

Oklahoma State University

OKLAHOMA MU CHAPTER

Founders' Day Ceremony



Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity

**Saturday, March 15, 2003
at Meditations Reception Hall**

ΣΑΕ

Founders' Day Ceremony

The Founders' Day Celebration is being presented by the Oklahoma Mu Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon on Saturday, March 15, 2003. Conceived as a way of honoring those Oklahoma Mu brothers for their countless hours of service on behalf of the chapter, this day is a tribute to all who have given of their time and resources for the advancement of the Order.

Since the founding of the Chapter by the Chi Beta in 1921, Oklahoma Mu has established a tradition of excellence based on character, balance and hospitality. This evening celebrates that tradition.

Welcome

Bob Austin '73

President, Oklahoma Mu Alumni Corporation

Chapter Update

Matt Meier

Eminent Archon, Oklahoma Mu

Presentation of 25-Year Certificates

Oklahoma Mu Hall of Fame

Honoring:

Richard D. "Pete" Clark '47

Presented by Richard Thompson '47

Don B. Davis '69

Presented by Bill Farr '66

William K. "Bill" White '70

Presented by Bob Austin '73

House Corporation Report

Bob Austin '73

Richard D. “Pete” Clark ’47

As a student, soldier, businessman, father and grandfather, Brother Clark has been the embodiment of the “True Gentleman.”

As a member of one of Oklahoma Mu’s largest pledge classes in 1947, Brother Clark was an active undergraduate and served the chapter in many capacities, including Eminent Archon from 1949-50. He graduated from OSU in 1951.

After spending five years in the U.S. Navy, Brother Clark joined the business world, though he wasn’t limited by his engineering degree. He served in a variety of occupations, from pipeline engineer and IBM employee to entrepreneur. When Pete retired in 1996, he was owner of a vending company.

During his career, and well into retirement, Brother Clark was an active member of numerous House Corporation boards. He was one of Oklahoma Mu’s longest-serving and most respected members.

“He is really great to work with,” Brother Bill Farr ’66 said. “One of the most reassuring things that can happen to anyone running a fraternity board meeting is to look across the table and see Pete Clark. His education, broad experience, fraternity service and real love and understanding of the chapter’s operations create a balance that benefits any housing corporation.”

Brother Clark said he stayed involved in Oklahoma Mu primarily because of the positive impact it had on his two sons, Robert and David. Both Bob Clark ’72 and Dave Clark ’80 were active members of the chapter.

“The fact that my sons were also involved in the fraternity was a big motivation for me,” Pete said. “It was a great way to stay in touch with them.”

Brother Clark remains involved with the chapter and many of the friends he made during his undergraduate days, including

Rich Thompson '48 and Richard Chambers '48.

After more than 50 years of marriage, Brother Clark considers his wife “Bogey” to be his greatest rush effort. They met while undergraduates. She is a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, and together they have four children and 14 grandchildren.

Don B. Davis '69

Don Davis walked into the Ramekin Restaurant for “Thirsty Thursday” and changed the vision of SAE housing forever. Renovation of the chapter house had been talked about for years, but when Brother Davis spread out his drawings and produced a board of carpet samples and furniture designs, people’s dreams began to change to reality and resulted in the most complete renovation of the house since the its extension in 1958.

Brother Davis’ ability to transfer vision into action made him one of the chapter’s most successful leaders as an undergraduate and he soon rose to become Eminent Archon.

While an interior design major at Oklahoma State, Brother Davis was also actively involved in the chapter’s decoration committee and helped Oklahoma Mu win the university’s first Christmas decorations contest. Don had the unique gift of converting the common into the beautiful. He could make the standard fraternity room hovel look like a photograph from Southern Living. It was almost slight of hand.

He graduated with honors in interior design in 1972 and toured Europe, gathering ideas with the owners of Rich’s Carriage House in Tulsa for a spectacular new store that he ultimately managed.

As one of the top designers in Oklahoma, he worked on some many of the state’s biggest and most prestigious homes, including the Governor’s Mansion.

Through it all, Brother Davis remained loyal and active in

Oklahoma Mu.

The House Corporation brotherhood trusted Brother Davis' good taste through not only the construction phase, but in the selection of its furnishings. The slogan of the campaign, "50 Years ... First Class," came to fruition largely as a result of his guidance.

While he gave us his time and his talent, Brother Davis was equally generous with his treasure.

It was not unusual to have his unsolicited contribution to send a man to leadership school or pick up the tab for a meeting with the chapter.

Brother Davis' life was cut short in 1986 , but when you stand in the living room of the chapter house and look at the moldings, marble and quiet richness of his selections, you realize that though the song may have ended, the melody lingers on.

William K. "Bill" White '70

After initiation, Brother White served and became one of the chapter's finest pledge trainers. He instituted a new nationally recognized program to enhance the education of new pledges without the physical hazing of the past.

As pledge trainer, Brother White's program and the pledge class of 1972 was a critical element in the selection of the chapter for the Mosley Zeal Award, Sigma Alpha Epsilon's most prestigious national award.

"Of course, how could we miss?" Brother White said. "We had the best pledge class that year."

Bill met his wife Cheryl, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta at Oklahoma State. They married and moved to Ponca City to manage a family business.

During the next years, they had three children: Lauren, Alexis and Elliot.

In 1978, Brother White agreed to serve as secretary to the housing corporation. His remarkable minutes and unwavering commitment during the renovation of the Chapter House made him, in the words of Brother Bill Farr, “the glue that held everyone together.”

It would be hard to overstate the impact of Brother White’s thorough minutes during this intense period of organization and Chapter House construction.

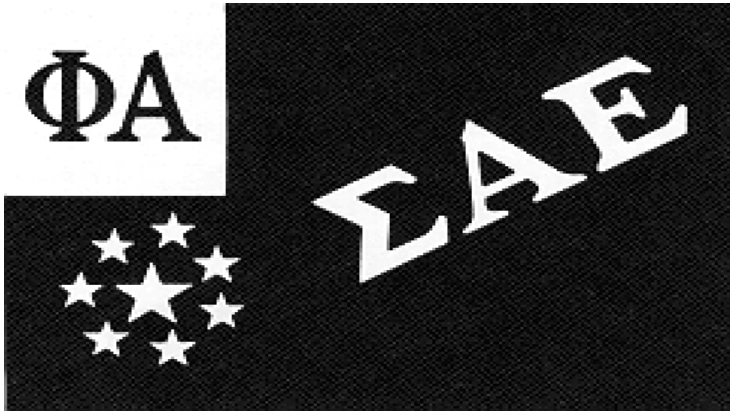
He continued on the board for the next six years, and invested not only substantial personal time but was a generous contributor to the Chapter House.

Through the donation of Brother White and his wife, the Oklahoma Mus were able to install a flagpole in front of the house, one that remains one of the house’s most visible landmarks.

Though he cannot be with us today, Brother White sends his best wishes to the Oklahoma Mu Chapter and all its supporters.

“I am truly honored by this award and wish I could attend,” Brother White said. “Please give everyone my best and fondest memories of SAE at OSU. Phi Alpha!”

When we raise the flag at 1508 W. 3rd, we all salute with Bill and Cheryl White.



The True Gentleman

The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe.

- John Walter Wayland