Gamma Pi was proud to send more than 30 undergraduate members to the 162nd ΒΘΠ General Convention last July. The annual convention, entitled “The Challenge of Tradition,” joined some 800 alumni and undergraduates from the United States and Canada together to conduct business, award scholarships, recognize outstanding chapters as well as individuals and just have a good time with fellow brothers.

We were very proud to win our seventh Sisson Award, given to chapters that demonstrate excellence in 19 areas, including scholarship, philanthropy, alumni affairs and public relations. We also received the Virginia Tech Award for scholastic achievement with our 3.001 grade point average, the highest in Region F.

Gamma Pi also earned the Campus Involvement Award for the efforts of our members in organizations outside of Beta Theta Pi. We had to have 100 percent involvement from our members to earn this award.

Gamma Pi once again brought the Wichita State Award and Whitman Choral Cup back to Lawrence while Chris Brammer ’02 won the 2001 New Song Competition for “The Beta’s Welcome.”

Beta Theta Pi is unique in having an annual general convention. We gain strength through association, communication, continuity, vision and brotherhood. As Seth R. Brooks, St. Lawrence ’22, said, “…if our fraternity is to have the great future we hope for it, then those of the present hour must be living up to the best of our tradition so that those who come after them will see the light of the stars and follow in the path trod by those who led our fraternity in the past to its heights and points of distant vision.”

The brothers of Gamma Pi certainly made the most of this unique and special opportunity. We all enjoyed meeting hundreds of our brothers, competing in the various events, learning about our fraternity and making new friends.

Gamma Pi Brothers at the 162nd General Convention

The Fraternity Housing Crisis

Our history

In 1941, Betas (and all other Lawrence University fraternities) were persuaded to give up off-campus houses in exchange for moving into the Quad. Our contracts were reaffirmed by LU in 1985. They guarantee us the right to use our houses so long as we are active on campus.

Our nightmare

Today, the university proposes to ignore these contracts. They want to let any interested group apply to take over fraternity houses and have even discussed chiseling fraternity names off the doors of our homes. In a few years, after sufficient funds have been raised, their plans call for some of the houses to be bulldozed to make room for a new campus center.

What are we doing?

We are continuing to reach out to the administration in concert with all of the fraternities. While their lawyers quibble over whether our agreements with the university meet the legal definition of a “contract,” we believe that these agreements, at a minimum, represent a “gentleman’s agreement” between honorable parties. And we don’t believe that gentlemen should engage in unethical land grabs.

Bulldozing the Quad would be a sad moment

Fortunately, the equitable answer is simple and logical: if Lawrence believes they must take our home as part (Continued on page 2)
Responding to the National Tragedy

“My domain and yours, chorus of a song. Different views but continue to get along.” How appropriate these words are in this time of great despair and great inspiration. We wonder out loud about the strength and character of this nation and its people. We question our loyalty and our dedication and yet, our questions are answered immediately with the brilliant responses that we all, somehow, know are coming.

I have been asked to consider music as I write this article, so I will do my best. Music, to me, is a force beyond anything that is being questioned in these trying days. It is something that binds hearts and minds together, no matter what.

It is a great force that brings congressmen and women together, Republican and Democrat alike, on the mall of Washington, DC in a chorus of “God Bless America.” It is what connects every person in these United States on Friday night candlelight vigils in sovereign remembrance of the many victims of the September 11’s horrible nightmare. It is song that brings a tear to every eye this day as we sing and hear our National Anthem sung, on every street corner and in every home across America.

Music speaks internationally as well. On a recent day, in England, the infamous “Changing of the Guard” was replaced by a stirring rendition of America’s “National Anthem.” Hymns of praise were sung at every minute of every hour in church services around the globe. Every mother sings a very special lullaby to her children at night in wake of the severe loss that faces so many of America’s mothers. That song captures everyone in the world.

It is song that binds out hearts together as brothers in Beta Theta Pi. Though it may seem unimportant, it is this tie that we must hold most sacred in times like these. We must unite as one and show our Beta spirit as parallel to the spirit of our country. We must raise our voice in songs of brotherhood and patriotism, and represent our devotion to our principles, our brothers, our friends, our leaders and our country. God bless America!

Chris Brammer

Brothers getting ready for Wichita State Song Competition

THE FRATERNITY HOUSING CRISIS

(Continued from page 1)

of some bigger, better, grander campus plan, they must provide us with comparable, alternative housing. At the minimum, the university has a moral obligation, which they have chosen to ignore. They have “generously” offered us dorm rooms in return for taking over our house.

Alumni, How do you like being lied to?

In September, the chairman of the board of trustees wrote to you. He implied that opposition to their plans came from a few spoiled, out-of-touch alumni who just don’t “get it.” Naturally, he didn’t mention their contractual obligations. He accused the fraternities of discontinuing negotiations. He neglected to mention that negotiations were started only because the fraternities requested them. He neglected to mention that the fraternities ceased negotiations only because the university was not negotiating in good faith, but rather dictating its desired results. And he neglected to mention that the fraternities have suggested that both parties submit these matters to binding arbitration. The university has ignored the request. He didn’t mention that, either.

No one wants to hurt Lawrence University

The administration suggests that those who have the gall to oppose them are Lawrence-haters who seek to injure the university. Nothing could be further from the truth. Among those who seek to block the university’s plans are some of Lawrence’s most loyal and longest-term supporters, including present and former trustees and officers of the Lawrence Alumni Association. These are people who love Lawrence but want to prevent a serious mistake.

Get on the Band Wagon

So, what can you do? Please join us, the National Interfraternity Council, the Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity, hundreds of fellow alumni and all the other fraternities on the Lawrence campus in continuing our struggle!

Please send the biggest check you can today. Make it out to “Beta Sigma Phi Housing Corporation” and send it to: R. Paul Nickel, Treasurer, Beta House Corporation, P.O. Box 68, Johnson Creek, WI 53038.
Alvin ‘Jiggy’ Lang is Remembered

Alvin “Jiggy” Lang, age 93, died Sunday, September 30, at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital. He was born on February 15, 1908, in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, to Augustus and Emma Lang. He graduated from Goodrich High School in Fond du Lac in 1926. He received a baccalaureate degree from Lawrence University in Appleton in 1930. While at Lawrence, he joined the Beta Sigma Phi fraternity, which with much help from Jiggy was later affiliated with Beta Theta Pi.

Beta Sigma Phi was a local fraternity founded with the purpose of eventually becoming a chapter of Beta Theta Pi. Jiggy was responsible for authoring both of the original charter petitions that eventually made Beta Sigma Phi a new chapter of Beta Theta Pi. Jiggy spent so much time on the second charter petition that his late wife Emma had to put her foot down and said that it would be his last if the charter did not go through, which it fortunately did.

In addition, Jiggy was named to Pi Delta Epsilon, an honorary journalism fraternity; MACE, a men’s leadership organization; and was co-editor of the Lawrentian. Upon graduation from Lawrence, he accepted a position with the George Banta Company in Menasha where he worked until his retirement in 1973. He began his career as a proofreader, then worked in the accounting department and was a service director in his last twenty years with the company.

In 1936, he married Emma Newby of Appleton. They were married in the First Presbyterian Church in Neenah and were active members of that church throughout their lives. He was a resident of Menasha from 1930 until 1992 when he and his wife moved to the St. Paul Manor in Kaukauna. Throughout his life, he was active in his church, community, Lawrence and college fraternity.

He remained active in Beta Theta Pi both nationally and with the Lawrence Chapter and worked on the Scotty/Jenks scholarship fund that assists Beta students at Lawrence and UW Oshkosh. He also served briefly as the editor of the Beta Theta Pi magazine.

He is survived by two sons, Richard and his wife Enid of Bloomington, Minnesota; Robert of Madison; four grandchildren, Steve and Chris of Minneapolis, Jennifer Lang-Velasco of Madrid, Spain and Wendy Elm of Algonquin, Illinois; and three great grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by Emma, his wife of 60 years; his sisters Irma, Ella and Esther of Fond du Lac; and his sister- and brother-in-law, Charlotte and Irving Stilp of Neenah.

His father, who was born in 1846, served as a soldier with the Union Army in the U.S. Civil War. Alvin was honored by the Sons of Union Veterans as a direct descendant of a Civil War veteran.

Alvin was a kind, gentle and generous man who lived a long and productive life. He had a wonderful marriage, a family that loved him, and countless friends of all ages. His keen mind, quick wit, sense of humor and remarkable spirit remained with him his entire life.
Gamma Pi Chapter Alumni News

Reconnect with Chuck via P.O. Box 71080, Milwaukee, WI 53211, or via e-mail at cec@bestmarketinginc.com.

Todd J. Mitchell ’65 sent us this news in April, “Marcia (South Florida) and I recently purchased a villa (a single family home) in The Brooks, a new golf community in Bonita Springs, FL, just north of Naples. It will be completed by Labor Day. We also have a condo in The Brooks, which we rent out as an investment. We plan to spend a significant amount of winter time there upon retirement.”

Todd is an attorney and shareholder in the law firm of Schober, Schober & Mitchell, SC, a practice specializing in estate planning and business succession planning. He serves on the board of directors of the Rogers Memorial Hospital Foundation in Oconomowoc and the Village of Oconomowoc Lake Planning Commission.

He adds of ΒΘΠ, “It provided me with a sense of confidence and pride, as well as experience in communal living, give-and-take with my contemporaries, clean competitiveness and lifelong friendships and memories.”

Write to Todd at 4539 N. Sawyer Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066.

Peter A. Lasko ’90 teaches first grade in Woodward School District #50. Touch base with him at 1211 Linden Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035.

Paul F. Wilber ’50 brings us up-to-date, “Both Midge (ΠΦΠ) and I are healthy and happy. We have eight grandchildren, from ages 12 to 22. My son (Jim) is in Albuquerque and my daughters (Jackie and Joanne) are in Chelan, WA, and Libertyville, IL. We take nice trips every year; our best to all of you.”

Paul is a member of the Retired Mens Club, YMCA, Land of Lincoln Organ Society and the American Legion. He adds of his fraternity experience, “Getting along with and giving and receiving help from others has continued to bring pleasure and friendships, which have enriched my life.”

You can get in contact with Paul at 2712 Barrington Pl., Rockford, IL 61107.

Frederick W. Brendemihl ’54 shares, “I retired from Georgia-Pacific, where I had been employed since 1963, and am enjoying it immensely. I am traveling a lot, particularly to visit grandchildren in Los Angeles and my Boeing-employed son (Fritz) in Seattle. I am pursuing various hobbies when so inclined. I am recovering from knee replacement, and next year will follow dad’s trek through Italy in the 10th Mt. Div. during World War II with my family. I would love to see brothers anytime.”

“Fritz” and his wife, Judith, also have two daughters, Heidi and Carrie. He adds of his fraternity experience, “Living in the Beta house for three years was a good experience with give and take and learning to live with different personalities. It helped broaden one’s perspective for the challenges and competitiveness of the future. As an average student, the Beta goals, friendships and encouragement were positive factors in whatever success I’ve enjoyed since.”

Brothers can reminisce with Fritz at 7434 Wheatfield Rd., Garland, TX 75044.

Tom J. Klingbiel ’57 writes, “We spend time in Naples, FL, and Breckenridge, CO, and now, as of May 2001, in our new home, a free-standing condo, and we all have great views. Friends, come ski with me in Breckenridge; I am listed in the phone directory.”

Tom retired as first vice president of Salomon Smith Barney. He and his wife, Ellie (Iowa), have four grown children, Mike, Kitty, Scott and Chrissy.

Gamma Pi Chapter brothers can arrange a get-together with Tom at his new address, 3670 70th St. Ct., Moline, IL 61265.