

UMINATOR

Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma at Cornell

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SUMMER 2001

Alumni President Plans To Create Executive Council

Each fall I write to you at the beginning of the school year to let you know that Omega Tau Sigma remains a strong Veterinary College community program. This year is no exception. Our rush activities continue to attract about a third of the veterinary class, which represents 25-35 new members. OTS spirit is soaring!

This year we endured yet another round of housing inspections that cataloged several pages of minor and substantial problems at 200 Willard Way. Our summer vet student residents, led by Dana Hatfield '04, worked through sweltering August heat to correct most of the minor problems. Contractors will have to do the rest.

I appeal to you now, as in the past, to continue your generous support of the fraternity. We rely on dues, contributions, and rent (from 12 rooms) to maintain our property. The capital campaign to remodel the basement, in memory of Bill Rebhun, is

ongoing but hasn't reached needed dollars to start construction. Many thanks go to those of you who have given generously to support this project and the house in general. The honor roll is included in this mailing. But, the house needs repairs and upgrades to meet current standards, and more money is needed.

This fall I plan to create an OTS Alumni Corporation Executive Council. We need volunteers who can help the fraternity formalize a nonprofit corporate charter, raise funds, provide leadership to maintain our fraternity, and help with activities here in Ithaca. Those of you who live within a few hours drive of Cornell are especially encouraged to contact me. This year I appeal for your time as well as your dollars.

Fraternally,
Ned Dykes '74
Alumni President



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN—
32% OF GOAL REACHED**

Members Hope To Host Grand Council '02

Greetings, OTS alumni! The Beta Chapter is as active as ever, thanks to the hard work of our dedicated officers and members. Our house managers have been cracking the whip when it comes to keeping the house clean, and the new curtains in the living room and basement were a miniature face-lift. With more than half a dozen new members added to the house in the spring, we were standing strong as we headed into the fall.

I want to thank all of the alumni who were able to make it to the alumni banquet on March 24, as well as everyone who made a donation to the house. In a reversal of the previous year's events, the current members outnumbered the alumni, sparking discussion about how to increase alumni attendance. For those of you who missed out, our

resident bartenders, Sarah, Jocelyn, and Meredith, served up some fabulous cocktails before we headed downstairs to stuff ourselves with a catered dinner of lasagna, chicken, and cheesecake. Following the annual alumni meeting, a DJ spun tunes until late in the evening, while OTS members, old and new, danced the night away. We all owe a huge thank you to Worthy Master Chris Byers for planning the entire evening—I just hope he wasn't too stressed out to enjoy it all!

One of the things discussed at the alumni meeting was our plan to host Grand Council in 2002. We will be making the bid to host at this fall's Grand Council at Ohio State University; we hope to organize a large member contingent to travel to Ohio for the

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**Join Us For
HOMECOMING '01
October 13
Cornell
vs.
Harvard
Kickoff is 1:00 p.m.
SEE YOU THERE!**

Members Hope To Host Grand Council '02

(Continued from page one)

event in support of our hosting efforts (maybe this year we'll be the Gonzo Olympics champions!). We are organizing committees to be in charge of writing up the various sections of the bid, including lodging, scheduling, food, and, of course, the budget; we have also established a Grand Council travel fund as a repository for our fund-raising profits in order to encourage more people to attend. It would be fabulous to have the basement renovations completed by next October so OTS chapters from other schools can all marvel at our wonderful house! As our plans evolve, I will keep you informed, and if any alumni happen to be in the Ithaca area in October, we would love to have you attend Grand Council!

Spring was a busy time on the social front. We thwarted cupid with an anti-Valentine's Day party, then we sweet-talked rushees at a fiesta rush party. Our annual rooms party was on March 31, which had an American holidays theme—each room represented a different holiday, from the Fourth of July to Mardi Gras to Halloween, with decorations, food, and drinks to match. As always, the house was packed and dancing continued in the base-

ment long after the residents closed their rooms to go to sleep. Spring also included an Easter egg hunt, a talent show, and senior roast.

Our philanthropy chairs were very active last spring, most notably with the annual charity ball held at the Lake Watch Inn on February 24. Vet School faculty, residents, and students packed the ballroom to enjoy appetizers and dancing; in the process, \$1,700 was raised for charity. We donated the proceeds to the Cortland County SPCA, which is creating a new medical fund for its animals with the money, and to the Tompkins County SPCA, to be used for purchasing medication at the Cornell Pharmacy. Our regular blood drives were stronger than ever.

I am extremely honored to be this chapter's most worthy master and to have the opportunity to work with the fabulous people who make up this house. The enthusiasm and pride of our members is a large part of what makes OTS the amazing organization it is. To keep up with chapter events please visit our Web site at <http://web.vet.cornell.e~/public/ots>.

Cathy Emery '03

Annual Parties A Hit With Members

Last semester we held an anti-Valentine's Day party, complete with decorations featuring failed pick-up lines and other romantic disappointments. Jocelyn, our Unity co-chair, unveiled a special drink for the occasion, a love affair, which vanished in minutes. There was a substantial showing of members and non-members alike, and some of the non-members were interested in rushing and showed up for our fiesta party, a joint effort between rush, social, and unity.

In March we held the annual rooms party with the theme American holidays. We celebrated some of our favorite holidays and a few unconventional ones (such as "The Night Before Thanksgiving" and "A Day at the State Fair"). After an intense decorating effort from the members, the house looked spectacular.

In April we featured our final event of the semester, the annual talent show, during which some of the Vet College's finest talent—and some of the worst—was judged by an expert panel of faculty and staff.

Daniel Fischer '04 and Meredith Re '04
Social Co-chairs

Beta Chapter's Philanthropy Successes Include Visit From Santa

Our successful year as philanthropy co-chairs began last winter with pet photos with our very own Dr. Dykes as Santa. Many area animals made an appearance, including an alpaca with Dr. Mary Smith. Members helped grab the attention of the pets to show off their most photogenic sides. They also baked festive cookies and received donations from pet parents. Proceeds went to the Tompkins County SPCA.

Our first blood drive was also successful. With intensive advertising, we were able to increase our donation by 10 pints, giving a total of 70 pints of blood. Betas did a fantastic job by donating time and energy.

We also held our 13th annual charity ball in March. Students, faculty, staff, and clinicians spent the evening dancing the night away and helped support two area organizations, the Cortland County SPCA, which will allocate the funds to support the medical needs of the animals in their care, and the Tompkins County SPCA, which will purchase better quality medications.

Other events in the spring included another blood drive and an Easter egg hunt for the children of the Veterinary School community.

Elisa Salas '04
Terri Olivett '04
Mitzi Zarfoss '04
Philanthropy Co-Chairs



Santa (Dr. Ned Dykes) spreads some holiday cheer with OTS members and even the Christmas lama.

<http://web.vet.cornell.e~/public/ots>

After Strong '00-'01 Year, Beta Aims To Sustain Growth

The 2000-2001 academic year was one of tremendous growth for the Beta Chapter! With the strong leadership skills of Cathy Emery '01, most worthy master, Beta Chapter had overwhelming impact locally, as well as internationally, supporting a plethora of social and philanthropic events.

The Beta Chapter is proud to announce we are exploring the feasibility of hosting Grand Council in 2002. The leadership of the chapter is currently in touch with Delta Chapter (Ontario Veterinary College), the 2000 Grand Council hosts, in an effort to determine the extent of planning necessary. We would greatly appreciate any alumni input and/or donations for the planning of this endeavor. We hope to send a large delegation to Gamma (Ohio State University) during the 2001 Grand Council in October, a feat that will require considerable financial prowess by our master of finance, John DeBiasio.

Beta Chapter earned the following awards at the 2000 Grand Council at Guelph in Ontario, Canada:

Best Sustained Chapter, Second Place
Best Improved Chapter, Second Place
Best Community Service, Third Place

We hope to improve these standings, but second and third places aren't too shabby!

On March 24, 2001, the Beta Chapter held its annual alumni banquet. After a truly poor attendance last year by both active members and alumni, I am proud to say member attendance at the event this year was extraordinary, as more than 60 active members showed up to socialize, entertain, and dance with the sparse number of alum-

ni. That's right! There were very few alumni present this year as well, a fact that has both active members and the Beta Chapter Alumni Association concerned! I hope every alumnus will reconsider his/her role with Omega Tau Sigma and make a renewed effort to become actively involved in our fraternity once again.

The Beta Chapter expects to continue to grow and increase its presence in Ithaca as an organization dedicated to community service, while providing outlets for social interaction for its increasing membership. Should you have questions or concerns about Beta Chapter, please contact me at cgb6@cornell.edu or the Beta Chapter Alumni Association. Go Big Red!

Christopher G. Byers '03
 Worthy Master

Candygrams, Bake Sale Highlight Spring Fund-Raising Efforts

Last school year the fund-raising committee sponsored a Valentine's Day candygram sale. The week before Valentine's Day, orders were taken for chocolate candygrams to be delivered on Valentine's Day morning to the lucky recipients. With an unexpected large number of orders—a whopping 176—we found ourselves making candy bags with attached handwritten greetings well into the night. We raised more than \$100 for the event, and this year's event should be much more lucrative given what we learned last time.

We also held a bake sale from April 6-8, during intermission at the all three performances of the Vet Players production of *Guys and Dolls*. Also in April was penny wars week, where each class competed to collect loose change and be the class with the most pennies.

In the works for this year, the fund-raising committee has its whiskers twitching for rodent races. OTS community pets will be sponsored to compete for fastest critter. OTS is looking forward to this and the annual fall chili cookoff contest in downtown Ithaca. These events not only raise money for OTS, but increase community awareness for the Vet School. We hope to have another successful year.

Kris Grau
 Amy Leach
 Fund-raising Committee Co-Chairs

OTS Looking Forward To Fall Rush

OTS enjoyed another thriving rush season with eight new members joining the fraternity this spring out of nine bids handed out. Combined with the new members inducted last fall, nearly half of the first-year class is an active OTS member! The booming membership patterns begun last fall certainly lasted into the spring. Other big news in the spring was the election of new OTS rush chairs, Ben Benander and Ashley Shelton, both members of the class of 2004.

While traditionally less involved than the larger fall rush, the festivities of the spring semester kicked off with a night of bowling at the local lanes. Current members, rushees, and even alumni were on hand to share in the fun and get to know the prospective members. Combining a rush

event with a unity event aided the great turnout. The big happening of spring rush was the fiesta party at the OTS house. Margaritas and cervesa were flowing, and partygoers enjoyed tunes played by DJs Jay Crandell '01 and Joe Eagleston '04. The beginning of the party was reserved for rushees and OTS members. Later on, the event was open to all. The date of the celebration coincided with the first weekend visit by prospective students for this year's class, which made for a great crowd and gave future students a glimpse of OTS.

As we head into fall rush, we are excited to increase our numbers again with great people and new enthusiasm. The Beta Chapter is running strong, a trend that will undoubtedly continue this year.



OTS members and guests at the charity ball.

Money Matters: Beta In The Black

I am proud to report that the Beta Chapter is in the black. We currently have 64 dues-paying members who have provided the capital to fund all the great social and unity events that have taken place this semester. I would like to thank all the alumni who donated at the annual alumni dinner and give special thanks to Dr. Katherine Miller for her very generous contribution.

John DeBiasio
 Master of Finance

Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

WALTER J. WILLIAMS '36 writes, "I did large animal practice until 1970. By that time I had made my first million, so I retired! I have been having a 'ball' ever since!" Walter was president of the Virginia Medical Association from 1963-'64. Write to him at P.O. Box 38, Upperville, VA 20185.

In December of 2000, JAMES F. PEDDIE '65 and wife Linda moved from their home of 32 years on Lake Sherwood to an interim address (15333 Rains Court, Moorpark, CA 93021) near Moorpark College where Jim serves as department chair for the exotic animal training and management program. Jim also provides care for the animal collection at the college, is a consultant for a documentary film project for Animal Planet, and serves as treasurer of the AVMA. The Peddies' ultimate destination is Faria Beach, between Ventura and Santa Barbara, where they are building a home just 20 minutes from their only granddaughter. E-mail Jim and Linda at drspeddie@earthlink.net.

KEITH P. RICHTER '81 reports a new address of 19875 Mount Israel Place, Escondido, CA 92029.

JANETTE RELYEA '90 announces her marriage to Jayson DeMan. Her new address is 175 Primrose Hill Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572; dvmjannette@hvc.rr.com.

KAREN ZELINSKI '93 now works at Mainline Emergency Animal Hospital. Write to her at 374 Kirks Lane, Drexel Hill, PA 19026; kzelinski@aol.com.

DUSTY (Weaver) NAGY '95 has had a busy year. In September, she started working in the food animal medicine and surgery section at the University of Illinois, and in March, she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Peyton Dorothy. Send congratulations to Dusty—who sees JOE IMPELLIZERI '94 regularly—at 509 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61801; dnagy@cvm.uiuc.edu.

JACQUELINE M. BARTOL '96 sends along this new address: 157-2 Hare Rd., Milton, NH 03851. Jackie works at the Rochester Equine Clinic in Rochester, New Hampshire.

When KATHLEEN CONGEL '96 (531 Tompkins St., Syracuse, NY 13204) wrote to us in March, she was planning her June 30 wedding and was looking forward to seeing some of her classmates on her big day. This year, Kathy was able to meet

Karyn and BART FORLANO's ('95) beautiful baby, Robert, and KAREN LOVE's ('96) son, Nathan, who was "running around like a madman—he definitely takes after his mom!"

Please note this updated address for KATHERINE DONIS '97 of HCR 2, Box 74, Ausable Forks, NY 12912.

ERIKA M. PRAUL '97 pens, "Darryl and I are living above the vet clinic in a beautiful house that we share with our wonderful Shi Tzu, Norman D. Moose, and our new baby boy, Jacob Taylor, who was born on February 1, 2001. We hope to soon own this clinic (Windsor Vet), where we both currently work and are working on our Web site (www.windsorvetclinic.com)." Write the Prauls at P.O. Box 154, Windsor, ME 04363; edpraul@usa.net.

Since completing an internship in 1998, GABRIELLE F. RAVINA '97 has been working at Pacific Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Service located at the northern end of Monterey Bay. When not working, Gabby enjoys the ocean and has taken a few surfing lessons. Write to her at 1800 Seascape Blvd., Aptos, CA 95003; gabbyravina@mailcity.com.

SUSAN N. ETtingER '98 moved back to New York City to start an oncology residency at the Animal Medical Center. Her new contact information is 515 E. 72nd St., Apt. 24H, New York, NY 10021.

MICHELLE EGLI '99 purchased her first home this spring and plans to stay in Dover for some time. She loves her job working with racehorses and brood mares—"talk about opposite ends of the spectrum!" Contact her at 41 Turningleaf Court, Dover, DE 19904; meglidvm@worldnet.att.net.

DIANE M. SIDOLI '00 can be reached at 17 Valley Rd., #1, Butler, NJ 07405.

"It's true that a higher percentage of new grads leave their first job within a year!" pens REBECCA YOUNG '00, who now works for Equine Reproductive Concepts. Say hello at P.O. Box 241, Amisville, VA 20106; rdy17@hotmail.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the passing of:

ROBERT E. BARDWELL '46
March 12, 2001

DONALD R. DREW '45
February 23, 2001

THOMAS W. GARBUTT '55
January 1, 2000

PETER V. POGGI JR. '62
November 1999

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 below.



Meredith Re '04 and Jocelyn Hawkins '04 enjoy the anti-Valentine's Day party in February 2001.

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.