

# The Theta Data

FEBRUARY 2008  
DELAWARE, OHIO

THETA CHAPTER • BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY • OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



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## Alumni Personality Profile

### Donald "Roscoe" Wedge '51, #819

by Tom Tatham

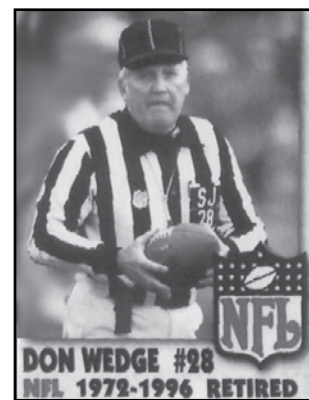
Don was interviewed at his home in Groveland, FL on January 22, 2008. He lives at 8955 Courtyard Lane in Groveland, FL 34756, and can be reached by email at [dwedge@embarqmail.com](mailto:dwedge@embarqmail.com) or 352-394-0147.

### The Early Years

Don's early days were spent in Carey, Ohio ... a small farming community about an hour and a half or so north of Delaware. As a small Midwestern community of slightly over 3900, Carey residents enjoy many benefits of a slower pace of life, as well as the advantages of larger surrounding neighbors. Located in Northwest Ohio, Carey is the 2nd largest community in Wyandot County, located halfway between the state capital, Columbus, to the south and Toledo to the north. The county name, Wyandot, taken from the name of a Native American Chief, is but one indicator of the rich history of the area.

Don's father was a trucker and his mother, a housewife. They raised six children with Don the oldest, along with Bobby (whom I met as he was staying with Don for a visit during our interview), John, Tom, Sybil and Shirley. Before his graduation from Carey High in 1947, Don demonstrated his athletic skills in both football and basketball and was named to honorable mention All-Ohio in both sports.

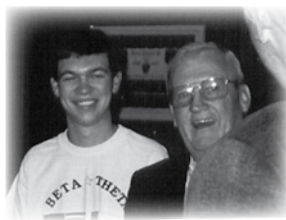
Highlighting his football career with Carey High was an undefeated season his senior year ... marred only by a tie with Upper Sandusky ... 7-7 ... with the star of the Upper team Bob Snelker, later of the Cleveland Browns and with whom Don developed a warm relationship in his later career as an NFL referee.



### Off To College

Early college choices included both Kenyon and Ohio State. However, Ohio Wesleyan came into Don's life as a result of a recommendation by his high school sweetheart, who later became his first wife. He was also introduced to OWU through meeting Dean Sommerville and George Gauthier. At the time, Gauthier was the football coach and as anyone who ever met him, he was a very convincing recruiter and Don was taken by Gauthier's personality and charm. Most importantly, Don received an offer of both an academic scholarship and a job to help defray expenses. As a result, Don signed on the dotted line and was off to Delaware to play football. By the time he arrived as a freshman, Glenn Fraser had been appointed head football coach and Gauthier continued as Athletic Director.

### BETA THETA PI



Matt Garrison and Don Wedge

Through the Sommerville contact, (a Beta and OWU Dean of Men) he was soon introduced to the Beta house at 54 W. Lincoln and to the charisma of Bill Littick '50, a great OWU Beta whose leadership touched the lives of many brothers. Soon, Don was pledged and after living in the V-5 barracks for his freshman year, moved to 54 W. Lincoln for his sophomore year. To cover expenses, he washed dishes at "Sty" and cooked for his roommates at the house.

His Beta memories included a pledge trip to Oxford to obtain something from the Beta Campanile to return to Delaware to prove that he and his pledge brothers, as a team, had completed the mission. The trip, of course, was one of those "drop them off at Stratford with no money, hitchhike to and from Oxford, Ohio, obtain the assigned item and return to 54 W. Lincoln by Sunday night ...".

Continued on page 5 —



## BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Dr. W. Martin Haskell  
Ohio Wesleyan '68



### GENERAL FRATERNITY REPORT

BY DR. W. MARTIN HASKELL

The General Fraternity Board of Trustees continues to address issues of performance. Our goal continues to be to develop Beta's image so that all our constituencies (universities, parents, students and alumni) continue to see Beta as the most desirable fraternity to have on any campus. We are focusing on delivering value through our leadership programming and assistance to undergraduate Betas and their chapters. The endowment, developed by the Upon These Principles Campaign, is beginning to yield dividends (both tangible and intangible) as the 12 quarter rolling average begins to reach full value. The earnings from the endowment are being funneled into program development and undergraduate scholarships to attend the excellent programs that Beta is offering. In 1996, Beta sponsored 4 undergraduates to some type of leadership development program. In 2007, Beta sponsored 1496. Our goal is that everyone of Beta's 6000 undergraduates will attend at least one sponsored leadership program during their undergraduate years. We are almost there.

Yours in ~kai~ *Marty Haskell*

### HOUSE CORPORATION TREASURER'S REPORT

by *Marty Haskell '68*

Our treasury continues on an even keel due to the continued generosity of those of you who show your appreciation for the effort that goes into *Theta Data* by making an annual contribution. Tom's efforts at controlling our costs are also very helpful. Our receipts this year fell somewhat behind our expenses due to the increased cost of last January's extraordinary issue. Our balance at the end of this year was just over \$7000, which is about \$1300 less than two years ago. There are a handful of alumni that contribute over \$100 each year, but the number of \$25, \$50 and \$100 gifts are what really keep us solvent. Thanks to all of you who gave last year. Please maintain that habit.

Yours in ~kai~ *Marty Haskell*

## Theta Chapter Re-Colonizing Challenges & Opportunities

by *Eric Eickhoff '00*



Several issues ago I wrote an article regarding the status of a re-colonization of our beloved Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi. It has been awhile since this topic has been discussed.

Last summer key members of the house corporation met in Oxford, OH to discuss steps to be taken to reestablish the oldest chapter at OWU. Four trustees attended and were joined by Michael Wolford, *Miami '04*, Director for Operations and Education who explained the steps necessary for a successful re-colonization. Most importantly, there needs to be interest and support from the alumni of Theta Chapter. Without interest and support of her alumni, Theta chapter will remain dormant. Support and interest comes in a variety of forms. The first step is through financial donations due to expenses of the General Fraternity. To ensure a quality expansion, the General Fraternity sends a number of Administrative Office staff members, typically three or four, to the college campus to recruit top tier students. There is a staff presence on campus between four to six weeks prior to the start of the formal pledging process and ultimately at least one representative will stay on campus to ensure proper pledge education. This takes a great amount of manpower and has a cost that our alimni would need to support through donations.

Another way to support this effort is by agreeing to serve as either a Chapter advisor or as a trustee on the house corporation. This takes a significant commitment of ones time, but is an important part of the process. The advisors support the chapter by giving advice to their officers and members on chapter operations and values-based decisions. The house corporation helps to generate money to send men to summer leadership programs such as the John and Nelly Wooden Institute for Men of Principle and Leadership College.

*Continued on page 7 —*



## Theta Chapter Web Site

by *Aldo Adachi '99*

The Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi web site is up and running and available to you at [www.thetachapterbtp.org](http://www.thetachapterbtp.org). Included at the site is information regarding the history of Theta chapter, pictures from days gone by, and most importantly, all issues since 1990 of *Theta Data* which can be viewed with Adobe Reader. We even have a 1956 issue available for viewing. Your comments and notes would be appreciated by contacting me at [aldoadachi@hotmail.com](mailto:aldoadachi@hotmail.com).

**HELP:** Anyone with *Theta Data* issues not shown on the Web, please contact **Tom Tatham** at [tomtatham@aol.com](mailto:tomtatham@aol.com) as we would like to continue to build a complete history of all issues into the web site.

## Don Wedge '51

*Continued from page 1 —*

Fraternity highlights for Don included his fond memories of Mama Linn whom he described as “wonderful”. Also, the late Joe Neds '50 was his close friend, roommate and fellow football player. He recalled fondly that Joe later became a fighter pilot in the Korean war. He was also close to the late Keith Gaspich '50.

Don was asked to put into words what Beta did for him, and without hesitation he said “... it taught me the importance of discipline as well as to respect and be respected by others ...”.

### *Gridiron Highlights*

Soon after coming to OWU, Don quickly showed his prowess and leadership on the football field as he and fellow player, the late Jud Milhon '51, were named co-captains of the freshman team. (Although a fine football player, Jud soon chose basketball for the remainder of his OWU athletic career, and was such an outstanding star he was named Little All-American for his accomplishments on the basketball court). The freshman, led by Wedge and Milhon, highlighted their season by defeating the 2nd varsity team, much to the chagrin of the upper classmen.

His sophomore year soon came with many more highlights, including his selection as starting fullback for the varsity. On the down side, the team had several losses that year. His junior year saw the peak of his OWU prowess, as he set a single game record of five touchdowns (not broken to this day), 15 touchdowns for the season ... a record at the time, and his selection as a “Little All-American”. Starring on the same team were such standouts as the Beta brothers Wayne and the late Bob McFarland. The team, however, did suffer two

losses ... Baldwin Wallace and Case. His senior year started off with a bang ... an 88-yard TD but later suffered an ankle injury which cost him playing time for most of the year. He was, however, named to the All Ohio College team.

Don was mentored by both Gauthier, the AD, and Bob Strimer who was the football backfield coach and head basketball coach. From Gauthier he learned what it meant to work hard and achieve goals on the football field of play ... and from Strimer, he was challenged to “do his best” and to set goals. Further, it was later Bob Strimer who mentored Don into a career officiating in the Mid-American, Big 10, NFL and NBA (with all his officiating achievements it certainly couldn't be called a “hobby”).

Strimer was a real world challenge for Don during his senior year. It was then that Don demonstrated his skill as a handball champion when he won the intramural singles handball trophy. As was his custom, Strimer soon challenged Don to a match, and of course Don knew that he could handle Bob easily. Not so!! Strimer showed the young kid and defeated him handily ... 11-0. And so ended another myth!

### *OWU Memories*

Outside of football, there were the academics. Don recalled professor Ben Arneson who became a father figure to him. Ben's classes were difficult, but Don found that he could succeed with academic challenges equally as well as challenges at Selby Field. Although Professor Arneson served as one of his staunchest critics, he was also one of Don's strongest supporters and always sat in the stands loudly cheering Don during Saturday's games. Goldie McCue was also a favorite and after a low test mark, Don received her kind counseling and soon raised his

grades in that course as well. Gray Chapel, of course, was noted by Don as a three-times-a-week chore at the time, but looking back, a very rewarding part of his campus life.

### *The Real World*

Following graduation and marriage to his high school sweetheart in 1951, Don took an interview for work at Lazarus in Columbus where his wife was working. Soon he was introduced to Dick Hindman who in turn introduced him to his brother, Hugh, an assistant AD at Ohio State. That contact led to meeting Woody Hayes,

then head football coach at OSU and with Bill Hess who at that time was football coach at Ohio U. As a result, Don was offered and accepted the assistant football coaching position at Portsmouth High School in Ohio.

Trying to raise a family on high school football coaching salaries, however, proved to be a challenge and when an opportunity came along, with three times the pay at a startup Atomic Energy plant in nearby Waverly, Don quickly moved on from the coaching business.

*Continued on page 4 —*

## TRIBUTE TO DON WEDGE

*Paul Kisseberth '54*

I pledged BETA because of the early persuasion from Bix Newhard and Don Wedge. They visited me in my hometown, McCutchenville, Ohio, a few days after I had spent the weekend at the OWU BETA house as a high school Junior. My high school Principal had arranged for me to visit OWU. He convinced my parents it would be the place for me, and he was right.

Bix and Don planted the Beta Pledge pin on me before I even knew what a fraternity was. Our 1951 Pledge class had 24 pledges and each of them was much more prepared for college than me.

Don Wedge was my Big Brother. He was my idol and I would attend OWU football practices just to see Don play. My goal was to coach and teach math at the High School level. I did well with my math courses my first semester. Second semester I took Analytic Geometry. I thought I was cruising until I got my first test score in that course. I was devastated. My College experience was over, I thought. I decided to leave school and

go home. Before I was to leave, I thought it would be the right thing to do to tell Don

Wedge. He and his wife, Janice, lived in a campus apartment.

Fortunately, Don was home when I knocked on his door. I explained to him what I was planning to do and why. He said, “YOU PLAN TO WHAT?” He reminded me that I had the reputation of being a good athlete at “Scutch” High. “Now you are going home to be a quitter?” That was one of the key turning points in my life. I immediately returned to my campus room, took a book and began to study harder than ever. I will be indebted to my BIG BROTHER forever. I am proud to be a BETA and a 1954 graduate from OWU. Congratulations to Don for receiving the BOB STRIMER AWARD. Bob Strimer was another personal idol of mine. *Kissey*





## Don Wedge '51

*Continued from page 5 —*

Later, after further career moves with Joston's Jewelry and Hobart Manufacturing, Don finished his working career with Miller-Valentine of Dayton, a company involved with the development of industrial sites. During these business career stops, Don developed another very significant career which was triggered by his motto of "have whistle, will travel".

### *The NFL World*

Beginning with appearances in and around the Ohio high school football and basketball programs, Don was soon recognized for his knowledge and skill in officiating. About 1956, Dave Reese, a Denison Beta, hired Don to referee in the Mid-American Conference. By 1966, he had been recognized by the Big 10 for his work and was hired by them as a basketball referee (they had too many Ohio boys for football at the time). By 1968, he also covered Big 10 football, and this period was highlighted by a call to officiate the Rose Bowl in 1970 (UMinnesota v. USC). This trip to California was most memorable to Don as he had remarried and the planned honeymoon was changed from a trip to the Caribbean to a trip to Pasadena.

By 1972, Don moved up to the "big time", the NBA and the NFL. His career in the NFL began with an interview with Art McNally in Cleveland and lasted until 1996 when he retired. Of all his NFL games, the one to remember was the Super Bowl of 1988 between the Washington Redskins and the Denver Broncos. The Redskins, under the quarterbacking of Doug Williams, defeated the Broncos who were led by quarterback John Elway.

To this day, Don proudly wears a large ring on each hand, one for his 25 years with the NFL and one for the 1988 Super Bowl. In addition to these accomplishments, Don refereed three Pro Bowls in Honolulu and one college all star game in Chicago. Not to be forgotten, was his officiating at the one and only Dayton Aviation Bowl which featured N. Mexico v. W. Michigan.

### *Deserved Accolades*

Among the many awards bestowed on Don, he especially cherishes his election to the OWU Athletic Hall of Fame and his most recent award as the Robert Strimer Award for outstanding contributions to college athletics.

He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the city of Dayton, awarded by the Dayton Agonis Club.

Don's family includes daughter, Laura, who has presented him with two grandchildren, Ashley and Carrie; his son Chris, who has grandchildren Cole and Kenna; and his wife Rose Ann.



### *From the Brotherhood ... A Well Deserved Salute*

Don Wedge epitomizes the heart and soul of Beta. He has long been recognized for his athletic prowess, but beyond that, Don has been a true friend of many Beta brothers and OWU friends. Whenever his name is mentioned, there is always a smile on those who know him and nothing but kind words and praise for the kind of man he represents. From all his many Beta brothers who cherish their relationship with him, we all say, with a rousing cheer, "here's to Don, he's alright, and thank God he's a Beta".

# Alumni News

**Jack Pocock '47** ... The lovely lady pictured with me on page 16 of the last issue of *Theta Data* is Jackie Aldrich, wife of Beta Mark Aldrich ... the latest issue of the *Theta Data* was well done and had lots of information.

**Bob Cotner '54** ... Sorry the check is late, but here it is. Alsa and I have moved from Rockport, TX to Georgetown, TX (north of Austin). We spent too much time watching for hurricanes! Keep up the good work. Our new address is 103 Yucca Cove, Goergetown, TX 78625.

**Lee Szambecki '98** ... Marty, I hope all is well with you and the other housing corp trustees. Enclosed please find my check for my 2007 Theta Chapter Dues. Hopefully it helps, and thank you for your and the other trustees' continued efforts and support of the house.  
Sincerely, *Lee Szambecki*

**Bob Walters '73** ... Recently moved with my company to Dallas, though we still maintain our home in Charlotte, NC. Continue to spend much of my time on business in Asia and Europe. I hear occasionally from R. Sommer '74, who seems to do a great job staying informed on many Theta Betas from the early 70s. Also have met Dave Alexander '73 every few years as he passes through town. 330 E. Las Colinas Blvd. #920, Irving, Texas 75039  
[bob.walters@celaneseacetate.com](mailto:bob.walters@celaneseacetate.com)

**Marty Haskell '68** ... Tom, spent this past cold Sunday on the couch in front of the fire catching up on reading — including *Theta*

*Data*. What a magnificent job! Getting a few checks already. I don't remember getting the Watson award, so it must have been Rowland.  
—Kai- Marty

**Ned Myers '50** ... Dear Tom, just got back from Houston and visiting one daughter and her family. So sorry to learn of the death of Coop. He was a hell of a guy. Thanks for sending the info; you do a great job of keeping us all informed. We received *Theta Data* and extra copies. Our children did a great job of surprising us with the celebration, and I was shocked to see Brothers Slenker and Neff — the icing on the cake. I really appreciate the photos of us in *Theta Data* - Thanks  
—Kai- Ned Myers

**Dick McClintock '53** ... Hi Tom! Last night, (Saturday), Dick and I attended an Alumni Appreciation Dinner at Quail Hollow Country Club. There were 310 Betas, Beta Sweethearts, and Trustees, and Foundation Directors present. It was the largest such gathering ever, and beautifully done. Members from the Trustees and the Foundation served as hosts at tables, and we were fortunate enough to find Marty Haskell, and eat at his table. Marty and Dick were the only Theta Betas present, with Dick proudly wearing his Fraternal Fifties pin. There were 25 or 30 F. F.'s in attendance.

The honoree of the evening was Hugh McCall, North Carolina '57. And he was presented with the Oxford Cup in recognition of his achievements over the

*Continued on page 5 —*

years. The summary notes in the published program spoke of his "legacy of leadership as an executive, citizen, parent and fraternity man". Known best as chairman and CEO of Bank of America, the nation's largest bank, he also is widely recognized for his community efforts, from developing art galleries, refurbishing a burned-out church into a residence and gallery for artists, helping with funding for special projects such as United Way, Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, our Arts and Science Council, and on and on. Charlotte would not be the city it is without the work and leadership of Hugh, and his wife, Jane. They are members of our church, Covenant Presbyterian, and we have worked with Hugh in the building of Habitat houses. He is a terrific guy — an outstanding Beta! He was truly touched to have been awarded the Oxford Cup, and gave a great acceptance speech with lots of references to his years in ETA chapter in UNC in Chapel Hill, and Beta friendships which have lasted and grown stronger over the years.

This was the 62nd Oxford Cup awarded by Beta, since 1984, when the very first one went to our beloved Dr. Seth Brooks, who married Dick and me almost 54 years ago in Washington. Dr. Seth was so thrilled with his first all-Beta wedding — Dick as groom, Dick Davenport as Best Man, and ushers Norm Slenker, Bob Neff, Dick



A/JG Priest & Seth Brooks (on right)

DeVos, and Milt Irvin. Tom, were you one of the crowd of Betas at our wedding, all of whom sang several Beta songs at the reception?

The evening started with Jim Martin (our former governor) giving the welcoming remarks and introductions; the singing of "Loving Cup", then the Beta Doxology which followed a spoken invocation. To close the evening, after much conversation, a few speeches and a great time, we sang "Marching Along". Such a sound, and such memories, hearing the mass of men's voices in those great songs! It was a very special evening, and Dick and I were pleased to have been a part of it!

We wanted to share impressions of the evening, and let you know that Beta Theta Pi is still very much alive and well.

Best regards to you!

*Ginger Carter McClintock*

**Stan VanBuren '52** ... Thank you for all your personal time and great efforts on behalf of the members of Theta! Stan

**Don Wedge '51** ... My wife is now in a nursing home with Hospice care ... home address is now:

8933 Courtyard Lane,  
Groveland, Fl 34736  
PH: 352-394-0147  
[dwwedge@earthlink.net](mailto:dwwedge@earthlink.net)

**Paul Kisseberth '54** ... Dear Marty, excuse the handwritten note ... Tom Tatham did his usual stellar job with the latest issue of *Theta Data*! I was right to pass on the Lorenzo Dow McCabe Beta pin. We have distributed copies of *Theta Data* to all McCabe descendents. I could use a few more. Enclosed is my check to the House Corp. and one from Janet Smithwick, a great granddaughter of Lorenzo Dow McCabe. I

have made an appeal to all the McCabes to contribute to the House Corp. Let's see what it produces.

Yours in -Kai- Paul

**Marty Haskell '68** Tom, this issue certainly created the most "Letters to the Editor". Great job.  
-Kai- Marty

**Rev. William C. Wright '50** ... Retirement plunge (???) entirely new life since I now live at K. Merrill Gardens, 14905 Bothwell Everett HWY, Apt 280, Mill Creek, WA 98012. The latest edition of *Theta Data* brought good memories. I only wish a brother lived on west coast.

**Dan Ransom '52** ... The most recent issue of *Theta Data* was terrific! Dan

**Rick Stivers '68** ... Yes it is really me, Rick Stivers. I have been quiet over many years due to distance and the last eight years a medical odyssey that resulted in a heart transplant at U of Mich. on 3-30-06. I had developed an enlarged heart probably due to a virus of some kind. About four years ago, I had an ICD (defibrillator/pacemaker) implanted (with thoracic surgery using a DaVinci machine), and was put on the waiting list for a transplant. After about 15 appropriate defib firings, I underwent 20 hours of surgery to implant an LVAD (Left Ventricle Assist Device) on 7-28-05 which did the pumping for my heart. The LVAD required 24/7 care, daily surgical dressing change and I could not drive or shower. After about 10 more firings, numerous ambulance and chopper rides, I received my 21 year old new heart. The surgery was only 16 hours and a short hospital stay of 19 days as compared to two and two and half months for the

previous surgeries at U of M. I REALLY hate wolverines! In spite of all this, my three kids have all completed college and in or completed grad school, and I feel good now except for the 50 lb. wait gain and the damn steroids. I spend a lot of my time at my place on Torch Lake, but I am now prohibited from getting in the cleanest lake in MI because of my immunosuppression. I would like to stay in touch. Been retired from banking, securities and foreign exchange trading for 8 years due to the stress. I still stay in touch somewhat with Coops as I met my wife at his wedding. I tried e-mailing U-Trou but it did not go through. -kai- Rick

**Dale Rose '57** ...

May 7, 2007

Hi Tom. Last Saturday I went to the Beta Theta Pi dinner that was held at The Muirfield Village Golf Club. It was really enjoyable, but the only Beta I reconized was Bob Mauck. I did receive my 50 year lapel pin. In two weeks I will be returning to OWU for my 50 year alumni reunion. Tom Stover called me to see if I was going, and he said that he was calling all the Betas he could. Should be fun.  
Yours in kai, Dale



**Ned Speasmaker '50** ... Tom, I enjoyed reading *Theta Data* and it brought me up-to-date on a lot of old members. Skip Cheseldine & I keep in touch. Yours in -kai- Ned

**Tom Long '51** ... Thanks for a great *Theta Data*. Life here in Georgia is good. Tom Long, 301 Black Kettle Lane, Alpharetta, GA 30022

**Aldo Adachi '99** ... Hi Tom/ Andy Duate. Andy, hope things are going good for you over there (Venezuela); things

*Continued on page 6 —*



## Alumni News

*Continued from page 5 —*

in Bolivia are not looking too good, but we'll keep our fingers crossed and hope things get better ...

Thanks Tom for the invite to the House Corp meeting, and my apologies once again for not being able to attend.

—Aldo

**Keith Eiken '57** ... Tom, (Following his participation in a House Corp meeting in Oxford in July, 07) I found the day really interesting and it opened up another new world. I enjoyed talking with Dan Wright and the experiences he had in the business and with Sam Pardoe. You are to be commended for organizing the meeting. I know how time consuming that can be. Eric Eickhoff is a gem. Marty Haskell has the kind of genuine interest that is key to pursuing the possibility of re-colonizing.

—Kai- Keith

**"Cousin" Jack Mathews '54** ... Aug 4, 2007 ... Tom, finally got another computer and new email address — thanks for your phone call a few weeks ago — I am still kicking — just completed my 9<sup>th</sup> week of chemo — now the Dr. is going to send me for another chest cat scan next week to see if the cancer in my chest and lung has decreased in size — if for some reason it has not, he will start me on a different formula of chemo — am still maintaining wgt. — in fact gained 11 lbs. up to 181 — really feel ok just a little fatigued at times ... not much else doing ... we may go to son's home in Calif. in a month for a week as JJ has vacation coming up — waiting for football to begin — have no interest in baseball — hope you got to Oxford, Ohio ok to see

Neff; he is a nice guy. How will Buckeyes do this year??? Jack

**David Keith Thomas '54** ... 2-6-07 From his widow, Phyl Dear Tom & Ann,

Thanks you so much for your thoughtful letter and kind words. Keith and I both always held you in high regard and treasured your friendship. Ann, I keep you in my prayers with your restrictions and send you my love. Tom, thank you again for coming all the way to Keith's funeral. It meant a lot to all of his family! Thank you for the work you did in gathering information for the memory of Keith in *Theta Data* and for sending the extra copies.

**Paul Hammersten '69 Bequest** 4/17/07

[hammerstenpaul@hotmail.com](mailto:hammerstenpaul@hotmail.com)

Greetings from Cape Cod. Thanks for placing the photo and caption about my picture "The Cheyenne" in the January issue of *Theta Data*.

I enjoyed the article about the Beta Pin. I have located my pin and my dad's [along with other artifacts from my dad's Beta life at Wesleyan — record albums, Beta paddle, etc.]. He had his pin made into a stunning gold bracelet for my mom.]

**ALL 'THINGS BETA' WILL BE WILLED TO THE THETA HOUSE CORPORATION.**

Paul '69

*(response from Tom Tatham to Paul)*

Paul ... many, many thanks for your wonderful commitment to the House Corporation ... in checking with the Oxford data base, I note that V. Nils Hammersten, OWU '36 is listed. ... I am assuming that is your father who you speak of in your email. Speaking on behalf of the House Corp, we are deeply appreciative of your gift to us and will ensure that

it is properly protected and appropriate recognition given.

Further, please send more info from time to time which will help me with future issues of *Theta Data* ... that is what our readers find so interesting and a reason to read thoroughly ... and many keep for their personal enjoyment from time to time.

Stay in touch ... and I will do the same ...

—Kai- Tom Tatham

**Don Adams '66 ... Feb 1, 2007** *(see photo below)*

Over the not-long-enough Martin Luther King weekend, five members of the Class of '66 met in Orlando for a long overdue reunion. Jon and Kathy Richards (who initiated the get-together), Geoff and Barb Magrath, Jim and Tru Ginsburg, Frank and Vickie Scott and Don Adams met at the Universal Studios Holiday Inn and spent the weekend catching up, recalling memories and revising history.

A day at Disney World's Epcot Center, several meals and a couple of late night tell-all sessions brought us all up-to-date on each other's families, travels and jobs as well as sharing

news about other brothers with whom we have kept in touch. Few brothers were left unmentioned!

The most gratifying thing about the entire weekend was to see that even after nearly 41 years, we all looked — as evidenced by the accompanying photograph — exactly the same as the day we graduated.

We all pledged to do our best to get the entire class together in Delaware for our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2011.

**Dave Watt '59**

2007 has been an interesting year in the Watt household; most things good, some not-so-good. Let's get the not-so-good out of the way first and then turn to the brighter side of life.

Karen's position with Pfizer went away in late June along with over 200 of her colleagues. It was called Adapting to Scale but it was just a big layoff. Fortunately it was not totally unexpected and Karen took it in stride. She immediately starting looking for positions but first took most of the summer off to catch up on long-overdue gardening, her favorite pastime.

Then in early July, I lost

*Continued next page —*



*Back: Don Adams, Frank Scott, Geoff Magrath, Jim Ginsburg, Jon Richards (all Class of '66)*

*Front: Vickie Scott, Barb Magrath, Tru Ginsburg, Kathy Richards Taken at Epcot Center — Walt Disney World on Sunday, January 14, 2007.*

## Alumni News

*Continued from previous page —*

my next older brother, Donald, after a long battle with intestinal problems. It is interesting to note that Don was a friend of Brother Bob Henshaw and pointed me toward the Beta House when I entered OWU.

Later that month we had to say "goodbye" to our 17 year old Golden Retriever, Katie. That is always a sad moment but on the positive side she had a good long life, way beyond the usual years for a Golden.

The remainder of 2007 has been great and I have much to be thankful for. Karen was hired by a pharmaceutical related company and loves her position; we didn't have to move as she telecommutes for most of her work.

In November my youngest daughter, Meredith, (37) and her husband had their first child. Miles Henderson Trant came into the world November 10th. Everyone is doing well and I see them often as they live in Bedford, MA, only two hours away.

As for myself, I stay busy and out of trouble trying to keep up with the "honey-do" list. We live in a home built in 1795 so there is always something to be done. I also have been working part-time at a local bicycle shop. This job takes me back to my roots with Huffy when we lived in Dayton in the mid-60's. It is fun to meet the customers, show them bikes and see them get excited

about cycling. Helping families choose bikes for their children is especially fun. The truth is, it is all about color as far as the children are concerned.

My other 2 children are doing fine. My oldest, Melinda and husband, Michael, both work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (where they met six years ago). They love the NYC life but visit us in Mystic often. Melinda is an Assistant Curator in European Sculpture and Decorative Arts.

Drew (Andrew) my middle child, and his wife Sarah and two granddaughters, moved to Portland, ME this summer after many years in NYC. They wanted a less hectic environment for the girls as they get near the grade school years. At the moment, Drew is continuing

his work based in NYC with a computer consulting firm, but will be looking to make a change early in 2008.

If anyone is traveling to the Mystic area please give us a call. The first year we were here, 2004, we had so many visitors, family and friends, that our place got nicknamed Watt Hotel. There are many attractions in the area, the main ones being Mystic Seaport and the Mystic Aquarium. And yes, there really is a Mystic Pizza where the food is quite good.

*Yours in -kai-*

*Brother David Watt*  
(860) 536-4183



## *Theta Chapter Re-Colonizing Challenges & Opportunities* *Continued from page 2 —*

They would also help raise funds to ensure a successful living environment if the chapter were to choose to live together.

To demonstrate results of a recent expansion project, I would like to share some statistics from the UVA, the soon to be re-colonized Omicron chapter. The General Fraternity staff recruited 68 re-founding fathers, with a combined G.P.A. of 3.53, approximately .50 over the all-men's average. There is a considerable size difference between OWU and UVA, but we should expect the same quality result. The staff uses the message of the Men of Principle initiative to recruit re-founding fathers when they re-colonize. This includes a statement against hazing, an alcohol-free house when applicable, the highest of academic standards and a commitment to high moral conduct and civic engagement.

I recently had a conversation with Allison Bressler, Assistant Director of Student Involvement for Greek Life, about the possibility of Theta Chapter returning to OWU. She was interested in seeing the chapter's return, but mentioned that the campus could not fully support an expansion for a couple of years. She is aware of how Beta Theta Pi supports its chapters and colonies, its undergraduates and its alumni, and its officers. I explained how Beta Theta Pi would not re-colonize without the approval and support of the OWU administration and the campus community, which was reassuring to her. We discussed how Beta Theta Pi and chapter alumni would work cooperatively to ensure that the chapter would be successful. One of the reasons that the OWU campus is not currently ready for an expansion project is that since the Theta Chapter's closure in 2001, there have been three

other chapters closed due to membership and risk management issues, and a fourth has lost their house because of its deterioration. Further, an organization attempted to colonize but did a very poor job, and ultimately it was not a success. The last and most important reason is that for two or three years, OWU did not have a staff member dedicated solely to the Greek Community, which caused some erosion within fraternity and sorority chapters. With the hiring of Allison, OWU is making a commitment to their students and alumni that Greek life is an important aspect of the college community. Fraternities have been on campus over 155 years, and many of its prominent alumni are Greek. The administration recognizes and supports fraternal organizations, realizing that when these groups are truly dedicated to their principles and values they can make a significant difference in the lives of the young men and women at OWU.

We also discussed the housing situation at OWU with regards to the fraternities. I mentioned there were some alumni who were upset the Theta Chapter was not given the guarantee of returning to our house on the "Hill", but I also said there are others who just want a chapter to visit at homecoming and alumni weekends. It is my opinion that we should concentrate on returning to campus and then think about potential housing solutions. As one who lived on the "Hill", I will always have a fondness for the house located at 8 Williams Drive, but I do believe a house is just bricks and mortar; the chapter is about bonds between men. A house is not a necessary component to chapter's success. My conversation with Allison concluded on a positive note. The campus administrators are interested and want to continue conversations with Beta about a potential time line for our return.

*Continued on page 10—*

*OF EVER HONORED MEMORY*

*It is with sadness that we report the following passings of our beloved Theta Chapter brothers:*

**Grover C. Cooper '52**

Grover C. Cooper, 76, passed away on February 6, 2007, at Dorchester General Hospital in Cambridge, MD.

Born in Nashville, N.C. he attended high school in Washington D.C. and Georgetown University before graduating from OWU in 1952, where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi serving as Chapter president during his senior year.

A member of Air Force ROTC, Grover served on active duty in the US and Japan from 1952-1954.

When he returned home he went back to college at George Washington University where he received his law degree. He was a communications lawyer in Washington and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court. In 1995, he retired as senior partner of Fisher, Wayland, Cooper, Leader and Zaragoza.

In 1956, Grover married Barbara Jean Simmons. Until 2000 they lived in Potomac, MD before moving to their large farm on the Chesapeake at Woolford. Grover was both an avid and accomplished hunter, fisherman and boater. In recent years, he authored several historical novels dealing in detail with early life on the Bay.

Grover is survived by his wife, three children, Douglas C. Cooper of Bethesda, MD, Carolyn Elisabeth McKenna and husband, Christopher of Urbana, MD, and Christopher C. Cooper and his wife, Stefanie Ann Cooper of Bethesda.

**Robert Huit Hunter '51**

Died Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2006 at his home in Thetford Center, VT, surrounded by those he loved. He was born November 10, 1924 in Columbus, OH, son of Robert Miller and Mildred (Huit) Hunter. He attended Columbus schools, graduating from The University School in 1942. He attended Ohio Wesleyan University from 1942-43 when he was drafted into the Army's 365<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 97<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division serving in WW II until 1946.

Following his discharge, he attended OSU graduating in 1951 with a Bachelor of Architecture. Soon after graduation he worked as a carpenter and draftsman for an "organic" village in Worthington, OH called Rush Creek Village. During that period he was also an adjunct professor of design in the Ohio State School of Architecture.

Following his work at Rush Creek Village, he opened his own architectural practice in Columbus, designing several offices and residences in the Columbus area and Hide-Away-Hills (OH).

In 1963, he married Judith Bridge in Delaware, OH. On their honeymoon they toured NH and VT, later settling in Thetford Center, VT. From 1963 to 1966 he worked for Hanover Architect, W. Broke Fleck. From 1966 to the present he had his own architectural firm in Hanover and Thetford Center. He concentrated his architectural practice on residential work designing many homes throughout the Upper Valley and beyond. His designs followed the principles of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Rob was passionate about his faith in Jesus Christ, his family, his architecture, and Ohio State football. He was an active member of Thetford Baptist Church where he served in many leadership capacities. He was a servant and a man of God. He took seriously his role in disciplining men toward how to live and how to die.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, his two sons, Burtch Bennett Hunter of Atlanta (wife Elizabeth), Robert Bridge Hunter of Boston (wife Amy), two grandsons, King Nelson Hunter and Cambell Robert Hunter (born on the day of his death) both of Atlanta, two sisters, Susan Hunter Beall (Mrs. Burtch) of Salt Lake City, Phyllis Ann Hunter, of Chandler, AZ and three nephews.

**Dale Musselman '52**

Dale Musselman, 77 of Ft. Myers, FL, went to the Lord Tuesday, May 15, 2007. Graduate of OWU, Class of 1952 and a member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, loving husband of 54 years to Mary Ziegler Musselman '53. He was a gracious father of four and kindest grandfather to four. Dale was a lifetime Rotarian, 25 year member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, avid tennis player, fond of poker, and quick-witted. He served in the US Marine Corps. He also was the owner of McGregor Pump Company, Inc. since moving to Ft. Myers in the fall of 1980. Dale is survived by his wife Mary, sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. M.H. Cobble, children, Carrie Musselman Bickford '80, David, Andrew and Susan, daughter-in-law Johanna, son-in-law Tony, and grandchildren Patrick, Connor, Sarah and Carson.

**Robert E. Wyant '50,**

of Delaware, died July 17, 2007 at Grady Memorial Hospital, Delaware, OH. He was born August 7, 1928, in Delaware to Clyde and May (Decker) Wyant. He was a 1950 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University in chemistry and was a member of Beta Theta Pi and the Sigma Zeta Chemical Honorary. He received his Master of Science degree from The Ohio State University, and was a member of the Delaware County Fair Board. He also served on the Boy Scouts of America Advisory Council and was an organic chemist for Battelle Research in Columbus, where he held more than 20 patents. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Suzanne (Manuel) Wyant '51; two daughters, Kathie (Randy) Martin of Ashley and Janet (Chris) Chadwick of Richwood; son, Tim Wyant of Delaware; seven grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Carole Shih-Ying of Chelmsford, MA; brother James (Roberta) Wyant '50 of Lancaster. He was preceded in death by his parents and son, Geoff.



**Morgan Shrader '54**

... passed away on August 31, 2007 ... during his student days at OWU, Morgan was remembered as a key player on the OWU football team, and was elected by his brothers as chapter President his senior year ... no further details provided. (See next page for tributes to Morgan Shrader.)



## *Tributes to Morgan Shradar*

Tom, I'm so sorry to get this news. The rolls are getting thin.  
*John Appel '56*

Tom: Thanks for letting us know. Morgan was special. We were best of friends. I am heartbroken. He really had a tough life. *Mike Schwartz '54*

I remember him well ... he was fortunate to last 40 years from having cancer ... I continue my chemo treatments Tuesday ... and just hope for the best. *Jack Mathews '54*

Dear Tom: Thanks so much for letting us know about Morg. It is such a shame — he fought so hard and long and was so determined to beat it. It just wore him down. We'll be away for the next two weeks so will be unable to be in touch by e-mail about any Beta plans, but if you need to contact us, we do check phone messages. PH# 512-864-2740  
*Alsa King Cotner '56*

Good morning Tom. Kissy did call last night and pass on the info on Morg. Thanks for your e-mail. I called Tries and Corey this morning since they do not have e-mail and filled them in. Kiss was going to call Pat and Dee, and have Pat call the Cotners. Thanks again for your kindness and consideration to the Brothers. *-kai- Dick DeVos '54*

Tom: Thanks for the message about Morgan. He must have lived an interesting life, although I never knew the full story.  
*Keith Eiken '57*

Tom: Mighty obliged to you for the Notice RE: Bro. Morgan! What a loss! Far too young to leave; but, unfortunately, the Brothers of Ohio Wesleyan Theta Chapter of Yesteryear are diminishing rapidly to the great distress of those who remain!  
*- Kai-, Norm Slenker '51*



### *Editor's Deep Appreciation*

A very special thanks to each and everyone of you who sent me your condolences, prayers and kind words on learning of the recent death (11/19/07) of my wife of 51 years, **Beverly "Ann" Hurley Tatham**. A Delta Gamma, she was a 1956 graduate of OWU, the loving mother of our two children, *Teri Bazaral (Mike) and Tom (Mindy)*, and the devoted grandmother of our two grandsons, *Alex and Sam Tatham*. She was a very special lady and is sorely missed by family and friends.  
*Tom Tatham*



## *Weisman 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*by Dave Bader Weisman '57*

July 12, 2007

Good morning, Tom. I attached a picture taken during our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party (which was on 6/23/07, although the actual date of the wedding was 6/29/57). It is of the wedding party, all of whom

were present, except one of the gals and one of the guys (who was Dave Cook, whose wife had surgery the day before the party).

I had not seen Earl Winters since the wedding reception on 6/29/57, and we had a great time bringing both of us up-to-date on all that had happened in the intervening years. All is well here. *-kai- Bader*



*The males in the picture are (L to R in front of Edie and me), my brother Bob, who is a Beta from Lambda Chapter at University of MI, Earl Winters, and of course, Keith.*



*Party Photo - Dave, Keith and Bob*

## Dove Brothers' Vacation

Good morning, Tom. Thanks for the update on Buck, saddened to hear, we spoke with Greta Thomas last evening and had a long talk. Ann was a room-mate of Greta's and were here in Scottsdale last year for the game.

I am sending a photo of brothers Dave '53, Frank '58 and Clark '63. Those three went on a 185 mile biking trip last October. I was on the Amazon and missed going.

Happy New Year to you and family and I will be in touch. *Michael "Bo" Dove '58*



## Theta Chapter Re-Colonizing *Continued from page 7—*

I did ask that as they discuss potential re-colonization with other fraternal organizations that they keep the Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi in their minds.

Ultimately it is up to us, the alumni of Theta Chapter. If we want to see the return of our beloved chapter, we have to be willing to donate our time, talents, and treasure to ensure her success. I personally am willing to dedicate myself to the successful return of Theta Chapter. I hope you are as well. If so please contact me at [Cadmus1641@msn.com](mailto:Cadmus1641@msn.com) or 216.346.3420 as I am more than willing to discuss with you further.

**Editor's Note:** Eric Eickhoff, a 2000 graduate of OWU, recently earned his M.Ed from William & Mary in 2007 and currently working as Asst. Dir. of Alumni Programs for the William & Mary Alumni Assoc. Prior to receiving his M.Ed, Eric worked for three years at Beta Theta Pi Admin. Offices in Oxford as a Sr. Ed. Consultant. Recently, he was appointed **General Fraternity Archivist**, a volunteer position requiring considerable commitment of time and travel.

## John Appel '56

### Receives the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award

On Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007, John Appel '56, was presented with the FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award at ceremonies in Lakeland, FL. The award recognizes the efforts of pilots who have followed and continue to follow the precaution and awareness of safe operations. Most of all, FAA recognizes pilots who have contributed and maintained safe flight operations for 50 or more consecutive years of piloting aircraft. Following are the words used to introduce John at the ceremony in Lakeland.

*"John is one of only a few in this room or anywhere else to experience flight at Mach 2, in the legendary F-4 Phantom, no less! And by the way, it was a brand new F-4 right out of the factory, too ... with that "new fighter" smell when you strapped in and closed the canopies. It was one of only a few times John ever flew a NEW airplane. John's beginnings were a bit more humble. He joined the Maryland Flying Club during his days at the University of Maryland and soloed at the College Park Airport, the world's oldest continuously-run airport, first established by the Wright Brothers themselves in 1909, and still in use today. John was a quick learner and soloed an Aeronca 7AC in December of 1956, and were it not for his vigilance on that flight, he might not have survived a very close encounter with an*

*opposing aircraft that was taking off on the opposite runway! John's next step after college was the US Air Force, and there he helped phase out the last of the B-47 Stratojets. After a tour as an Air Force Flight Instructor, John was assigned to combat missions in the F-4, and was among the first combat pilots to pioneer the use of the laser guided munitions so commonplace today. John flew 255 combat missions during his time in Southeast Asia, including two dozen missions over heavily defended North Vietnam. John retired after 20 years with the Air Force, and flew as a civilian as he traveled across the country in his motor home. Today he holds a 1/4 share in a Clearwater-based Mooney M20C.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Administrator, please join me in recognizing John Appel as one of our newest Wright Brothers Master Pilots. Congratulations!"*

Theta's congratulations to John. Photos are pictures of John in action.





THETA HOUSE COMPANY, BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 43100  
CINCINNATI, OH 45243

*December 31, 2007 — Greetings to all Theta alumni of Beta Theta Pi —*

Please consider a dues contribution for 2008, and join the following loyal supporters of our House Corporation and its programs. Dues are payable to Theta House Corporation and mail to Martin Haskell, Treasurer, PO Box 43100, Cincinnati, OH 45243.

**2007 DUES HONOR ROLL**

A very special **THANK YOU** to each of the 2007 contributors. Your dues provide a continuing communications program for the more than 700 living brothers of Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

J.E. Appel '56 R.M. Best '44 R. Cheseldine '50 R.G. Corey '54 C.B. Crittenden '57 D.S. Crockett '57 J.H. Davies '56 R.G. DeVos '54 A. Duarte '65 K.P. Eiken '57 H.A. Fausnaugh '48 M.R. Garrison '99 J. Hahn '55	W. M. Haskell '68 P.B. Kisseberth '54 L.A. Linderer '55 T.R. Long '51 R.S. Mauck '48 R.W. McClintock '53 R.C. Moyers '63 H.B. Newhard '52 P.M. Nobis '55 J.E. Pocock '47 D.G. Ransom '51 T.R. Shank '52 C.D. Simpson '54	J.A. Smithwick NA N.J. Speasmaker '50 R.W. Stivers '68 L.B. Szambecki '98 T.J. Tatham '56 D.K. Thomas '54* C.D. Underwood '68 S.K. VanBuren '52 R.H. Walters '73 M.B. Wasek** D.H. Watt '59 D.R. Wedge '51 D.B. Weisman '57	W.C. Wright '50  *Gift from Phyl Thomas in memory of her husband, Keith Thomas '54.  **Member of the Kisseberth family who contributed in recognition of the family article featured in the Feb. 2007 <i>Theta Data</i> .
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*Thomas J. Tatham, Editor Theta Data • 937-298-7682 or [tomtatham@aol.com](mailto:tomtatham@aol.com)*

**News from you:**

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

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## ANDY DUARTE '63 MEMORIES

I am sending two photos. One pictures *Yours Truly* being “accompanied” by John “Tiny” Duval '64, and I am in the midst of the celebrations during “help week”. With a cow’s bell hanging from my neck and in the middle of a recital of John Donne’s poem, “For Whom the Bell Tolls”. I later passed on that same bell to Edward “Rip” Van Winkle '66, but do not know where said bell ended up ... all I can tell you is that it was a unique experience to carry it around, below my shirt for one whole week. ... Can anybody add to this paper (bell) trail?

Regards from Venezuela. I don't know how much longer I will be here before taking my belongings and getting out ... it isn't easy to decide these migrations after the age of 60...

-kai- & Saludos  
*Andres (Andy) Duarte '65*

This photo is of a freshman “retreat” at Lakeside, OH at Dick Kinney’s cottage, January '62 ... days before our initiation. Pictured are Jim Manchester, Bob Marshall, Keith Moore and me. ... not all of us, very sober or lucid ...



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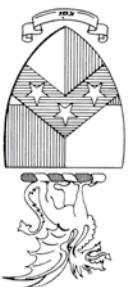
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