



# THE BETA TAU BLASTER

DELTA TAU DELTA FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN | Fall 2009

## BETA TAU WINS 24TH COURT OF HONOR AWARD, STRIVES FOR HUGH SHIELDS

- Shelter is becoming outdated compared to other UNL campus buildings
- Delt must compete with luxury residence halls and updated dormitories
- Other UNL fraternities have updated chapter houses to remain competitive



Peter Kiewit's famous business mantra was that he always found himself "pleased, but not satisfied." As a new academic year begins, I believe this simple, yet poignant phrase is a perfect representation of the general feeling of both the undergraduate chapter and the House Corporation.

Last year, the undergraduates saw success in many aspects of their programming and operations. They were recognized for their achievements by receiving Beta Tau's 24th Court of Honor, an award given annually to the top 20 chapters of Delta Tau Delta. This is no small accomplishment given the fact that there are currently 125 active Delt chapters across the country. Yet, falling just short of receiving the chapter's 21st Hugh Shields (awarded to the top 10 chapters) has left the undergraduates hungry for more. They are working diligently to successfully implement their proven programs and to improve those which still need work. With a solid group of undergraduate officers in place, we are hopeful that Beta Tau will bring home a nation-leading 21st Hugh Shields Award this winter.

Meanwhile, the House Corporation has been hard at work this summer revising and improving the long-term plan for the Shelter. While adequate, the facility is beginning to show its age. There have been no truly comprehensive updates to the interior (other than limited cosmetic improvements) since the addition of the west half of the building in 1970. Given the changes that have occurred on the University of Nebraska campus over the last 40 years, both in terms of the buildings located thereon and the persons who occupy them, it is easy to see why our great Shelter has fallen behind the curve of the 21st century student needs. Moreover, the university's recent construction of three luxury residence halls for upperclassmen, and extensive renovations to most dormitories, has introduced a very real competitor to UNL fraternities for solid new members. Several of the fraternities have responded with renovations of their own, and many others have similar plans underway.

The urgency of this project has been spurred on by the University's mandate that all Greek houses have fire sprinklers installed in every room. This unavoidable project will require extensive opening of the Shelter's ceilings and walls, which provides an appropriate time to consider other long-term improvements. To this extent, the House Corporation has engaged professional consultants to help us advance the Shelter's core functions: a shared symbol of our tradition at UNL, a welcoming home for our undergraduate men, a living environment where young Delts today become leaders of tomorrow, and a proud statement of the Fraternity's mission, "Committed to Lives of Excellence."



Fraternally,  
**Alex Wolf '00**, House Corporation President  
 (402) 343-3862, [Alexander.wolf@koleyjessen.com](mailto:Alexander.wolf@koleyjessen.com)



*Though well maintained, the Shelter has received no comprehensive updates since 1970 and must compete with the University's three new luxury residence halls for upperclassmen, renovated dormitories, and off-campus apartments.*



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## BETA TAU TO HOST ALUMNI DAY ON OCTOBER 17 AND PARENTS DAY ON NOVEMBER 7

- Delta Tau Delta recruits 30 new members for fall class
- Alumni and parents are invited to visit the Delt house during home football weekends

The Beta Tau Chapter takes great pride in the high level of performance and integrity found in each of its members. We maintain this quality foundation by recruiting young men of high value and character through our summer recruitment program. This summer, Recruitment Chairmen **Nic Carlson '07** and **Jesse Smith '07** set out on a mission to recruit not only a sizable new member class, but one of outstanding quality. With a level of success that has been quite standard here at Beta Tau, Nic and Jesse recruited a class that is among the best on campus.

We are thrilled to accept yet another new member class of more than 30 men. They are a diverse group reflecting a broad range of backgrounds and personalities. From business to architecture majors, we are eager to see what these young men can contribute to our chapter. Moreover, we are determined to give the new members all the tools and opportunities they will need to succeed through our pledge education program.

Even though we have completed summer recruitment, we realize this is a process that never ends. We encourage alumni to contact us at any time with recommendations for potential new members. Please provide recommendations to Nic at (308) 830-3063 or nic\_3\_carlson@hotmail.com or Jesse at (402) 212-2728 or jesse@huskers.unl.edu.

As school begins, so does another year of Cornhusker football. Similar to past years, Nebraska football will be the anchor and highlight of our annual family and alumni days. Alumni and their families are invited to the Alumni Day at the Shelter on October 17 (Texas Tech game, time TBD). Furthermore, we will host the families of the undergraduate members at this year's Parents Day on November 7 (Oklahoma game). Each event will include a casual meal, the game on the big screen in the Pit, and an opportunity to catch up with Beta Tau members. Also, consistent with previous prac-

tices, we will have a cash bar provided by a third-party vendor on Alumni Day. If you cannot make it to one of these events, please do not hesitate to stop by The Shelter during another home football game.

Again, I would like to thank all of our alumni for your support and involvement with the undergraduate chapter. You have laid a great foundation upon which we hope to build. As always, we welcome each and every one of you to stop by the chapter this fall, if time permits, and we hope to see all of you at Alumni Day on October 17.



Fraternally,  
**Matt Isham '07**  
Chapter President  
(402) 670-1861  
Isham32@gmail.com

## CHAPTER OFFICERS



President  
**Matt Isham '07**  
Isham32@gmail.com



First Vice President  
**Scott Robinson '06**



Second Vice President  
**Kyle Hammond '06**



Treasurer  
**Reed Janousek '07**



Recording Secretary  
**Ryan Heimbuch '07**



Corresponding Secretary  
**Alex Young '07**



Guide  
**John Allen '06**



Sergeant at Arms  
**Drew Keithley '07**



Director of Risk  
Management/Recruitment Chairman  
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Director of Academic Affairs  
**Zach McDermott '07**



Director of Philanthropy/  
Recruitment Chairman  
**Jesse Smith '07**  
jesse@huskers.unl.edu



Director of Alumni Relations  
**Rob Swanson '07**  
rswanson88@gmail.com



Interfraternity Council Delegate  
**Tyler Sadlo '07**

## 2009 ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

### ALUMNI RECONNECT AND MEET THE UNDERGRADUATES

Saturday, June 27, proved to be a great summer day for golf. The sun was shining and a few scattered drops of rain kept the greens nice and cool as more than 30 Delts teed off at Yankee Hill Golf Club for the chapter's annual Alumni Golf Tournament. The second alumni event of each year (opposite the alumni tailgate held each fall), the tournament is a great opportunity for guys who haven't seen each other in a while to come together for an afternoon of crushing drives and skilled putts (or lost golf balls and broken club heads, depending on who you're talking to).

"The alumni golf event was very enjoyable and gave numerous Delts the chance to reconnect with old friends and current members of the Chapter. As participation continues to grow, the event itself has the potential to be a tremendous success for many years to come," said **John Marshall '00**.

The afternoon concluded with a reception held at the Shelter. While the tournament is already a staple event for young alumni, there's talk of how it can grow into something bigger and attract a wider range of Delt pledge classes. Be on the lookout for information about next year's tournament, and please feel free to contact House Corporation President **Alex Wolf '00** with any suggestions you might have for future alumni events.

### Welcome, New Pledges

**Bryce Arens**  
Omaha, Neb.

**Brian Jerina**  
Omaha, Neb.

**Taylor Peitzmeier**  
Elkhorn, Neb.

**Zach Bailey**  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**Jonathan Jungck**  
North Platte, Neb.

**Matt Robinson**  
Elkhorn, Neb.

**Sean Christensen**  
Omaha, Neb.

**Andrew Lagrone**  
Omaha, Neb.

**Jordan Sasek**  
Lincoln, Neb.

**Zach Clifton**  
Elkhorn, Neb.

**Nik Lenz**  
Kearney, Neb.

**Steven Schubert**  
Blair, Neb.

**Jake Conley**  
Omaha, Neb.

**Kyle Lierman**  
Sioux City, Iowa

**Aaron Smith**  
Eason, Mo.

**Jon Geier**  
Lincoln, Neb.

**Logan Livers**  
Lincoln, Neb.

**Riley Stadler**  
Minden, Neb.

**Daniel Grossman**  
Omaha, Neb.

**Nic Long**  
Blair, Neb.

**Cody Wedding**  
Panama, Neb.

**Kyle Hampton**  
Lincoln, Neb.

**Connor Morris**  
Roseland, Neb.

**Wade Wilkinson**  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Parker Hoffman**  
Lincoln, Neb.

**Cale Neverve**  
Kearney, Neb.

**Jayk Wilson**  
Lincoln, Neb.

**Stuart Hughes**  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Rico Oliverous**  
Lincoln, Neb.

**Lawrence Jablonski**  
Lincoln, Neb.

**Ben Petersen**  
Blair, Neb.

## BETA TAU PROVIDED ALUMNUS WITH UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

### Spotlight on Matt Ellis '01



Beta Tau provided many opportunities for **Matt Ellis '01** and supplemented the education he received in the classroom. "I believe that you only receive half of your college education from your classes, the rest comes from hands-on experience. I met so many great people in Delt and was lucky enough to have some really unique experiences that opened a lot of doors for me."

Delta Tau Delta taught Matt the importance of leadership and working with diverse groups of people. "No matter what you end up doing in life you have to understand leadership. Sometimes you will be the leader, and other times you will find yourself being led. Leadership is about understanding how to work with people both similar to and different from you in order to accomplish a common goal."

Matt has many fond memories of Beta Tau, but his favorites are of the everyday camaraderie between the brothers. "Even though the big social events were always a blast, my best memories come from the random stuff that would happen on weeknights when we just hung around the house, such as pranks, late-night Wal-Mart, McDonalds, and Amigos runs, hallway sports, and the midnight track and field arcade game tournaments."

*"I met so many great people in Delt and was lucky enough to have some really unique experiences that opened a lot of doors for me."*

Matt also enjoyed a unique experience as a cast member on a reality television show starring Tommy Lee. "If I hadn't joined Delt I never would have become friends with **Hagen Schafer '00**, who helped me get a job at Iguanas, where I met the show's producers. They cast me, and I was glad the younger Delts got a chance to be on the show, too!"

In his free time Matt enjoys listening to live music and playing guitar. He works for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Kansas City, Missouri, coordinating cause marketing programs. E-mail: mattellis82@gmail.com

### WEB SITES

**Beta Tau Chapter**  
www.unl.edu/delt

**National Fraternity**  
www.delts.org

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**  
www.unl.edu

## Editor's Note

Please note that all Beta Tau members are now listed by their initiation year, as opposed to the graduation years previously published in *The Blaster*.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Ralph "Whitie" Reed '38** was notified by Lincoln High School that he will be inducted into the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame for his golf accomplishments. He will be the oldest athlete at age 94.

**Gene E. Lightner '51** and his wife, Jan, enjoy the good life of riverboat cruising. Their favorite trip, so far, has been from St. Petersburg to Moscow, Russia. Gene has kept busy during retirement by conducting research, primarily in alternative fuels. He has issued 14 patents in the past 10 years; the most recent in April 2009. E-mail: genelight@comcast.net

**Gary E. Lacey '61** is nearing retirement after 35 years as a prosecuting attorney in Lincoln, Neb. He has served as the elected county attorney since 1990. E-mail: coatty1@yahoo.com

**Michael W. Baldwin '73** and his wife, Jo, reside in Kearney, Neb., where he works as a lawyer. They have three children in college. E-mail: michaelwbaldwin@gmail.com

**Curtis G. Witzenburg '85** is a partner with Holland Basham Architects in Omaha, Neb. He and his wife, Molly, have two daughters, Emily and Margaret. E-mail: cwitzenburg@hba1.com

**Shane T. Wells '92** finds himself longing for a real, live Husker game. He and his wife live in Milan, Italy. E-mail: drshanewells@gmail.com

**Brock R. LaSure '96** and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children and live in Bellevue, Neb. Brock is a family doctor in a private practice. He serves on the board of directors for the new Bellevue Medical Center, scheduled to open in 2010. E-mail: blasure77@yahoo.com

**Justin P. Tomka '03** moved to Phoenix after receiving a master's degree in architectural engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and works for a consulting firm. E-mail: jptomka@hotmail.com

**Nicholas A. Tomsen '03** lives in Iowa City and attends the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. In 2007, Nicholas and Michaela Weeks were married in Omaha, Neb., after a long-distance relationship between Iowa City and Thailand, where Michaela worked with a Christian ministry. E-mail: n\_tomsen@yahoo.com



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*Address Service Requested*

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### ATTENTION:

*This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.*



## Save the Date

### ANNUAL ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Saturday, May 15, 2010**

1 p.m.

Tiburon Golf Course

10302 S. 168th St.

Omaha, NE 68136

Mark your calendars for the Annual Alumni Golf Tournament on May 15! Reunite with your Beta Tau brothers to catch up with friends, relive old memories, and make some new ones.

Please contact **Alex Wolf '00** at [Alexander.wolf@koleyjessen.com](mailto:Alexander.wolf@koleyjessen.com) with questions.