



2017 Grand Council Chapter Award Recipients

T. C. Fitzgerald (Most Improved Chapter):
Rho Chapter, Midwestern U.

John P. Donahue (Sustained Excellence):
Beta Chapter, Cornell U.

Robert Vesper (Community Service):
Theta Chapter, U. Illinois

Attendance Awards:
Omicron Chapter, Michigan State U.
Delta Chapter, U. Guelph

2017 Gordon Award Recipients

Patrick Hepner, K'19
Sarah Kendig, P'19
Emily Siegel, A'19
Taylor Parry, B'19, & Sam Palmer, B'19
Micheal Klus, O'19



2017 John Gordon Award Recipient
Michael Klus pictured with fellow
Omicron Chapter members.



2017 John Gordon Award Recipient
Emily Siegel, pictured with fellow
Lambda Chapter members.

Grand Council President's Report: A Year of Challenges and Changes

This past year has been one of challenges and changes for me personally, professionally, and within the fraternity. I have been absent much of this year, because I've focused on my professional and personal lives, including the latest addition, my son Ike. Work, while challenging me to think differently and to grow as a non-practicing veterinarian, has been very rewarding and time consuming.

Outside of my own personal bubble, others I know have also dealt with challenges and changes. I reflect back upon what has happened in the political landscape of our country, and I'm fearful for what my son Ike will be exposed to as he grows up. My hope is that I can show him enough love and give him enough experiences that he will understand the importance of diversity, inclusion, and tolerance. As a professional, my hope is that I can also teach our profession about how to be more tolerant, patient, and persistent. I struggled with compassion fatigue while practicing, and I feel obligated to speak up and share my story, to help others build resilience and thrive in this challenging profession.

You might wonder what any of this has to do with our great organization. I like to believe that $\Omega\tau\Sigma$ is an organization that breeds the future leaders of this noble profession, one that fosters the development of well-rounded adults who contribute to the profession and the local community and individuals who understand the importance of creating a safe environment for their patients, their clients, and themselves. Over the last several years, allegations have arisen in several chapters of behavior unbecoming of a professional. I bring this up not to point out blame nor to attack those who have done wrong but rather to bring awareness to these issues and to give each of you the task of creating a culture of safety in your chapter, your clinic, and your house. Each of us has the responsibility to take care of ourselves first, as well as to protect this cherished profession. This might mean at times that you stand in the face of history and culture and ask to do things differently. I work for Banfield, and I ask to do things differently all of the time, because I know it is the right thing to do for those working in the clinic. I continually get told no; however, I know I am making the

right impression upon those who don't understand the stressors from working in the clinic. I tell you this, because each of you is a leader, and as leaders, we sometimes have to stand-alone for what we believe.

I am thankful that someone has had the courage to share stories of allegedly illegal activities in our chapters or performed by members in good standing. While we, as Grand Council, have little we can do, other than revoking membership to a member or chapter, we have worked with the local university authorities in the past to help clear up these allegations, and I am thankful thus far that the stories are just that: stories. My concerns is that there are things still happening in chapters that we, as Grand Council, do not know about. If this is your chapter, please speak up; be the one who helps put an end to unprofessional behavior and creates an environment that fosters diversity and acceptance.

I typically am a little more positive in my yearly review. However, in the current climate in the United States and with some of the stories that have been relayed to the Grand Council, I feel obligated to speak frankly. As the president, I am thankful that others have spoken up in the face of adversity and that others have felt comfortable approaching each of the members of our Grand Council to share concerns. I hope that we can continue to identify our opportunities for change and growth, especially as we continue to gain more and more interest from other veterinary schools. I know that $\Omega\tau\Sigma$ provides the opportunity for each of you to be your best. Let's ensure that we provide the same opportunities to others around us.


Seth Vredenburg, K'10



Grand Council Delegates.

Chapter Briefs

WELCOME DR. ANDY WEISENFELD, B'15, NATIONAL SECRETARY

The 2017 Grand Council, held at Lambda Chapter, saw the election of Dr. Andy Weisenfeld to the office of Grand Council National Secretary. Connect with the national Grand Council on their Facebook page, or send an email to otsnationalsecretary@gmail.com.



Dr. Weisenfeld joins Beta Chapter actives at the 2017 Grand Council.

BETA CHAPTER, CORNELL U.

In 2017, Beta Chapter raised over \$16,700 from their Men of the Vet School calendar! Add that to their other successful fundraising and philanthropy events and it's easy to understand why Beta Chapter was named the **2017 recipient of the John P. Donahue Award for Sustained Excellence**. To order a calendar, find us on Facebook or Instagram at [@menofthevetschool](https://www.instagram.com/menofthevetschool) or send an email to menofthevetschool@gmail.com.

GAMMA CHAPTER, OHIO STATE U.

In 2017, Gamma Chapter saw Elspeth Holder as the inaugural recipient of the David J. Hilton Scholarship. Case rounds with faculty and fourth-year panels continue to be opportunities for Gamma members



Elspeth Holder with Dr. Rustin Moore, dean of OSU CVM.

to become prepared for their next steps in the veterinary profession. Gamma alum? Connect at the Gamma Club Facebook page.

DELTA CHAPTER, U. GUELPH

With 247 members and 73 pledging members, Delta Chapter continues to foster relations with the university faculty and local community. The chapter has implemented new charity and wellness initiatives that have proven extremely



Delta Chapter collected over 25,000 items for the Period Project and raised over \$12,500 with their annual Dog Jog.

successful, including the Period Project, yoga class sponsorships, and those tried and true, like their support of the Movember project (prostate cancer) and the Dog Jog.

ZETA CHAPTER, AUBURN U.



In 2017, Zeta Chapter's Paws for a Cause raised over \$1000, and their Walk to End Alzheimer's team raised over \$2,200! Look for information about Zeta Chapter on its Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/251289493880/ or at the Zeta Chapter web page otszeta.wordpress.com.

ETA CHAPTER, U. GEORGIA

Eta Chapter came away from the 2016 Grand Council with goals to implement new ideas and events. This past year saw the results of their objective rise with monthly meetings, alumni gatherings, and social events that paved the way for chapter unity and university presence. Eta even refinished the flooring of the basement! Look for Eta happenings and even new merchandise on Facebook: [@otseta](https://www.facebook.com/otseta).



Eta Chapter alumni at the chapter house.

THETA CHAPTER, U. ILLINOIS

In 2017, Kappa inducted 73 new pledges, taking their membership to new levels. The chapter also hosted the 25th annual Road Race for Animals 5K, benefitting the Wildlife Medical Clinic. It was the largest and most successful to date. Theta continues to boast a wide range of philanthropic and community service events that earned them the **2017 Dr. Robert Vesper Award for Community Service**. Engage Theta by requesting to join its Facebook page or by sending an email to otstheta@gmail.com.

IOTA CHAPTER, OKLAHOMA STATE U.

Home of the $\Omega\Sigma$ SantaCon, Iota Chapter hosted a new veterinary school event in 2017 in the form of a luau and multiple tailgates. Look for information about the chapter's alumni mixers and merchandise on their Facebook page, "Omega Tau Sigma-Iota Chapter", or the national Facebook page.



Iota Chapter Members at Turning Point riding stables.

KAPPA CHAPTER, IOWA STATE U.



One new event for Kappa Chapter is the OTS Clinical Skills Challenge and Game Night. In 2017, Dr. Frank Cerfogli joined Dr. Eric Rowe as faculty advisor. Keep up to date with Kappa Chapter, including the John Greeve Lecture Series, by joining its Facebook page, "Omega Tau Sigma, Kappa Chapter." Visit Kappa's website, otskappa.org, to check out our events.

LAMBDA CHAPTER, VIRGINIA-MARYLAND REGIONAL COLLEGE OF VET. MEDICINE

Host of the 2017 Grand Council, Lambda Chapter, now is home to 58 active members and 22 new pledges. New for this chapter is its merchandise sales and spirit shirts. Photos with Santa is still a strong event, and they are working toward adding new events for their alumni! Get connected with Lambda Chapter at otslambda@gmail.com.

OMICRON CHAPTER, MICHIGAN STATE U.

Home of the Canine Cruise 5K for the Ingham County Animal Shelter (now in its 15th year!) and the Paws & Pins, Omicron Chapter looks forward to hosting the **2018 Grand Council**. A new faculty advisor (Dr. Kathryn Winger, a Delta alumna), 21 new pledges, and a Facebook fan page are just a few key elements of this chapter's successes in 2017. Check out their alumni newsletter and other events on their Facebook page: [@OmicronOmegaTauSigma](https://www.facebook.com/OmicronOmegaTauSigma).

PI CHAPTER, TUSKEGEE U.

Pi Chapter graduated 13 seniors this year and is currently pledging 11 candidates. For their annual wine-and-cheese alumni event, Pi Chapter had special guests Dr. Lavigne and Dr. (continued on page 4)



Pi Chapter with collections for the Food Bank of East Alabama.

Omega Tau Sigma Alumni Share Their News

Charles Beall, Γ'58, has been retired since 1989, after 20 years with the USDA and 25 years at the National Animal Disease Center. "Job was like private practice, but didn't have to bill the clients. President for the Central Iowa Veterinary Medical Association; president of the Iowa branch of the Americas Association for Lab Animal Science, and current volunteer at the library, police department, and sheriff's office. Ex-president of Ames Golden K Kiwanis Club. Two daughters (one veterinarian, one county sanitation officer), six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Married 60 years. Janet is a retired medical technologist and a 10-year supervisor of the blood bank." Write to Chuck at janbeall@aol.com or at 1801 20th St., Unit K-36, Ames, IA 50010.

Keith Hull, Γ'60, reports that he is very close to 83 years old and very arthritic ("so sore that opiates won't control"). His oldest daughter, Tracy, who was born in the last year of Keith's time at veterinary school, is a world-famous colon-rectal surgeon. She works out of a clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. She shows paint horses when time permits. She tries to make the world shows (bigger shows) as well. Keith's youngest daughter, Shelly, is mentally challenged, and loves working in the workshop. She lives with Keith and his wife, Lucy. "Lucy and I plug along at home, trying to spend winters in Avon Springs, Florida, and to go to the horse shows with Tracy, when time permits. Dad and Shell try to help with the cooking and chores. I wish some of the older colleagues would write about some of their lives." Write to Keith, and let him know what you're up to these days: khull@ampex.net; 3032 Napoleon Rd., PO Box 368, Fremont, OH 43420.

"Happily retired for almost ten years," writes **E. Eugene Snyder, Γ'64**. "Back living in farm country.

I'm a member of that subspecies who lived in the little room attached to his clinic and worked for Dr. Robert Vesper (of the Vesper Community Service Award) during our sophomore year at Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine. What a great guy." Reconnect with Gene at snyderbrvc@aol.com or at 676 Hadley Rd., Clarksville, OH 45113.

Robert Baumann, Γ'73, joined a mixed animal practice upon graduation, becoming a part owner in five years. He expanded the practice from two veterinarians to five over the next 20 years. His daughter, **Carolyn Baumann, Γ'97**, joined the practice after her graduation from Ohio State University, where she was the president of Gamma Chapter at the same time her father was president of the alumni association. After five years, Carolyn got married and later bought her own small-animal practice. In 2009, after 34 years, Bob retired and sold his portion of the practice to his associates. Now, at age 76, he continues to be active in civil affairs and works part-time for his daughter. Get in touch with Bob and let him know what you're up to: donkeydr@aol.com; 10756 La Grange Rd., Elyria, OH 44035.

Tammy Kersting, Γ'85, continues to practice mainly in small-animal medicine. Her daughter, Dulce, recently got married in Montana this past October. "Meanwhile, I have three horses, one dog, one cow, two goats, and one sheep to keep me company." Let Tammy know what's up with you: doctammyk@gmail.com; 143 Dunn St., PO Box 119, Gilbert, IA 50105.

Eric Ratliff, Γ'86, lets us know that, a little more than a year ago, BINDIG purchased the Marysville Animal Care Center, making three practices, plus Lighthouse Veterinary Personnel Services,

which recently expanded to Indianapolis, Louisville, and Chicago. "All the businesses are doing great! We need more doctors throughout the Midwest: great pay and benefits." Get it touch with Eric to find out more: eric@bindig.com; 6280 Red Bank Rd., Westerville, OH 43021.

Tod Beckett, Γ'89, has been the medical director of VCA Sawmill & Mill Run Veterinary Hospital in Columbus, Ohio since 2003. In 2017, he was elected president of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, and in 2015, he was the Gamma Alumni Award honoree. He is on the board of directors for the Capital Area Humane Society, is the manager of Beckett Racing Team, and is a member of Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. Contact Tod to find out how he's doing; write to 5126 Cheffinch Ct., Dublin, OH 43017.

Sam Leder, Z'62, started at Auburn (Alabama Polytech) in the fall of 1958. He opened his own practice in 1964 and had a total of 11 practices over the years. "ΩΤΣ was extra important to me during the 'four' years at Auburn. Having a new frat house and many wonderful guys made my time in vet school just great!" Get in touch with Sam and reminisce: seleder@ledergroup.com; 75 River Overlook Rd., Sapphire, NC 28774.

"Greetings and salutations, my fraternity bros and sisters," exclaims **Malcom Barksdale, H'54**. "Graduated from the University of Georgia DVM in 1954: not *suma cum laude*, but laudy, how come! Equine practice in Orlando, Florida, from 1954–1988. Track veterinarian for a few years at Hialeah Race Course, Seminole Raceway, Roosevelt Raceway, Belmont Raceway, and Yonkers (summers in New York, winters in Orlando). Small-animal hospital and equine practice in Winter Park, Florida, through 1986. Chief

veterinary surgeon, Bahamas Humane Society: 1990–1995. Different occupation in London and Zurich for 2007. Practiced small-animal medicine during 2008. Retired a couple times; seems as though I couldn't get it right! At present, purveying product that eliminates feline corona and FIP (and human MERS). Eliminates equine PPID and *Pemphigus* expressed as coronary dystrophy, *Pemphigus foliaceus*, *Pemphigus vulgaris*, and other autoimmune conditions. Feel free to ask for more data: mac.barksdale@yahoo.com." You can also contact Mac at 10151 University Blvd., BX118, Orlando, FL 32817.

Kelley Donham, K'71, is now a professor emeritus in the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa. "I began in mixed practice, with a focus in swine medicine. After a graduate degree in preventative medicine and environmental health from the College of Medicine at the University of Iowa, I took a faculty position in preventive medicine at the same college. That department became the College of Public Health in 1999. I developed the field of agricultural medicine, the science and practice of occupational and environmental health for rural residents: farmers, and their families and workers. I have published four texts, 160 peer-reviewed articles, and 27 book chapters. I was also a principal person in establishing the joint MPH program between University of Iowa and Iowa State University." Get in touch with Kelley at kelle.donham@gmail.com or at 32 High Circle Dr. NE, Iowa City, IA 52240.

In 2009, **Tara Grinnage-Pulley, K'09**, graduated from Iowa State University. She continued on at the university, graduating with a PhD in veterinary microbiology in 2013. She did her postdoc at the University of Iowa in parasitology and

(continued on page 4)

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

John R. Steele, B'46
February 24, 2017

John H. Baldwin, B'52
July 29, 2017

Frank Johnson, B'76
September 5, 2016

Richard F. Bing Γ'66
January 2017

Orin Burhl Bond Z'75
June 17, 2016

Malcolm B. Carsley, B'47
July 12, 2017

Nicholas Berry, B'54
July 26, 2017

Mark A. Kranz, B'80
February 21, 2015

John G. Debbie, Δ'65
December 4, 2016

William H. Sweeney, K'67
February 3, 2016

Chapter Briefs (continued)

Ross from *The Vet Life* on Animal Planet. Contact the chapter by joining its Facebook page, "OTS Tuskegee Chapter," or by send an email to otspichapter@gmail.com to connect with the chapter's webmaster.

RHO CHAPTER, MIDWESTERN U.

2017 was the inaugural year of Rho Chapter

at Midwestern University. With 23 new pledges, the chapter is growing strong. The chapter hosted their first fundraiser, the Pup Strut, a 5K walk/run that garnered regional news-outlet attention. They are the recipients of the **2017 TC Fitzgerald Memorial Progress Award for Most Improved Chapter**. Connect with Rho Chapter at otsrho@gmail.com.

Alumni News (continued)

immunology from 2013 to 2016. Since 2014, she has been an adjunct lecturer at the University of Iowa. Tara is also a veterinary medical officer for the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland. Reach out to Tara and let her know what you're up to: tgrinnagepulley@gmail.com, 5841 White Lake Ln., Apt. 101, Frederick, MD 21703.

Honor Roll of Donors (October 1, 2016, to November 29, 2017)

FOUNDER 1906

(\$1,000 or more)

Lee Ann (Tichi) McGill, Z'88
Jerry Harlan Withers, O'91 ★

THE INNER SQUARE

(\$500–\$999)

Wayne R. Anderson, O'79

ALPHA KEY

(\$250–\$499)

John A Hauge, B'61
Alicia Moon, E'08 ★
Abney K. (Votroubek) Clark, K'91
John H. Greve, K'70 ★

WHITE CARNATION

(\$100–\$249)

Peter W. Farrell, B'82 ★
John P. Flowers, B'96
L. William Goodman, B'53
Michael P. Rach, B'82 ★
Jerold S. Bell, B'82
C. R. Beckett, Γ'60 ★
Patrick T. Breen, Γ'63
E. Eugene Snyder, Γ'64 ★
Dennis Eugene Lehman, Γ'65 ★
John C. Gordon, Γ'68 ★
Richard Z. Vesper, Γ'77 ★
Larry D. Markley, Γ'80
Brad LeVora, Γ'87 R. ★
Joan (Wetta) Wetta-Bergman, Γ'87 ★
Tod Beckett, Γ'89
Deborah E. (Smith) Hollenbach, Γ'92 ★
Anne J. (Gemensky) Metzler, Γ'95 ★
Erich Paul Ramseyer, Γ'97 ★
John R., O'Neill, Γ'98 ★
Clifford L. Young, Δ'49
Richard Renfrew Hobart, Δ'81
Edison Barrientos, Δ'93
Robert H. Batchelor, E'58 ★
Cynthia P. Smith, E'81
Kevin L. Chapman, E'88 ★
Samuel E. Leder, Z'62 ★
Dale M. Mills, Z'72
John A. Cawley, Z'82 ★
Angela M. (Miller) Ivey, Z'85 ★

Elizabeth A. Upchurch, Z'88 ★

Franklin A. Coble, O'70 ★

Wayne R. Renegar, O'76 ★

John F. Brancel, O'82

Jason E. Tomes, O'83 ★

Jeffrey R. Moll, O'87 ★

Krista L. (Dutton) Scoggins, O'89 ★

Joseph M. Frost, O'93 ★

Ronald K. Fallon, I'74 ★

Michael J. Tierney, K'68

Larry P. Tilley, K'69

Kelley J. Donham, K'71

Carissa E. (Pounds) Williamson, K'94 ★

Suzanne M. (McGuire) Neira, K'99 ★

Marcus James Webster, Π'06

PLEDGE

(up to \$99)

Neal C. Brown, B'62

Melodee L. (Denham) Kopa, B'88 ★

Silke E. Bogart, B'92

Mary C. Denver, B'92

Michael J. Dattner, B'94

Teresa A (Conway) Stockett, B'95

Julia A. Stephens, B'97

Kristin K. Vyhna, B'06

Keith R. Hull, Γ'60

Joseph F. Poppler, Γ'60

Philip G. Weida, Γ'60

David L. Allen, Γ'63

Orben Pratt, Γ'67

Richard N. Flinn, Γ'68 ★

Robert L. Baumann, Γ'73 ★

Gary D. Junk, Γ'75

Neil Hanni, Γ'76

Duane C. Stewart, Γ'77

Don R. Mann, Γ'78

Edward J. Sheehan, Γ'80

Paul W. Buck, Γ'82

F. A. Mann, Γ' 82

Diane E. Mason, Γ'83

Janet K. Johnston, Γ'83

Cynthia M. Otto, Γ'86

J. Eric Ratliff, Γ'86

Kenneth Pitzer, Γ'87

Christopher Ciotta, Γ'92

Mark McCloskey, Γ'90

Nancy (O'Neil), O'Connor, Γ'90 ★

Patricia Ann Walther, Γ'94

Michele M. (Martosko) Pietrzak, Γ'95

Michelle (Demmitt) Wisecup, Γ'05

Danielle S. Anthony, Γ'06

Jennifer L. (Karl) Hayes, Γ'06

Kenneth Keiffer, Γ'08

Justyn Michael Rizzardi, Γ'09

Kristin Walleck, Γ'14

Courtney Noonan, Γ'15

Douglas G. Thiel, Δ'67

Tyler, O'Neill, Δ'10

Malcolm T. Barksdale, E'54

R. Gary Roop, E'55 ★

John C. Sundstrom, E'67

Constance I. Pozniak, E'79

Anne E. McCabe, E'81

Amy B. (Borenstein) Ayers, E'85

Norma K. (Inqui) Hough, E'88

Thomas G. Bevis, Z'78

Ann (Wolicki) Ascher, Z'83

Bethany (Sallee) Sallee-Dison, Z'89

Mark A. Caporaso, Z'92

Fred Self, Z'04

Neven A. Popovic, O'64

Robert E. Carlson, O'69

John M. Ehrhardt, O'83

Louis J. Sloan, O'88 ★

Michelle R. (Goehner) Gundlach, O'92

Linda M. Berent, O'94

John M. Crandell, O'00

Michael Mesogianes, Γ'00

James P. Stein, K'75

Vergil A. Heyer, K'80

William J. Schultz, K'84

Cynthia M. (Borkgren) Abraham, K'89

Katherine A Spry, K'91

Cathy L. Taphorn, K'91 ★

Erin (Cunningham) Garman, K'92

Sanjay S. Jain, K'97

Crystal Ann Magenau Oellien, K'08

Tara L. Grinnage-Pulley, K'09

Seth Vredenburg, K'10

Bonnie J. Hileman, Λ'88

Deborah A. (White) Mychajlonka, Ξ'93

Kurt Allen Mychajlonka, Ξ'93

Tina A. Wismer, Ξ'94

Amy L. Butler, O'00