



# RUMINATOR



Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma at Cornell

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 2004

A Message From The Alumni President —

## New Challenges For Beta Chapter House And Budget

The report from the annual business meeting is disappointing. For whatever reason, very few alumni attended the Cornell conference in March, which is when our yearly meeting is traditionally conducted. Though more than a dozen active members shortened their spring break to stay in Ithaca and feed and meet alumni, only a few alums drifted in and out of the house on Friday evening. Elections were not conducted and current officers (only Ned Dykes was present) were re-appointed (by me) to another term. We will continue to be well served by Vice President Brian Bourquin and Treasurer Bart Forlano.

Over the past year, dues and gift income was \$9,100 and rental income was

\$23,500, while the overall expense for insurance, utilities, taxes, alumni affairs, house repairs, etc., was about \$34,500. Since we had a few dollars left over from last year, our accounts balanced—but just barely. Overall, income from dues and gifts was less than prior years; rent was increased slightly, and expenses, to no surprise, keep going up. I am working at optimizing the effort to collect dues and gifts from our members while minimizing expenses in the process. It is only due to the generosity of our alumni that the house at Willard Way is still a solid part of the OTS experience. Without a house, the chapter might wither away, as has happened at other vet colleges.

Frequently, I've reported to you that

the house needs one repair or another—often just to pass our city inspections. This year is no different, only the expenses are larger. The tile roof leaks at several locations and some water damage is already an issue. The heating plant might make it though another winter, thanks to our innovative plumbing contractor, but not much longer. There's also a need for some sprucing up and painting. This year I will try to convene a group of past chapter presidents and other committed alumni to mount a campaign. It seems that every ten years or so this is necessary; our last effort was in 1994.

Ned Dykes '74  
Alumni President

## OTS Vets Work Globally, Party Locally

Dear Alumni,

Hola from Loja, Ecuador! I am spending my summer south of the equator, spaying, neutering, and working on community education with Dr. Elizabeth Daut '96, but I wanted to take a moment to update you on the fraternity. The internet sure makes these things easier! For those of you interested in international affairs, you'll be happy to learn that we also have a sister working with wildlife in Africa and one working with goats in Mexico.

OTS has had quite a crazy spring semester, as new leadership has brought new ideas and initiatives to the table. I served as rush chair last year so I may be partial to these kids, but the class of 2007 OTS members are absolutely wonderful! They are active and involved and tons of fun. I can't say that I carry favorites, but I do have to recognize our fundraising chairs, Kristin Maclauchlan and Cathlin

Craver, who have worked very hard, and especially our philanthropy chairs, Kristen Pastir and Vanessa Kirsipuu. In addition to helping organize the Annual Charity Ball, Vanessa and Kristen started two new philanthropy events: an information session for pre-vet undergrads and a sale of homemade dog biscuits, baked and packaged by OTS, which we sold at Open House to benefit the Tompkins County SPCA. So, I want to give a big "thank you" to these members and to all the active members in OTS who pitched in this semester.

Another change to the OTS spring line-up was initiated by the suggestion of our past president, Ryan Taggert, who thought that working with the Cornell Image Lab in the Veterinary Research Tower might be less frustrating than dealing with the fraternity composite companies. While this year presented a little bit

of live-and-learn, I am confident that next year the process will be very simple and also save the fraternity money. This spring also brought the return of the rooms party. Each of 10 rooms featured a different ambiance, different music, and a different beverage. I think the favorite may have been the karaoke room. It was great fun—at least the part that I can remember!

Well, that's all from here—the internet cafe is closing. I hope that you enjoy this latest issue of the *Ruminator*. Many thanks to those of you who support our fraternity. To our newly graduated alumnae and alumni, we wish you the best of luck, and we hope that you will remember the fun times you had at OTS. Do keep in touch.

Kristin Vyhna '06  
President

## Fundraising Efforts Succeed – From Candy To Chili

This year, with fundraising projects, we tried to provide fun activities while earning money for the chapter. For Valentine's Day, we sold "candy-grams" to students and Vet College staff members. We got together one evening for dinner (pizza—our prime source of

nutrition) to assemble the packages of candy for distribution. One faculty member, Dr. Bram Bezuidenhout, purchased one for every student in his anatomy class! In the spring, we sold refreshments at the Veterinary Players annual event. In the fall, we'll organize

another episode of the always-popular Chili Cookoff. Thanks to all the actives for support through the year.

Kristin Maclauchlan '07  
and Cathlin Craver '07

## Beta Chapter Philanthropy Projects Benefit Students, Delight Dogs, And Help The Environment

Our ongoing support for the Red Cross Blood Drive Program continues at the Vet College. Members provided volunteer support to sign up donors, assist the nurses, and serve refreshments. The first drive, held on February 26, 2004, exceeded our quota for donors. Another drive, which took place on April 22, was an equal success.

A new project for Beta aims to help Cornell undergrads with an interest in

Veterinary medicine as a career. This year we held our first panel discussion with the Cornell Pre-Vet Club. The informal session allowed undergraduates to ask questions about the application process, to find out more about attending Vet College at Cornell, and to learn the benefits of belonging to a professional fraternity.

This spring we baked and sold "gourmet dog biscuits" at the Vet Col-

lege Open House, held on April 17. The proceeds will benefit the Tompkins County SPCA. Members contributed their favorite recipes.

The Annual Charity Ball was held on May 8 at the Clarion Hotel. Proceeds from this popular event will be donated to the Cayuga Nature Center.

Kristen Pastir '07  
and Vanessa Kirsipuu '07

## OTS Unity Team Promotes Togetherness

The OTS Beta Unity Team organized two broomball contests at Cass Park rink for the fall and spring semesters. We've had this annual event for quite a few years now and the popularity increases each time. Though getting around on the ice without skates is challenging for many, there was still fierce competition. As usual, the first and second years were matched against the upperclassmen. In the fall, a full-strength, third-and-fourth year squad won both matches and they avoided losing both in the spring by scoring a goal late in the second game.

This event not only brings out everyone's competitive side but also gives us a chance to have some fun and get away from the books for a while. Beta will definitely be continuing this tradition and we're looking forward to breaking in some new members.

Another key event to promote unity was the annual wine tour. On Sunday, April 4, we hired a bus to visit four wineries on Seneca Lake: Standing Stone, Poplar Ridge, Wagner, and Red Newt. We tasted wine, toured the facilities, and just had a great time! It was a really fun event and we enjoyed spend-

ing time together! We hear that the wineries were happy with the way we behaved and we look forward to returning next year!

Unity Chairs



OTS

### Send Us Your News!

Members keep in touch, over the years and miles, and learn one another's personal and professional news when they take a moment to return the alumni newsform. Send yours along to the address on this page, at right.



## 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.

## Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

DONALD E. WEBSTER '49 is retired, but his practice is still in operation with four veterinarians. Write to Don at P.O. Box 676, Pine Plains, NY 12567.

ELVERD J. FRINK '58 has a new address: 164 Underwood Rd., Norwich, NY 13815.

JOHN F. WOOTTON '60 writes, "I retired in January 2004 (from my Cornell position as professor in the College of Vet. Med., Department of Biological Sciences), in the budgetary sense, but continue to be involved in research and will be teaching in Block 3 this year." Stay in touch with John at 4201 Garrett Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Send e-mail to jfw1@cornell.edu.

HERBERT C. DIETRICH '55 is retired and resides at 350 Auburn Dr., Daytona Beach, FL 32118. Send Herb e-mail at shdscooter@aol.com.

BRADFORD B. BROWN '56 lives at 1982 Riverside Dr., Vassalboro, ME 04989. He writes, "To the current OTS brothers and sisters, you are having the best four years of your lives! Thanks for your good care of OTS and its traditions. Your labors do not go unnoticed."

ALVIN F. SCHWARTZ '57 writes, "I visited with TONY PALMINTERI '57 and his wife, Gail, in Franklin Lakes. I'm looking forward to seeing NICK SCHATZLE '56 and PAUL CORWIN '57 in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea later this year. We just welcomed grandchild number nine to the family!" Stay in touch with Alvie at 187 High St., Exeter, NH 03833.

RICHARD G. THACKABERRY '65 has moved to 178 Housatonic Ave., Stratford, CT 06615. He writes, "I just stepped down after six years on the AAHA board of directors. I am looking forward to retiring soon. I plan to attend our 40th reunion in 2005." You can send Dick e-mail at thackr@aol.com.

J. PETER HANSEN '66 writes, "I retired in January 2004, selling my practice to Eric Anderson and Danica Salamon, both from Oregon. Now, Betsy

and I are planning to do some serious traveling in the U.S." Keep in touch with Peter at 104 Columbia Ave., Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

FERRIS G. GORRA '67 practices at the Aspetuck Animal Hospital in Marbledale, Connecticut. He writes, "My son, MICHAEL GORRA '97, and I have always worked and played well together. Working together now, as colleagues, has been better than I had expected. He tolerates me, and I defer as much as possible to him. I can handle playing more golf and enjoying my granddaughters." Stay in touch with Ferris at P.O. Box 2488, Marbledale, CT 06777; send e-mail to ferrisgg@yahoo.com.

PETER M. NEVEU '68 receives mail at P.O. Box 915, 184 Lake Rd., Chateaugay, NY 12920. He reports, "I'm still living in beautiful northern New York. I was elected as president of the NYSVMS for 2004. I'm looking forward to an exciting and challenging year." Send e-mail to dogdr1@aol.com.

EDGAR T. CLARK '69 has a new address: 1186 Barden Brook Rd., Eldrod, PA 16731. Send Edgar e-mail at ladybugfarm3@yahoo.com.

MALCOLM KRAM '74 writes, "In the fall of 2003 I went back to my true love and stepped away from Pfizer's human health group to return to their animal health division as associate director for veterinary operations. I was also asked by our dean to represent the Veterinary College on the University's committee on alumni trustee nominations. It's truly fascinating and I'd encourage you all to send me recommendations. It's my 30th reunion this year, so Mark and I will travel to Ithaca for the June Reunion. With AVMA's meeting in Philadelphia this July I hope fellow OTS members will feel comfortable contacting me for recommendations on food and fun." Reach Malcolm at 505 Lombard St., Philadelphia, PA, 19147; send e-mail to malcom.kram@pfizer.com.

RONALD W. HULSLANDER '75 makes his home at 105 Lesky Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845 and has his practice at the Agape Veterinary Center,

in the same town. You can send Ronald e-mail at agapevet@stny.rr.com.

ROGER G. ELLIS '77 lives at 285 Beecher Rd., Granville, NY 12832. He writes, "My four years as a field veterinarian with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has been great. It's always interesting and challenging. This job has given me a little more time for family and friends and for my volunteer work for Heifer International. I just returned from leading an animal well-being study tour to Honduras for veterinarians and animal science people. Last year was Cambodia and Thailand. It looks like my next trip after the Cornell conference will be to Tibet to evaluate Heifer's program there. We are so lucky to practice and live where we do. People are the same around the world. They are so welcoming. But they lack the resources in so many ways." You can stay in touch with Roger by e-mail at rellis6@adelphia.net.

JOSEPH E. MILLIGAN '79 has moved to 18903 Windsor Wood, San Antonio, TX 78258.

ALAN M. COREN '80 writes, "After 24 years, the practice of veterinary medicine remains as exciting and inspiring as ever. My oldest son, Jared, became an Aggie this fall at Cornell with aspirations of a career in veterinary medicine. My younger son, Jesse, has been working at our hospital for the past year and he loves it. So who knows! My wife, Karen, has been the best mother and wife a man could ask for. My practice has grown to nine veterinarians (including five Cornellians). This has enabled me to find wonderful balance in my life between professional, family, and recreational pursuits, I've become an avid sailor, skier, and mountain climber." You can keep in touch with Alan at 6 Vandercrest Ct., Dix Hills, NY 11746; send e-mail to acoren@whahzoo.com.

GHISLAINE "Peggy" DUHAMEL '80 reports, "What a year! I sold my practice and have enjoyed 15 months of freedom and fantastic travels—a safari in Botswana with Perdue '79 vets; Costa  
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## Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

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Rica; with Rotary to India for polio immunization day and travel; and, lastly, to Cyprus with OTS buddy KIT BLACKMORE '79. All good things must come to an end—stay tuned for news of my next stage of life!” Keep in touch with Peggy at 3085 Nelson Rd., Perryville, NY 13032; send e-mail to pegdrdog@aol.com.

CANDACE (Kagan) PLATZ '81 gets her mail at P.O. Box 1240, Auburn, ME 04211. She now works for the Maine Equine Association. Send Candace e-mail at ckpdvm@aol.com.

JAMES C. ZGODA '85 writes, “How did we get so old? I'm looking forward to planning our 20th reunion next year. Visit us at our practice website: [www.otterkill.com](http://www.otterkill.com). I keep in touch with ALAN POMERANTZ '85 who now lives and practices in North Jersey, and ANN HOHENHAUS '85 who, hard to believe, is now chief of medicine at the Animal Medical Center in New York City. Both are doing terrifically well.” You can reach James at 258 Maybrook Rd., Campbell Hall, NY 10916; send e-mail to [otterkill@compuserve.com](mailto:otterkill@compuserve.com).

DOUGLAS A. BEANE '88 lives at #5-D Ike Noble Dr., Canton, NY 13617; ([beanet@canton.edu](mailto:beanet@canton.edu)). He writes, “I'm just finishing teaching my fifth year in the veterinary technician program at SUNY Canton. I'm enjoying academia and interacting with the students on a daily basis. I still do some bovine and equine work on the side. I can't seem to give up the DA surgery, the umbilical hernia surgery, or the embryo transfer fun. I've been on The NYS executive board for the past year as the northern New York representative. I have enjoyed meeting up with old friends from OTS such as BRIDGET BARRY '91 to share a few beers and a golf game or two.”

ROBERTA A. DUHAIME '89 gets her mail at P.O. Box 6299, Laredo, TX 78042. She reports, “Hello all! I am a Texan again and am working in a newly created position of “Tick Epidemiologist” for the mounted patrol tick force along the U.S./Mexican border permanent quarantine zone. I'm enjoying it.”

KATHLEEN MURNAN '89 lives at 1024 N. Ridge Ct., Keller, TX 76248. Send her e-mail at [jmech@lilly.com](mailto:jmech@lilly.com).

KAREN S. KEARNS '93 has moved to 3663 Seventh Ave. #3, San Diego, CA 92103. She works at the Zoological Society of San Diego. Send Karen e-mail at [kkearns@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:kkearns@sandiegozoo.org).

MARY PETRITSCH '93 has moved to 5 Ballard Pl., Stony Brook, NY 11790. Mary and her husband, George, welcomed Zachary Thomas into the family on July 7, 2003, thrilling all, including Zach's older brother, Timothy.

MARIA DIGIOVANNI '94 has a new address: 325 W. Hedgelawn Way, Southern Pines, NC 28387. She writes, “My husband, Dave, and I are still stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and living in Southern Pines. We just had our third (and last!) boy, George Andrew Casey (via c-section) born January 29, 2004, and weighing 8 lbs, 13 oz. He joins big brothers Philip (6) and Jack (4) and Momma is now happily spayed! He is adorable and we are really enjoying the boys although I am feeling a bit overwhelmed by all the testosterone in the house. On a sad note, Dave was just deployed for the third time. We're hoping it will only be three months until he can return home. We hope everyone is doing well and would love to have anyone visiting in the area come stay with us—this is great horse and golf country.” Send e-mail to [davmar@nc.rr.com](mailto:davmar@nc.rr.com).

DEANNA (Greer) SCHOENBORN '96 and family have moved to 148 Buchanan Ct., Sausalito, CA 94965. She writes, “My husband, BILL SCHOENBORN '94, finished his radiology residency and now practices in the Bay area. We welcomed our son, Robert, into the world on December 26, 2003. We marvel at everything he does, like all new parents! I am taking a break from my practice to be a full-time mom and to study for the ABVP board exam. We hope to see everyone at the class of '94 reunion this summer.” Send e-mail to Deanna and Bill at [deevm232@aol.com](mailto:deevm232@aol.com).

ERIC H. LINNETZ '97 writes, “My biggest news is that I recently became

engaged to my girlfriend of 2.5 years, Doria Ruscitti. The wedding date has not yet been determined but will not be until after July 2005 when I finish my residency in Illinois. In the meantime, I'm getting ready to take the qualifying exam in June while Doria gets ready to spend the summer in San Francisco as a human resources intern for Sun Microsystems. Doria will graduate in December 2004 with a dual masters in business administration and human resources and industrial relations.” Keep in touch with Eric at 2215 Melrose Dr., #A, Champaign, IL 61820; send e-mail to [elinnetz@uiuc.edu](mailto:elinnetz@uiuc.edu).

JULIE A. STEPHENS '97 lives at 216-07 40th Ave. 2nd Fl., Bayside, NY 11361. She has been working at the Katonah-Bedford Veterinary Center since June 2003 and loves it. Send Julie e-mail at [odin9lives@hotmail.com](mailto:odin9lives@hotmail.com).

SANDY TARASOFF-SCIARRA '97 writes, “Christopher and I had a baby girl on March 18, 2004, named Victoria Rose. She joins our family of three horses, two dogs, three cats, and three parrots.” Keep in touch with Sandy at 17 Interlochen Rd., Carmel, NY 10512.

BRIAN J. BOURQUIN '01 lives at 508 Columbus Ave., #5, Boston, MA 02118; You can send Brian e-mail at [brian\\_bourquin@hotmail.com](mailto:brian_bourquin@hotmail.com).

MARCUS D. SMAIL '02 lives at 5920 Jane Way, Alexandria, VA 22310. He works at the Alexandria Animal Hospital. Keep in touch with Marcus by e-mail at [smailmannndvm@yahoo.com](mailto:smailmannndvm@yahoo.com).

CHRISTOPHER G. BYERS '03 has moved to 263 Cadman Ave., West Babylon, NY 11704. He has a new position at the Long Island Veterinary Specialists in Plainview, New York. Send e-mail to [cgb6@cornell.edu](mailto:cgb6@cornell.edu).

### DECEASED

*We regret to report the death of:*

DORWIN H. PERELLA '34  
in March 2004