



THE BETA TAU BLASTER

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

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Beta Tau Chapter
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DELTA TAU DELTA ONE OF THE BEST FRATERNITIES AT UNL

- *Undergraduates improve G.P.A. and campus academic ranking from 20th to 10th*
- *Chapter hosts annual M*A*S*H philanthropy benefitting Divisions of Army non-profits*
- *Beta Tau receives awards at Delt's Western Plains Division Conference*

The Beta Tau Chapter of Delta Tau Delta has consistently been a marker of excellence at the University of Nebraska by setting the standard for neighboring fraternities. Whether we are pursuing national Delt honors or improving our local academics, philanthropy, recruitment, and alumni relations, we strive to lead lives of excellence and be leaders on campus and in our community.

Academics

The last year has seen some exciting changes as we have made significant jumps in all-campus academic rankings. The chapter utilized a revamped in-house tutoring system to improve from a ranking of 20th out of 24 to a respectable 10th. The chapter is determined to be among the top five fraternities in average

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*Fred Allen '56 (center) and the Beta Tau undergraduates hosted the annual M*A*S*H philanthropy.*

HOUSE CORPORATION PLANS FOR FUTURE OF BETA TAU

- *Greek chapters are competing for members with on-campus housing such as residence halls and apartments*
- *Board will conduct a study to determine feasibility of chapter house renovation*

Greetings! As another school year comes to a close, we congratulate the undergraduate chapter on a successful semester and are eager to see what the coming year has in store. Mindful of the challenges that our undergraduates face today, we are excited to have such a large and enthusiastic House Corporation in place that is focused on reconnecting all of our alumni with the chapter and improving the undergraduate experience.

In fact, the 11-member board is the largest group of volunteers the House Corporation has enjoyed. Moreover, the members bring an excellent mix of dedicated experience and young enthusiasm. **Tom Wolf '66**, **Bruce Christiansen '69**, and **Ryan Stowe '00** have nearly 25 years of service between the three of them, many of those years spent as officers, and eight members graduated in the 2000s, including five who joined the board within the last two years. We are excited to have the involvement of two Delt alumni from

other chapters, **Jim Loach, Georgia Southern '70**, and **Ryan Caldwell, University of Nebraska-Kearney '02**.

With this diverse and talented board in place, we are ready to help the undergraduates confront the largest challenges that face them today. One of the most dramatic challenges that has arisen in the last couple of years is the increased competition on campus with new residence halls, apartments, and renovated Greek houses. Specifically, there has been a strong trend toward improving comforts such as central heat/air systems and suite-style rooms. The UNL Board of Regents just approved \$40.5 million in funding for the second apartment-style dorm to be completed in July 2010. In addition, both Sigma Phi Epsilon and Farmhouse have completed major renovations to their houses. To remain competitive on campus, the House Corporation is initiating a study to determine the feasibility of a large-scale update to the Shelter. At a min-

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HOUSE CORPORATION PLANS

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imum, the building will need to be outfitted with a fire-sprinkler system by fall 2011 to meet mandated UNL life-safety regulations.

There is no doubt that the next couple of years will present some great challenges for the undergraduates, the House Corporation, and our alumni. However, we hope that the accomplishments of the undergraduates and the enthusiasm of the House Corporation members are joined by a desire from our alumni to reconnect with the chapter and long-lost friends, so that together we can turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities. We invite you to read through this edition of the *Blaster* to learn more about new accomplishments, old friends, and the events we have in store for the rest of the year.



Fraternally,
Alex Wolf '03
House Corporation
President
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WELCOME, NEW INITIATES

Andrew J. Abraham <i>Eden Prairie, Minn.</i>	Thomas Byrne <i>Gigg Harbor, Wash.</i>	Tanner Hohlen <i>Hastings, Neb.</i>	Taylor Noel <i>Lincoln, Neb.</i>
Jacob A. Abrams <i>Buffalo Grove, Ill.</i>	Ryan Clark <i>Blue Springs, Mo.</i>	Darr Jenkins <i>Savannah, Mo.</i>	Zachary Okeson <i>Frisco, Texas</i>
Brandon Akert <i>Lincoln, Neb.</i>	Brent Dawson* <i>Albion, Neb.</i> (Brother Justin Dawson '02)	Derek Jess <i>Savannah, Mo.</i>	Brandon Rudloff <i>Mitchell, Neb.</i>
Cole Anderson <i>Fremont, Neb.</i>	Brian Elsasser <i>Souix City, S.D.</i>	Austin Jones* <i>Omaha, Neb.</i> (Brother Seth Jones, University of Nebraska-Kearney '07)	Alex Spanel <i>Lincoln, Neb.</i>
Sean Bjordal <i>Eagan, Minn.</i>	Danny Garth <i>North Platte, Neb.</i>	Travis Jones <i>South Sioux City, Neb.</i>	Thomas Stadler* <i>North Platte, Neb.</i> (Father Mark Stadler '80)
Ryan Bones* <i>Chancellor, S.D.</i> (Grandfather Walt Bones, Iowa State '50)	Nathan Gillen <i>Scottsbluff, Neb.</i>	Matthew J. Kaefer <i>Omaha, Neb.</i>	Marcus Svoboda <i>Lincoln, Neb.</i>
Ryan Brown* <i>Arlington, Neb.</i> (Brother Cody Brown '09)	Cole Grams* <i>Minden, Neb.</i> (Brother Riley Grams '09)	Ryan Leffler <i>Omaha, Neb.</i>	Zach Weiderspon <i>Sydney, Neb.</i>
Scott Butler <i>Ogallala, Neb.</i>	Nick Grams <i>Upland, Neb.</i>	Cody Medina <i>Fairbury, Neb.</i>	*Denotes legacy, relative in parentheses
	Alex Hines <i>Morse Bluff, Neb.</i>	Sean Murphy <i>Lincoln, Neb.</i>	

DELTA TAU DELTA ONE OF THE BEST FRATERNITIES AT UNL

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G.P.A. and will continue developing our tutoring and academic programs to reach this goal.

Philanthropy

Each year Beta Tau hosts several philanthropy events, including the annual Gabe's Gang and M*A*S*H philanthropies. Gabe's Gang, a relatively new event, benefits Gabe Miller, an inspirational child with autism who requires continual therapy. M*A*S*H is a well-known campus fundraiser benefitting Divisions of Army non-profits. Led by Philanthropy Chairman **Jesse Smith '11**, the chapter has also enjoyed significant participation in community-based events such as Adopt-a-School, Polar Plunge, and the MS Walk.

Recruitment

The 2008-09 school year has been no exception to our past success in recruitment. Summer Recruitment Chairmen **Chris Himes '10** and **Cory Schroeder '09** worked

together to amass a fraternity-high 33 new members by the end of the spring semester. Recruitment Chairmen **Nic Carlson '11** and Jesse Smith are excited at the chance to raise the bar for the upcoming school year. "Jesse and I are thrilled to be able to work together this summer to bring in another great class of quality young men and look forward to receiving recommendations from alumni regarding any potential new members," says Nic. If you would like to recommend someone for membership, please contact Nic at nic_3_carlson@hotmail.com or Jesse at jesse@huskers.unl.edu.

Chapter Awards

While attending the Western Plains Divisional Conference in Arlington, Texas, in February, the chapter was given several awards, including the Court of Honor (awarded to the top 20% of all Delt chapters), Adopt-a-School, and the 10% Challenge for 10% growth in mem-

bership dues. In addition, those who attended the conference saw firsthand the benefits of brotherhood and the potential of networking with Delts all around the country.

Thank You, Loyal Alumni

The chapter extends our appreciation to all of the alumni who stopped by the Shelter this semester and we encourage other alumni to do so, as well. The undergraduate members enjoy meeting alumni and hearing your stories, as well as updating you on the state of the chapter. We hope to see you all at one of the upcoming alumni events or here at the Shelter.



Fraternally,
Matt Isham '11
Chapter President
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DELT BROTHERHOOD STRENGTHENS BOND BETWEEN FATHER AND SON

Spotlight on Rob Robinson '78 and Scott Robinson '10

Delta Tau Delta is a family affair for **Rob '78** and **Scott Robinson '10**. Scott says, "I initially started looking at Delt because of my dad and my brother, **Jim, Iowa State '08**, and it didn't take long to realize that the chapter was full of all-around great guys. During recruitment I found that these were people who really had their heads on straight, worked hard, and still knew how to have fun. I had the idea of joining a fraternity solely to meet people and make new friends but realized I could get much more out of my fraternity experience by joining Delt. Being a Delt these last three years, I've learned more and more about my dad than I ever would have otherwise. Every time he visits the Shelter I'll hear of another story about his undergrad days, and I can really relate that to my own experience."

Rob and Scott both learned valuable lessons in leadership at Beta Tau. Rob says, "The fraternity lays a foundation for teamwork, living and interacting with a group of people, and leadership; Delt helped me a lot with leadership. When I joined I didn't realize that Beta Tau was struggling, and it was a great experience to watch the upperclassmen, such as **Dave Pederson '77** and **Al Eveland '77**, lead by example, set expectations of their peers, and guide the chapter in a positive direction. By the time I graduated we had won the Hugh Shield Award."

As a soon-to-be graduate, Scott recognizes the significance of his Delt experiences and how they will help him throughout life. "Delt builds



leaders through guidance and example so our members have the right tools to succeed later in life. It's taught me a lot of skills along the way, and half of the things listed on my résumé are because of Delt," he said.

Scott plans to graduate in May 2010 with electrical and computer engineering degrees then attend graduate school. He wants to pursue a career in designing embedded systems for military applications.

Rob worked for J. C. Robinson Seed Company for 30 years, sold the business in 2004, and is now pursuing personal business interests, such as Robinson Meadowbrook and Beachaven Properties, a land development company. He and his wife, Cheryl, live in Elkhorn, Nebraska, and have three other children: Laurel, Jim, and Matthew.

MEET THE BETA TAU CHAPTER HOUSE CORPORATION MEMBERS

Alex Wolf '03 earned an undergraduate degree in business administration then attended the University of Minnesota Law School. He is an associate attorney at Koley Jessen, P.C., LLO law firm in Omaha, where he practices primarily estate and business succession planning. Alex lives in Omaha with his wife, Angela, and serves as the House Corporation president. E-mail: alexander.wolf@koleyjessen.com



Brian Schenk '01 earned degrees in English and anthropology in 2002 and is the corporate partnerships manager for the Arbor Day Foundation in Lincoln. He serves as vice president for the House Corporation and has been a member since fall 2007. Brian and his wife, Kellie, reside in Lincoln with their two children, Bennett and Ella. E-mail: bschenk@arborday.org



Philip C. McCormick '04 graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration and a major in management. He is a senior consultant with Deloitte in Omaha, where he has lived since 2005. Philip is a recent
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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Matt Isham '11
Isham32@gmail.com

First Vice President
Scott Robinson '10

Second Vice President
Kyle Hammond '10

Treasurer
Reed Janousek '11

Recording Secretary
Ryan Heimbuch '11

Corresponding Secretary
Alex Young '11

Guide
John Allen '10

Sergeant at Arms
Drew Keithley '11

Director of Risk Management/
Recruitment Chairman
Nic Carlson '11
nic_3_carlson@hotmail.com

Director of Academic Affairs
Zach McDermott '10

Director of Philanthropy/
Recruitment Chairman
Jesse Smith '11
jesse@huskers.unl.edu

Director of Alumni Relations
Rob Swanson '11
rswanson88@gmail.com

Interfraternity Council
Delegate
Tyler Sadlo '11



Beta Tau Chapter
www.unl.edu/delt

National Fraternity
www.delts.org

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
www.unl.edu

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Alumni Golf Scramble

Saturday, June 27, at 1 p.m.

Holmes Golf Course

3701 S. 70th St., Lincoln, NE 68506

Reception to follow at the Shelter
(cash bar and snacks)

R.S.V.P. with **Rob Swanson '11**
at rswanson88@gmail.com

Alumni Football Tailgate

Saturday, October 17, (vs. Texas Tech)

Shelter (cash bar and barbecue)



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MEMBERS

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addition to the House Corporation and serves as treasurer. E-mail: pcmccormick@gmail.com

Nick Hansen '01 is a customer sales executive with The Hershey Company. He began his career after graduating with a bachelor of science degree in business administration and a major in marketing. Nick and his wife, Kristy, live in Omaha. He serves as secretary of the House Corporation. E-mail: nicklaushansen@yahoo.com



Ryan Caldwell, University of Nebraska-Kearney '02, is an associate attorney for Bianco, Perrone & Stroh law firm in Omaha, and his practice consists of bankruptcy, creditor's rights, family law, and criminal law. He is a former House Corporation treasurer and has been a member since 2006. Ryan is also the chapter advisor. He and his wife, Stephanie, live in Lincoln. E-mail: ryandcaldwell@hotmail.com



Ryan Stowe '00 earned a finance degree and serves as an international account manager with TSL Logistics, Ltd., in Omaha. He has been a member of the House Corporation since 2002, serving as treasurer for much of that time. E-mail: ryanstowe@hotmail.com



Matt Ellis '04 graduated with a degree in political science, spending his first few post-graduate years as an admissions counselor then as an assistant director for the UNL Office of Admissions. He also served as a recruitment and marketing consultant for the UNL Greek system, as Delt's chapter advisor, and is now a House Corporation member. He develops business and community partnerships as a program coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy



Association in Kansas City, Missouri. E-mail: mattellis82@gmail.com

Tom Wolf '66 is the president of Platte Valley Bank in North Bend, Nebraska, and has been a member of the House Corporation since 1999. His father, **Arden '32**, Uncle, **Emil '39**, brother, **John '64**, and two sons, **Tom '97** and **Alex '03**, are all Beta Tau Deltas. E-mail: twolf@plattevalleybank.biz



Bruce Christensen '69 is president of Business Media Inc., an audiovisual company in Lincoln. He has served as president of the House Corporation and has been a member since 2001. Bruce has three grown children and four grandchildren. E-mail: bchristensen@bmiav.com



Jim Loach, Georgia Southern '70, is the associate regional director of operations and education for the 13-state midwest region of the National Park Service (NPS). He graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Georgia Southern in 1970 and a master's degree from the University

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.



of Delaware in 1973. He has served in a dozen NPS park areas and was the NPS senior staff member in the assistant secretary's office for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in Washington, D.C. Jim has two grown children, two daughters at UNL, and a 16-year-old daughter at Omaha Westside. E-mail: jaloach@yahoo.com

Bob Soukup '03 graduated with a degree in design and architectural studies in 2003 and received his master of architecture degree in 2005. After graduation, he moved to Omaha and is now an associate at Carlson West Povondra Architects. This is Bob's first year working with the House Corporation. In April, Bob married Kara Brosnihan, and they live in Omaha. E-mail: BSoukup@cwparchitects.com



Open Positions:
New Member Education Advisor
Recruitment Advisor
Academic Advisor
Risk Management Advisor