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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Chapter Continues to Grow in Strength and Numbers

By Bob Dold '60, President, The Lanson Stage Curtis Memorial Association

I hope this edition of *The Shrine* finds you well and that spring is starting to bloom in your part of the country. I'm delighted to share with you news from the chapter contained in the following pages.

As you will see, the chapter is thriving. The undergraduates welcomed twelve new members, which is an impressive number for spring rush. They've also had recent success with their philanthropic endeavors and raised more than \$1,400 for Big Brothers Big Sisters. We are fortunate to have the chapter in such capable hands and I look forward to seeing what else they accomplish in the coming years.

One of the best, and easiest, ways to stay involved with the chapter is by making sure we have your current contact information. As you'll see in the article below, we are missing valid email addresses for the vast majority of our members. Without your email address, you are missing out on important communications and updates from Beta Theta Pi, which we send out in the form of a monthly e-newsletter.

Communicating via our website is a great way to stay in touch with you, our valued members, and it's also a significant cost-savings compared to printed newsletters. When you visit our website at www.betadenison.com, please scroll to the bottom to see our list of "lost brothers," those who do not have an email address or mailing address in our files. If you are on this list, please contact our alumni relations firm at requests@affinityconnection.com. Likewise, if you see a brother on our list who you have contact information for, you can also share that with us.

Keep in mind that another way to stay engaged with the chapter and your alumni brothers is by sharing memories of your time at Denison. One of the features of our website at www.betadenison.com is that it provides several opportunities to network with brothers through our online directory and message boards. You can also share updates about your life and post photos from your time at the Lodge. Your support of the annual fund pays for this resource, so be sure to use it to its full potential.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BY THE NUMBERS

Counting On Your Involvement to Keep Our Database Clean

Beta Denison works in partnership with a third-party graduate relations firm to maintain a clean database of our brothers to ensure we're reaching as many graduates as possible through our print and electronic communications.

As brothers move and change jobs, we sometimes lose touch of their current mailing and email addresses. This chart shows a snapshot of our database to date and you can visit www.betadenison.com to view full lists of our lost brothers and help us to update their contact information (or update your own if you haven't been receiving our email publications).

Rest assured that our database is used solely for Beta communications and will never be traded or sold.

*Total graduates:	1,274
Valid mailing addresses:	969
Valid email addresses:	256
<i>(20% of living alumni)</i>	
Lost brothers:	59
<i>(no current mailing list on file)</i>	
All-time annual fund donors:	390
<i>(31% of all alumni)</i>	

**Includes 247 deceased*

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

Chapter Hosts Annual Wing-Eating Contest *This Event Raises Money for Big Brothers Big Sisters*

The chapter's "King of the Wing" philanthropy event took place on Tuesday, February 18th, raising more than \$1,400 for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Thirty campus teams representing a wide range of campus groups, including Greeks, athletics, and the a cappella group Hilltoppers, competed last month for the annual King of the Wing title at BDUB'S barbecue. This battle of speed and appetite pits four-person teams against one another

in a 20-wing relay or a solo 8-wing eating race.

Thank you to everyone who participated. And the winners are...

First Place: Delta Chi

Second Place: Women's Rugby

Third Place: Burpee's



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Catch up with David Block '64

David Retired from the Air Force in 1965 and Has Been on a Spiritual Journey Ever Since

Thank you to **David Block '64** for participating in our Q&A.

Why did you pick Beta over other fraternities on campus?

I related to the leadership of Beta, and loved their core values, and appreciated their excellence in whatever they did. I was also a jock and felt comfortable in being around other jocks.

Which one or two individuals from your undergrad days would you'd like to reconnect with? Why?

Bill McGuire '64: his compassion for people

and his humor. **Fred Mann '64:** his wisdom. **In what way did your time as an undergraduate help you to lead a more "principled" life?**

I came from 12 years in a military school, 1952-1960, and I was always told what to do, when to do it, a very structured lifestyle. Denison was my first experience of freedom, thinking for myself, and experiencing life in a non-military environment. I was blessed to have many role models around me and I was very teachable. My greatest gift is living out these two scriptures: 1 CO:8:2 and Mt. 18:3 as I continue my journey to fulfill my destiny/calling.

What is your best memory of being a young fraternity guy on the DU campus?

I only lived one year (sophomore) at the Beta house, the other years I was in the dorms as an RA and head resident. But that one year, 1962, was awesome and I enjoyed the brothers.

Finally, tell us what you've been up to now.

Ever since I have retired from the Air Force (1965), I have been on a spiritual journey to know Abba Father's love; I'm not into organized religion but I am into a super close, intimate relationship with my Creator. That is my passion along with understanding my calling/purpose.

Reconnect with David at davidmblock@comcast.net.

Spotlight on: Dexter C. Tight '48

The Fellowship He Found at Beta Stands Out to Dexter Even Today

Thanks to **Dexter C. Tight '48** for taking part in our Q&A.

Tell us about a brother who was a role model to you at Alpha Eta.

My father, Dexter J. Tight, who graduated in 1912.

In what way is the fraternity experience

still a relevant one for today's young adult?

I think the most relevant thing is fellowship, especially this day in age.

How did Beta make you into the man you are today?

When I was a pledge with classmates I was the only straight A student at Denison primarily

because I only seldom dated girls except on the weekends.

Share an update on your career and family.

I graduated from Yale Law School in 1951 but because of the war I was given a degree before my classmates with no need to take the BAR exam. I started practicing law before my classmates who had to take the exam.

Reconnect with Dexter at dc_tight@yahoo.com.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Edward F. Weber '53

(6140 N. Chanticleer Dr., Maumee, OH 43537-1394; edwardfweber@bex.net) The difference (between living in the house then and now) isn't just "somehow" it's cataclysmic: we live in the Beta House. Gathered there, took meals there, fraternized there, slept there, made decisions that affected our college life, sang Beta songs. Alpha Eta can't help being much different today. Glad I'm a Beta!

Dale E. Wolfe '54

(36 Bainton Rd., West Hartford, CT 06117-2809; dwolfiesr@gmail.com) Back in the old days, we lived in the house and had an open kitchen. The brothers would gather there for a party, date, or event and discuss the happenings of the day. The food was peanut butter and jelly sandwiches made by each individual and the "p and j" was piled high. The conversation usually centered on women, sports, and politics. Lots of kidding around and probably the truth was exaggerated but it was a fun time. There was a feeling of brotherhood and a sense of belonging.

J. Richard Briggs, MD '55

(228 S. Drexel Ave., Columbus, OH 43209-1741; jrbriggs@columbus.rr.com) In regards to the "fraternity experience" today versus during the fifties, I have little idea of what it's like now. It would be interesting to have a round table discussion with a few of each of the undergraduates and those alums of 50 or so years ago.

In regards to picking fraternities, that is such a chancy thing. During the early fall rush season, I just accompanied the rest of the

football team up the hill to the Beta House. They were the ones I knew and it was an appropriate choice. However, I do feel we missed many chances to get to know many worthy young people on the rest of campus because of the focus.

I suppose my biggest disappointment is that our pledge class did not have the cohesiveness and camaraderie that lasted through the years like the class of 1957, for a good example.

I was proud of '57 because I was rush chairman that year and still have pride in what they have accomplished. During our college years between '51 and '55, there seemed to be a more responsible crowd that set a good example of the care and preservation of the fraternity house. This discipline and training set the stage for the rest of my life. My best memory, albeit naive and sophomoric, was the realization that I was a "real live Beta" after initiation. I expressed this to my roommate and he laughed for a week.

As Columbus is so close, I've been connected with DU and fairly close and have been supportive. My grandson is now in his second year—I did not try to influence him in regard to fraternities. Now I regret that as he did not make a very wise choice.

I'm happily retired after 40 years as an orthopedic surgeon. We still have each other and travel a good bit and count on our friends to outlive us.

David B. Jones '57

(9 Grayvik Drive, Ocean Reef Club, Key Largo, FL 33037; djwesota@aol.com) The pledge classes of 1953-1956 meet annually, this year reunion-ing in Chicago. We had about 14 brothers in attendance. **Joe Ternavan '57**, our social secretary, has the information about next year's reunion location. It's great to see the brothers every year.

Barry S. Porter '59

(385 Oliver Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45215-2614; porterbear81@aol.com) To me, the biggest difference between today's Denison Beta's fraternity experience and ours is not having the Beta House as our campus home. Learning how to get along with a group of men from different backgrounds was a growing experience and proved very valuable as I progressed in business. I am still in touch with a number of my brothers and treasure renewing our Beta experiences.

John B. Ragatz '62

(3004 S. Cornell Cir., Englewood, CO 80113-3074; ragatzjb@aol.com) Lived in Denver for over 44 years, now an empty nester with two grown, married children—Andy is in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Molly is in Seattle. I have three grandchildren and am blessed with good health. Love the mountains, travel, adult education, and volunteer work. Oversee my Mt. Kilimanjaro View Lodge since 2008. Many memories as a Beta, mostly great!

What's new with you? Share your news, updates, memories and more on the back of the enclosed form or online at www.betadenison.com.

IN MEMORY

We have recently learned of the passing of the following brothers...

Norman Hall '31
James Clark '48

The Alpha Eta chapter mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

Richard Lugar '54 Receives Presidential Medal of Freedom

Congratulations to retired-Senator **Richard Lugar '54**, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama in November 2013. Dick served in the United States Senate as a representative from Indiana for more than 30 years.

After graduating from Denison, Dick earned a master's degree from Pembroke College in Oxford, England, as a Rhodes Scholar. He served in the U.S. Navy before joining the senate, where he became well-known for his bipartisan leadership and his tireless dedication to preventing nuclear war. He is now president of the Lugar Center, a non-profit organization focusing on nuclear non-proliferation, food security, and other critical issues.

REUNION IN FLORIDA



Thanks to **Ron Cornell '86** for sharing this photo from the Florida vs. University of Miami game in September 2013. Ronald tells us that **Dan Greenleaf '87** spearheaded a weekend gathering of brothers from the classes of '86 and '87, who all had a great time in south Florida.

Have you had a mini-reunion with brothers that you'd like to tell us about? Send an email to content@affinityconnection.com with a photo and details. We might feature it in a future issue of *The Shrine*.

Back row: Dan Greenleaf '87, Judd Sokol '87, Tom Utgard '86, Scott Tyler '86, Ron Cornell '86, Sam Rhee '87, Steve Kaye '86. Front row: Sean Weston '87, Steve Rubley '87, Dan Lavoie '87, and Chris Corelli '86.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chapter Approved the Spring Budget Last Semester

More than \$11,000 is Available for Expenditures

Chapter Treasurer Mitch Keller reports that the Alpha Eta chapter met in December to create and pass an executable budget for the 2014 spring semester. The cost of dues for the semester was \$390 per brother. These dues were available for payment on the 28th of January. Brothers were given the option of either paying their dues up front or through a payment plan over an extended period of time. This option to make a payment was established in order to help prevent brothers from having to go financially inactive.

As of mid-February, about eighty percent of brothers have paid their dues in full. The

remaining brothers opted to pay through payment plans. Assuming the payment plans will go accordingly, all dues will be collected by the end of March.

Here's how the accessible \$11,130 was distributed among chapter positions:

- President: \$115 for CPLA and Transportation
- Vice President of Brotherhood, Vice President of Administration, Secretary, and Treasurer: \$400
- Scholarship Chair: \$55
- Member Educator: \$70

- Risk Manager: \$0
- Recruitment Chair: \$2,295
- Chorister: \$0
- Social Chair: \$3,125
- Alumni Relations: \$250
- Historian: \$750
- Ritual Chair: \$75
- Philanthropy Chair: \$2,050
- House Manager: \$400
- Service Chair: \$0
- IFC Representatives: \$725
- P.R. Chair: \$0

PLEDGE REPORT

Chapter Initiates 12 New Pledges

Our Spring Rush Yielded the Largest Group for the Semester, Setting us Apart from Other Fraternities

Beta Theta Pi recently initiated our spring rush class into the pledge process! We currently have 12 students who accepted our bid, which is considered a healthy number by many of the senior and alumni fraternity members. In comparison to other fraternities on campus, Beta had the biggest pledge class for the semester, showing that our fraternity recruitment was successful and interest in the Beta fraternity still remains strong on our campus.

Welcome to our new members:

Pat Dunn	Marc Weaver
Landon Slangerup	Jake Dennie
James Le	Jordan Dekel
Alex Rice	Drake Lohnes
Tarakshya Merish	Jon Sullivan
Andrew Hesch	Corbin Smith