

THE DUKE BETA

Gamma Rho of Beta Theta Pi • Duke University



Durham, NC

Volume XVII, Number 1

December 2010

AUFHAMMER # 7 HONORED

This issue of *The Duke Beta* is respectfully dedicated to Robert Deane Aufhammer # 7. Bob possessed the lowest Gamma Rho Roll Number on the Active List. Unfortunately, he did not live to see this issue as he died on August 16, 2010. Born in 1920 he would have been 91 years old on his next birthday. [Ed. Note: This article was written prior to his death]:

He was one of 21 in the first group initiated on October 6, 1939.

Gamma Rho would never have become the fraternity it was for the almost 70 years it existed without the start given to it by men such as Bob Aufhammer. TDB is pleased to be able to honor him in this very small way.

Bob is truly an OTB. He remembers with great fondness his college days and remains a staunch supporter of Duke University, Gamma Rho, and Beta Theta Pi. Some of his recollections of fraternity life at Duke may appear unusual to Duke Betas of lesser years, but much did not change over the years.

Bob, born and raised in Pittsburgh, picked Duke over the University of Pennsylvania for a familiar reason – he did not like snow. He enrolled in Engineering but soon became a General Business major. He played varsity soccer for three years, and had summer jobs working at the Bethlehem Steel Mill in Sparrows Point, MD. There were 14 fraternities at Duke. Gamma Rho had 2 to 3 floors of a 4-story dorm with rooms above the first floor social areas. Bob was one of the original of about a dozen who agreed to become Betas. They were trained at the Eta Chapter at UNC.

Being a good Beta, Bob has nothing but fond memories of his fellow pledges – Bob Miles # 1 known as the "Founder of the chapter, a really " 'nice big guy' who later became a GE executive" – Bob Spangler # 2 was "quarterback of the football team nicknamed the 'Iron Dukes'" – Larry Everett # 5 "took care of the pledges" – Bob Atwell # 6 "from Ohio, became a doctor and possibly served on the Duke Board of Trustees" – the Beckel brothers, Frank and Willis, # 9 and # 10 " were smart guys with good grades" – Ches Blodget # 11 "great football player until he got hurt, went on to Naval training program and was injured in a plane accident"



A Beta...

...and a Theta

– Paul Efird # 13 "son of Efird Department store owner in Charlotte, NC". Bob himself served as Rush Chairman.

According to Bob, Gamma Rho members had the reputation of being "clean cut". They partied at the Washington Duke Hotel in downtown Durham and at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill. Although men and women had separate classes in those days, Bob spent enough time on East to date Elizabeth Welford Peach, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta who was White Duchy (wonder how many Duke Beta/Theta marriages there have been). She remembered the first time she saw him on campus "sharp slacks with the cuffs hemmed high above the shoe... and oh those white buck shoes!" A true "Beta Sweetheart". These were the war years at Duke and Bob remembers British sailors coming to Duke for R&R.

After Duke, Bob got his Master's in Business from Wharton. Married in 1944, he and Elizabeth (she died in 2008) had four children, 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They lived in California where Bob began work for Goodyear Tire and Rubber and Penn Mutual Insurance.

Soon after, Bob started and owned a property/casualty general insurance agency in Pasadena, California. This business successfully operated for 40 years through to his retirement.

Bob Aufhammer was "Proud to be a Beta" and all Duke Betas should be proud that he is a Beta!

TDB RESEARCH

As TDB's research staff is quite limited, in fact such is non-existent, so if it does not come up quickly on Google, and a couple of other sites, then many of the facts reported, as here, are likely to be personal recollections. Since Bob Aufhammer # 7 was over 90 years old, his recollections of the early days of Gamma Rho are thus believed to be over 90% accurate! Thanks for sharing your memories, Bob; and TDB would appreciate hearing from others about the early days of the finest fraternity ever at Duke.

WEB SITE REPORT

Bookmark, Favorite Place, whatever you need to do to remind you to check out the Duke Beta web site ever so often. View it at <http://www.thedukebeta.com/>. News is posted when it happens (or at least within a reasonable time thereafter, sometimes). Gamma Rho Roll Call tells you the status of everyone ever initiated. Wall of Honor contains all the composite pictures TDB has been able to locate. Plus many other interesting features, including full obituaries as available.

CLASS OF 1966 REUNION PLANS

Art Haigh # 528 and Grant Harmon # 522 are planning and organizing the 45th Reunion of the Duke Beta Class of 1966 in Durham April 8-10, 2011 in connection with Duke Reunions. Contact them at haighart3@comcast.net and pgharmon@alo.com.



DUKE

BETA

TAILGATE

2010

The crowd was very small, Duke lost the game (as we have every year but one since this annual event began), but the weather was great.

BE AN AUTHOR

TDB is always looking for more Duke Beta Alumni News and for interesting comments on what is going on in the general Beta Theta Pi world re Duke, now and in the past. Needed also are longer articles about interesting journeys Duke Betas have taken, both travel and through life. Pictures are always good. What was Duke, and Gamma Rho, like when you were there; the war years at Duke; gatherings of Duke Betas; what you have done that most Duke Betas have not; are good topics. In short, if you want all the other Duke Betas to know about it, and the world if posted on the web site, send it to TDB. Email to TDBatDuke@aol.com. Even handwritten copy accepted at *The Duke Beta*, 465 Sheffield Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27104.

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

TDB believes that the herein apology is the least that it can do to correct one of the worst errors that it has ever made (other than killing off a Duke Beta by mistake).

The last issue of *The Duke Beta* carried an excellent article entitled *Report From Rwanda*. It was written by Eric Husketh # 1098 and tells of his present work and life as an attorney with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Somehow our sloppy proofer, copy editor, writer, reporter, and publisher, attributed this great feature story to Drew Michael # 1139 (he who set-up and maintains the TDB web site).

TDB sincerely apologizes for this grievous error.

A POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Kent Graham '59 died October 4, 2010. She assisted with the founding of the Fifties Group (around the pool at her home), many of whom attended her Memorial Service in Winston-Salem, was at every meeting and helped host several. She assisted in the editing of every previous issue of The Duke Beta. Kent went to more Duke Beta functions, beginning with her first year at Duke, than most Betas! She was married to Bill Graham # 322.

ALUMNI NEWS!

What do you collect?

Blake Byrne # 350 joins a distinguished group of Duke collectors featured in the July-August 2010 *Duke Magazine*. He collects contemporary art.

Good Luck!

Pete Taylor # 369 traveled to Montreal in June for the Rotary convention. He has bought an Evo smart phone and hopes to live long enough to figure out at least half its features.

Italian Travel

Jim Faris # 409 and Joan are traveling, as usual. They spent a good portion of the summer in Italy from the Lake District to Pompeii, and just about everything in between. Additionally, they're still planning on moving back to Indianapolis.

ALUMNI NEWS!

Gray Auction

Tom Gray # 602 sold his antique collection at auction in Winston-Salem March 29, 2010. Highlights of the sale included a North Carolina cellaret estimated to bring \$40,000 - \$ 60,000 which went under the hammer for \$140,000 (add the 18% buyer's premium and the 7.75% NC sales tax makes it an expensive place to store cheap wine) and a set of five baskets made by the Shelton sisters of nearby Bethania which brought \$26,000. In addition to Tom, who stayed throughout the sale, seen there were Bill Wilson # 682, Redge Hanes # 590, and Bill Graham # 322.

Real Estate

Jim Anthony #687 has signed a deal for his firm, Anthony & Co., to become the Raleigh affiliate of Colliers International, one of the world's largest commercial real-estate services companies. He had founded his firm in 1987.

His Honor

Bob Steele #646 has been named Deputy Mayor of New York City.

ALUMNI NEWS!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Duke Reunions 2011

**April 8, 2011 to April 10, 2011
Durham, NC**

Contact the Duke Alumni Association at (919) 684-5114 or <http://www.dukealumni.com/reunions-homecoming/reunions> for more information.

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 or 244 Knoll Court, Lake Lure, NC 28746 for all details.

We hope to see you there!

Since publication of our last printed newsletter we have learned of the deaths of:

Robert Deane Aufhammer	#7	(8/16/10)
James G. Hill	#187	(2/19/10)
Bruce William Reyle	#233	(9/3/09)
Louis Langford Rose, Jr.	#254	(3/15/10)
Otis Vernon Zavertnik	#255	(10/12/09)
James Hurdist Milsap, Jr.	#300	(8/16/10)
John Copeland Price	#318	(7/14/09)
Robert Davidson Stuart, III	#347	(8/10/09)
James Herbert Wilkerson, Jr.	#354	(11/23/09)
John Earl Hobbs, Jr.	#365	(10/27/09)
William Irving Riker, Jr.	#797	(5/15/10)

Gamma Rho of Beta Theta Pi mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

SAVE THE DATE

WHO: 50's Group (Classes 1950-1962) **WHEN:** Tuesday, May 17th – Friday, May 20, 2011

WHERE: Rumbling Bald Resort, Lake Lure, NC (log onto www.rumblingbald.com)

For detailed information visit www.thedukebeta.com, Coming Events - Fifties Group to download the attachment.

Even if you can't join us, please send your e-mail address to dougflynn@bellsouth.net.

We are looking forward to hosting this fun event!

Doug Flynn & Suzanne Stohl: Flynn's Knoll on the 5th Hole, 244 Knoll Court, Lake Lure, NC 28746 or (828) 625-2581.

BET YOU DID NOT KNOW ALL THIS

Would you believe that 48% of Duke Alumni have graduated since 1989? Looking at from where and whatever is always interesting.



HELP!

TDB does not like to have to ask for money. However, it has to be done if it is to continue. If you enjoy the annual newsletter, the web site, and the occasional email send TDB a check every so often. There are some costs involved and money is still needed to get the pictures from the Chanticleer up on the web site. Send your check to:
**The Duke Beta, 465
 Sheffield Drive,
 Winston-Salem, NC 27104.**
 Please, and special thanks to all those who contribute regularly.

ACTIVE DUKE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI: A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE, 2010-2011

I. Active Alumni: 141,945	Seattle	1,889
Ia. Active/Addressable Alumni: 136,427	Denver	1,841
Ib. Email Addressable Alumni: 92,582	Houston	1,674
	Miami	1,589
II. Gender: Male 58% - 79,073	Dallas	1,563
Female 42% - 57,354	Tampa Bay	1,474
	Richmond	1,418
III. Race: Caucasian 79%	Winston-Salem	1,173
Asian American 7	Greensboro	1,153
African American 4	[Total: 79,354 - 57%]	
Hispanic 2	{Foreign Addresses: 6,687}	
Native American 0.2		
Other 7.8		
IV. U.S. Regions:	VI. Decade of Graduation:	
South 72,430	2000s 42,044 27%	
Northeast 26,133	1990s 33,372 21	
Midwest 12,059	1980s 27,389 17	
West 18,840	1970s 21,478 14	
	1960s 13,786 9	
IV. Top Ten States:	1950s 8,411 5	
North Carolina 26,994 21%	1940s 3,770 2	
California 10,404 8	1930s 554 1	
New York 9,248 7	Pre-30s 30 0.5	
Virginia 9,086 7	{Half Century Club: 12,577}	
Florida 7,427 6	VII. School and College:	
Georgia 5,906 5	Trinity 62,099 40%	
Maryland 5,493 4	Graduate 25,346 16	
Texas 5,407 4	Fuqua 14,337 9	
Pennsylvania 4,808 4	Pratt 10,069 7	
Massachusetts 4,150 3	Law 9,854 6	
[69%]	Woman's 7,427 5	
V. Major Geographic Concentrations:	Divinity 6,203 4	
New York 10,970	Medicine 5,974 4	
Washington, D.C. 9,919	NSOE 3,162 2	
Durham 6,909	Allied Health 2,764 2	
Raleigh 5,397	Nursing (BS) 2,536 2	
San Francisco 5,196	Nursing/Grad 2,535 2	
Atlanta 4,790	Sanford 133 .1	
Boston 4,687	[Undergrad 81,390 52%]	
Charlotte 3,760	[Prof. 49,900 32%]	
Los Angeles 3,611	[Graduate 25,346 16%]	
Philadelphia 3,320	VIII. Facts: 1. Median class: 1990	
Chicago 2,929	2. Median age: 46	
Baltimore 2,150	3. Average age: 46	
Chapel Hill 1,942		