



THETA DELTA DRAGON

Beta Theta Pi at The Ohio State University • Summer 2026

Leading by Example

Scott Saffell '78 Reflects on Years of Theta Delta Service

Every strong Fraternity depends on the support of deeply committed alumni. Outgoing Alumni Association President **Scott Saffell '78** embraced the chance to pay forward his Beta experience through continued involvement, and he reflects on 15 years of fraternal service with great pride.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Back in 2011, Scott recognized how Beta brothers were maintaining their Theta Delta bonds by giving back to the organization that shaped their college years. His Alumni Association membership and eventual presidency saw the Chapter evolve through housing changes and engagement efforts that have shaped Beta's campus presence.

"While the template was written by those in leadership before, I think that the greatest accomplishment was building the new Chapter House at 165 E. 15th Avenue," he said. After six decades in the old Chapter House, Theta Delta alumni invested time and treasure to provide an exceptional new home for today's members.

Scott's presidency has not been without its challenges. He recalls the difficulty of navigating the Chapter's three-year closure before receiving permission to recolonize with founding fathers handpicked by the Beta Consultant hired by the Alumni Association. "They were well-schooled in the traditions and principles of Beta Theta Pi, and all made great active members."

RELATIONSHIPS MOVE THE NEEDLE

Scott enjoys seeing Theta Delta brothers reconnect with Beta, especially through a budding mentorship program suggested and framed by a Theta Delta alumnus designed to connect undergraduates with alumni for career wisdom and professional growth advice. The Chapter also encourages ongoing engagement through alumni social events like the annual Spring Roundup and Beta's Friday tailgates prior to some home football games.

"To get the most out of any organization that you belong to, you need to be involved with it! Not always in a leadership position, but one where you can help others and try to make a difference for them."



While not everyone has the capacity to serve the Chapter or mentor undergraduates, Scott urges fellow alumni to financially support Theta Delta or show up as a good example for Beta collegians.

"One of the most important things we can do is to model the behaviors that we are trying to instill in these young men and expect them to exhibit. The Chapter members look up to all alumni, but especially the Alumni Association, House Corporation board members, and the Chapter Advisory team that they interact with on a regular basis."

LOOKING AHEAD

Beyond his presidency, Scott hopes to maintain a small role on the Alumni Association to see how younger generations will shape the Chapter's future. He will miss regular interactions with Theta Delta undergraduates and the talented team of alumni leaders, but he remains grateful for the Beta friendships that continue to shape his life today.

Scott is also grateful to share the Beta brotherhood with his son, **Sean '07**. "The bond we have from Beta is something that will be special to me for the rest of my life." You can connect with him at scott.w.saffell@gmail.com.

**GRATEFUL
for
HIS PEERS**

"I would like to thank all those alumni I have served with, including the three members who passed away while on the Board: **Dr. David Rudy '56**, **Joe Chinnici '64**, and **Phil White '65**. I also can't thank enough the building and campaign committee members, led by Campaign Chairmen **David Wright '67** and **Dr. Dominic Bagnoli '85** who worked tirelessly through many Chapter House design iterations and fundraised almost \$4 million to get the new Chapter House completed. The energy and enthusiasm of all involved continues to be tremendous. I am also grateful for those young alumni who have stepped up on both boards; the Alumni Association and House Corporation will be in great hands."



STEERING THE SHIP

MEET OUR NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



For **Daniel T. Grainger '16**, Beta Theta Pi has never been limited to the undergraduate years. His involvement with the Fraternity has continued to shape his friendships, career, leadership experiences, and commitment to giving back. Now, as president of the Theta Delta Alumni Association, Daniel is focused on strengthening alumni connections and creating new opportunities for brothers to gather, reconnect, and support the Chapter's future.

Professionally, Daniel leads the Private Equity practice at T4 Associates, where he works with middle and lower-middle market private equity firms across North America and the United Kingdom. His team provides customer diligence and voice-of-customer research services, helping firms better understand the markets and companies they are evaluating.

Daniel's willingness to serve Theta Delta comes from a deep appreciation for the role Beta has played in his life. He has experienced the Fraternity from many perspectives: undergraduate member, Chapter president, administrative office employee, district chief, Chapter advisor, and now Alumni Association member. Through each role, he says Beta has given back far more than he has invested.

"I'm a firm believer that you get out what you put into things," Daniel said. "Beta has always returned to me multiples of what I have given it. **It's a no-brainer to give back to an organization that has given me so much.**"

As president, Daniel hopes to reconnect with alumni, create more recurring opportunities for brothers to come together, increase younger alumni involvement, and ensure the experience remains enjoyable along the way. He believes engagement is essential to preserving the opportunities that helped shape generations of Beta men at Ohio State.

"As alumni, we all have benefited from our experience with Theta Delta Chapter," Daniel said. "But none of those opportunities exist without alumni support. I think it's important to give back so deserving young men can continue to have those opportunities on Ohio State's campus for decades to come."

For Daniel, Fraternity membership has been invaluable. Some of his closest friends are men he met through Beta, brothers who have stood beside him through weddings, funerals, and many meaningful moments in between. Professionally, he credits nearly every job he has held to the relationships, opportunities, or experiences connected to his involvement with the Fraternity.

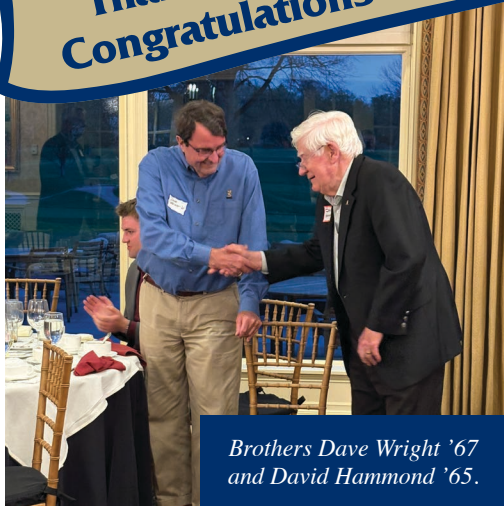
Daniel moved back to Columbus in 2020 and now lives in German Village. He is always eager to reconnect with Beta alumni in Central Ohio, whether they are interested in getting involved with Theta Delta or simply meeting up for a beer. "If you're in the area and want to connect, give me a shout," Daniel said. He can be reached at danieltgrainger@gmail.com.

MAKE YOUR IMPACT
TODAY
GIVE TO THETA DELTA

Support Theta Delta Chapter by donating today! Generous contributions from our Alumni directly enhance the undergraduate experience and preserve the Beta Theta Pi legacy at The Ohio State University. Scan the QR code now to visit our giving portal at btpthetadelta.causevox.com to learn more about how your contribution makes a difference and to explore giving options.



Thank You to Attendees and Congratulations to Our Brothers



*Brothers Dave Wright '67
and David Hammond '65.*



*The singing of
"Carmen Ohio."*



*Ohio State Defensive
Coordinator Matt Patricia
speaking at the 2026
Beta Roundup.*



*Attendees of the 2026
Beta Roundup listening to
Defensive Coordinator
Matt Patricia.*

Recapping Another Successful Spring Roundup

The annual Theta Delta Spring Roundup was held on April 14, 2026, at Scioto Country Club with 145 alumni and undergraduates in attendance! It was a great evening of rekindling old friendships and making new ones with members of the undergraduate Chapter that featured a great social hour, dinner, scholarship awards, and a session with Ohio State's defensive coordinator, Matt Patricia!

The evening started with a social hour where the alumni and Chapter members were able to greet each other and mingle. At the conclusion of the social hour, all in attendance were led in the Beta Doxology by Chapter President **Jackson Fowler '27**.

During dinner, Coach Patricia spoke to us on many topics including how he got into coaching, his previous coaching stops in both college and the NFL, as well as many other interesting topics related to coaching, players, and his experiences in coaching college and professional athletes. After his talk, Coach Patricia answered each and every question during a Q&A session. It was thrilling to have Coach Patricia with us after the season that Ohio State had and to listen to his perspective on coming to and being at Ohio State during this very challenging and changing time in college football. He was very honest and forthcoming during his talk and with his answers to the questions posed to him. Many thanks to Brother **Dominic Bagnoli '85** for arranging for Coach Patricia to be with us!

The rest of the program included remarks on the state of the Chapter from Jackson Fowler, the presentation of the H.M. "Butch" O'Neill Beta Theta Pi Leadership Scholarship and the Moyne Morgan Scholarship, the recognition of 11 Betas in attendance who received their Fraternal Fifties pin for being a Beta for more than 50 years, and the traditional Beta Countdown led by Brother **Dan Ketcham '77**. We closed with the singing of "Carmen Ohio." Congratulations to Brothers **Dave Wright '67** and **David Hammond '65** for being the longest initiated members of Theta Delta in attendance! The two are pledge brothers, although Brother Hammond, roll number 1314, was initiated slightly before Brother Wright, roll number 1326!

The Moyne M. Morgan Scholarship for the outstanding member of the Fisher College of Business was awarded to **Ben Heitkamp '27**, and the H.M. "Butch" O'Neill Beta Theta Pi Leadership Scholarship was awarded to Chapter President Jackson Fowler. Congratulations to Ben and Jackson for their accomplishments!

This year's Spring Roundup was the culmination of a very successful year for the Chapter, as noted in the Chapter president's report as well as with the Alumni Association Board and House Corporation. Look for information on upcoming joint Chapter and alumni events in 2026 and beyond!

Continuing Connections



ALUMNI EVENTS, CHAPTER GROWTH

As we reflect on another incredible year for Theta Delta, I want to begin by expressing appreciation to everyone who continues to support our Chapter.

STRENGTHENING ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

A sincere thank-you to the Theta Delta Alumni Association for organizing another outstanding Spring Roundup. This event remains one of our most meaningful traditions and serves as a reminder of the strength of our brotherhood across generations. This year, we continued building stronger relationships between our undergraduate Chapter and alumni community.

One highlight from the fall was our alumni tailgate for the Texas football game—a great turnout and an event we intend to continue as an annual tradition. We also launched a meaningful alumni engagement initiative led by **Jack Baxter '26** and **Noah George '28**. Together, they helped create an expanded Theta Delta alumni network featuring members across industries who are willing to support undergraduate brothers through mentorship, career conversations, internship opportunities, and professional development. We are grateful to alumni **Dan Grainger '16**, **Scott Saffell '78**, and many others who contributed to making this possible. We believe this resource will continue creating opportunities for years to come.

CELEBRATING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

We would also like to recognize senior **Gabe Phillips '26**, who received the NIC Most Outstanding IFC President Award in 2025. This recognition reflects his dedication, leadership, and commitment to improving the Fraternity experience both within Theta Delta and across campus.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND CHAPTER GROWTH

Academically, Theta Delta continues to perform at a high level. This past semester, our Chapter achieved a 3.5 cumulative GPA, placing second overall among IFC chapters and continuing a strong tradition of academic achievement. We remain motivated to continue raising the standard. We also reached an exciting milestone of over 190 undergraduate members, making Theta Delta the largest Chapter in our history. While growth is exciting, our focus remains on maintaining the values, culture, and expectations that define our Chapter.

EXCELLENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Our members continue representing Theta Delta through leadership, athletics, philanthropy, and campus involvement. Athletically, we celebrated an intramural hockey championship and saw strong performances from several of our competitive teams throughout the year. We also welcomed an

outstanding new member class of 42 individuals, representing Ohio as well as states including New Jersey, Maryland, Illinois, and New York. Their academic interests span business, engineering, sciences, and more, and we are excited to see the impact they make in the years ahead.

SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY

Service remains central to who we are. This semester, Theta Delta raised over \$11,000 through philanthropic initiatives, including BuckeyeThon and St. Baldrick's, both dedicated to fighting cancer. Many members participated directly through fundraising efforts, including several who shaved their heads in support of the cause. In the fall, our Chapter also showed incredible participation in the 9/11 Stair Run, raising more than \$3,500 for the Never Forget Fund. Additionally, members donated blood to support local hospitals and organized clothing and food drives during the winter months to support the Columbus community.

Eli Rosen '28 shaves a brother's head at our St. Baldrick's event to raise money to fight childhood cancer.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we continue building momentum into the fall semester, we are excited to create even more opportunities for alumni engagement. We are planning an alumni golf outing during the week of the Ohio State vs. Oregon football game this fall. Final details—including course, format, and registration information—will be shared in an upcoming communication, but we hope many of you will join us for what should be an outstanding weekend connecting alumni and undergraduate members. Thank you again for your continued support of Theta Delta and for the investment you make in our Chapter's future.

Go Bucks!

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

THE BEST DECISION

New Members Discuss Their Experiences in Beta

SEAN CUMMINS '29

"Choosing Beta Theta Pi at Ohio State has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The friendships I've built in just one semester are some of the strongest and most meaningful relationships I have. I truly can't say enough good things about this Chapter and the people in it; their support, character, and brotherhood have made Beta one of the best decisions I made."

CHRISTIAN FARRELL '29

"My experience in Beta this past semester was incredibly rewarding. It gave me the opportunity to build meaningful connections with other students, develop my leadership skills, and become more involved on campus. The friendships and experiences I have gained through Beta have made my transition to college much more enjoyable, and I'm grateful to be part of such a supportive and motivated group."

ADAM FAULKNER '29

"Being a part of Beta is the best decision I've ever made. It's made me into a better person while making the best memories and friends for the rest of my life. I appreciate every single guy around me and know that if I lean into the things Beta has taught me, I can be successful in life."

MATTHEW FERREN '29

"Joining Beta was such an amazing experience. Gaining time management skills with balancing school and making friends within the Fraternity was an awesome time that created countless memories."

Plant the Seeds of Brotherhood

Growth often begins with someone seeing potential and choosing to encourage it. For a young man in college, that support can make all the difference—offering friendship, leadership, accountability, and a place to grow during some of his most formative years.

If you know a young man who would make a great addition to Theta Delta, recommend him today! Send his contact info to **Matteo Tomita '28** at tomita.14@buckeyemail.osu.edu. Please include your name and connection to Beta, the name of the person you are referring, their high school GPA, sports and activities, and any other information you'd like to provide that would make them a strong potential new member for Theta Delta.



Jack Bacher | Long Grove, Ill.
Caden Bailey | Cincinnati, Ohio
Tommy Biehler | Webster, N.Y.
Joe Brown | Richfield, Ohio
Sammy Chaudhary | Cincinnati, Ohio
Jonah Cohen | Northbrook, Ill.
Jack Cooper | Avon, Ohio
Cameron Cox | Dayton, Ohio
Sean Cummins | Cincinnati, Ohio
Carter Cushman | Cincinnati, Ohio
Matthew Dougherty | Akron, Ohio
Shaunak Dua | Rockville, Md.
Christian Farrell | Florham Park, N.J.
Adam Faulkner | Galena, Ohio
Matthew Ferren | Clarendon Hills, Ill.
Gavin Gerhard | Cincinnati, Ohio
Sergio Gomez | Bethesda, Md.
Keaton Groff | Kingston, Mass.
Ross Honigford | Lima, Ohio
Adam Hyderi | South Barrington, Ill.
John Keighley | Dayton, Ohio
Grant Keilin | Beachwood, Ohio
Jackson Lloyd | Columbus, Ohio
Daniel Mack | Cincinnati, Ohio
Luciano Mancini | Lemont, Ill.
Vincenzo Mancini | Lemont, Ill.
Jackson Merdalo | Long Grove, Ill.
Cam Miller | Cincinnati, Ohio
Morgan Montgomery | Dayton, Ohio
Colin Moran | Bentleyville, Ohio
Will Morris | Oakwood, Ohio
Marco Parisi | Robbinsville, N.J.
Luke Robbins | Woodridge, Ill.
Jackson Schaffer | Pepper Pike, Ohio
Will Smalley | Independence, Ohio
Reed Solar | Columbus, Ohio
Gavin Steinacher | Cincinnati, Ohio
Jake Stitsinger | Akron, Ohio
Dylan Stolyar | Chicago, Ill.
Carter Thompson | Wilmette, Ill.
Leo Whalen | Chicago, Ill.
Shlomo Zaafrani | Glencoe, Ill.

Inside, join us in thanking **Scott Saffell '78** for his service to Theta Delta, welcome new Alumni Association President **Daniel T. Grainger '16**, RSVP for our alumni tailgate in November (details below), enjoy a recap of Theta Delta Roundup, **and more!**



↑ Sophomores in Nashville for our fall formal.
Pictured: Andy Duplain '28, Cooper Shalin '28,
Noah George '28, Ryan Block '28, and Grayson Polak '28.



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Beta Theta Pi at The Ohio State University

THETA DELTA OF BETA THETA PI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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CHAPTER GOALS

Strengthen Alumni Engagement

Our goal is to build stronger, lifelong connections between our undergraduate Chapter and alumni. This year, we are launching new alumni-focused events throughout the year and creating a comprehensive alumni database to

foster mentorship, networking opportunities, and stronger professional connections between generations of Beta Theta Pi members.

Increase Upperclassman Engagement

A strong Chapter depends on active involvement from members of every class, especially as our Chapter continues to grow. We are committed to improving attendance and participation among our upperclassmen at brotherhood events, professional programming, and Chapter activities, ensuring they continue to mentor younger members while strengthening our Chapter culture.

Maintain Excellence on and off Campus

We remain committed to being a model Fraternity at Ohio State by maintaining a strong relationship with the university, upholding the values of Beta Theta Pi, and continuing our tradition of academic excellence. After earning the highest Fraternity GPA on campus, our goal is to retain that distinction while continuing to develop outstanding leaders and gentlemen.

Mark Your Calendars ALUMNI TAILGATE GATHERING



**Friday, November 6, 2026
4-7 p.m.**

**THETA DELTA CHAPTER HOUSE
165 E. 15TH AVE.
COLUMBUS, OH 43201**

Join us for an evening of friendship and fidelity as the Theta Delta Alumni Association and Theta Delta Chapter co-host an alumni tailgate at the Chapter House the evening before the Ohio State vs. Oregon game.

Food and drink will be provided. Alumni tickets are \$10 and will be collected at the event (either via cash or Venmo). Undergraduate members can attend at zero cost.

RSVP is required by October 2.
Scan the QR code to claim your spot at
forms.gle/E4AB8hXMBnF9iWhN9

Questions? Call or text **Dan Grainger '16**
at (614) 949-6465.



This is a Theta Delta alumni and undergraduate member-only event.