

BETA PHISH**The Night Beta
Rocked with Phish!**

"I think Putnam was like a real music guy," said **Ben Miller '90**, the then social chair of Beta. "He was really dialed in. I think his brother-in-law was in Blues Traveler or something."

"My brother went to college with [Blues Traveler bassist] Bobby Sheehan at Harvard," said **Mike Putnam '90**. "And my brother was engaged to his sister. I went to high school in Maine with Ben Hunter. Ben was Phish' first manager. He was booking their first tour out to Ohio, so he was looking for dates to play and a couple filler shows. And I was social chairman at the time at Beta. ... I knew that Ben was looking to fill some tour dates, and I helped put it together."



**To read the full recounting
of the evening, visit us at
www.betadenison.com!**

The Shrine

The Lanson Stage Curtis Memorial Association of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity at Denison University • Granville, Ohio

SO.....WHY BETA?

In this issue of The Shrine, we celebrate Beta, at a time when the state of Greek Life is in flux. We remain proud Brothers of Alpha Eta and celebrate our accomplishments. Now, more than ever, we must band together to keep our traditions alive. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Yours in —Kai—

"I don't think I choose Beta as much as Beta chose me," said **Dr. R Kent Galey '68**. "I was a football and lacrosse player and came to school early for football camp. There really was no other choice for me ...it was always, and still is, Beta."

My favorite moment happened just last summer when about 20-plus Betas and lax players gathered and stayed at the Beta house for a weekend- it was really a great fraternity moment. We have remained in touch by email almost every month or two for the last decade plus. The contact list is at least 40-50 people long....not all betas.

I was social chairman of the house and also of the university my senior, and perhaps junior year.

I went on to Pitt School of Dental Medicine, where I was class president for four years. I finished dental school about one year early and went on to a residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, finishing in 1976. I have mentored about 18 or so young applicants to acceptance



Dr. R. Kent Galey '68

in a dental school, mainly Pitt.

I served as an examiner for the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, as a senior examiner, and ultimately was twice nominated to be President of that organization- a high honor.

I have also been president of numerous medical organization, hospital staffs, etc.

I believe that Beta prepared me for these leadership and surgical roles by instilling in me a high sense of duty, responsibility, honor and commitment. Being a Beta at Denison was, and still is, a huge honor for me.

Think diplomatically and be considerate of other perspectives. A great education only pays off with Hard Work. Don't be afraid of the ball (lax) as it is what wins the game. I also used to give my residents a memento- a paperweight of a sled dog team. If you are not the lead dog the view is always the same."

A LIFE MOLDED BY ALPHA ETA

We're All Going To The Beta House For Dinner, Come With Us!

J. Richard Briggs '55 began his Alpha Eta journey with football, followed by dinner. Through leadership opportunities, personal growth, maturity, and a greater understanding of the human condition, he would go on to begin a medical career as a solo practitioner, and finish with 26 partners. Read on for more on how Beta impacted his life.

"Football practice started two weeks before school opened and I was invited to join the team my freshman year. By the time school convened, I had a good many friends on the squad. After practice, the evening fraternity rush started, the "team" said; "We're all going to the Beta House for dinner tonight, so come with us." It just seemed the most natural thing in the world and I felt immediately comfortable. I accepted the Beta pledge pin graciously and the rest is history. Perhaps a tour of the other fraternity houses would have been beneficial at the time, but after four years review, I had made the right choice early on.

I was most impressed with the



initiation ceremony in the chapter hall. After the pledge period and "hell week" the contrast between the two was impressive and reassuring, in that it revealed the fraternity had principles and ideals that were lofty, long established and well worth the effort.

I had the most fun as Rush Chairman, but my year as chapter president was by far the most valuable in regard to the challenges of leadership. Like all fraternity houses, we had a diverse group of individuals with strong personalities that seemed to lend itself to never ending conflicts of behavior. Although I was not pleased with how that year unfolded, that fraternity "marched on" and now I look back on that year as one of giving me personal growth, maturity and a greater understanding of the human condition.

My career was in Medicine, Orthopedic Surgery, with a practice in Columbus, Ohio. Although my Beta experience didn't seem so open the door to opportunities, the leadership experiences generated by the Beta Chapter enhanced my abilities to understand personalities and to capitalize the strengths of others for a common good. As an example; I started as a solo practitioner, and finished my career with twenty six partners.

I want the Beta Experience to thrive and continue to be a positive force in the lives of fine young college men. Also, it pleases me to see my fraternity brothers (especially around my years) step up and support the cause as well.

There is something well worth learning by living and relating with a group of fraternity brothers. Find out how to get the most out of that experience and it will serve you well the rest of your life.

Yours in - kai -, Dick Briggs, AH 770."

ALPHA ETA MAKES AN OTHERWISE DIFFICULT CHOICE EASY

I Am Glad I Am A Beta!



"Choosing Beta was not an easy decision," said F. Kenneth Ackerman '61. "My father was President of the Sigma Chi chapter at Denison. My older sister married a Sigma Chi from Denison. I used to stay with him in the Sigma Chi House at Denison when I would visit the campus during my high school days. During Rush it became patently clear to me that Beta Theta Pi is what I wanted and needed to be."

There were several "moments," that I count as favorites: the day I received my pledge pin; the day I was initiated (my future father-in-law a Purdue Beta gave me his Beta pin); and the day I gave my pin to my Beta Sweetheart, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta at Ohio State University. We were married during my senior year at Denison and celebrating our 57th wedding anniversary this year.

Following graduation from Denison, I enrolled in the Business School at the University of Michigan where I received a Master's Degree in Health Administration. Following graduation, I joined the administrative staff of the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit and later the Geisinger Health System in Pennsylvania where I was President of the Geisinger Medical Center. After 31 years at Geisinger I became President and then Chairman of the healthcare division of a publically traded healthcare consulting company in Minneapolis where I continue

to have an association. A key member of my administrative staff at Geisinger is a Beta. My brother-in-law and father-in-law are Betas.

Throughout my career, I had several professional colleagues and friends leading other healthcare organizations who are Betas. When Pat and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary we had many Betas and their wives travel from different parts of the country to join us in our celebration.

I will always have a deep sense of gratitude for the privilege of being a member of the Alpha Eta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

Many of the fraternal bonds you will make in Beta Theta Pi you will treasure for the rest of your days. Some of my Beta brothers are among my closest friends. Enjoy the journey! I am Glad I am a Beta!"

Bruce MacNab, '52, found fellowship and brotherhood at Beta Theta Pi

The Beta connection among those who hail from Shaker Heights, Ohio, was strong when Bruce MacNab, '52 and AH 708, entered college in 1948. "Denison and Beta, had a long history among Shaker Heights residents," Bruce recalls. "My high school friends that were a class ahead of me became Betas and encouraged me to join." But tradition and familiarity of faces wasn't the only draw for Bruce. "Beta Theta Pi had a good reputation on campus and the brothers had a maturity for which Beta has been traditionally known," he explains.

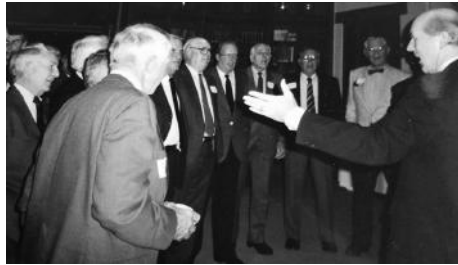
From the start, Bruce was deeply moved by the sense of closeness he felt with his Beta brothers. Living in the house, he found out just how deep the connection can run. "The house was an incredible bonding experience and a tested and proven true brotherhood," he says. "There was tons of fun, support, philosophical growth and maturation."

Beta Theta Pi also gave Bruce an opportunity to grow and share his musical talent and love of singing. "We had a really, really good singing chapter and I loved to sing in mostly male groups. We were the best singing chapter on campus!" he proudly states.

In fact, one of Bruce's most special memories is that of the Chapter Sweetheart Serenade, where he had a chance to impress his future wife, Teeta Henderson. "It was a classic! Misty moonlight and a crowd of people behind us at Shaw Hall," he remembers. "Teeta and her Theta sisters were illuminated by candles in the second-floor window of Shaw Hall. We sang awesomely, as did the girls."

In addition to singing, Bruce found enjoyment in simple things with his brothers, including varsity sports, chapter meetings, and special events such as the Military Parade, Bacon Bat, and Christmas Formal. In fact, playing varsity sports with some of his brothers made that experience even better. "There was always that extra feeling of support during games from my Beta teammates. That was so special."

The support the brothers demonstrated was critical in helping them through a tragic time in 1951, when a member of the fraternity passed away. "My most painful



memory is of my boyhood friend and Beta brother, Jack Sload. He died during a football practice before the season opened in 1951," he sadly shares. "Our Chapter all came together to support his family, as did friends throughout campus."

Through both good times and bad, Beta Theta Pi was a strong influence on Bruce, helping him to become the man he is today. When he became President of the Chapter, Bruce took on his first leadership role and developed critical skills that influenced his career. "As President, I learned my first lessons in leadership, administration, and where to find fir trees to decorate the House for the Christmas Ball," he laughs. "Not without risk, but high reward!"

Looking back, in all seriousness, Bruce is thankful to Beta Theta Pi for instilling in him core values and critical lifelong skills. "All organizations depend on trusted relationships with colleagues. Beta Theta Pi, from the very first days, stressed the fundamental trust, honesty, and teamwork which are necessary to the survival and growth of an organization," he states.

Taking those lessons to heart, Bruce has since led a full and interesting life, both military and civilian, that has deep influences from his years as a Beta. "The academic and life lessons taught at Denison and in the Beta House have served me extraordinarily well throughout the years," he explains. During his years of active duty, Bruce served in the Navy as Ships Navigator in the Arctic, followed by Operations Control Officer in the Nuclear Bomb Test series at Eniwetok and Bikini, Marshall Islands. Once he moved to inactive duty, his civilian career found him teaching at The Ohio State University before becoming a University Professor in the California State University System, and Executive Director of Institute of Research and Business Development. There, he was

Director of a team that created an award-winning International MBA program, winning the National Leavey Award for Excellence. Later, he created the MBA program still running at the Academy of the National Economy in Moscow, Russia. "What a challenge of concept and language!" he exclaims. "To help people strange to such concepts as cost and profit, those just emerging from the cold war years."

For Bruce, longevity and career didn't slow down his thirst for adventure and competition. "My other interests have been mostly in skiing, up here in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, and aviation, where I have flown competitively in 'dog fight' competitions, winning my share of the contests. Some boys never grow up!"

While the number of Bruce's brothers may have dwindled, he still finds some of the bonds as strong as ever, staying in contact with Jay Sload, Little Brother Dick Lugar, and Howard Shaw, mostly. In 1988, Bruce enjoyed reuniting with many brothers at an evening of fellowship and song at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco, organized by Howard Shaw (AH611). "It was probably the largest ever assemblage of Denison Betas west of the Mississippi!" he exclaims.

Events like that remain special to Bruce, as he resides in California. His wife, Teeta passed away in 2013. Their four children live and prosper in various parts of the country. He has not been able to return to campus as often as he would have liked, but when he has gone back, he makes sure to visit the House that holds so many special memories for Bruce. "There have been many changes, but the great memories remain strong."

For the current brothers, Bruce offers important advice, shared through experience and genuine care for the fraternity. "Careful review of the Pledge Program and activities leading up to initiation require demonstrated maturity. Look seriously at yourself and your Brother Betas now, examine your own core principles and live by the Light of the Diamond as best as you can."

BETA FOR LIFE!

Alumni Share Beta Memories



Peter Halliday '59, and his wife

Peter Halliday '59:

We recently received an update from Brother **Peter Halliday '59** – along with his contribution to the Alpha Eta annual fund, thanks Peter! It's because of our Brothers that we are able to perpetuate the lifelong Beta experience and the bonds of Brotherhood that connect us all for life. If you wish to join Brother Halliday on this year's honor roll before our giving year ends June 30, please visit www.betadenison.com and click DONATE.

He writes: "**Brother Richard Lugar '54** was a role model to me in Alpha Eta," said Halliday. I believe the Fraternity experience is still relevant today due to developing friendships and building character. I learned how to live with those from different backgrounds and social structures. These days, I am retired and active in the communities of Bexley, OH and Sanibel, FL."

Rev. Tom Witter '49:

"The Navy sent me to Denison after one quarter at Northwestern. I arrived in October of 1943. I had opledged the Beta Chapter at Depauw when I was 17 and still in High School in Elkhart, IN. While at Northwestern, I wore my pledge pin on my uniform- a small group of Beta just laughed at me, so I was delighted when I was invited to pledge Beta, which I did and was initiated there. Jack Hana, a start football player was helpfu;, as was Will Hiller, who when I transferred to Purdue- Beta Mu was there. My experience at the Beta house at Purdue was really great. A roommate named Tom Capehart (youngest son of Senator Homer Capehart), became my closest friend. I was TReasurer of the house from '46-'48. I have the highest regard for Beta and the experience was valuable in many ways including ongoing friendships."

Ed Weber '53:

"Beta was my first choice, because I liked the friendliness of some of the sophomores, as well as the older men. My dad was a very strong Alpha Eta and that was another consideration. I gave another fraternity a good look because my future brother-in-law, a senior at Denison, gave me a good rush.

I had lots of good moments. As a pledge there was one thing that made me feel good and like I could fit in. There were a few guys who loved to sing barbershop every Sunday while we were waiting for dinner. They needed a high tenor and got me into it. Jack Ahlers, Joe Neath, Bruce MacNabb, and Lowell Johnson. A lot of fun. I love the way our class has stuck together.

There are more of us at Denison reunions than any others.

I was song leader for a while and chapter president. I later became a lawyer, and Beta was a help in terms of the personal development that the chapter experience provided-and that was a lot.

I donate modestly because I want to help perpetuate as much of my experience at Alpha Eta as I can. I know times have changed. Mainly that the brothers don't live in the house, but we save what we can. You get out of Beta Theta Pi what you put into it. Don't belittle the traditions. I hope the songs are still being sung. Keep in touch with each other after graduation and come to the reunions."

Jacob Henkle '09:

"**Bill Horn '10**, was a Brother who always made sure that I was doing well, especially after being diagnosed with depression and bi-polar disorder. He truly understood the meaning of -kai—and I will never forget his kindness. With the advent of social media, texting, etc, it is more important than ever to experience interpersonal relationships and in-person conflict management. Greek life provides a human interaction that is irreplaceable. Beta has provided me with an increased sense of integrity and responsibility for all of my actions. I attempt to live as a Man of Principle, provide mutual aid and assistance to others, and cultivate young people. I became a Registered Nurse in 2013 after ending my pursuit of a law degree. My first and only child, Jackson, is almost two years old. I moved to Dublin, OH about two years ago."

