

# BETA-CHI COLUMNS

KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY AT MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | FALL 2009

## CHAPTER HOUSE MAINTENANCE COSTS INCREASE ANNUALLY AS HOUSE AGES

Our house turns 40 this year. Built in 1969, the old beast is showing her age. Every year our repair budget increases, and it is becoming exceedingly difficult to keep up with the necessary repairs to provide a safe place that competes with other fraternities and the recently built University Residential Learning Center.

Last year we spent over \$100,000 on repairs and have typically spent \$60,000. Doors and lock repair/replacements caused most of the increase. The wiring and conduit are encased in the concrete floors, and every year more wires break. Most of the wires cannot be pulled in the existing conduit and require surface mounted conduit. The plumbing is mostly underground, causing costly repairs and a real mess. The kitchen still has the original dishwasher that requires several repairs each year. The repair list goes on and on, and rent was dramatically increased to offset the cost for the repairs.

We continue to battle competition from other recently renovated fraternity houses and university housing. These state-of-the-art facilities reflect the dated architecture of our

house. Coupled with the individual bathrooms and suite-style living (shared living room with two bedrooms), our group showers and shared bedrooms are not as appealing since most college-bound students come from homes where they had private bedrooms and bathrooms. Although we remain a top fraternity on campus, for us to carry on the legacy of Kappa Sigma, we must invest in our future.

We all contributed to the wear and tear on the house and, after 40 years, it is worn out. The bones of the house are good because the concrete floors and block walls are indestructible, but we must update and provide a facility that meets the needs of today and tomorrow's Kappa Sigs. Over the next year we will be working on a plan to transform the house and we will be asking for your help. It is time for all of us to give back to the thing that gave so much to us.

AEKAB,  
**Robert Hoffmann '82**  
Alumni House Fund President  
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## Beta-Chi Honors Hall of Fame Inductees at 106th Homecoming

**Thomas G. Gresham '59, Ken H. Arnsmeier '70, Pat Knoll '70, and Richard T. Bradley '84** Epitomize Fellowship, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service



Alumni honored the Beta-Chi Hall of Fame inductees on October 24.

A packed house of undergraduate Brothers, pledges, alumni, girlfriends, wives, and guests gathered at the Chapter House on October 24 to celebrate the 106th Beta-Chi Homecoming and the 17th iteration of the Beta-Chi Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The boisterous crowd enjoyed cocktails, a wonderful dinner, and the fellowship of friends and brothers. Following dinner, each of the inductees, **Thomas G. Gresham '59, Ken H. Arnsmeier '70, Pat Knoll '70, and Richard T. Bradley '84**, addressed the assemblage. These brothers have been involved in the Fraternity in various capacities and have found success in their professional and community endeavors. During their speeches, the Brothers shared memorable college stories and gave useful advice to the undergraduates for when they leave Rolla and enter the working world. While each alumnus honored this year has followed a different path in life, they all credited Beta-Chi for creating a foundation for success, and a source for lifelong friendships.

## Alumnus Values Lifelong Learning

### Hall of Fame Inductee Tom Gresham '59

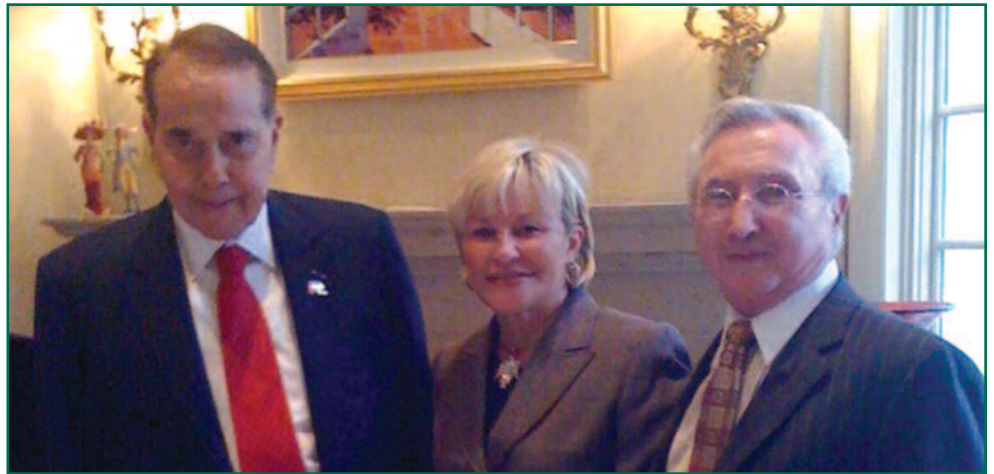
Growing up as an only child in Carthage, Missouri, **Tom Gresham '59** would never have experienced the bonds of brotherhood if it weren't for Kappa Sigma. The "sharing, caring, borrowing, and giving some of life's greatest treasures" was the most important aspect of Tom's fraternity experience. Furthermore, Kappa Sigma helped Tom evaluate himself and his experiences to see his potential and possibilities for the future.

In addition to the profound impact Kappa Sigma made on Tom, the lighter moments are just as vivid and special. Some of his favorites include party weekends, fellowship, all-night bridge games, and joining together to get big things done.

*"I deal with one of the most prized possessions of a person's life (after family, education, and church)—their life's work narrowed down to dollars earned by blood, sweat, and tears."*

With a B.S. in mechanical engineering, Tom spent his first three years after graduation working in Europe and Northern Africa for Schlumberger, a global oilfield and information services company with a major focus on energy. After his return to the United States, Tom earned a master's degree in business administration from the University in Arkansas and entered the investment business as a stockbroker.

In 1993 Tom started his own firm, the Gresham Group, with five associates, and now serves as a senior vice president. "I deal with one of the most prized possessions of a person's life (after family,



Senator Bob Dole, Gamma Omicron '42, Judy Overton and Tom Gresham '59

education, and church)—their life's work narrowed down to dollars earned by blood, sweat, and tears. I am their caretaker of future generations."

Throughout his adult life, Tom has learned key lessons, such as:

- Never take anything for granted.
- Your word and handshake still tell who you are.
- Friends can become family.
- It's not how you handle your success that most people will remember, it's how you handled problems.

In regard to leadership, Tom states, "It's much easier to be a follower but most important to set a solid foundation and lead." Imparting some life lessons to the undergraduates, he encourages them to "look around at others and see what their best qualities are and apply those to yourself." Also, "Say hello first and judge only by yourself and not be influenced."

With work taking Tom to faraway places in Europe and even Libya, he calls Leawood, Kansas, home. In his spare time, Tom enjoys playing golf, reading, and gourmet cooking and is also a wine collector. He likes to spend time with his daughter, Nicole, and grandson, Bliss. Crediting his partner, Judy, for "opening up my world," Tom is philanthropically involved with organizations ranging from the police and fire departments to political figures on both sides, as well as child autism and medical missions to third-world countries. "I have learned so much! Learning is still the hobby of life," he says.

A final piece of advice Tom shared is to "get involved in your beliefs and make something happen!" If you would like to get in touch with Tom, you can write him at [tgresham@aol.com](mailto:tgresham@aol.com).

## Foundation for Successful Career Began at Missouri S&T

### Hall of Fame Inductee Pat Knoll '70

**Pat Knoll '70** served Beta-Chi Chapter as grand scribe. He earned a bachelor's degree in engineering management in 1973, a master's degree in engineering management in 1977, and a master's degree in accounting from St. Louis University in 1985.

Pat began his career at Consolidated Aluminum in industrial engineering and accounting, where he worked for 12 years. Following his time there, he was the controller and chief financial officer at Spectrulite Consortium for 16 years. He has held the same

role at CHI Overhead Doors, a prominent manufacturer of residential sectional garage doors and commercial sectional and rolling steel, for the last seven years.

Throughout his life, Kappa Sigma has remained an important organization to Pat—a testament to the strong bonds of brotherhood forged during his undergraduate years. As an alumnus, Pat has remained active with Kappa Sigma and even previously served as the President of the St. Louis Kappa Sigma Alumni.

In his free time, Pat enjoys reading books on history and playing golf. He is a member of Annunciation Catholic Church in Webster Groves, Missouri, where he has lived since 1978. Pat and his wife of 36 years, Susan, have three children: Jennifer, Katie, and Betsey, and one grandson, Graham, who was born this year.

If you would like to reach Pat, you may contact him at [pknoll@chiohd.com](mailto:pknoll@chiohd.com).

## Integrity, Ethics, and Discipline: Foundation for Leadership and Success

### Hall of Fame Inductee **Ken Arnsmeier '70**

Hailing from the Florissant, Missouri, **Ken Arnsmeier '70** first came to Kappa Sigma on the advice of a neighbor, who said it would be a great help for college life at Rolla, and that's exactly how it turned out. "I really enjoyed the experience," says Ken. "Between the study needed to survive the university and fortitude to survive pledgeship, I learned discipline."



Some of Ken's most prominent undergraduate memories are the hardest. "Coming back from Walkout Weekend made you really consider your desire to become a member." Ken did, however, join Beta Chi and became an extremely valuable member, serving as treasurer and president.

Ken graduated in 1973 with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He worked for four years at the Union Electric Company Labadie Power Plant as a field engineer. Since 1977 he has pursued his career at Langendorf

Supply Co. Inc. where he is president and owner. Langendorf supplies mechanical equipment to the commercial HVAC markets and was recognized in 2007 as a recipient of the Inc. 5000 Award for America's fastest growing private companies.

Regarding leadership, Ken believes it is "the key to being successful and helping others achieve success." He also states there is a serious lack of positive leadership, and good role models are needed for our young people. Ken sets an example in his community and has held numerous positions at his Lutheran Church and the schools his children attend, most notably a four-year term on the school board. As a community leader, Ken says, "I would like to believe I built my leadership on integrity, and that any following would be out of wishing to emulate my example."

It's not surprising that integrity is also the top quality he values in his colleagues. He says

their core has to be built on it and solid ethics. "I have people from the top and bottom of their class on my team; what they all have in common is integrity."

*"Leadership is the key to being successful and helping others achieve success."*

When asked what advice he would like to share with the undergraduate members, Ken said, "Life is what you make it, so don't sit back and wait for things to happen. You have the ability and God-given talents to be successful. Pray continually and don't be afraid to share your faith. Be a good example as more people are watching than you might believe."

Ken and his wife, Wendy, live in Wildwood, Missouri. In their spare time, the couple enjoys gardening and traveling. They have two children, Jaime and Krista. You can write Ken at [karnsmeier@lsc-inc.com](mailto:karnsmeier@lsc-inc.com).

## Kappa Sigma Brotherhood Prepared Alumnus for Success

### Hall of Fame Inductee **Richard Bradley '84**

**Richard Bradley '84** arrived at UMR already familiar with Kappa Sigma and the Beta-Chi Chapter. He had visited his older brother, "**E-Z**" **Ed '81**, numerous times before deciding to attend the school. So, while the decision to join was easy, "UMR and engineering in general were very difficult," he says. But because of this level of difficulty, Kappa Sigma was that much more important. "We all helped each other in school and we made great friendships as well. Outside of school, the social relationships and leadership opportunities at Kappa Sigma were tremendous; it was more than just a place to live and study."



Based on his belief that everything in life can be achieved with enough hard work, loyalty, and determination, Richard attributes many of his successes in life to his experience at Kappa Sigma. "We all worked together to achieve common goals, including studying, community serv-

ice, socializing, building leadership qualities, brotherhood, and eventually graduating."

Expounding on the topic of leadership, Richard says, "In everything you do—whether it's your job, volunteer work, or just home life—leadership is a key to success." He believes Kappa Sigma added to his experiences prior to coming to UMR, and what he gained from his collegiate years has aided him in being an effective leader.

Richard says relationships are another key component to success. "Working closely with others, understanding their needs, and working towards common goals builds strong, lifelong relationships."

In no particular order, Richard listed the following as his favorite college memories:

- Walk Out—Lights Out Brothers and then Bass Canoe

- A Friday afternoon, Was' Jeep, Schmidt's Beer, Bruiser, Mom, E.J. Corich, Was, myself and a rifle
- Paddle Days
- Stealing the dinner bell
- Beach parties, White Castle and Bull parties, Room Teas, Fridays in general
- St. Pat's, Homecoming, Greek Week, Septemberfest
- Hall Sliding
- Dance practice (The Blues Brothers Bo, Mom and King Cobra)
- Initiation
- Each of my pledge brothers

After graduating in 1988 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, Richard has worked for the City of St. Louis and Lambert-St. Louis International Airport in many capacities. Recently, Mayor Francis Slay appointed him as the President of the Board of Public Service for the City of St. Louis. He is the youngest to be appointed (and youngest Cabinet Member) in the City's long

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 2009 Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma Man of the Year Is Ted Ruppert '49 2009 Kappa Sigma National Fraternity Man of the Year Is Gary Forsee '69

**Ted Ruppert '49** has been chosen as the Beta-Chi Man of the Year. After graduating in 1953, Ted was called to action in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After finishing his tour, he returned to Texaco where he was a Field Engineer, eventually moving to the Reservoir Evaluation and Financial Planning departments. He joined Chase Manhattan bank as an engineer-banker and became Vice President of his division. In 1969, Ted took over his father's jointly owned investments and merged with a New York company, creating Varlen Corporation. In less than 30 years, Varlen has hit \$1 billion in sales. After adding several other successful ventures to his portfolio, Ted has been allocating personal funds since 1970 to help financially deprived students get a college education. Ted is an active

member of the Beta-Chi House Corporation and is the driving force behind the renovation/expansion of the Chapter House.

**Gary Forsee '69** has been chosen by the National Fraternity as the 2009 Kappa Sigma Fraternity Man of the Year. He is the 22nd president of the University of Missouri system, which has campuses in Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis. Prior to his February 2008 appointment as president, Gary spent more than 36 years in the telecommunications industry, serving as chairman and CEO of Sprint Nextel, CEO of Global One, Deutsche Telekom, and France Telecom, and in various leadership positions at AT&T and Southwestern Bell. He has received numerous honors, including the Henry Bloch Humanitarian

Award, the American Red Cross Circle of Humanitarian Award, and Business Week's Best Manager Award in 2004 and 2005.

The Man of the Year banquet will be held Saturday February 20, 2010 in Rolla. The event will be attended by the entire Kappa Sigma executive board, University officials, and hundreds of alumni and undergraduates. Gary's brothers, **Jerry Kiel '69** (Jerrykieleng@aol.com), **Lance Killoran '69** (lancemilo@aol.com), and **Robert Hoffmann '78** (roberth@hoffmannbros.com) are organizing the event. Let us know if you can help. More details to come.

Congratulations, Ted and Gary!

## BETA-CHI SUCCESSFUL AT 67TH BIENNIAL CONCLAVE

- *Chapter receives Howell H. Thomas House Prize and the Champion's Quest award*
- *Undergraduates hold retreat to set goals for the year*
- *Brothers become mentors to underprivileged students*

The Brothers of the Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma were successful at this year's 67th Biennial Conclave in San Antonio, Texas. We took home the Howell H. Thomas House Prize, and Brother **Brian J. Garber '07** received the Outstanding Grand Scribe Award. Beta-Chi also brought home a Champion's Quest Award for an outstanding fall 2008 recruitment, which resulted in 34 new members.

We intend to make this semester one of the best ever and strive to make Kappa Sigma number one, on the Missouri S&T campus. Our new members assisted with the annual Best Ever St. Pat's Cudgel, and Greek Week 2009 took place the week of September 19. Many Brothers have also applied to become mentors and assist underprivileged students with their studies. All in all, this is shaping up to be a great year for Beta-Chi. Recently the Chapter held our annual retreat to discuss pertinent goals and aspirations for the upcoming year. Most of the goals set forth stemmed from the four pillars of Kappa Sigma: fellowship, leadership, scholarship and service.

Morale has never been better and we approved a new bylaw that requires every member to be

active in a recognized student organization. The Chapter is aspiring to be a leader on campus, as well as in the classroom, and set the goal G.P.A. for the year at 3.1. As always, 100% ritual proficiency is a must, and Beta-Chi has always been a leader in community service hours. Beta-Chi was especially honored to plan the first annual Missouri Chapters of Kappa Sigma Barbecue for Saturday, October 17. Contact me if you have any questions pertaining to this year's events.

Fraternally,  
**Matthew Lyons '05**  
Chapter President  
(314) 849-5650  
Mgl9r2@mst.edu



## ALUMNI UPDATE

## 1950s

**David L. Harbaugh '53** retired in 2001 as vice president of engineering at Arias Research Associates. He spends time traveling in the U.S., Europe, and Australia, woodworking, playing golf, and volunteering at church. David and his wife, Mary Jo, live in La Mirada, Calif.

**Leroy Manor '57** built a 20' x 40' barn and woodworking shop in Bellingham, Mass., where he lives with his wife, Susan. E-mail: lmanor218@comcast.net

**Thomas L. Scott '58** keeps busy running a 350-acre cattle farm. He and his wife, Dikki, live in Greenwood, Ark., and have two children, Michael and Julie. E-mail: tomdikki@valuelinx.net

## 1960s



**Bill Kirchoff '60** celebrated with his wife, Sandy, after she was named the 2009 Ms. Senior Missouri. Sandy is also a former Kappa Sigma Sweetheart. Congratulations, Sandy!

**Dick Schmidt '61** has traveled to China, Egypt, India, Bhutan, and Peru. He and his wife, Dorothy, live in Marblehead, Mass. E-mail: herefordview@aol.com

**Donald L. Cordes '66** retired from the U.S. Navy in 1996 and from Raytheon as a manager of flight test operations in 2005. He and his wife, Diane, live in Camarillo, Calif., and have two children, Neil and Jill. E-mail: donald\_cordes@msn.com

**Lance Killoran '69** retired from the CIA as Director, Imagery Intelligence Systems Acquisition in the National Reconnaissance office last November after 38 years. He is con-

sulting part time, and his wife, Elaine, will retire from Homeland Security within the year.

## 1970s

**Dale R. Porte '70** and his wife, Mary, have been married for 31 years. They have four children: Heather, Holly, Daniel, and Laura, all Greek college graduates. Dale is a tool and die maker for Baldor Electric Company.

**Mike J. Meyer '71** retired in 2008 as group director for brewing engineering and technology with Anheuser-Busch, Inc. He plans to bike and enjoy Anheuser-Busch products that he doesn't have to make. He and his wife, Mary, live in St. Louis, Mo., and have three daughters: Maureen, Melissa, and Molly Beth. E-mail: abmey18@yahoo.com

**Mark White '75** reports, "I continue down my path of gratitude for Beta-Chi and the state of Missouri for the college education I got. The Fraternity was a true blessing." He lives in Fletcher, N.C., and has two grandchildren, Trent and Kayla. E-mail: lifestyle101plus@yahoo.com

**Charles M. Goldwasser '79** travels throughout the U.S. and abroad conducting operations and organization strategy consulting with Fortune 500 companies. He and his wife, Laura, have three children: Max, Sam, and Rosie, and live in Hidden Hills, Calif.

## 1980s

**Martin E. Berutti '81** is business director of MYNAH Technologies in Chesterfield, Mo. He lives in Ellisville, Mo., with his wife, Karin. They have two children, Ava and Leah. E-mail: mberutti@charter.net

## 1990s

**Todd S. Oppeau '90** and his wife, Amy, live in Lake St. Louis, Mo. They have two children, August and Grace. Todd is a civil and structural engineer at Veatch Corporation in Chesterfield, Mo. E-mail: tsoppeau@yahoo.com

**Clay A. McNail '94** and his wife, Samantha, live in Farmington, Mo., and have one son, Caden. Clay is the general mine supervisor at the Doe Run Company's Brush Creek Mine, and Samantha has partnered with a dermatologist in Farmington. E-mail: clay.mcnail@wildblue.net

## 2000s

**Barrett J. Sill '01** and his wife, Emily, reside in Troy, Ill. He works at Electric Power Systems as a field engineer. E-mail: bjsill04@hotmail.com

Hall of Fame Inductee **Richard Bradley '84**

(Continued from page 3)

history. He is responsible for the planning, design, and construction of all St. Louis public works projects, equipment services, facilities management, and the soldier's memorial. In general, this position is equivalent to the Director of Public Works/City Engineer position of most municipalities.

In February, Richard was named Outstanding Professional Engineer in Government in the St. Louis region by the St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers. He was also inducted into the Missouri Science and Technology Academy of Civil Engineers in April.

Richard grew up in south St. Louis and now lives just a few blocks from his childhood home. His 11-year-old daughter,

Kristin, attends his old school, Immaculate Heart of Mary. He and his wife, Alison, are very active in the parish. In January, Richard was presented with the St. George Emblem by the Archbishop of St. Louis for his outstanding service to Catholic youth through the Scout Program.

In his free time, Richard likes to travel, play golf, boat and bike, and be with his family and friends. In addition to his activity in the parish, Richard is a leader with Immaculate's Venturing Crew 2179. He's looking forward to his daughter turning 14 so she and her friends can participate in this outdoor adventure-related program.

If you would like to contact Richard, you may reach him at [bradleyr@stlouiscity.com](mailto:bradleyr@stlouiscity.com).

# Save the Date

Join us in celebrating Founders' Day 2009

Wednesday, December 2

at Maggie O'Brien's

2000 Market Street,

St. Louis, MO 63103

A cash bar will begin at 6:00 p.m.

with a dinner buffet at 7:30.

R.S.V.P. to **Matt Foresman '91** at

matthew.r.foresman@monsanto.com.

## www.beta-chi.com

Make sure to visit the recently updated Web site! Not only does it have a new look and feel, but it has improved alumni, undergraduate, and parent capabilities. Create a login and password today to check it out!

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**Dylan Chorice**  
Springfield, Mo.

**Josh Manescalco**  
Wood River, Ill.

**Tommy Davis**  
St. Charles, Mo.

**Chase Martin**  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Michael Elghussein**  
Kansas City, Mo.

**David Muller**  
Ballwin, Mo.

**Matt Engrav**  
St. Louis, Mo.

**Samuel Rothove**  
Westphalia, Mo.

**Robert Foote**  
Fort Worth, Texas

**K. C. Schmitt**  
St. Louis, Mo.

**Patrick Hernandez**  
Fenton, Mo.

**Travis Stewart**  
Springfield, Mo.

**Zach Husmann**  
St. Charles, Mo.

**Andrew Straus**  
Springfield, Mo.

**Johnny Kraus**  
St. Charles, Mo.

**C. J. Travis**  
St. Louis, Mo.

**Drew Krump**  
Columbia, Ill.

**Reese Wiggins**  
Fulton, Mo.

**Neal Mahoney**  
St. Charles, Mo.

# BETA-CHI C LUMNS



Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma  
Alumni House Fund Association  
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St. Louis, MO 63131-1611

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ATTENTION: This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your Kappa Sigma son is still attending Missouri University of Science and Technology, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

## Alumnus Remembers Entrepreneurial Pledge Brother

One of my pledge Brothers, **Charles Peter Becker Jr. '60**, passed away last November after a very tough fight with cancer and other complications for a year and a half. There's an interesting story here which I would like to tell you.

Charlie, aka "The Chopper," was working as an assistant plant manager in an ITT non-ferrous foundry and becoming dissatisfied with employment. Charlie decided to go into business for himself. At that point he was probably earning about \$100,000 per year in present-day dollars. ITT huddled and offered to double his salary if he would stay. Charlie declined the offer, purchased a garden tiller and put an ad in the newspaper which read, "Call me, Charlie Becker, and I will come to your home and establish a vegetable garden in your backyard." The Chopper picked up some garden jobs and then one customer needed a fireplace. So Charlie, knowing full well how to spell fireplace, got into the

fireplace business. That led to fireplace inserts, which led to fireplace doors.



Now The Chopper needed hydraulic presses but didn't have the money to purchase it. So working his usual 12/6 schedule he built probably 40 or 50 hydraulic presses to fabricate metal to make the best-looking fireplace doors on the market. And as you might suspect, that led to the hydraulic press business.

Beckwood Press Company now builds multi-thousand-ton capacity custom presses, often as tall as a two-story house and with multiple hydraulic cylinder as big as tree trunks. And it all began with many years ago with "Call me, Charlie Becker, and I will come to your home and establish a vegetable garden in your backyard." An amazing run. I will never forget him.

AEKAB,  
**Bill Kirchoff '60**