



THE DRAGON'S TALE

SPRING 2025

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEBRASKA CHAPTER, THE ALPHA TAU OF BETA THETA PI

CHAPTER PRESIDENT REPORT

I am deeply honored and grateful to address you as the newest President of the Alpha Tau chapter of Beta Theta Pi. Being elected to this service position by my fellow undergraduate brothers is a true privilege. This organization, defined by its ambitious leaders, dedicated alumni, and rich history, has given so much to many over the years. I am no exception; I would not feel prepared to step into this role without the invaluable leadership, communication, and discipline skills I have gained in my 2 1/2 years as an Alpha Tau Beta. Even still, this job could not be done without the help of my determined executive team and our incredibly adept team of alumni advisors. I would especially like to express my profound gratitude to our previous chapter president, **Charlie Lorkovic '22**, who has been an invaluable resource and a devoted supporter since I stepped into this role.

I am a junior studying computer science with a minor in mathematics from Omaha, NE, where I attended Omaha Central High School. Last year, I served as our chapter's New Member Educator. That experience reinforced the importance of leadership and communication while allowing me to build a unique connection with each of this year's new exec members. I am excited to embark on a second term on the executive team alongside Recruitment Chairman **Drew Gleason '23**. Our leadership experience last year was marked by significant growth and self-reflection, motivating us to continue our commitment to the house. This year's executive team is a dedicated and diverse group representing four states and pursuing a wide range of academic disciplines. Working alongside these 10 other individuals is an honor, and I am eager to see what we accomplish throughout our term. Since stepping into our roles in January, we have already curated a comprehensive chapter calendar, established more organized communication with the judicial board (Kai Committee), and refined key chapter expectations to enhance efficiency and ensure the long-term success of Alpha Tau.

This past January, four members of the executive team—**Derrien Gatchel '24**, **Oscar Parizek '24**, **Owen Crone '24**, and **Ryan Beavers '24**—attended Beta Theta Pi's Winter Leadership Conclave in Chicago, IL. This three-day conference focused on key areas such as member education, brotherhood, and risk management. They collaborated with experts from the General Fraternity and leaders from Beta chapters nationwide, exchanging ideas and setting goals to help the chapter reach its full potential.

The spring semester has been exciting so far, with much more ahead. We have already hosted three successful and engaging formals in Lincoln and are eagerly anticipating our annual trip to the Lake of the Ozarks in May—a definite chapter favorite. The chapter also looks forward to our largest philanthropy event of the year, Backpack in Black, collaborating with three other campus fraternities. As always, the men of Alpha Tau chapter remain committed to academic excellence. Last semester, we achieved an all-house GPA of 3.62, the highest during my time in the house. We are determined to build on that success this semester and set an even higher standard.

In February, a few chapter members and I attended the Greek Gala, organized by UNL's Fraternity and Sorority Life Office, to recognize Greek individuals and chapters for their outstanding work. To say it went well would be an understatement. The evening began with our dedicated advisor, **Mike Wortman '67**, winning the Outstanding Chapter Counselor of the Year award. The recognition did not stop there; we also received awards for Outstanding Member Development Program and Outstanding Philanthropy Program. The chapter was ecstatic to be acknowledged in areas that we have invested so much hard work in, and we look forward to upholding this standard of excellence in the coming year.

As I close, it is only right that I thank the Betas who have come before me. The work that is done year in and year out truly stands on the shoulders of the work done by those who came before us. During my time across various leadership roles, it has become abundantly clear that this progress would not be possible without the continuous and remarkable support from all our alumni. We appreciate your efforts more than you know, and you are vital to sustaining an organization that changes the lives of the men who come through it. I can confidently say that Alpha Tau chapter has improved my life. I will continue my impossible task of giving back to it just as much as it has given me. I thank my brothers for entrusting me with this role, and I look forward to the year ahead.

Thank God I'm a Beta.



Yours in __kai__,
Nathan Siy '23
president@nebraskabeta.com

CHAPTER COUNSELOR REPORT

For many years, I've been fortunate enough to spend time with Nebraska Betas, get to know them, and appreciate their special qualities. For Beta alums who have not had a recent connection with the collegiate men who call 1515 R Street home, I want to make it clear that this is an amazing group of men. You can be assured that Nebraska Beta is in a good place right now.

I have often said that if three different aspects of the chapter are functioning properly, the Beta house will be moving in a positive direction. The first area is **Recruitment**. We've had some amazing recruitment leaders in recent years who have worked hard to sign some great young men each year. We've had new member classes of 30 or more, and we feel we could sign twice that many good candidates because of what we offer to college freshmen. The house has a great reputation, attracting many great candidates.

Next, we have a great **New Member Education program**. During the first semester that these men are on campus, they learn from the formal part of the program, the upper-class role models, the weekly grade checks, and the house culture. One added feature for the new members in the past two years has been a leadership class that all new members take. **Pete Allman '76**, an amazingly talented Alpha Tau Beta, teaches this class. (*Editor's Note: See the separate article about ALEC 102 in the New Member Ed report on page 3.*) In addition to all the other aspects of the program, they spend two and a half hours each week learning about leadership, human relations, and community service. This allows the men to reflect on their Beta experience and gives them the language and terminology to talk about their Beta experience.

The third aspect of a great chapter is selecting an outstanding **Leadership Team**. In the past several years, the chapter has been very serious and intentional about voting to select great leaders to serve in the 11 positions on the executive team. Elsewhere in this edition, there are articles from those leaders, and I'm sure you can tell that these are outstanding leaders who will do what is best to serve the chapter.

Because the three aspects of a good chapter are in place, the outcome can be seen in an outstanding GPA, awards at the Beta Convention, and awards at UNL campus activities sponsored by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. By any measure, the Nebraska Beta chapter is doing well.

To demonstrate the current status of the chapter, here are some quotes from the recent class of new members initiated in January. This class of 34 members had 10 with a 4.0 GPA. They completed community service activities and the ALEC 102 Human Relations class. Their top Clifton Strength was Harmony, with 15 members having it in their Top 5, which can be seen in how the members of this class interacted with each other. Here are some of their reflections:

"I didn't expect to be making such deep and genuine connections with my pledge brothers. I can confidently say that these 33 guys that I didn't know six months ago have become my best friends."

"I firmly believe that you are the combination of the people you surround yourself with, so being surrounded by confident yet nice people, I have been able to gain significant self-confidence."

"The joy I get when I step into the house and get to hang out with all of my brothers is a feeling like no other, and I think that and the memories I have made along the way are a huge part of why I call Beta a home of mine."

As you can see, this Beta chapter is a special place. Today's house stands on the shoulders of many other Nebraska Betas who have blazed the trail with high standards for Brotherhood, Personal Growth, and Home since 1888. The future is bright.

I'm glad I'm a Beta!



Yours in __kai__,
Mike Wortman '67

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

I am a sophomore from Woodbury, MN, and I am very grateful to be able to serve as the Communications Chairman for Alpha Tau chapter. I also serve on The Experience Company undergraduate team and enjoy working with this chapter's incredible alumni network. Throughout these roles, I have connected alumni ideas and updates and relayed them to the active chapter. Our alumni's opportunities have significantly impacted our members' future. If you want to provide information or opportunities to the active chapter, email alumni@nebraskabeta.com. We are all students, but we will try to get a fast response.

My current role at The Experience Company as internship intern is to give active members the resources to improve their professional development and land internship positions. We have been working on two significant projects: improving our internship placement and directly connecting active members with alumni and our Internship Night. Alpha Tau chapter's advanced resources allow us to connect active members with specific goals to alumni who have that experience and can help them

advance toward these goals. Last fall, we had our first-ever Internship Night, organized by **Barrett Mooney '21**, where we had representatives from two companies give an overview of their companies and explain any internship opportunities they have. It also gave members some time afterward to meet one-on-one with the representatives. The night was a great success, and I hope to expand its opportunities next year. If you have any internship opportunities for active members or want your company represented at next fall's Internship Night, please contact tec_internship@nebraskabeta.com and we will work to respond quickly.

Our annual Mom's Day event again attended a Nebraska baseball game. This was held on Saturday, April 5, and we played Rutgers University.



Yours in __kai__,
Aiden Makovicka '24
alumni@nebraskabeta.com



SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

The men of Beta had one of their best academic semesters over the fall, reaching an outstanding 3.62 all-house GPA. This put us second among city campus fraternities, third among all fraternities, and fourth among all Greek life. This GPA was almost 0.1 grade point higher than our spring average and could not have been achieved without the leadership of the Scholarship Team led by **Will Wooden '23**, with **Jack Miller '24** and **Tyler Alexander '24** serving as the Assistant Scholarship Chairmen.

(Editor's Note: Our chapter has 11 executive positions, but some positions have assistants who are integral in working with the executive. They are referred to as cabinet positions.) These men led the new members and weekly study hours and instilled in them the academic standards to which Beta holds its members. The new members were again put into teams captained by members of the Scholarship and New Member Education Teams. These teams allowed the new members to compete against each other to determine who could have the best grades and created a competitive and high-achieving environment for new members.

On top of all this chapter's success, the men of Beta also saw great individual success, with an outstanding 37 members achieving a 4.0 GPA, the most in the chapter's history! Of these 37, 10 were new members who contributed to the new member class, having a cumulative GPA of 3.75, falling just short of the record mark of 3.77 set by last year's freshmen. The sophomore class led all classes, with 18 members achieving 4.0s. These fine scholars will be rewarded with the semesterly Princeton Dinner, a formal dining event funded by the chapter. With how these grades have been trending, the Princeton Dinner budget may have to be increased for future semesters, which is a happy problem.

The spring semester has been off to a strong start, with the brothers continuing to hold themselves to high academic standards. It's a rare night where you won't find members in the basement study area or the library hard at work studying and collaborating on projects. This is also the first semester during which the new minimum GPA of 3.0 will be in effect. *(Editor's Note: In September 2024, the chapter passed a new bylaw stating that all members [new members and actives] must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. Members not maintaining a 3.0 GPA may be placed on academic probation.)* This change should lead to even greater diligence and work ethic among all house members toward striving for academic excellence.

Finally, I congratulate the newly elected Assistant Scholarship Chairmen, **Jack Naujokaitas '25** and **Tyson Klein '25**. Jack and Tyson both achieved 4.0 GPAs over the fall and were seen as academic and social leaders in their class. They will be instrumental in helping the next new member class and the chapter achieve even higher levels of academic success.



Yours in __kai__,
Jack Healey '24

New Member Education Report

This past January, Alpha Tau chapter initiated 33 members into the chapter. This class found impressive success both in the classroom and with the transition to college. The freshman class ended with a 3.76 GPA, touting one of the highest freshmen marks in our chapter's history. They also went above and beyond in implementing Beta's value of cultivation of intellect, and our chapter could not be prouder of the strides these young men made during their brief time in the house.

In addition, the chapter recently elected two freshmen as Assistant New Member Educators for the coming year: **Theo Schmidt '25** and **Val Sewell '25**. Both individuals are highly personable and passionate about Beta, and we look forward to advancing our new member education experience. I am excited and lucky to work with these men this semester and in the fall.

This past fall semester, we were privileged to implement a second year of our ALEC 102 course as part of our new member program. ALEC (Agricultural Leadership Education and Communication) is part of the general education requirement for UNL classes. More information on these classes is available in the fall 2023 issue and spring 2024 issues of *The Dragon's Tale*.

The 3-credit hour course proctored by the University allowed us the opportunity not only to contribute to our new members' ACE requirements but also helped them to develop their interpersonal communication and leadership skills further. Former New Member Educator and current President **Nathan Siy '23** led the course to great success. Nathan ensured that the course ran smoothly in its second year with the help of our supportive advisor, **Pete Allman '76**, who was the course's instructor every Tuesday night for the semester. I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to step into this position with the strong support from our advisors and the chapter in continuing Alpha Tau's legacy in tremendous new member development.

My background: I am a sophomore from St. Louis, MO, pursuing my CPA and triple majoring in accounting, economics, and finance. I could not be more enthusiastic and appreciative about the opportunity given to me to be the New Member Educator for this upcoming semester and develop a strong class of new Betas. My experience within the new member program was extremely special and valuable to me, and I would wish nothing more than to give the same mentorship and guidance that was given to me back to the next generation of Men of Principle. I am fully prepared to dive head first into this role and contribute to the enriching and engaging journey that is Beta's new member program.

Yours in __kai__,
Derrien Gatchel '24

PHILANTHROPY REPORT

As the spring semester winds down, I congratulate **Sam Weyeneth '23** on winning the Interfraternity Council's 2025 Outstanding Philanthropy Program in February. This award recognizes the philanthropy program having the most community impact on the UNL campus.

This semester has also been a success. Our biggest event of the year, Backpack in Black, was on April 11. We joined forces to continue an ongoing tradition between Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Pi Kappa Alpha. The Battle of the Bands-style concert was held at the Bourbon Theatre in downtown Lincoln, and donations were raised to renovate the Malone Center at 2032 U Street—just east of the UNL campus and south of Vine Street. The Center, founded in 1955, is determined to improve social and economic conditions and increase understanding between all races. It is anticipated that the four fraternities will raise about \$20,000. *(Editor's Note: The exact amount raised will be featured in the fall issue due to printing deadlines.)*

Later this semester, we will have a second event still in the planning stages at press time. The proceeds from this event will be donated to Lincoln Lighthouse.

Speaking of Lincoln Lighthouse, when it comes to giving back, we would like to recognize **Pete Allman '76** as a true leader in philanthropy. Pete co-founded our leading philanthropy, Lincoln Lighthouse. This nonprofit after-school program fosters individual growth, provides evening meals, and offers academic support to underprivileged and at-risk middle and high school students in Lincoln. Pete's commitment and guidance have created a foundation for our success as a philanthropy program, and we couldn't thank him enough.

SOCIAL REPORT

I am a sophomore in our chapter and have the honor of being the new social chairman. I am from Omaha, NE, and graduated from Westside High School.

The semester has gotten off to a great start and is continuing onward; we had our annual Crush Formal in February, which was a good start to the second semester and the new calendar year. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with our Get Lucky Day Formal. We enjoyed the beautiful weather, and it worked out perfectly. Our chapter had a newer formal called Boiler Room at the Royal Grove. Two DJs played for a couple of hours, and everyone had another great time. Our annual trip to the Lake of the Ozarks will conclude the semester's busy social

calendar. Even though my major is construction management, to build a successful program properly, we elected **Charlie Deats '25** and **Nate Pechar '25** to social cabinet positions. They will help with the planning, setting up for formals, and other social events.

We have had a fall formal in Chicago for the last two years. After discussion, it was decided that it was time for a switch, and we will be heading to Fort Worth, TX, in October for a change in the venue. We are excited about all the social activities and the memories that will be created.

Yours in __kai__,
Oscar Parizek '24



Members of the executive team. Front row: Chapter President Nathan Siy '23. Second row, from left: Owen Crone '24, Drew Gleason '23, Tyler Castle '24, and Josh Rohrig '24. Third row: Oscar Parizek '24, Aiden Makovicka '24, and Derrien Gatchel '24. Top row: Will Blatchford '24, Jack Healey '24, and Ryan Beavers '24.

As a chapter, we are excited about next fall's plans as we remain committed to giving back to our local Lincoln community.

Yours in __kai__,
Josh Rohrig '24

INTRAMURAL REPORT

Intramurals have always been a great source of pride and camaraderie for the brothers as they relish being crowned champions in intramural sports. During the fall semester, the house saw great success in that regard. The Beta juniors took home the championship in 3-on-3 basketball, and the sophomores were able to come away with a championship in the fall basketball tournament, going undefeated over a seven-game stretch and knocking off the rival SigEp seniors in the tournament. The all-house indoor soccer team also captured a championship after a stellar run through the playoffs, with great help from some new members making their first appearances on a Beta intramural team.

The spring semester is off to a great start, with strong performances by all four classes in the pre-season

basketball tournament. The regular season is ongoing, and all four classes will be looking to make a run at the title in the Greek A-League. The sophomores also fielded a B team, which saw some ups and downs at the start of the season but is gearing up to finish the season strong and make a deep playoff push. Looking ahead to the rest of the semester, the all-house soccer team will look to keep their momentum going in the outdoor season. Softball season is just starting, and all four classes will look to take home a championship after some close finishes over the last few semesters.

Spirits are high, and the men of Beta look to continue their dominance in the fields and courts.

Yours in __kai__,
Nate Zuroske '23 and Jack Healey '24



Welcome, new members! Front row, from left: Theo Schmidt, Val Sewell, Quin Weatherholt, Brecken Wilke, Kaden Bachman, Jackson Moore (black suit with blue tie; winner of the **Jon Wendt Honor Pledge Award**), Jakson Bartling, Riley Hodges, Soren Higgleke, John Goodman, and Peyton Sanmann. Middle row: Braden Leach, Zach Kozal, Lucas Krapfl, Mason Garcia, Quinten Kreikemeier, Carson Kiesel, Graham Dobson, Charlie Martin, Tyson Klein, Jack Hessel, and McCray Anderson. Top row: Seth Kaminski, Tug Daulhauser, Grant Beutler, Keenan Flannery, Charlie Deats, Alex Cabela, Luke Hamilton, Nate Pechar, Porter Dutter, and Jack Naujokaitis.

RECRUITMENT REPORT

I am incredibly grateful and excited for the opportunity to be a member of the recruitment team once again and to serve as the Recruitment Chairman this summer. I am a soon-to-be senior from Beatrice, NE, studying nutrition science on the pre-dental path.

Last summer was one of the most fun and rewarding times of my life, and I look forward to utilizing that experience to bring in a great class of men who will help take this chapter to its fullest potential. Alpha Tau chapter has a spectacular reputation not only as a premier house at UNL but also as a premier chapter nationally. As a chapter, we have a concerted effort in the recruitment process to uphold and improve this prestige. We have elected **Tobias Moylan '24** and **Braden Leach '25** as

Assistant Recruitment Chairmen, who will work closely alongside me throughout the summer.

We plan to recruit high-achieving, dedicated, talented, and intelligent young men who uphold the chapter's values. One of our most valuable ways to achieve this is with your help by recommending potential new members. Recommendations can be submitted to our website: nebraskabeta.com/recommend-someone. Please try to send in all recommendations by May 15, although we may accept recommendations through June 15.

Beginning on May 18 through mid-July, we will be hosting open-house events at the chapter house (usually on Thursday evenings) and lake and pool events at the homes of active members and alumni

in the Lincoln and Omaha areas. We will showcase everything this chapter offers at these events, including The Experience Company, ALEC 102 course, social events, sneak, overall brotherhood within the chapter, our commitment to scholarship, and much more. We excel in our active members' involvement and dedication to the recruitment process, and this summer will be no exception. Our recruitment schedule will be posted on Instagram. The chapter account is @beta_unl.

Overall, with the tools provided and the experience I have gained, I am confident that this summer, we will once again recruit an outstanding class of young men.

Yours in __kai__,
Drew Gleason '23
recruitment@nebraskabeta.com

INITIATION WEEK

Initiation Week is a busy time from start to finish, and the chapter Vice President puts a lot of effort into ensuring a learning and respectful week for the new members. **Drew Gleason '23** ran an effective program in January.

Drew was supported by many alumni who interviewed the new members and hosted alumni dinners. I-Week does not just happen. (See the separate article and picture of those new members who were initiated into our chapter in January.) Thank you to those alumni who hosted dinners for the new members and their pledge fathers during I-Week. It is an excellent opportunity for alumni to give back and obtain updates on the chapter and for some to "reengage" with our chapter. In alphabetical order, the support offered by the following will create lasting memories for new members, their pledge fathers, and alumni: **Pete Allman '76, Karl Anderson '97, Jeff Beavers '00, Andy Bock '79, Greg Brockmeier '96, Josh Burks '12, Andy**

Cunningham '68, Bill Dana '76, Kyle Danielson '15, Ryan Duell '03, Mike Franken '15, Dan Gleason '93, Tim Gleason '86, Ben Joekel '12, Ted Kauf '81, Garrett Kraus '15, Ben Martens '01, Jacob McNamara '21, Josh Mikus '21, Neil Moseman '80, Dave Nikunen '80, Jim Pflug '82, Dave Piester '66, Sam Rice '20, Steve Roberts '86, Sam Skokan '15, Duane Sullivan '68, Ben Theye '09, Bryan Tuma '74, Aaron Wiegert '01, Tom Williams '68, and Mike Wortman '67.

Jon Wendt '65 was in the pledge class of 1964. After his death almost two years ago (nebraskabeta.com/sites/betathetapi/files/Dragon%27s%20Tale%20-%202023%20Fall.pdf), Jon provided a gift for Beta in his will. Following a discussion with Jon's family, a \$500 stipend will be given to the Honor Pledge each year. This new **Jon Wendt Honor Pledge Award** was made to this year's Honor Pledge, **Jackson Moore**. Congratulations to Jackson.

Owen Crone '24 Recognized as Mortar Board National Honor Society Member

Mortar Board is a national honor society recognizing college seniors for their exemplary scholarship, leadership, and service. Mortar Board is represented on 235 college campuses and has existed for more than 100 years. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, another senior honorary is the Innocents Society. Alpha Tau has had representatives in both societies in the past.



On March 10, it was announced that one rising junior Beta (and senior-to-be) would continue that tradition through the Black Masque chapter of Mortar Board. **Owen Crone '24** is a double major in economics and finance from Omaha, NE. He is the current Vice President and a former Assistant New Member Educator for Alpha Tau. On campus, Owen is a leadership mentor and project chair for the Nebraska Human Resources Institute (NHRI), a Senior Associate in the Husker Venture Fund, and a member of the Nebraska Business Honors Academy. Congratulations!

MENTORING REPORT

This fall marks the 11th year of Alpha Tau's mentoring program. Over 175 alumni have been engaged and offered value to Beta undergraduates' college experience. A common theme among alumni who mentor is, "It is very rewarding!" As a mentor, you are matched with your mentees in their sophomore year and see them through graduation. As you can imagine, most of these relationships last beyond college. Typically, the mentor may be paired with the mentee based on career paths, but many other factors come into play. They could include hometowns, hobbies, sports (participation, such as golf), spectator sports, reading or music, etc. Representatives of the undergraduate chapter, as well as several alumni, are involved in this process. The mentees obtain an alumni member chosen by The Experience Company to add value to their collegiate experience and guidance in transitioning to the professional world.

We anticipate needing 34 mentors next fall. **We are seeking AT alumni in all fields!** Do you have a couple of hours a month to share your accumulated experience and knowledge? Please review the Experience Company link at nebraskabeta.com/become-a-mentor. Ideally, a mentor should be four or five years out of school and have "real-world" experiences. With Zoom technology, alums can mentor from anywhere on the globe. We have had mentors from 27 different states outside of Nebraska. Mentors and mentees should plan to meet on some basis at least twice a month.

Alpha Tau chapter has seen a significant increase in engineering majors these past few years, so we are especially looking for mentors with a STEM background (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). We are confident that we will continue to have "successful pairings" regardless of the mentor job experience and the college majors. Mentor training will probably occur in August (in-person but with available Zoom), and matches will be announced in mid-September. After reviewing the above-named site, an application can be completed online and sent to us through the "Submit" button if you want to be considered a mentor.

Please consider being a mentor and supporting our chapter. Thank you!

In __kai__

BETA PARENT ALLIANCE REPORT

The Parent Alliance continues to support the house, including decorating for the holidays in December and the less-fun takedown of decorations in January. Thank you to all the dads who organized the totes for the decorations in the storage closet—which took Tetris-like skills. Instead of one big purchase for the house this year, we have purchased a few smaller items: a new toaster, a new microwave, and new vacuums (mom selected and approved).

For Mom's Day 2025, we gathered for the second year in a row for a Husker baseball game on the first Saturday in April. This year, we played Rutgers University on April 5, but our printing deadline means readers must Google the score for 2025.

The last event for this academic year is to deliver pizzas on Sunday night, May 4, to kick off Dead/Finals Week and send the men off to a strong end to their academic year. Planning for the annual fall auction fundraiser will start over the summer; don't hesitate to contact the Parent Alliance leaders at parent.alliance@nebraskabeta.com if you have an item for the auction. This is the last submission from Parent Alliance leaders Dorothy Endacott and Theresa Keane, as our sons are graduating; they both had a great experience with Beta! Holly Beavers, Lisa Thompson, and Julie Feist are the new leaders.

Respectfully,
Dorothy Endacott

ALUMNI NEWS

If you have alumni news or information for a future edition of *The Dragon's Tale*, email updates@nebraskabeta.com.

In November, The Experience Company had the pleasure of awarding **Nolan Connor '22** the third annual **David Karnes Leadership Award**. At a formal dinner that included Dave's widow, Kris Karnes, Nolan was recognized by the two prior winners, **Jarod Fox '20** and **Kyle Auman '21**. Also present were Nolan's parents. Nolan is from Omaha (Skutt High School), served our chapter as the Vice President, and is a member of Mortar Board, a senior honorary. He will graduate next month and plans to attend the University of Nebraska Medical Center in August.

In accepting his award, Nolan stated, "I am so humbled to have been given this award, and the overwhelming support from alumni who have made my undergraduate experience nothing short of incredible. I'm blessed to be a Beta."

Nolan's parents commented: "We generally understood that Beta Theta Pi has been a very positive experience for Nolan, but our appreciation was multiplied by the considerate efforts made to recognize him with the David Karnes Leadership Award.

"In an era where the value of many awards is diminished by lowering thresholds for their achievement, it is heartening to see the great care the chapter took to ensure candidates for this award understand and reflect the honorable qualities of its namesake. It was uplifting to learn about Senator Karnes and better understand the love he inspired in his family and friends. We are profoundly grateful to see Nolan counted among the recipients of this award, and we now have a much deeper appreciation of his brotherhood in the Alpha Tau chapter."

Tom Jacob '59 is a retired attorney from Bloomington, IL, and now lives in Evanston, IL. While at the University of Nebraska, Tom was a walk-on member of the Husker football team. After he graduated, Tom obtained his degree from Northwestern University Law School. He has been a loyal participant in the Tuesday morning Zoom calls with the "mature" Beta group hosted by **Dan Wherry '62** and his wife, Sharon. Tom offers excellent insight into Nebraska football and spends considerable time studying the progress of the Huskers and all things football.

Tom recently funded a \$1,000 yearly scholarship through The Experience Company for an Alpha Tau Beta in pre-law or law school. The chapter website has more about this competitive scholarship at nebraskabeta.com/scholarships. Thanks, Tom, for your continued support of our chapter. Tom can be reached at tomjacob@tomjacobgroup.com.

Tom Chambers '62 and **Steve Hutchins '64** are two Denver Betas who traveled to Phoenix, AZ, in February. Both Tom and Steve and their wives had the opportunity to reconnect with several Phoenix-area Betas who were in school at the same time. Tom can be reached at tschambers582@msn.com, and Steve can be reached at SHutchins@hutchinslaw.com. (Steve is active in our mentor program.)

Steve and his wife, Chryse, were in Phoenix a week after Tom and Susan. During their visit, Hutch and his wife also had an opportunity to reconnect with Betas who were in school at the same time. Hutch had not seen **Bill Bullock '63** in over 50 years.

John Hancock '66 is a mostly retired CPA living in Omaha. John and his wife, Ibby, have a son named Drew, who wrote the screenplay and directed the movie *Companion*. This psychological and dark

comedy thriller was released nationwide in theaters on January 31. There is violence and adult language (rated R). The movie review website Rotten Tomatoes gave the film a positive 94 rating. On the next page are pictures of John, Ibby, Drew, female star Sophie Thatcher, and her male co-star Jack Quaid at the movie's premiere in Hollywood on January 27. The movie is now available for rent on Apple TV and Amazon Video and for purchase on Blu-Ray and DVD. John can be reached at jhancock@hancockdana.com.

John Stokes McCollister '67 is a former Nebraska State Senator who served in the Legislature from 2015 to 2023 when the term-limit law prevented "Stokes" from running for another term.

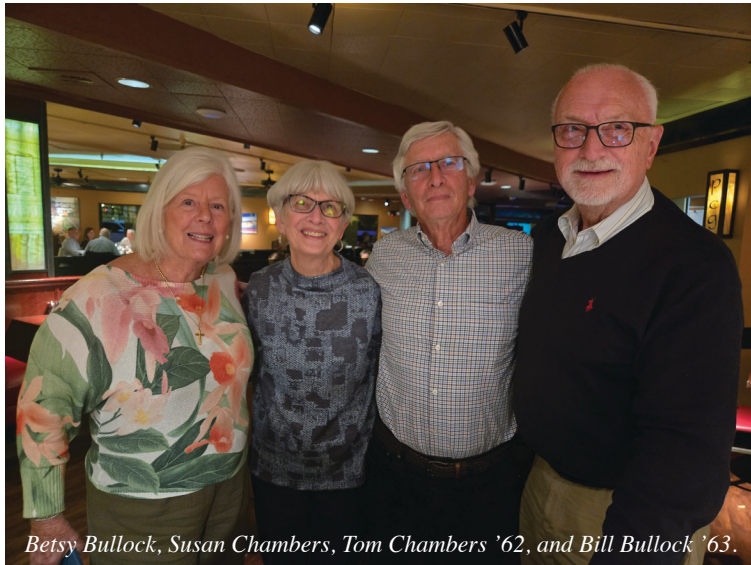
(Continued on page 8)

Steve Hutchins and his wife made a brief trip to Phoenix and had lunch with a group of Betas who were in school at the same time, as well as some of the spouses. Once a Beta, always a Beta. From left: Gary Frazer '65, Chryse Hutchins, Steve Hutchins '64, Lynn McKeag, Bruce McKeag '65, Bill Bullock '63, Bob Keim '65, Bob Trotter '65, Pat Phillips, and John Phillips '65.



ALUMNI NEWS

(Continued from page 7)



Betsy Bullock, Susan Chambers, Tom Chambers '62, and Bill Bullock '63.



Ibby and John Hancock '66 attend the premiere of the movie *Companion*, written and directed by their son, Drew Hancock. Left: John and Ibby with the lead actress, Sophie Thatcher. Right: John and Ibby with Drew (right) and the lead actor, Jack Quaid.



Pete Allman '76 at his Tuesday night class with the Beta new members he teaches.

Stokes was the Initiation Week speaker in January 2024. Since then, his life and that of his wife Deb has changed, and he provides this update:

"Now in my 70s, I readily acknowledge the unpredictability of life. If we had been told five years ago that we would pull up stakes from the city we have lived in nearly all of our lives and move to rural New Hampshire, we would have questioned your sanity. The story that parents will move anywhere to be near their children and grandchildren applies to us. Last May, we moved from Omaha to Walpole. Our daughter Lauren and her family bought a vacation home in Walpole five years ago. When the property next door came up for sale, we bought it sight unseen. There has been an adjustment from urban Omaha to rural New Hampshire, but the beauty of our area is stunning, the people are friendly, and we are settling in and enjoying access to big city venues." Stokes is active in Alpha Tau's mentor program and said, "I would enjoy hearing from Betas." He can be reached at mccollister.john@gmail.com.

Pete Allman '76 has long been involved in our chapter in numerous ways, including our mentor program. He is one of the founders of Lighthouse, which has had extensive coverage in past issues of our newsletter and which our chapter continues to support in many ways. *The Dragon's Tale* also has two articles about the ALEC 102 class taught at UNL. This spring, the University had its annual Glow Big Red appeal for contributions, and many campus organizations were blessed with donations. Alpha Tau obtained over \$5,500, which helps support Pete's involvement in ALEC 102. (Our chapter was #1 for all fraternities and sororities for the total amount and number of donors. For those who supported us—our sincere thanks.) The picture to the left is from Pete's Tuesday night class from 2024 and the Beta new members he teaches, who remain after the formal class to learn Beta lore and songs. Pete and New Member Educator **Nathan Siy '23** are in the front row. (Nathan is now the Chapter President.) Pete can be reached at Peter.Allman@doane.edu.

Bill Buntain '81 has been the subject of alumni news in the past. In last fall's edition of *The Dragon's Tale* (nebraskabeta.com/sites/betathetapi/files/Dragon%27s%20Tale%20-%202024%20Fall.pdf page 9), Bill referred to one of his clients (P!nk) and the postponement of her Lincoln show. P!nk's tour was never rescheduled, and Bill has provided this update on his situation.

"As I begin my semi-retirement chapter, I plan to hub out of Lincoln and travel this year to my homes in Key West, Los Angeles, and, in the fall, Cabo San Lucas. I also look forward to catching up with family and friends who I have not been able to see very often over the past few years due to work travel and the COVID shutdown."

Thanks, Bill, for all your entertainment shows over the years, and good luck with your retirement. He can be reached at billbuntain@mac.com.

Greg Hackbart '86 continues to live in Lincoln, NE, and is now the chief growth officer for UVconcepts, a corporation based in Denver working in the healthcare industry. UVconcepts uses patented technology to help hospitals save lives from hospital-acquired infections. Greg can be reached at ghackbart@icloud.com.

Todd Mattox '99 is a former chapter President (2001-2002) and was President of The Experience Company for several years. Before joining the University of Nebraska Foundation, Todd was a Chapter Consultant to the General Fraternity in Oxford, OH, where he traveled to various chapters, which he described as an important part of his Beta experience. He is now Senior Director of Development for the Foundation. Todd is involved in Alpha Tau's mentor program and recently joined Chapter Advisor **Mike Wortman '67** as being certified by Gallup. (Todd is a Gallup-Certified Manager, and Mike is a Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach.) Todd is active in our mentor program, and can be reached at TMattox1@yahoo.com.

Jake Hedgecock '10 worked in the Nashville, TN, area while obtaining his MBA from Vanderbilt University. He and his family have returned to Lincoln, and he is a Project Manager for Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest. Jake is active in Alpha Tau's mentor program and can be reached at jake_hedgecock@yahoo.com.

Connor Stange '11 has worked in the PGA Tour Communications Department (headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL) for four years and lives in nearby Jacksonville. In his role, Connor travels to nearly 20 tournaments each year, organizing the on-site media efforts for Champions Tour events. In addition, he also oversees all statistical information for the Communications Department. Connor can be reached at cstange.2010@gmail.com.

Kurt Siebert '11 was Alpha Tau Chapter President from 2013-2014, and upon his UNL graduation, he worked for the Gallup organization for four years and has worked for the 3M Corporation for almost six years. Kurt has now written a book titled *Winding Roads* and offers the following:

In *Winding Roads*, Kurt shares his dating story and offers you a chance to reflect on your relationship (or hopeful relationship). Through opening up about his dating challenges, sharing reflections on 10 common dating obstacles, and pointed self-reflection questions, this book is here to help you intentionally navigate your dating relationship. The book is available through [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Kurt is active as a mentor for our chapter and can be reached at kurt.h.siebert@gmail.com. (*Editor's Note: Even though my wife and I have been married for a long time, I read the book over two days and believe there is information in Kurt's book that can also apply to solid marriages.*)

Connor Boyens '18 was employed in the Scottsdale, AZ, area after his UNL graduation. He has returned to Nebraska for an opportunity with Stryker, a global leader in medical technologies, offering innovative products and services in MedSurg, Neurotechnology, and Orthopaedics that help improve patient and healthcare outcomes. Connor also commented that he is "enjoying being back, aside from the winter weather in Nebraska." He is active in Alpha Tau's mentor program and can be reached at connorboyens@gmail.com.

Grant Auman '21 was the Alpha Tau Chapter President in 2023-2024. Last fall's *The Dragon's Tale* issue had an article and picture (page 9) of Grant, **John Hoehne '69**, and three University of Idaho Betas all working for U.S. Senator Mike Crapo of Idaho. Grant has now been promoted to Legislative Correspondent in the office of Senator Crapo in Washington, D.C. Grant will handle banking, tax, budget, energy, and other related issues. Grant can be reached at grantauman@gmail.com.

Cameron Niroomand-Rad '21 has moved to Seattle and is settling into his new role with the Kiewit Building Group as an office/field engineer. He is working on the Fircrest Nursing Facility project, a \$140 million development that includes a new, three-story building and a state-of-the-art laundry facility. He will work on this project for the next two to three years and will be able to see the project through from start to finish. Grading is being done on the site now, and Kiewit will start building the structure in April. Cameron stated that he has been sitting in many meetings, taking notes from the higher-ups, and "trying to soak in all the knowledge I can to make me the best engineer possible for my future career." Cameron can be reached at cameronrad01@gmail.com.

IN OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

If you have alumni news or information about the death of an Alpha Tau Beta for a future edition of *The Dragon's Tale*, email updates@nebraskabeta.com.

George Madsen '54 entered Our Mystic Shrine on March 19, 2021. He was AT 892. The chapter and General Fraternity were only recently informed of his death. George was a resident of Omaha, NE. He was born in Homer, NE, and raised in Dakota City, NE. After his UNL graduation, he finished schooling by earning his MBA from the Harvard Business School in 1961. He worked for several companies in his professional career, including The Broyhill Company, Valmont Industries (where he traveled internationally for several years), the Monsanto Chemical Company, and the Garst Seed Company. He remained active in retirement, serving as a board member of several organizations.

George is survived by his wife, Julie, and five children and stepchildren.

William Ronald Martis passed away on February 13. Beta Theta Pi has no record of Mr. Martis being initiated into any Beta chapter. His obituary states he was born in Oakland, CA, in 1933, lived on a farm in Nebraska, moved to Omaha as a teenager, and enrolled at the University of Nebraska at age 16, "where he continued his wrestling career, earning the title of Best Freshman Wrestler and joining Beta Theta Pi fraternity" according to his published obituary. Mr. Martis' schooling was interrupted by the Korean War when he was 18, and after being discharged, he returned to the University. He may have pledged Alpha Tau chapter but was never initiated. The Tuesday "Wherry Zoom" on February 25 discussed him, but no one knew Mr. Martis. If any alum has additional information about his "Beta membership," please email updates@nebraskabeta.com.



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THE DRAGON'S TALE

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*Pete Allman '76 delivering
the keynote address for this
year's Initiation Banquet.*