



LUMINATOR

Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma at Cornell

ITHACA, NEW YORK

FALL 2002

*A Message from the Alumni President
and Faculty Adviser*



We're In Compliance!

I am pleased to report that the house at 200 Willard Way has finally come into compliance with Ithaca city building code and fire department regulations. The process took from August until October to perform required repairs so that certificates of occupancy could be issued. The bad news is that the cycle starts all over again next summer, and new issues are sure to surface.

Improvements and repairs this year included replacing a leaking second-floor shower, old plumbing, and crumbling ceilings in the first- and second-floor bathrooms. Both bathrooms now satisfy the hygiene codes of the city's building department. Maintenance and updating the kitchen stove hood brought that area into compliance with fire department code. The fire department also required that we clean out the third-floor attic, which uncovered a treasure-trove of old records, photographs, and OTS memorabilia. The house was cleaned inside, and landscaping was done to make the property attractive. All the live-ins and the house managers, Emily Decker and Kasey Osborn, deserve thanks for their patience and hard work.

House coffers are bottomed out again after this latest cycle of needed and required repairs. Increased costs

for insurance and property and school taxes have further eroded our balance. Your dues and contributions are needed more than ever to rebuild the treasury. Plans for renovations to modernize the house are still being considered, but without a major infusion of capital from alumni, our goals cannot be met. We are also considering increasing the rent and another mortgage or borrowing against the equity of the property. These details will be brought before the membership at the annual meeting in March 2003.

OTS Grand Council is November 8-10 at Cornell. Actives are busy planning the weekend events, which include delegates meetings where each chapter describes its successes, several parties, and a Saturday night banquet when yearly awards are announced. All alumni are welcome to attend. We are especially pleased to host this year's event, as this is the 75th Grand Council. Beta Chapter is 91 years old this year (our charter was granted in 1911), and we are the oldest active chapter. The Alpha Chapter at the University of Pennsylvania is no longer active.

We have a great tradition worth preserving! Please consider a generous gift to the chapter this year. Thank you.

OTS Succeeds In Social, Rush, And Philanthropy Efforts

What a fantastic year it has been for the Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma! Throughout 2002, we have had one successful event after another, thanks to all of our hardworking, dedicated members. Nearly all members have attended unity events, such as broomball, paintball, and the annual wine and cheese. The talent show and the rooms party, our big social events last spring, saw our house jam-packed with people! Kelly Still '05 and Ryan Taggart '05 did a great job organizing these events.

Our philanthropy chairs, Mitzi Zarafoss '04, Stephanie Galvan '05, and Angie Hermann '05, have been doing outstanding work. They continue to organize 70-pint blood drives for the Red Cross nearly every two months! The vampire vixens also put together a fabulous charity ball last March to benefit the local animal shelters. I never saw so much dancing within the vet school community!

We kicked off this semester with a ton of rush events. Scotty Miner '04 and Kate Margalit '05, the current OTS rush chairs, organized a barbecue, a skit, a dinner, and a pajama party to show first years what life was like in OTS. We decided to combine bid acceptance night with our third annual wine and cheese so that

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Beta Chapter Hosts 75th Grand Council, November 8-10, 2002

OTS Succeeds In Social, Rush, And Philanthropy Efforts

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our new initiates could mingle with current OTS members. The night was a huge success—33 initiates were welcomed into OTS!

Initiation night itself took place the first Saturday in October. The initiates visited six different bars in the Ithaca area. My house was turned into “Grandma’s Bar” once again this year—thanks to my reputation as OTS bartender and driving an old station wagon Volvo (as well as other “grandma-ish” things). Initiates had to play bingo, bob for grandma’s gummy dentures (Wegman’s has gummies in every shape and size), wear underwear with catchy slogans like “Where everyone forgets your name—Grandma’s Bar” and “Leave your cane at the door —Grandma’s Bar,” and finally they had to do a “granny dance.” Overall, the initiates had a blast at every single bar they visited. We can’t wait for their new ideas to spring forth at our future meetings!

Finally, we have been working hard to organize Grand Council events, which will be held at the Beta Chapter the weekend of November 8-10, 2002. The theme is “Ithaca on Ice.” Some events we will be holding include a chili dinner on Friday night (an idea inspired by our annual chili cook-off), a huge party following Friday’s feast, Gonzo Olympics on Saturday, and an ’80s dance party Saturday night (yes, we our imitating our favorite area club, The Haunt, on this one).

Grand Council will be a chance to show off our school, our unity as OTS members, and the local Ithaca area. To have such a successful event, we have been raising as much money as possible. Our fundraising chairs, Carey Brown ’05, Joel English ’05, and Andreas Andreou ’05, have been doing incredible work. They have been signing us up to help at food distributions, and in early October, we made a \$300 profit from the chili

cook-off. Amazing. Our treasurer, Meredith Re ’04, and vice president, Elisa Salas ’04, have also been busy asking various clubs and companies to sponsor various events.

As president of Omega Tau Sigma, I would like to ask all alumni to please make a donation, large or small, to our Grand Council funds, so that we can put on a successful event that shows off the Cornell Veterinary School to the OTS chapters visiting from other veterinary schools. Any donations can be made out to Omega Tau Sigma and sent directly to our treasurer, Meredith Re, whose address is 222 Sapsucker Woods Rd., #2A, Ithaca, NY 14850.

May the Beta Chapter continue to have success at all future events, and may our current members and alumni continue to be successful in their own endeavors.

Jocelyn Hawkins ’04
Most Worthy Master

Alumni Write From Far And Near

Retiree E. EDGAR RUEBUSH ’43 lives at 14620 Carrolton Rd., Rockville, MD 20853, and e-mail reaches him at eeruebush@comcast.net.

We offer our condolences to ROBERT A. SAUTER ’47 on the death of his wife, Norma, last year. He writes, “Fortunately, I have my son and family here in Indy.” Retired from Eli Lilly & Company, Bob makes his home at 5280 Boardwalk Place, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

JOHN H. BALDWIN ’52 spends the warmer months in New York and the colder months at 15 Valley Dr., Deleon Springs, FL 32130. He occasionally sees or hears from JOHN McVICAR ’52 and BRUCE HAYNES ’52.

ARTHUR P. MOTTA ’53 remembers the bronze plaque that was placed under the mantel in the living room in memory of brother SCHOFIELD KELLY ’52. On the plaque were words from Scho’s personal diary, “which were an inspiration to

all of us and, I think, to the many OTS brothers who must have read it.” Share your memories with Art at 122 Hickory Ridge Dr., Highland Village, TX 75077.

Write to RICHARD A. FREUND ’54 at rfreund62@msn.com or at 120 Spinnaker Court, Davidson, NC 28036.



We’d love to hear from you! Please don’t forget to return the enclosed newsform!

HERBERT C. DIETRICH ’55 receives e-mail at scdscooter@aol.com and “snail mail” at 350 Auburn Dr., Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

ANTHONY PALMINTERI ’57 (drapalminteri@aol.com) resides at 200 Woodside Ave., Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417.

Stay in touch with KEITH H. ORTS ’59 at kcort@att.net or at 25 Schuylkill Dr., Wernersville, PA 19565.

“I’m still in Seneca Falls—it’ll be 33 years in May—and now do only small animal practice,” wrote HERBERT R. HOLDEN ’67 late last winter. “Although the Finger Lakes area is relatively quiet and peaceful, the practice is not! For relaxation I play with a small John Deere with a loader and backhoe. My friends provide lots of free work for me! My four grandchildren also think it’s great fun.” Herb and Becky make their home at 2034 Gravel Rd., Seneca Falls, NY 13148.

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Philanthropy Committee



Our committee continues to suggest events to engage OTS members in philanthropic endeavors. We have started planning the charity ball, which is scheduled for February 22, 2003, at the Clarion Hotel in Ithaca. Last year we raised over \$1,200 for the Schuyler County SPCA, and this year we are going to increase our goal substantially.

The blood drives held every two months at the veterinary college continue to exceed goals every time. The kickoff September drive collected 67 pints, above goal as usual. The Red Cross named the philanthropy committee “honorary vampires” for having one of the strongest drives in the region.

For Halloween this year, we have planned a pet (dress them up!) pageant/canned food drive. In December the pledge class gets into gear with the annual Santa pet photo fundraiser.

Have any ideas for ways that OTS members can be involved in supporting the Ithaca community? If so, please e-mail Mitzi Zarfoss at mkz3@cornell.edu.

Fundraising Committee



Fundraising in 2002 was more successful than in past years. On Valentine's Day the first-year class delivered more than 250 candygrams to members of the veterinary college community. This year OTS members received generous compensation from both the IAMS and Hills companies by assisting with monthly dog food distributions at the college. We also sold drinks and snacks at the Veterinary Players presentation of *Me and My Gal*. With over 40 entries, the annual chili cook-off was a great success and earned the fraternity \$350. Our projects last year earned nearly \$1,000 that could be spent on other causes.

Joel English
Fundraising Chair

Rush Committee



Fall rush 2002 was a great success, adding 33 new members to Beta Chapter. Rush events included a barbecue for all new and returning students in August just before the start of classes, a dinner and slide show at the house in September, and a pajama party. Bid acceptance night was combined with a social event—our annual wine and cheese night. Combining these two events was a great idea, encouraging many pledges to accept bids and getting a good turnout from upperclassmen for the evening.

The time-honored tradition of initiation night is coming up very soon. With so many new initiates, it is sure to be a great time for all. We are excited about the new initiates, as they are a very energetic and fun group, which will undoubtedly contribute greatly in the future to all aspects of OTS.

Kate and I really enjoyed our time as rush chairs with OTS and are very happy with rush results. Thank you, everyone, for your support; we couldn't have done it without you. If anyone has any ideas for rush in the future, please feel free to contact us.

Kate Margalit '05
Scott Miner '04

Social Committee



Following up last spring's not-so-sappy anti-Valentine's Day party and gut-busting talent show won't be easy, but it's in the works for this fall. We have two great, back-to-back parties in the works for Grand Council. Friday night, November 8, we'll be kicking off the weekend with a “Winter Wonderland” party. Hardly a black tie affair, this shindig will boast plenty of beverages, from local winter brews to steamier concoctions that will warm you right up. To get the mood going, come dressed in your favorite winter attire—long-johns, ski garb, a hockey jersey, a figure skating dress—and we'll have sound to keep the spir-

it going all night long and an ice luge to top it off.

In keeping with Ithaca tradition, Saturday night is all about getting back to the '80s. Finally all the things you'd love to repress will be cool again. Dig through your closets, pull out the stonewashed jeans and leather minis, spray up your hair, and get ready to rock, dude! An abundance of beer, punch, pop-rocks, and the best dance tunes from the day will round out the evening. So until then, your Beta Chapter social chairs will be party planning, because, well, that's what we do best.

Cheers,
Ryan and Kelly

Unity Committee



The unity committee plans events that bring members together for activities other than Saturday night parties. Our wine and cheese event was combined with bid acceptance night. Lots of Finger Lakes wines were highlighted, and members had a great opportunity to meet pledges over wine tasting. In the winter we have great success with broomball (“hockey” in sneakers with brooms and a ball) to get members out for an evening of exercise and a way to build up a good thirst! Our Christmas dinner party before we leave for break is a great “dress-up” event, and the gift exchange is an opportunity for Santa to give out some interesting gifts. The skill shown by “student cooks” continues to amaze.

The *Ruminator* is published regularly by the Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. News contributions and pictures are always welcome and should be sent to OTS Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

Alumni Write From Far And Near

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In August 2001, MALCOLM A. KRAM '74 left the animal health industry to join the human pharmaceutical business as director of Pfizer's Global Medical Information Services Group. "While I do miss my animal health colleagues, the new position allows me an opportunity to be part of an interdisciplinary healthcare team. It's a lot of work, but very rewarding and another opportunity to see the world as I travel to Australia, Turkey, Brazil, and Latvia. Pfizer has recently ranked as the number-one pharmaceutical company for people to work for and has just introduced domestic partner benefits. Mark and I continue to do well and recently vacationed in the Galapagos Islands, with plans this year to bike through the Dolomites of northern Italy." Malcolm's address is 505 Lombard St., Philadelphia, PA 19147; malcolm.kram@comcast.net.

CRAIG B. WILLIAMS '77 is now living on a small farm in New Hampshire, with a small clinic in the back—"having fun, trying to keep it simple with a new girlfriend, and doing some biking and skiing." Drop him a line at retrovet23@attbi.com or at P.O. Box 279, Nottingham, NH 03290.

JON S. PATTERSON '81 returned to Ithaca in June 2001 for his 20-year reunion. "It was great to see 32 of my classmates and to play softball again with players from 'Nystagmus,' the 1980 intramural championship team (graduate division)." Jon teaches in the department of pathobiology at Michigan State University's vet school, where friends can reach him by e-mail at patterson@ahdl.msu.edu. He lives at 5932 Buttonwood Dr., Hazlett, MI 48840.

"John and I will be attending some of the reunion activities with our daughter Alix this June," wrote MARY DENVER '92 in the spring. "We can't wait to see everyone again. We are expecting another child in September." Mary works for the Baltimore Zoo and can be reached at bzzoovet@aol.com or at 2146 Tome Highway, Port Deposit, MD 21904.

JANINE DiSTEPHAN '92 reports a new address of 2234 Palmer Ave., Apt. 2J, New Rochelle, NY 10801 (jdistephan@msn.com).

Contact DANA KING '95 at kingd37@yahoo.com or at 150 Talmadge St., Madison, WI 53704.

Congratulations to KATHLEEN J. CONGEL '96 on her June 2001 marriage to John Dalgety. Kathy and John live at 210 Morgan Rd., Syracuse, NY 13219, and e-mail reaches Kathy at abc-pac@email.msn.com.

"Greetings from upstate New York," writes KAREN L. LOVE '96 from 3420 Cobb Hill Rd., Cazenovia, NY 13035. Karen works at Village Veterinary Hospital in Canastota and has a two-year-old son, Nathan.

JACQUELYN A. ARNS '97 is currently working full time at a companion animal practice in White Plains, New York—"exactly *not* where I thought I'd be by now, but I'm very happy with where I am! I'm keeping busy with the commute and the model horse hobby. KATE DONIS '97 is part owner of a new emergency clinic in the Lake Placid area, and ELSA LeBARS '97 has just started her own relief vet business. I saw both of these guys (and JAY STONEFIELD '97, who's now married) at WVC in February. REENA SHAH '97 got married in October 2001, and KRISTINA VYGANTAS '97 is engaged." Jackie's address is 755 S. Britain Rd., Southbury, CT 06488; drsteggy@aol.com.

MICHAEL F. GORRA '97 is pleased to announce the birth of his second daughter, Abigail, on February 18, 2002. He adds, "I'm still working in emergency and critical care and loving North Carolina." Send best wishes to the Gorra family at 15 Poplar Forest Lane, Pittsboro, NC 27312; mmgorra@mindspring.com.

When he wrote in the spring, ERIC LINNETZ '97 was planning to move to the Midwest to begin a small animal medicine residency at the University of Illinois. We don't yet know

where he's living, but e-mail will reach him at ericlinnetz@hotmail.com.

"I finally bought my own surfboard last fall," writes GABRIELLE RAVINA '97. "I was looking forward to surfing some nice spring swells when I broke my arm while snowboarding." Gabby lives half a block from the ocean at 114 Anchorage Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062, and her e-mail address is gabbyravina@mallcity.com.

Keep in touch with MALISSA DEHART '98 at missdvm1@hotmail.com or at 201 Villa Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216.

Joseph and SARAH (Wilson) CUMMINGS '99 tied the knot last fall and are now living at 13 Hazen St., Norway, ME 04268, with his two children, Christian and Hayley. Sarah works at Oxford Hills Veterinary Hospital in South Paris, and she can be reached by e-mail at sew@mega link.net.

REBECCA D. YOUNG '00 finished her internship at Equine Reproduction Concepts last fall and is now working as an associate at an equine practice in Connecticut. Write to her at 51 Fordyce Rd., New Milford, CT 06776; rdy17@hotmail.com.

Drop a line to DENNIS LEON '01 at dl26@cornell.edu or at 3421 El Camino Real, #5, Atherton, CA 94027.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

DANIEL B. DAVIS JR. '57
January 27, 2002

EUGENE M. JONES '50
November 25, 2001

WALTER J. MATUSZAK '43
November 18, 2001