



THE DUKE BETA

Gamma Rho of Beta Theta Pi • Duke University

Durham, NC

Volume XVI, Number 1

November 2009

TDB ADMITTED TO DUKE

The Duke Beta is pleased to advise its readers that TDB has been admitted to Duke beginning with this issue. At this point it never expects to graduate. While the board scores left a lot to be desired TDB benefited greatly from the fact that everyone connected with the publication, as well as most of its readers went to Duke and many even graduated, some with more distinction than others. In this case, who you know certainly influenced the admissions policy. Another point in TDB's favor was its young age, having been born in May, 1995 with the first issue, making it somewhat younger than the average Duke freshman. Also, on February 18, 2008 become an orphan with the closing of Gamma Rho.

Because of its dwindling income TDB is pleased with Duke's need blind admissions policy and expects to take full advantage of it. Of course, as one Duke dean was heard to mutter under his breath in reference to this policy to the end that one is admitted to Duke on merit and Duke will provide the required funding, if necessary, but this will not buy a student a BMW. Thus, Duke Betas will have to continue to donate some money to TDB from time to time to finance incidentals (not including a new BMW [the publisher prefers Jags, anyway] however).

Duke will do a lot for TDB: publish a newsletter once a year, sent periodic emails, assist with a web site, and provide free beer and a meeting tent at fall Homecoming and Duke Reunions in the spring. Duke will also furnish free housing to TDB in the Duke Alumni Office where it will join the growing number of Duke affinity groups, including several other fraternity groups.

TDB will be a true and typical Duke freshman. Open to new ideas, completely free to speak its own mind without any censorship whatsoever (or sometimes sense), arrogant at being admitted to Duke and the success it has already had, open minded and opinionated, all at the same time!

So, TDB has matriculated at Duke, had the first beer at the Beta Tent at Homecoming (and will have another at the Beta Tent at Duke Reunions) and plans on being around for a long time!

It is expected that TDB will have a good relationship with Duke and that TDB will aid Duke by continuing to remind its readers of their obligation to Duke. Without Duke, Gamma Rho would not have existed and thus The Duke Beta would have never been.

TDB NEEDS FUNDING

TDB does not need nearly the funding to keep going as it did in the past (thanks to the Duke Alumni Association Affinity Group), but it certainly does need some. There are ongoing costs involved with a web site (even though the set up was free – except for some conversion costs), money is spent locating the Lost, and there are some incidentals. In addition, even though TDB never planned on deficit spending the outsource had to be paid for the last issue and that debt for the funds borrowed to pay it remains (\$1100.00), to be exact.

If everyone interested would send even a small check the debt could be paid and there would be a positive balance to go forward on. Many have generously supported TDB in the past and it is hoped that they, and others will do so now, and continue to do so in the future. Send all donations to: The Duke Beta, 465 Sheffield Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, with checks made payable to The Duke Beta. Remember, all funds are spent on TDB and there are no executive perks! TDB thanks all in advance.

COMING EVENTS

Duke Reunions 2010

April 16, 2010 to April 18, 2010

Contact Duke Alumni Association, (919) 684-5114
http://www.dukealumni.com/olc/pub/DUKE/reunion/reunion_1.html for all details.

Fifties Group

May 17, 2011 to May 20, 2011

Lake Lure, NC. Contact Hosts Suzanne Stohl and Doug Flynn # 403, (828) 625-2581 or (828) 625-2513, dougflynn@bellsouth.net, 244 Knoll Court, Lake Lure, NC 28746 for all details.

DUKE & BETA THETA PI

The General Fraternity, including it's officers and staff, continue to monitor the situation regarding Gamma Rho's return to Duke University. At present, we remain in a holding pattern as the University has a 6-semester waiting period before we can engage in negotiations for our return. If, the University remains committed to this timeline, we could begin negotiations in earnest, as early as Fall 2011. We will continue to keep the alumni updated with any progress.

We are pleased to hear that The Duke Beta newsletter has found a new home under the Duke Alumni Association umbrella. The Duke Beta has been a valuable publication and we're excited that it will live on in it's new form.

Lastly, anyone living in the Charlotte, NC region please consider joining us at the next Charlotte Beta Club gathering. No official date has been set for our next get-together but we hope any Gamma Rho's in the Queen city will consider joining us. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Biagio Cerbelli, Florida '98 at bcerbelli@hotmail.com.

Yours in kai, Matt Paynter, Florida '00, District Chief XVII

[Ed. Notes: TDB offered Judson Horras, Administrative Secretary, the opportunity to write an article from Oxford and he advised that Matt Paynter would do so, instead. TDB is advised by Clarybel Peguero, Duke Assistant Dean of Fraternity & Sorority Life that there is no mandatory 6-semester waiting period. She further advised that fraternity expansion is controlled by the IFC. A few years ago (before Gamma Rho was closed by Oxford) fraternities were invited to make application for coming to Duke. Several did. SAE was selected to be the first and is now back at Duke. Another fraternity will start the colonization process in 2011. Depending on how that process goes further applications may be sought, or may not be. This policy could change at any time, or never.]

LOST DUKE BETAS

Currently the five following Duke Betas are on the Lost List. This is five too many! Any info that would help TDB locate them would be appreciated. If you know anything about their whereabouts let TDB know at TDBatDuke@aol.com, 336/725-3884, 465 Sheffield Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27104:

Clifford Joseph Baron	# 795
Gerald K. Busch	# 481
Matthew Graham Fox	# 991
Carroll D. Grant	# 412
Charles Robert Weimer	# 86

NO DRY RUSH AT DUKE

The IFC Chairman advised the Duke Greek Advisory Council (part of the Duke Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and includes several members of the Duke Administration) on April 18, 2009 that the 15 fraternities at Duke pledged 260 men in the 2009 rush (including 31 who went SAE, which was reopened in 2009), down slightly from the previous year. The IFC Chairman estimated that each fraternity spent \$10,000 to \$15,000 on rush each year and that 25% of the expense was for alcohol. No fraternity had a dry rush.

WEB SITE

The Duke Beta web site is up! Check it out at <http://www.thedukebeta.com/> or go to http://www.dukealumni.com/olc/pub/DUKE/affinity/affinity_1.html (scroll down to Beta Theta Pi).

TDB is finally getting completely into the digital age (except for the printed newsletter which is different from the web site) and hopes that everyone will check out the web site regularly for what is happening between print issues (which come out only once a year). If you do not have email get your grandchildren to pull up the web site for you. If you do have email and do not get regular emails from TDB and/or Duke re TDB, please send your email address to TDBatDuke@aol.com ASAP.

LO-LAI FESTIVAL BRINGS ‘EM BACK HOME

Did you think the demise of Gamma Rho would mean the end of our beloved sport of Lo-Lai? Well, as evidenced by the fantastic turnout for the second semi-annual Lo-Lai Heritage Festival, the sacred game is alive and as strong as ever. Over the weekend of August 8, 2009, a crowd of 40 or so OTBs, family members and friends descended upon Durham to rekindle old bonds and engage in some vintage smack-talking while competing for the heavyweight of all Lo-Lai titles. After a barbecue feast hosted by Lauren and Neil Goslin # 1007, in their lovely Forest Hills abode, the Friday night merriment continued late into the early morning at the auction party held at the house of Wil Weldon # 1070, just a two block stumble away. Demonstrating a remarkable immunity to the dour economy and the prevailing liquidity crunch (although likely influenced a bit by the second keg), several overzealous kais helped bid the total purse up to nearly two grand. The next day’s action did not disappoint as the 16 teams delivered some of the most inspired lai ever to grace the court.



2nd Semi-Annual Lo-Lai
Heritage Festival

At the end of a grueling day, Team Olde School (Jason Freeman # 986 and Stuart Vickery # 1006) emerged victorious over the last-second pairing of Greg Altman # 1056 and Andy “Ace” Asadorian # 1236. The genetically challenged duo of Jamey # 1011 and Carter # 1026 Stowell finished a strong third, while Michael Faber # 1234 and Tony Pilnik # 1286 came in a respectable fourth after knocking out the defending champs and tournament co-organizers Neil Goslin and Wil Weldon, A/K/A “Team Forest Hillbillies,” who graciously stepped aside to promote the long-term viability of the tourney by letting somebody else win for a change.

With a few possible exceptions—the dumpster was an odd shape, the decision not to have a port-a-potty was made in isolation of the choice to cater an outdoor Indian buffet, and the 8 team playoff was reseeded no less than four times—the event was an unequivocal success. Not only did we succeed in pushing Wannamaker III an estimated 3 centimeters closer to the Chapel, but we have cemented this event into the extensive Gamma Rho social calendar and fully expect an even greater turnout when we hold it again in the summer of 2011. In the meantime, for more pictures and to keep tabs on what’s happening on all things lai-, you can visit the Friends of Wooglin website located at <http://lo-lai.ning.com/>



THE WINNERS
Stuart Vickery # 1006
& Jason Freeman # 986

THREE STAR AWARD WINNER • DREW MICHAEL # 1139

The Duke Beta hereby formally makes its first Three Star Award to an outstanding Duke Beta, Andrew Drew Michael # 1139, better known as “Drew”, for his dedicated services to all members of Gamma Rho.

Drew accepted the challenge of singlehandedly bringing TDB into the digital age by setting up a long needed web site without any remuneration whatsoever. He has also agreed to maintain the web site in the future. His work, which requires a great deal of time and effort in an area that many Duke Betas would not even know where to start, makes him more than worthy of being the first and only recipient of this award!

TDB and all Duke Betas are appreciative of Drew’s devotion to helping keep the bonds of brotherhood alive for all members of Gamma Rho. Duke Betas may wish to personally thank Drew at drew.michael@alumni.duke.edu

REPORT FROM RWANDA

Add my name to the list of people “set free” by the recession. Drew Michael, # 1098, writing from Gisenyi, Rwanda, on the shore of Lake Kivu and about a mile from the Congo border, having the time of my life. I’m an Assistant Trial Attorney at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, based in Arusha, Tanzania. I’m in Rwanda for the week on investigative mission and am taking a couple extra days to hike out to see the “gorillas in the mist.”

After graduating from Duke in 1998, I worked in Japan for a couple of years teaching English in a public high school. By historical accident, my town in Japan had a huge population of Brazilian migrant workers, and there was an “incident” involving a Brazilian woman being forcibly ejected from a jewelry shop. The woman sought to sue the jeweler for this racist, xenophobic discrimination (not all that rare in Japan)—but discovered that there was no law on Japan’s books prohibiting it. She wound up suing him in a Japanese court based on the UN Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Racial Discrimination, an unprecedented approach. And winning. It was a revelation for me: international law, for all its shortcomings, could serve as a last resort on fundamental issues of justice and fairness.

I’d been a Psychology major at Duke, and not a very devoted one. Once I got back home to NC, I decided to do an MA in International Relations and then law school, hoping that the MA would give me a better empirical understanding of how the world works, and that the JD would be a sort of license to “do something about it.” I had dreams of going right into international human rights work, but soon discovered (like many other Betas I’m sure) that the crushing cost of law school and my lack of legal street cred meant that I’d have to pay my dues in Big Law. I wound up at a big firm in NYC, where oddly enough I joined the project finance department. Our practice was primarily infrastructure and green energy related, which meant that some of my projects really did make the world a better place. But I still needed a sense of meaning and, more importantly, an exit strategy. So I developed and coordinated a large pro bono asylum and refugees practice, which was surprisingly well-received as most young associates had little else to do once the NY legal industry went into free-fall.

I enjoyed my time in Big Law—or rather, I enjoyed the money, the car service, and the chance to travel. But it was obvious to the firm that I wasn’t gunning for partnership, so when the time came for layoffs, I was one of the first to go. I had interned here at the Tribunal during law school. I called up my old boss for leads on a job in the area...and he hired me himself.

So I’m back, five years later, working on the same case. It’s a legendarily complex and long-lived case involving three high-ranking political figures from the MRND party, which is generally considered to be responsible for planning and fomenting the 1994 genocide. My trial team comes from all over Africa, North America, and even India. UN bureaucracy has turned out to be just as beastly as you’d expect...but otherwise life here in Arusha is good. This sleepy little town is the “gateway to Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti” and has just about everything I could need—good food, good music, and good enough wine, great company, and the occasional safari. (We’re located in Tanzania because at the time the Tribunal was set up, Rwanda was still essentially a war zone. And moreover, Rwanda still had the death penalty, which the UN opposes as an institution...which could obviously lead to some unpleasant contradictions.)

Somehow, I’ve found my way back to my dream job. I’m proud that I worked long and hard and focused on a very specific goal to get here—but I’m also aware of how incredibly lucky I am that everything fell into place at just the right time, when losing my lucrative but soul-sucking big firm job could have been an utter disaster.

HOT NUKES: A BETA CONNECTION

A book about something that happened in 1966 was published last spring. It is a worthwhile read, particularly for Duke Betas. The book is *The Day We Lost the H-Bomb* by Barbara Moran.

This book tells the story that many of us know. As its subtitle accurately trumpets, it is the story of “Cold War, Hot Nukes and the Worst Nuclear Weapons Disaster in History,”

One of our Beta Brothers knows this story better than anyone. He is US Air Force (Retired) Lt. Col. Charles J. (Charlie) Wendorf # 405, who is alive and well and living in Narvoo, IL. This is no small accomplishment, given the nature of what happened on January 17, 1966, as set forth in Ms. Moran’s book. That is the day when a B-52 exploded during an air-to-air refueling operation approximately 30,000 feet above Spain.

Ms. Moran’s book is well-documented. It has a 73-page bibliography to support the story’s 218 pages. Ms. Moran has drawn from many sources, including transcripts and documents that were kept secret for years. More importantly, Charlie Wendorf says she did a good job with the book. After all, Charlie was there when it happened.

He was the command pilot of the B-52. However, at the time the plane broke apart and exploded near the tanker, the B-52 was being flown by another pilot. Charlie ejected from the B-52 and suffered a broken arm as he was catapulted from the plane. He was pulled from the Mediterranean by Spanish fishermen. Three of the seven men on the B-52 did not survive. The tanker and its four-member crew were lost, too.

Though the beginning of the book deals with Charlie’s background and his considerable skill as a pilot, it is more about the recovery of the “lost” H-bomb and the political implications associated with the incident. Curiously, the book makes no mention of the fact that Charlie is a Duke Beta or the fact that he is the “chow man” who hawked roast-beef sandwiches and brownies under the clock tower in the 50’s. Despite this failing, there is much good stuff jammed into *H-Bomb’s* 218 pages.

Of particular interest to Duke alumni is the fact that Angier Biddle Duke was United States Ambassador to Spain at the time. His grand nephew is Tony Duke # 1055. Ambassador Duke had his work cut out for him. The United States had not told the Spanish government that nuclear-armed B-52’s were routinely refueling over Spain. The planes were flying from Goldsboro, NC, refueling over Spain once they crossed the Atlantic.

After unhooking from the tanker, the B-52 would fly a race-track mission near the Soviet Union and then return to a tanker over Spain for enough gas to get back to Goldsboro. It was on the return-home refueling that Wendorf’s plane came apart. Four H-Bombs tumbled out of it. Fortunately, parachutes were attached to all four. It certainly made it easier to find them, even in the case of the “lost H-Bomb.”

It suffices to say that three of the bombs were recovered quickly because they landed in or about the Spanish fishing village of Palmero on the Mediterranean coast. The recovery of the fourth bomb is the focus of the book. Ms. Moran’s account of how it was located and how it was recovered intact is compelling and informative.

One of the most interesting aspects of the book deals with the role of two deep-diving submersibles, *Alvin* and *Aluminaut*. These awkward-looking craft (both pictured in the book) were virtually experimental in 1966. But, they came through at the time. Without them it is highly unlikely that the H-Bomb would have been recovered. The bomb was lying on the floor of the Mediterranean, covered with its parachute, approximately 2,500 feet below the surface.

Lt. Col. Wendorf was a young captain at the time of the incident. He continued his career in the Air Force until he retired after 22 years of service. By the way, plans are being made for Charlie, who has spoken very little publicly about the incident, to make a presentation at the Lake Lure 50’s Group Reunion, beginning May 17, 2011. Do not miss it.

—Warren Sparrow # 378

ALUMNI NEWS

Bob Hinshaw # 46 can be emailed at rahinshaw@citcom.net . He writes, "My address is 48 College View Ct., Brevard, NC 28712-2648. I graduated from Duke in the fall of 1943, but came to Duke in 1940 as a member of the Class of 1944 – but the draft board kept after me and I enrolled in summer school and graduated early".

Sid Stokes # 182 emails, "I was initiated into Gamma Rho during the school year 1945/46. I was a Navy V-5 student, part of the V-12 contingent. After about 3 or 4 years away on active service with the Navy, I enrolled at Miami Univ. (Ohio) where I was an active member of the Alpha Chapter. I graduated with the 1952 class and took a job overseas and lost touch with the Betas. I am long retired and am enjoying a pleasant lifestyle and good health at 1307 N. Night Heron Drive, Green Valley, AZ 85614. Please add me to your e-mail list sidandjudy@msn.com

Bob Gorham #228 believes that the upcoming TDB web site is a good idea, regrets that he cannot get back to Duke this fall and always looks forward to the next issue of the newsletter.

Jim Hollowell # 265 visited his cousin, Stan Collyer # 287 on his way to help celebrate the 100th birthday of yet another cousin, Stan's aunt, in Bloomington, IN. They spent two memorable days catching up on everything, including a lively discussion of their very differing political views and had an interesting visit to the Louisville Slugger Baseball Museum and Factory in Louisville, KY. Stan also reports that he had a letter published in the NYT advocating inter-city mass transit and that the Chinese are publishing a multi-volume work in English and Chinese on the contents of *Competitions* (his magazine) since his last book in 2004. [Ed. Note. He should contact Taylor Siedell # 1203, see below].

Sam Hooper # 295 reports, via wife Virginia, that they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 11, 2009 and that his major task now is taking pictures of birds and yachts in the Indian River, a/k/a the Intercostal Waterway, in Ft. Pierce, FL. Email him at vahooper@comcast.net

Gene James # 296, jamesgene@att.net , "We enjoy the Fifties Group get together and hope they can continue. We are not getting any younger and probably two years would make sense; but we [Gene and wife, Margaret]

are of the opinion the next one should be in 2011". [Ed. Note: And so it will be. See Lake Lure article].

Jack Pettit # 335 reports from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, "All is well her. Still flying and playing lots of golf, as well as serving as president of the local airport board". Email him at jwpettit@cookes-hope.com

Bob Walton #338, walton3595@bellsouth.net, "TDB is the best option for communication in this age. I look forward to keeping up by email."

"Do any of the Betas have blogs? I am thinking about it and would love some advice". Blake Byrne # 350 Bbwatney@aol.com [Ed. Note: All Duke Beta Blogs will be added to the Duke Beta Links on the web site.]

Jim Faris # 409 claims he is trying to get organized to retire by the end of 2009, possibly back home in Indiana (Muncie). Still, as usual traveling, Alaska in June, Greek Isles in October, calls it checking off the places on the bucket list. Stays in touch with several of the Brothers, "the friendships formed those many years ago have proved very enduring.....and enjoyable."

Steve Porter # 414, and wife Devona, have a B&B, the 1840 Tucker House, in Louisville, KY and invite all Duke Betas to come stay. Call 502/297-800 for reservations.

Bill Lamb # 447 is back practicing law with his old firm, Lamb McErlane, PC in West Chester. PA. He did not run for election after being appointed to fill a vacancy on the PA Supreme Court.

Geoffrey Mason # 472 is working on a web site of alumni of ABC Sports of which he and Chuck Howard # 303 (deceased) were such a big part. It will be on the Duke Beta Links on the web site with many great pictures of both when it is up. He emails, "Chuck was the person that got me me into ABC... I sent a letter to him (I was a LTJG in the Navy at the time) after reading a story in the Beta Nat'l magazine...taught me everything I know – good and bad!!."

Bob Steel # 646 is now head of Gregg Street Capital in Greenwich, CN, after Goldman Sachs, Undersecretary of the Treasury, Chairman of the Duke Board of Trustees, and CEO of Wchovia Bank (Wells Fargo now). Must be a book here waiting to be written. [Ed Note: See Crisis Managers in the Duke Magazine, September-October 2009 about him and other Duke "Masters of the Universe".]

ALUMNI NEWS (*continued*)

David Place # 678, an antiques dealer, was recently indicted in federal court for trading whale teeth.

Jeff Howard # 681, and wife, Carson, have both received the Forever Duke Award for 2009. the the new prestigious award for outstanding service to Duke.

Eric Husketh # 1098. emhusketh@gmail.com, "I am currently an Assistant Trial attorney at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, located in Arusha, Tanzania. Any Brothers interested in climbing Kilimanjaro or going on safari in the Serengeti will find a warm welcome, a cold beer, and a spare bedroom!" [Ed. Note: See Report From Rwanda].

Ed Domingo # 1109, "The web site looks great! I'm not sure what offense I could have committed though to be left off the Gamma Rho Roll Call!! [Ed. Note: Actually, his name was just in the wrong place with the wrong roll number.] I mean, I know I wasn't the greatest chapter president of all time, but I did manage to keep the place from burning down for a year...In any case, I hope it was just an oversight and not that I am delinquent on dues to Nationals or that you're decided to expunge me for any number of activities during my term that are only now coming to light!...I do have one chip to trade you for restoring me to rolls however [Ed. Note: He is desperate is he not?] - one of the Lost Duke Betas was at my wedding just last year, Leif Roll #1225.

Taylor Siedell # 1203, "I am currently in northeast China (Harbin). I quit my banking job to take a year off to study Mandarin and read philosophy." He would appreciate hearing from any Duke Betas with an interest in or dealings with China. Email him in Chinese or English at tcsiedell@yahoo.com .

Rob Lawner # 1264 is living in NYC and is running in the NYC Marathon this year. He runs with a charity called Team for Kids <http://www.teamforkids.org>. He has been training on his own since January (a New Years resolution) and running up to 16 milers and would love to find some Duke Beta running partners in the NY area. Run him down at robert.lawner@gmail.com

Rick Bagel # 1291 is now at 601 Three Islands Blvd., Hallandale Beach, Fl 33009, rick.bagel@duke.edu while getting his MBA at UM.

FIFTIES GROUP MEETING SET • LAKE LURE 2011

By secret ballot the members of the Fifties Group voted to have their next reunion in North Carolina, at a resort, near water, where a group member has a home and a club for a function and golf, a cruise and a train ride. Initially, it appeared that such an arrangement would be difficult, if not impossible. Fortunately, Suzanne Sthol and Doug Flynn # 403 volunteered Lake Lure, NC, and if you ride the train to Charlotte on the way there it has everything, and more.

The dates are set: Tuesday, May 17 – Friday, May 30, 2011. Lake Lure, a resort in the mountains east of Asheville, obviously is near water, Doug and Suzanne's home is called Flynn's Knoll on the 5th Hole and is near their club, and a cruise on the lake has been arranged. Everything!

Check the Coming Events section on the web site for complete details and registration/lodging info, or contact douglynn@bellsouth.net, 828/625-2581.

FALL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

11/03	7:00	Findlay(exhibition)	Durham, NC
11/13	7:00	UNCG	Durham, NC
11/16	7:00	Coastal Carolina/NIT Season Tip-Off	Durham, NC
11/17	6:00	Charlotte/Elon/NIT Season Tip-Off	Durham, NC
11/21	2:00	Radford	Durham, NC
11/25	7or9	NIT Semifinals	NYC
11/27	5:00	NIT Championship	NYC
12/02	9:15	Wisconsin (Big Ten/ACC Challenge)	Madison, WI
12/05	3:30	St. John's	Durham, NC
12/15	7:00	Gardner-Webb	Durham, NC
12/19	4:00	Gonzaga	NYC
12/29	7:00	Long Beach State	Durham, NC
12/31	6:00	Pennsylvania	Durham, NC

Since publication of our last newsletter, we have learned of the deaths of

William Edward Farquhar # 273 (10/8/09)
Kenneth C. Bass, III # 513 (4/27/09)

The Duke Beta
465 Sheffield Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27104