



# THETA DELTA DRAGON

Beta Theta Pi at The Ohio State University • Spring 2019

## The Theta Delta Chapter on What Their Own Investment into 165 E. 15th Avenue Means to Them



### Safeguarding Our Investment in the Theta Delta Chapter House

As House Corporation President, it has been a rewarding few years as we've restored our beloved Theta Delta Chapter at The Ohio State University and built a new, state-of-the-art Chapter home for the next century. We have an outstanding group of young men in the Chapter who I believe you would all be proud to call "brother." And, I'm humbled by the dedication of our inspiring group of alumni advisors and volunteers that work collectively to ensure smooth operations.

#### Sophomore Live-in and the New House

Theta Delta is "qualified" for sophomore live-in by The Ohio State University. OSU now requires all freshmen and sophomores to live on campus in residence halls. But OSU also partners with Greek organizations to allow sophomores to live

in their houses. To qualify for sophomore live-in, the facility must meet certain criteria—which are mostly related to meeting safety and ADA standards. Since we have a brand-new house and we incorporated all minimum standards into our structure, we are qualified. This is an ongoing process and we must be certified every year.

The sophomore live-in qualification has stimulated a lot of construction on the Ohio State campus. We chose to build a brand-new house rather than trying to retrofit the old house to meet new standards and expectations, which would have been nearly impossible. Some, such as Delta Tau Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Delta Gamma, have added major additions; others, such as Zeta Tau Alpha and Chi Omega, are also building new houses. Everyone expects there will be more to follow.

When it comes to their Chapter House, the active Chapter members knew it was necessary for them to invest alongside the alumni—to "put their money where their mouth is." Showing their support early-on helped prove to alumni that this Chapter was dedicated to standing strong, recruiting solid new members, and taking this brotherhood to the next level. It was also proof that they wanted to care for this house, just as much as the alumni.

Chapter President **Tommy Weber '20** said of the new house:

"The Theta Delta Chapter was blessed with a brand-new Chapter House in 2017. It is by far the best house on our campus, and I would argue with anybody that it is the nicest Chapter House in the country. We realize the house would not have been possible without our alumni, and we felt like we should have our part in the payment for the Chapter House as well. That is why our Chapter pledged \$40,000 to help cover the cost of the house."

The entire Chapter is committed to doing their part to keep the house nice and ensuring that alumni who come back to visit have an enjoyable experience.

Tommy says, "Every time I walk in the house I am thankful for what was gifted to us. And I am speaking for all of the brothers that we very much appreciate everything our alumni have done and continue to do for us."

#### Safeguarding Our Investment

The new house is a multimillion-dollar investment. It is a showplace and the envy of other fraternities and sororities. To protect the investment made by many loyal alumni, plans were made from the outset to maintain the facility at the highest level possible. A team

*(Continued on page 6)*

## SUCCESSSES FROM THETA DELTA ALL-AROUND

### Chapter Experiences Success in the Classroom, on the Court, and in the Community

The fall 2018 semester was a great one for the Theta Delta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi. To start the semester off, we recruited a strong 14-man pledge class with new members coming from all over the United States. All 14 pledges were initiated and are now making an amazing impact within the Fraternity.

#### Excellence in Risk Management

During the fall semester, we received an award from the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity for "Excellence in Risk Management." We are very proud of this accomplishment, as it can be incredibly difficult to manage risk within a Chapter of our size.

#### Soccer and GPA Successes

Our intramural soccer team took home the trophy for the second consecutive year in the all-fraternity division. We are only losing one member of the team, so we will look to make it three years in a row next fall. At the end of the semester, the new executive board was voted in, and we took over the last week of the semester. The new executive board is balanced between four sophomores looking to make an instant impact and five juniors prepared to lead the Chapter. The average GPA for our Chapter from the fall was just below a 3.4, and we are always trying to improve upon that.

#### 28 New Members

After winter break, we immediately resumed recruitment. We're proud to have 28 new members who will be initiated in a few short weeks.

Some highlights from the spring semester so far are winning Tri Delta's annual dodgeball tournament and having a very successful first part of our philanthropy. At our Mom's Week-end, there was a silent auction for gift baskets to benefit the Columbus Star House. Star House is a homeless youth shelter right here in Columbus. The second part of our philanthropy is a concert we have in the parking lot of the house. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 for Star House, and we are on a good track to reaching that goal between our two major fundraising events. The \$15,000 benchmark would exceed last year's philanthropic total by \$2,000.

#### Beta Basketball Excitement

The Beta intramural basketball team is on fire. The head of the league had to implement a mercy rule because of us! The playoffs are underway, and we are looking to bring home the trophy. In fact, the Theta Delta Chapter is so obsessed with basketball that we now have an inter-Chapter basketball league (called the Beta Basketball League, or BBL for short) that consists of 15 teams and over 60 brothers.

Times have been good for the Theta Delta Chapter, and we're continuing to strive for excellence into the future.



Yours in \_kai\_  
**Tommy Weber '20**  
Chapter President  
(330) 605-4934 / weber.909@osu.edu



Theta Deltas at the Betapalooza philanthropy event. Left to right: Jeremy Blaker '20, Mitchell Wenzler '20, Logan Kaim '20, Tommy Weber '20, Tom Molter '20, Aaron Penick '20, and Austin Maresco '20.



Brothers Mitchell Wenzler '20, Zack Keith '20, Austin Maresco '20, Maneesh Somisetty '20, Joey Graf, and Jeff Graf '20 at the 2018 Ohio State vs. Michigan game.



The Chapter won Tri Delta's philanthropy dodgeball tournament, as well as the fall 2018 intramural soccer championship.



## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chapter President  
**Tommy Weber '20**  
Doylestown, Ohio

Vice President of  
Brotherhood  
**Erich Reuter '21**  
Lake Oswego, Ore.

Vice President of  
Programming  
**Mitchell Wenzler '20**  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Vice President of  
Risk Management  
**Jack Behmke '20**  
Key West, Fla.

Vice President of  
New Member Education  
**Andrew Park '20**  
Solon, Ohio

Vice President of  
House Operations  
**Will Roberts '21**  
Bellevue, Wash.

Vice President of Recruitment  
**Andrew Gibson '20**  
Wapakoneta, Ohio  
(567) 356-9004  
gibson.993@osu.edu

Vice President of Finance  
**Trey Hommer '21**  
Vernon Hills, Ill.

Vice President of  
Communications  
**Sammy Field '21**  
Highland Park, Ill.



# Thank You for Generously Giving

## Join the Campaign with a Pledge Today—We Need You!

Our deepest gratitude goes to all our generous donors. Your commitment to *A Return to Principles: The Campaign for Theta Delta* is making a difference. Your generosity demonstrates a sense of gratitude for your personal experience. We still need commitments from the rest of our alumni to reach our \$5 million goal.

All supporters of the project pledging \$2,500 and above will be recognized on a prominently displayed plaque in our new Chapter House. We sincerely apologize if there's an error in recording your gift or your name. We're working hard to record this vital information, so please advise our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 to make any corrections. Join your brothers on this list by using the enclosed pledge form and envelope to make your pledge today. Thank you for your support!

### New Founder Circle (\$1,000,000 and above)

David L. Brennan '53

### Three Stars Circle (\$500,000 to \$999,999)

Anonymous

Anonymous

### 165 Circle (\$250,000 to \$499,999)

Ralph W. Talmage '71

### Wooglin Circle (\$100,000 to \$249,999)

David W. Wright '67

In honor of the

Class of '67

Larry Abbott '70

Dominic Bagnoli '85

Steve Jeney '85

### kai Society (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Nelson French '47

### Dragon Society (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Anonymous

Theta Delta Undergraduate  
Chapter

James B. Findley '54

David R. Rudy '56

John D. Poffenberger '57

Terry Taylor '62

Joseph A. Chinnici Jr. '64

Robert M. Taylor '64

John Dille '67

Roger L. Albrecht '68

In memory of

James W. "Wally"

Phillips '44

John D. Beam '68

In memory of

James A. Beam '30

Larry R. Plum '68

Daniel R. Pickett '80

Dan Irwin III '85

Arthur Z. Kovesdy '85

Nonelle Family Gift

Richard Nonelle Jr. '85

Michael Nonelle '89

Gregory J. Andrews '86

The Niermeyer Family

Ronald Warwar '87

In memory of

Daniel Brower

### Inglenook Society (\$15,000 to \$24,999)

John O. Hopkins Sr. '57

Anthony M. Iacovetta '78

### Wreath of Gold Society (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

James C. Gorman '49

William H. Zimmer Jr. '52

Dr. John D. Jacob '60

In memory of

Don Hollenback '51 and

John Ramseyer '59

George R. Barry '61

John Stegmiller '68

Rick Schwieterman '72

Alan Veatch '79

Barry J. Duerk '80

Robert S. Leiter '84

Darrin L. Bushong '93

Monte E. Berg '99

### Beta Spirit Club (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Kenneth K. Feintheil '55

Carl F. Weiffenbach '57

Larry Biederman '59

In memory of

Bob Hartman '57

Rick von Haam '61

In memory of

Mike Fitzgerald '61

Richard Foster '65

William P. "Phil" White '65

William Buckham '67

Jon Bennett '69

Robert F. Dille '71

Ralph Antolino Jr. '77

James S. Flower '79

Roderick I. Gregory '79

Daniel S. Wigton '79

John L. Rindler '85

Bruce E. Borden '86

Jared Friesner '02

Matt Brown '05

### Diamond Club (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Anonymous

In memory of

John Kerzman '88

John H. Scofield '54

John Y. Taggart '54

Richard L. Morgan '55

Richard E. Meredith '56

Charles F. Wright '62

In memory of

George T. Wright '32

W. Richard Walton '63

Fritz Milligan '64

David A. Hammond '65

Curtis L. High '66

Donn G. Ellerbrock '70

David K. Grumbach '70

John C. Nisbet '71

William Goepfert '72

Kim A. Cappel '73

Geoffrey Presson '73

Robert Wilkins '74

Michael P. Gaffney '75

Eric Zeiher '75

T. Andrew Janes '78

Bruce P. Kupper '78

Scott W. Saffell '78

Tom Jordan '81

In memory of

Daniel P. Jones '78

In honor of

Mike Riley '77

Steven W. Kastenhuber '81

Jay Attwood '84

In memory of

The Pits Breakfast

Joe "Beta" Bush '84

Robert F. Maggiore '84

Gary Vawter '85

Robert Mahoney '88

Mark Jerman '90

Jeff Byle '95

Mark J. Skogstad '96

Chris Ingram '02

Christian Hertl '03

W. Hamilton Merritt '03

Todd Stefanini '05

### Theta Delta Brotherhood Club

(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Joann Grimes

In memory of

Robert L. Grimes '53

David Packo

In honor of

Grant Packo '20

Richard C. Pickett '48

In memory of

John Hughes '47

James C. Brown '52

Ronald Bell '56

James T. Krejci, M.D. '56

## CAMPAIGN STATUS AT-A-GLANCE

As of April 11, 2019

Goal  
\$5 million

Total Commitments  
\$3,707,817

Total Donors  
151

William J. Kennelly '58

In memory of

Robert R. Hartman '57

Charles H. McKelvey '59

Theodore W. Rudy '59

Richard Turner '59

R. Daniel Evans '60

William C. Roebuck '60

Thomas F. Wall Jr. '60

Robert W. Butler '62

In honor of

W. Bruce Butler '66

Richard A. Isaly '64

Michael T. Carroll '65

W. Bruce Butler '66

Richard L. Springer,

D.V.M. '66

Ronald J. Vojir '68

Steven Cover '74

In honor of

Robert A. Cover

Philip T. Kallile '74

Thomas McKinnell '77

Michael S. Matthews '82

Mark Chupka '84

David Grieshop '85

Christopher S. Jeney '89

Brian Cook '97

Want to make  
your gift online?  
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to make your gift  
or pledge today!

# Campaign Theme, *A Return to Principles*, Fitting with Chapter Members Doing Their Part

## *Have You Done Your Part?*

Our reinvigorated Chapter at The Ohio State University is doing very well—of that I'm very proud. It has been one year since we received our charter back, and our men haven't let their foot off the gas pedal of moving forward as a strong and cohesive group. Our undergraduate brothers are truly a fine group of young men. They have stood tall and accomplished everything asked of them and they most certainly deserve to represent us all as Betas. They have done their part to continue recruiting great groups of pledges by ensuring they returned to the principles that make Beta Theta Pi great.

We have also honored one of our promises to them, which was to provide them with a safe, modernized home. The new Chapter House is incredible. Our Chapter House is

a wonderful symbol of our strength and our ongoing goal to be a top Chapter on campus. If you have not been back to see the new Chapter House, I greatly encourage you to make a trip to Columbus. Please contact me if you head that way and I will be happy to set you up with a tour.

Now, we are tasked with finishing this campaign in a strong manner, ensuring the Chapter is not burdened with too much debt. A successful finish will yield a manageable debt load and a stable financial situation for Theta Delta going forward. We have no alternative. Our fundraising goal is \$5 million, and we truly must meet that goal. We have to keep our Chapter focused on the right things without having to worry too much about their finances.

More than 150 brothers have stepped up to support the project and together they've pledged more than \$3.7 million. They saw the importance of these renovations and immediately pledged dollars toward that need. But we are still short of our goal.

I ask you to join these brothers now! Please use the enclosed pledge form to make an appropriate pledge to *A Return to Principles; The Campaign for Theta Delta*. Be sure to utilize our pledge program to maximize the potential of your giving and spread your gift over five years. Please do so now and be a part of this historic project. Thank you for your generous support!

Yours in \_kai\_

**Dominic Bagnoli '85**, Campaign Chairman  
(330) 284-9008 / dbagnoli@usacs.com

## 2019 ROUNDUP RECAP



*Coach Chris Holtmann addresses the crowd at Roundup.*

Spring Roundup was a huge success with over 80 active members of the Theta Delta Chapter attending and more than 25 alumni attendees.

OSU Head Basketball Coach Chris Holtmann spoke about leadership, humility, integrity, and effort and gave our active Chapter some good, sound advice about how to be a better man. His discussion was well received and was followed by a 40-minute question and answer session, which was enjoyed by all who attended. He told us to look for great things ahead for Buckeye basketball and he is hoping to build on the success of the first two years in the program.

**Nelson French '47**, initiated in 1943, was our most senior Beta in attendance and we had good representation from every decade. Additionally, the Chapter updated us on their GPA—the fifth highest on campus—and their success in intramurals. The attendees also received an update on the capital campaign and heard words from Alumni Association Board Chairman **Scott Saffell '78**. The Alumni Association awarded scholarships to several actives, and honored the following members for their good work in the classroom:

- Highest GPA (4.0): **Tyler Balon '21, Thomas Molter '20, William Mullin '21, Nicholas Palay '20, Michael Pamer '21, Daniel Scott '20, Atticus Williams '21, Jacob Williams '21**
- Most Improved: **John Paul Sanchez '19**
- Moyne Morgan (Outstanding Member of the Chapter in the Fisher School of Business): **Dominic Carracci '20**

We look forward to hosting next year's event and would like to see more alumni in attendance. It means a lot to the active Chapter to be able to interact, and alumni find it's a great opportunity to meet the young men of Beta Theta Pi. Be sure you plan on attending next year.

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## MEMORY AND OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

**Francis J. Shields '50** passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on December 3, 2017. Fran was called into the United States Navy after graduation and recalled to serve during the Korean Conflict. After military service he went on to graduate from The Ohio State University. He was the owner of the F.J. Shields Real Estate Agency, member of Canton First Friends Church, faithful member of North Canton McDonalds coffee group, served on boards of Stark County Young Life and Stark County Prison Ministry, and indulged his passion for running in local races into his 80th year. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary Ellen; three children, Linda McAbee (Laura, Sarah), David and Tammi Shields (Ian, Ryan), Barbara and Jim Gemmell (Mary Rose, Cathleen, Jimmy, Philip, Nathan, Shannon, Rachel); plus eight great-grandchildren.

**John F. "Jack" Lewis, DDS '51** passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on August 28, 2018. Jack is survived by children, John (Judy Huang), Tom (Anne Rath), and Raymond (Peggy Strobhar); five grandchildren; and many other family members. He was a graduate of The Ohio State University, B.A., 1951; and earned his DDS, College of Dentistry, in 1955. Jack served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1955-1957, stationed in Guam for 18 months and in Riverside, Calif. He practiced dentistry in Bexley, Ohio. Jack was a wonderful storyteller, a world traveler who visited six of the seven continents, an avid fisherman, loved golf, a talented gardener, and an excellent cook.

**James C. Brown '52** passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on March 1, 2019. He graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science and in 1971 with an MBA. He completed a 25-year career as a Marine Corps fighter pilot, serving two tours in Vietnam. Following his retirement from the Marine Corps in 1977, he served as executive director of the Columbus Rotary Club from 1978 to 1993. He also was a member of the Quiet Birdmen. Jim is survived by two daughters, Becky (Angel) Adames and Annie (Dave) Preston, and a grandson, Brown Scott Preston.

**James Dailey '56** passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on September 21, 2017. James was a resident of Hilliard, Ohio, at the time of passing. He graduated from Gallia Academy High School in 1952, where he played football,



*Theta Delta alumni got together recently for a Beta luncheon. Left to right: Jim Hess '69, Wally Sheraw '70, Fritz Regner '70, Alan Vovk '70, Denis DeVlaming '69, and Tim Brady '69.*

was active in many organizations, and was later instrumental in the establishment of the Gallia Academy Alumni Association.

**John J. Sherwood '69** passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on January 30, 2018. He was born in Akron, Ohio, and lived in Diamond, Ohio, at the time of his passing. John is survived by his wife, Judy Sherwood, two sons, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

**K. Ted "Gus" Allenbach '64** passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on January 15, 2019. Gus was a loving husband and adored father. He was tremendously kind, generous, and loving. He was willing to talk to anyone and interested in everyone. After being with family, his favorite place in the world was fishing at dawn or watching Ohio State beat up on "that team up north"—both of which he did with vigor up until the end. He enjoyed an illustrious career of 36 years at Xerox before retiring in 2001 to spend more time on his favorite island in South Carolina.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**David C. Neff '74** retired in 2016 from the Medical University of South Carolina after 24 years of service there and 35 years as a healthcare administrator. Dave is very active with the Rotary Club, volunteer work, and the Charleston Charter School for Math and Science school board. Additionally, he's on a fundraising committee working to establish a scholarship for minorities and is an elder at his church. Dave and his wife, Elaine, have two grown children, Ryan and Ellen, and live in Charleston, S.C. Email: davecnoff@gmail.com

**Thomas B. McKinnell '77** met **Tom Wittich '81**, **Barry Deurk '80**, and **David Webber '76** at the Rose Bowl on January 1, 2019. He saw **Steve Ballantyne '78** and **Tony Iacovetta '78**, along with their wives, at Marco Island, Fla., in January. Tom also went skiing with Wittich, Iacovetta, and **Rob Macali '81** at Winter Park, Colo., in April. He says, "Party on!" Tom lives in Centennial, Colo., with his wife, Katherine. Email: tommckinnell@gmail.com

**Jay Attwood '84** has lived in southwest Florida for 15 years, away from the cold and snow. Jay loves to hear from his brothers and is happy to help them find their winter or permanent getaway in the area. Email: jayattwood11@gmail.com

**Graham Guthrie '88** reports he is a "recovering attorney." He saw a great need after the Great Recession, so he decided to change disciplines and become a financial advisor. He is licensed to sell insurance and annuities in Ohio and holds Series 7 and 66 securities licenses. Graham and his wife, Maria, live in Dublin, Ohio. They have four children: Lauren, Gabriel, Gwendolyn, and Luke. Email: grahamdguthrie@gmail.com

**M. Todd Stoughton '90** is living in the metro Detroit area with 10 more years until retirement. His eldest daughter, Megan, graduated college and Melanie is a freshman. This is their first year as empty nesters and he says it is quite an adjustment. Todd is staying in touch with Betas and looking forward to another successful Buckeye football season ahead. Email: tstoughton@comcast.net



## Safeguarding Our Investment

(Continued from page 1)

approach was instituted. Key highlights are:

- Fingerprint access for exterior doors and keypad entry into individual rooms.
- Live-in house director reports to the House Corporation.
- Meal service is outsourced to Campus Cooks.
- Facility repair and maintenance is contracted to ARX Realty.
- Eight-member advising team supports the Chapter separate from House Corporation.
- Leases co-signed by parents.
- All lessees pay a \$500 security deposit.
- Theta Delta is a substance-free facility.

Theta Delta is a strong, vibrant Chapter today at OSU. As a leadership team, we are mindful that it is important to reduce the debt on the new house to ensure future financial stability. Yes, we are operating well today, but there will inevitably be hiccups along the way in the future. We may just be "conservative Midwesterners," but as a leadership team we believe the smart thing is to reduce the debt burden. We hope you will agree and join us in supporting the campaign to ensure a stable financial base for the future.



Yours in \_kai\_,  
**Joe Chinnici '64**

House Corporation President  
(216) 235-2477  
jac2211@aol.com

## Connect with Theta Delta Online



WEBSITE  
[www.osubeta.org](http://www.osubeta.org)



FACEBOOK  
Beta Theta Pi –  
The Ohio State University



[osubeta.org/campaign](http://osubeta.org/campaign)



# THETA DELTA DRAGON

Beta Theta Pi at The Ohio State University

THETA DELTA OF BETA THETA PI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
6835 LINBROOK BLVD  
COLUMBUS, OH 43235

Address Service Requested



**Attention:** This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending The Ohio State University, he will receive a copy. If he has graduated, please send his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

## Welcome, New Members

**Connor Brinkman '22**  
Dayton, Ohio

**Connor Gantt '22**  
Dayton, Ohio

**Joseph Dominic Leo '22**  
Wheaton, Ill.

**Andrew Jackson "Jack"  
Brougher '22**  
Springfield, Ohio

**Kelland Goodin '22**  
San Carlos, Calif.

**Adam Marcus '22**  
Deerfield, Ill.

**Noah Casenhiser '22**  
Twinsburg, Ohio

**James Hamilton '21**  
Streetsboro, Ohio

**Jonathan Naylor '22**  
Dallas, Texas

**Matthew Cooper '22**  
Avon, Ohio

**Will Jones '22**  
Stockton, Calif.

**Cal Parker '22**  
Milton, Ga.

**Jordan Coovert '22**  
Kettering, Ohio

**David Michael Joseph '22**  
Dayton, Ohio

**Anthony Rightnour '22**  
Hudson, Ohio

**A.J. Copp '21**  
Columbus, Ohio

**Thomas Kang '22**  
Broadview Heights, Ohio

**Daniel Schiedemeyer '22**  
Brentwood, Tenn.

**Sean Curran '22**  
Hudson, Ohio

**Andy Kendrick '22**  
North Branford, Conn.

**Will Schmidt '22**  
Macedonia, Ohio

**Evan Dannemiller '21**  
Wadsworth, Ohio

**Robert Louis "Louie"  
Kunkle III '22**  
Fairview Park, Ohio

**Michael Shcharber '22**  
Villa Park, Calif.

**Enrique Drake '22**  
Arlington, Va.

**Brandon Thornborough '21**  
Lewis Center, Ohio

**Tommy Foley '21**  
Dublin, Ohio

**Jacob Woeber '22**  
Springfield, Ohio