



THE DRAGON'S TALE

SPRING 2020

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

THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS ON OUR CHAPTER

UNPRECEDENTED.

There is no other way to describe the effect coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on our world. It is far more than interruptions in daily schedules and missed events; thousands have died.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) canceled classes the week of March 15 (the week prior to Spring Break). After break, UNL announced the rest of the classes for the Spring Semester would be taught remotely. UNL activities were suspended and students were encouraged to return home. During this period the executive committee continued to monitor fast-changing events. By teleconference on March 27 all members of the team voted to close our living unit effective Saturday, April 11. This was a very difficult decision but the health of our members is our top priority.

All Beta activities for the rest of the semester were suspended; so were most activities of other living units. The General Fraternity Board of Trustees canceled the 181st General Convention. Consideration is ongoing whether summer programs like the Wooden Institute, and Sons of the Stars training programs will be canceled or conducted remotely. (Editor's note: **Mike Wortman '67**, our chapter counselor, is a vice-president of the Board of Trustees.)

Due to timing and printing requirements for *The Dragon's Tale*, we are providing the news that we can, but many of the events and social interactions that help define a fraternity have changed. It is our fervent hope that a cause of the virus will be found, treatments will be successful, and lives can return to a more normal level in the future. At the time of this writing, we will continue to have summer recruitment, and you're encouraged to visit nebraskabeta.com to keep up on fast-changing developments.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am very honored and excited to have been elected as president of Alpha Tau. With help in the transitioning from my predecessor, **Kevin Woolworth '17**, I have hit the ground running with my ideas for change and progress. I see the future of the world presiding in our chapter house and view myself as the glue that holds everyone together toward maximizing our individual and collective growth. We are striving to make our chapter more goal-oriented from the bottom (new members, cabinet committees) to be more proactive and realistic about advancement. We are also working to improve the internal and external communication processes in our chapter.

My first semester has been interesting to say the least, with our chapter, University, community, and country being affected by the coronavirus. The house was closed on April 11. We have had to make many changes in our function as a chapter—effectively canceling all spring events (formals, pinnings, philanthropic projects, etc.) and procedures (chapter meetings, formal dinners, rituals, etc.) through the end of the Spring Semester. Members were urged to return to their permanent residence while classes are taught remotely. The health and safety of our members remains our top priority as we continue to make decisions on behalf of the chapter during this very trying time. We will do our part to help mitigate the spread of this virus to friends, family, and fellow community members.

In other news, we had an exciting year of accomplishments for the chapter. We obtained a 3.442 GPA last fall semester—the highest GPA for a fraternity on city campus. We also had two of our junior brothers inducted into the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society, **Keegan Schuchart '18** and **Jack Ellis '18**. **Kevin Woolworth '17** and **Josh Harris '19** served on the executive committee for UNL Dance



Executive Team Members, from left: Jack Schulenberg, Davis Sibbernsen, Brooks Douglass, Will Spethman, Cole Lyons, Peter Haas (center back), Erik Goodwin (center front), Max Van Arsdall, Shaun Edgecomb, Kellen Habegger, and Nick Callahan

Marathon, which raised more than \$235,000 for the Children's Miracle Network. I will be serving as a new student enrollment leader this summer. We also have two members named as Chancellor's Scholars in **Lukas Hall '17** and **Phil Holubeck '17**. That is the highest academic award the University offers undergraduates for graduating with a 4.0 GPA. This distinction is only shared by 44 other students at UNL.

We have remained a top chapter on the UNL campus and across the nation due to the work of our remarkable members and advisors. Other than myself, there were no returning executive members in this new round of leadership. This has led to a plethora of new ideas being brought to the table. I am very excited for the rest of this year with such a diverse group of leaders at my side. I would also like to thank Chapter Counselor **Mike Wortman '67** and District Chief **Mark Antonson '04**. Their advice and guidance has helped me tremendously as chapter president, which has in turn helped the entire chapter.

Amid all the difficulties, we will move forward by developing our members into Men of Principle and impacting our campus and community in a way that upholds the five core values of Beta Theta Pi. I am sincerely grateful for our undergraduates, advisors, alumni, advocates, and volunteers who are supporting us through this difficult semester. Thank you to everyone for your dedication to Beta and your undying devotion to Alpha Tau.

Sincerely yours in __kai__,
Erik J. Goodwin '18
president@nebraskabeta.com

CHAPTER COUNSELOR REPORT

The new executive team of 11 undergraduate Betas took over the leadership of our chapter in January. Every year, it is amazing to see a new group become the leaders and watch their development over their year-long term in office.

Some years it seems we might have a drop-off when a strong team of leaders concludes their time as officers, but I'm always amazed at how the next team takes on the responsibility of providing voice, direction, and organization for the chapter. The new team may not do things exactly like the previous executive team, but that's OK. Each group has their own individual way of looking at their roles and their unique top-five Gallup strengths. Each member of the executive team has specific duties for their position along with accepting a combined role of discussing and deciding on the overall direction of the chapter. Each year, there are often issues that were not part of the plan when the team members gave their campaign speeches while running for office.

A current example of an issue that this year's executive team is dealing with is the coronavirus. This situation has impacted each executive team member as they plan to accomplish the duties assigned to their role and also as a group making decisions that impact all undergraduate members. Dealing with the coronavirus or other unexpected challenges might be the most important part of the "leadership lab" we call Beta Theta Pi. These young men are developing skills in communication, decision making, and leadership that will last a lifetime. All these young men will be leaders throughout their lives and I'm proud that their Beta experience will be an opportunity to practice these skills. We all know that our world needs lots of leaders who are men of principle and who want to make a positive difference.

I'm honored to be part of the advisory team that has the opportunity to work with these developing leaders. If any alums would like to join the team, please let me hear from you. I'm glad I'm a Beta.

Sincerely in __kai__,
Mike Wortman '67
mwortman66@gmail.com

OVERVIEW OF THE ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

The Alpha Tau chapter is one of the strongest chapters in Beta's broad domain. We were recognized as a Chapter of Distinction by the North American Interfraternity Council in 2017—one of just five chapters of member fraternities to be recognized by the NIC that year. Alpha Tau also won the award in 2005.

This is not just luck. Our success is also measured by great recruitment, and Alpha Tau is well known for hard work and not resting on its laurels. This also requires alumni involvement. In this issue and future issues of *The Dragon's Tale*, we are going to take a more in-depth look at different alumni groups that support the chapter. Some groups have a formal structure: the Alumni Advisory board, The Experience Company board, General Fraternity officers such as Alpha Tau Beta's **Mark Antonson '04** and **Kenton Moore '06**, and the Nebraska House Corporation. All these groups serve a purpose in keeping our chapter strong during these challenging times for the Greek system. We also enjoy the informality of a "coffee and __kai__" group that meets informally every Tuesday morning, the support of alumni who volunteer to host new members and their pledge fathers during initiation week, and informal attendees at various social events scheduled by the undergraduate chapter.

In this issue, we are going to focus on the Alumni Advisory board (AAB), headed by

Chapter Counselor **Mike Wortman '67**. We will also make a separate reference to those alumni who opened their homes to pledge fathers and their pledge sons during January initiation.

Mike has been chapter counselor for 24 years and was named Chapter Counselor of the Year at the 163rd General Convention in 2002. The 11 members of the AAB are paired with an undergraduate so the mutual discussions are effective. There is some overlap between the AAB and other groups, where some of the responsibilities also apply to multiple groups. An example would be AAB members also being board members of The Experience Company. Alpha Tau Betas such as District Chief and House Corporation President **Mark Antonson '04** and TEC President **Todd Mattox '99** may also attend AAB meetings.

In recent years, there has been a move in the General Fraternity and Alpha Tau to include non-Betas as part of our Advisory Team. We call the non-Betas "FOBs" or "Friends of Beta." It is so helpful to have the voices of talented women on our team. It is important to see our chapter through the eyes of non-Betas. With many of the issues facing our fraternity world across Beta's broad domain, women have been very valuable in our mission of developing men of principle at Nebraska and at other chapters across North America.

Alumni Advisory Board and Corresponding Chapter Officers

President
Mike Wortman '67
Erik Goodwin '18

Vice President
Gage Mruz '16
Davis Sibbernson '19

Treasurer
Ben Martens '01
Nick Callahan '19

Recruitment
Jeff Beavers '00
Brooks Douglass '19

New Member Education
Anna Pressler
Jack Schulenberg '19

Risk Manager
Greg Brockmeier '96
Kellen Habegger '18

Secretary
Tom Salistean '06
Peter Haas '19



Scholarship
Neil Moseman '80
Cole Lyons '19

Social
Lauren Gayer
Will Spethman '19

Philanthropy
Maggie Stuckey
Shaun Edgecomb '19

Communications
Bruce McKeag '65
Max Van Arsdall '18

THE EXPERIENCE COMPANY REPORT

I am honored that The Experience Company President **Todd Mattox '99** gave me the opportunity to write this article for *The Dragon's Tale*. I have been a part of TEC's undergraduate team since the spring of 2017 and have seen the company grow over the past three years. I'd like to highlight what TEC does and the value of our organization.

This non-profit 501(c)(3) organization was established with one purpose: to help drive success within the Alpha Tau chapter of Beta Theta Pi. To accomplish that purpose, we focus on two things: personal and professional growth. The chapter already has great systems in place to develop high-quality men, so we pursued ways to capitalize on those systems. Our first initiative is our internship program where we utilize our network of Beta alumni and professional connections to introduce undergraduates to internship and full-time job opportunities. One thing to note is that we provide the foot in the door, but it is up to the undergraduate candidate to capitalize on the opportunity. This initiative is extremely valuable. In today's competitive environment, internship experience is a must when it comes to establishing your career throughout and after college. The value brought forth from connections to internship opportunities offers an advantage to the men of this chapter.

Our second initiative is our strengths-based mentoring program. All new members take the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment and complete strength coaching with Chapter Counselor **Mike Wortman '67**. We then allow them the opportunity to be paired up with an alumni mentor who has also gone through the StrengthsFinder assessment. One common misconception is that the mentor program will supply our undergraduate mentees with a future job offer. While that may happen for some, the focus of these relationships are personal growth and development. College is a critical time for development. The presence of a mentor who can aid you through the application of your strengths and the identification of your values, passions, talents, and aspirations is highly valuable. Having an adult "friend" who shares Beta connections supplements the special relationships of pledges and pledge fathers, and parents as advisors to the undergraduates. We are continuing to plan for mentor and mentee pairing for the fall semester. Even with the closing of our housing unit, we remain a very viable chapter.

Pairing the two primary initiatives of internships and mentors with the current processes of the chapter exposes the men of Beta to major growth opportunities. Members of TEC board, TEC interns and chapter executives meet to match mentors and mentees based on fields of study, or similar strengths, or perhaps the same hometowns.

Why is this valuable? Over the past three years, I've worked with undergraduates who put forth a great amount of time and effort into academics and involvements. They do this because of the reality that everything is competitive in this world. If you want to be a top performer, you must put in the work day-after-day to prepare yourself for when an opportunity appears. However, even with immense preparation, sometimes your desired opportunity never presents itself in a clear manner. Our internship program strives to find and present those opportunities to the individuals that have been molding themselves into high-performing candidates. The mentorship program helps in this molding process, especially on the grounds of emotional intelligence.

With my May graduation I plan to stay involved in some capacity with TEC. If I can someday become a mentor or supply professional opportunities to Betas in an attempt to repay the valuable assistance I received, I will gladly do so. What enables this company and the chapter to experience continual success is the pool of alumni and parents that pour their time and wisdom into these programs. Without them, everything would fall apart. So why wouldn't we as alumni and parents offer a piece of our time or wisdom to help the generation coming after us? I hope that we all see the value we can provide and take an initiative to get involved.

What is TEC? It is a collection of people working toward the same goal of excellence, each doing their part for the betterment of future generations and the world we live in. There is a form at the back of this newsletter (page 8) where you can financially support the TEC in our efforts. Let's accomplish excellence together!

Yours in __kai__,
Drew Spadaro '17

Scholarship

Beta Theta Pi remained near the top in academics, as Alpha Tau's 3.442 GPA ranked us third among fraternities on campus and the highest fraternity average on city campus. The junior class led Alpha Tau with a 3.545 GPA, followed by the sophomores at 3.473, freshmen at 3.461, and seniors at 3.256. There were 14 members who received 4.0s, including two seniors entering their final semester with perfect GPA's. The number of members below our standard of a 2.9 GPA is currently at 13, with three being second semester new members.

Our greatest challenge this semester will be maintaining our track record of academic excellence with all courses shifting online due the coronavirus. We will work with our members through providing mutual online assistance and holding each other accountable to the standards we met prior to this occurrence.

Yours in __kai__,
Cole Lyons '19

SOCIAL

Beta has been busy with academics and other campus and community involvement, but we have had full weekends with social events as well until the coronavirus impacted Lincoln and the UNL community. We held just one of our three scheduled spring formals. We traveled on a chapter sneak to TCU in Ft. Worth, TX. The trip to TCU was very successful and we enjoyed our time at the TCU Beta chapter.

We are proceeding with plans for next year--though we will continue to monitor the rest of this semester to the extent possible. Two freshmen were elected to positions on the social cabinet. **Nick Gay '20** and **Jarod Fox '20** will be helping out on the social team, and together we plan to expand on our social scene to the best of our ability and improve in any way we can.

Yours in __kai__,
William Spethman '19

OUR MENTOR AND MENTEE STORIES

*Editor's Note: The following was submitted by mentor **Gary Frazer '65, ED.d** and his mentee, **Jack Erikson '18**. Dr. Frazer is a retired management consultant living fulltime in Scottsdale, Arizona. Jack is an Omaha native who is an actuarial science major and has accepted a job in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, after he graduates from UNL. Our thanks to both of them for their updates. Gary can be reached at gwfrazier@cox.net and Jack at j.erikson9@gmail.com.*

ALUMNUS PERSPECTIVE

When I was asked to be an Alpha Tau mentor, I was dubious about participating as someone who lives remotely from the chapter house in Lincoln. I wasn't sure that my participation would be valuable for a mentee. That proved not only to be a mistaken perception, but it has been as valuable to me as I believe it has for my great mentee, Jack Erikson.

Although we have not been able to participate in several of the Beta activities together, we have connected. I made a trip to Lincoln in 2018 for a Beta golf tournament, but my main goal on that trip was to visit with Jack. In May he will be graduating from UNL. My plan before the coronavirus concerns and the closing of the living unit was to attend Jack's May 9 graduation in person. This ceremony will now be online, but I know I will continue supporting him and hopefully be able to meet Jack's family in the future.

In order to stay connected, we established early on a bi-weekly call. We use this time to catch-up on academics, personal and Beta activities,

challenges and opportunities. When Jack was readying himself for both an opportunity to apprentice in his major and to apply for a full-time position, I was able to assist with job search recommendations since I had been a career counselor and had a lot of networking experience. He will start his first career opportunity in Philadelphia after graduating.

Staying in touch regularly is critical in a mentor/mentee relationship. That means that both parties must commit and accept responsibility for making the relationship matter. Before the relationship can be meaningful, trust must be established. The only way trust happens is through regular, open and honest conversation. Jack and I have similar personalities, so we know how to communicate with one another in meaningful ways.

Both of us are excited about this new chapter in his life. For me, I feel honored to have been a small part in helping him continue his growth and life's adventures and look forward to staying in touch as friends and Beta brothers.

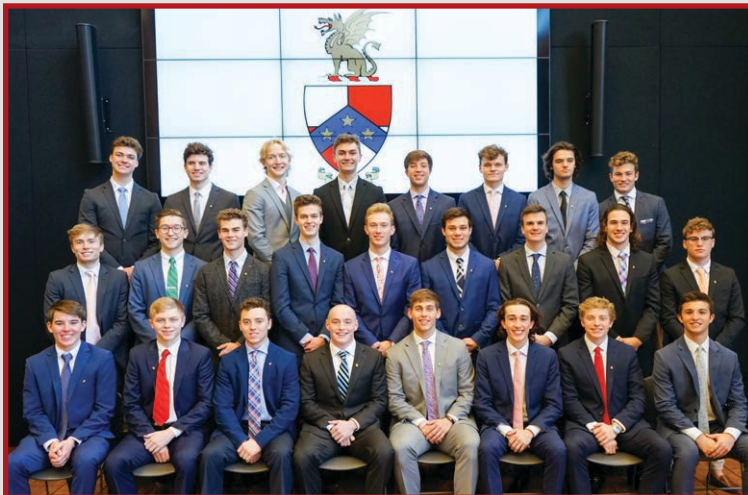
UNDERGRADUATE PERSPECTIVE

Gary and I have been mentor pairs for two and a half years now and my life has improved because of it. We have only met in person once thus far, but his mentorship has significantly impacted my life, and he had planned to attend my graduation this spring.

At first, I was a little underwhelmed that my chosen mentor was not an actuary, my field of study. However, Gary knows the industry inside and out and was better at pulling in connections for me than I could have imagined. Also, Gary has become an essential support in my life,

especially since my personal and professional life are changing like never before. He is a great source of advice whenever I need, and for that, I am immensely grateful.

This mentorship program has been a blessing for me. I can only hope that others receive a mentor as supportive as mine. Hopefully other mentor pairs can maintain constructive communication throughout college and beyond as Gary and I plan to do. It will be worth it.



Top row, from left: Parker Miller, Cole Baeder, Walter Turner, Zaine Gallager, Lane Longval, Robert Doran, Gavin Struve, and McLean Witte Middle row, from left: Michael Smilko, Will Dempsey, Jampe Gergen, Sam Rice, Jarod Fox, Jake Buckner, Jack Marsden, Jack Patzner, and Colin Campin Front row from, left: Max Seibolt, Kole Ligouri, Sam Gibson, Joe Dworak (honor pledge), DJ Pfeifer, Carter Crayne, Nick Gay, and Josh White. Missing from photo: Andrew Aldana.

List of New Members

Joe Dworak, AT 2525
Sam Gibson, AT 2526
DJ Pfeifer, AT 2527
Josh White, AT 2528
Kole Ligouri, AT 2529
Sam Rice, AT 2530
Cole Baeder, AT 2531
Max Seibolt, AT 2532
Nick Gay, AT 2533
Jarod Fox, AT 2534
Parker Miller, AT 2535
Jack Patzner, AT 2536
Andrew Aldana, AT 2537

Gavin Struve, AT 2538
McLean Witte, AT 2539
Jack Marsden, AT 2540
Jampe Gergen, AT 2541
Lane Longval, AT 2542
Jake Buckner, AT 2543
Walter Turner, AT 2544
Robert Doran, AT 2545
Will Dempsey, AT 2546
Zaine Gallager, AT 2547
Michael Smilko, AT 2548
Carter Crayne, AT 2549
Colin Campin, AT 2550

PLEDGE EDUCATION REPORT

Alpha Tau welcomed 26 new brothers with open arms into our great association. This new class is full of young men who are passionate, diligent, and involved, which gives me a great sense of joy as they work their way through the ranks of Beta. As we look forward to a new group of members after our recruitment efforts this summer, I will work with three spring new members eligible for initiation who are all extremely dedicated to performing well in school.

We have some exciting new ideas in store for this fall's group of new members. Although we are following many of the same basic functions of previous semesters, we are changing certain components which we believe will be great additions. The first dramatic change is the installation of Assistant New Member Educators **Dominic "DJ" Pfeifer '20** and **Parker Miller '20**, who will assist me in the lore, songs, and the new member process as a whole. My goal for the fall new member class is to be a catalyst in their bonding process and unity into brotherhood. I hope to guide them through the ranks of what Beta truly represents and want to instill our core values into their everyday lives.

I am excited to work with this incoming group of fine young men, who I know will represent Beta Theta Pi to the best of their ability.

Yours in __kai__,
Jack Schulenberg '19

INITIATION

It is with great joy that I congratulate our new initiates on the achievement of completing their first semester of college, along with finishing the new member process for our fraternity. This is no small achievement. Behind the curtain lies long hours of studying, a true dedication to self-improvement, and a passion for leadership and community involvement. They have worked tirelessly to promote Beta values throughout our campus and the Lincoln metro area, doing everything within their power to improve the lives of those around them.

Their new member process reached fruition during the first week of Spring Semester with the initiation ceremony on Saturday, January 18. Initiation week served as the capstone to their new member development, being of the utmost importance to the chapter and a time that we value highly. The week's activities consisted of brushing up on lore, putting the finishing touches on Beta songs, and giving each initiate a chance to leave their lasting mark on the new member process. Most men used this time to volunteer at the Lighthouse after-school program for at-risk youth, some helped with yard work around the house, and others used the extra time to reach out to a few more distant actives that they had not yet had the chance to know. All in all, the week served as springboard for fostering brotherhood throughout the chapter. I couldn't be more pleased with the effect it left on us all. I look forward to seeing the paths forged over the coming years.

Yours in __kai__,
Phil Holubeck '17
Vice President (Outgoing)

Recruitment Report

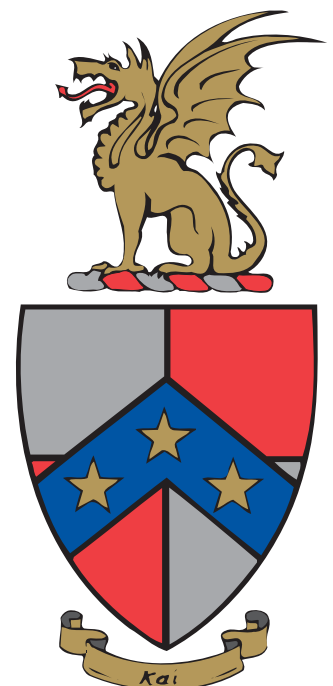
Iwould like to start by saying that I am incredibly grateful to represent Alpha Tau as the recruitment chairman this year. Our chapter has built a reputation as one of the best chapters of any fraternity in the country and that starts with the young men we recruit. I understand how important my work is in building on this legacy and recruiting young Men of Principle who can be molded by the culture of success we have established. Assisting me in this task are **Sam Rice '20** and **Jack Patzner '20**.

As we begin recruitment, we are in search of driven young men who we believe are contributors to their communities, families, schools, and other organizations. Who will bring these motivations to Beta and be the next generation of leaders for our chapter?

We welcome the help of all active members and alumni in our recruitment process. If you know of any candidates who you feel meet the standards and hold the values of Beta, please do not hesitate to send a recommendation. Although a recommendation does not guarantee a bid card, we will invite them to a recruitment dinner. Please send all recommendations by June 10 so that the recruitment team will have adequate time to meet with your suggested potential new member. A recruitment form for you to submit your personal recommendation is located on page 6 of this newsletter.

The Alpha Tau chapter is excited and ready to begin this new recruitment season. The coronavirus may impact recruitment, but we still hope to have all new members signed by early July, though at this point there are many unknowns. We hope to host recruitment barbeque events every Thursday during the month of June. Locations are unknown, but we promise all precautions for safety of our members and recruits will be taken. Our initial plans were at the chapter house, or at a private pool or lake house in the Lincoln or Omaha areas. We also hope to host recruitment lake events every Saturday in the month of June at various locations in the Lincoln and Omaha areas. These events are a great opportunity to have potential new members interact with the active chapter, fostering relationships and showing those being recruited what the men of Beta represent. Potential new members who truly embody the principles of Beta will be extended bid cards by our recruitment team. Last summer **Max Van Arsdall '18** was on the recruitment team, and Max and his communications team will work to ensure our recruitment calendar is kept up-to-date, especially with the virus concerns. Visit nebraskabeta.com for more information.

Yours in __kai__,
Brooks Douglass '19
recruitment@nebraskabeta.com



COMMUNICATIONS

While Alpha Tau prides itself on being one of the best chapters in the nation, we feel there is room for improvement. We are adding emphasis on improving our internal and external communications, especially during these difficult times of the COVID-19 crisis. My new position as communications chairman has formally replaced the alumni relations chairman role and will be supplemented with two additional undergraduates on our communications team. **Sam Rice '20** will handle public relations and **Jack Keating '18** will work with alumni. Sam will also serve on the recruitment team, as noted in the recruitment article. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with both members, the chapter and alumni, and we're looking forward to a year of positive changes.

We were hoping to highlight some alumni events, but the coronavirus has put those activities on hold. Still, we are incredibly grateful for our alumni efforts to ensure Alpha Tau's success. Alumni support is critical

as we work through the issues of the coronavirus and the closing of our living unit.

We hope normal chapter operations will resume in the fall. At that time, if you are interested in attending a formal Monday dinner, send me an email at least three or four days in advance of the dinner to ensure we have no conflicts such as pinnings, a speaker, or other special events. Each dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. You will be provided with a famous Scott Thorson meal, good company with the members, and the opportunity to speak about your Beta experiences. I am excited to work alongside the rest of the 2020 executive team and looking forward to a great year of success.

Yours in __kai__,
Max Van Arsdall '18
alumni@nebraskabeta.com



Burger Bash is a November activity where other living units come to the Beta house for good burgers and trimmings. Lighthouse, a program for at-risk Lincoln youth, is the beneficiary of this annual event.

PHILANTHROPY

I'm sad to report this, but we have canceled all remaining scheduled philanthropic events for the spring semester. Our primary events, Backpack in Black and Festa Italiana, were scheduled for April. At Backpack in Black, we were going to team up with FarmHouse and Pi Kappa Alpha to raise money for the Lincoln Food Bank. The Festa Italiana pasta feed with Delta Delta Delta was going to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The decision to cancel both events came after the decision from the University to transition to classes online. The chapter has lost some sense of "community," but we have encouraged members to log ten hours of community service for the remainder of the semester, even if they aren't in the Lincoln area.

I'm excited to see where we are in the fall with the integration of the new member class and to be in this role for Alpha Tau. I have confidence that the executive team will handle each situation in the future accordingly.

We did have a successful Dance Marathon in February. As Erik reported, we raised more than \$235,000 for the Children's Miracle Network. Betas have supported the Dance Marathon for more than ten years and it is always one of the highlights of the spring semester.

Yours in __kai__,
Shaun Edgecombe '19

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 **Brooks Douglass '19** at recruitment@nebraskabeta.com. **Recommendations needed by June 15.**

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: _____

In Our Mystic Shrine

John R. Stebbins '53 entered Our Mystic Shrine on October 2, 2019. He was a resident of both Walla Walla, WA, and La Grande, OR, at the time of his death. John was born in Gothenburg, NE, and served as chaplain for Alpha Tau in college. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a business degree. John then returned to Gothenburg and established Stebbins Implement Company, selling and servicing International Harvester farm implements. He was involved in the United Methodist Church in Gothenburg in several capacities and served his community on the city council. He sold his business interests in 1968 and moved to Hawaii. John joined a John Deere dealership in Oregon in 1970. He also served his La Grande church and many other civic organizations and had an interest in many sporting activities.

Frederick T. Daly III '54 entered Our Mystic Shrine on July 12, 2019. He was born in Hastings, NE, and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy upon his graduation from the University of Nebraska. He served our country for 22 years and then worked for Syscon Automation, a software company for 21 years. If Fred's last name is familiar to some, his mother, Marian, was the Alpha Tau housemother in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He is survived by two children. His wife, Judy, preceded him in death in 2012. *(Editor's note: As Fred's death was being researched, when Fred and Judy were married in 1957, one of their groomsmen was Roger B. Henkle '54. Brother Henkle is also deceased, but additional details are unknown.)*

Gerald "Jerry" Stever '54 entered Our Mystic Shrine March 18. Jerry was a native of Nebraska City, and obtained his Eagle Scout designation the same year he graduated from high school (1953). He was AT 906.

Jerry was employed by Meadow Gold Dairy, and sold their products door-to-door in Nebraska City. He moved to Columbus and was involved with sales for Beatrice Foods, the parent company of Meadow Gold. He was a salesman for the company for 22 years. He then became a salesman for Montgomery Ward & Company, and worked for them for 20 years. During this time he also obtained the rank of First Sergeant for the Nebraska National Guard. Jerry and his wife moved to Topeka, KS, and he was active as a volunteer for the community. He received the Volunteer of the Year Education award from the United Way of Topeka for his work with literacy. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Ann, and is survived by their four children and their families.

We are reporting on a delayed basis the death of **William A. Wilson '57**. Bill entered Our Mystic Shrine on August 13, 2011. Bill was a graduate of the University of Nebraska Law School. He worked for Midwest Life Nebraska and Ameritas Life Insurance Corp in Lincoln before moving to Houston. Bill was counsel for American General Life Insurance Company in Houston (now American International Group).

Joseph L. Rembolt '65 entered Our Mystic Shrine on March 15. A native of Grand Island, NE, Joe was a lover of music, especially classic rock. In his youth, he was active in musicals and played the organ. He was a certified medical assistant for the Jackson County (MO) correctional system for over 20 years. Joe was active in his Kansas City church and had a mission of educating others about reducing the stigma of mental illness, which he battled throughout his life. His death was due to kidney disease. Among his survivors are his brother, **James E. Rembolt '62**; daughter, Kristin and her husband, **Grant W. Smith '11**.

The death of **Doug Beckwith '70** was reported in the fall 2019 issue of *The Dragon's Tale*. His family has established a scholarship in Doug's name through the Albion (NE) Education Association. If you wish to contribute to this 501(c)(3) entity, checks payable to the Albion Education Association should be sent to Doug's cousin, Ralph Schmadeke at 2487 270th Ave., Albion, NE 68620. Ralph will coordinate with the Foundation.

Alumni News

Alumni news can be emailed to updates@nebraskabeta.com. "Normal" deadlines for the spring and fall editions of *The Dragon's Tale* would be about March 1 and October 1 of each year. If you have news about yourself or other Alpha Tau Betas you would like to share, we encourage the submissions.



Beta Men at a trap shoot last November.

Thomas L. Williams, M.D. '68 is the retired chief medical officer, director of public health for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. With all the issues surrounding the coronavirus, Tom was asked to return to DHHS on a temporary basis. He is working to ensure that Nebraskans and others are receiving the best medical experience in combating this disease. We thank Tom for his continued service to Nebraska and our country. Tom can be reached at tlwillia48@gmail.com.

Steven M. Williams, M.D. '72 was selected to serve as president of the Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians. This organization serves over 1,300 family physician members across Nebraska with a primary strategic goal of supporting the health of all Nebraskans. Steve can be reached at smwmd@mac.com.

Dan Gleason '93 and two of his pledge brothers reported that members of the chapter were "kind enough to give three old alumni a tour on a Saturday night last fall. It had been a long time since we all had been in the house. It certainly brought back a ton of great memories. Judging by the young guys we had a chance to interact with, the Alpha Tau chapter appears to be in great hands. Appreciate you guys entertaining us for a couple of hours." Dan may be reached at huzkerdan@yahoo.com. *(Editor's note: Dan was joined by Jay Ferguson '93 and Jarrod Parde for the tour on Saturday, November 16. Alumni are certainly welcome to drop in for a visit once school starts next fall, assuming the coronavirus fears are hopefully over.)*

Kaleb Duncan '15 served as Alpha Tau's alumni relations chairman and The Experience Company's director of content and communications as an undergraduate. After graduation, he took a role at Verizon Media for 18 months before pursuing his full-time passion as a photographer/videographer. Last fall, Kaleb decided to devote full-time energies to his photography business in Omaha. He shoots family events and builds content and marketing materials for businesses. His website is kalebduncanphotography.com.

Initiation for our new members was held January 18 with the formal initiation banquet following on January 19. Details can be found in other parts of this issue. On Wednesday, January 15, initiation week dinners for new members and their pledge fathers were held in and around Lincoln. Several alumni from the Lincoln and Omaha areas participated in the meal and shared stories about Beta with the new members. Our sincere thanks to those alumni who gave of their time and experiences: **Pete Allman '76, Mark Antonson '04, Scott Barker '07, Jeff Beavers '00, Andy Cunningham '68, Dave Fergen** (a South Dakota Beta living in Lincoln and again supporting our chapter), **Ben Joekel '12, Pat Lusk '11, Ben Martens '01, Kenton Moore '06, Neil Moseman '80, Dave Nikunen '80, Tom Williams '68, and Mike Wortman '67**. If you would be interested in hosting a dinner next year, let **Mike Wortman '67** or **Bruce McKeag '65** know.

In addition to I-week dinners, part of the initiation process involves interviews of each new member by a group of alumni. Interviews were also performed the week prior to their initiation. Beta alumni and two female members of the Alumni Advisory Board helped ensure those being initiated met all qualifications. Those doing the interviews were **Mark Antonson '04, Jeff Beavers '00, Lauren Gayer, Kenton Moore '06, Neil Moseman '80, Gage Mruz '16, Anna Pressler, Brian Smith '16, Drew Stange '80, and Mike Wortman '67**.



During the 150th celebration of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, living units were encouraged to have red lights at night.

Beta Theta Pi Alumni Association of Nebraska

P.O. Box 22251

Lincoln, NE 68542

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The continuation of excellence at Alpha Tau is dependent not only on the involvement of active members and alumni, but relies heavily on support from member families. Contributions and involvement from Beta families sustain the essential functions of The Experience Company while also giving the organization financial leverage to amplify its potential impact. As an additional benefit for donor families, all contributions to TEC are tax deductible under 501(c)(3) tax laws. Take a generous step that can aid in the creation of amazing opportunities for the undergraduates of Alpha Tau.

All contributions can be sent to The Experience Company at:

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