

The Theta Data

THETA CHAPTER • BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY • OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

MARCH 2002

DELAWARE, OHIO

<http://www.owu.edu/~betaweb/>



ALUMNI BOARD

Aldo Adachi '99
248-305-8912 (H)
aaadachi@yahoo.com

Erik Baudendistel '96
614-854-1991 (O)
erik.baudendistel@glencore-us.com

John Bolek '88, District VIII Chief
330-467-6562
johnmbolek@aol.com

Brad Chelton '98
bradford.chelton@ey.com

Richard DeVos '54, Past President
devos367@mediaone.net
440-835-1546

Andres Duarte '65
011-582-261-1255 • aduarte@dvaccs.com

Eric Eickhoff '00
800-800-2382, ext 266 (O)
cadmus1641@yahoo.com

Tim England '01
317-549-3793
volfish@aol.com

Ben Graham '52
937-667-3380 (O)
bensgraham@laol.com

Urlin Harris '58
740-548-3623 (H)
uharris@columbus.rr.com

Martin Haskell '68, Secretary/Treasurer
513-272-0279 (H) • 513-527-4970 (O)
martyh@fortemgt.com

Levi Levingston '97
614-488-8553 (H)
levilingston@hotmail.com

Thomas J. Tatham '56, Editor
937-298-7682 (H) • 937-298-7075 (O)
tomtatham@aol.com

Chuck Underwood '68, President
614-861-5466 (H) • 614-237-9802 (O)
cunderhoops@aol.com

Bob Wyant '50
740-369-2252 (H) • 740-424-5645 (O)

SPECIAL JUNE 21-23, 2002, THETA CHAPTER REUNION COME VISIT BETA NATIONAL FACILITIES IN OXFORD, OHIO Attend The '52 - '53 Initiates Fraternal '50s Celebration

The classes of 1955 and 1956, who were initiated in 1952 and 1953, will be the honored guests at the Fraternal '50s ceremonies to be held in Oxford, Ohio, at the Beta Theta Pi National Headquarters during the weekend of June 21-23, 2002.

This special weekend reunion schedule will be as follows:

| | | |
|--------------|----------|---|
| Friday, 21 | 6 p.m. | Register at Marcum Center (513-529-6911 or 513-529-2104) Informal Reception at The Inn |
| Saturday, 22 | Noon | Luncheon at National Headquarters - Fraternal '50s Ceremonies |
| Saturday, 22 | 2-5 p.m. | Tours ~ National Facility, Campus |
| Saturday, 22 | 6 p.m. | Reception ~ Shriver Center |
| Saturday, 22 | 7 p.m. | Dinner ~ Shriver Center |
| Sunday, 23 | 9 a.m. | Informal Breakfast, Check Out and Depart |

Those eligible for this special recognition include:

Initiated in 1952: J. Hahn, W. Rich, K. Rowley, L. Linderer, M. Irvin, P. Nobis, R. Doan, J. Funderberg, J. Staley, R. Draz, L. James, T. Turco, R. Brown, M. Dove, Doug Boyle, J. Vlrebome.

Deceased brothers from this class include: Dave Boyle, Tom Halliday, Homer Clark and Bill Kestle.

Initiated in 1953: J. Appel, G. Chatterton, J.K. Cozier, J. Dailey, J. Davies, T. Fuge, C. Glander, P. Halbin, R. Henshaw, D. Jefferis, J. Kent, J. McNabb, O.J. Stephens, T. Tatham, R. Treece, C. D. Wright. *Deceased brothers from this class include: K. Clark, C. Ecker, S. Pardoe, R. Pettegrew, H.E. Stahl, H. Thomson.*

Initiated in 1951—unable to attend previous awards ceremony: Hank Baldwin, George Kocher, Bob Marten, Jack Mathews, Clint Miller, John Reaney, Mike Schwartz, Nolan Smith, Keith Thomas and Jim Compton.

All alumni are invited to join in the festivities and share in this wonderful opportunity to visit with the brothers and to visit the beautiful facilities at Oxford. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Housing reservations should be made directly with the reservation desk at the Marcum Center, 513-529-6911. A block of rooms, some with two double beds and some with a single double bed, have been set aside for us. Just ask for Beta accommodations. Room charges are \$75 + 11.5 percent tax.

Please RSVP as follows: Attendance, luncheon and/or dinner reservations should be made with T. J. Tatham, 900 Hathaway Rd., Dayton, OH, 45419, 937-298-7075 or by e-mail at tomtatham@aol.com or Jack Hahn, 12609 Hugh Graham Rd., Albuquerque, NM, 87111, 505-294-5512 or by e-mail at jhahn505@aol.com. You will be charged for meals based on your reservations. Meal charges will be computed at a later date.

We are excited about this opportunity to see all of you and to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Beta National Headquarters, the Miami University campus and the area surrounding. Oxford, Ohio, is located on the Ohio-Indiana border on Ohio Route #27 about 30 miles northwest of Cincinnati and about 45 miles west/southwest of Dayton.

ALUMNI SUPPORT NEEDED

Your past dues support of the Alumni Association is very much appreciated. Our annual giving during the past few years has averaged about \$50-60 each from approximately 100-120 members. Our current budget shows that our *Theta Data* publication, reunions, maintenance of alumni database, Fraternal '50s and other communications programs requires annual expenditures of approximately \$5,000-\$7,000 per year. **Clearly, your dues commitment is essential to our continuing activities. Please note the enclosed flier with a special offer enabling your receipt of a beautiful painting of 54 W. Lincoln by Brother Richard Eiken '53.**

*President's Report***COMMITTED TO PRESERVING
FRIENDSHIPS**

Greetings to all of the 800 living alumni of Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi. It is an honor to serve as your Alumni Association president. I look forward to working on your behalf to continue our communications programs and to support activities which maintain strong relationships among our alumni.

While the recent year has been difficult with the closing of the active chapter on the OWU campus, it remains important for us to keep alive the spirit among our 800 living alumni. To that end, we have a reorganized board which includes a number of young, active brothers who will be our leaders in the near future.

With regard to the future outlook for an active Theta Chapter at OWU, much yet remains to be seen before an effort at recolonizing could be undertaken. We will keep you fully informed of the status of such an opportunity in the months ahead as we measure the campus climate and interest for such an opportunity. Your continued support of our efforts, through your dues, your attendance at reunion functions and events, and your keeping us up-to-date as to your personal lives through our "Alumni News" information collection program will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you with your comments.

Please know that we are dedicated to preserving our relationships and maintaining continued contacts with all Theta Chapter alumni. ~ Chuck Underwood '68

*Past President's Report***THETA CHAPTER'S RETURN WILL REQUIRE YOUR HELP**

Theta Brothers,

In the March 2001 *Theta Data*, I wrote, as president of the Alumni Association, about the status of the chapter as seen through the eyes of the Alumni Executive Board. We had many real concerns at that time about the future of our great chapter.

A combination of circumstances brought us to a critical juncture by the end of the school year in May as to what our options really were. Major points included undergraduate (actives) behavior, OWU Greek rules and requirements, and the position of the General Fraternity at Oxford. It was because of these we needed to act before heading toward 2001-2002 with a very small undergraduate group and a proven lack of commitment. It was at this point we came to the decision to close the chapter and surrender the physical house use to OWU. Under these conditions, the chapter is suspended/dissolved but the Charter is not revoked, allowing for a possible return to campus sometime in the future.

There were understandable comments and criticism from a few Theta alumni, but also substantial wide support from others for our action. Our house was given to Alpha Sig whose members were living in the dorms. We understand they spent about \$200,000 on renovation. Pledging for this year has just concluded with approximately 100 freshmen pledged (compared with 86 last year) to the 11 remaining national houses on campus. Several other houses are at risk due to size of their chapters, financial and other problems. It is logical that further chapter losses are possible on campus.

What is our future at OWU? As dictated by the General Fraternity, new chapters can only be colonized as "Men Of Principle" houses. To do that requires a substantial organizing effort by the alumni. Miami Alpha has done it over the past four to five years. They started with five men and now have well over fifty undergraduates and a large and strong pledge class. It can be done and our goal is to position Theta, if possible, to attempt such a return. Alumni support in many ways will be needed to do it. As the Theta Alumni Association communicates with you in the future, they will lay out plans for your consideration. ~ Dick DeVos '54

**REORGANIZATION OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD**

The first meeting of the reorganized board of the Alumni Association of Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi took place on Saturday, January 12, 2002, at OWU. The meeting was attended by brothers Adachi '99, DeVos '54, Eickhoff '00, England '01, Harris '58, Haskell '68, Tatham '56 and Underwood '68. Brother Chuck Underwood '68 was elected president, and Marty Haskell '68, secretary/treasurer.

The board formally adopted its mission as follows: *"The mission of the Theta Chapter House Company and Alumni Association of Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi 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."*

Programs to achieve these objectives, include the continued publication of *Theta Data* and the development of a **Web site** which will contain an alumni membership database, alumni news, past issues of *Theta Data*, guest room and other elements of alumni communications. More details will be released soon. Periodically, reunions will be planned including special events such as the Fraternal '50s recognition programs.

The subject of "recolonization" will continue to be on the agenda of future meetings. Among considerations for any future

recolonization is the requirement to meet the standards of the "Men of Principle" program of the General Fraternity. This includes a requirement that five alumni advisers be available for close work and oversight of the colony. This subject will continue to be reviewed by the Alumni Association trustees with particular attention given to the campus environment, university interest, alumni support and student interest in a recolonization effort.

Funding for all of the Alumni Association programs will be from dues collected from the generous contributions of its 800 members. The current treasury shows a balance of approximately \$2,000. Annual expenditures for its programs are approximately \$6,000-\$7,000 per year, with the support of an average of 100 alumni giving at an average of \$70 each per year.

The next meeting of the trustees is scheduled for noon, Saturday, August 17, 2002, at the Hamilton-Williams Center.

"The mission of the Theta Chapter House Company and Alumni Association of Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi 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."

Alumni News

Watson D. Parker '33 (Parkvue Pl., Apt. 212, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd., Sandusky, OH 44870) I'm living in a retirement home. I'm still in contact with **Bill Pickering '34**.

William B. Pickering Jr. '34 (760 Harley Dr., Columbus, OH 43202) I've lucked out with four holes-in-one at the OSU golf course. I exchange tapes with **Watson Parker '33**. **David Wright**, of Columbus, Ohio, attends the Wednesday men's breakfast as I do. He caught a six-foot tarpon last week. Wow.

Hal A. Fausnaugh '48 (20126 Westhaven Ln., Rocky River, OH 44116) and **Hugh I. Troth '48** (429 N. Woodhill Dr., Ashland, OH 44805) submitted this news: On June 12, Aggie and Hal Fausnaugh invited Renee and **Eddie O'Day '50**, Evelyn and **Bob Mauck '48**, and Phyllis and Hugh Troth to the Roycroft Inn in East Aurora, N.Y. This was our semi-annual Beta get-together. Aggie had sent trip tickets and literature to all of us months ago. We toured President Millard Fillmore's home (which he built with his own hands), the Roycroft Museum (the arts and crafts center of the world), a Methodist church (with all the original Tiffany stained glass windows which cost the church \$15,000 in 1927 and have an estimated value of over \$11 million today), and the world's largest bicycle museum. At our first attitude adjustment hour, Hal and Aggie presented their surprise! It was **Dan Ransom '51** and his lovely bride, Betty. Bob Mauck had pledged Dan and Hugh Troth was his big brother. What a thrill. We had not seen Dan for 50 years! Dan and his wife are in the real estate business in Orchard Park, N.Y., and sell vineyards, horse farms and prestige properties. Ann and **Bill Long '51** couldn't make this get-together, but they had a great

excuse — they were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary by taking their children and grandchildren (all 20 of them) on a chartered bus all over the western U.S. We heard they had a fantastic time.

J. William Myers '51 (105 Fulton Ct., Lyons, OH 43533) Bill closed his printing business, The Lyons Printery, in February 2001 after maintaining an offset and letterpress printing establishment since 1954. Heading in a new direction at age 81, Bill is planning to write his autobiography. Already an established poet, he has published 12 collections of his poems. His work has appeared in more than 50 poetry journals, college periodicals and newspapers. He's won two awards: the London Circle Award in Great Britain and first prize from the Famous Poetry Society of Oregon. Bill is married to Helen.

Don Wedge '51 I knew Lee Tressel (OSU football coach) very well....I sure hope Jim makes it...he sure has the right philosophy and the tools to do it...great article in USA Today about him and team...I played golf with Jimmy Crum (retired Columbus sportscaster and announcer for OSU for many years) recently and he is really high on him...sure sorry about Theta Chapter....hope all is well with you and yours...-kai-

Horace B. Newhard '52 (165 Rowland Way, Ste. 311, Novato, CA 94945; madalienne@earthlink.net) Country doctor. I greatly enjoy seeing **Paul "Kissy" Kisseberth '54** and skiing with him and Ann. I hope to get back for my 50th in 2002.

Theodore R. Chaney '53 (22 E. Walnut St., Westerville, OH 43081) It was great seeing the guys from the Class of 1954 in the spring of 2001.

Harry E. Mowry '53 (4249 Chambertin Ct., Pittsburgh, PA 15101) My wife, Lynn, and I celebrated our 50th anniversary in June.



William G. Plavcan '55 (19106 Rock Maple Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21742) I retired in May 2001 and have moved to a new house — one floor and easier living.

W. Daniel Rich '55 (504 Douglas Rd., Salisbury, MD 21801) Associate pastor at Bethesda U.M. Church. I enjoy reading *The Theta Data* tremendously — **Tom Tatham '56**, the editor, was my roommate at 54 West Lincoln. I keep in touch with him, as well as **Ken "Zeke" Rowley '55**.

James H. Davies '56 (64 Chestnut St., Murray Hill, NJ 07974) On June 15, 2001, I saw **Dan "Deacon" Rich '55** perform at a wedding ceremony for a relative of my wife. The Deacon was brilliant as usual — just like catching a last minute touchdown pass for the football fraternal championship in 1955. A lot of reminiscing and fun.

Thomas P. Stover '58 (1310 Tanglewood Trl., Euless, TX 76040) Not much new here in Euless, Texas. We've had some good and some bad — and actually, the average was pretty good! I'm looking forward to the Fraternal Fifties in a couple of years. Sue and I are going on a Mediterranean cruise in September 2001. We will be visiting my brother-in-law, **Bob Marten '55**, in July in my hometown of Butler, Pa. Retirement is good! I've always been lazy and it fits me to a "T." Sue (Menke, Delta Delta Delta, OWU '58) says "hi" to all her Beta brothers.

Douglas V. Austin '59 (2954 Westchester Rd., Toledo, OH 43615) In the last two years, I have written three books: *Strategic Planning for Community Banks*, *Financial Institution Directors Handbook*, and *How to Charter a Commercial Bank*. This brings the total number of books I have authored to 17 and over 700 published articles. I continue to operate my consulting firm in Toledo, Ohio. My wife and I have six grown children and 16 grandchildren. Each year, I run across two or three brothers. I continue to be active and have no plans for retirement in the near future. Unfortunately, I have prostate cancer and, along with my blindness, this means that not only can't I drive, I can't sit in the back seat for very long either! Brothers may contact me at doug@bankguys.com.

Paul D. Hammersten '69 (P.O. Box 69, West Chatham, MA 02669; hammerstenpaul@hotmail.com) The trigger has been pulled and the *Asante Papa!* Web site is up and running. I invite brothers to visit the Web site devoted to my new book, *Asante Papa!* — the groundbreaking tribute to Ernest "Papa" Hemingway and his work. (See "Books by Betas," *The Beta Theta Pi*; Spring 2000 and Winter 2001)

Alan R. Cooke '81 (10 Heron Dr., Mill Valley, CA 94941; acooke@datasweep.com) Vice president of sales at Datasweep. My second daughter, Olivia Macy, was born on March 11, 2001.

John Bolek '88 (269 Kennedy Blvd., Northfield, OH 44066) As a result of some recent health problems and a hospitalization, I have lost 54 pounds since December 27. Still on the mend. Starting to feel better each day.

Erik D. Mitchell '91 (2729 Edgevale Rd., Columbus, OH 43221; erik.mitchell@sfx.com) I left the Ohio News Network in November 2000 to take a position as accounting manager at Polaris Amphitheater.

Of Ever Honored Memory

Clovis E. Stark '36 ...his son Jim reports his passing on April 25-2001, in Dayton ... at the age of 86 ... when taken to the hospital, he was wrapped in his OWU athletic letter blanket which he always used to keep warm ... and next to his reading chair was the latest issue of *Theta Data* and the OWU magazine.

Although heavily recruited by Ohio State, Clovis came to Delaware in the fall of 1932 and where he became an outstanding basketball player at OWU. He became the first college player to score 30 points in one game in 1934 against Denison. OWU never lost a game in Edwards Gym during his time playing there...and never lost a game to Ohio State, including defeating them when OSU was the champion of the Big Ten. He was elected to the OWU Athletic Hall of Fame in both basketball and baseball. While playing for coach Detrick at OWU, he earned All-Ohio and All-Buckeye honors for 3 consecutive years in basketball ... he also played first base on the baseball team, and with Branch Rickey looking on in the stands, he hit a home run to beat OSU 17-11. To this day, his son Jim has that historic home run ball.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years Thelma Wellbaum Stark, and his two sons, Jim and Tim, both of Dayton.

William J. West '39, of 865 Lincoln Wood Ct., Dayton, OH, 45429, died on May 11, 2001. He was a captain in the Army Medical Corps in charge of the Polio Surgical and Rehabilitative Center at the Army-Navy Hospital in Hot Springs, Ark. He practiced general medicine for four years before starting his orthopedic surgical practice in 1955 and founding Far Oaks Orthopedics, which he headed until his retirement in 1983.

William is survived by his wife, Jeanette; daughters, Marsha and Cynthia; and sons, William and Douglas.

John F. Mansfield '40, of 1449 Tewksbury Cir., Cuyahoga Falls, OH, 44221, died of a heart attack on April 29, 2000.

Richard A. Gregg '45, of 6979 Winkler Rd., #322, Fort Myers, FL, 33919, passed away on August 12, 2001. As reported by his wife, Lucile, he was a 50-year member of Beta Theta Pi. He graduated from OWU in 1947 after service with the U.S. Navy in World War II.

Besides Lucile, Richard is survived by a daughter, Suzanne Denham, and a son, Richard A. Gregg Jr.

Thomas Orr Jr. '48, of 1069 Dean St., Schenectady, NY 12309, died on December 22, 2000. He was a retired pastor.

Jim Graham '51 died in a one-car auto accident on May 20, 2001. The accident occurred in Montana only a few miles from the site of an accident that took the life of his son, Ben, 16 years earlier. Jim had spent that day at The Ben, one of two golf tournaments held each year in memory of this son who had been an All-American golfer for three years in college.

Shortly before leaving, Jim had told his three sons, who were with him at the tournament, that this had been the happiest day of his life. His reason was that two of his sons, Steve and John, had won The Ben, Steve winning the amateur portion and John the professional. John's victory was accomplished while breaking the course record by two strokes with a 63.

Jim was a 1951 pre-med graduate of Ohio Wesleyan. He then completed doctoral studies in medicine at Ohio State Medical School. From there he interned in Long Beach California, served a tour in the U.S. Army, completed a residency in Tacoma, Wash., and moved to

Libby, Mont., where he opened a general practice and raised his four boys. After his boys were grown Jim left his practice in Libby and joined a clinic in Corvallis, Ore. Then three years ago he retired.

He is survived by his 99-year-old mother Gladys (Dayton, Ohio), his wife Judy (Corvallis), siblings Ben (Dayton, also a Beta at Ohio Wesleyan, class of 1952), Joan (Durham, N.H., Ohio Wesleyan, 1954), and Ellen (Orient, Ohio), his sons Jim (Idaho Falls, Idaho), John (Idaho Falls), and Steve (Gaston, Ore.), Judy's son Leigh (Corvallis) and seven grandchildren.

Charles L. "Johnny" Ecker '56, died May 13, 2001, after a long illness. He was a dear classmate of the editor as both pledged in 1952 and graduated from OWU in 1956. "Charlie" was one of the Ohio River boys from Gallipolis (along with Halliday, Thomas and Dailey), who found their way to Delaware in the 1950s. While at OWU Charlie majored in both political science and history, but his true love was music. A devoted Presbyterian, he was deeply involved in the life of the First Presbyterian Church of Gallipolis and participated in many of the church musical programs and frequently performed in recitals and musical plays in the Gallipolis area.

In the early 1990s, Charlie made one of his many visits to Dayton for a reunion with brothers Wright, Rich and Tatham. The scene was Dan Wright's home in Eaton, and while leaning over Dan's pool table, Charlie reeled off from memory the score from "The Music Man," which he had performed a few years before. As he sang Robert Preston's famous part "... and that rhymes with P and that stands for pool" ... and "... did you ever see a jockey ride Dan Patch? well, I guess not!" Charlie brought joy to the children who were there ... and left a memory forever for those of us who were there.

He was a member of the OWU chorus and studied under the late Professor Gordon Almstead. He starred for the Beta's intramural football team, which won championships all 3 years when he played. After military service, Charlie returned to Gallipolis where among other careers, he coached his Gallia Academy high school football team to an undefeated 9-0 record and state recognition in 1970. He later coached the baseball team at Rio Grande College. Baseball was a great love for Charlie. The highlight of his life was attending Dream Week with the Cincinnati Reds and having his own Reds uniform and picture card to prove his prowess on the field. Charlie was a loyal Beta brother and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Ron Pettegrew '56, originally from Upper Arlington and most recently living in Denver, Colo., died May 18, 2001, after a short illness following the discovery of severe complications from prostate cancer. Upon notifying us of his death, Ron's son Parke wrote "... my father cherished his memories with his fraternity brothers and spoke warmly of the 1994 reunion you had and how much fun he had with all of his fraternity brothers. The only thing he would like for me to add is for you to make sure everyone gets their PSA checked twice a year."

Ron (along with the editor and 20 other freshmen) pledged Beta in the fall of 1952. For the editor, sharing rooms with Ron during our sophomore and senior year was a real joy with many enriched moments.

Ron graduated from OWU in 1956 at which time he received a commission as second lieutenant in the USAF. Ron relocated to Colorado soon after returning from active duty with the USAF, and remained there for the rest of his life. He was the owner of a janitorial services business in the Denver area for a number of years until the past 12-15 years, during which time he owned and operated his own commercial real estate firm. Ron was a loyal Beta throughout his life and will be sorely missed by his classmates, brothers, family and friends.

Richard A. Colver '58, of 57046 Hummingbird Ct., Goshen, IN 46528, died on January 20, 2001. His wife informed us that he passed away only a few days after a successful mitral valve replacement.