, but still help with project costs.* Either way, all pledges or additional donations are mailed to the same address on the pledge form.

Making a charitable contribution from an Individual Retirement Annuity may also be an option. According to an article in *Forbes* from December 20, 2015, Congress has voted to allow taxpayers over the age of 70 ½ to make an exclusion of up to \$100,000 per individual for IRA distributions given directly to charities.

(Continued on page 6)

UNDERGRADUATES STRIVE TO BE MEN OF PRINCIPLE

The Alpha Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi is excited about the 2016-17 school year and its promise of exciting developments. During the summer, the Alpha Tau Chapter continued its tradition of excellence with our record-high 14th Knox award along with the second-highest number of Sisson awards at 19. These are the two awards given during the Beta Theta Pi General Convention for chapter excellence. It was a sincere pleasure to accept these prestigious awards on behalf of the chapter at the 177th General Convention in Oklahoma City in August.

With the arrival of classes, we make sure to dedicate proper time to our academic pursuits thanks to Scholarship Chairman **Riley Heller '15**. A newly implemented scholarship team consisting of **Jason Hawkins '15** and **Alan Davis '16** will assist Riley in developing ways to boost our academic success. Our all-chapter GPA was a 3.383 for spring 2016, which placed us third among fraternities. Although we are proud of this average, we know we can do better.

I've truly enjoyed getting to know the members of the new pledge class, and I am impressed by the caliber and aspirations of these young men. They have reinstated a weekly 5K run in partnership with the kids at Lighthouse, an afterschool program founded by Alpha Tau alumnus **Pete Allman '76**. This is a distinct display of character, and I am proud of how they represent Beta Theta Pi. Without question, our recruitment success is due to Recruitment Chairman **Kevin Wilhelm '15** and his assistants, **Tanner Haas '16** and **Gage Mruz '16**. We now look to Pledge Educator **AJ Carpenter '15** to be both a friend and strict mentor to the freshmen.

Although it hasn't been easy, Beta leads the way in the changing social culture of the university. Issues include a non-Beta fraternity pledge passing away a year ago due to alcohol-related complications; multiple sexual assault cases (not involving Betas); and notable protests in the name of equality have all caused dynamic interactions among students and administration. One of the major forces at work is Title IX, a federal amendment for equal

opportunity in school systems. In order to better equip our new members for this environment, new material has been added to the Pledge Manual that includes presentations on alcohol awareness, mental health, and sexual assault. The active chapter is also well aware of the significance of these programs. Following the theme of *The Bridge Builder*, it is imperative that we are part of the solution on campus—and leave a better campus to those who follow after us. Our plans to achieve success range from holding awareness events for the community to simply living the high values of Beta Theta Pi. (Editor Note: *The Bridge Builder* is a poem by Will Allen Dromgoole, 1860-1934. Here is a link: www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/52702. There is also a bridge on the grounds of The General Fraternity office in Oxford, OH, that was built to fit that poem. Wooden Institute, a General Fraternity program for leadership development, has *The Bridge Builder* as a theme, and it is a point of the Men of Principle initiative that is the Mission Statement for all of Beta Theta Pi.)

Last spring, **Mitch May '14** and I were initiated into Mortar Board, the senior honorary; we are proud and excited to represent Beta.

Finally, the active chapter is thrilled to officially kickoff the alumni/active mentor program. The project is the result of hours of hard work by **Bruce McKeag '65**, **Bill Dana '76**, and **Kaleb Duncan '15**. Active members reached out to their counterparts in late September, and pairs have already begun to meet. We're excited to see where these mentor relationships go and how it will positively affect the chapter. The November 12 luncheon was a great time to reconnect with Betas young and old and celebrate an amazing program. Thank you for all those who have given back to the chapter. We are so fortunate to follow the path blazed by men before us.

Yours in __kai__,
Stephen Enke '15
Chapter President
president@nebraskabeta.com

Recruitment Recommendations from Alumni Lead to 32-Member Pledge Class

I was fortunate to serve as the recruitment chairman for the Alpha Tau Chapter throughout the last recruiting season. Let me start by thanking alumni for recruitment recommendations last spring and summer. These recommendations helped immensely in finding new prospects that may not have filled out a Greek application or those who we might have overlooked. The recruitment team, including **Tanner Haas '16** and **Gage Mruz '16**, would also like to thank all of the alumni who allowed us to use their resources for summer events, and those who came to assist the chapter in this process. We finished the summer with a pledge class of 32 men. We recruited nine from Lincoln, 11 from the Omaha metro area, four from other towns within Nebraska, and eight from out of state. We look forward to seeing these young men grow and mature throughout their collegiate and Beta experiences.

Yours in __kai__,
Kevin Wilhelm '15
Recruitment Chairman
recruitment@nebraskabeta.com

LARGE PLEDGE CLASS CREATES STRONGER NEED FOR BROTHERHOOD BONDING

With 32 new pledges this fall, the chapter is in the midst of an exciting period of growth. Our pledge wing of the chapter house holds 24 men with a total of 27 pledges living in. Unfortunately, not all of our new members are living in the chapter house, so it is a challenge to create the sense of brotherhood that every Beta remembers with his pledge class. However, we are confident that these new freshmen are committed to each other and to the chapter and will continue Beta's tradition of excellence on campus.

Pledges and their parents were welcomed with a move-in day lunch on August 18. Chapter Counselor **Mike Wortman '67** has been helping them develop their Gallup strengths, and chapter officers provided insight into the Greek system, Alpha Tau, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Pledges are required to maintain study hours, even those who are not living in the house. Songs to maintain some of our history are being learned, and each pledge has required duties. We are excited to welcome these new pledges, and look forward to their initiation once pledgship has concluded!

Yours in __kai__,

AJ Carpenter '15

Pledge Educator

pledge.educator@nebraskabeta.com

WELCOME, NEW PLEDGES

Nick Bouda
Omaha, NE

Tyler Jacobson
Malcolm, NE

Trae Miller
Lincoln, NE

Conner Cloyed
Omaha, NE

Austin Johnson
Lincoln, NE

Ryan Moore
Dakota Dunes, SD

Jack Doran
Omaha, NE

Carter Johnson
Lincoln, NE

Colin Pfeiffer
Marshall, MN

Tommy Dougherty
Sioux Falls, SD

Luke Johnson
Lincoln, NE

Conor Rayl
Fargo, ND

John Dunbar
Omaha, NE

Thailer Khamsanit
Omaha, NE

Drew Spadaro
New Berlin, WI

Connor Eksi
Overland Park, KS

Connor Koza
Sioux City, IA

Ben Toalson
Lincoln, NE

Jack Erikson
Omaha, NE

Ben Krull
Lincoln, NE

Blake Tooley
Omaha, NE

Tyler Gill
Lincoln, NE

Jake Lortz
Omaha, NE

Neal Weldon
Lincoln, NE

Braden Guess
Lincoln, NE

Jarod Marsden
Norfolk, NE

Cole Wellman
Papillion, NE

Lukas Hall
Omaha, NE

Trey McNeil
Kearney, NE

Kevin Woolworth
Overland Park, KS

Phil Holubeck
Omaha, NE

Matt Miller
Norfolk, NE

ONWARD AND UPWARD TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

An email sent by The General Fraternity on September 15 with the subject, "Raise the Roof: Top 40 GPAs," listed Beta chapters that were ranked first in scholarship standings at their universities. Unfortunately, Alpha Tau was not first on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. However, this disappointment does not take away from Alpha Tau's long-standing excellence with GPAs. Our chapter GPA was 3.337 for spring 2015, 3.357 for fall 2015, and 3.383 for spring 2016. All these grade point averages rank first to third for fraternities at UNL. Our GPA last semester ranks favorably with other leading Beta chapters.

Grades continue to be of the utmost priority for all active members and pledges. Study hours are required three times a week for new members to ensure that their academic progress takes priority during the first few semesters of their undergraduate experience. Beta Theta Pi maintains an extraordinarily high academic standing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and we work hard to stay there.

Grade reports for all pledges were received the first part of October to ensure that all pledges are in compliance with the requirements to become initiated members of the chapter. Should pledges not be in compliance with the academic standards of our chapter, they will be placed on academic probation until they can align their priorities with the rest of our chapter. This academic probation requires social probation and mandatory academic assistance in order to make certain these prospective members have the best opportunity possible to be initiated.

Overall, Beta continues to be a strong academic force at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We plan to uphold our standards and maintain the integrity and values of this chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

Yours in __kai__,

Riley Heller '15

Scholarship Chairman

scholarship@nebraskabeta.com

Monthly Speakers, Monday Night Dinners, and Mentors

Thank You, Alumni, for Your Guidance and Involvement

Alpha Tau has seen an increased alumni presence around the chapter house. This is in answer to requests by previous pledges, now the active sophomore class. Having implemented a monthly alumni speaker program last semester, we initiated a platform for active-alumni relations on a regular basis. Along with the constant support we see by the attendance of alumni to formal Monday night dinners, we are grateful for our alumni base. In September, we had the annual alumni golf tournament where alumni, actives, and their fathers were able to compete for a collection of prizes. The tournament had a dramatic increase in participants from years prior with a total of 76 players. This is also the first semester where we have our mentor program getting into full swing with alumni mentors meeting with their active counterparts to form lasting personal and professional

relationships. Members are blessed by alumni support to help us strive to be Men of Principle.

If you are interested in attending a Monday night dinner, please email me at least five days before our scheduled dinner so arrangements can be made. Monday night dinners start at 5:30 p.m., with and coat and tie required, and are followed by chapter meetings.

Yours in __kai__,

Mike Franken '15

Alumni Relations Chairman

alumni@nebraskabeta.com



BETA THETA PI

— MEN OF PRINCIPLE —

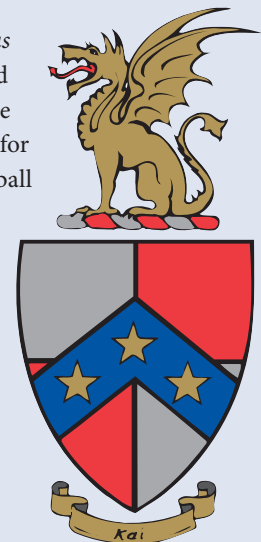
1960s Betas Reunited This Fall

The 1966 Beta pledge class held a reunion the weekend of October 22. It was a time for the *fabulous* forty members of our class to once again gather at 1515 R Street to renew friendships and brotherhood and catch up on happenings since we became pledges in the fall of 1966. In addition to members of the 1966 pledge class, members from the pledge classes of 1965 and 1967 were also invited. The schedule for the weekend included a tour of the renovated chapter house, attendance at the Purdue vs. Nebraska football game, and a social that evening at the home of **Dan Wherry '62**, who graciously offered to share his home for the reunion event. We also had a small gathering at the home of **John McHenry '67** on Friday evening. Also in attendance was our recruitment chairman, **Steve Hutchins '64**, and **Bruce McKeag '65**, who was instrumental in helping us contact our Beta brothers all over the country. It was a great opportunity to remember our bonds of brotherhood and to once again be thankful for our Beta connections.

Yours in __kai__,

Mike Wortman '67

Chapter Counselor



OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

Soren S. "Sam" Jensen '54 formerly of Omaha, NE, entered Our Mystic Shrine on September 17. While attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he was editor of *The Daily Nebraskan*; vice president of Alpha Tau; and a member of the Innocent's Society, the senior men's honorary. Following his graduation, Sam was an infantry captain in the United States Army Reserve. He graduated from the University of Nebraska Law School in 1961, and worked for several Omaha law firms specializing in labor relations law. Sam was a prominent Omaha and Nebraska civic leader, and very active in numerous organizations and the Republican Party. He is survived by two sons, Soren R. and Eric; daughter Dana; three stepchildren; and four grandchildren.

Wilbur L. "Lee" Bentz '60 entered Our Mystic Shrine on September 23 as a resident of Brainerd, MN, and formerly of the Minneapolis area. Lee took Naval ROTC courses while at the University of Nebraska, and served on the nuclear ballistic missile submarine USS Woodrow Wilson. He liked to tell the story of his interview with Admiral Hyman Rickover, who directed the development of nuclear powered ships in the U.S. Navy. The interview was a prerequisite for all officers serving on a nuclear sub. Lee retired from his position as an investment advisor with VALIC in 2006. Lee described himself as an avid outdoorsman, and he and his wife lived in a cabin in the woods near Brainerd. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Norma Jean; children, Mark and Kara; and stepchildren, Terry Watschke, Douglas Reynolds, and William Reynolds.

John R. McVay '67 entered Our Mystic Shrine on June 11, 2006, as a resident of Lincoln, NE. He worked for several human services organizations in his professional career, and was deputy director for behavioral health services for the State of Nebraska at the time of his death. John is survived by his wife, Cathy; four sons, Joshua McVay, Zachary McVay, Jason Watkins, and Joshua Watkins; and seven grandchildren. (**Editor's Note:** John's passing is a much-delayed report, and as we continue to work on finding lost brothers we ask for your help. Please visit www.nebraskabeta.com/lost-brothers and if you are aware of the locations of any of these Alpha Tau Betas, please send an email with specifics to updates@nebraskabeta.com.)

Donald F. Bradford, Jr. '68 entered Our Mystic Shrine on August 14 as a resident of Sharpton, GA. He was a teacher for 35 years, starting in Virginia and moving to Georgia in 1978. While in Georgia, he was also a football coach and athletic director for several schools before retiring in 2006. Don continued to substitute teach and be involved in high school athletics after retirement. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne Abraham, and children, Beth and Scott. He was preceded in death by his Beta father, **Donald F. Bradford Sr., Bowdoin '38**.

John H. Baldus '71 entered Our Mystic Shrine on May 4 as a resident of Lincoln, NE. He was a Marine Corp veteran of Vietnam. John worked for the state of Nebraska in various capacities for many years. Much of his tenure was as a supervisor in the Nebraska Department of Labor. John was outgoing and loved to keep in touch with friends and Alpha Tau brothers. He is survived by his wife, Mary; sons, James and Andrew; and many cousins.



This table was given to the chapter by The Experience Company and Steve Andersen '60, and can be found in the chapter room where chapter executives guide active members through meetings.

ALUMNI NEWS

Andrew F. "Andy" Cunningham '68 is happy to report that he is doing well and says, "I have many blessings in my home, community, and work." Andy and his wife, Sherri, have nine children and live in Lincoln, NE. E-mail: afcchexlui@gmail.com

Matthew T. Roby '03 founded his own law firm, Roby Law Office, in Watertown, SD, which focuses on estate and business planning. He and his wife, Stefanie, have one child, Bennett, and are excited for the arrival of their second child. Email: mtrobby@gmail.com



THE DRAGON'S TALE

Beta Theta Pi Alumni Association of Nebraska
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Lincoln, NE 68542

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Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send his permanent address to updates@nebraskabeta.com. Thank you.

ON THE HOME STRETCH

(Continued from page 1)

One of the key benefits of this direct charitable contribution is that this would count toward the Required Minimum Distribution. The gift can satisfy a pledge that was made as long as one does not receive anything other than an intangible religious benefit for the contribution. The charity must provide an acknowledgement stating the amount of the charitable distribution and that no goods, services, or benefits were provided. If this is something being considered, we would strongly suggest talking to your financial advisor or accountant, and if proceeding, make certain the contribution made to the University of Nebraska Foundation includes a reference to the "Beta Theta Pi Charitable Fund."

A special note to those brothers who made an original pledge but have either not made a payment or are behind in the schedule of payments—please make plans to get caught up. We have had an excellent collection rate to this point, and want to continue that rate until all pledges have been received as initially established.

Please think of what Beta and Alpha Tau did for you, and help us provide that experience for current and future undergraduates without any debt.

Yours in __kai__,

Bruce McKeag '65
Campaign Co-Chairman
(402) 488-3379
bm93558@windstream.net

Bill Dana '76
Campaign Co-Chairman
(402) 968-7977
billdana@me.com

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