

University of Denver

BETA THETA PI
ALPHA ZETA



2004
INAUGURAL
Hall of Fame Induction

Saturday, October 23rd • 4 p.m. Chapter House



Welcome to the Inaugural Alpha Zeta Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. We are proud to recognize these six men who have exemplified the principles of Beta Theta Pi by their service to the chapter and excellence in their professional fields.

Dr. Robert Shattuck
John A. Hill
Gaylord "Jim" B. Buck, Jr.
Dr. Harold M. Agnew
C. Grant Wilkins
Kenneth L. Thuerbach

Alpha Zeta is tremendously proud and fortunate to have such a large group of alumni who care passionately about this chapter and who have gone on to serve Beta Theta Pi, the University of Denver and who have distinguished themselves in their careers and communities. We thank you for attending this inaugural event and look forward to honoring more brothers in the future with this prestigious award.

Robert C. Shattuck #282

A legacy of two Charter Members of Alpha Zeta, Dr. Shattuck was Chief of District 22 from 1948-50.

Dr. Shattuck's father, Orville Shattuck, and father-in-law, William Seward Iliff, were charter members of the chapter, and Dr. Shattuck picked up the torch and devoted much of his time and effort to serving for the good of Beta Theta Pi, locally and nationally.

After graduation, he attended the University of Colorado Medical School and did his post-graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, becoming a physician and surgeon.

He returned to Denver and started his medical practice and would remain in the area for the rest of his career. He became Chief of Staff at St. Luke's Hospital in 1956.

Dr. Shattuck was also District Chief of Beta Theta Pi and oversaw chapters at DU, Colorado College, Colorado School of Mines, University of Colorado and the University of Utah. He became vice president of the National Chapter of Beta Theta Pi and served on its Board of Trustees until 1953, when he was appointed to its Advisory Council. Dr. Shattuck is also an accomplished mountaineer. On the Maroon Bells, he ascended North Maroon in 1945 on V-J Day, traversing the sawtooth over and back from Maroon Peak and then having a steak dinner at the Hotel Jerome to celebrate.

"Beta Theta Pi meant everything to my father," his son Robert, also a Alpha Zeta, says. "He was totally committed to the University in all phases and was a strong supporter of both the local and national chapters."

John A. Hill #306

Brother Hill is retired chairman of both Aetna Life Insurance and Hospital Corporation of America. Along with fellow Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Harold Agnew, he received the first David H. Moore Award at the Centennial Banquet.

The award, named for the DU chancellor in the 1880s who was a Beta at the University of Ohio and who wanted his sons to have the chance to become Betas also, honored Hill and Agnew for their career achievements.

Born in Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1907, Brother Hill passed away April 13, 1994 in Nashville, Tennessee. He joined Aetna's general agency in Denver as a part-time employee while in college, and worked his way up the ranks, serving as president from 1962-1970.

Up until his passing, Brother Hill pursued many interests, primarily involving art collecting.

He and his wife Margaret have three children – Mark, Mary and Jane.

Gaylord 'Jim' B. Buck, Jr. #485

After graduating from the University in 1937 with a BA in chemical engineering, Brother Buck went to work in Cleveland for General Electric. Brother Buck was the lead engineer in the development of fluorescent lamps and night-vision and worked for four years as a technology assistant in the Navy during World War II.

He was assigned to a top secret assignment where he invented an optical device to locate and rescue Navy Seals at night. He made sure American night-vision was ahead of German and Japanese technology and found a way to help the Seals get back to the ships after so many were lost because of enemies, sharks or hypothermia. When in Bethesda, Maryland, he noticed a bridge that had low-voltage reflector buttons and applied it to his project. He pulled together numerous resources and developed an optically-perfect reflector that could be placed on a Seals' helmet and allow the ship to find the Seal in the water just hours before an attack would commence.

Brother Buck needed the approval of optical guru Dr. Brian O'Brien of the University of Rochester (N.Y.) before taking his idea to the Navy, but Dr. O'Brien was on a fishing vacation in Colorado—Brother Buck's home state. Brother Buck found the make, color and license plate number of Dr. O'Brien's car and enlisted the help of Buck's father, who worked in the Public Service Department of Colorado. With every Public Serviceman on the lookout for Dr. O'Brien's car, Brother Buck had found his man within 24 hours. Dr. O'Brien ended up approving the project, and Brother Buck got Dr. Harvey White, who had built the largest and most powerful telescope at that time at Mount Palomar in San Diego, to help create a tight infra-red laser light. The project was a huge success.

In 1965, Brother Buck worked with NASA to study atmospheric transmission tests and reflector lights using satellites—a project that would end up being the first equipment placed on the moon when Neal Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin landed in 1969. The device has 100 reflectors, can be seen using a laser-equipped telescope and can calculate the distance between Earth and the Moon—some 250,000 miles—to within a quarter of an inch.

After retiring from GE in 1969, Brother Buck moved back to Colorado and was the Director of Planning for Honeywell in Denver. His projects included self-focusing lenses and zoom lenses on cameras.

In the last decade, Brother Buck has worked for The Villager Newspaper Group in Denver as the science editor, where he still occasionally writes columns, and gives talks on astronomy.

His wife, Betty, passed away in 1986. Brother Buck has two children, Gary and Betsy, four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. His children have taken over businesses he started.

“Being a part of Beta Theta Pi, or any fraternity, rounds out your experience in college, gives you the chance to know your brothers and provides competition with other groups, which I think is helpful,” he says.

In addition to his participation in Beta Theta Pi, Brother Buck was also the captain of the DU ski team.

Harold Agnew #529

Harold Agnew was born in Denver, Colorado in 1921. He received a B.A. in chemistry from the University of Denver in 1942.

He joined Fermi’s research group at Chicago in 1942. He was sent to Columbia and then moved with Fermi back to Chicago and participated in the construction of the pile under the west stands of Stagg Field. He was a witness at the initiation of the first controlled nuclear chain reaction on December 2, 1942. Following this event he moved to Los Alamos in 1943. On August 6, 1945 he flew with the 509th Composite Group to Hiroshima with Luis Alvarez and measured, from the air, over the target, the yield of the first use of the atomic bomb. In 1946 he returned to Chicago to complete his graduate studies and received a Ph.D. in 1949 under Fermi’s direction.

Following his stay at Chicago he returned to Los Alamos in the Physics Division and eventually became the Weapons Division leader (1964-70). In 1970 he became director of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. In 1979 he retired and became president of General Atomics and retired in 1983. He was scientific advisor to SACEUR at NATO (1961-64), a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee (1965-73), and a White House science councilor (1982-89). He was chairman of the General Advisory Committee of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (1974-78).

He also had a political career being a New Mexico state senator from 1955 to 61 when he resigned to join NATO. He has received many recognitions for his service, including the E.O. Lawrence Award in 1966 and the Enrico Fermi Award of the Department of Energy in 1978. He is presently adjunct professor at the University of California at San Diego.

While at DU, he was president of the sophomore and senior classes and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was initiated into Alpha Zeta in 1939.

He and his wife Beverly have two children, Nancy and John.

C. Grant Wilkins #635

Brother Wilkins graduated from the University of Denver in 1947 after being initiated in 1944.

As an undergrad, Brother Wilkins was a member of the Phi Epsilon Phi community service club and the Pioneer Club, as well as a member of the DU track team.

As an alumnus, Brother Wilkins was the president of the Alpha Zeta House Association and the District Chief for Beta nationally. He was also the Chairman of the Chancellors Society, a member of the DU Alumni Association and awarded the Community Service Award at DU Founder's Day in 1982.

"I formed lifelong friendships in Alpha Zeta while at DU and today, 60 years later, those that are still alive remain my best friends," Brother Wilkins says. "I also have many Beta friends throughout the United States and from other chapters after attending National Conventions for many years."

He was the owner of Mountain States Advertising, which covered 14 states, and was District Chief of District 26 in the early 1970's. He has served on numerous community, museum, hospital and Colorado boards as a chairman and trustee. His great love of Rotary International has taken him to 50-plus countries and he was the recipient of its prestigious Polio-Plus Pioneer Award.

He's still an avid booster of the DU hockey team, and he was ecstatic to see the school win its first national championship in 35 years this past season.

Grant's brother Jim was a member of Beta Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Colorado.

He and his wife Marlene have two children, Shari, 57, and Mark, 55.

Ken Thuerbach #1062

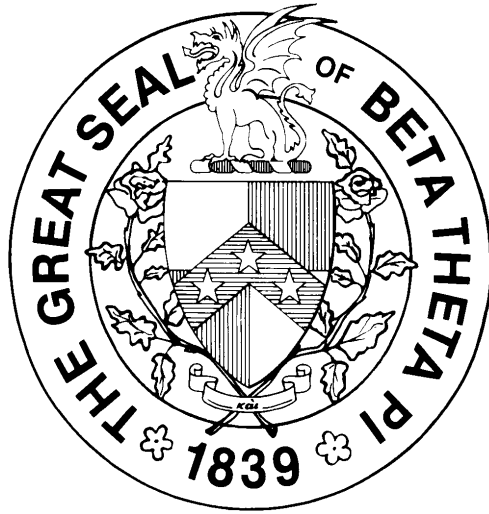
Ken was President of Alpha-Zeta from 1966-1967 and served as DU Student Body President in 1967-1968.

He received his B.S.B.A. in Accounting in 1968 and his MBA from Harvard University Business School in 1971.

Brother Thuerbach's cutting-edge knowledge of business management has been nationally recognized by CNN, CNBC, Forbes Magazine and Fortune Magazine, and he was recently voted "Outstanding Graduate School Faculty Member" at the University of Montana.

Today, Brother Thuerbach lives in Victor, Montana, where he is the owner of Alpine Log Homes. Alpine Log Homes specializes in authentic, hand-stripped/notched logs.

Ken is currently out of the country and unfortunately will not be able to attend today's ceremony.



*Just as the stars glitter in the sky
A brilliance sparkles in his eyes.
And on his chest a diamond rests;
It signifies his zeal and zest.
For life and love and all the rest
It marks a very special quest.
It tells the world he stood the test
And stands amongst the very best.
And there he's bound with special ties
A lifelong member of Beta Theta Pi.*

David Brian Hagenloh
Wichita State '87