



THE DRAGON'S TALE

FALL 2022

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

THE EXPERIENCE COMPANY

The Experience Company (TEC) is excited to kick off the eighth and most recent pairing of alumni to serve as mentors to undergraduate Betas. Appreciation to **Bruce McKeag '65**, **Bill Dana '76**, **Drew Spadaro '17**, **Cole Wellman '17**, and **Barrett Mooney '22** for recruiting mentors, coordinating training, and facilitating selection and pairing of Beta mentors and mentees.

An additional highlight from the past year was the collective effort to organize and select the first recipient of the David Karnes Leadership Award. The recognition provides a scholarship to an incoming senior member of the chapter who demonstrates the qualities and characteristics of **Dave Karnes '68**—including integrity, service to the community, and an individual known by peers, family, and friends for strength of purpose, strong work ethic, and selfless commitment to others. Congratulations to the inaugural recipient of the David Karnes Leadership Award, **Jarod Fox '20**. (See article on page 4.)

On Saturday, September 24, TEC and the undergraduate chapter hosted the Alpha Tau Celebration, attended by parents of freshmen and sophomores, undergraduate leadership, and Beta alumni. Update messages from the chapter and TEC were shared by **Sam Rice '20**, **Kyle Auman '21**, **Cole Wellman '17**, and **Grant Gregory '60**.

Additionally, TEC board members and Friends of Beta, Allyson Horne and Alexi Wellman, spoke to the group about their experiences as Beta moms as well as shared more of their talents and expertise in the areas of strengths-based mentoring, professional development, career planning, and individual leadership.

As TEC looks to the year ahead, efforts are underway for increased communication to alumni, parents, and Friends of Beta along with additional resources within the mentorship and internship programs. If you are interested in learning more about TEC and how you may become involved, please contact tec_general@nebraskabeta.com.

Yours in __kai__,
Todd Mattox '99
President of The Experience Company

Supporting the Active Chapter BETA PARENT ALLIANCE

Editor's note: We are going to look at two different organizations that contribute to our chapter. The Experience Company has been discussed in many past articles, but the Beta Parent Alliance is receiving more newsletter "coverage" in this issue.

Being a parent representative for the Beta Parent Alliance has been a true pleasure these past three years. Lisa Kaslon and I volunteered to team together and support the Beta men at UNL from 2019 to 2022. Transitioning to new leadership, please welcome fellow parents Dorothy Endacott and Theresa Keane, who will support the chapter starting this fall.

As mentioned on the Beta Theta Pi website (nebraskabeta.com/parents), the Beta Parent Alliance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln aspires to keep the parents of Beta men involved and informed as they support the Beta organization. Parents receive frequent emails letting them know of upcoming events and where they can volunteer their time while staying involved in their son's college adventure. These events are also featured on our Beta Parent Alliance Facebook page, facebook.com/groups/1381556745333763. Those volunteer opportunities include:

- Fall move-in and get-acquainted luncheon.**
- Homecoming luncheon and silent auction.**
- Decorating the Beta house for the holidays.**
- Hosting the Winter Formal dinner (December 2 this year) for Betas and their dates.**
- Providing meals and snacks during Dead and Finals weeks.**

These activities are well-attended and give parents and sons a chance to interact and get to know one another. We have exceptional parents who truly participate and make these events happen.

Through our dues and fundraising efforts, parents and alumni support the needs of the chapter. Some examples include new chairs for the dining room (2019), medical-cost support for house mom (2019), snacks, food, or gift cards for Dead and Finals weeks (2019-22), purchase of a new (used) piano for the chapter house (2020), and a new couch sectional for the Beta living room (2021).

The Alliance is currently soliciting donations to replace patio chairs. Donations (any amount) can be sent to Dorothy Endacott, 7935 Cheney Ridge Rd, Lincoln, NE 68516. Make checks payable to Beta Parent Alliance, and indicate in the Memo section this is for patio furniture. Donations are NOT tax-deductible.

The Betas and their families develop lifelong relationships and beautiful friendships. The house is a comfortable, pleasant, and safe place to live. All members share the common belief in academic excellence, a sense of tradition, brotherhood, and unqualified friendships. Parent members of the Beta Parent Alliance are a vital component in the success of their son's Beta experience.

Respectfully,
Karen Krull, Lisa Kaslon, Dorothy Endacott, and Theresa Keane



*New living room couch purchased by
Beta Parent Alliance.*

Chapter President Report

With a semester of experience under my belt, I can confidently say that being placed in the president role has taught me more than any other position I've ever held. I want to start off by thanking the incredible alumni for never ceasing to amaze me with their dedication to helping out in any way they can. Special thanks to my Experience Company mentor, **Russell Peterson '76**, for always giving me a new set of eyes on any problem I



find myself with. I also have to take this opportunity to thank our chapter advisor, **Mike Wortman '67**, whenever I can. I've said it before and I'll say it again, Mike has played the single-biggest role of the success in my position as president. This house is where it is today because of what Mike and all the other incredible alumni have contributed to building up a house full of Men of Principle. Over the summer, we sent two sophomores, **Connor Gokie '22** and **Burke Keane '22**, to the Wooden Institute in Oxford, OH. On August 4, **Tate Kiehn '21**, **Josh Mikus '21**, **Ethan Mustard '21**, and I attended Beta's 183rd General Convention in Atlanta, GA. While there, we voted on changes to the official ritual of Beta Theta Pi, attended leadership academies, and connected with brothers from chapters across the country. We also received two national awards, one for Outstanding Alumni Association and the other for Academic Excellence.

Finally, a number of execs and advisors went to Glenn Arbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, NY, for an Experience Company retreat hosted by **Grant Gregory '60**. It was an eye-opening event for everyone that attended, and we appreciate Grant sharing his life and business knowledge with us in order to improve The Experience Company.

This year, we welcomed a number of new people into our chapter house. We interviewed several caterers and selected a new one to replace our former chef. Dorothy Endacott and Theresa Keane have also taken the place of Karen Krull and Lisa Kaslon as leaders of the Beta Parent Alliance. It has been a pleasure working with them this year, and we especially appreciate all their work setting up the Homecoming Parent's Auction and Winter Formal. I want to take this opportunity to thank my executive team for their commitment to this chapter and to making our ideas something more than empty promises. This group has taught me more about myself and what it means to be a leader than I ever could have asked. It has been an honor being able to serve as a representative for a chapter full of my closest friends. I'm proud to be a Beta and hope to be a better one.

Yours in __kai__,
Kyle Auman '21
president@nebraskabeta.com

CHAPTER COUNSELOR REPORT

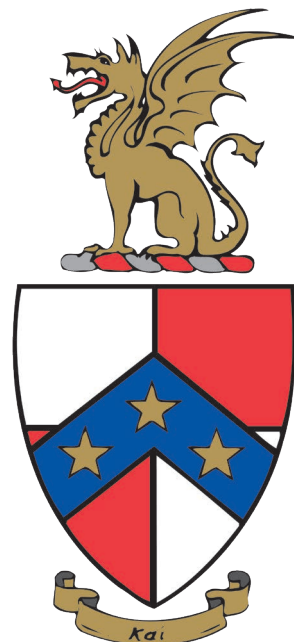
The summer of 2022 and the start of the school year has presented another year of great experiences for this group of 107 undergraduates in the Alpha Tau chapter. Over the summer, the whole house was very involved in the recruitment of another great class of Beta men. In August, our chapter was well-represented at the Annual Beta Convention, held this year in Atlanta. Our chapter received an award for our GPA being well-above the all-men's average. We also received an award for Alumni Engagement, which was a direct result of the involvement of The Experience Company with our mentoring program, and helping the men obtain internships. Within the first month of the school year, each new member had a 30-minute strength coaching session to discuss how his Top-5 Clifton Strengths can be leveraged to have a successful Beta and career experience.

Beta continues to be a leadership lab for the men in the chapter who demonstrate self-governance. The 11 members of the executive team work closely with the advisory team as they make decisions. Examples would include hiring a house director, hiring a food service company, establishing the new member education program, leading discussions on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and planning all the social and philanthropic events during the year.

The chapter is attempting to move back to some of the pre-COVID norms like having alumni and guests at Monday night dinners. If any alumni are available at 5:30 on a Monday evening, the men at 1515 R Street would love to hear a five-minute overview of your Beta journey and how Beta had an impact on your career journey. If you're able to join us for dinner and the chapter meeting that follows—even if spur of the moment—call me at (402) 525-5483. Looking forward to seeing you.

As always, I'm glad I'm a Beta.

Yours in __kai__,
Mike Wortman '67



2022 New Member Class

Carson Ahlers
Papillion, NE
Papillion-La Vista
High School

Aiden Aldana*
Nebraska City, NE
Lourdes Central
Catholic School

Luke Burger
Woodbury, MN
East Ridge
High School

Brad Clark
Yankton, SD/Elkhorn, NE
Elkhorn South High School

Raymond Danner
Berlin, Germany/Dubai, UAE
American School of Dubai

Tyson Dettmer*
Lincoln, NE
Southeast High School

Cooper DeWolfe
Elkhorn, NE
Elkhorn South High School

Alex Eifert
Kearney, NE
Kearney High School

Brennan Fitzgerald
Edina, MN
Saint Thomas Academy

Grey Friesen
Lincoln, NE
East High School

Drew Gleason*
Beatrice, NE
Beatrice High School

Ben Gregan
Elkhorn, NE
Elkhorn South
High School

Brad Hall
Auburn, NE
Auburn High School

Brian Kardell*
Elkhorn, NE
Elkhorn South High School

Calvin McCarville
Omaha, NE
Burke High School

Amani Mfinanga
Lincoln, NE
Lincoln High School/
North Star High School

Aidan Miller
Omaha, NE
Creighton Prep

Cole Mitchell
Elkhorn, NE
Elkhorn South High School

Angel Morales
Lincoln, NE
Pius X High School

Kevin Muir
Austin, TX
Cedar Park High School

Cash Niroomand-Rad*
Papillion, NE
Papillion-La Vista
High School

Will Peterson
Lincoln, NE
Southeast High School

Jack Redd
Papillion, NE
Papillion-La Vista South
High School

Tyler Schur*
Lincoln, NE
North Star High School

Colin Sibbersen*
Omaha, NE
Creighton Prep

Nathan Siy
Omaha, NE
Central High School

Joe Stratman
Omaha, NE
Millard South High School

Joe Sutko
Lincoln, NE
Pius X High School

Grant Tobaben*
Omaha, NE
Millard West High School

Sam Weyenth
Lincoln, NE
Southeast High School

Ashwin Wilson
Eden Prairie, MN
Eden Prairie High School

Rohit Wilson
Eden Prairie, MN
Eden Prairie High School

Will Wooden*
Kansas City, KS
Rockhurst High School

Nate Zuroske
Omaha, NE
Skutt Catholic High School

*Legacy

NEW MEMBER FAST FACTS

34 New Members | **27.22** Average ACT Score | **3.81** Average High School GPA

Coming from **4** different states and **1** other country

RECRUITMENT REPORT

On behalf of the recruitment team, we want to thank our generous alumni and active chapter for their assistance and support toward this past recruitment summer. We welcomed 34 new members to Alpha Tau chapter. The summer recruitment process would not have been possible without the assistance of **Nolan Connor '22** and **Will Henningsen '22**, who both provided valuable insight and allure into the recruitment process. I am thrilled to see what these new members accomplish in their class as they evolve into young men through their experience in Alpha Tau. The new pledge class consists of exceptional individuals, and I am positive they will continue to uphold and improve within this house. As a group, they had an average ACT score of 27.22 and a GPA of 3.81 in high school. The class comes from four different states and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. They have a variety of different backgrounds, which will contribute to our chapter's

diversity. Serving as the recruitment chairman for Alpha Tau chapter allowed me to not only give back to Beta, but also to obtain valuable experience and create connections that will remain after my term ends. I want to give a huge thank-you to the active chapter for electing and trusting me as recruitment chairman and to the alumni's support and dedication throughout my recruitment term. Having been a part of recruitment for the past summer, I can proudly say that this has been the best summer of my life, and I will forever cherish these moments as recruitment chairman.

Yours in __kai__,
Ethan Mustard '21
recruitment@nebraskabeta.com

PHILANTHROPY REPORT

As the chapter welcomed 34 new members, our philanthropic efforts remained top of mind. We are continuing to help at Lighthouse, a safe after-school environment for students in Lincoln with a focus on getting students to graduate high school by tutoring, playing games, and serving meals on occasion. (Lighthouse was founded by alum **Pete Allman '76** and his wife.) As a chapter, we aim to volunteer at Lighthouse on a weekly basis at a minimum. We helped the Friendship Home in their 20th annual "Safe Quarters" event by raising over \$1,100 on October 9. New Members went door-to-door to benefit this Lincoln organization helping victims of domestic violence.

We have two additional events planned this semester. Our next event was November 5, when we had a food truck at the house to help aid in the construction of the new Bryan Health April Sampson Cancer Center in south Lincoln. Throughout the last four semesters, fraternities campus-wide have been working together to fundraise for Bryan Health with the goal of \$150,000. Each fraternity has been given a financial goal based on the number of members in the house. Fraternities that reach their goal will have their crests permanently displayed in the cafeteria of the new Cancer Center.

We have raised \$3,600 so far with a goal of \$9,000. If you wish to contribute, send a check to my attention at the chapter house:

**1515 R St.
Lincoln, NE 68508**

IFC is collecting the money and donating one large check to Bryan Health at the end of the semester. Checks should be made out to the University of Nebraska Lincoln Interfraternity Council, with Bryan Health Fundraiser in the memo line. Extra support from alumni would be greatly appreciated. We are well on our way but need one last big push this semester to reach our goal.

Our third event (to benefit Lighthouse) was our annual Burger Bash event the latter part of November. We opened up the chapter house to the UNL campus and others and served cheeseburgers and fries. This is our longest-running philanthropic event as a chapter, and we look forward every year to continuing the tradition of helping Lighthouse and the youth and community they serve.

Yours in __kai__,
Sam Thomas '21

Scholarship Report

After a disappointing fall semester of 2021, I am proud to report that, in the spring semester of 2022, Beta Theta Pi finished with a 3.46 house GPA. This is a tremendous improvement from the previous semester's GPA of 3.28. We had 16 members achieve a 4.0, and 48 made the Dean's List in their respective colleges.



Jarod Fox '20

Juniors led the way with a class-high GPA of 3.53, freshmen with an average of 3.49, sophomores with a 3.47, and the senior class with a 3.31. This spring, we also introduced a new scholarship, the David K. Karnes Leadership award. As the name states, this award commemorates former U.S. Senator **Dave Karnes '68**. The award is given to a current junior in their spring semester and chosen based on outstanding character and leadership. Congratulations to **Jarod Fox '20** for being the inaugural recipient of this award.

The previous fall semester, many incoming freshmen struggled to adapt to their college classes, contributing to a dip in grades for our entire chapter. This semester, we have instituted new practices to help the new members transition to more rigorous college classes. In the past, we had done

grade checks three times throughout the semester. However, modern-day students can quickly view their grades on their phones, so we are now doing grade checks every week. By doing this, we will quickly identify which new members need help and provide it to them.

Potential new members will also post their class schedules outside their rooms to improve class attendance and spark conversations regarding classes with initiated members. Finally, we will make the new members' exam scores public to the chapter. The goal is for those doing well to be celebrated and recognized for their efforts, and the active chapter will identify those struggling to provide assistance and encouragement. I expect these new practices to deeply instill the importance of academics into what it means to be an Alpha Tau for this new class.

This semester, we have just two members on academic assistance by falling below a 2.9 for two out of the last three semesters or below a 2.6 for one semester.

While we were excited to see the improvements from this semester, the chapter and I know that we have the potential to do even better.

Yours in __kai__,
James Eschelman '21

Communications Report

I have been happy to serve as our communications chairman this past year. This upcoming semester, we are excited to return to our regularly scheduled programming with both the Alpha Tau Celebration that was held on September 24 (see page 1), and our annual Dad's Day Golf Tournament held on October 23 at Holmes Park Golf Course. We have also started sending a monthly newsletter by email that provides an update on both the active chapter and The Experience Company. (If you aren't receiving the newsletter, drop us a line at updates@nebraskabeta.com.) Our hope is that we can begin to consolidate communications from both TEC and the active chapter. Be on the lookout for an email highlighting spring events that you can attend. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you are looking for a way to become involved in the chapter and/or The Experience Company.

If you live in Lincoln or nearby, we encourage you to stop by the chapter house for a formal dinner at 5:30 p.m. each Monday followed by our chapter meeting at 6:15. If interested, please contact me or **Mike Wortman '67** so we may notify the chapter and make the necessary arrangements to ensure there are no conflicts such as a pinning, special event, etc. Alumni can also look for emails or visit nebraskabeta.com/alumni to stay up to date with chapter news and events. We hope to hear from you soon.

Yours in __kai__,
Sam Rice '20
alumni@nebraskabeta.com

NEW MEMBER EDUCATION REPORT

This fall, Alpha Tau chapter has welcomed 34 new members into our program. The class is comprised of men who are lively, driven, intelligent, and loving. Over this semester, I will work with these men toward their goal of initiation, through instruction on lore, songs, and more, as we strive to embody the qualities of Men of Principle.

Along with Assistant New Member Educators **Charlie Lorkovic '22** and **Evan Wilson '22**, we have some very exciting events planned for the new members: a combination of old traditions and new changes. We look forward to hosting several motivational guest speakers, a résumé-building workshop, a goal-setting session, and more. The hope, of course, is for all of these fine gentlemen to be initiated into Beta and contribute positively to the future of the chapter.

In just a few short weeks, I have been blessed with the opportunity to get to know these brilliant young men through our teaching. Conversely, these men have also already taught me many valuable lessons, and I am excited to see how our symbiotic relationships continue. These men are filled with promise, and I do not doubt that the future of Alpha Tau is in great hands.

Yours in __kai__,
Grant Auman '21

SOCIAL REPORT

This semester, the members of Beta Theta Pi have been getting back in the groove of school, service, and social events. As a chapter, we are very thankful to proceed with social events this fall as normal. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, social events have looked a bit different in the past two years. Now that the pandemic has died down, we are able to host brotherhood events, sober socials, semi-formals, and formals as usual. The actives and new members are excited about our upcoming formals this semester. The new members get to experience their first formal, and the actives get to partake in a few of their favorites. There's no better start to the semester than with a chapter-wide favorite. On October 8, we participated in a long-lasting Alpha Tau tradition, "Dynamo." All members of the Alpha Tau chapter have been itching to put their cowboy hats and boots on and enjoy some good barbecue. The chapter is particularly excited to see everyone in one place for the first time since last year's "Riverboat" formal.

We have four other formals planned for this semester, including a "Rock-n-Roll" semi-formal with Alpha Chi Omega and Sigma Alpha Epsilon. We will also host a new "Disco" themed semi-formal with Delta Gamma and Alpha Phi. We will partake in our annual "Winter Formal" on December 2 with the Parent Alliance helping to cap off the fall semester. The Winter Formal was a huge success last year, and it was a great opportunity for our members and parents to interact together at the chapter house over dinner. We are very thankful for the hard work and effort the Beta Parent Alliance puts in to ensure the entire chapter has an awesome Winter Formal. We look forward to seeing all the parent volunteers in December. Members of the Alpha Tau chapter are excited about these upcoming social events to go along with all the hard work we put into our academics, involvement, and service work throughout the semester.

Yours in __kai__,
Ben Pick '20

ALUMNI NEWS

"Bugeaters" is a group of "more mature" Betas that hold periodic events. This year's celebration was in Kansas City on October 18-20. **Bill Pohlman '59**, **Don Stokes '59**, and **Gary Hruby '61** provided the following history of the group: Bill was traveling to Auburn, NE, in the 1990s. Flying into Kansas City from North Carolina, Bill saw a sign in a field saying something like "Re-elect Judy Stokes County Treasurer." Judy was the wife of Don, and the Stokes' lived in the KC area. Bill, Don, and a few other Betas met for lunch the next time Bill was in KC and started thinking about a gathering of a few brothers for a little golf event in North Carolina. Bill stated that Gary introduced the Bugeaters name from the University of Nebraska before "Cornhuskers" was first used in the early 1900s. One of the attendees, **Tom Colwell '00**, said he would like to do something similar the following year. The rest is history. During the next few years, Tom and his wife, Gwen, hosted beautiful events, and it grew to 40 or 50 people at one time in their backyard in Denver. Obviously, it has been held at various locations and hosted by numerous people, but Tom and Gwen should get credit for making it into something that has endured. This year, 13 participated, and while golf is no longer played, some good KC barbecue and cold beverages provided a great background for stories that have lived on with this group.



Barb Pohlman, Gary Hruby '61, Suedy Hruby, Don Stokes '59, Gwen Colwell, Tom Colwell '00, Jon Hinrichs '62, Alta Nolte, Bill Pohlman '59, Jo Stansbury, Ned Nolte '60, John Stansbury '59, and Donna Woods (wife of Jon).

Charles Packard '68 ("Blade" as he was known in college) was an advertising executive in Texas and New York City for 32 years. In 2004, he decided to earnestly consider the ministry and where it might lead. In August 2007, and just before his last year in seminary, Charlie preached at Dundee Presbyterian Church in Omaha, his church as a youth. Many Betas and wives turned out to hear his sermon. He graduated in May 2008 and was ordained the following September. He accepted a call as the pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Woodway, TX, (a suburb of Waco), and served the congregation for just over eight years. While living in Texas, Blade and his wife, Lynda, bought a condo in Durango, CO, and eventually moved full-time in 2017. With no formal ministerial call, Charlie became a member of the resort's golf staff and has continued for the past six seasons.

However, since living in Colorado, Rev. Packard began ministering as a transitional/interim pastor and has served three congregations, retiring from the United Church of the San Juans in Ridgeway, CO, on November 6. At press time, he stated he plans to occasionally fill the pulpit for vacationing pastors, although he's also been contacted by area churches to fill interim positions; so "retiring" has quotes around the word, "As I'm far from retiring."

Blade has been active in Alpha Tau's mentor program and was one of the judges for the David Karnes Scholarship that was awarded to Jarod Fox. See the article about this scholarship on page 4. Charlie may be reached at crpackard@gmail.com.

John Meese '70 worked for Waste Management for the past 15 years, where he was Senior Director for heavy equipment. John retired in April and has formed his own company, JAM and Associates, LLC, in the Houston, TX, and Omaha, NE, areas. He continues to buy and sell equipment through his many previous customers to meet their demands. John may be reached at jmeese51@gmail.com.

On Patriot's Day 2022, visitors at Lincoln's Veterans Memorial Garden (adjacent to Antelope Park) paid tribute to those Nebraskans who died in the line of duty after 9/11 to help ensure their sacrifice is not forgotten. The solemn ceremony included a wreath-laying and the reading of the names of those listed on the post 9/11 monument.

Chris Stokes '89 participated in the ceremony. Stokes gained a mayoral appointment in 2019 to the Veteran's Memorial Garden Advisory Council and is a military veteran. He worked on the current project, and it is something in which he's proud to have been a part. "This is a way the city of Lincoln honors its veterans in a really great manner." Chris served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve for 34 years, retiring last year at the rank of colonel. Chris flew numerous combat missions over both Iraq and Afghanistan and remains active in the Lincoln community while continuing as a Boeing 787 pilot for United Airlines. Thanks for your continued service. Chris may be reached at cbstokes1@gmail.com.

Nick McEwin '15 has been promoted to Associate Project Manager for Northern Natural Gas in Omaha. He has been employed by NNG for the past 3+ years. Nick may be reached at cnmcewin@aol.com.

Jack Rice '16 graduated this spring from the University of Nebraska School of Law. Jack has recently accepted a position as a trust administrator for Bridges Trust in Omaha. Jack can be reached at jackrice30@gmail.com.

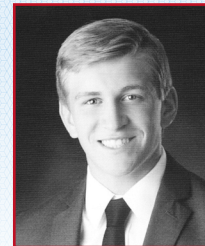
Chase A. Caverzagie '16 completed all his requirements for acceptance into the Society of Actuaries. A fellowship requires many hours of study and several tests to obtain the FSA designation. Chase stated, "After 20+ years of formal education, I'm glad to be taking a break for a while." Chase was married in June and is employed as an actuarial consultant with Milliman in Omaha. He is active in Alpha Tau's mentor program. Congratulations, Chase! He may be reached at chasecaverzagie@gmail.com.

Alex Bernhardson '16 has worked for Alfred Benesch and Company, a civil engineering professional services firm out of the Lincoln, NE office for the past four years. Alex has been involved with the aviation group within the company and recently passed his professional engineering exam, which will allow him to have his license for the State of Nebraska in January. His employer has 46 offices in 20 states. Alex is a current mentor in Alpha Tau's mentor program. Congratulations, Alex! He may be reached at abernhardson@benesch.com.

Max VanArsdall '18 is an account development manager for NRC Health in Clearwater, FL. He started his job in March after previous experience in the health care industry. NRC is based in Lincoln and focuses on collecting volumes of healthcare consumer data and other information in the U.S. and Canada. Max can be reached at maxvanarsdall@gmail.com.

Jack Keating '18

Editor's note: Somehow, we get on mailing lists and receive magazines not expected. If the magazine looks interesting, I will usually glance at it. In our May mail, we received Pride of Place magazine, "for friends of UNL." Since this is "my" university, I opened it. When I got to page 18, I did a double take when I saw the picture of Jack, with whom I had worked and played golf when he was an undergraduate.



Jack has a Mechanical Engineering degree from UNL. He is the founder of Corral Technologies, which has developed an electronic system to help farmers manage their pastures without building fences. When Jack was growing up, he spent time on his family's cattle farm in northern Nebraska. His father asked, "Wouldn't it be great if there was invisible fencing for cattle?" Jack said, "That's what started the idea." As cattle are rotated through pastures, Jack has developed a process to replace what was labor-intensive and hazardous. What started as a collar-and-ear-tag system is now an all-collar system that emits an electrical stimulation, much like dogs have. Boundaries for pastures are marked, and there is mapping software to create new fences in pastures. Farmers know the location of their cattle and can move cattle from one spot to another with the click of a button.

Last year Corral Technologies was the grand prize winner in the UNL College of Business New Venture Competition and was awarded a \$25,000 grant. They were also awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Nebraska Prototype Grant Program. Congratulations, Jack, and continued good luck! He can be reached at jackkeating@corraltech.com.

Justin Mikolajczewski '20 has started a new position as an Internal Wholesaler at Northern Trust Asset Management. "Miko" will be responsible for selling exchange-traded funds, mutual funds, and multi-asset class products. He has his Series 7 license. Justin will work from the Tempe, AZ, office. Since his college graduation, he worked in the metropolitan Chicago area for another employer. He can be reached at justinmiko00@gmail.com.

Trevor Kaslon '19 is an assistant water resources manager with Olsson and Association, a Lincoln engineering firm. Trevor works in their Omaha office following his graduation from UNL with his bachelor's degree in engineering. (Trevor's mother, Lisa, was active with the Beta Parent Alliance. See article on page 1.) Trevor may be reached at tkazzale@gmail.com.

Jake Buckner '20 just graduated from UNL in May and stated that he is getting settled in Kansas City and working for Apex Systems in Overland Park, KS as a technical recruiter. Apex is a technology service business delivering solutions for the goals of its customers. Jake can be reached at jacobbuckner15@gmail.com.



IN OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

George A. Townsend '42 entered Our Mystic Shrine on August 12, 2019. Beta was just recently informed of his passing. George was a graduate of Fremont (NE) High School and joined the U.S. Army while in college and during WWII. After his discharge, he spent much of his career as a district manager for DEKALB Seed Agricultural Research in the Yankton, SD, area. George and his wife retired to San Diego, CA, in 2013.

George was described as a lover of life and a storyteller. In the last two years of his life, he completed his memoir, *An American Midwest Family: The Townsend Clan*, and was especially proud that it was accepted into the Library of Congress. He was immensely proud to have been included on an honor flight to Washington, DC, for his WWII service. George is survived by a son and two daughters, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Richard "Dick" Bell '43 entered Our Mystic Shrine on February 10, in Sun City, AZ. He was AT 694. Dick was from Glenwood, IA, but spent the last several years in Arizona. He remained good friends with his pledge brother **John Dean '43**. John provided the following information: while attending the University of Nebraska, Dick was a diver on the men's swimming team. Following graduation, Dick enlisted in the U.S. Army during WWII. After his honorable discharge, he attended dental school and practiced dentistry for one year in York, NE. He decided he did not want to be a long-time dentist and became a salesman for the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company for the balance of his professional life. Dick lived in Hawaii and Washington State and eventually retired to Arizona. He is survived by one son and three daughters.

Dick will be remembered as a freshman parking his motorcycle in the front hall of the Beta house and leaving it running. *Editor's note: Would the motorcycle remain in front of the chapter house in today's world if its engine was running?*

Richard Kizzier '50 entered Our Mystic Shrine on September 19, 2021, in Tucson, AZ. He was AT 834. After time at Northwestern University, Dick transferred to the University of Nebraska. He then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict and served for four years. After his honorary discharge, Dick joined his father's automotive business in Holdrege, NE. He eventually opened his own car dealership, Kizzier Chevrolet, in Kearney, NE. He owned this for many years. Dick's survivors include his wife of 62 years, Yvonne, and a son and a daughter.

Donald P. Anderson, M.D. '53 entered Our Mystic Shrine on March 24 in Bentonville, AR. He was AT 864. Dr. Anderson practiced medicine in Bentonville until his January 1, 1990 retirement. He is survived by his wife, Linda.

Joseph Johnson '61 entered Our Mystic Shrine on October 1. He was AT 1043. Joe graduated from UNL with a political science degree and enlisted in the Nebraska Air National Guard in 1966. He was

commissioned as a second lieutenant and eventually served the guard in a full-time position as their public affairs officer. He retired in 1996 with the rank of Lt. Col. Survivors include a son and daughter.

Terry Vogt, M.D. '62 entered Our Mystic Shrine on May 11 in Evergreen, CO. Terry was AT 1059. Terry was the trainer for the pledge class of 1964. After graduation, Terry went to medical school and first practiced in Green Bay, WI. In 1977, Terry and his wife, JoAnn (married 54 years), moved to Colorado to join Terry's brother, Dan, in establishing an emergency physician group in Wheatridge. Terry practiced medicine until 2006.

While in college, Terry could often be found playing the chapter house piano at 1:30 on a Saturday or Sunday morning and after women had to be in their sorority or dorm rooms. He was the chorus master when the Betas won the Ivy Day Sing in 1964. Terry continued his gift of music by playing for church services in Colorado. In addition to JoAnn, Terry is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and his brother, **Don '61**, AT 1047. Among those preceding Terry in death was brother **Dan '61**, AT 1039. *Editor's note: Ivy Day still is a part of the UNL campus but has changed over the years. In the '50s to early '70s, the Senior Honoraries were "announced," awards for living units were announced, and there was a competitive singing contest each year—often won by the Betas.*

Two members of the pledge class of 1966 passed away within two weeks of each other.

Larry Knebel '67 entered Our Mystic Shrine on June 22 in Haslet, TX. Larry was AT 1214. Larry was a native of Hastings, NE. Larry was a pacemaker representative for 35 years and was often in the surgical suite when a patient had a cardiac pacemaker implanted. He became good friends with several cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons in the north Texas region. Larry had a passion for classic cars and was a member of the (Pontiac) GTO Association of North Texas.

Larry's survivors include his wife of 30 years, Sandy, five children, and seven grandchildren.

Jim Langford '67 entered Our Mystic Shrine on July 4 in Grand Island, NE. He was AT 1230. After college, Jim was a carrier for the U.S. Postal System. In 1976, he joined the Union Pacific Railroad and was a train conductor until 2006. Jim was a native of North Platte, NE, but most at home in the mountains chasing trout. He spent a lot of time fishing, hunting, cooking, and gardening.

Jim and his first wife, Peggy, were married for 44 years until her death in 2012. In 2020, Jim remarried and is survived by his wife, Mary. Other survivors include three children.

If you have information about the death of an Alpha Tau Beta for a future edition of *The Dragon's Tale*, send an email to updates@nebraskabeta.com



THE DRAGON'S TALE

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

Address Service Requested



UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER NEWS

Editor's note: Sometimes chapter news takes place outside of normal chapter executive reports. Here are three "non-exec" news stories:

Sam Gibson '20 a senior majoring in mechanical and materials engineering, was chosen to receive the American Society of Mechanical Engineers International Standards and Certification Scholar Award. Sam is the first student from UNL to receive this award, which provides \$10,000 to its recipients. Sam said his award will enable him to finish work on his engineering degree, which includes a minor in engineering leadership.



From Harrisburg, SD, Sam has had a big impact on Nebraska Engineering. He joined the ASME chapter as a freshman. In his sophomore year, Sam was elected vice president and tasked with recruiting new members. Facing challenges from the pandemic as well, he set up innovative networking events with professors and industry leaders.

The lessons learned from this process led him to develop a unique marketing model that has helped to significantly raise membership in the ASME chapter. Those campaigns included advertising in campus buildings, attending club fair events, creating online flyers, and direct mailing.

Sam also received a \$1,000 Crystal Group Innovation Scholarship. This recognized his academic accomplishments, leadership, and participation in both school and community activities of full-time students pursuing an undergraduate degree in engineering, business, or a related major. Scholarship recipients receive a \$1,000 scholarship payable directly to the institution in which they are enrolled.

After graduating next May, Sam aspires to pursue a career in management consulting. Congratulations, Sam!

Sam Rice '20 is the Communications Chairman for the undergraduate chapter and works with *The Dragon's Tale*. See his report on page 5. Not mentioned in his report is how he spent this past summer. Sam worked as an intern with the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team in California. Sam, a senior in emerging media arts, worked as a video producer in the Clippers media department. Sam said he was treated like a full-time employee doing photo and video work and producing daily edits for various platforms.



Sam continues to work for the Nebraska Athletic Department and stated his UNL experience with the Husker basketball team made his time with the Clippers possible. He built relationships with the professional players and, "It was just a good group to be around." He remains with the team as an independent contractor throughout the upcoming season.

Rhett Bertstier '22 was initiated on August 16. He is from Lincoln and AT 2607. Congrats, Rhett.



Follow Us Online!

- ★ nebraskabeta.com
- 🐦 @beta_unl
- 📷 @beta_unl
- 📘 Beta Theta Pi - University of Nebraska
- 📍 Beta Theta Pi, University of Nebraska-Lincoln