



Beta Kaptions

Official Newsletter of the Beta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity

To Believe in the Life of Love, to walk in the Way of Honor,
 to serve in the Light of Truth ~ This is the Life, the Way, and
 the Light of Sigma Nu - - this is the Creed of our Fraternity

Beta Kappa Centennial Anniversary

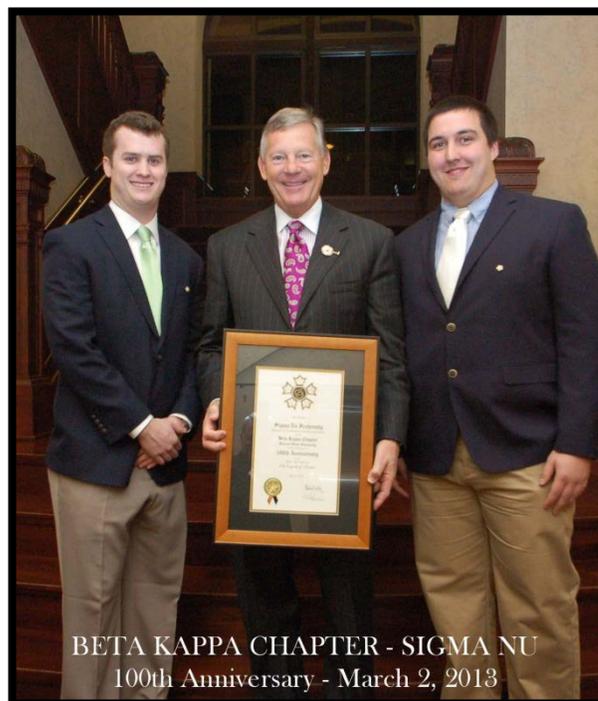
After a tumultuous beginning at Southwest Kansas College which resulted in the chapter becoming defunct in 1897, the Beta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Nu was installed at Kansas State Agricultural College on May 24, 1913. On March 2, more than 170 Beta Kappa alumni gathered at the K-State Alumni Center for a banquet in celebration of the centennial anniversary of the Beta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Nu at Kansas State University. The program included a message from Amy Button Renz, President of the KSU Alumni Association and a presentation of the centennial anniversary certificate from Charlie Eitel, Regent of Sigma Nu Fraternity.

Also included in the program was a brief history of the Beta Kappa chapter from its beginning at Southwest Kansas College in 1892 provided by historian **Robert Hudson, BK 1617** and a video

welcome from **Alex Beemer, BK 1613**; **Tyler Maddox, BK 1615**; and **Zach Pitts, BK 1622** who were in Prague for the semester on a study abroad experience. Dinner was preceded by grace and Chapter Eternal performed by chaplain **Tyler Fischer, BK 1648**. During dinner the group cheered on the Cats who narrowly overtook the Baylor Bears in a nail-biter finish of 64-61. The win added more energy to an already electric event. Following dinner, **Dean Bergquist, BK 908**, delivered the keynote address. Brother Bergquist spoke on the need to focus our lives on the ideals of Sigma Nu—Love, Truth and Honor—and that we are Sigma Nu's for life. We must extend the Helping Hand to our brothers to improve our collective lives as well as theirs. To be successful in the future, we need a strong Alumni/Active partnership working together to create the foundation for an exemplary lifelong Sigma Nu experience.

The evening concluded with a few words from Regent Charlie Eitel before presenting the certificate to Eminent Commander, **Alex Newell, BK 1631**.

The highlight of the evening was a video interview with **Leroy Christopher, BK 383**, who pledged in the Fall of 1936 the year the current chapter house opened. Brother Christopher was interviewed a week prior to the banquet by **Ben Rinehart, BK 1644**; **Eric Sieck, BK 1645**; and **Tyler Nelson, BK 1647**. Photos from the centennial anniversary celebration are available on the chapter's website at www.ksu.edu/sigmanu.



From left to right: Brice Harrison, BK 1596, Regent Charlie Eitel, and Eminent Commander, Alex Newell, BK 1631

House Corporation



Dear Alumni Brothers,
Since last fall, the Beta Kappa House Corporation has been very busy across a number of fronts to improve the chapter house and the overall fraternity experience of our collegiate membership. After a January planning meeting to outline our needs and goals, things got off to

a great start with an Alumni/Active work weekend organized by Alumni Brothers **Dave Gnaegy, BK 985** and **Tony Cummings, BK 915**. Many needed repairs were done. The living room floor was sealed, kitchen thoroughly cleaned, mailbox area rebuilt and all the public areas and stairwell were painted. Our Housemother, Monica Strathman, even got a new door for her apartment!

The result of this general fix up was a great boost to our collective pride, as we could see the potential of our plans to renovate and expand the house. Phase I will begin this summer which will renovate all the existing study rooms, make much needed exterior repairs and complete selected landscaping projects. This will get us back to a base line condition of the living space and grounds to launch Phase II construction. The initial plans for Phase II will expand the study rooms into suites with options to reconfigure the third floor dorm into living space. We will also expand and remodel the kitchen. A larger Phase III expansion is in the planning stages for a multipurpose area and expanding the capacity of the house.

Many other K-State fraternities have either extensively remodeled or built entirely new chapter houses in the past ten years. If we are to compete for the high quality student we want as a Sigma Nu, we must meet this challenge. Alumni Brothers from previous generations stood up to provide a legacy that has lasted over 100 years on campus and now our time has come to insure its continued success.

We have begun the selection process for a professional fundraiser to assist us in securing the needed resources for this undertaking. During the coming months, you will be hearing more from us (and them) as we prepare to restore our Beta Kappa chapter house to its traditional position as the first choice of young men on the K-State campus seeking an exceptional Greek experience.

Fraternally,
Dean Bergquist, BK 908
President of Beta Kappa House Corporation

Next Alumni Reunion

The active chapter is planning a Beta Kappa alumni reunion at the Beta Kappa chapter house on Saturday, September 14, 2013 which coincides with the KSU vs.

Massachusetts football game. Although all Beta Kappa alumni are invited and

encouraged to attend, we are specifically targeting alumni from the decade between 1980 and 1990. Last year's alumni reunion focused on alum from the 1970 to 1980 time period. Lunch or dinner will be served depending upon game time. More information will follow. Hope to see you then!



From left to right: Andy Rinner, BK 967; Mark Dolliver, BK 959; Randy Webster, BK 965; Dan Bennett, BK 983; and Brad Grieves, BK 964

Help us update our mailing list

If you know alumni who are not receiving the Beta Kaptions or had a change of address, please ask them to email their mailing address and email address to sigmanu@ksu.edu.

Chapter House Renovations

The Beta Kappa chapter house will undergo interior renovations and exterior repair this summer in preparation for a more comprehensive renovation at a later time. Track the renovation progress on the Beta Kappa website at www.ksu.edu/sigmanu.



Alumni Updates

In 1993, after forty plus years of service, **Leland Franz, BK 506**, retired from Skelly Oil Company where he worked as the District Production Manager in Midland, Texas. In 2008, his wife, Joanne Kastrup, a member of Alpha Xi Delta, succumbed to a rare disease. They experienced 58 years of wedded bliss. In 2010, he married again. He has seven children, ten living grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Bill Nelson, BK 766 continues to practice corporate/transactional law in Houston, Texas and enjoys restoring classic British sports cars. During his time at Beta Kappa, he owned an Austin Healey 3000, and after graduation in 1963, he and a friend drove it 8,000 miles through Mexico. He returned his friend to Manhattan, slept one night in the chapter house, then drove back 1,000 miles to Brownsville, Texas to visit a girl he had met on the trip who was visiting with college roommates in Acapulco. She later became his wife and they have been married 48 years.

Following graduation in 1959, **Warren Quakenbush, BK 707**, spent 22 years in food service management, first with Stouffer's and then with Hallmark Cards in Kansas City. He left Hallmark to change careers, and joined AT&T where he worked in customer service and peripheral equipment for almost 18 years prior to retirement. He and his wife Marilyn, a member of Alpha XI, both retired in March 1998. Although their permanent home is Lenexa, Kansas, they spent much of their time during the twelve years following retirement traveling around the country in their RV and have visited most of the lower 48 states. After selling their RV, they now make periodic visits to Arizona where they enjoy an active retirement.

Arthur Hibbs, BK 463, served as a captain in the US Army from 1943-1946 before returning to KSU where he earned a Master's of Science degree in Milling Technology. He was employed as the director of Corporate Grain Processing Technology at International Multifoods Corporation from 1968-1988 before becoming a private consultant from 1988-2003. Arthur and his wife, Frances, have three children and five grandchildren—including triplet girls who are 16 years old. They live in Holmes Beach, Florida in the winter months and in Wayzata, Minnesota in summer months. Arthur enjoys golfing and they both enjoy fishing, the beach and gardening.

More Alumni Updates

After graduation in August, 1961, **Gary R. Dicks, BK 736**, commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the AFROTC Program and entered active duty with the USAF in October, 1961 where he served in CONUS assignments in the areas of Personnel and Missile Operations and Management Engineering throughout world. He returned to school at The Ohio State University and graduated with an MBA degree in 1965. He retired as a Lt. Colonel in December, 1981, and entered the Healthcare field where he served as CEO of the Val Verde County Hospital District and Vice President of the Memorial Healthcare System in Houston, Texas. He retired from healthcare in 1998 and accepted a position as Director of Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas, where he is still employed. Following the death of his wife, Martha Jane Byler, he remarried Paula. He has three sons Tod, Scott and Mark and two step-children Ronny and Laura. He also has seven grandchildren and five step grandchildren. Paula and Gary reside in Sugar Land, Texas.

Frank Butler, BK 676, shared the following photo of himself along with four other Beta Kappa alum living in the Denver area, **Dennis Albright, BK 700; Hoyt Eells, BK 661; John Newcomer, BK 695** and **Al Wilson, BK 606**. The brothers make it a point to meet monthly for lunch and conversation. Thank you Brother Butler!



From left to right: Al Wilson, Frank Butler, Hoyt Eells, Dennis Albright, and John Newcomer.

We would like to know where you are now. Please send us your updates at sigmanu@ksu.edu.



The call for help...The Call for BROTHERS.

As I stepped into this new role as Chapter Advisor this Spring, I was humbled by the assignment. The Alumni Chapter has given me a charge that I don't take lightly in this pivotal time of Beta Kappa. The Active Chapter

has embraced many of the rather strict operational recommendations I have requested of them. One could not ask for a better transition and excitable platform to build upon.

I specifically named this piece "The Call for BROTHERS", as that is what it is. As part of the Sigma Nu National's Pursuit of Excellence program, Alumni chapters have been tasked with the creation of Alumni Advisory Boards to supplement the activities of the Chapter Advisor. As such, the time for Beta Kappa to create this board has aligned perfectly with the numerous other enhancements that are occurring in the chapter.

If you currently reside within a reasonable distance of 513 Sunset, feel motivated to share your personal time in the growth of these men. If you have professional or personal skills that lend themselves well to organizational management, professional mentorship, or leadership development, please connect with me as soon as possible. The following roles are projected to be 2-year revolving seats and are based on a structure that addresses the direct requirements in the Pursuit of Excellence Program, as well as the operation needs of the Active Chapter.

Alumni Advisor Board seats (adjustable to Active and Alumni Chapter needs)

1. Alumni Advisory Board Chairman
2. Chapter Advisor
3. Service and Philanthropy Advisor
4. Social and Risk Mitigation Advisor
5. Candidate Development Advisor
6. Brother and Alumni Development Advisor
7. Scholastic and Campus Leadership Advisor
8. Recruitment and Communications Advisor
9. Finance and Operations Advisor

Each advisory role will help guide Beta Kappa in the Pursuit of Excellence Program and assist in the preparation of those applications at the end of each year. It is my goal to have this board established and operational by August, with plans to be onsite for the unveiling of the house changes during move in week prior to the start of classes.

Thank you to all actives, alumni, and friends (such as our wonderful house mother, Monica) for all that you are doing and will do in the future in support of Beta Kappa.

Fraternally,
Dusty Thomas, BK 1369
Chapter Advisor

Recruiting the Next Generation of Sigma Nu Men



By now you probably know that in December 2012, the Sigma Nu Alumni and Active Chapters of Beta Kappa entered into a partnership to rejuvenate Beta Kappa at Kansas State through an aggressive house renovation project which is now underway and by re-enforcing Sigma Nu values.

We all understand that membership is our most important asset within Beta Kappa. Our membership determines who we are and who we will become.

In this regard, we need your assistance!

We need a strong membership drive in the coming months to fill our house with 25 quality rushees who are strong in scholarship, leadership and integrity.

Alumni can (and should) have a strong influence on who becomes a Sigma Nu at Beta Kappa and thus how Beta Kappa develops and succeeds. Our strength now and in the future depends on our membership which in turn depends on our diligence in finding qualified candidates.

We all know of quality men in our communities. We should all want to bring them into our membership and to train them to carry on the Sigma Nu values we learned and believe.

If you know of a candidate we should consider, please send his contact information to Beta Kappa's Rush Chairman, **Ben Rinehart, BK 1644** at ben1@ksu.edu or at (913) 233-6514, and then be ready to host our local Active Rush Representative and be present when introductions are made.

Please do your part in making 2013 a successful year for finding outstanding new members who will improve the quality and numbers of the Men of Beta Kappa.

Thank you,

Gary Ripple, BK 894 **Steve Robertson, BK 884**
Alumni Rush Co-Advisor Alumni Rush Co-Advisor

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