



THE BETA TAU BLASTER

DELTA TAU DELTA FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN | Fall 2011

RENOVATIONS THEN AND NOW: ALUMNI SUPPORT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

In the mid-1960s **Ben Neff '57** faced a formidable challenge as chapter advisor and House Corporation president—renovation of the Beta Tau Shelter. The Shelter was too small to house enough members to keep the fraternity in business and was in need of expansion. Ben and **Don Erway '54** interviewed many architects before discovering one who could build an addition that would triple the size of the original house.

“We looked long and hard for an architect who could use our lot space and shape as it was. We did not want to move from this spot because of its proximity to campus. We also did not want to move into the University’s proposed housing for lack of convenience,” recalls Ben.

After much debate with the city of Lincoln and the University of Nebraska over parking space and lot ownership, eventually ground was broken and the project began. Unfortunately, alumni support was lacking due to the Vietnam War and inability to launch a large-scale fundraising campaign.

“Don and I called pledge class members ourselves, many of whom were willing to make small donations, but it was nowhere near the \$560,000 price tag on the project. We had no idea how we were going to come up with the money needed to keep this chapter going.” Eventually the national chapter was willing to loan the remaining amount to Beta Tau, alleviating some of the fundraising stress.

Ben feels that alumni support for the proposed renovations is what will make today’s project successful. The structure of the *Commitment to Beta Tau Excellence: Honoring Our Past ~ Securing Our Future* campaign makes it easy for alumni to get involved, even allowing for pledges to be paid over a series of years. Ben chose to donate to the Beta Tau campaign as a means of lowering the outstanding mortgage the chapter has. “Having a high mortgage suppresses the chapter’s ability to move forward. Lowering this debt is a huge burden removed from future members and House Corporation chairmen.”



Due to the use of a window air conditioner, the sill of this window in the kitchen is gone.



The plumbing for the sinks of the freshman bathroom has been a constant issue, and after years of use, a majority of the wall tile is missing under the sinks.



Dilapidated flooring can be seen in rooms throughout the Shelter. Help us update features like this by sending in a pledge today.



There are numerous areas around the house where the ceiling texture is peeling.

Construction Set to Begin This Winter

Progress Made, Last Chance to Give to Campaign Challenge

Almost three years ago, the House Corporation and a small group of dedicated alumni began laying the foundation for a much-needed renovation of the Delta Tau Delta Shelter. Today, as we stand on the cusp of that renovation, we cannot help but briefly reflect on how far we have come.

Ideas Put into Action

The process began by identifying potential needs and wants for the renovation, taking into account new legal mandates for fire sprinklers, a survey of the undergraduate chapter, and modern trends in student housing across the country. With the help of Carlson West Povondra Architects, we identified specific construction objectives and developed initial concept designs. This was followed by a detailed feasibility study to gauge potential alumni support for the project.

Shortly thereafter, a campaign board was formed to plan and implement the largest fundraising drive in Beta Tau history. This past summer, we hired Meco-Henne Contracting Inc. to serve as the general contractor for the project. Carlson West Povondra and Meco-Henne are working together to create detailed construction documents for the project, with construction set to begin in late December of this year and to conclude by August 2012.

\$335,000 Left to Go

There is no doubt that these are exciting times at Beta Tau. With the wonderful support of many of our brothers, we have raised over \$1.1 million toward our overall \$1.5 million goal. However, we still have \$335,000 to go, including the need to

(Continued on page 3)

THANK YOU, LOYAL BROTHERS, FOR CONTRIBUTING \$1,167,102

We are deeply grateful to the brothers who have pledged over \$1.1 million to *A Commitment to Beta Tau Excellence: Honoring Our Past ~ Securing Our Future*. This generosity demonstrates that these alumni and undergraduates recognize the importance of ensuring the future of the Beta Tau Chapter. Commitments are

still needed from our alumni to achieve our goal and complete this major project. If an error has been made in recording your gift, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our campaign coordinator with corrections at (785) 843-1661.

Robert Manley Society (\$100,000 and above)

Robinson Family Gift
Rob Robinson '75
Scott Robinson '06
Matt Robinson '09
Stuckey Family Gift
Harold Stuckey '58
Michael Stuckey '80
Robert Stuckey '81
John Stuckey '86

Founders Society (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Emanuel Family Gift
Nicholas A. Emanuel '76
Francis Emanuel '78
James Emanuel '79
The Stigge Brothers
Byron Stigge '64
Russell Stigge '66
Wolf Family Gift
Arden D. Wolf '28
John A. Wolf '60
Thomas E. Wolf '62
Thomas A. Wolf '94
Alexander J. Wolf '00
Paul F. Engler '47
Brian C. Hamilton '68

1894 Society (\$40,000 to \$49,999)

Tomsen Family Gift
Charles K. Tomsen '53
C. Andy Tomsen '78
Gunnar N. Tomsen '98
Nicholas A. Tomsen '03
Dustin Schoff '06
Max Anderson '10

Leadership Society (\$30,000 to \$39,999)

Beta Tau Society (\$20,000 to \$29,999)

Ebers Family Gift
Jerry A. Ebers '60
James C. Ebers '63
Ensz Family Gift
Gary R. Ensz '69
Robert B. Ensz '65
James H. Ensz '63
Eveland Family Gift
Al Eveland '73
Scott Eveland '77
Hove Family Gift
Andrew C. Hove '53
Peter C. Hove '80
Dr. Thomas A. Graul '82
Meyer Family Gift
Peter C. Meyer '78
Spencer T. Meyer '05
Olson Family Gift
David C. Olson '52
Samuel P. Olson '55
In memory of
Carl W. Olson '26
Sutter Family Gift
Lanson Sutter '78
Andrew Sutter '04
Roger D. Sack '54
David C. Bunkers '76

Delta Shelter Society (\$15,000 to \$19,999)

William C. Schwartzkopf '70

Husker Society (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

James Loach, *Epsilon Omega* '67
Richard C. Tooley '53
Michael C. Tooley '55
Dale D. Hallock '68
Bryan S. Gustafson '76
Daniel L. Lindstrom '79

Jeff Strohmeyer '79
Mark A. Hartman, M.D. '83
Scott Samway '91
Carson G. Wright '94
Patrick Hastings '99
Brent R. Stricklett '03
Henry N. German '04
Matt J. Dinsdale '05

The Good Delt Society (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Allen Family Gift
Fred E. Allen III '52
Fred E. Allen IV '80
Charles H. Allen '84
John T. Allen '06
Stephen Allen '11
Pitner Family Gift
Mark Pitner '80
Michael Pitner '10
Tito Millan '50
Robert W. Hasebrook '51
Ted Simonson '52
In memory of
Richard "Sim" Simonson '49
Benjamin Neff '54
Jack Clark '55
In memory of
Bob Cook '54
John W. Madden III '56
Mark R. Spurgin '66
In memory of
Tom Rutz '65
Homer M. Buell '68
Mike Baldwin '73
Robert C. Fricke '74
John Salistean '74
Mark D. Goodrich, D.V.M. '75
Michael P. Ripp '76
Rob Downing '86
Travis Wright '98
Michael Zoerb '01
Mitch Anderson '02

Nathan R. McIntire '02
Andrew J. Grondek '04
Kenny Edwards '11

Royal Purple & Gold Society (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Emerson Family Gift
Larry C. Emerson '73
Cliff L. Emerson '73
Jenkins Family Gift
Dean Jenkins '53
Mike Jenkins '83
Carter Jenkins '90
Gene E. Lightner '51
Brien E. Hendrickson '52
Donald G. Erway '54
Leonard Lindgren '54
Richard H. Bond '55
Richard G. Arneson '56
Richard J. Hove '57
Bruce A. Bullock '64
Richard A. Miller '64
Bruce A. Christensen '65
James M. Williams '65
Vernon R. Broders '71
Gary L. Settje '71
In memory of
Thomas Rutz '65
Col. Michael D. Eisenhauer,
M.D. '82
Mitch Grady '85
Dave Dannehl '86
Jim Saalfeld '86
Douglas M. Carr '87
Mark D. Drake '92
Jason E. Grennan '92
John Owen '92
Jeremy R. Ferguson '96
Brock R. LaSure, M.D. '96
David Kavanaugh '98
Craig B. Goodrich '01
Philip C. McCormick '01

Kaylee and Adam J. Stahr '01
Dan S. Schwarzlander '03
Noah M. McClain '04
Kirk S. Ramsey '04
Samuel Peshek '10

Brotherhood Society (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Ryan D. Caldwell,
Theta Kappa '98
George W. Regan '52
Richard L. Grant '53
Robert W. Serr '53
Richard G. Geier '54
In memory of
Rae Geier
Adam "Dick" Trupp '54
Harry F. Dingman Jr. '55
In memory of
James E. O'Halloran III '56
James D. Murphy '56
Donald E. Cross '59
Hal Hoppe '59
Ronald C. Moyer '60
Leslie C. Hellbusch '65
William G. Tooley '65
Dan W. Peterson '66
Edward L. Brandt '68
In memory of
Randy Draper
William Kramer '68
Bob Bergeson, D.D.S. '69
Dean G. Winchell '69
G. Lee Glenn '70
C. John Guenzel '72
James R. Minarick '73
Jon C. Baumann, D.D.S. '76
Mark A. Stadler '77
Robert S. Woodruff '78
Joseph Stone '81
Dan J. Hofmeister Jr. '84
Christopher A. Pippert '85
Bryce G. Johnson '85

CAMPAIGN STATUS AT-A-GLANCE

As of October 11, 2011

GOAL
\$1.5 MILLION

PLEDGES TO DATE
\$1,167,102

RAISED TOWARD
CHALLENGE
\$59,301

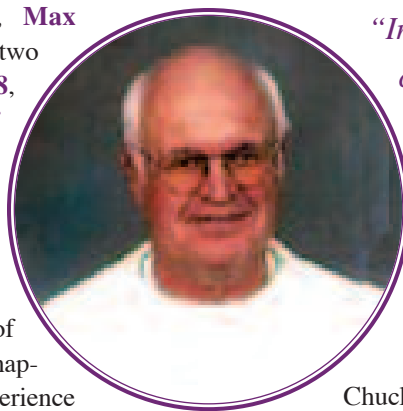
NUMBER OF
CONTRIBUTORS
227

NUMBER OF
ACTIVE ALUMNI
1,254

Chris Neil '86
 Douglas J. Shonka '86
 Eric F. Marsh '88
 David Zauha '88
 Jason Pinkall '90
 Matthew J. Bailey '94
 Travis W. Brandt '94
 John D. Hain '94
 Kirk Kløver '94
 David J. Maloley, D.D.S. '94
 Daniel S. Neil '94
 Mark A. Roth '94
 Kris S. Flammang '95
 In memory of
 Blake Nedrow '95
 Ryan Stowe '96
 Cory J. Ostermeyer '97
 Brendan J. Gustafson '98
 Nicklaus Hansen '98
 Thomas C. Maloley '98
 Brian J. Schenk '98
 Bradley J. Carpenter '99
 Seth A. Carlson '00
 Luke M. Francis '00
 John D. Marshall '00
 Robert A. Soukup '00
 Matthew S. Ellis '01
 Matt C. Larson '01
 Chad D. Doerneman '04
 Kyle J. Hammond '06
 Christopher A. Himes '06
 Samuel M. Romohr '06
 Paul J. Bauer '07
 Nicholas Carlson '07
 Calvin D. Drey '07
 Jordan T. Emanuel '07
 Daniel T. Gill '07
 Ryan Heimbuch '07
 Matthew E. Isham '07
 Reed J. Janousek '07
 Andrew Keithley '07
 Tyler Sadlo '07
 Grant R. Sitzman '07
 Jesse M. Smith '07
 Robert H. Swanson '07
 Alex G. Young '07
 Brandon Akert '08
 Sean Bjordal '08
 Ryan Bones '08
 Ryan Brown '08
 Ryan Clark '08
 Brian Elsasser '08
 Cole Grams '08
 Nick Grams '08
 Tanner Hohlen '08
 Derek Jess '08
 Alex Spanel '08
 Thomas Stadler '08
 Zach Weiderspon '08
 Nico Bohm '09
 Daniel Grossman '09
 Kyle Hampton '09
 Darr Jenkins '09
 Brian Jerina '09
 Andrew LaGrone '09
 Cale Neverve '09
 Collin McWain '09
 Jordan Kugler '11
 George Lee '11
 Tyler Pettitt '11

CHUCK TOMSEN '53 GIVES BACK TO BETA TAU

Chuck Tomsen '53 has a long and rewarding history with Beta Tau. He started as a pledge in 1952 and has felt a strong connection ever since. Chuck has become the patriarch to six Beta Tau members, his son, **Andy '78**, two grandsons, **Max Anderson '10** and **Nicholas '03**, two nephews, **Jon '90** and **Gunnar '98**, and a grandson-in-law, **Dustin Shoff '06**. His family has left a legacy of strong membership and support.



Chuck shares that “membership in ΔTA enhances your education since being with men in different walks of life allows experiences that do not happen in classrooms. It is a learning experience to work on a daily basis with different personalities. These lessons help prepare you for later in life.”

Shortly after graduation Chuck spent a few years in the Air Force as a navigator in a two-seat fighter jet. He then lived in Omaha for six years working as farm manager and farm real estate broker and appraiser. He then moved to Minden and started Tomsen Cattle Company (a cattle feeding and farming operation) and spent 20 years grow-

ing the business and turned it over to his son, Andy, and son-in-law Steve Anderson. Since then he continues as a farm real estate broker and farm manager.

“In order to have a successful chapter, we need to have the house in good repair. It is our responsibility as alumni to give back to the chapter so future members have a nice place to live.”

Chuck has been back to the Shelter and noticed that it reflects the 60 years of use “**it needs help**, and that is easy to see. In order to have a successful chapter we need to have the house in good repair. It is our responsibility as alumni to give back to the chapter so future members have a nice place to live.” Chuck also says, “If you believe that ΔTA encourages the education of youth and the inspiration of maturity, then you should believe in the value of renovating the Shelter and be willing to help out.”

Beta Tau Reflects on Achievements

(Continued from front page)

raise at least \$40,000 by November 15 in order to take full advantage of the gift matching program that was unveiled earlier this year (matching \$1 for every \$2 donated up to \$100,000). It is vitally important that we meet these goals so we have the funding necessary to accomplish our construction objectives and deal with any unforeseen issues that may arise in the process. For example, the recent discovery of asbestos in the house will further add to the project costs due to expensive abatement procedures that will likely be required.

Alumni Extend Pledges

Mindful of how important this project is, many of our alumni who had previously made pledges have elected to extend their annual donations for a sixth year. We are extremely grateful for their generosity and the generosity of all our donors to date. However, we need the help of *all* of our alumni if we are to meet our goals. If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider committing \$100 or \$200 per year for the next five years. For the

equivalent of a couple of nights out on the town, you can make a huge difference to the overall success of the project. Moreover, donors pledging \$1,000 or more will receive special recognition on a permanent donor wall that will be installed in the Shelter.

Absolutely every dollar counts in the effort to make the Shelter a safe and secure place to live for current and future generations of Delts. Now is the time to act in order to accomplish this one-in-a-generation effort. We hope that you will join us as we show that we are truly committed to lives of excellence at Beta Tau.

Fraternally,
Paul Engler '47
 Honorary Campaign Chairman

Alex Wolf '00
 House Corporation President
 (402) 343-3862 • alexander.wolf@koleyjessen.com

Alumni Enjoy Reunion Weekend

FRED ALLEN III '52 AWARDED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

We enjoyed another year of good attendance during the 2011 alumni weekend, which took place on Saturday, September 17. Prior to kickoff of the Nebraska vs. Washington game, a large group gathered at the Delt house to enjoy a tailgate buffet and drinks in the Pit. Alumni reminisced regarding their experiences in the house, took one last look at the outdated facility, and talked excitedly about the upcoming renovation.

After the game, nearly 100 alumni, actives, and family members packed the banquet room at The Knolls Country Club for the annual alumni banquet. The evening's program included an update on the capital campaign by House Corporation President **Alex Wolf '00**, a slideshow presentation regarding the plans for the upcoming renovation by architect **Bob Soukup '00**, a status report on the active chapter by undergraduate President **Brian Elsasser '09**, and the presentation of the Alumnus of the Year award to **Fred Allen III '52** for his mentorship of the undergraduates and lifetime of service to Beta Tau. In addition, **Tom Wolf '62**, as this year's chairman of the banquet, shared preliminary plans for the 2012 alumni reunion, which will involve a formal dedication of the newly renovated Shelter during the weekend of the Nebraska vs. Wisconsin game September 28-29, 2012. Please mark your calendars and look for more details to come.

Top: Alumnus of the Year Fred Allen III '52 with sons Chuck '84 and Fred IV '80 and grandsons Stephen '11 and Chase.

Middle: Tom Wolf '62, chairman of the 2011 alumni reunion, addresses a packed house of undergraduates, alumni, and family members.

Bottom: Mark Pitner '80 with his son Michael '10.



UNDERGRADUATES LOOK FORWARD TO SHELTER RENOVATIONS

32 NEW PLEDGES RECRUITED

The undergraduate chapter is eagerly anticipating the upcoming renovation. The excitement surrounding the project is already yielding tangible results in the form of a very successful summer of recruitment. Recruitment Chairmen **Ryan Clark '08**, **Brent Dawson '08**, and **Tanner Hohlen '08** did a great job adding 32 new pledges. These individuals represent a very impressive array of backgrounds and experiences and they all share very strong academic credentials, including five Regent Scholars and an average ACT score of 27.5. To date, they have excelled in all aspects of their pledgship, showing great respect for the facility and a real excitement for the upcoming improvements. Indeed, we all look forward to the new Shelter and the great advantage it will give us in recruitment and retention. Besides the conveniences of updated facilities, the necessity of such things as central air and a fire sprinkler system is very apparent.

NEW POLICIES IN PLACE FOR RENOVATIONS

Preparing for the renovations, the undergraduate chapter has implemented our own policies to encourage even greater responsibility related to upkeep and improvement of the house. One way we are doing this is by strictly enforcing house jobs. These are simple daily tasks intended to keep the house in good order. We are also implementing Delt service hours for anyone who fails to complete their job. Delt service hours include fixing or cleaning an area of the house for a given amount of time. We believe this will be much more effective than just assessing a small fine as has been done in the past. Also, we continue to work with the House Corporation to improve our room check-in and checkout procedures. Simply put, we are attempting to treat the Shelter as if it were brand new so once it is renovated it will be second nature to show proper respect for the house.

PHILANTHROPY EFFORTS REWARDED

We are also making improvements outside of the house. After our donations to the Lincoln VFW from our spring philanthropy M*A*S*H, the VFW has named a \$1,000 scholarship in our honor. Because of our hard work, the chapter has been awarded the C.B. Schultz Philanthropy Award, which is given by Greek Affairs to the fraternity with **the greatest philanthropic involvement on campus.**

BETA TAU HOSTING WESTERN PLAINS DIVISION CONFERENCE

Beta Tau has the honor of hosting the 2012 Western Plains Division



Undergraduates enjoy the alumni reunion at Knolls Country Club.

Conference in Lincoln in January. Our ritual team is hard at work preparing for the conference with both ritual practice and updating our ritual equipment. This will be a good opportunity to show Beta Tau's strength to the division and showcase our outstanding alumni support with the major renovation project. We welcome any of our alumni who are interested in attending the conference to contact our guide, **Brandon Akert '08**, at (402) 310-9066.

Also, you are all welcome to stop by the house anytime, especially for a Monday night dinner or football Saturday. Thanks for all you do and we hope to see you around.



Fraternally,
Brian Elsasser '08
President
brian.elsasser@huskers.unl.edu





THE BETA TAU BLASTER

Delta Tau Delta
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Lincoln, NE 68501

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SAVE THE DATE

ALUMNI GOLF OUTING
SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012
Tiburon Golf Club
Omaha, Nebraska

ANNUAL ALUMNI WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2012
Nebraska vs. Wisconsin

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 Shelter. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

James E. O'Halloran '56 entered Chapter Eternal on February 23. He was a resident of Spokane, Wash. James was a captain in the United States Air Force. While he was at the University of Nebraska he was active in the ROTC.

ALUMNI NEWS

Richard T. Hill '53 and his wife, Beth, live in Fort Collins, Colo. He is the principal of Hill Architecture, where he is assisting rural school districts in improving their facilities. E-mail: cxrich500@mac.com

William D. Armbrust '76 was married in Hawaii in 2010. He and his wife, Diane, raise purebred Tarentaise cattle north of Elkhorn, Neb. E-mail: Paradiseridge@earthlink.net

James E. Murphy '79 was a part-time starter in 1982 for Nebraska football and has served more than 30 years in the U.S. Army. Lt. Col. Murphy is one of the biggest recruiters for the Army in Nebraska. He and his wife, Cherri, have two daughters, Lauren and Paige, and live in Lincoln. E-mail: jcmurphy40@hotmail.com

Stay Connected

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www.nebraskadelts.org

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nebraskadelts@gmail.com