

The Theta Data

FEBRUARY 2003
DELAWARE, OHIO

THETA CHAPTER • BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY • OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



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June 21-23, 2002 Reunion at Oxford, Ohio

Miami University and the Beta National Administrative Offices hosted the June, 2002 reunion of OWU Theta Chapter which witnessed 40 alumni and 25 spouses in attendance. Most of those attending were from the classes initiated in 1952 & 1953 as 35 alumni were recognized for their 50th anniversary as Betas.

Highlighting the reunion luncheon at the beautiful Beta Administrative offices were comments by the General Secretary, Dave Wright, OSU '67; Chuck Underwood '68, President, Theta House Company; and a special ceremony conducted by Dick DeVos '54 and Ben Graham '52, recognizing 35 recipients [18 were in attendance] with the Fraternal 50s pin, following which the "Loving Cup" was revisited in spirit and song.



Bill and Ann Long

Recipients attending the ceremony were: from the class of '52; Dick Draz, John Funderburg, Jack Hahn, John Hammond, Milt Irvin, Larry Linderer, Paul Nobis, Bill Plavcan, Dan Rich, Ken Rowley, Ron VanBuren, Al Vlrebome and from



J. Hahn, J. Funderburg and W. Plavcan — Pledge Class of 1952

the class of '53; John Appel, Ken Cozier, Bob Henshaw, Tom Tatham and Dan Wright.

During the afternoon, all were invited to make the tour of the Beta National facilities including the museum, offices, the brick "walk of fame" and the Beta Temple.

A reception and dinner were held on the Miami University campus at the Shriver Center.

Following the dinner, a presentation was given by Beta National staff member, Scott Allen, Minnesota '95, describing the "Men of Principle" initiative which has been adopted as the cornerstone strategy for the general fraternity to move forward in the 21st century.

The evening ended with singing led by John Hammond '55 followed by Paul Nobis '55 with his slide show featuring highlights from the 50s at 54 W. Lincoln and the OWU campus.

The Old Get-Away Group

On Monday, October 21, 2002, the old Get-Away group of Theta Betas—Ed O'Day '50, Bob Mauck '48, met with their wives at the home of Aggie and Hal Fausnaugh '48 in Rocky River, Ohio. Bill Long '51 and wife Ann were vacationing in Florida and could not be there.



Hal Fausnaugh '48 with Ed O'Day '50

The four couples were anxiously awaiting the "Surprise Guests" and speculating on who it would be this time. In the past, surprise Beta guests had been Skip Cheseldine '50, Dan Ransom '51, Dick Hindman '51 and Dan Guy '49.

We watched as a huge, old white "caddy" slowly pulled into the driveway. Someone said, "whoever he is, he sure is OLD!" Someone else shouted, "it's Packy McFarland '49!" Then the fun began!

Hal had arranged for dinner at The White Oaks in a 1920 speak-easy. The five Betas sat at one table and the wives at another. (Guess which table had the most intellectual conversation.) The following morning we had a private room at the hotel for breakfast where we shared lots of laughs and "remember when" stories. Before returning to our own homes, Hugh Troth gave each of us a pile of vegetables that he didn't want from his neighbor's garden.

Bill and Ann Long are planning our next get together.



Phyllis and Hugh Troth '48

Will we have a Mystery Guest? TO BE CONTINUED...

Theta's Crossroads

By Eric Eickhoff '00

TRUSTEE, HOUSE CORPORATION

I believe the Theta chapter's future is at a crossroads. On the eve of the chapter's 150th anniversary, we are faced with decisions that are equal in magnitude to the decision to disband the chapter. I will always agree that the alumni made the right decision even though many may have thought otherwise. The chapter was a risk and had no real hope of correcting all the operational issues it faced.

I know that the closure of the chapter and how it was handled has led to some skepticism and mistrust of the Ohio Wesleyan University administration, but we must not dwell on the past and instead look to the future. The future that I hope for is one that has an active chapter in Delaware, Ohio.

We have been lucky because we have been able to sustain communication between alumni since the chapter's disbandment. Eventually this communication will begin to wither without continual chapter activity. I have begun to sense that we have seen the peak and have begun the downward slope of communication. If we lose communication between alumni we will be stuck in a difficult position, one that makes recolonization nearly impossible.

Can we have a successful return to Ohio Wesleyan? Yes, we can have a stronger chapter, one that we all can be proud of if we work together and one that will be fully partnered with the Men of Principle Initiative. Upon our initiations we took seven obligations to which we willingly agreed. One obligation was that we would forever uphold the Theta chapter as a chapter of Beta Theta Pi. It is now time that we once again pledge ourselves to this obligation.

So how do we go about recolonizing the chapter? The first step is that we must strengthen the lines of communication between our members while reconnecting with the General Fraternity and Ohio Wesleyan University. Discussions need to take place about the future of the chapter between our alumni. Further we must keep communicating with the administration, both Dean Delaney and the new staff members in charge of Greek Affairs and develop with them a plan to return to campus. The second step is that we must have dedicated alumni who are willing to serve as advisors for the chapter once it is recolonized. The advisors will help the chapter achieve long term success by mentoring the undergraduate members. The advisory team can be developed as we move along in the process.

There are many questions that surround a recolonization at OWU. For instance, is a chapter house necessary? Many would say yes, I say no. Beta Theta Pi has had many successful colonies start without housing. Nowhere does it say that a chapter of Beta Theta Pi is a sole product of its house. The house is just bricks and mortar while the chapter consists of men. The chapter is the more important of the two. Another question is, how will we be received if we start recolonization efforts? That is a question I do not have the answer for, but that is why it is so important to stay involved with the University. We have a number of things that will help us. We are the first fraternity to be founded at OWU. We have had numerous alumni who have played important roles in both the Fraternity and the University. We will bring something new to the campus — a fraternity who is grounded in the values of their organization and whose members truly are about bettering themselves and the community.



Which way will the Theta chapter take at the crossroads? Will it return to prominence at OWU or will it stay dormant for many years to come? The bottom line is that if we want the chapter to return, the drive must come from us, the members of the Theta chapter. I will forever uphold the Theta chapter as a chapter of Beta Theta Pi. What about you? For more information about the recolonization process please look at the Convention 2002 issue of the *Beta Theta Pi* magazine. If you are interested in assisting in the Theta Chapter recolonization effort or have questions please contact me at eickhoff@wooglin.com.

Respectfully submitted in –kai-
Eric John Eickhoff

Senior Education Consultant
Ohio Wesleyan 2000
~1641~ Theta Chapter

Eric John Eickhoff graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in December of 2000. During his four and a half years at OWU, Eric was involved with both the Inter-Fraternity Council and the Theta chapter, holding multiple positions in each organization. He was the recipient of the 2000 Spirit of Eos award, given by the Panhellenic and Inter-Fraternity Councils. He was also initiated into Phi Alpha Theta and Phi Sigma Tau honorary societies. Upon graduation, he accepted a job with Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity, serving as an education consultant. Eric still holds this position, traveling the Northeast region. Currently residing in Oxford, Ohio, Eric is originally from Pepper Pike, Ohio.

President's Report

By Chuck Underwood '68

Recent months have been both "downs and ups" for us. First, on the downside, we had the closing of the chapter before the fall semester in 2001.

On the up side, however, we have re-organized the House Company and Alumni Association and adopted a clear mission statement as we move to the future:

"The mission of the Theta Chapter House Company and Alumni Association is to maintain the spirit, communications and relationships among the brotherhood of OWU's oldest fraternity and to establish a foundation for future recolonization of Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi."

Also on the up side, our June, 2002 reunion in Oxford was "awesome" as stated by some of the returning alumni.

Now, we remain dedicated to two major strategies as we go forward; (1) develop a strong alumni relations program through planned events and our communications activities and (2) the development of a strategy aimed at the recolonization of the chapter at some time in the near future.

Your continued support through (A) contributions to our dues program and (B) your willingness to play an active roll as a trustee of the association and/or as an alumni mentor for recolonizing efforts are the clear, most important things which you can commit to make a difference and ensure the success of our programs.



Treasurer's Report

By Marty Haskell '68

This year has been a good one for us from a fund raising point of view. The Eiken litho of 54 W. Lincoln house generated considerable interest. We have entered this year with \$7500 in the bank. We have terminated our relationship with Affinity Connection. They did a good job of database management, printing and distributing *Theta Data*. However, their services came at a considerable price. We typically spent \$6000-\$8000 per year with them. Your board has decided that we can use the General Fraternity's database for mailings, send alumni updates to them, and publish *Theta Data* ourselves using desktop publishing software. That way our costs will be reduced to actual printing and mailing cost with a small amount of outsourcing for technical help with layout and design. We think about \$2000 per issue.

Consequently, the robustness and frequency of *Theta Data* will depend on two factors — your contribution of materials for our publication and financial help. Please keep us up-to-date and *thank you* for your continued support.

Yours in -kai-, Marty

Beta Alumni Association DENISON UNIVERSITY

June 10, 2002

Brothers of Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi:

Warm wishes from the Denison Alumni Betas. We hope you are having a fun-filled, meaningful gathering at Oxford and at the National Headquarters.

Like your chapter — with its long significant history — our chapter has had its charter taken away.

Most importantly, current plans are for the colonization of a "Men of Principle" chapter in 2004 at Denison University.

We enlist your support in our effort and pledge you our support not "if" but "when" there is an effort to again have an active chapter of Beta Theta Pi at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Congratulations to those of you earning your Fraternal 50s recognition at this time, and to all of you, have a great reunion.

Yours in -kai-,
Robert J. Dold — President
Denison Beta House Corporation
71 Warwick Road • Winnetka, IL 60093 • 847-441-8445

[Editor's Note: This letter from our alumni brothers of Alpha Eta Chapter, Denison University, was received last summer and underscored their support of our reunion and chapter...and noted their clear intention to recolonize their chapter at Denison University.]

WORDS FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

By Marty Haskell '68

These are exciting times for Beta Theta Pi. Our Men of Principle Initiative is receiving recognition throughout the fraternity world. Currently we have 35 (of 130) chapters that are partnered with the General Fraternity for the initiative. Partnering means that the General Fraternity commits resources (mostly manpower) each year to assist the chapters to set goals for improvement. These resources include facilitators, scholarships, recruitment guidance, a planning structure and Beta versions of the Franklin-Covey planner for each member. In return, the chapters agree to abide by all the standards of the fraternity (alcohol free rush, no hazing, and scholarship). They also agree to maintain 5 active advisers in key areas — chapter counselor, financial adviser, risk management adviser, pledge adviser, scholarship adviser.



The adviser piece is the most challenging for us nationally. As the initiative grows in number of chapters, the need for advisers grows 5 times as fast. Consequently, the General Fraternity is putting a large effort into recruiting and training prospective advisers. We are having quite a bit of success in having alumni advise chapters that are not their alma mater and using non-Betas (FOB's — Friends of Betas). FOB's are proving to be a fascinating resource. They are stimulated and enthusiastic about the Men of Principle Initiative and become very committed to helping our chapters. Of course, they are excluded from ritual events but otherwise their counsel has been excellent.

Men of Principle chapters are winners on their respective campuses. They typically rank high in scholarship, campus leadership and intramural sports. Men of Principle chapters are growing in membership year-on-year while the General Fraternity (and the collegiate fraternity system in general) is experiencing declining membership. New colonies (and thus new chapters) of Beta Theta Pi are started only as Men of Principle chapters. When Theta returns to OWU, it will be as a Men of Principle chapter. One of the prerequisites will be to find a core of 5 advisers to get it started. So as we look to that day, we need to be identifying and training potential advisers.

This year's Beta Convention will be in Oxford on the Miami campus. One of the activities offered is adviser training for which expenses are paid. If you are interested in becoming an adviser for Beta, either for Theta in the future or for a chapter near you, please contact me at martyh@fortemgt.com.

Yours in -kai-, Marty

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING

Brothers of the Theta Chapter:

An exciting opportunity awaits you in Oxford, Ohio. Each year Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity holds its annual convention. This year the 164th General Convention will take place in Oxford and the Theta Chapter Alumni Association will hold its next meeting in conjunction with the Convention. We will discuss important matters regarding the alumni association and the future of the Theta Chapter. Convention is scheduled for July 24-28. The time and place of the Theta Chapter Alumni Association meeting will be announced at a later date. For more information about the convention or if you are interested in attending, please contact **Eric Eickhoff** at the Beta Theta Pi Administrative Office or eeickhoff@wooglin.com or call 800-800-BETA. *We look forward to seeing you in Oxford.*





PLEASE COMPLETE
AND SEND TO:

**Theta House Company
Beta Theta Pi Fraternity
Alumni Records Office
c/o Marty Haskell
P.O. Box 43100
Cincinnati, OH 45243**



The Good Old Days — circa 1952

News from you:

Include family news,
adventures, reunions,
favorite memories,
brothers you would
like to see ...

(Please attach a separate page if more room is needed.)

**Personal
information
update:**

Check if
change or new

Name (Please print)

Street

City State Zip

Phone _____

area code Telephone Number

E-mail Address _____

Dues:

Receive a
beautiful,
numbered water
color print of the
old Beta House for
a contribution of
\$100 or more.

My annual contribution (please check one):

- \$500 \$250 \$200
- \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

Please make check payable to **Theta House Company.**

Thank You!

*Contributions to Theta House Company and/or Beta Theta Pi Fraternity
are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.*

Eiken Painting

Print size, 7 x 11 — 10 x 13.5 with border —
in fall and winter hues.



cut here

Alumni News



Friends and Brothers gather at evening reception.

Dave Crockett '57 sends greetings and notes that he is semi-retired, but Patty says he is busier than ever. They reside at 31088 Big Bear Dr., Evergreen, CO 80439 since relocating following the loss of their home in the mountains in 2001 due to forest fires. Wintering at 16262 W. Tamarack Lane, Surprise, AZ 85374 from mid-Nov. to mid-May. His email (which he says he uses infrequently, is dave-crockett@noellewitz.com.

Jim Davies '56 remains active as Chairman of Davies & Associates insurance agency. Jim is located at 64 Chestnut St., Murray Hill, NJ 07974 and can be reached at jdavies@davies-assoc.com.

Paul B. Kisseberth '54 "Kissy" notes that "Annie and I are doing our best to clear the deck so we can attend upcoming (June, 2002 Oxford reunion) Beta and OWU events. [Editor's note — they made it!!] My 89 year old mother has failing health and commands much of our time these days."

Rev. William C. Wright '50 "Dear brothers: I've returned the questionnaire and *thought* I ordered the Eiken painting at \$100. There were 2 good years in that house & seeing the notice you sent brought back a flood of memories. Because of my oversight, I am sending the enclosed check of \$110. Please be sure those of us who lived at 54 West Lincoln have a priority

on receiving a print." [Editor's note — your print was sent promptly — call if you didn't receive it — 937-298-7682.]

Bryan T. McHugh '85 writes "See the Irish Worm in the movie Splat!" Bryan makes his home at 7725 W. Monroe St., Forestr Park, IL 60130.

Stanley K. Van Buren '52 sends his regards and notes "Enjoyed the Fraternal 50s ceremonies held in Delaware

at the Theta chapter house in 2000 and 2001 and visiting with all the brothers and families. Married, 2 children, 2 grandchildren, happily retired, doing what I want to do when I want to do it!! [Editor's note—both Stan and his brother **Ron '55** attended the Oxford reunion in 2002.]

Robert M. Canright '52 has recently completed 10 years of retirement. Spends time between summer home in Canada residence, in Columbus, and winter home in Florida. Have regular contact with 1952 classmates **Al Tucker**, **Pete Hauck** and **Tom Shank**.

Stephen C. Sherwood '70 "Seems like a good party always brings the Betas out — **John** ('70) and **Tony Willoughby** celebrated their daughter **Caroline's** high school

graduation in fine style! Got to see John's smaller brother **Terry O'Hara** and wife **Carolee**. Now **John** and **Tony** have 2 at **Miami U**. Speaking of parties, since I was unanimously elected President of the class of 1970 for the next reunion, be ready to help!! Only 3 more years to go." Retired from US Air Force. naveldepth@yahoo.com

H. Bruce Russell '59 I'm currently in transition. Have sold our house in Pittsford, NY and are relocating to the summer home on Canandaigua Lake in the Finger Lakes Region of NY. Six months plus will be there with the winter months in Bonita Springs, Florida. I'm still working with the office being in Atlanta, Georgia. I spend most of the time on the phone! Still having fun! Our daughter was married in August, 2001. She is in Boston, another in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and the third just relocating also to Boston.

Raymond M. Cheseldine Jr. '50 Favorite memories — Those magnificent serenades under the direction of song leaders: **Fred Olds**, **Don Mauck**, **Paul Koch**, **Crichton Grist** and others!!

Charles Mayer '52 Korean War Veteran. Widower with 1 daughter. Former road salesman. Retirement plus job security at local high school. Love to see all the brothers and **Mama Lynn** — if it were only possible. Favorite memories — Dinner time at 54 W. Lincoln, passing the Loving Cup, sports and living in 54 W. Lincoln.

Robert E. Wyant '50 Our family news is centered on a new pair of identical twins born to our daughter.

Morris E. Hollenbaugh '49 Retired Episcopal Priest. "I'll see you in June." [Editor's note — **Morris** and his wife made it to Oxford in June, and the brothers enjoyed the fine cuisine served at his son's restaurant!] phlmor@aspeninfor.com

Charles H. Shroeder Jr. '64 Retired from Loral Aerospace

Corporation and joined California State University at Fullerton as Professor of Finance in 1996.

Robert L. Cotner '54 I'm fully retired from my manufacturer's rep job — which followed 30 years with



Armco Steel (now **AK Steel**). Also and I live in **Rockport, Texas** — 30 miles north of **Corpus Christi** on the **Gulf Coast**. Volunteering, golfing, and fishing take up our time. It was a great experience getting the "Fraternal 50s" award last year. How fast 50 years go by! rcotner@pyramid3.net

C. Dee Simpsons '54 The June reunion, "what a great weekend. Perhaps the best Beta gathering I've ever attended, and I've attended many including 3 or 4 national conventions. We are still talking about it and sharing it with some of our brothers who were unable to attend. It was truly great fun to see everybody who was there, many of whom I haven't seen since we graduated from OWU." simpsondps@aol.com

J. Ken Cozier '56 Ken and Jane are retired and living in **Asheville, NC**. Trips this summer included stops in **Oxford** for the June reunion, visits with friends in **Cleveland** and with brother **Chuck** who has been recovering from some health problems earlier this year, but seems to be on the mend at his home in **Farmington, MI**. On their way back home, a stop for a couple days with the **Tathams** included a lunch with **C. Dan Wright**, much to our delight! jkcozier@charter.net



CD Wright '56 and Ken Cozier '56

Alumni News

Continued from page 5 —

John H. Turner '61 I have recently moved to assume a new position as the Executive Director/CEO of a regional YMCA Conference and Training Center for the northeast. Very best to all! jturner@silverbay.org

Robert Neff '53

Bob was honored by being awarded the Scottish Rite's 33rd Degree in September in St. Louis, MO. Somewhat older news, Bob was named the Chair of the Dayton Foundation's board in December, 2001. Bob is a long time servant of the community.



Neale Cranston In a recent email, "I pledged but never completed. The years have gone by, haven't they? Am always looking for a reference for Charles Ordway

or Bill Robinson. Some years past learned Chuck had moved to Etoway, NC while Bill's last address was Mesa, AZ. Have been reading about the demise of the chapter. ...Florida is great, having been here since 1965. Taught first year, then went to work at the space center until 1993, with an interval of 27 months attached to the Royal Saudi Navy in an effort to introduce them to the 20th century re: the maintenance of naval vessels. Live in Titusville, directly west of the VAB."
ncranston@cfl.rr.com

Timothy R. Carleton '68 I was truly sorry to hear about Theta Chapter. Glad to see the Alumni Association Board is in the capable hands of brothers Underwood and Haskell. I have 4 children – two "brilliant" young men and "beautiful" twin girls. Teen age boys are definitely easier!
mosavemommy@hotmail.com



Paul and Anne Nobis — Class of 1955



Ken Cozier and John Appel — Class of 1956

Beta National Web Site

BetaTheta Pi national headquarters has a Web Site which is located at www.BetaThetaPi.org

Give it a try! You will find many items of interest including:

- ▶ About Beta
- ▶ Men of Principle
- ▶ Beta Resources
- ▶ Support Staff
- ▶ News and Events
- ▶ Features and Services
- ▶ The Foundation

Of particular interest is the directory. Click on Features and Services, then click on Membership Directory where you will have to register and then you will be able to use it for searching names, class years, addresses, etc.

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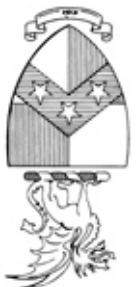
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