

Minutes of the Alumni Association Meeting, March 25, 2000

Alumni Discuss Factors Contributing To Declining Rush Numbers

The Alumni Association of Omega Tau Sigma, Beta Chapter, Cornell University, conducted its annual business meeting at the chapter house, 200 Willard Way, on Saturday, March 25, 2000. Approximately 27 alumni were in attendance as well as 30 active members. The actives prepared a chicken parmigiana dinner that was thoroughly enjoyed and greatly appreciated by all.

The house officers were introduced by President Ericka Mendez '02. Everyone, especially the cooks, received rousing applause.

President Ned Dykes '74 gave the secretary-treasurer's report since Bart ('95) and Karyn ('96) Forlano were unable to attend. The balance in the

account after all expenses was \$3,327.12. During the past year, alumni contributed over \$15,000 to support the house. Rental income was about \$18,000. Taxes, utilities, and our alumni relations program continue to be the major expenses in operating the chapter. Even with a low alumni attendance this year, an additional \$700 was collected when the hat was passed to support the actives.

The election of officers for the coming year was held. Dr. Nathan Dykes '74 was re-elected president, Dr. Beth Nichols '94 was re-elected vice president, and Drs. Karyn Moody-Forlano '96 and Bartholomew Forlano '95 were re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Active members joined alumni in a

serious discussion regarding the relatively low number of new members. The fall rush produced 13 new members, the spring rush another three. This represents less than 20 percent of the entering veterinary class.

Discussion found several factors that might be the cause for reduced success signing up new members. First, there seems to be less reliance on the fraternity system for social support outside of the college. Second, there are more clubs and activities within the college. Third, all vet students, members or not, are invited to our social events—so why pay dues! And, finally, there just seem to be fewer people interested in joining organiza-

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Dressed up and ready to dance the night away at Charity Ball 2000.

UPCOMING DATES TO HIGHLIGHT

September 22-23, 2000
Homecoming Weekend

Rededication of the portrait of former dean Edward Melby; scholarship reception

October 9-10, 2000

50th Anniversary celebration of the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health

June 7-10, 2001

Dedication of the college's Millennium Sundial

OTS Helps Others

To date, our philanthropy program has been very successful. In the beginning of the year we held a blood drive and had a great turnout—over 60 pints of blood were collected by the American Red Cross! This was a particularly important blood drive because New York state had less than a day's supply in its bank and needed all of the donors it could get. OTS members sat outside the school cafeteria to fill up the donor sign-up sheet, signed people in on the day of the drive, and manned the canteen booth. We will be sponsoring another blood drive in the days ahead and hope to get even more donors.

On March 4 we held the 11th annual Charity Ball at the Lake Watch Inn. We had phenomenal attendance and raised \$2,000 to donate to the Elmira SPCA, which recently lost its funding. Every one ate, drank, and was merry. The Charity Ball also gave us a chance to see classmates, clinicians, and faculty in all their finery—what a change from scrubs and coveralls!

We're looking forward to even more success in the future.

Mary Bean '02
Katie Garrett '03
Philanthropy Co-chairs

Finances Bright

Our financial situation is bright. Most of the officers have done a good job of staying within budget while still making their events a success. Most of the members have remained faithful by paying their dues. Several members have still not paid, but I promise to get the money from them.

We have several fund-raising events in the works. We plan on having penny wars, in which the different class years give money to us, and the one with the most money gets a plaque to commemorate its victory. We are also running concessions at the annual vet players performance. I think both events will be successful.

I would like to thank all of the alumni who donated money to OTS at the alumni dinner. Once again, your generous donations have helped to keep the fraternity healthy and viable.

Marcus Smail '02
Treasurer

Return Your Newsform Today!

The Lowdown On Unity Efforts

So far this semester we have had two very successful unity events. Our Super Bowl party featured samples of the exquisite culinary talents of our very own President Mendez and her equally talented companion, Mike. In comparison, microwave popcorn will never be the same again!

Our second unity event of the year 2000 was the pre-Charity Ball 'tails party (for those of you who are like me and don't know, 'tails equals cocktails and has nothing to do with mice or carving knives).

Our next event was on Saturday, April 15. We painted Easter eggs for the first OTS Easter egg hunt, which was held on April 16 at the vet school.

Unfortunately, we were unable to schedule a broomball event for the semester. However, we set aside this semester's broomball money for the fall. This way, the upperclassmen can beat the underclassmen twice in a single semester!

John Sykes '02
Bob Nichols '03
Unity Chairs

Alumni Discuss Factors Contributing To Declining Rush Numbers

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tions and assuming responsibilities.

Alumni suggested that perhaps the changing demographics of the veterinary student body (75 percent women) is a factor—although the actives were quick to point out that the women are just as interested in social events, community service, and camaraderie as the men. For the coming year, we will make a greater effort to introduce incoming first-year students to the benefits and goals of our organization. During orientation week, the actives will sponsor some additional social events to introduce the class of '04 to OTS. After all, few if any will have ever heard about us. We discussed having alumni contact incoming freshmen during the summer to talk up the house; however, the

office of student affairs guards the privacy of all students and wouldn't give out home phone numbers.

Last year we extended a challenge to our fellow alumni at Alpha Psi who were struggling to maintain their chapter. We offered \$1,000 to their capital campaign to help resurrect their house. Unfortunately, that effort didn't come through, and our offer went uncollected. The loss of Alpha Psi may be temporary, but current conditions do not look promising for an active chapter. The long-standing friendly competition will be missed.

Current conditions in the house are good. There are no major building problems, and minor repairs are being covered from the current balance. I am looking into renovating the basement barroom as a memorial to Dr.

Bill Rebhun '71, whose untimely passing last year was a loss to us all. His wife, Bridget Barry Rebhun '91, has come forward to start a campaign that would finance a renovation project. We plan a first-class renovation estimated at \$30,000. Those interested now in contributing to this fund can forward pledges or checks to the alumni records office at P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876. Make your check payable to OTS, and write "Boomer" in the lower left corner of the check.

I hope everyone has a great summer, and please stop by the house if your vacation plans bring you to the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York.

Ned Dykes '74
OTS Alumni President

President Details Chapter's Efforts To Meet Challenges

Greetings, OTS alumni! I hope that this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy in the new millennium. Things here at OTS have been very busy in my first two months as president. After attending Grand Council in Georgia, we returned to Ithaca with revelations about how we could make OTS even better.

During Grand Council I had the opportunity to speak with fellow OTS members, and I was a little relieved to find that other chapters were facing similar problems about meeting attendance and event planning. To try to alleviate this problem all of our officers arranged a planning meeting early in the spring semester. Our goal was to make a spring calendar for the events that would be held the rest of the year. With a little patience, a little event juggling, and a lot of chili, the calendar was made and distributed.

The spring semester also brought about two new philanthropy events. On March 4, OTS gathered together a few volunteers to help out with

Cabin Fever, an event for the children of Ithaca that raises money to support all of Ithaca's daycare centers. The festival is full of fun—face painting, balloon rooms, rappelling, cartoon characters, arts and crafts, music, shows, and more. Our members contributed by helping set up, doing face painting, exchanging hugs (as a Teletubby), and accepting tickets. A fun time was had by all.

The other event new to Beta OTS was an Easter egg hunt for the children of the veterinary school community. Unity hosted an Easter egg coloring night to paint the eggs and collect prizes, and the following day the eggs were hidden in the vet school pet-free courtyard for the children to enjoy.

As you can see, we are working very hard to make OTS stronger and better. The recent demise of Alpha Psi at Cornell has made us realize that we are not immune to the changes that are occurring here at Cornell. Despite our rush efforts, our membership numbers are slowly

declining, which leaves us and many other clubs at school wondering about the reasons. We have yet to solve this mystery, although we have a few ideas about the cause of this current trend. The executives will be meeting with Dean Smith later this spring to discuss possible changes, one of which would be to include an introduction to OTS during orientation.

We realize that this matter is very important to alumni. During the alumni dinner a discussion led to some suggestions as to how alumni can help recruit members. These suggestions were very helpful, and we plan on initiating a new campaign that involves an outreach program from alumni to accepted students before their arrival at Cornell. With your help and loyalty to OTS I feel that it is very possible to break this current trend and emerge stronger than ever.

Sincerely,
Ericka Mendez '02
OTS President

Fun At The Holiday Dinner



Top: Full tables, empty plates, lots of smiles. Bottom: New members and old.

Rush '99 Garners 13 New Members

Rush 1999 saw the addition of over a dozen new members to the Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma. New members included students from the classes of 2001, 2002, and 2003, as well as a resident! Rush events included an information session, traditional dinners at the house, a well-attended disco party, and the ritual initiation night. The new members revealed their enthusiasm for OTS by leaping right into office and planning events. With such energetic, dedicated, and creative members, the years ahead look strong for OTS.

As I write, spring rush is already under way, with rush events tied to the annual rooms party and Easter egg decorating for the vet school community Easter egg hunt. Additionally, we hope to host a barbecue for Cornell undergraduate pre-veterinary students (it's never too early to start recruiting OTS members!). We hope to add several more committed members to the

house, setting us up for a successful fall rush for the class of 2004. Below is a list of the 1999 membership additions to OTS:

Christopher (Chris) Byers '03
Emily Cross '03
David Crum '02
Cathleen (Cathy) Emery '03
Katherine (Katie) Garrett '03
Chris Gordon '03
Geoffrey Grocock '03
Kathleen (Kathy) Juraska '01
Daniel (Dan) Mertens, resident
Sandra Marshall '02
Robert (Bob) Nichols '03
Daniel (Dan) Sosa '03
Jenifer (Jen) Whitey '03

If you have any rush ideas, please feel free to contact us—we always welcome new ideas!

Cathy Emery '03
Chris Byers '03
Rush Chairs

Alumni Report Their News From Far And Wide

Send best wishes to WALTER J. WILLIAMS '36 at P.O. Box 38, Upperville, VA 20185.

"I retired from practice on June 30, 1999, at 79 years of age," reports VINCENT E. McKENNA '50 (4760-D, NW 3rd St., Delray Beach, FL 33445). "I will spend the rest of my time sleeping, swimming, and playing with a computer in sunny Florida, where it rains almost every day."

JOHN H. BALDWIN '52 keeps in touch with Betty and BRUCE HAYNES '52 and Kate and JOHN McVICAR '52 and resides at 1448 County Rd. 32, Greene, NY 13778. "I spend the winters in Florida and the summers in New York. I keep busy bowling, golfing, and helping a longtime friend who buys and sells goats."

Pens ALVIN F. SCHWARTZ '57, "We're off to Kenya, Africa, for several safaris and a hot air balloon ride. We visited Norway last Septem-

ber. Retirement is great." He keeps in touch with Gail and TONY PALMINTERI '57 and Gail and NICK SCHATZLE '59. Write Alvin at 187 High St., Exeter, NH 03833.

Keep in touch with SAMUEL HUTCHINS III '58 at P.O. Box 218, 714 S. Barre Rd., South Barre, VT 05670; exhibits@aabp.org.

"Sounds like all is going well at OTS," writes JAMES T. HUDSON '60 (284 Station Rd., Newcastle, ME 04553). "We hear from JOHN BLACK '60, my brother-in-law, and his family is repopulating the western states—and I don't believe they are using artificial insemination either."

GARRISON M. BROWN '67 reports, "I sold my practice on eastern Long Island and bought a farm on Virginia's eastern shore. It took two years to move—65 antique tractors and agricultural paraphernalia, but now I'm re-rooted in soybean and cotton country. I work part-time

at the Eastern Shore Animal Hospital in Painter, Virginia. I spend the rest of my time fishing, crabbing, hunting, and at tractor shows and pulls. Anyone coming south on Route 13 is always welcome." Write Garrison at P.O. Box 567, Eastville, VA 23347.

"My position at Pfizer Animal Health has kept me on the move," writes MALCOLM A. KRAM '74 (505 Lombard St., Philadelphia, PA 19147; malcolm.kram@pfizer.com). "The past year my travel has focused on Europe, but this year travel will expand to Australia, South Africa, and Japan. I still speak frequently with JOHN LEE '74, who is living in Maryland and practicing in Pennsylvania. While I don't have direct contact with animals at Pfizer, I try to keep some skills by working at Lums Pond Animal Hospital in Delaware."

Send greetings to WILLIAM and LISA JOHNSON (both '86) at 1029 St. Hwy. 80, Edmeston, NY 13335.

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House Management Runs Smoothly

Things have been running quite smoothly at 200 Willard Way, thanks to help from Dr. Lowe and the alumni funds. After a few false fire alarms, we were able to have the fire alarm system fixed, and residents are sincerely grateful! In addition, the ovens in the kitchen were repaired, and the boiler was brought up to par to pass inspection.

The house currently has eight full-time residents renting out nine of its rooms. In addition, we continue to enjoy the company of several interns, externs, and veterinary technician students who rent out the remaining spare rooms for smaller lengths of time. Plans are under way to recruit residents for the sum-

mer and the next school year. We showed the house to several interested prospective students at the college's information weekends for incoming veterinary students.

A chapter-wide cleanup is in the works—we have plenty of yard work to complete—as well as a number of small in-house projects. We've put on our long-term wish list a garbage disposal, new kitchen sink plumbing, and windows for the basement meeting room. All members and residents appreciate your continued financial support of the house.

Jennifer Whitney '03
Bob Nichols '03
OTS House Managers



Jen Zurkus, dressed as a Telebubby, received plenty of hugs and kisses during Cabin Fever, one of our volunteer efforts.

Alumni Converge On Beta Chapter For March Dinner

On Saturday, March 25, 2000, the Beta Chapter of OTS held its annual Alumni Dinner during Cornell's Veterinary Conference weekend. Efforts were made to provide a clean, festive atmosphere for our visiting alumni.

After months of planning and days of cooking, the OTS house was ready to receive its guests that Saturday evening. At 6:00 p.m. cocktails were served, and alumni and members began trickling in. Dr. Ned Dykes was the bartender at the beginning of the evening, wielding bottles of alcohol like Tom Cruise in the movie *Cocktail*.

The dinner hour, 7:00 p.m., came about quickly for the socializing guests, and slowly people refilled their drinks and came down for dinner. A buffet dinner, featuring home-

made chicken parmesan, baked ziti, salad greens, and dinner rolls, was set before the intimate gathering. (I should mention that the house invested in four shiny new chaffing dishes with sternos for this event in an effort to cut down on rental costs in the future.)

Before dinner was adjourned, attendees enjoyed delicious gourmet cream pies and layered cakes, with hot coffee to wash it down. With appetites sated, Dr. Ned Dykes began the annual meeting.

Unlike other years, many alumni and all active members were present for the meeting. Members in attendance discussed issues important to the Beta Chapter, and the alumni board elections resulted in the same familiar faces for this next year.

After the meeting, in a group

effort members broke down tables and cleaned the dishes in anticipation of the DJ's tunes of SHOUT and RESPECT filling the basement. Numbers dwindled at the end of the night as friends new and old bid one another farewell. Yet goodbyes would be only short-lived, with Alumni Reunion fast approaching and the next alumni dinner only a year away. (This should be time enough for everyone to recruit his or her alumni friends.)

My thanks go out to all of the alumni who were able to attend this year as well as to the hard-working members of OTS who helped make this event so successful.

Sincerely,
Candice M. Flynn '02
Vice President



Scenes from Alumni Dinner 2000. LEFT COLUMN, TOP TO BOTTOM: Friends reunite. A fun gathering of old friends and new. A few of our new members came to fraternize with the alumni. MIDDLE COLUMN, TOP TO BOTTOM: Colgate smiles across the boards. Deep thoughts. (From left to right) Monica, David, Candice, Dr. Ned Dykes, Jardayna, and Mike finally rest after a day of preparation. RIGHT COLUMN, TOP TO BOTTOM: Food, friends, fun, and lots of beer. Secretary Sandra Marshall makes final dinner preparations.

Alumni Report Their News From Far And Wide

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LINDA MESSINGER MANOS '90 works at Veterinary Skin & Allergy Specialists, PC, Veterinary Referral Center of Colorado and resides at 5725 S. Macon St., Englewood, CO 80111. She receives e-mail at lmessinger@vrcc.com. "Check us out on the Web at vrcc.com. We have a beautiful 1,900-square-foot state-of-the-art specialty vet medicine facility." She passes along the news that RON GRUBER '89 lives in Vail, Colorado, and has two children with wife Susan. "He works as a veterinarian as well as a squash pro." She also notes that CELESTE BOATWRIGHT '90 is doing equine acupuncture and resides with hubby Eric in Geneseo, New York.

Write MICHAEL S. PAGLIARO '93 at 5 High Ridge Rd., Howell, NJ 07731; mmpags@aol.com.

DAVID A. PUERTO '93 and LORI S. WADDELL '93 continue at Penn. Lori has recently achieved board certification in emergency and critical care and has accepted a staff ICU position at UPenn. Dave is in his second year of his surgical residency. They recently visited MICHAEL PAGLIARO '93 and his wife, Megan. Stay in touch with Dave and Lori at 112 Ardsley Rd., Upper Darby, PA 19082; e-mail: puertoda@vet.upenn.edu.

Writes MICHAEL F. GORRA

'97, "Madeline Julin Gorra is now eight months old. I am working at a referral practice and emergency clinic in Cary, North Carolina. MATT ANTKOWIAK '97 is doing the same in Washington, DC." Drop Michael a line at 15 Poplar Forest Lane, Pittsboro, NC 27312; e-mail: mmgorra@mindspring.com.

"I'm back in Manhattan and loving every minute," boasts ELSA LeBARS '97 (232 E. 12th St., New York, NY 10003). She works for the Veterinary Emergency Group. "My job is great, and I love emergency medicine. I work with KATE DONIS '97. In other news, REENA SHAH '97 and JEAN FERRARI '97 are still at Oradell. JACKIE ARNS '97 is working in Connecticut. JULIE STEPHENS '97 is doing a residency in internal medicine at Purdue. I saw a lot of classmates at ACVIM last year, and all seem to be doing well. JUDY BARDSLEY '97 got married last summer and bought a house. JODI KORICH '97 and KEVIN CUMMINGS '96 got married. ERIC LINNETZ '97 got a new job in Massachusetts. SCOTT CHERRY '97 is working in Albany, New York, and applying for a surgical residency this year. MICHAEL ('97) and ELIZABETH GOLDMAN ('94) are having a second child and are living in bliss in New Jersey. CESAR TELLO '97 is opening a practice with his dad in New York City. Where are BRIAN BLACK '97, FRANCA DiFILIPPO '97, and SCOTT SUTOR '97?"

Keep in touch with SANDY TARASOFF '97 at 260 Old Kensico Rd., White Plains, NY 10607; sandytarasoff@juno.com.

Writes SUSAN N. ETTINGER '98, "I am currently a post-doc fellow at Duke University Medical Center in the department of radiation oncology. I am involved in a Nitt-program project grant. It's been quite a change of pace from New York City and also a change in weather from Ithaca. I can be

reached at 1228 N. Creek Dr., Durham, NC 27707, or send me e-mail at ettinger@radonc.duke.edu."

Send ALISON B. KAUFMAN '99 greetings at RR 1, Box 84-B, Centre Hall, PA 16828, or e-mail her at alisonk@csrlink.net. She writes, "We attended TARA SPARKS HALEY's ('99) wedding in October in Ithaca. We had a great time and saw classmates CLARE FAHY '99, NATACHA SIMPKINS '99, WENDY BRECKENRIDGE '99, SARAH WILSON '99, KEVIN WILSON '99, KIM RITTER '99, and CHRIS WEISNER '99. It was quite a party and great to be all together again." Send Tara best wishes at 7960 Avenida Navidad, #93, San Diego, CA 92122."

"My first six months at South Towne Veterinary Hospital have gone very well," writes REBECCA A. PRICE '99, "although I quickly discovered that there is a very steep learning curve for exotic animal medicine. Fortunately, one of the practice partners has had considerable experience with exotics and has been an exceptional teacher. I still prefer to see dogs and cats but enjoy being able to provide veterinary care for anything that comes through the doors. In addition to working at South Towne, I've been putting on some hours at the local emergency clinic. It's usually a busy but good time and provides some much needed extra money." Get in touch with Becky at 7 Alvin Place, Rochester, NY 14607.

Send best wishes to BHARATHI A. RANJITHAN '99 at 6166 Leesburg Pike, Apt. D211, Falls Church, VA 22044.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

DONALD F. ICKEN '46
December 7, 1998
CLARENCE R. ROBERTS '22
December 1, 1999

RUMINATOR

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 OTE Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.