



THE BETA TAU BLASTER

DELTA TAU DELTA FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN | WINTER 2020

OPTIMISTIC, PERSISTENT, RESILIENT

The House Corporation has been conducting meetings via Zoo, which has become the new way of life for a lot of us. It allows us to be much closer than a simple teleconference. We discussed all the challenges that we have faced recently and, most importantly, chapter plans for the future. These include critical improvements at the Shelter, including the modernization of our kitchen and dining room.

Despite the difficulties of this past semester and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to continue operation of the Shelter. We worked with the undergraduate brothers to ensure that we could maintain a safe home for those who chose to remain in Lincoln after the University of Nebraska shut down and moved all classes online. This spring indeed brought a difficult and unprecedented challenge the entire campus community. As in times past, the brothers and alumni stood together and successfully navigated our way forward. Through the difficulties, we didn't know how we would succeed in the fall term, but we remained optimistic and prepared the Shelter for a return to campus in August.

Once again, there was strong support from Delta Tau Delta CEO **Jack Kreman, Theta Kappa '04** and International President **Steven Paquette, Gamma Omicron '77**, along with the National Office. We received additional support from our many loyal alumni who spoke out in support of Beta Tau to the university.

Through all the uncertainties, we've achieved remarkable accomplishments this year, including the celebration of 125 years of Beta Tau Chapter. The celebration included an incredible banquet and a reunion of scores of alumni from classes over the past 40 years. We also saw the return of the University of Nebraska Kearney Delta Tau Delta Chapter, welcomed a strong pledge class, had new alumni joining the House Corporation, and completed the rigorous training program, PLAID.

The opportunity we each have today will echo a successful record of achievement by Delta Tau Delta and its alumni while ensuring a future that is equally as successful in the accomplishments and contributions of our undergraduate members today as they go forward into their lives after graduation.

Undergraduate Chapter President **Ben Samway '18** and his new executive team provide strong leadership to the committed group of Delts now in the Beta Tau Shelter. Summer recruitment brought new members and a resurgence of Delta Tau Delta prominence at the University of Nebraska. There are sunny days ahead!

Fraternally,
James Loach, Epsilon Omega '67
President, House Corporation
james_loach@nps.gov

Support Beta Tau Chapter Today

This year continues to be challenging for the chapter and the House Corporation financially. Our fixed costs are \$65,000 a year, and last year we expended \$37,246 for maintenance and repair of the entire HVAC system, plus additional repairs and chapter expenses totaling \$32,596.

As president of the House Corporation, I have seen the struggle this year. Like

you, I have been concerned about a semester ending with COVID-19 and beginning with COVID-19. I also worry about the struggle to stay healthy and adjust to a new normal that limits social activity and demands the highest efforts to stay clean and sanitize the Shelter. Beta Tau and the entirety of campus must minimize contacts to ensure all our efforts at mitigation are successful to avoid being shut down.

We appreciate your support and this year ask that you continue with your financial donations of any amount to help us continue in our 126th year.

Our goal is to raise \$200,000, which matches our fixed costs and provides for average expenses of service and repairs at Beta Tau for the next year while providing a minimum reserve.

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WEATHERING THE STORM Reflecting on Beta Tau Chapter's Recent History

The last two years of Beta Tau's history have been marked by turmoil, perseverance, and growth. In the fall of 2018, our chapter was suspended by both the University of Nebraska and the Arch Chapter of Delta Tau Delta for a hazing incident that occurred on the night of August 18, 2018. We received a one-year suspension and a three-year probationary period from these governing bodies. Through the work of chapter leadership and enormous assistance from our amazing alumni, Beta Tau is now on the path to return to our historic greatness. In recognition of our hard work and immense growth to this point, we were named the Most Improved Chapter at the Western Plains Division Conference this spring.

I can confidently say that growth is visible in every aspect of the fraternity. This year we reinstated our partnership with Clinton Elementary. There, a group of undergraduates work as mentors for the Young Men's Club, an organization consisting of underprivileged students in the third through sixth grades. Our members have enjoyed countless basketball games, tours of campus, and other events with this young group.

Another area of growth can be seen in our revamped New Member Process. It is the responsibility of every organization to ensure the safety of its members, and Beta Tau recognizes this ideal. Chapter leadership has worked to create a new education system that will be facilitated by both the undergraduates and alumni volunteers. This is a tremendous

opportunity for both our new members and our chapter as our graduated members provide a deep source of experience, wisdom, and values that all undergraduates should emulate.

I would like to personally acknowledge and thank two particular alumni who have been instrumental in Beta Tau's return to greatness. **Jim Murphy '79** and **Eric Marsh '88** have worked diligently to ensure the continuance of our chapter. Last fall, after the handing down of sanctions, they personally watched over the new member class, even going as far as to hold weekly freshman-only chapter meetings, since Beta Tau, itself, was unable to. I was one of those new members, as were eight other executive leaders of our chapter. It is my belief that, without these two men, Beta Tau itself may have been in danger. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Marsh, I speak not only for my class, but for all members of our chapter, and thank you so much for all that you did for us. We are forever grateful.

These have been trying times, but we have persevered. The undergraduate brothers of Beta Tau look to the future with excitement. We have many goals for our chapter in the coming year, and with the continued assistance of our great alumni, we will achieve them. There are, undoubtedly, great things ahead for the Beta Tau Chapter of Delta Tau Delta.



Fraternally,
Ben Samway '18, Chapter President
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Benefits of Brotherhood

Henry Gleason '14 on His Past, Present, and Future with Delta Tau Delta

In the years since graduation, it has become abundantly clear how Delta Tau Delta has affected me. Not only as a man and brother, but as a partner, leader, decision-maker, and human being. My years on the executive team, and especially my term as president, molded me into the person I am today. I learned the art of collaboration, its fine line, and I learned how to advocate for equity.

I took those skills and put them to use. After graduation, I worked as a field organizer for a congressional campaign, for a nonprofit doing community outreach and government relations, and I spent a summer as a fellow for a presidential campaign in Iowa. I learned to build off the skills first developed at Beta Tau. Truth, courage, faith, and power continue to ground me and push me forward to reach my goals.

I am pursuing my J.D. and my master's of government organization and leadership at Creighton University School of Law. I am thankful to have had such a strong support system rooted in the fraternity and its values, and I am excited and encouraged by the direction the chapter is headed.



I am eager to be taking a more active role in the fraternity by joining the House Corporation.

Fraternally,
Henry Dobson '14

The Importance of the Ritual in the Age of Pandemic

Before university and chapter operations ceased in March, the chapter held its final initiation ceremony. After the ceremony I discussed moments in fraternity history where chapter operations were affected, such as the Civil War, both World Wars, the Spanish Influenza Pandemic, Vietnam, and 9/11. During and after each of these occasions, fraternity life changed and such is the case going forward, but during each of these life-changing moments our Ritual endured.

As I reflect on the moment we all face, I'm drawn toward our Ritual and how it could apply to our situation. While truth, courage, faith, and power are the foundations of the fraternity, "Strengthening Community Is Essential to Our Vitality" and "Brotherhood Sustains Us."

We rely upon scientists, journalists, statesmen, and our innate academic backgrounds to seek the **TRUTH** regarding the realities of the pandemic. We muster **COURAGE** to protect ourselves, our families, and others by washing hands, socially distancing ourselves from another, carrying hand sanitizer, using disinfectant wipes, and only traveling or shopping when absolutely necessary. We have **FAITH** that our government leaders are doing their best to promote the general welfare, that scientists are doing their best to find a remedy, that healthcare workers are doing their best to make the sick well, and that we all do our part to protect each other. We utilize our **POWER** to realize the overwhelming magnitude of the situation and yet carry on with our work; maintain our children's education, development, and health; check in on our family, our brothers, and loved ones; and prepare for an unknown future.

Regardless if you are a new initiate or a seasoned alumnus, the Ritual continues to reassure, continues to embolden, and continues to adhere to the Good Delt both for time and eternity.



Fraternally,
Ryan Caldwell '98
Chapter Advisor



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



BETA TAU CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

April 7, 2019, marked the quasiquintennial (say that five times fast) celebration of Beta Tau Chapter's history. As one of the oldest Delta Tau Delta chapters in the country, as well as the oldest west of the Mississippi River, a big celebration was in order. Beta Tau brothers from around the country came to celebrate this extraordinary achievement and milestone for our brotherhood.

Current members, alumni, and their families gathered at the Shelter for cookouts, toured new facilities on campus, and took part in the Rite of Iris ritual. The event reminded us all what it means to be a Delt. This was especially true at the formal banquet on Saturday night at the Embassy Suites Hotel, where we had the pleasure of hearing impactful speeches from three pivotal members of the Greek community.

First was Ronnie Green, chancellor of UNL and an Alpha Gamma Rho alumnus, who spoke about the impact fraternity life had on him personally. He stressed the importance of brotherhood and the benefits that come from it, and received a standing ovation when talking about his continuing desire to have Greek life serve a pivotal role at UNL. Next was **Chris Wisbrock, Gamma Kappa '97**, the Western Plains Division president of Delta Tau Delta, who spoke about the long, rich history of the Beta Tau Chapter and the contributions from its members. Finally, we heard from **Steve Paquette, Gamma Omicron '77**, the international president of Delta Tau Delta. He touched on the negative perception that fraternity live receives as of late, who stressed the importance of the lessons it can teach.

The event concluded, much like at Monday-night dinners at the house, and we all sang Delta Shelter. For those present, this seemingly short song had an overwhelming impact. It reminded us how important this house, this fraternity, and this brotherhood are to us all. As we all left to go our separate ways, we each took the words of International President Steve Paquette with us. It is truly a great day to be a Delt.



Fraternally,
Blake Woodruff '13

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Luke Weiland '18 entered Chapter Eternal on July 24 at the age of 20. He was a junior business administration major. Luke was a friend to anyone and everyone he met and was never afraid to introduce himself to someone new. His brothers had nothing but good things to say about him.



Ben Samway '18 said that Luke was the first person he met at the University of Nebraska. He noted Luke was the type of person who had a way of making people feel comfortable around him. "Luke was a people's person," Ben said. "He could spend three hours with a complete stranger and never run out of things to say."

Riley Johnson '18 said that he first met Luke the day he moved to campus, and he remembers how Luke knew almost everyone in the fraternity after his first day because of how outgoing he was. "He lit up every room he walked into with his contagious laugh and outgoing personality. Everyone who had the chance to meet Luke loved him."