

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## "Denison Connecting!" Is Happening Throughout The Country

"Denison Connecting!" events are going on right now. Come join us on March 28 in Boston, where you'll get a chance to meet university President Adam Weinberg. The keynote speaker is alum Lisa Coleman '88, who's the chief diversity officer and special assistant to the president of Harvard.

President Weinberg will also be in attendance on May 2 for a "Denison Connecting!" event in Denver. The keynote speaker will be Tony Mayer '85, a vice president at Captiva Resources.

And finally, on **May 20**, "Denison Connecting!" comes to Los Angeles for a panel on the film industry. Denison alums Dan Ewen '96, Rob Levine '00 and Greg Evans '97 will be the speakers. Denison Professor Dave Bussan '81 will be the moderator.

No venue has been chosen for any of the aforementioned events. Go to [alumni.denison.edu](http://alumni.denison.edu) for more information.

## CONVENTION

## 'Men of Principle' Coming to Salt Lake City



The 178<sup>th</sup> Beta Theta Pi General Convention is coming to Salt Lake City from **July 27-30**. The final date for early-bird registration for undergrads is April 15.

For more information, go to [beta.org](http://beta.org).

# The Shrine

The Lanson Stage Curtis Memorial Association of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity at Denison University • Granville, Ohio

## ALUMNI PROFILE

## Brother Lugar a True Inspiration for 'Men of Principle'

It was not a phone call that the future U.S. senator wanted to make, but it had to be done.

A young Richard Lugar had to call his father and tell him that he wouldn't be pledging Beta Theta Pi at Denison after all. The freshman from Indianapolis had had a frank if polite conversation with a brother at the house earlier that day. He was informed that no bid would be forthcoming.

"To say the least, I was very disappointed," recalls Lugar, whose father was a proud Beta alum from Purdue. "(My parents) shared my disappointment. My dad even began to suggest that it was a mistake for me to go to Denison in the first place."

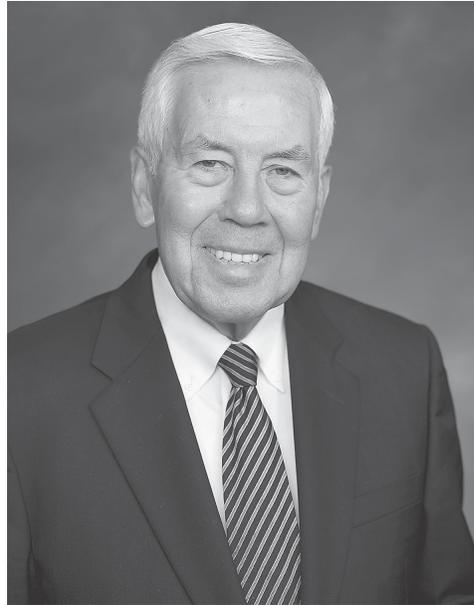
On that front, the elder Lugar was wrong: His son would excel at the academically elite school located among the hills of central Ohio. Dick Lugar would eventually become vice president of the student government, president of the Denison Christian Emphasis Program, and a columnist for the student newspaper.

Oh, and he became a brother at Beta Theta Pi. The brothers at Alpha Eta Chapter changed their minds about Lugar during the spring semester in 1951.

"In those days, you had to do physical education to keep your grades up," Lugar says. "I came back from Christmas vacation and did well on the physical education test. A lot of the Betas were watching this. A few days later, I got an invitation to dinner."

The fact that he would become a Beta was welcome news to Lugar's father.

"Throughout my boyhood, my dad ...



impressed upon my brother Tom and me how much it meant to him (to be a Beta)," he says.

Despite the initial setback at Denison, Lugar became a proud Beta and even continued the legacy. His sons John and David joined Pi Chapter at Indiana University.

When asked about his own experience at Alpha Eta, Lugar says that he and his brothers were a tight-knit group.

"We had a chapter there where brothers really cared for each other, and not just during undergraduate days," he says.

Following graduation, Lugar would serve on the Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners before becoming the mayor of his hometown. He then served in the U.S. senate from 1977 to 2013. While a member of "the world's greatest deliberative body," he was chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and the Agriculture Committee.

Lugar credits the fraternity with helping him get his start in politics.

"The fraternity experience was very important," he says. "I was running for president of the Denison Christian Emphasis Program. That was the first time they had a campus-wide election for that position. Many of the brothers were helpful in talking up my candidacy."

Beta Theta Pi served Lugar well, and he has served the brotherhood well. In the 1990s, when the fraternity began to rebrand itself using the "Men of Principle" motto, Lugar

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## ALUMNI Q&A

### Brother Barry Porter '59 tells his story

Barry Porter is a mayor in the Cincinnati suburbs. He continues to give back to Alpha Eta Chapter and is proud to call himself a "Man of Principle."

#### Why did you join Beta Theta Pi?

BP: When I walked through the doors of the Beta House, I knew I had found my home at Denison.

#### What are your favorite memories of Beta Theta Pi?

BP: I have many great memories, but I think the fellowship and brotherhood created through living with a group of close friends is what I remember most.

#### What makes you proud to be a Beta?

BP: I am proud to be a Beta because of the leadership role that Beta has taken in introducing and perpetuating the "Men of Principle."

#### Is there a reason why you've wanted to give back so generously over the years?



BP: Repaying, in a small way, what Beta has given to me.

#### Do you still keep in touch with any brothers?

BP: I am in touch with a number of my Beta Brothers. There is an active group of Beta Brothers from the 50s and 60s that stay in touch.

#### How did Beta Theta Pi change your life?

BP: This is tough to answer because there are so many ways I have benefited from being a Beta. My career was aided by the lessons learned through living, working and learning with and from my Brothers. It has opened doors in the business world and introduced many friendships in my personal life.

#### What words of wisdom do you have for today's active brothers?

BP: Take advantage of this opportunity to grow mentally, socially and corporately with a group of young men who will be there for you the rest of your life.

#### What are you up to lately?

BP: I remain in local politics as mayor of a community of 8,000 residents and continue to be active in some nonprofit organizations in the Cincinnati area.

## ALUMNI Q&A

### Brother Banks '84 Learned Leadership as a Pledge Trainer and VP

If you pledged Beta in 1983-1984, you probably remember James (Jim) Banks as your chapter VP and pledge trainer. Now, Jim shares his tales of the people he got to meet through Alpha Eta, the milestones he's celebrating, and why today's active brothers make him so proud to be a Beta.

#### What made you want to give back to Beta Theta Pi so generously recently?

My pledge brother, **Kevin Charles Kluge '84**, of East Aurora, N.Y., and I road tripped for Big Red Weekend in September. We had such a great time that we decided to bundle a gift of support for the brothers.

#### Why did you join Beta Theta Pi?

I joined Beta for the challenge of surviving the notorious pledge program, making new friends, and the opportunity to live in the Beta House for three years.

#### What are your favorite memories of Beta Theta Pi?

Bonding with my pledge brothers through overcoming shared challenges, learning the Songs and Lore, and giving back to the active membership as good as we got. Getting to know **Misty Shoop**, **Dexter Tight**, **Sen. Richard Lugar**, **Chuck Hall**, **Bob Dold**, and other distinguished alumni as a pledge/active member/alumnus active in LSCMA brings back very fond memories.



#### What are your favorite Beta Theta Pi traditions/stories?

I had the honor of administering the 1983-1984 pledge program as chapter VP and pledge trainer. Seeing our pledges activate, become successful, and build life-long friendships has been a great source of joy and pride over the years.

#### What makes you proud to be a Beta?

The current active members, their love of the fraternity and their tireless efforts to preserve and build on the legacy of Alpha Eta make me glad I'm a Beta!

#### How would your life be different today without Beta Theta Pi?

I would not have had the unique opportunity to learn critical leadership skills from the great **Jack O'Connor**.

#### What advice do you have for today's active brothers?

March along and rend the air with song.

#### What are you up to these days?

I am a grandfather, living in the Buffalo, N.Y., area, and approaching retirement — having enjoyed a career in global industrial sales. My wife, Lil, and I will celebrate 30 years this year!

*Why are you proud to be a Beta? Share your response by visiting [www.betadenison.com](http://www.betadenison.com) to submit an update.*

## Brother Greenleaf '87: 'I Can't Imagine My Life Without These Friends'

We recently caught up with **Dan Greenleaf '87**, who shared some wonderful stories about why Beta Theta Pi means so much to him. Now an extremely successful CEO, Dan still enjoys spending time with his brothers more than anything. See below to read all about Dan's Beta Theta Pi experience and his advice for young brothers.

### What are some of your favorite memories from Beta Theta Pi?

The whole pledge night process, where we got these bids, if you will. I don't think it works like this anymore, but you literally got your bid in your mailbox, and you didn't know who was going to be in your fraternity class. And the whole process of walking down in front of Fraternity Row and being welcomed by the Beta Theta Pi brothers for the first time – that was a pretty special moment. Also, as pledges, we would have these events and we'd be expected to walk down Fraternity Row with our hands on our brothers' shoulders, and we'd walk in a row and sing songs all the way down the street. I think we had memorized 14 or 15 different songs. Those were really powerful. Even this weekend, I was at an event – my friend's daughter was having her Bat Mitzvah – and we did one of the cheers for her. There were a number of us who attended that event. So I think my favorite memory was the whole process of ultimately becoming a brother, because you had to work very hard for it and it was a nine- or 10-month process, when that finally occurred and you got your Beta pin and bond number, it was pretty special.

I also remember we had formals over the holidays, and we would cover the whole upstairs portion of the venue. That was a week-long process to get that done, and a lot of it was just sticking branches to things. So you literally created this incredible green pine canopy – you couldn't see the ceiling. These are just some of the experiences that come to mind.

### What makes you proud to be a member of Beta Theta Pi?

The friendships. These friendships are so deep, and so meaningful, and so transcendent. I even experienced it again recently. I was back at Denison (recently), and I was with guys that had graduated before I got to Denison,




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***"You have relationships in college that, I would say, are not transactional . . ."***

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but you heard about them and you got to know their names. One of their classmates was being inducted into the Denison Hall of Fame. And they were so welcoming to me. My son was doing a visit at the university, and they were welcoming to him as well.

As a fraternity, we get together every year. Fifty to 60 of us meet in New York City in December. You just can't put a price on that stuff. This spirit lives. The friendships live, and they're real and transcendent and deep. You have relationships in college that, I would say, are not transactional; you are who you are, and these people love you regardless. For example, I'm President and CEO of a very big, public company, and it doesn't go into their calculus in terms of their relationship with me. And that's a big deal. It's like, 'You

are who you are. We don't really care what you've done. We love you for who you are.' That's very affirming.

### Why have you wanted to give back so generously over the years?

I was President of the fraternity, and I was captain of the football team there. I believe you put your money where your mouth is. I think part of that comes from my parents. They were always giving back in their own way, so I believe it also comes from my upbringing. But it also has to do with what a tremendous experience it was, and how formative that experience was for me; that would be a big part of it as well. Because it means a lot to me today, maybe more than ever, and you come to realize just how real those bonds are.

### Do you still keep in touch with any brothers?

**Steve Kaye '86** – he's a year older, and not in my pledge class – he's probably been my closest friend for the last 20 years or so. Our families have been really close; he's a godparent to my daughter,

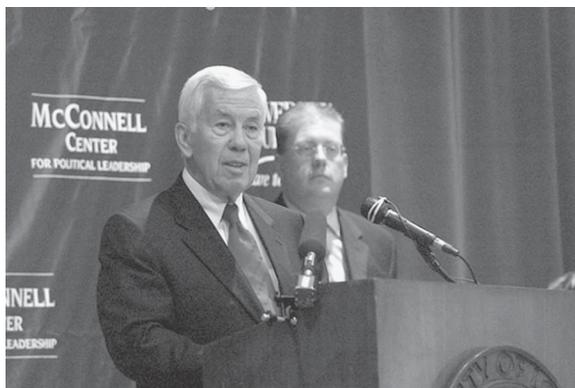
and they were always so unbelievably generous to her. My son came with me to his daughter's Bat Mitzvah. We live in Colorado and they live in New Jersey, so it's not a small undertaking. Those relationships between my son and their sons, and between my daughter and their family, are a beautiful thing.

We also do this big event in New York every year where years upon years of classes attend. It's just an incredible thing, and I think that's why we get a turnout of 50 to 60 people every year that come from all over the country, as far away as Seattle. I actually have several members of my pledge class coming to Colorado in about four weeks. We're going to do a football weekend, and I'm going to show them around Colorado and Washington State. Probably six to 10 of them will sleep at my house, so I'm looking forward to that.

We also had one of our classmates die of ALS. He was a marine named **Patrick Teichgraeber '88**. That was very unfortunate. He died about 10 years ago, but that's something else I've seen over and over again: When the rubber hits the road in people's lives, it's brothers that come together.

### You're very successful in your career. How did Beta Theta Pi contribute to that?

## ALUMNI PROFILE



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agreed to become a spokesman for the new ideal.

“I began going annually to the conventions, speaking and participating with the undergraduates,” he says. “I attended the last convention in Oklahoma. I’ve attended 17 or 18 conventions over the last 20 years.”

Not surprisingly, Lugar’s time as spokesman has coincided with halcyon days at Beta Theta Pi.

“There’s an emphasis on scholarship and brotherhood,” he says. “The GPA at Beta Theta Pi is the highest in the country (among all fraternities).”

You could say that there’s never been a better time to be a Beta. Lugar is happy to have the opportunity to do his part.

“More and more chapters are coming about, and the academic results are truly outstanding,” he says. “New Beta seminars are attracting hundreds of new Betas each year.”

## ALUMNI PROFILE

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I led a fraternity of 60 or 70 guys as President, and I think those are the kinds of experiences that are very helpful. You find out a lot about yourself – the positives and negatives. And you’ve got people that hold you accountable. We had things called “sessions,” where we had very open dialogues about what was going on in the house with individuals, and we were very candid about a lot of those things. So I think there was a lot of stuff that set the tone for my career, but obviously having the kinds of opportunities that Beta Theta Pi afforded me provided training that is even valuable today.

### How would your life be different without Beta Theta Pi?

I just can’t imagine my life without these friends. My life is so much richer as a result

of the people I’ve had the opportunity to interact with, and the relationships we have, and how complete these bonds are. It’s really remarkable. Being back at Denison with my son, with that older class – how they treated my son, and how welcoming they were to me – that’s just one example of how this works.

### What advice would you give to current brothers of the chapter?

I think the quality of one’s life is really defined by the quality of your relationships. And I think that these relationships that you invest in while in college, you should continue to invest in long after, when you’re not in school anymore. There’s lots of research now and, frankly, it’s all about the quality of your relationships. And this is a very unique opportunity to have life enrichment throughout your whole life if you continue to

make investments in those friendships.

### What have you been up to lately?

I live in Denver; I’ve been here for eight years. I’ve been in Healthcare for over 20 years, and I’ve been a CEO for probably 13 to 14 of those. I run a public company that does an excess of \$1 billion in revenue with 95 locations and about 3,500 employees. I’ve got two phenomenal kids – one that is studying theater at NYU and a senior in high school who is doing great. I’m in great health, and I think I live in the best place in the country, so life is really good.

*Tell us about your Beta Theta Pi experience. Did you gain valuable skills that have impacted your career? Friendships that have lasted years after graduation? Let us know by visiting [www.betadenison.com](http://www.betadenison.com) and submitting an update.*

## UNDERGRADS



### Alpha Eta Chapter Welcomes Eight Pledges This Semester

The Alpha Eta chapter is proud to present its spring pledge class of eight incredible young men. There are four freshmen and four sophomores that will grow into outstanding Betas under the guidance of pledge educator **Patrick Mangano**.

#### The pledges are, from left:

Kenny Connelly, James Braham, Shep Griswold, Christopher Nakon, David Reina, Mason Ansel, Nick Brodbeck and Nolan Wang.