

The *Encyclopaedia Galac-Tau-ca*

Vol. #42

The ΘΣΤ Alumni Assn. Newsletter

JULY, 2002

House News

This spring the house activated five new members: Christine *No Dice* Darimont, Roxanne *Wonder Woo* Ross, Christie *Marcie* Robinson, Jharik *Dr. Ruth's Hot Potato* Shields, and Ted *The Magic Handle of "Buck Naked"* Tickler.

This spring the house also saw four members graduate. Congrats to SaraH Hoffman, Viola Martin, Tricia Roll, and Magelyn Soldner!

We also welcome Scott Riley, the house's newest social member.

Alumni Site News

Thanks to the help of the immediate past president of the house and the Lane Library, the alumni association has come into possession of perhaps 50 Crimsons. These Crimsons cover (incompletely) the period from 1910 to 1993. When we have a chance we will be scanning the house's photos from those years as well as anything that might be interesting, and adding them to the online photo album we have at the site. Regrettably, none of these are from the era of Spencer Tracy. There is one from Harrison Ford's freshman year, but the page of the house's pledges from that year has been torn out.

No other major changes have taken place, although there are constantly minor changes being made to the alumni directory. These changes often include adding 'new' people to the directories, changes to email addresses or other info, pictures or text added to peoples' directory entries or to memorials for our brethren who have passed on, additions and modifications to the family trees. There is a "Latest News" page on the site that usually indicates where more significant additions or changes have been made

The house website is located at <http://alumni.ThetaSigmaTau.org>

If you wish to have an email address through our domain, (example: plenz@ThetaSigmaTau), email Plenz at the above address for details.

Ripon College News

In June, President Paul Ranslow announced that he was resigning from his position as president of the college. Dave Williams, Ripon's VP for Development has been appointed interim president of the college. Ripon will begin a national search for a new president of the college.

Whatever peoples' opinions of President Ranslow, Paul was always a friend to Tau. He looked forward to participating annually in the Fireside Chat series hosted by the house and had a good rapport with many members of the house.

Individual News Updates

Paul Bernheimer (80) recently passed the final test to become a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) in Windows 2000. He adds this to his MCSE for Windows NT 4.0.

Brook Compton (01) moved to Shorewood, WI. Brook is rooming with fellow alum, Lexie Natkin, and her beau.

Blake (94) and Mari Hausladen were married on May 9 of this year in Chicago. Congrats!

Bruce Davis (82) has been licensed for Ministry by his Denominational Association. He says "It is not usually a step in the Ordination process, but then who ever said Tau's were usual, anyway?" Bruce's daughter, Olivia, graduated from grade school this spring and begins middle school in the fall.

Rob Kinyon (98) is engaged. He and his fiancée, Jaime Shaner, live in Columbus, Ohio, where Rob says he is enjoying being a step-dad to her three kids. Rob was also the Ohio State Champion for *Magic: The Gathering* in 2001.

Viola Martin (02) moved to Shorewood, WI. Viola is living with her fiancé, Peter Lenz (89). Viola is working for North Shore Bank as a teller and plans to attend UW-Milwaukee's pre-pharmacy program.

Alexia Natkin (01) moved to Shorewood, WI. Lexie is rooming with her beau, Vince Jacobi, and fellow alum, Brook Compton.

Jason Padron (00) has moved to Wauwatosa, WI.

Karen Derf Reilly (93) and her husband, Kevin, have moved to Dunnellon, FL, where they purchased five acres of land and plan to build a home. Kevin & Karen also plan on making a brother or sister for Amanda, who is doing very well.

Elizabeth Bailey Roberts (83) recently found the alumni site and reports: "I married Paul Roberts in '84 and we have two children, a daughter, Bailey, aged 13, and a son, Spencer, aged 10. I tried my hand at teaching (High School English/night school English and ABE) but knew I needed to look around for something else to feed my soul. I suddenly found it. In July of '01, I was appointed by the Bishop and the Cabinet of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to serve as pastor of the North Vienna United Methodist Church. I am planning to start classes at Bangor Theological Seminary this fall to work on my M Div. I also have a part-time job as administrative assistant for the District Superintendent for Central Maine District of the UMC."

Letters From the Front

A continuing series, excerpts from emails sent in by 2nd Lt. George Johnson (00) who was assigned to the DMZ in Korea until the beginning of July.

April 10, 2002

There is an off phenomena that hits Korea in the Spring. The seasonal winds in Asia kick up huge quantities of yellow dust up in the Gobi desert in China/Mongolia. The dust then drifts over the Yellow Sea and onto the Korean Peninsula. The air has a yellowish tinge, the visibility plummets to less than a mile, the dust coats everything. The dust is extremely irritating to the throat, eyes and lungs. Allegedly it contains arsenic and lead and other lovely stuff.

Its like a snow day here. Half the country shuts down. People just stay inside and ride it out. The dust comes in waves, each wave takes a day and a half or so to pass and we have had 2 waves in the last three weeks, we may have one or two more after this.

It also makes life miserable for the extra duty guys. These are individuals who got a little... exuberant while on pass down at Camp Casey and decided they were going to beat up the MPs. The neat thing about the military is that they will not go to jail or have a permanent mark on their record. They convinced the Sergeant Major they are simply retarded and learned their lesson as opposed to being criminals by nature. SO they are on 30 days extra duty. Instead of having time off they work on odd jobs until 10PM every night. So they are busy washing EVERY vehicle in the BN.

Well take it easy.

George

April 16, 2002

This week we have a Mobile Training Team coming through teaching combatives to the Battalion's combatives instructors. These guys are a little unusual though. They are not military, nor are they even American citizens. They are two of the brothers from the Gracie family, a family of Brazillian Jiu-Jitsu practitioners who teach their own syle if Jiu-Jitsu. Recently the Army adopted Gracie Jiu-Jitsu as the standard combatives form.

In Korea this competes with the 2nd Infantry Division's "Warrior Tae Kwan Do" program, but most soldiers prefer Gracie because it is easier to learn and has more contact.

So this week we have a bunch of soldiers down at the Gym learning Gracie Jiu-Jitsu for 8 hours a day. They will then take this knowledge along with the new combatives manual and videotapes and develop training plans for teaching the whole battalion.

The BN Staff spends one PT session a week doing Gracie. It's a nice change over run, run, run. The staff's performance will surprise you. The chaplain is an animal on the mat. He hasn't choked me out yet, but it has been close before. One thing that works against me is I am the lightest guy on the staff. Weight makes a huge difference, let that serve as a notice to any women who think grappling arts and ground fighting are the only way to go in self-defense. You do not want to end up rolling around on the ground with someone who outweighs you by a hundred pounds.

George

May 4, 2002

Well, I am 60 days out and have my assignment and everything. Soon it will be back to the land of the big PX and I will get to see The Wife again. After Korea I will fly to Fort Benning, Georgia to attend the Basic Airborne Course. There I will learn the fine art of throwing myself out of a perfectly good airplane with only a parachute to break my fall. After 3 weeks of that I will report to Fort Bragg, North Carolina where I will become the Brigade Chemical Officer for the Signal Brigade for the XVIIIth Airborne Corps. The slot is made for a captain but I am confident that I can tackle it. After about 8 months of that the Corps Chemical Officer has promised me a Platoon Leader slot in the 101st Chemical Company. A platoon leader job is the culmination of everything I have been working at as a Cadet and 2LT. So I am very excited at the prospect of getting to command a platoon.

Outside of that Army stuff, Patti is hard at work for OSI Pharmaceutical company working on Cancer, Arthritis and Alzheimers drugs. She is getting used to being out of academia. Well gotta run, almost outta time on this thing.

George

That is the quick and dirty download on my life at the moment. P

June 8, 2002

I am back at Camp Greaves for a couple of hours doing paperwork, which I have completed and now have a second to shoot out an email. I have been out in the field for our battalion evaluation for 12 days already and we have about 7 more to go. Good training, little sleep, hot during the day, cold at night, some rain some dry dusty conditions. Everything Korea has to offer. We kicked off with a Battalion Air Assault into the training area. We were to seize our objective and then set up a hasty defense and hold our newly won territory. I was the Operations Officer's radio guy again. I was sort of a bodyguard who also monitored the radio. I follow along with him and he monitors the battalion command net while I monitor the Combat Aviation Net (CAN) which has the Command and Control helicopter that carries the Brigade Commander (our battalion's next higher unit). The net also carries attack aviation and the transports that carry us into battle. We went in with the second lift and set up our CP on a hill overlooking the Landing Zone (LZ) to track the lifts still coming in. Its cool to watch helicopters land in dusty conditions, the dust particles are crackling with static electricity from the blade's friction. It gives the bird a halo as it enters the dust cloud. The neatest part is watching the slings come in, humvees dangling beneath the helicopters bringing in our heavy firepower and equipment.

Soon Specialist Rivera, the Operations Officer's driver, flies in with the bird slinging in our humvee. Once HQ 3 (the humvee) is on the ground Rivera fires it up and drives to our position. The radios he carries are more powerful than the manpacks that MAJ Robbins and I were

... continued on next page ...

carrying. Finally we linked up with the Battalion Commander and his Assault Command Post (ASLT CP) up on the objective while the companies are frantically preparing the hasty defense. They are putting out concertina wire (barbed wire on crack) and mines and are diggin' like crazy to get set for the Mechanized onslaught to follow.

The CP was up on a hill and from up there we monitored the battle as 1-9 Mechanized Infantry attacked us with over 45 armored vehicles. It was pretty hairy for a while. Finally our ground convoy reached up with us with our own attached tanks and Armored Personnel carriers. For a while though, it was just light infantry with hand held rockets against the tanks and APCs of 1-9 (for anyone who is wondering about our use of mines, we don't bury them, we place them on the surface so the enemy can see them. We want them to see the mines for it slows them down, forces them to stop or go the direction we want. Killing the enemy is a nice fringe benefit of mines, but their primary purpose is to fix the enemy in place. Tank rolls down road, sees mine and says "oh shit" and stops. Infantry guys sneak up on stationary tank and shoot rockets at it, or call for artillery on big fat stationary target. An M1 capable of doing forty MPH is stopped by a couple hundred dollars worth of mine)

At one point it looked like the enemy was going to get our Command Post, which I was with. There was a tank on a road below us and MAJ Robbins said, "George, go see who's tank that is" So I slink down the hill and get behind a berm on the side of the road. The tank comes by, have you ever seen that part of Saving Private Ryan where the tank is coming and the earth is trembling? Its true, the tank drove by only about four feet from me. I stuck my head up and noticed it was one of ours meaning the CP was safe from capture. I was kind of dissapointed in a way that it was friendly, I could have shot the Tank Commander easily, he was only ten or twelve feet away.

Excitement excitement, the life of the BN Chemical Officer is one of danger and adventure. Not to mention sweat, sleep deprivation, thirst and aching muscles. Good shit. I will look back on it fondly and will be glad to be away from it.

George

June 24, 2002

I am back from the field. I am starting to get ready to leave this place. I am anxious to do so. Korea is interesting and all but I want to go home. I miss my wife, my family, my friends, driving, cab driv...oh wait the cab drivers still don't speak English.

Many days that lasted 24+ hours (my record for the field problem is about 52 hours with no sleep). I got to Air Assault one last time. We had the TOC set up on a big hill and actually had a really good line of site to one of the enemy attacks, we were standing outside the TOC with binoculars calling coordinates in to the fire support guys inside. We also executed a thorough decontamination of one of our companies. This is an exhausting process where we practiced cleaning off a company that was "slimed" with persistent chemical agents. We have to wash thoroughly

every vehicle, inside and out, and person and their personal gear. The decontaminants we use are so harsh we cannot use them on personnel who are not in their chemical warfare suits. The worst is DS2, an acidic decontaminant used to destroy the harshest agents like VX, which makes a vehicle's paint job smoke when applied it is so vicious. In training we use notional DS2 so as not to tear up the environment. In wartime the agents are so much worse that it matters little the environmental impact of DS2.

We tore the OPFOR up pretty good during the problem. There were some times we really stuck it to the OPFOR. As a matter of fact the OPFOR's best company was one of our own attached to the OPFOR.

The field problem was not without tragedy however. One of our vehicles was going through an intersection and struck two civilian pedestrians. Two 13 year old girls were sitting on the side of the road and the roar of the vehicles so loud they put their heads down and plugged their ears. One of our largest vehicles (an armored bridge layer), crushed them both beneath its massive tracks. The driver had no view on that side of the track. Where the breakdown in communications was between himself and his Track Commander (who is responsible for watching the right side) is not known by me, but I do know that it is the most horrifying incident I have been close to during my time in Korea. We held a candlelight vigil last week at Camp Casey and the whole division collected money for the family. This incident was our fault. If we had not been training in that area they would still be alive. But we were invited by the government of Korea and our training is what gives us a qualitative edge over the nKs, whom we cannot match in quantity. It is poor comfort for their families, but such is the price one pays in living in a congested country.

Later that day we had another accident, this one brought on by lack of sleep. A driver fell asleep at the wheel. Luckily he was only going about 15 miles an hour, but it was enough for the humvee to drive up an embankment with its left wheels and roll onto its side. Despite the slow speed the TC, a friend of mine named LT Horikawa, was knocked out and trapped in the vehicle. Extricating Roy turned out to be pretty easy, the medics used a knife and just cut open the tarp that covers the humvee. Since he had a head injury the medics called for aeromedevac to come pick him up. They were pretty fast, they were landing within 10 minutes of the phone call requesting them. They were so fast and professional I will forgive them their callsign, "DMZ Dustoff". They live nowhere near the DMZ (over 50 kilometers away in fact) but they do great things so they are forgiven. In any case, after a CAT scan and an MRI they concluded that Roy has an exceptionally thick skull and released him after three days in the hospital with a clean bill of health. At least that incident has a happy ending.

Well, that is all I have for now, I better close this so I can think of witty things in five minutes I should have said in the email. Miss you all.

George

The Seventeenth Annual Conclave of Evil: Aug 8 - 11

That's right! It's time once again for Pete's Annual Summer Party!

Dates: Thursday, Aug 8 to Sunday, Aug 11.

Where: The wonderful location used for the last few years has been such a hit that we are going to be going back there yet again! It is the family property of a house alumna, Carol Shay Hornung (88). Located on Sawyer Lake, north of Langlade, WI. That's north and a little west of Green Bay. The site is a 5-acre peninsula with a cabin and a good deal of space for camping. The cabin itself has hot & cold running water, an outdoor hot tub (enclosed in a screened gazebo to foil the sparrow-squitos), and plenty of access to the lake.

There are a few beds in the cabin and people are welcome to use them. However, we are trying to reserve them primarily for people who are coming from far away and/or don't have camping gear. So if you are living in WI and either have or can borrow camping gear, please do, that way we can accommodate as many people as possible. Of course, floor space is usable too. If you think you will need a bed, it is imperative that you contact Carol or Pete ASAP. Phone and e-mail info for both are listed at the end of this page.

The cabin has a nice kitchen, large bathroom with shower, living room, rec room and a couple of bedrooms. There is also a deck facing the lake and a larger deck with the hot tub/gazebo and plenty of space for folks to visit.

Directions: from Green Bay (I'm assuming you can find Green Bay), take US 41 north. When US 141 branches away from it, stick with US 141. When you come across state hwy 64, head west (left) on it. When you reach Langlade, you will hit hwy 55 (just before you cross the Wolf River). Head north (right) on 55. Sawyer Road is up the road a couple miles, on the right. Turn onto Sawyer, and then left on to Kielcheski Road. Near the end of Kielcheski Rd. will be the driveway to the party. I'll put up some sort of sign to indicate which road to turn on.

If you're coming from more western parts, you'll probably be headed north on US 51. State route 64 crosses US 51 at Langlade, so head east (right) on 64. Langlade is about 1/2 hour east of Antigo (which is on 64 between Hwy 51 and Langlade.).

See the enclosed maps... or get your own maps of the state.

It is unlikely that either of the hosts (Pete & Vin or Carol & Tony) will be there earlier than Thursday noonish, so try to time your arrival accordingly. If you get there and no one is there yet, amuse yourselves in whatever sick and depraved way you can think of. Someone will show soon. Pete and Vin are going to try to get there early in order to have the hot-tub warmed up, the fridge cold, (and to get the choicest camping spot!)

What might we do while there, other than visit with each other? We've got a few ideas, I'm sure that others can come up with more.

- The party is scheduled to coincide with the height of the Perseids Meteor Shower (peaking August 11). Perhaps we'll have a great light show! Add to that the Northern Lights (which often make an appearance) and it should be exquisite.
- The Wolf River is nearby, an excursion will be arranged to go white-water rafting or canoeing on the river. We've done it before and had a blast. We **MUST** make reservations ahead of time, so let Pete know by July 20th if you're interested in going.
- The Nicolet National Forest is across the lake from us. They have horseback riding and hiking trails available.
- There will be a rowboat and several canoes at the cabin for bopping around the lake. It is a nice lake, not too large and pretty quiet. Canoeing the entire lake only takes an hour or so, and you wind up going in a very scenic circle.

Rules & regs: A few rules, regulations and instructions to consider while deciding whether you want to come to the party. These rules must be adhered to while we're using this property...if you don't feel that you can abide by all of the following rules then perhaps you should not come. We have been offered the use of this land at no cost other than following a few simple and reasonable rules, so we should respect the wishes of the owners! If we do, they may continue to let us use the place again for future summer parties as they have for the last 6 years.

- No building campfires. In August it is pretty dry up there and there isn't a firepit on the property. We've a Weber for cooking out and a fireplace in the cabin. Besides, a campfire might drown out the wonderful vault of the heavens (more stars than you can shake a stick at!)
- For those who wish to go boating: anyone in the boat or canoe must have a lifejacket (there are many at the cabin). Children must be wearing them, adults should have them within reach.
- Don't break anything! Additionally, clean up after yourselves. Don't leave litter or trash lying around. This means cigarette butts, too. If you must smoke, carry a baggie to put your butts in, don't just toss them... discarded butts are ugly.
- Recreational pharmaceuticals should be left at home. Not only will there be a number of children at the party, but the use of such substances may make some of the other attendees uncomfortable. Alcohol is acceptable in moderation, but other chemical compounds should be left home.
- Bring along a donation of \$5 or \$10/head as a gift to Carol's parents to defray the costs of the electricity, hot tub chemicals and any cleaning up we don't remember to do.

Provision: What should be brought? Well here's a list of things that could be useful:

Absolutely necessary:

- a tent (or arrangements made with someone else to share their tent or for a bed in the cabin);
- a sleeping bag (and/or blankets, it gets cold at night);
- an air mattress, small futon, or similar padding (the ground at the tent site is a bit lumpy & rocky);
- a flashlight or two;
- food and drink for yourself and to share (or cash to go shopping);
- cash for various other reasons;
- changes of clothes & toiletries (or we'll dunk you in the lake)

Less necessary, but still useful:

- one or two tarps (often useful);
- a cooler (for beverages);
- swimming trunks & towels;
- bug repellent;
- sun-screen;
- calamine lotion (in case you discover poison ivy or the sparrow-squitos circumvent the bug repellent with gas masks);
- lawn chair(s);
- a camera of some sort.

Obviously, I could go on and on about this. Use common sense (and if you don't have any, borrow some common sense from a friend.)

That's it! I'd love to have many people there! Call, write, or e-mail to let me know you're coming, especially if you need help making sleeping arrangements and the like! I'd like to know how many people to expect, but if you suddenly decide to come last minute, that's cool. We usually have between 8 and 12 adults and 2 to 10 kids of ages ranging from infant to teenager.

The

Encyclopaedia Galac-Tau-ca

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The ΘΣΤ Alumni Association Newsletter

July, 2002

Theta Sigma Tau Alumni Association

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QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Gotta take the hard with the soft."

- Viola Martin

"I would have been faster I just needed to get my finger out of my nose."

- Tricia Roll, re: responding during an IM session

"In female technical terms, your computer just had its period."

- Brian Menges (ΛΔΑ) explaining a computer problem to SaraH Hoffman

"Hello, 911? ... Yeah, it's Quagmire. ... Yeah, it's stuck in a window this time."

- Quagmire from the tv show *Family Guy*, having caught his 'member' in the window

"Whoa, Lois! Someone's wearing their ovaries on the outside!"

- Stewie to his mother on *Family Guy*

"We're gonna have cock fights with them, except without the cocks."

- Mage Soldner, talking about her sugar gliders

"The breasts are warmer than the rest of the body."

"They just haven't found the warmest area..."

- Magelyn Soldner / Eric Lanz (ΛΔΑ) talking about her sugar gliders and where they like to nestle on Mage.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Have you ever been involved in breats f***ing (aka: the Hawaiian Muscle F***)?"

'Oooh.... I miss Collins.'"

- Question on a purity test and Tric Roll's comment

"Drew + Lexie + Cleaning Library = Explosion."

- A 'chemical equation for something explosive, submitted by Drew Rich and Christine Darimont for Live-In Scavenger Hunt

"Hey! When I'm inhaling to bing, you shut up!"

- Wej Gray (who was making 'bing'-ing noises) to SaraH Hoffman

"I got part of your stickiness!"

- Mage Soldner to Drew Rich whilst burning marshmallow peeps

"The white stuff splatted in the bush!"

- SaraH Hoffman whilst burning marshmallow peeps

"It's not me, it's just dripping."

- Viola Martin whilst burning marshmallow peeps

"Will it be good for me like chocolate or good for me like an enema?"

'How about good for you like a chocolate enema?'"

- Someone (dunno who) and Viola Martin

"Always eat your dessert first 'cause you never know when you're gonna choke on your cherry."

- Words of wisdom from Hobbes' great-grandmother

"I was a murderer! It's not as prestigious as being a doctor or a lawyer, but the hours are good."

- Brian Woods in *Cutting Class*, a movie from Spring 2002 Bad Movie Breakfast at Tau

"Have you ever felt my tingle?"

- Brian Woods in *Cutting Class*, again

Contributions to help defray costs for the newsletter (conservatively estimated at \$3/person/year) are always welcome.

Send them to Pete at the above address.