



THE BETA TAU BLASTER

DELTA TAU DELTA FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN | FALL 2014

INCREASING ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CARRY ON BETA TAU LEGACY

We are growing the ranks of alumni volunteers for Beta Tau. We hosted our second after-work social event at Longwell's Bar & Grill in Lincoln on July 17. As a result of that social event, we reconnected with more alumni who then took the lead working with the undergraduate chapter to host the September 27 reunion and open house on Homecoming weekend. Those of you who attended the after-work social realize what a special opportunity it presented, and many of you who attended the reunion and open house enjoyed the company of 55 alumni and more than 100 parents and family members, many of whom had not seen the completed improvements. A special thanks to the undergraduate men of the Beta Tau chapter and **Brent Sallee '92** and **Tom Ruff '91** for their efforts in organizing the reunion.

How You Can Help

We have 400 Beta Tau alumni in the Lincoln and Omaha metropolitan areas. Join us and help increase alumni involvement to five percent in these cities and add 20 men, which would nearly double the actively participating alumni.

We plan to hold another after-work event soon. Stay in touch by following the chapter on Facebook and our website, www.nebraskadelts.com. Join us at the next after-work social and consider joining the Alumni Advisory Team. You can also volunteer to assist with a project or meet with the House Corporation or chapter advisors. These meetings will help gauge how your interests and shared values can contribute to the chapter.

The Alumni Advisory Team presents an opportunity for more involvement and your personal engagement. Some of the continued needs are mentors for the Chapter officers and mentorship of all the chapter members. Positions available are financial advisor, recruitment advisor, membership education advisor, risk management advisor, and road advisor. This is your opportunity to engage again in the fraternal experience with members of the board and the undergraduates. It has brought back great memories of my years on campus and the realization of how important the fraternity is today as it was then. I know that you will find



Landscaping, a sprinkler system, and a new front door add to the improvements at Beta Tau Chapter.

involvement with the fraternity to be an exciting and rewarding experience. To see how your interests can lead to involvement, contact **Ryan Caldwell '98** at ryandcaldwell@hotmail.com or **Jim Emanuel '79** at jmanuel@robseco.com.

Thank You, Loyal Alumni

We thank each and every one of you who continue to contribute and fulfill financial pledges to reduce the debt in our remodeled and updated Shelter. We appreciate your support. At the reunion and open house, we heard many compliments from the parents and alumni about the features and improvements that we make at the Shelter, including the completion of the landscaping project and the replacement of the front door, even a new mailbox that today's Delts are enjoying. If you haven't seen the improvements and landscaping, stop by and visit with the men. They are a great group.

You will also appreciate the shrubbery and the newly sodded front lawn. **Byron Stigge '64** took the lead on this improvement project. What a transformation this has made. We also enhanced the curb appeal and completed a much-needed update, including a sprinkler system to maintain

the lawn. On the Saturday before classes started, the House Corporation, undergraduates, and the pledge class formed a great team to trim the landscaping, clean up the lawn and exterior, pull weeds, and remove debris.

Philanthropic Endeavors

An important activity is the continued philanthropy efforts of the chapter with the Juvenile Diabetes Relief Fund (JDRF) and raising money for research to improve the life of all of those affected by type 1 diabetes. Please consider the JDRF fundraisers and join in this effort to fund research and find a cure for juvenile diabetes.

Let's Support Our Undergraduates

Please think about volunteering to attend a dinner, join us for a House Corporation meeting, coordinate a luncheon, or pursue a special interest or topic with the undergraduates as a guest speaker. We started our new year at the University
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ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION SPANS FIVE DECADES



Jim Loach '67, Tom Ruff '73, and Brent Sallee '92 on Homecoming weekend.



A crowd gathers at the reunion.



Housemother Patty Wade and House Corporation President Jim Loach, Epsilon Omega '67, celebrate a successful alumni reunion.

As the Huskers were warming up to take the field against the Fighting Illini on September 25, the Beta Tau house was full of alumni having a great time reminiscing and sharing stories at the annual alumni reunion. With an excess of 150 people in attendance, it was a great turnout.

There were five decades of Delts represented, with those from the 1963-2013 pledge classes present. The reunion provided a chance to meet the undergraduates and catch up with brothers from years ago.

Attendees were also excited to see the improvements made to the exterior of the house during the summer, which included installation of sprinklers, fresh sod, and substantial new landscaping. Also, many alumni had their first opportunity to tour the recent renovations inside the house, including the new suite-style rooms for upperclassmen, the new library in the basement, and cosmetic and life-



Several generations of alumni enjoyed the annual reunion on September 25.

Campus Chefs prepared a wonderful buffet-style dinner. During the program portion of the evening, President **Taylor Tvrdy '11** announced that the chapter greatly improved in academics and signed the largest freshman class in recent memory, with 40 new pledges. The chapter recognized **Eric Marsh '88** as Alumnus of the Year for the second year in a row for his continued efforts to give back to the house.

The chapter also learned that one of our Delt brothers, **Spencer Limbach '07**, who suffers from cystic fibrosis, received a double lung transplant in May and is recovering well. Please visit Team Limbach on Facebook to make a donation to help Spencer and his family with medical bills and living expenses.

We hope to see you next year at the alumni reunion. In the meantime, if you would like to learn of any future alumni events please e-mail nebraskadelts@gmail.com or call **Brent Sallee '92** at (402) 999-2866.



Alumni at the after-work social on July 17.

Beta Taus Gather for After-Work Social

The second after-work social at Longwell's Bar & Grill in Lincoln on July 17 was another success. Alumni and undergraduates had an opportunity to meet brothers from classes during the '90s and 2000-2012, socialize with one another, and enjoy and share fun memories of days on campus and in the Shelter.

There were quite a few "remember when"s and lots of laughs. We also enjoyed the basketball competition on the outdoor court, appetizers, etc. Nearly 20 men came for the event and there were several suggestions that another event be held in Omaha or Lincoln again.

We are planning the next event so check the Beta Tau Facebook page, www.nebraskadelts.com, and the *Blaster* for upcoming details. Please join us at the next event for a visit with old and new friends, a snack, and a drink!

Q&A WITH FATHER STEVE THOMLISON '90

Life has taken **Father Steve Thomlison '90** across the globe, but even after a career in politics, two hazardous duty tours overseas, and becoming an ordained Catholic priest, he still values his Beta Tau experience.

Q: Why did you decide to join Delta Tau Delta?

A: I thought the Greek/fraternity experience at UNL would be a good one. I was impressed with the leadership qualities of the Delts and had many friends who were Delts. **Troy Larsen '89** invited me to join!

Q: What did your undergraduate experience at Beta Tau mean to you?

A: I made a lot of great, deep friendships, which continue to this day. I valued the opportunities to encounter different types of leadership experiences. We had a saying in the house, Delta Tau Delta: some men have higher aspirations than others! Beta Tau helped me to aspire to become a better person and to give back to the community. I tried to take the pillars of the fraternity seriously—especially faith.

Q: What are some of your favorite memories?

A: M*A*S*H, as well as serving on the House Corporation board and as chapter adviser. Consistently earning a Hugh Shields award was a lot of hard work, but traveling to the fraternity conferences to receive it was very rewarding.

Q: How did the fraternity prepare you for life after college?

A: There were great opportunities to build leadership skills, as well as working together as a team. Additionally, a focus on the importance of academics and having older brothers in the house who were mentors helped me to appreciate the importance of lifelong learning and investing in others.

Q: What advice would you give to undergraduates or to younger alumni who are early in their careers?

A: Stay involved in the chapter. Be serious about your academic preparation. Take advantage of opportunities offered by the fraternity both at the chapter level and nationally. Be sure to list Delta Tau Delta Fraternity on your resume so alumni can recognize you when you're applying for internships and jobs. Reach out to the alumni network for career opportunities.

Q: Where do you work now, and what do you do specifically?

A: I am a Roman Catholic priest in the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska. I serve as the pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Exeter, Nebraska, and also St. Wenceslaus Church in Milligan, Nebraska. I am a chaplain with the U.S. Army National Guard in Nebraska and also the command chaplain for the Nebraska State Patrol.



Fred Allen IV '80, John Allen '06, Father Steve Thomlison '90, and Stephen Allen '11 in Nebraska City.

Q: What are some highlights from your professional career?

A: Immediately after UNL, I spent 15 years working in politics, including serving as a chief of staff for a U.S. congressman in Washington, D.C., and serving as a strategy consultant for three international races in Canada, Chile, and Russia. In my 27 years of wearing the Army uniform, I have had five deployments, including humanitarian relief work in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch and two hazardous duty tours overseas. I was ordained as a Catholic priest in May of 2010. I greatly enjoy helping others to achieve the potential for which God has created them and laboring to make our communities better places to live and raise families.

Q: What are some of your hobbies, and what do you do in your free time?

A: Most of all, I enjoy time with good friends – usually spent in joint activities such as: marksmanship shooting, chess, reading, watching movies, and, of course, prayer.

Q: Do you keep in touch with any of your fraternity brothers? If so, who and how?

A: I keep in touch with **Scott Berryman '89**, **Mike Zauha '89**, **Mike Dorn '89**, and many undergraduates. Facebook and social media are great ways to stay in touch.

Q: Why do you believe it is important for all alumni to reconnect or stay in touch with the chapter?

A: Friendships are gifts from God, which serve to support and inspire us to be our very best. Our brothers stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us in the midst of life's joys and sorrows.

Father Steve can be reached at:
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Twitter: http://twitter.com/Fr_Thomlison
Facebook: [facebook.com/fr.thomlison](https://www.facebook.com/fr.thomlison)
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CHAPTER ETERNAL

Stanley L. Portsche '47 of Lincoln entered Chapter Eternal on March 31. He was a WWII Navy veteran and a Nebraska state senator from 1956 to 1959. Stan had a 60-year career in real estate and was the founder of The Portsche Company. He served as a director of National Association of Realtors, president of Nebraska Association of Realtors, president of Lincoln Board of Realtors, and was elected State Realtor of the Year. He also served as commander of American Legion Post #3, board officer of Pershing Auditorium, and was a lifelong Lutheran Church member. Stanley married Grace Znamenacek in 1951 and they raised four children.

Colin Hays '10 entered Chapter Eternal on November 5 after a battle with a rare form of cancer. He graduated as the valedictorian from Beatrice High School in 2010 and graduated from UNL with a degree in biological sciences. He had been accepted into the UNMC College of Dentistry. He enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing, and watching sports. He especially enjoyed going to every game possible in which his beloved Nebraska Cornhusker football team played. He loved traveling throughout the country, as well as abroad with his family and friends.

Keaton Klein '11 entered Chapter Eternal on July 14 in the Czech Republic. Keaton was born to Curtis and Julie Wiedeman Klein in 1992 in Lincoln. He attended Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School and was a member of Christ Lutheran Church. Keaton was beginning his senior year at the UNL in the College of Business and worked for the Atlas Group. Keaton had a love for family and friends and a passion for adventure. He was living his dream as a part of a group of UNL students traveling and studying abroad.

ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

of Nebraska with a full Shelter. The efforts of the recruitment chairmen brought 40 great new members! For the first time in many years, we had more members wanting to live in the Shelter than space available. We look forward to our growing success and the excitement to the year ahead. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally,

James Loach, Epsilon Omega '67
House Corporation President
jaloach@yahoo.com

Undergraduates Commit to Recruitment, Scholarship, and Brotherhood

Since the spring, the Beta Tau Chapter of Delta Tau Delta has focused on the growth of the chapter, improving our chapter GPA, and cultivating brotherhood. The student population at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is growing rapidly in efforts to match the populations of other Big Ten schools. With this increased population, there are many more great potential members of Delta Tau Delta. We have made strong efforts in summer recruiting and added a pledge class of 40. With the initiation of these 40 men, there will be 110 members of Beta Tau.



Brothers help with landscaping and cleanup at the house.

Academic Improvement

To improve our chapter GPA, we have implemented a number of changes to the academic program of Beta Tau. One thing we did last semester was set up an academic draft with the executive members as team captains. At the end of the semester, team GPAs were calculated and the top three teams got monetary rewards out of the academic fund. This helped raise our chapter GPA to 3.216 and moved us to eighth place out of 24 IFC fraternities on our campus. Also, to get our members excited about school and the campus as a whole, we have recommended that everyone be a member of at least one group or club that is not associated with Delta Tau Delta. Campus involvement is definitely on the rise for our chapter. **Drew Barnhart '11** is a part of Mortar Board and **Jordan Kugler '11** is president of psychology research group, Psi Chi.

Remembering Keaton Klein '11

This summer we lost one of our senior brothers, **Keaton Klein '11**, to Chapter Eternal. Keaton was studying abroad in Europe when he fell from a rooftop in Prague, Czech Republic. Keaton was the perfect embodiment of a Delt and exhibited qualities that every man should strive for. He was extremely ambitious with his academic achievement, spending many of his nights studying to ensure his success. Keaton always took the time to genuinely get to know everyone that crossed his path, both inside and



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Welcome, New Members

Sam Barker / Maple Grove, Minn.
Nick Barry / Highlands Ranch, Colo.
Drew Benner* / Lincoln, Neb.
Christian Biester / Lincoln, Neb.
Sam Brewster / Lincoln, Neb.
Carson Buel* / Overland Park, Kan.
Henry Dobson / Omaha, Neb.
Robert Dohn / Highlands Ranch, Colo.
Andrew Driscoll / Papillion, Neb.
Alec Girdler / Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Austin Graves / Omaha, Neb.
Mitch Gude / Nebraska City, Neb.
Garrett Helling / Lincoln, Neb.
Colton Hogy / Highlands Ranch, Colo.
Riley Hunter / Lincoln, Neb.
Tristan Kretsch / Superior, Colo.
Mitchell Lindstrom / Oakland, Neb.
Blake Logan / Bakersfield, Calif.
Griffin Maldonado / Chicago, Ill.
Luke Nordmeyer / Brandon, S.D.
Dodge Ostrander* / Lincoln, Neb.

Tony Palomo / Saint Paul, Minn.
Harrison Peetz / Lincoln, Neb.
Jacob Pfeifer / Holdrege, Neb.
Brady Powers / Grand Island, Neb.
Jack Proskovec / Southlake, Texas
Dexter Puncocchar / Grand Island, Neb.
Nathan Reilly / Grand Island, Neb.
Dillon Sempek / Omaha, Neb.
Matthew Smith* / Arden Hills, Minn.
Austin Stark* / Omaha, Neb.
Heath Stromquist / Oakland, Neb.
Armir Sulejmanovic / Lincoln, Neb.
Drake Thomsen / Maple Grove, Minn.
Michael Vazquez / Omaha, Neb.
Tanner Wachal* / Lincoln, Neb.
Alec Weichel / Valencia, Calif.
Evan Wiese / Nebraska City, Neb.
Blake Williams / Omaha, Neb.
Ryan Williams / Concord, Calif.

**Legacy*

outside the chapter. It seemed he had more than 24 hours in a day from the way he shared his time between work, Delt brothers, friends in the campus community, and, most importantly, his family. The loss of such a great man and friend has been tough for us all, but it has shown us what the Delta Tau Delta brotherhood truly means and has brought us all closer.

In honor of Keaton's legacy, he is being added as the second "Endowed Leader" under the new Beta Tau Leaders Memorial Scholarship.

Fraternally,
Taylor Tvrdy '11
Chapter President
president.delt@gmail.com