

THETA CLUB NEWS

2008-2009

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Most Worthy Master

Amy Wade

Worthy Master

Stephen Etter

Keeper of Records & Seals

Micah Taylor

Master of Finance

Elizabeth Clark

Assistant Master of

Finance

Alpha Pledge Master

Heather Brown

Beta Pledge Master

Zachary Neumann

Master of History

Carrie Shimkus

House Maintenance

Manager

Brenten Minick

Master of Portal

Jeremiah Lehde

Faculty Advisor

Richard Wallace

LETTER FROM OUR MOST WORTHY

I'm excited to be able to share with you the events, parties, and memories that have kept Theta Chapter busy this year. First and foremost, I would like to thank you, our Alumni, for your support over the past year. Without you, we wouldn't have been able to hold on to our wonderful OTS house during the difficult years in which we were unable to fill the house with renters. Although the immediate danger of losing the house is over, we still need your help as money continues to be a burden. We hope you can help us with a donation to contribute to the mortgage, scholarship, social activities, or whatever you deem necessary. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated!

We are working very hard this year to strengthen our bond with our Alumni.

We held a successful Alumni party this September, in which many of you were able to meet with and get to know the students of Theta Chapter whilst visiting with old friends. We are also looking to reinstate the Real World Getaway program in which

willing Alumni welcome interested OTS students to visit their practice in order to expand their interest and experience in the field of veterinary medicine. In addition, the University of Illinois has developed the website I-Circle which is dedicated to reconnecting alumni with each other as well as with current students. Omega Tau Sigma has created a group on this website in which we can upload photos and post information such as events and communications. We would love for each of you to join so that you can stay informed as to what the chapter is up to and reconnect with old friends. For more information on the Real World Getaway program or joining the OTS group on I-Circle, please visit our website at <http://vetmed.illinois.edu/ots/>.

Last fall, we welcomed 15 new first and second year students into our OTS family, bringing our total membership up to 45 members! Having an increased chapter membership has allowed us to enhance and expand on our traditional community

service fundraising and activities. For example, this year we included the Parke-Vermillion Humane Society in our humane society fundraising, made a sizeable donation in support of Heifer International, and we volunteered during two local day-long spay/neuter events. It's exciting to be able to give so much back to our community.

Last October, your very own Theta Chapter hosted Grand Council 2008 at the University of Illinois. We welcomed more than 150 fellow Oaties from around the country and Canada for a weekend of meetings, socialization, and networking.

Thank you for your time and devotion to OTS! If you have any changes to your contact information, or know of a fellow Alumni that did not receive a copy of this newsletter, please contact me at amywade2@illinois.edu.

Fraternally on the square,
Amy Wade
Most Worthy Master
Class of 2010

A Message from the Advisor

The active chapter has been growing in strength and numbers over the last several years. This has been through the encouragement and support from strong senior leadership. The chapter continues to energetically pursue community service activities. They maintain a busy social calendar, but the heart of their activities center around service to others. Whether pet washes, pet visitations to nursing homes or the annual dog run, these veterinary students work hard for the good of others. The core of the active chapter has enlisted a dynamic group of new members. We have previously struggled to find chapter members to rent the fraternity house, but there are already three new members interested in moving in next year.

The Omega Tau Sigma Advisor's Scholarship, created to honor all the past OTS advisors, is fully funded through the University of Illinois Foundation. Currently there is slightly over \$10,000 that generates approximately \$500 in scholarship funds each year. To honor those advisors that put in time and effort above and beyond the call of duty, this scholarship is designed to reward those chapter members who provide the same dedication to OTS. The scholarships are small but help offset some of the spiraling costs of veterinary education.

Richard L. Wallace, DVM, MS
Gamma 1985



2008 - 2009 Theta Club Dues

Remember, Omega Tau Sigma is not for vet school days alone!

2009 Theta Club Dues Notice

Make checks payable to:

Name _____ Graduation Year _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Email Address: _____

- Theta Club for dues or donations
- University of Illinois Foundation (separate check) for advisor's scholarship fund

Send both checks to:

Richard L. Wallace
 Large Animal Clinic, 257
 1008 W. Hazelwood Dr.
 Urbana, IL 61802

(Feel free to contribute an additional amount and designate it toward social functions, the mortgage or other activities)

<u>Graduation year</u>	<u>Dues</u>	<u>Amount Enclosed</u>
2008	\$ 0	_____
2007	\$50	_____
2006 or earlier	\$100	_____
Omega Tau Sigma Advisor's Scholarship Fund		_____

OTS Spring 2009 Calendar of Events

February

12 Chapter Meeting

March

4 Chapter Meeting (Pledge
Initiation!)

7 Boy Scout Merit Badge
Day

13-14 Relay for Life

April

2 Chapter Meeting

4 Petting Zoo at Open
House

Micah Taylor,
Keeper of Records and Seals
Class of 2011

Pledge Master Report

This past fall, we welcomed 15 new, excited pledges into the Theta Chapter of OTS.

They have proven to fit right in with their creative secret Santa gifts at our Christmas Party in December. Last year's pledges threw an incredibly successful pledge party themed "Beer Olympics". All veterinary

students were invited and there were 16 teams of 8. All participants dressed up in clothing to represent the country they chose. Countries represented include: Egypt, Fiji, Antarctica, Greece, Papa New Guinea, Mexico, Atlantis, and many others. As this was a huge success for the chapter last year, we will be repeating the event later this spring. The new pledge class has some big shoes to fill with their pledge party to be thrown later this semester, but we are sure they will be just as successful.



Zachary Neumann
Beta Pledge Master
Class of 2011

Social Report

Last year's pledge party was the highlight of OTS's social events and we hope for just as successful of a repeat this spring. Last fall's festivities included some BBQs, hosting Grand Council, flag football and volleyball intramurals, and our annual Christmas potluck party. To kick off this semester right we started with a poker pub crawl open to the entire school. With about 50 participants, half OTS and half non-OTS, poker cards were passed out one at a time at each bar visited. The people with the best and worst poker hands were then awarded gift cards. Aside from Beer Olympics and the new pledge class's pledge party, we have a photo scavenger hunt planned in which teams of 4 will go throughout the community to get photos of them performing tasks for points. As always, we will send our beloved 4th years off, induct the new board members, and pass out annual awards at our White Carnation banquet at the end of the semester.

Zachary Neumann and Krysta Stewarts
Co-Social Chairs
Class of 2011



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College of Veterinary Medicine**

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Email: ots@cvm.uiuc.edu

Philanthropy

On September 20, 2008, Omega Tau Sigma hosted the 15th annual Road Race for Animals at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. This past year there were over 75 racers from the university and local community combined. Through this event, we raised a total of \$1,700 for two charity organizations. All funds raised by Road Race sponsorship and participant support benefited two non-profit organizations that also strive to promote health and awareness of people and animals. Canine Companions for Independence raises and trains dogs to provide companions for disabled individuals. A Pet's Place is a student-run organization that offers housing for the animals of abused women in the community while they remove themselves from dangerous environments. We were thrilled to be able to donate to such worthwhile organizations.

This Spring, OTS is looking forward to once again participating in the University of Illinois Relay for Life on March 13-14 2009. The event raises money and awareness for cancer research, and we are excited about getting more students and faculty from Vet Med involved in this event.

Heather Brown
Road Race and Relay for Life
Chair



OTS Alumni Newsletter