



# THE DRAGON'S TALE

FALL 2018

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

## ALPHA TAU REAPS BENEFITS FROM THE EXPERIENCE COMPANY

Entering its fourth year of operation, The Experience Company (TEC) continues to demonstrate success in the advancement of the young men of the Nebraska chapter. Organized in the context of a professional leadership accelerator, TEC builds upon the principles of Beta Theta Pi through an influx of resources, including the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment and coaching, mentorship pairing, as well as internship and job placement.

To date, more than 100 undergraduate members have completed individual Gallup strengths coaching (completed by chapter counselor **Mike Wortman '67** during pledge semester), and almost 90 undergraduates have been paired with Beta alumni serving as mentors. More than 30 collegians have been placed in internships, including 22 during the summer of 2018.

As we envision continued success in the delivery of TEC programs, we ask for your assistance to move the mark of achievement. Participation may take variable forms, be it consultation with an undergraduate Beta about future professional goals, identification of leadership and internship opportunities in Nebraska and nationally, or service as a mentor for an aspiring undergraduate member.

Recognizing that TEC operates as an independent 501(c)(3) entity, the breadth and depth of resources available are largely dependent on financial support from alumni, parents, and friends of Beta. Please consider supporting an undergraduate Beta's participation in TEC programs with a donation. Contributions should be made payable to The Experience Company and sent to The Beta Theta Pi Alumni Association of Nebraska, P.O. Box 22251, Lincoln, NE 68542-2251.

Should you have questions or wish to discuss involvement with TEC programs, I may be reached at [tmatttox1@yahoo.com](mailto:tmatttox1@yahoo.com) or (402) 990-7207.

Yours in \_\_\_\_kai\_\_\_\_,

**Todd Matttox '99**

President, The Experience Company

## Awards for Alpha Tau at Beta's 179th General Convention

It was an exciting and productive summer for the Alpha Tau Chapter. Many members were busy working at their internships with prestigious companies all over the Midwest. A few men spent the summer studying abroad, in locations from Spain to New Zealand. The rest of the chapter was kept busy with the task of helping Recruitment Chairman **Tyler Gill '16** pursue the 34 stellar new members for this year's pledge class.

For me, one of the most exciting parts of the summer was having the opportunity to attend Beta's General Convention in Norfolk, VA. It was here that the historic decision to implement a nationwide substance-free housing policy was made, setting a high standard for Greek houses all over the country. Alpha Tau also walked away with some serious hardware, recognizing our accomplishments from the 2017-18 school year. These awards consisted of Alpha Tau's 15th Knox Award (the most of any Beta chapter), our 22nd Sisson Award (the second most of any chapter), the Virginia Tech Award for Academic Excellence, and the Outstanding Campus Involvement Award. We are excited and proud to continue to uphold Alpha Tau's outstanding reputation recognized last year with our North American Interfraternity Conference award. (*Editor's note: the Knox and Sisson awards are given for overall chapter excellence.*)

The fall semester kicked off with initiation of three members who successfully completed the pledge program in the spring. We extend our sincerest congratulations to **Tyler Kloewer '18-AT 2490**, **Tyler Riggert '18-AT 2491**, and **Jack Keating '18-AT 2492** for officially joining the Beta

family. We are also pleased to welcome the 34 pledges who have begun their journey of becoming a Beta. The class offers a variety of bright young men who are excited to contribute their talents to the chapter. Pledge Educator **Connor Eksi '17** is doing a fantastic job of ensuring these men are on a path toward success.

Other exciting news for Alpha Tau consists of the continued employment of our house director, Robin Schmid, and our cook, Scott Thorson. Both Robin and Scott were new employees last year, and we are pleased to have them back for this school year.

We have a number of events on our calendar, including our recently completed annual Alumni/Dad's Day golf tournament, our second annual Burger Bash philanthropy, and The Experience Company's Parent Event, all of which will be discussed in other reports. The undergraduates would love for as many alumni to attend these events as possible, as we are always looking to maximize the connections that the Beta brotherhood has to offer.

It has been an incredible experience serving as chapter president for the last year. I couldn't be more proud to represent a chapter of such fine young men. I'm thankful and appreciative of the many active members and alumni who have accompanied me on this journey, and I wish you all the very best and have a wonderful end to 2018.

Yours in \_\_\_\_kai\_\_\_\_,

**John Pfeifer '16**

Chapter President

[president@nebraskabeta.com](mailto:president@nebraskabeta.com)

## Chapter Officers Motivated to Reach Goals

It has been a great start to the 2018-19 school year at 1515 R Street for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Alpha Tau Chapter. The 11 members of the executive team are in the second semester of their term and are working to complete the goals they had set for themselves before taking office.

The recruitment team worked hard in obtaining a great pledge class, and the class is transitioning to campus and to Beta. For the fourth year, I have met individually with each member of the pledge

class for a strength coaching session to discuss their top five Gallup strengths. We develop a plan on how they can use their strengths to be successful academically, as a leader with Beta, and to help with their career journey.

When asked why they chose Beta, many pledges said our emphasis on academics, others said the genuine relationships they had developed, and many commented on the value they saw in the opportunities provided by The Experience Company. As always, the men of Beta appreciate

any connection with alumni, and everyone is encouraged to stop by the chapter house or reach out to meet some of its members.

Please let the alumni relations chairman know if you plan to attend Monday night dinner.

I'm glad I'm a Beta.

Yours in \_\_\_\_kai\_\_\_\_,  
**Mike Wortman '67**  
Chapter Counselor



Anna Pressler

## ANNA PRESSLER, LAINE NORTON JOIN BETA THETA PI ADVISORY TEAM

We are writing as the newest members of the Beta advisory team. As you may have gathered from our pictures, we are **not** members of the Alpha Tau Chapter. We are both alumnae of the Kappa chapter of Chi Omega at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and great fans of the men of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. For those we haven't met, Anna Pressler is the director of recruitment and student success at the Raikes School at Nebraska, and Laine Norton is senior director of development for the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Through our experiences in college, we developed lifelong friends with the men of Beta and saw that Alpha Tau members truly live up to the Men of Principle standards. We are also proud of our membership in Nebraska's Greek community, and know the important role it played in our own personal and professional development. It's because of these understandings that we have both served as advisors for Chi Omega and have eagerly accepted the opportunity to serve as advisors for Beta.

Beta has a longstanding tradition of being a leader on campus and producing well-rounded alumni who make great impacts in their industries and communities. We're fortunate to play a role in helping these young men grow to their potential knowing the lessons learned as collegiate members are critical to future success.

While the last few years have seen challenging times for fraternities and sororities nationally, we're thankful the men of Alpha Tau are including our perspective about challenging situations and areas for success. In our short time as advisors, we've met a terrific group of young men who will make Beta alumni proud of the future of the Alpha Tau Chapter. We are both proud to be part of this great experience. (*Editor's note: Will Norton '02 is a brother of Laine.*)

Anna Pressler and Laine Norton  
Alumni Advisory Board Members



Laine Norton

## ALUMNI ALWAYS WELCOME AT ALPHA TAU

Alpha Tau continues to receive positive remarks on having the best alumni involvement in the country. This is a monumental achievement obtained through their generous help in fostering the success of our chapter. There has never been a better time to be involved as an alumnus, so we are increasing the number of opportunities for you to come *tilt a chair and loaf awhile* throughout this school year.

We kicked off the fall semester with the Alumni/Dad's Day golf tournament on September 30 at Holmes Park Golf Course. Congratulations to the alumni champions: **Rich Morris '84**, **Ben Theye '09**, **Spencer Morris '11**, and **Ben Frodyma '14**. The active champions are **Tyler Riggert '18** and his father, Doug, and **Charles Erker '18** and his father, David. After the success of our Experience Company-hosted tailgate during the Spring Game, we had two more alumni tailgates in the dining room of 1515 R Street for the Minnesota game on October 20 and the Michigan State game on November 17. Both were well-attended and helped solidify the chapter and alumni bonding.

In addition, we had another successful Trap Shoot led by **Steve Andersen '60** on October 21 at the Lincoln Trap and Skeet range. This was a great

way for alumni, alumni mentors, actives, and pledges to share stories, shoot trap, and learn about gun safety from some of Alpha Tau's most experienced alumni.

As always, the door of 1515 R Street is open for a friendly visit. Whether you are just passing through town or currently live in Lincoln, we encourage you to stop by the chapter house for a formal dinner at 5:30 p.m. each Monday, which is followed by our chapter meeting at 6:15 p.m. Please contact me at least one week in advance if you are interested in attending so that I may notify the chapter and make the necessary arrangements.

Your support continues to play an integral role in the success of Alpha Tau as well as the personal and professional growth of members. Look for emails or visit [www.nebraskabeta.com/alumni](http://www.nebraskabeta.com/alumni) to stay up to date with chapter news and events. We hope to hear from you soon.

Yours in \_\_\_\_kai\_\_\_\_,  
**Gage Mruz '16**  
Alumni Relations Chairman  
[alumni@nebraskabeta.com](mailto:alumni@nebraskabeta.com)

## FAMILY FIRST

*Joseph "Jody" Parker '66 Cherishes  
Chance to Reconnect with Beta Theta Pi*

The motto "Family First" has always been how **Joseph "Jody" Parker '66** has lived his life. Jody followed in his parents' footsteps by earning a degree from the University of Nebraska, where he also pledged the Alpha Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi.



Jody wasn't familiar with Beta Theta Pi or Greek life in general before attending Nebraska, but his father, Joseph Parker Sr., and a family friend encouraged him to go through recruitment, and the friend urged him to pledge Beta. Between Alpha Tau's high regard for academics and the warm welcome, Beta Theta Pi turned into a home away from home for Jody. However, Jody had to take the family-first approach when he married at 19 and became a father at 20. As an upperclassman he lived off campus and had to reduce his involvement with his Beta brothers.

"I think that is one of the things that I felt most acutely over the years was that I didn't form more durable relationships with my pledge brothers and my fraternity brothers as many chapter members were able to do who had four years to more fully engage with the chapter," Jody said. "And also moving out of state following graduation (for business school at the University of Washington), I was disconnected further in an era before the internet and social media."

Although Jody missed out on the full in-college fraternity experience, he realized after reconnecting with **Bruce McKeag '65** about a decade ago that he owed a significant debt to the members of Alpha Tau and could help make Beta Theta Pi a better place for future generations. Jody made a contribution to Alpha Tau's new building and followed with support for The Experience Company and the mentorship program.

The inspiration that Beta Theta Pi instilled in Jody in his first two years at UNL was crucial in the early stages of his career at Anchor Stone Co., where he is the chairman of the board. Times were tough for Anchor in the early 1980s when he replaced his father as president of the company, but he went on to reap the rewards from the hard work that was necessary to resurrect the Tulsa-based construction materials business.

"I'd have to say that being able to save the company provided me with the greatest opportunity for personal growth that I could imagine; just in terms of confidence and the recognition that you can overcome some pretty great odds if you've got the right people, you've got a little bit of luck—maybe a lot of luck—and just enough resources to get by," Jody said.

Jody and his brother, Dr. Leroy Parker, are now in the process of passing the torch of the family-owned business to the next generation. Although Jody has preached some of the same values he learned from his father, he believes that it's important for his son and future generations to think independently.

"I would advise young people to be wary of conventional wisdom and to be skeptical of dogma," Jody said. "You've got to think for yourself and not really get bound up in other peoples' actions or the way they see the world or the way they behave."

You can reach Jody at [jody@anchorstoneco.com](mailto:jody@anchorstoneco.com).

## SUCCESSFUL SUMMER RECRUITMENT LEADS TO LARGE PLEDGE CLASS

It has been an honor serving as the recruitment chairman for the Alpha Tau Chapter this year. Recruitment has proven to be an integral role in the ongoing success of any Greek house. With a recruitment success rate of 85 percent (meaning of all the bid cards we give to potential pledges, 85 percent are accepted. This is a high percentage among UNL fraternities), we look forward to seeing these 34 potential new members embody the principles of this chapter and become future leaders on campus and in their respective careers to follow. Our summer recruitment has come to a close. The selection of a new recruitment team to continue the success of our chapter will take place in late November or early December.

Although the recruitment team undertakes a large amount of responsibility for the Alpha Tau Chapter, none of our efforts would be made possible without the ongoing support of our generous alumni. Through alumni support, we were able to extend six bids to legacies. Alumni help was responsible for ushering in one-fifth of the incoming pledge class, and that is extremely remarkable. The new team looks forward to this support, and we again anticipate that recruitment efforts for the summer of 2019 will be completed by the middle of July. If you have any recommendations for the upcoming 2019 recruiting season, please go to [www.nebraskabeta.com/recruitment](http://www.nebraskabeta.com/recruitment) and follow our efforts and schedule of events once posted. We know the new team will be excited to get to work, and they will look forward to hearing from you.

I'm very grateful for the assistance of **Erik Goodwin '18** and **Connor Boyens '18**, who were assistant recruitment chairmen on our team this summer. We all spent a lot of time, phone calls, and car miles to tell our Beta story.

A recruitment form is located on page 8 of this issue. Please complete it and return with your recommendation(s) if this is more convenient.

Yours in \_\_\_\_kai\_\_\_\_,

**Tyler Gill '17**

Recruitment Chairman

[recruitment@nebraskabeta.com](mailto:recruitment@nebraskabeta.com)

## Alpha Tau Finds Success in Intramurals

While we take great pride in our academics, we are a well-rounded house. Over 60 percent of our chapter participated in intramurals this past year in many different sports. Those games included soccer, flag football, basketball, sand volleyball, softball, and a few individual sports and activities.

Beta brought home championships in outdoor soccer, basketball, ping pong, and an Xbox 360 NBA basketball tournament.

Yours in \_\_\_\_kai\_\_\_\_,

**Riley Berner '18**

Intramural Chairman

## FALL 2018 PLEDGE CLASS

**Bryce Becker**  
*Palmyra, NE*

**Nick Billion**  
*Sioux Falls, SD*

**Nick Callahan\***  
*Shawnee, KS*

**Rylan Chaney\***  
*Olathe, KS*

**Brooks Douglass**  
*Grand Island, NE*

**Peter Dunbar\***  
*Waterloo, NE*

**Shaun Edgecombe**  
*Hickman, NE*

**Peter Haas**  
*Minnetonka, MN*

**Josh Harris**  
*Bellevue, NE*

**Landon Hornby**  
*Lincoln, NE*

**Trevor Kaslon**  
*Columbus, NE*

**Seth Krull\***  
*Lincoln, NE*

**Matt Langan**  
*Elkhorn, NE*

**Bobby Lawton**  
*Omaha, NE*

**Cole Lyons**  
*Elkhorn, NE*

**Zach "Richie" Masters**  
*Dakota Dunes, SD*

**Noah McCashland**  
*Lincoln, NE*

**Justin Mikolajczewski**  
*Crystal Lake, IL*

**Jared Murray**  
*Lincoln, NE*

**Michael Parrish**  
*Austin, TX*

**Connor Remar\***  
*Hutchinson, KS*

**Jack Russell**  
*Seward, NE*

**Jake Samuelson**  
*Omaha, NE*

**Ryan Schmidt**  
*Elkhorn, NE*

**Brett Schrock**  
*Holdrege, NE*

**Jack Schulenberg\***  
*Minnetonka, MN*

**Vasili Sgourakis**  
*Omaha, NE*

**Davis Sibbernson**  
*Valley, NE*

**Will Spethman**  
*Lincoln, NE*

**Joey Stanley**  
*Dakota Dunes, SD*

**Liam Stanley**  
*Columbia, MO*

**Jaret Strasheim**  
*Highlands, CO*

**Jake Thompson**  
*Lincoln, NE*

**Jarod Vitha**  
*Overland Park, KS*

\*Legacy

## Pledging Process Develops New Members into "Husker Men"

This semester got off to an eventful start, as we initiated three new Betas into the Alpha Tau Chapter and saw 34 new members begin the pledge process within the same week. With the help of District Chief **Mark Antonson '04**, our pledge program gained PPEA accreditation. PPEA is the Pledge Program Education Assessment, a set of accreditation guidelines set forth by the General Fraternity to judge the quality of a new member education program. With our certification, it shows that our pledge program does an exceptional job of emphasizing the five core values of Beta Theta Pi. It also certifies that our pledge program is a "safe process" in our training of pledges.

The year has seen an incredible start with new members engaging with the lore and songs of Beta Theta Pi, which have helped shape our fraternity from its beginning. The new members are also the charter group for a new pledge program put on through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln called *Husker Man*, which is aimed at raising awareness for common stereotypes surrounding the Greek system. Through all of this, the main goal is still to help the new members have a seamless transition into college and ultimately become principled men.

**Mike Wortman '67** has personally met with all new members to help identify their strengths using the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment, and he will have a follow-up meeting after initiation to further identify the progression of these strengths. Along with this, involvement and scholastic prestige have been at the forefront of what we preach to the new members with the hopes of bettering both the new members and the city of Lincoln. As always, I would like to thank my new member advisor, Anna Pressler, for the advice and insight that she has given into the pledge program, and I would like to thank the entire executive team for their continued support.

Yours in \_\_\_kai\_\_\_,

**Connor Eksi '17**

Pledge Educator

## BETA BROTHERS HAVE FUN-FILLED FALL

"Work hard, play hard" is a mentality many Betas retain. We are consistently one of the top houses when it comes to grades and involvement on campus, but we also want to capitalize on the opportunity to have as much fun as possible. Our two big formals for this semester are Dynamo and Winter Formal.

Dynamo, an outdoor country-themed formal, carries on a long tradition as one of the favorites for all the members in the house. We hosted Dynamo on September 22. Our Winter Formal will be on November 30. This includes a steak dinner at the Beta house, coordinated by the Parents' Alliance and

other volunteers. The dinner is followed by music and dancing at a third-party venue.

Outside of formals, we also enjoyed fun by having themed socials like American Social with Phi Delta Theta and Alpha Phi in early September and hosting a watch party on October 6 for the Conor McGregor vs. Khabib Nurmagomedov mixed martial arts fight, among others.

Yours in \_\_\_kai\_\_\_,

**Tyler Jacobson '17**

Social Chairman



## BETA SHOWS APPRECIATION FOR UNL PROFESSORS

*Members of the Alpha Tau Chapter with some of the UNL professors that were recognized at Beta's Professor Appreciation Dinner on October 8. Additional Beta Professor Appreciation Dinner photos are located on page 7.*

Spring 2018 was another successful semester for the Alpha Tau Chapter, as we remained the top fraternity in GPA on city campus. The chapter average was a 3.467, placing third out of 25 fraternities overall. We had 20 members receive a 4.0 GPA last semester, and they will be recognized by receiving a free dinner on Beta's behalf.

On October 8, we held our Professor Appreciation Dinner, which recognizes professors who have made a positive impact on our members. New and active members invited these University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors to sit with them during formal dinner that takes place every Monday evening. Thirteen professors got to share in the Beta experience by hearing the songs we sing before and after dinner, as well as learning about other Beta traditions. The members that nominated these professors introduced them to everyone in attendance and explained how they have positively affected their academic experience. They were given a plaque with their name and the title of "2018-19 Beta Theta Pi-Outstanding Educator of the Year." For a complete list of the professors and the names of those Betas

that nominated them, visit the chapter website at [www.nebraskabeta.com/events](http://www.nebraskabeta.com/events).

I truly enjoyed my last semester as scholarship chairman with the opportunity to work with our new members. My passion for serving in this position stemmed from wanting to leave a positive impact on the future of a fraternity and brotherhood for which I will be eternally grateful. I see bright futures for our 34 new members and have no doubt that they will not only succeed academically, but also as strong individuals. I hope that these young men continue to learn and grow through the pledge process and their college years thereafter. I am glad that I got to be a part of the beginning of their journeys.

Yours in \_\_\_\_kai\_\_\_\_,  
**Kevin Woolworth '17**  
Scholarship Chairman

## ALPHA TAU APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK

After an extremely successful and charity-filled spring semester, Beta is quite excited to pass on our philanthropic passion to the incoming pledge class. Over the course of the spring, Beta had a hand in raising more than \$25,000 in donations to local charities. We could have not been happier with the turnout from Festa Italiana, an all-you-can-eat pasta feed to raise money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. The chapter also participated in Backpack in Black, which is a battle of the bands competition between Beta, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Phi Delta Theta that hosted a crowd of more than 500. With exceptional involvement and interest from the entire chapter, we expect to leave an even greater impact on our community this year.

As pledges begin their new member program, each is expected to complete a minimum of 20 volunteer hours over the course of the fall. The plurality of these hours is completed at the Lighthouse After-School Program, an organization founded by **Pete Allman '76**. The program is aimed at providing a safe, educational space for at-risk youth. Here, pledges and active members alike volunteer as tutors in various high school courses, as well as mentors and positive role models actively engaging with the youth

as peers. A few all-house volunteer opportunities are also scheduled for the upcoming months, such as the Beta house serving dinner at the Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach and participating in Habitat for Humanity.

In terms of philanthropy events hosted by Beta, Alpha Tau started the year off strong by hosting the ever-popular Burger Bash, which is a custom make-your-own burger bar benefiting Lighthouse's After-School Program. This event took place on Thursday, November 15, with several hundred Betas, alumni and the UNL community attending.

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve a house so passionate about bettering their community, and I cannot express my excitement to continue to further Beta's influence at the forefront of leading the university in philanthropic activity. I am looking forward to an incredible year.

Yours in \_\_\_\_kai\_\_\_\_,  
**Philip Holubeck '17**  
Philanthropy Chairman

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## IN OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

**John Alfred Haslam '45** entered Our Mystic Shrine on October 16. After graduating from the University of Nebraska, John served in the U.S. Army in Korea and Japan as a medic. After his military service, John returned to his hometown of Fremont, NE, where he worked for several businesses before being named acting postmaster in 1956. Two years later, John became a national bank examiner, and joined the National Bank of Commerce in Lincoln (now Wells Fargo) in 1968. In 1972, John returned to Fremont to work for the Fremont National Bank, where he retired as an officer in 1992.

John was a member of several civic organizations in Fremont, including the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Fremont Planning Commission. He also served as a financial advisor for the Alpha Tau Chapter in the late 1960s and early 1970s. John is survived by his son, J. Matthew Haslam, M.D.; daughter, Barbara Hartman; a sister, and four grandchildren including, **John Andrew Haslam '12**, of Scottsbluff, NE.

**Sam Whitworth '48** entered Our Mystic Shrine on April 2 in Lincoln. He served in the United States Air Force and was a Korean War veteran. Sam also served in France, where he met his future wife, Louise, who was from West Virginia. Sam and Louise were married in New York in 1955, but they were not happy in New York and moved to Lincoln a few years later. Sam helped to open the original Gateway Bank (now Wells Fargo) in Lincoln and then became an officer of First National Bank Lincoln where he was vice president of money management. He was employed by First National until his retirement in 1987. He enjoyed travel and his hobby as a numismatist.

Sam was a member of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 40 & 8, the American Legion and other organizations. Sam is survived by two daughters, Melissa Torwit

and Gretchen Whitworth, a granddaughter, and a sister. Louise preceded him in death. Gretchen noted, "He DID take great PRIDE in his Beta Theta Pi affiliation," and one of the memories he retained was the ashtray given to Betas during the 75th anniversary of our chapter in 1963. Sam also kept a Beta stein from that era. (Gretchen noted that she broke the original dish while jumping on a couch, and "my grandmother saved my life" with a replacement dish from Gretchen's grandfather.)

**James B. Thomas '58** entered Our Mystic Shrine on October 4 following a long illness. He was an attorney and banker, and he and his wife spent their retirement years in Estes Park, CO. Jim was born in Missouri, but as a youth moved to California, returned to Missouri, and eventually settled in Nebraska. It was during his high school years in Omaha that Jim met Louis Armstrong after the trumpeter had a concert at Peony Park.

Jim pledged Beta Theta Pi in 1957, and was the pledge class president. After graduation, he worked for Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco before enrolling in law school at Nebraska. After obtaining his J.D., Jim and his wife, Nancy, spent three years in New York before returning to Omaha, where he was a practicing attorney for 10 years. Jim's father was a banker, and in 1980 Jim and his family returned to the family banking business. Jim headed The Exchange Bank of Mound City (MO).

Jim was proud that even though droughts and floods ravaged the area around Mound City over a 30-year period, his bank never foreclosed on a farm. Jim and his family had spent 25 summers at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, and when he retired in 2007, he and Nancy became full-time Estes Park residents.

Jim was a voracious reader. He enjoyed works by Mark Twain, Willa Cather, and William Shakespeare. Jim is survived by his wife of 53 years, one son, two daughters, and other family members.

**John McHenry '70** entered Our Mystic Shrine on August 18. He was a prominent Lincoln attorney and founding partner of the McHenry Hazzard law firm. John was very involved as an Alpha Tau alumnus and at the time of his death was the House Corporation president. John was actively involved in the successful restructuring of the Nebraska chapter in the mid-1990s.

Many of the concepts he implemented during that process were subsequently incorporated into the General Fraternity's highly successful Men of Principle initiative that was adopted in 1999. The efforts involved chapters from Nebraska,

Georgia, and Pennsylvania and was geared to make cultural changes back to Beta's founding principles.

John was very active in the Lincoln community, was a 33rd degree mason serving as Worshipful Master of the Lincoln Lodge in 1982, and Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1990. He also served on numerous boards and committees in Lincoln and the state of Nebraska.

Tributes from many Betas that knew him mentioned his "memorable smile," and that he was "quick with a joke or a wink." Others mentioned his "great character and values," and one noted that "John and several others were responsible for saving our house at 1515 R."

John is survived by his wife, Vickie, a son, **John B. "Jack" Henry, Michigan '99**, a daughter, Clair, their mother, Nadine, and other relatives.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Tom Chambers '62** is a retired State Farm Insurance agent from Littleton, CO. Forty-two years ago he set a goal of running 750 total races. He has now run 754 races, including 65 triathlons. Tom was a member of the University of Nebraska swim team when in college. Another sports goal that Tom has reached is playing in the YMCA's competitive handball league at age 75. He noted that he has given up Master's swimming. When Tom is not running, swimming, biking, or playing handball, he can be reached at [tschambers582@msn.com](mailto:tschambers582@msn.com).

**John Lonnquist '62** celebrated his 75th birthday on September 7. Part of the day was spent talking to his siblings who are spread around the country. Three of his brothers are also Alpha Tau Betas: **Ladd Lonnquist '64**, **George "Eric" Lonnquist '65**, and **Tom Lonnquist '68**. John was president of the chapter during his senior year and a member of the Innocent's Society—the senior men's honorary on the UNL campus. For many years, John was an attorney in the Denver area. Following a significant stroke in November 2017, he is in a rehabilitation facility working to reconnect his brain with his left side. (Editor's note: wording was approved by John's family.) **Tom Chambers '62**, one of John's pledge brothers, organized a "funny card" event with their pledge class to provide encouragement and lift his spirits. John would appreciate hearing from other Betas, too. Cards may be sent to him at Sunrise at Orchard, 5971 South Holly, Littleton, CO 80121. (Please do not phone him.)

**Lawrence Frolik '63** was chapter president his senior year and a member of the Innocent's Society, the senior men's honorary. He retired as a professor of law at the University of Pittsburgh



*Sam Whitworth '48 retained an Alpha Tau 75th anniversary ashtray from 1963.*

Law School on July 1. Larry was on the faculty for 42 years and was the John E. Murray Faculty Scholar. As a popular, but rigorous teacher of Torts, he was twice awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award by the graduating class. Larry's scholarly work focused on the legal issues facing the elderly. His two most recent books, both published in 2018, are *Elder Law and Later-Life Legal Planning* and *The Law of Later-life Healthcare and Decision Making* (2d ed). He is currently co-authoring a book for the AARP, "Your Next Move: Picking the Best House for You." Larry and his wife, Ellen Doyle, live in Pittsburgh. He may be reached at [rolrik@pitt.edu](mailto:rolrik@pitt.edu).

**C. Robert Samuelson '63** was like many UNL students, including Betas, who over the years came from rural areas of Nebraska. He grew up in Franklin, NE, which is about 160 miles southwest of Lincoln. Most individuals do not write a book about their hometowns, but Bob has published two: *The Recollections of a Franklin Kid* and *Recollections of a Franklin Teenager*. Both detail the events when Bob was growing up in the farming town of about 1,600 people in 1950—but about 1,200 people in the 1960 census. (The town, now with a population of about 1,000, was named for Benjamin Franklin.) Bob also worked on another book, *What Falls Away is Always*, and he noted that he worked full-time for 10 years before the "handful" of 300,000 words was published.

Bob said that **Steve Hutchins '64**, who is also from Franklin, insisted on Bob writing the books, which were published by Kidogo Press. (*Editor's note: there is not a lot of information about Kidogo Press, or the books themselves, but the information is being supplied for anyone interested. See Bob's contact information below.*) Bob describes both books as "a little nostalgic," and there are references to the town, its history, the many sports that keep any small town "alive," neighboring towns and the freedom that comes with a driver's license, and his church camps. As part of the Franklin sports scene, Bob tells of Steve and himself playing basketball

against the school team from Superior, NE, and one of their players, **Sam Baird '63**. (*Another editor's note: Bob and Steve also played football and basketball against Van Vahle '63, from Alma, NE. At a time that recruitment efforts were taking place, it was Bob who suggested that Van might consider the Beta house during rush week in 1962.*) Bob can be reached at [thesamme@cox.net](mailto:thesamme@cox.net).

**Richard S. Elliott, M.D. '64** has officially retired for the third time. Dick lives in Sun City West, AZ, and for the past several years was a primary care provider as part of Banner Health in the Greater Phoenix area. His last assignment was with Iora Primary Care, where he was a short-term fill-in until Iora could employ a full-time provider. Dick said in retirement he will continue to periodically review patient complaints to the Arizona Medical Board. After his most recent retirement, Dick and his wife, Gloria, made trips to France, Switzerland and Germany, and he met with a cousin of Gloria's who was a cardiologist in Berlin. Dick noted, "I had good conversations with him, especially during our tour of the Heidelberg Castle, which featured a historical display of medications used during the former centuries." Included was a trip to Disneyland, France "for the grandchildren." Dick can be reached at [relliott9@cox.net](mailto:relliott9@cox.net).

**Robert B. Keim '65** retired on June 30 from the practice of law. Bob graduated from UNL in 1968 and spent the following three years as an officer with the United States Army. After graduating from Officer Candidate School, Bob served 13 months in Korea as an artillery officer. After his Army discharge, Bob obtained his law degree from Washburn University School of Law (cum laude) in 1974. He was an attorney in Kansas City, including time as regional managing partner and a member of the executive committee of Kutak Rock, a national law firm headquartered in Omaha. Bob's areas of interest included corporate finance, securities, and taxation. Bob and his wife, Barb, spend time in the Phoenix area during the "winter" months. He may be reached at [keimfinance@gmail.com](mailto:keimfinance@gmail.com).

## Parents Get Involved with The Experience Company

The Experience Company (TEC) held their third annual Parents Event on Saturday, November 10. Over 150 actives, pledges, parents of undergraduates, as well as alumni and some of their spouses attended this event at the Wick Alumni Center.

The goals of TEC and their involvement in the chapter were stated to those in attendance, and many mentors were present with their mentees. It is not just an event for the mentor program, but rather to inform parents and others the value TEC gives to their sons. Non-mentors from the Lincoln and Omaha area were also present. **Grant Gregory '60** and the TEC chairman gave an overview of our internship placements this past summer (22) and the 36 additional mentors that were recruited this past year.

Other speakers included **Trevor Mumford '18**, Internship Program; Chapter President **John Pfeifer '16**, Mentor Program; Alexi Wellman, a member of TEC board; the mother of **Cole Wellman '17**, who discussed parent involvement; **Connor Eksi '17**, testimonial; and **Todd Mattox '99**, who gave the president's address for The Experience Company.

**Bill Dana '76**, who gives much to our chapter with his time and talents, underwrote the cost of the banquet. Thanks again, Bill.



Professor Claire Jimenez and Jake Thompson '18 at Beta's Professor Appreciation Dinner on October 8.



Liam Stanley '18 and Professor Chris Eskridge at Beta's Professor Appreciation Dinner.



Mrs. Erin Burnette, Brooks Douglass '18, Kevin Woolworth '17, and Becka Neary-De La Porte at Beta's Professor Appreciation Dinner on October 8.

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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](mailto:updates@nebraskabeta.com). Thank you.

## RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATIONS NEEDED!

Alumni, we value your input on membership selection. If you know someone who would be an asset to the chapter, please send the information below to Recruitment Chairman **Tyler Gill '17** at [recruitment@nebraskabeta.com](mailto:recruitment@nebraskabeta.com).

Prospect's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Prospect's cell phone, if available: \_\_\_\_\_

Prospect's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

High school attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended major: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Is prospect a Beta legacy? If yes, provide full details: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_