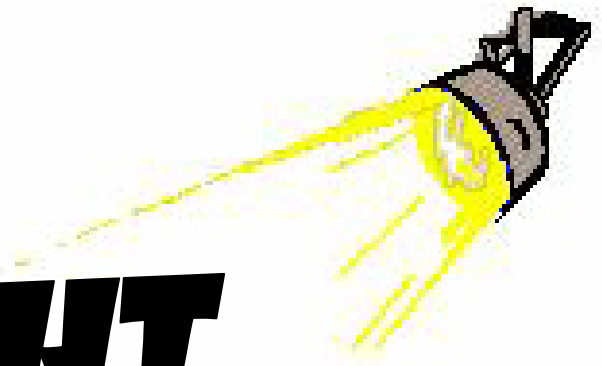


Chapter **SPOTLIGHT**



October 2008

BETA THETA PI

Beta Theta Pi was founded in 1839 at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. At that time, the biggest and most important extracurricular activities for the college men at Miami were the Erodolphian and the Union Literary Societies. But the founders of Beta Theta Pi felt that something was missing from their collegiate experience. Beginning in the winter of 1839, the founders began to conceive and create the fraternity. On August 8 of that year, the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity was founded.

The Beta Chapter at Western Reserve University

About two years after its founding, Beta Theta Pi expanded onto the campus of Western Reserve University in 1841. It was one of two fraternities on the Western Reserve campus at that time. Some notable Betas from Western Reserve include President Pierce, President Leutner, and President Finnegan. However, when the Civil War broke out, the chapter's membership decreased dramatically and the chapter was closed in 1868. Beta would soon return to the Western Reserve campus in 1880.

The Lambda Kappa Chapter at Case Institute of Technology

In 1894, a local fraternity, the Lyme Kill Club, was founded at the Case School of Applied Sciences. At its founding, the Lyme Kill Club set forth the goal of becoming a chapter of a national fraternity. The Lyme Kill Club eventually petitioned to become a chapter of Beta Theta Pi, and in 1905, the Lambda Kappa chapter was founded.

The Merger: Lambda Kappa - Beta Chapter at Case Western Reserve University

In 1967, Case Institute of Technology and Western Reserve University merged to become Case Western Reserve University. However, the two chapters of Beta Theta Pi from these campuses continued to operate separately until November 11, 1979. On that day, the two chapters merged to become the Lambda Kappa-Beta chapter of Beta Theta Pi.