

BETA BETA BETA BIOLOGICAL HONOR SOCIETY



2022 National Convention Report – Celebration of 100th Anniversary of βββ

Hosted by the Alpha Chapter of Oklahoma City University, where βββ started

May 31st, 2022 – June 5th, 2022

The 2022 National Convention was held in Oklahoma City, OK on the Oklahoma City University campus. The host chapter was the Alpha chapter, the founding chapter of βββ.

The Executive Committee met on Wednesday, June 1st, 2022, to discuss the business and financial matters of βββ. Registration for students and their guests was also on Wednesday, June 1st from 9am – 8pm. The welcome meeting was postponed until Thursday evening due to travel delays. Most convention attendees stayed on campus in the dorms at Methodist Hall.

Convention Attendance Totals:

Total number of chapters:	39
Total number of attendees:	111
Total Executive Committee:	11
Total District Directors:	5
Total Faculty Advisors:	16
Total Students:	60
Total Student Workers:	2
Total Guests:	17

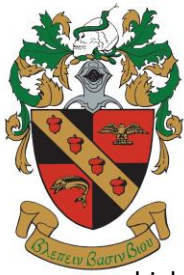
All oral presentations were on Thursday morning in the Sarkeys Science and Math Center on campus. There was a total of 23 oral presentations. All poster presentations were on Thursday afternoon in the McDaniel Center on campus. A total of 32 posters were presented. The three topics for the oral and poster presentations were Ecology & Environment, Molecular & Microbiology, and Biomedical Science.

Thursday evening was the keynote speaker and meet & greet meeting. Dr. Helen Gaudin, Professor of Biology at Oklahoma City University welcomed all attendees to the Oklahoma City University campus. The keynote speaker was Dr. David Teague, Chair of Orthopedic Surgery at OU Health and University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. Dr. Teague's talk was entitled "TriBeta is Your Launchpad" and how he talked about members of TriBeta would have doors of opportunity opened for them through their affiliation with TriBeta. The key takeaways from his talk were the following:

- Master your biology – Extend boundaries of human knowledge.
- Realize you do not yet know all the directions this will take you, so keep opening doors.
- Respectfully speak scientific truth to power on behalf of humanity – Improve understanding and appreciation of biological (scientific) study.
- Save the world!

Dr. Teague was awarded honorary membership with the Alpha chapter as a thank you for speaking, as well as a βββ enameled lapel pin.

After the keynote speaker the chapters gave brief introductions of their chapter, number of members inducted and chapter activities during the past year. Several chapters had presentations prepared to



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highlight their chapter activities and an open discussion was had about fundraising ideas, success stories of member recruitment and ways to engage the members more in fun activities. There were also door prizes given out to attendees with $\beta\beta\beta$ swag, gift cards, and other items.

Field trips were on Friday and Saturday. Field trips included the following attractions.

- Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Gardens
- OKC Riversport
- Sam Noble Museum of Natural History
- Museum of Osteology
- Martin Park Nature Center

Several attendees also visited the Oklahoma City Memorial at night to see the illuminated memorial to the OKC bombing victims.

The awards banquet was held on Saturday night. Introductions were made of the existing Executive Committee and all attendees of the convention were welcomed by Dr. Julie Ballenger. Dr. Steve Ropski was given a plaque for his service as $\beta\beta\beta$ President from 2016-2020. Kathy Roush was also recognized for her 20 years (2002-2022) of service to TriBeta as the National Secretary-Treasurer. Kathy is retiring effective June 6th, 2022. She was given a recognition plaque by Dr. Julie Ballenger.

The biennial business meeting was held during the awards banquet. There were 31 chapters represented at the business meeting with 85 voting members present. The following business items were voted upon and approved by all.

Nominations for the following Executive Committee positions for the 2-year term starting in September 2022 through August 2024:

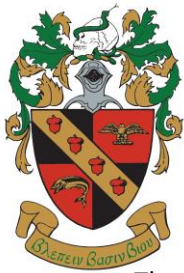
- Dr. Debra Martin, Vice President, Northcentral
- Dr. Olivia Long, Vice President, Northeast
- Dr. Debra Hinson, Vice President, Southcentral
- Dr. Ed Lickey, Vice President, Southeast
- Dr. Tony Schountz, Vice President, West
- Dr. David Forestier, Vice President, Caribbean
- Dr. Julie Ballenger, President

National Executive Committee announcements included the approval of the following chapters: Vanguard University of Southern California and College of Charleston. These two new chapters will be installed in the Fall 2022.

There was no old business discussed.

New business included the following:

Iris Daly was announced as BBB's new Executive Director. Iris will be taking over the duties and responsibilities of Kathy Roush effective June 7th, 2022.



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The location and host chapter for the 2024 National Convention were announced. The 2024 National Convention will be held on the campus of Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. The host chapter is the Mu Omicron chapter. Dates of the convention will be announced later.

The winners of the Bertholf Award were announced during the awards banquet Saturday evening. The following are the winners from 2020-2021 and 2019-2020.

Bertholf Award

2020 – 2021

1st: Zeta Delta, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce

2nd: Zeta Lambda, University of Puerto Rico, Aguadilla

Honorable Mention: Chi Upsilon, The College of New Jersey

2019 – 2020

1st: Zeta Lambda, University of Puerto Rico, Aguadilla

2nd: Chi Upsilon, The College of New Jersey

Honorable Mention: Delta Theta, Northwestern State University, Louisiana

National Outstanding Chapters

2020 - 2021

Zeta Gamma, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

Zeta Alpha, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

Rho Phi, Johns Hopkins University

Nu Delta Alpha, University of Houston, Clear Lake

Upsilon Rho, St. John Fisher College

2019-2020

Rho Phi, Johns Hopkins University

Zeta Alpha, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

Zeta Kappa, University of Puerto Rico, Ponce

Upsilon Rho, St. John Fisher College

Zeta Epsilon, University of Puerto Rico, Cayey

Following the business meeting, the National Convention Awards were given out. The following are the winners.

Brooks Award Winners:

Biomedical Science

1st: Raegen Esenwein, Xi Psi, Duquesne University. The Role of DNA Topoisomerase 1 in Herpes Simplex Virus Type-1 Infections.

2nd: Alexis Cox, Sigma Tau, The Florida State University. Superimposing Celiac Gut Microbiome Metabolites on Healthy Caco-2 Cells to Observe Inflammatory Effects.

3rd: Ezabelle Franck, Sigma Tau, The Florida State University. Therapeutic Potential of Chronic Administration of Cannabidiol for Treatment of Anxiety.



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Ecology & Environment

1st: Arilyn Lynch, Tau Eta, Catawba College. The Harder They Fall: Measuring the Decline of a Green Ash Swamp Forest Due to Emerald Ash Borer Damage in North Carolina.

2nd: Jenevieve Norton, Sigma Tau, The Florida State University. Causes and Consequences of Nest-site Fidelity in a Tropical Bird.

3rd: Angie Jaramillo, Upsilon Zeta, Mercy College. Understanding How Oomycete Plant Pathogens Interfere With PAMP-triggered Immunity in Soybean *Williams* and *Solanum lycopersicum* plants.

Honorable Mention: Meenal Joshi, Mu Omicron, Columbus State University. Background Levels of Intersex in Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) Revealed Through Histological Evaluation of Gonadal Tissue from Three Interconnected Water Bodies.

Molecular And Microbiology

1st: Laura Matt, Sigma Theta, Texas Wesleyan University. Antibacterial Properties of a Novel 1,2,4 Oxadiazole.

2nd: Gwynna Fuller, Chi Chapter, Drury University. Nuclear Versus Cytosolic Expression of *Gooseoid* During Neuroblast Delamination in the Chicken Otocyst.

3rd: Evan Floyd, Beta Omega, Mercer University. The Patent Pending HEFY Assay: A Novel Assay for Biofilm Inhibition in *Bacillus subtilis* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

John C. Johnson – Poster Presentations:

Biomedical Science

1st: Nicole Stone, Xi Chapter, Ohio University. Role of *STC1* Gene in Proliferation and Invasion of Lung Cancer Stem Cells.

2nd: Emilie L. Webster, Omicron Omicron, Saint Michael's College. The Effect of HAE-RND Efflux Pump Expression on Aminoglycoside Sensitivity in *Escherichia coli*.

3rd: Nathan Slotnick, Rho Chi, Bloomsburg University. Inducible BORIS Expression in HCT116 Cells.

Honorable Mention: Emma Ferlan, Priya Gupta, and Grace Callahan, Upsilon Beta, Saint Francis University. Dietary Impacts on Development in Fruit Flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*).

Ecology & Environment

1st: Larry Cossey, Delta Sigma, Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Detecting Variations in Microbial Concentrations in Oklahoma Lakes.

2nd: Zachery Swartzentruber, Psi Theta, Lander University. Heads up: The Effects of Age, Sex, and Group Size on Vigilance in White-tailed Deer.



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3rd: Johnathan Milligan, Omicron Phi, Southern Nazarene University. "Sophisticated Beanwater."

Honorable Mention: Bianca Sheridan, Sigma Tau, Florida State University. The Maize-10-Maze Project, an Educational Public Chromosome Map Garden Featuring the Mutants of Maize.

Molecular & Microbiology

1st: Ashley Barry, Gamma Delta Alpha, Bryan College of Health Sciences. Sucralose and the Commensal Species of the Gut Microbiome.

2nd: Gia-Maria Calbaza, Omega Epsilon, Bradley University. Implementing Transposon Mutagenesis to Investigate Proteins That Alter the Expression of Bacterioferritin Comigratory Protein in *Bacillus subtilis*.

3rd: Megan Strotman, Delta Sigma, Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Investigating Potential Circadian Oscillations in *Pseudomonas syringae*.

Other awards given out included the following:

Chapter History Scrapbook Award:

1st: Sigma Tau Chapter, Florida State University

Chapter History E-Book Award:

1st: Zeta Lambda Chapter, University of Puerto Rico, Aguadilla

2nd: Iota Omicron Chapter, Houston Baptist University

3rd: Omicron Kappa Chapter, Dallas Baptist University

Largest Number of Delegates from a Chapter Award:

Sigma Tau Chapter, Florida State University

Travel Gavel Award for Longest Distance Traveled:

Zeta Lambda Chapter, University of Puerto Rico, Aguadilla

National Convention Host Award:

Alpha Chapter, Oklahoma City University

Dr. Steve Ropski gave a funny Resolution speech to close out the meeting and close the National Convention.

All attendees traveled back home on Sunday.

2022 National Convention Report prepared by:

Iris Daly, Executive Director

7/19/2022