



THETA DELTA DRAGON

Beta Theta Pi at The Ohio State University • Spring 2026



PROUDEST CAREER MOMENTS (SO FAR)

- My seminal work, demonstrating targeted immune stimulation for cancer therapy, was published in Nature Biomedical Engineering (a fantastic journal in our field).
- Last fall, I won my first research grant as an independent PI to fund our ideas so we can expand these targeted immunotherapies.
- Teaching is one of my favorite things I do, and easily the favorite part of my job. Last year, I received a perfect teaching evaluation (5.0/5.0 average), which stood out to me because of the depth of effort I put into my teaching.

Building New Breakthroughs

BLAISE KIMMEL '17 ON OSU'S ROLE IN CANCER RESEARCH

Blaise Kimmel '17 was an excellent student and researcher at OSU, dedicating significant time to his classes and his assistant role. He thrived at professional development; joining Beta Theta Pi taught him to balance that with personal development.

"I had pledged to another fraternity and was later dropped during initiation week. Next spring, Beta was returning to campus, and from my discussions with **Dan Grainger '16** and **Jeff Ruick '17**, I knew that it would be the right fit for me," Blaise said. "It was a home where I could be part of a community and make lasting friendships."

Time spent with the brotherhood formed many of Blaise's favorite college memories, especially hanging out with **Brennan Perkins '18**, **Dom Bagnoli '18**, and **Derek Plautz '17**. "My third year, I spent more time with Dom and other brothers at their place than I probably did in my RA room, which kept me connected to the Fraternity and expanded my personal relationships."

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

After his chemical engineering studies at OSU, Blaise considered how to make a deeper impact on the world. He began to learn about cancer and saw a grand engineering challenge: teaching the immune system to better detect diseases. From there, he devoted his Ph.D. at Northwestern and postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt to developing immunotherapy technologies for targeted cancer treatment.

In 2024, Blaise returned to OSU as faculty in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Department. "Our mission is to engineer medicines that can teach your body how to find diseased cells, particularly cancer cells, and keep you healthy during treatment."

Together with his colleagues and students, Blaise hopes this research will lead to non-toxic medicines that are both accessible and can serve multiple purposes. Such treatments, ideally, will be useful either before or after someone has cancer.

"The same medicine that can treat your current cancer could also prime the immune system to fight cancer, even before you have it," he explained. "Because my therapies focus on identifying immune cells and teaching them to find/attack cancer, this is highly feasible, and we are making good progress on this in my lab now."

FRIENDSHIPS CONTINUE

Returning to Columbus helped Blaise build stronger relationships with even more Theta Delta brothers, as if no time had passed since his college years. He currently supports the Chapter with risk management, and during his postgraduate years, he served as a house director and alumni volunteer council member for other fraternity chapters (including Beta and SigEp).

"Find what you enjoy most in this life and dedicate yourself to it. Choosing to commit yourself to what you love brings self-motivation, an unshakable drive, and passion—and with these, you will be successful."

You can connect with Blaise via kimmel.85@osu.edu and learn more about his work at engineering.osu.edu/people/kimmel.85.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Our annual Spring Roundup will be April 14, 2026! Our speaker will be Ohio State Football Defensive Coordinator Matt Patricia. Watch your mailbox and email for more details and how to register for this event.

Stair Climb 2025

In the fall, Theta Delta participated in the annual 9/11 Stair Climb at Ohio Stadium. More than 40 brothers climbed alongside Ohio State athletic teams, ROTC, and fellow fraternities and sororities in remembrance of those lost on September 11. Through the event, the Chapter raised over \$3,800 for the Never Forget Fund.



Chapter Officers

President
Jackson Fowler '27

Vice President of Brotherhood
Brendan Lovell '28

Vice President of Finance
JP Naylor '28

Vice President of Programming
Logan Martins '28

Vice President of Communications
River Diamond '28

Vice President of Recruitment
Matteo Tomita '28

Vice President of Risk Management
Kyle Tressler '27

Vice President of New Member Education
Will Silva '28

Vice President of House Management
Russell Garcia '28

Chapter Goals

Campus and Community Engagement

We aim to strengthen Theta Delta's presence on campus and within the greater Columbus community by increasing participation in philanthropic initiatives, service efforts, and collaborative social events.

Intentional Membership Growth

With Chapter membership at an all-time high, we remain focused on recruiting ambitious, values-driven individuals who enhance our culture and uphold the traditions of Beta Theta Pi. Additionally, we aim to regain the title of having the highest GPA on campus.

Professional and Personal Development

We are committed to expanding mentorship, networking, and professional development opportunities for our members. This year, our newly appointed alumni relations chairmen, **Jack Baxter '26** and **Noah George '28**, will play a key role in connecting alumni and active members through career opportunities, mentorship, and on-campus programming.



David A. Zuhars '61 lives in Louisville, Ky., and plays golf three times a week. Email: davezuhars@gmail.com

Jim Streicher '62 moved with Sandy to Naples, Fla., after retiring from 40 years of law practice in Cleveland, Ohio. “**George Barry '61, Bob Lauer '67, and Tom Matlock '72** are good friends, and we spend a lot of time golfing, playing bridge, and traveling. Recently visited **Bob Taylor '65** on Sanibel Island.” Sandy has also kept in touch with her Delta Gamma sisters in southwest Florida. The couple has three children and seven grandchildren; everyone gathers in Naples for Christmas. Email: jfstreicher@comcast.net

Chuck Wright '63 lives in Rocky River, Ohio, and exercises seven mornings a week at age 85. Email: aandcwright@sbcglobal.net

Alan M. Fisher, M.D. '66 lives in Ridgefield, Wash., and loves taking in the Pacific Northwest environment, especially in the summer. He visits his

family in California and enjoys RV trips whenever possible. “Thinking of brothers and precious memories, those past and present. Theta Delta has been a profound, everlasting blessing! Email: amfisher102@mac.com

Jerry “Moose” Truster '66 returned to the Tulsa County District Attorney’s Office in late 2022 to pursue prosecution of career criminals. He is currently chief of the criminal division, supervising 46 assistant district attorneys. Jerry lives in Broken Arrow, Okla. Email: jtruster@cox.net

Dave C. Neff '74 retired in 2016 from the Medical University of South Carolina after 35 years as a healthcare administrator. He has lived in Charleston, S.C., for nearly 33 years. “As president of my pledge class of 1971, I’ve been connecting with brothers and hoping to arrange a Fraternal 50s celebration reunion in Columbus.” Email: davecneff@gmail.com

Paul F. Racher '79 frequently plays golf with **Rod Gregory '79, Brent Hatch '79, Rob Morrow '79, and Barry Duerk '80** in Columbus. Email: paulracher1541@gmail.com

Dan S. Wigton '79 is in his 46th year in the investment business; he majored in finance and was the treasurer of Theta Delta in 1979. Dan manages the Marion, Ohio, office of Stifel, which has 10 employees. “Stifel is the seventh-largest full-service investment firm in the country. In Marion, we manage \$750 million in client assets.” Email: daniel.wigton@stifel.com

Mark Chupka '84 recently retired after flying for Southwest Airlines for 31 years. He previously flew in the Air Force (both active duty and reserve) and retired as a Lt. Colonel, having flown in Operations Desert Shield/Storm in Iraq, Gothic Serpent in Mogadishu, Somalia (Black Hawk Down), and Operation Deep Freeze at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. To celebrate retirement, Mark completed a 4000-mile cross-country motorcycle trip. He and his wife live in Davis, Calif., and they have two grown children. Email: markchupka@gmail.com

Jim J. Organ '84 lives in Dublin, Ohio. His granddaughter Maggie competed in the Irish Festival Feis, placing in four events (two first and two third) in Irish dance. Email: jorgan10s@gmail.com

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We give thanks to the brothers listed below for giving back to Theta Delta Chapter in 2025 and 2026. Your generosity demonstrates a sense of gratitude for your personal experience.

If there is an error in your listing or your name is mistakenly omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our communications consultant, Candace, at cmoore@penningtonco.com to submit any corrections.

John O. Hopkins Sr. '57
William H. Bond '58
Dwight Stoneburner '58
Larry J. Biederman '59
Dr. John D. Jacob '60
Ruskin B. Lawyer Jr. '62
James F. Streicher '62
David Hammond '65
Curtis L. High '66
David W. Wright '67
Larry R. Plum '68
John Stegmiller '68
Jon Bennett '69
David K. Grumbach '70

John C. Nisbet '71
Ralph W. Talmage '71
Craig Howard '72
Eric H. Zeiher '75
Daniel Ketcham '77
Tom Schreiber '77
Timothy M. Cancila '78
Steve Cole '78
Bruce P. Kupper '78
Scott Saffell '78
James Flower '79
Brent Hatch '79
Harry D. Holdren '79
Robert Morrow '79

Alan K. Veatch '79
Daniel S. Wigton '79
Bob Smythe '80
Michael S. Matthews '82
Jeffrey P. Davis '83
Peter McParlin '83
Mark T. Chupka '84
James J. Organ '84
Dominic Bagnoli Jr '85
Dave Grieshop '85
Steven Hallam '85
J. Dan Irwin III '85
Steve Jeney '85
Kurt Niermeyer '85

Doug Preisse '85
Thomas Shewalter '85
Nick Verdea '85
Bruce Borden '86
Dave Kraushar '86
Sean K. Morrow '86
David Van Schoik '86
Clark Leslie '88
Brian Garvine '92
Josh Alderman '93
Stephen Geraghty '93
Joe Payette '94
Mike Harvey '95
Mark Skogstad '96

Joel Albright '02
Mike Bush '02
Nicholas Everhart '02
Bret Frangos '02
AJ Guild '02
Daniel Grainger '16
Jeff Ruick '17
Aaron Trombley '17
Dominic Bagnoli III '18
Austin Maresco '20
Aaron Penick '20
Bobby Hoag

Year-Round Development

THETA DELTA THRIVES ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

Theta Delta continues to build on a period of strong momentum across academics, membership, and campus engagement, while remaining grounded in the values and traditions of our Fraternity.

Academic excellence remains central to our Chapter culture. Theta Delta concluded the year with a strong GPA of 3.5. This reflects our continued emphasis on intellectual growth, accountability, and integrity, and our commitment to further raising academic standards moving forward.

Our Chapter also remains actively engaged in campus life, encouraging members to participate in leadership roles, Greek events, and broader university initiatives. In addition, we value the role of athletics and teamwork in strengthening brotherhood. This fall, we were proud to capture the Intramural Hockey Championship, an achievement that highlights our competitive spirit and commitment to balance.

This semester, we welcomed 15 new members, bringing our total active membership to 153. As we continue to grow, we remain firm in our belief that it is the quality of men, not quantity, that defines Beta Theta Pi. Our recruitment efforts are intentionally focused on individuals who strengthen our culture and uphold our values. We plan to get the largest class in Theta Delta history with 45-50 new members in the spring—raising our total to nearly 200 members! Across this brotherhood, some will study abroad in countries like Italy and the Czech Republic, and others will participate in CO-OP programs in Ohio.

Beyond campus, Theta Delta serves as a launchpad for personal and professional development. Our members pursued internships and professional experiences across the country and internationally this past summer, and we remain committed to expanding alumni engagement and mentorship opportunities.

As we look ahead, we are excited to welcome our newest members, strengthen alumni connections, and continue building on the Chapter’s momentum. We are also hopeful to celebrate another National Championship season for the Buckeyes.

Thank you to our alumni for your continued support and investment in Theta Delta.

Yours in -kai-,
Jackson Fowler '27
 Chapter President



From left: Ryan Packel '27, Drew Solar '27, Jordan Fiderer '27, and Ethan Albaum '27 on the rooftop at our annual Fall Formal in Nashville.



Our official fall 2025 initiation photo.

Giving Is as Easy as...

1 Visit btpthetadelta.causevox.com.



2 Choose a one-time or recurring gift.

3 Add your personal details and submit!

Your gifts keep our Chapter House in superb condition, allowing brothers to thrive in their home and focus on future success.

Welcome, New Members

- Nisola Adebajo | Ellicott City, Md. | Computer Science
- Tony Arcuri | Dayton, Ohio | Sports Industry
- Derek Bahl | Rye, N.Y. | Finance
- Luca Bertoldi | Santa Ana, Calif. | Finance
- Jack Braley | Hudson, Ohio | Information Systems
- Jenson Garber | Bolivar, Ohio | Finance
- Theo Kozara | Getzville, N.Y. | Biology; Pre-Med
- Riley Lam | Grayslake, Ill. | Finance
- Vincent Matteo | Simsbury, Conn. | Finance
- Jack McEneely | Chicago, Ill. | Political Science
- Aiden Mustafich | East Meadow, N.Y. | Finance
- Nick Powaski | Mentor, Ohio | Health Sciences
- Mike Stapleton | Orland Park, Ill. | Finance
- Sam Weekes | Guilford, Conn. | Accounting
- Nick Zaring | Cincinnati, Ohio | Finance

We Asked...

Why Beta?

"Beta brings people together from every background who share the same values and interests as I do. It's a place where I can grow and be inspired by others who try to be better every day."
 –Nick Zaring '28

"I enjoyed the conversations during recruitment and felt a genuine connection with the brothers. Seeing how all they all cared about their fellow members, and their individual successes, became the main reason I chose Beta."
 –Mike Stapleton '28

"I was drawn to the high standards that members are held to. Also, there's a strong brotherhood aspect that allows for lifelong connections."
 –Sam Weekes '28

"Everyone I talked to seemed super genuine; they were truly interested in getting to know me."
 –Riley Lam '28



WHO WILL CARRY THE TORCH?

Send Us Your Member Recommendations

From one generation to the next, our brotherhood endures through those willing to continue our Theta Delta traditions. Who do you know with the resilience, leadership, and honor to carry our brotherhood's torch into the next generation?

Help us find the young men who will honor our past and shape what comes next. Send their info, including how we should contact them, their hometown and year in school, any high school sports or clubs, and why you think they'll fit right in with Beta Theta Pi, to **Matteo Tomita '28** at tomita.14@osu.edu.

Exciting Updates Await!



Is Your Contact Information Current?

U pdate your email today to stay in the know about our Chapter's exciting events and updates. **From meaningful reunions to memorable events, your involvement means the world to our brotherhood, and we want to keep you in the loop!**

Updating your information is easy—just send an email to updatemyrecord@penningntonco.com with the subject line "BTP Ohio State Update."

Thank you for staying informed and involved!
Rest assured, your data is safe with us; we're all about reconnecting, not selling information.



GRADUATING SENIORS

Owen Delmore '25

Since graduating magna cum laude this August with a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry, Owen has been working as an emergency department technician at Mount Carmel Health System in Columbus, Ohio, while applying to medical school. He hopes to return home to his state of Wisconsin in the fall to begin medical education.

Colin King '25

Colin graduated in December from The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business with a degree in finance. He is starting a new position at J.P. Morgan Wealth Management as an investment professional.



Send Us Your Photos!

Theta Delta wants your help to collect old photos for our Beta alumni archives.

Do you have treasured pictures from your undergraduate years? Email them to **Scott Saffell '78** at scott.w.saffell@gmail.com with "Theta Delta Archive Photos" in the subject line. Be sure to include any relevant context, such as event and alumni names. Your photos may even appear in a future issue of *Theta Delta Dragon*.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?



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A recap of our fall tailgate. Plus much more!

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A NEW TAILGATE TRADITION



Theta Delta alumni and undergraduate brothers throwing horns down outside of 165 E. 15th Avenue.

In late August, the Theta Delta Alumni Association and undergraduate Chapter hosted our first alumni tailgate at 165 E. 15th Avenue in anticipation of the Buckeyes' playoff rematch against—and eventual beatdown of—the Texas Longhorns.

With alumni attendees spanning from the classes of 1965 to 2025, the event brought together seven decades of Beta brothers who gathered to share stories, laugh, and foster bonds of brotherhood both new and old. In total, the event was attended by more than 60 active and alumni members of Theta Delta.

A special thank you to the brothers who made the event possible, and to the undergraduate Chapter for their hospitality.

The fall event marked an important milestone for the Alumni Association as it seeks to reengage members in central Ohio and beyond with additional programming.

In pursuit of that aim, the Chapter and Alumni Association will continue hosting a fall tailgate on an annual basis at the Chapter House—continued in fall 2026 when the Buckeyes host the Oregon Ducks.

While exact times and dates are still being determined, additional information about the tailgate will be shared at the Spring Roundup and in future newsletter editions. We hope you will consider joining us.

If you are interested in supporting future Alumni Association events, please contact **Dan Grainger '16** at (614) 949-6465.

