



UMINATOR

Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma at Cornell

ITHACA, NEW YORK

WINTER 2001-2002

Message From The President: **Membership Is A Lifelong Commitment**

Dear Beta alumni:

As always, I send you my greetings and wishes for a healthy and successful New Year. Our fraternity remains strong with 34 new members pledged this fall. Additionally, there are nearly 1,200 Cornellians who are members of this esteemed organization. We have one of the largest and most active alumni associations among all OTS chapters. This is noteworthy and fortunate as other chapters falter when alumni lose interest. Without alumni support, the house on Willard Way would fall into disrepair, and that, inevitably, would lead to declining membership, interest, and often loss of the Charter. I continually remind the veterinary students who join OTS that their membership is a lifelong relationship, and the day will come when they too will be called upon to support this fraternity.

As of this newsletter, about 100 alumni have contributed \$8,500 this year toward dues and contributions. Thank you very

much for your continued support, but that is less than 10 percent of our membership. Please consider any sum sufficient to help support the fraternity. We are still raising funds to renovate the basement bar-party room in memory of Dr. Bill Rebhun, so feel free to contribute to that effort as well. House repairs required this year have also affected our budget, and we need to recoup from those expenses.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend Cornell Conference this year—March 15-17. The actives are planning to cook you a great meal on Saturday evening. Our annual business meeting after dinner will discuss both house finances and my efforts to convene an Executive Council of Alumni to help manage and direct the fraternity. I look forward to seeing many of you in Ithaca in March.

Ned Dykes '74
Alumni President

Beta Awarded Best Chapter Honors At 74th Grand Council; Set To Host 75th Council In Ithaca

Fifteen members traveled to Gamma Chapter at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, for the 74th Grand Council in October 2001. The event was the culmination of an incredible year, and the chapter was recognized with two prestigious awards. Beta Chapter was awarded the J.P. Donohoe Award for Sustained Excellence. Grand Council delegates vote based on chapter presentations of social, unity, and philanthropy events and financial and alumni affairs to select the chapter deemed the "Best Chapter" that year. Beta is very proud of this distinction and hopes to repeat the honor at the next Grand Council. That, after all, is what sustained excellence is all about.

As befits our award status, Beta Chapter submitted the winning bid to host the 75th Grand Council in the fall of 2002. Our members are very excited to be hosting the Jubilee Grand Council event and are thrilled to invite all alumni to Ithaca for a weekend of socializing and relaxation. In the upcoming months, Beta Chapter will begin organizing and fund raising for this event. Should you be willing to offer a donation of time, sponsorship, or money toward Grand Council, please contact Beta Chapter adviser Dr. Ned Dykes '74 at nld2@cornell.edu. We appreciate any financial assistance our alumni may be able to extend as we prepare for the 2002 Grand Council and look forward

to hearing from each of you in the very near future.

Beta Chapter continues to thrive. We have been recognized as the leading chapter in North America through our many social, unity, and community service activities for our members and surrounding communities. Our spirits are high, and we look forward to a great year that finishes at the top with Grand Council in Ithaca.

Christopher G. Byers
Worthy Master
cgb6@cornell.edu

CORNELL VET CONFERENCE—MARCH 15-17, 2002. SEE YOU THERE!



Beta Chapter Increases Emphasis On Philanthropy

This year OTS has three philanthropy co-chairs, allowing us to dedicate more time to charitable projects. In addition, our 34-member pledge class of 2001 has shown remarkable ability to mobilize and organize events to add to our achievements.

Our philanthropy chairs have worked closely with the American Red Cross to increase blood donations. We stretched the capacity of the Red Cross staff to receive as many donors as it could, consistently resulting in 10 percent increases over previous years (now yielding 70 pints per drive). This trend was most evident in the outpouring of support by the Cornell community and OTS members in the wake of the September 11 tragedy. The blood drive on September 26 was successful, to say the least. OTS members organized, staffed, and gave their own blood to support the cause.

The charity ball, always a popular and lucrative philanthropic event, raised even more money this year (\$1,800). We used part of these proceeds to create a fund in our

name at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals pharmacy. These funds allow medications to be dispensed to the Tompkins County SPCA for animals treated by veterinary students. The Cortland County SPCA also benefited from this charitable effort and plans to use its OTS fund to provide animals with medical treatment.

In April, we organized an Easter egg hunt for children of the Veterinary College community. In an overwhelming turnout, there was much merriment by children and OTS members alike.

Our OTS 2001 pledge class organized the first "Pet Photo with Santa" fund-raiser at the college. Our patrons included members of the college community and their cats, dogs, and yes, llamas. Our very own Dr. Dykes '74 was a jolly and rosy-cheeked Santa. Through this event, we raised several hundred dollars for the Tompkins County SPCA.

The philanthropy chairs will ensure the 2002 pledge class continues this tradition.

We are continuing our efforts to supply the Lakeside Rehabilitation Center with funds to support the medical needs of their pet population. We cash in their monthly accumulation of returnable soda cans, which pays for the veterinary care of resident pets.

OTS members also donated their landscaping talents at the SCAVMA auction to contribute money to the SCAVMA travel fund. Finally, we made holiday dog biscuits and sold them as a charitable fund-raiser at the vet school in December.

This year has been a record-breaking year for OTS philanthropy. We increased our goals, donations, and events. On all accounts, OTS members have enjoyed these opportunities to help our community. We will endeavor to finish the year strongly and set the stage for a successful 2002 year.

Terri Ollivett '04

Elisa Salas '04

Mitzi Zarfoss '04

Philanthropy Co-Chairpersons

Wine And Cheese Unity Event Takes Guests Back In Time

Unity events got off to a great start this fall. In early October, we hosted a wine and cheese event at the house. Over 60 members were in attendance and experienced the transformation of the Beta Chapter basement into a 1930s-era setting. Tables were set with tablecloths and decorated with overlays, candles, and flowers.

The soft candlelight and the lone standing lamp in the corner helped create the mood. Finally, big band music from the 1930s and 1940s (including tunes from Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Gene Krupa, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, and Frank Sinatra) filled the air and inspired people to dance. Members sipped wine and enjoyed more than 10 pounds of cheese purchased from Cornell Dairy—smoked Gouda was the overwhelming favorite. Guests enjoyed a variety of cheeses, baguettes, crackers, grilled chicken, and a cornucopia of fresh vegetables. All in attendance enjoyed the event, which lasted well into the wee hours of the morning (try 2:30 a.m.). Members truly appreciated the event. Comments we received included these:

"A huge thanks to Jocelyn for organizing the fabulous wine and cheese night. For those of you who couldn't make it, you missed a truly amazing evening. I doubt the OTS basement will ever look so nice again!"—Cathy Emery '03, most worthy master.

"I had a great time at the wine and cheese event—I think it was the most well-

planned for and well-done OTS event I've been to. Wanted to thank you for putting in all the effort..."—Dan Fischer '04, social co-chairperson.

"Great job with the party. The food, the room, and the atmosphere, were all great. I especially liked being at an event where the music was low so I could talk to people and there were chairs at tables so I didn't have to stand around. Great job."—Bob Nichols '03, house co-manager.

Other events for the fall semester included broomball games in October and November and our holiday dinner in early December.

Jocelyn Hawkins '04

Dan Atlas '04

Unity Co-Chairpersons



Grandma (Jocelyn Hawkins, Unity co-chairperson) and Grandpa (Daniel Fischer, social co-chairperson) pose with initiated rushees.

Social Co-Chairperson Daniel Fischer prepares to initiate new rushees.



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



Current Oaties and rushees enjoy a relaxing meal and conversation at the annual rush dinner.

Growth Continues—Membership, Fund-Raising On The Rise

Hard to believe it's already that time of year—fall classes have ended, exams have been taken, winter is here, and it's time to write my *Ruminator* article. Beta Chapter is continuing the growth in membership and activities that has marked recent years.

It is all too easy to become so wrapped up in our isolated vet student lives that we lose track of the world around us, a point that was driven home tragically on September 11. At the suggestion of our enthusiastic philanthropy chairs (Mitzi Zarfoss, Terri Ollivett, and Elisa Salas), we have sought to weave community service efforts more intimately into the everyday workings of the house. While continuing our regular blood drives, recycling for Lakeside Nursing Home, winter Charity Ball, and other efforts, we have added more service endeavors to our resume. Every open party at the house now requires a canned food donation for attendance, enabling us to make monthly food donations to local soup kitchens. After the September 11 tragedy, we wrote a direct check to the September 11th Fund, as part of a collection effort spearheaded by one of our sergeant-at-arms, Ed Reiller '03, which raised over \$2,000 for

victims of the tragedy. To further expand our service efforts, philanthropy officers are working closely with fund-raising officers to combine fund-raising and service events. This began with the chili cook-off in October, from which all proceeds were donated to the New York City Disaster Relief Fund.

The house is undergoing some minor, albeit necessary, improvements in order to pass fire safety inspection, including fresh paint and door locks. Unfortunately, some of the repairs are too extensive for us to do ourselves and a contractor was hired to complete the job. Thanks to the careful budgeting of our treasurer, John DeBiasio '03, and a generous donation from Dr. Cameron Knight '00, we were finally able to realize our goal of purchasing a sound system for the house. The new speakers and system have amplified our already spectacular parties to even greater proportions!

Membership and involvement in OTS continue the rise that began last fall. Rush this year enjoyed continued success, thanks to the efforts of our enthusiastic rush chairs, Ben Benander '03 and Ashley Shelton '03, which included a barbecue that attracted more people than many previous rush

events. Through their personal interactions with members of the class of 2005, our rush chairs increased awareness of and interest in OTS, culminating in the initiation of 25 new members. With the excitement of these new members, I am optimistic for our organization's future.

While at times I'm convinced that president is just a euphemism for "sucker," I am proud to have been able to serve as most worthy master of the Beta Chapter during the last year. The people I have the privilege of working with continually remind me of the benefits of fellowship and teamwork in our lives. I know that our chapter will continue to improve in the coming years. Until you have the opportunity to return for a visit, you can keep in touch with Beta at our recently renovated Web site (courtesy of Webmaster Ericka Mendez '02) at <http://web.vet.cornell.edu/Public/OTS>.

Fraternally,
Cathy Emery '03
Most Worthy Master

House Running Smoothly Following Fall Inspection

Thanks to the unwavering support of OTS alumni, the house at Willard Way remains a safe haven for OTS actives. The house is fully occupied and 13 actives enjoy the benefits of living here.

The inspection crises of the fall have faded, and needed repairs have been done. Thanks to all the members who came out to clean, paint, and haul away the stuff that had accumulated over the years. The house is a safer place for all who live and visit.

Besides the inspection hubbub, the house is doing great, and we are operating at full capacity. Unfortunately, the curse of Andrew Flagler '51 is alive and well. Apparently, Andrew so irritated his housemates with his unparalleled generation of dirty dishes that they decapitated his pet goldfish. Marcus Smail '02 is making an outstanding push for this year's Flagler Award, but John Sykes '02 is sure to mount a considerable challenge upon his November return from externships.

Basically, our parties rock, the dogs don't pee on the couches, and we get 58 channels of cable TV. What more could a vet student want?

Fraternally,
RW Nichols III '03
Jennifer Jane Whitney '03
House Co-Managers

Fall Beta Events Raise Awareness

Beta Chapter has achieved many fund-raising goals in 2001 and is preparing for further successes in 2002. After the success of the Valentines candy-gram sale, the concession sales, and the Penny Wars in the spring, we had planned a few more exciting events for the fall. October 17 was the annual Beta Chapter chili cook-off. Cornell Veterinary College community members competed to see who makes the best bowl of chili. Prizes were awarded in the categories of the best meat, vegetarian, hottest, and "other." Guests made a \$5 donation. This year, Beta Chapter generously donated all the proceeds to the New York City Disaster Relief Fund. The event was particularly successful this year, with 15 chili cooks, four judges, and over 85 chili lovers (even the dean came). Beta Chapter raised almost \$400.

In December, Beta Chapter took pet photos with Santa. Dr. Ned Dykes graciously volunteers his time each year to sit and pose as Santa with dogs, cats, ferrets and the occasional llama. This was a combined fund-raising and philanthropy event for the entire Ithaca community. Our goal was to increase community awareness of Beta and raise money for a suitable charity and for the OTS organization as well.

As of press time, the fund-raising committee had its whiskers twitching for the rodent races where Beta Chapter community pets were to compete to be the fastest critter. An OTS logo T-shirt sale was also

planned to raise funds.

All of our fund-raising events not only raise money for Beta Chapter, but also increase our presence on campus and in the community as an involved and student-supportive organization.

Amy Leach
Kris Grau
Fund-raising Co-chairpersons



Historians On The Lookout For Photo Ops

The ladies who create the photographic chronicles of this fine fraternity have been active with their cameras. Pictures were taken during rush, initiation, and Unity's wine and cheese event. We also planned to take pictures of people battling on the ice during broomball and enjoying the holiday dinner. Look for pictures on our Web page and on the bulletin boards outside the Vet College cafeteria. No one is safe from our historic record.

Elisa Salas
Mariko Soto
Co-Historians

Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

WALTER J. MATUSZAK '43 built and now runs Wa-Noa Golf Club. Say hello at 605 Kimry Moor, Fayetteville, NY 13066.

"I can't tell you how pleased I am to see the *Ruminator* banner is still using my original design," writes JOHN H. FLINTON '71 (843 N. Main Rd., Jamestown, RI 02835). "DICK CARD '70 and I worked on the design over a 'couple of beers' one night putting an issue of the *Ruminator* to bed. Hope you continue to use it proudly as you see fit." (We've always wondered who created that unique design!)

Condolences go to GEORGE W. PALMER '79, who lost his father, LYNN G. PALMER '50, on July 31, 2001. George is part of a four-person mixed animal practice in Plattsburgh. Two of his children, Crystal and Greg, attend the Cornell ag school, son Glenn is a sophomore in high school, and son Tim is in seventh grade. Send best wishes to the Palmers at 6274 Route 22, Plattsburgh, NY 12901; geowpalmer@aol.com.

PEPI F. LEIDS '82 (7021 Boot Jack Rd., Bath, NY 14810) is a field veterinarian for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Pepi also enjoys showing her border collie at agility trials and caring for her two Ayrshire cows. The cows are daughter and granddaughter, respectively, of Frechles, the original Ayrshire cow that lived to the ripe old age of 22!

LISA M. DIETRICH '85 is part of a five-person small animal practice in upstate New York that earned the practice of excellence award from *Veterinary Economics*. The practice was featured in the September edition of the magazine. In her free time, Lisa enjoys skiing, water-skiing, and hiking. Say hi to Lisa at 80 Rice Rd., Nassau, NY 12123.

DOUGLAS A. BEANE '88 (P.O. Box 336, Malone, NY 12953; beanet@canton.edu) is in his third year of teaching in the veterinary technology program at SUNY Canton and was promoted to assistant professor on September 1, 2001. "Tony" enjoys teaching with MARY O'HORO LOOMIS '82.

LAWRENCE S. TYCZKA '90 moved to Utah for the winter to ski some "real snow" and work as a ski patroller at the Canyons in Park City. "After the winter? Who knows." Keep in touch with Lawrence at 1484 W. Meadow Loop Rd., Park City, UT 84098; lstyczka@juno.com.

KAREN KEARNS '93 spent last year at Cornell as an instructor in wildlife medicine for Dr. George Kollias. She now works as an associate veterinarian at the San Diego Zoo. Her new address is 3612 Alabama St., San Diego, CA 92104. E-mail reaches her at kkearns@sandiegozoo.org.

"I finally settled down," writes KATHERINE (Jones) MILLER '94. "Bought a house and got married last year (not to Paul). Our family is up to four cats and two dogs—more than enough!" Send best wishes to Kathy at 36 Mordella Rd., Albany, NY 12205; jezboog@webcamp.net.

JORGE L. COLON '95 and wife Hayley announce the arrival of a baby girl, Sydney, on November 21, 2001. Send congratulations to 2243 Harrods Pointe Trace, Lexington, KY 40514; jorgehayleycolon@worldnet.att.net.

FRED R. MADRIAGA '95 reports lots of changes. "In 1999, my wife and I bought our first practice and finally went out on our own. It feels good to finally put in all those long, hard hours and know it is for your own benefit. In 2000, we had our second child—another girl, named Maylea. In 2001, we moved into the one-story ranch house that we spent a year building. Please keep in touch at 13930 Seven Hills Dr., Riverside, CA 92503; noahjf@aol.com."

We have a new address for ERIC H. LINNETZ '97 of 57 West St., Middleborough, MA 02346; ericlinnetz@hotmail.com.

ANNETTE D. ELIAS '98 now works at the Ebensburg Animal Hospital and reports a new address of 201 Township Dr., Elmore, PA 15737; awellsdvm@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to WENDY (Breckenridge) NYSTROM '99, who was married on February 17, 2001, and enjoyed a great honeymoon in Hawaii. "I'm one of the few (it seems) still at my first job after graduation—two and a half years and no plans to leave." Write to Wendy at 4729 Highland Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515; wmnystrom1@attbi.com.

GEORGE SCOTT TEAGUE '99 sends along this new address of 42 Crosby Rd., Chestnut Hill, MA 02467; gst3@cornell.edu.

ANNIE SCHIAVETTA '00 started a residency in laboratory animal medicine at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in July 2000. Her new address is 17613 Longview Lane, Olney, MD 20832; draschiavetta@aol.com. Annie keeps in touch with SUE BOYADJIAN '99 and is trying to find out if ADAM PIASECZNY '00 is still flying and has his instrument rating yet.

We have a new address for ADAM BORUT '01 of 1720 12th Ave., #205, Oakland, CA 94606; aborut@sbcglobal.net.

Please take note this new contact information for KIRSTIN ANDERSON '01 of 4974 Syracuse Rd., Cazenovia, NY 13035; ksa2@cornell.edu.

"I've finally settled into my condo in Boston," pens BRIAN J. BOURQUIN '01. "Work is fun, and I'm enjoying the city. Greetings to the class of '01." Contact Brian at 194 W. Springfield St., Apt. 2, Boston, MA 02118; brian_bourquin@hotmail.com.

Reach JOANNE (Crane) HACH '01 at 3787 Deer Meadow Run, Macedon, NY 14502; jch1@rochester.rr.com.

We have a new address for ROBERT C. WILSON '01 of 4 Sherman Rd., Middleport, NY 14105; rew11@cornell.edu.

JENNIFER L. ZURKUS '01 sends along this new address: 4974 Syracuse Rd., Cazenovia, NY 13035; jlzurkus@hotmail.com. She works at the Liverpool Animal Health Center.

DECEASED

HENRI C. MARSH '54
October 17, 2001

LYNN G. PALMER '50
July 31, 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.