

MILESTONES OF BETA BETA BETA

- 1922 – Frank G. Brooks proposed to a group of biology majors at Oklahoma City University that they organize a biology fraternity. Five students joined him to join the first or *Alpha Chapter*. Another faculty member, Mrs. C. Lee Furrow, joined a few days later. (Mrs. Furrow, teaching at Knox College, was instrumental in starting Omega Chapter)
- 1923 – A student from Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, attended the summer session at Oklahoma City University. On returning to Simpson, he interested students there and a chapter at Simpson was applied for and granted. Designation *Beta Chapter* was assigned, but installation did not take place until 1927.
- 1924 – In the spring, *Dr. William M. Goldsmith of Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas*, and some of his students were entertained by the Alpha Chapter. They were so “impressed with the workings of the Oklahoma City Tri Beta Club that they asked permission to use the same name, constitution, etc.”
- 1924 – Dr. Brooks spent the summer at the rocky Mountain Biological Station. *Dr. John C. Johnson, Sr. and students of Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado*, became interested and petitioned Alpha Chapter to form a chapter.
- January 15, 1925 – *Gamma Chapter, Western State College* installed.
- December, 28 1925 – *Delta Chapter, Southwestern College* installed. (Exact date is not clear, but first two members are entered in membership book as of this date. Other members listed as of this date have higher numbers.)
- December 1925, at AAAS meeting in Kansas City, Kansas, Drs. Johnson, Goldsmith, and Brooks met to talk about Beta Beta Beta. They agreed it was not to be a secret fraternity and the rituals used up to this time by the chapters were abolished (see also under Des Moines convention, 1929). The original constitution as worked out for Alpha Chapter was changed to vest control in a *national organization* and not in Alpha Chapter. *National Officers were elected: Dr. W. M. Goldsmith, President; Dr. John C. Johnson, Sr., Vice-President* with the special job of chairman of the committee on applications for new chapters and *Dr. Frank G. Brooks, Secretary-Treasurer*. For an interesting account of this procedure see BIOS 40: 183-184 (also BIOS 1(2):9). This is considered the *First Convention of Beta Beta Beta*.
- 1926-1927 – *First information booklet* (called “Bulletin of information”) published. Exact date is not given but number of chapters listed and internal evidence in the constitution as printed indicate it would be before the convention in December, 1927. Two chapters listed here at Oklahoma A. & M., Stillwater, Oklahoma, and at McPherson College, McPherson, Kansas, were evidently never installed. We have no further record of them.
- December 1927 – *Second National Convention, Nashville, Tennessee. Four regions created with a vice-president in charge of each and the undergraduate essay competition* decided upon, Dr. H.R. Eggleston to be in charge (note this was continued until 1957; under Dr. Eggleston 1927-1931, T.C. Stephens 1931-1932, Vasco M. Tanner 1932-1953, Robert K. Zuck 1953-1957, Robert W. Hoshaw 1957-1963. See 1963 for changes.) Publication of a journal discussed.
- 1928 – New edition of Information Booklet lists 17 chapters.
- 1928 – Petition for a chapter received from students under *Dr. Chenfu F. Wu at Yenching University, Peking, China*.

- 1929 – Third (Biennial) convention, Des Moines, Iowa (BIOS 1(1):12-15) voted to begin publication of *BIOS*. New district in China recommended. Dr. Brooks reported agreement with Phi Sigma: Beta Beta Beta to be in schools not offering the PH.D., Phi Sigma to be only in colleges with graduate schools. Dr. Brooks was instructed by the convention to investigate incorporation of the society and also its affiliation with AAAS (note affiliation with AAAS not accomplished until 1946). Dr. Brooks suggested the rituals for use in the chapters should be developed and a committee was appointed (see New Orleans Convention, 1931).
- March 1930 – *First issue of BIOS* published (and continued quarterly without interruption in March, May, October, and December to present time). *Publication of the first prize essay from the 1928 undergraduate essay competition* (BIOS 1(1): 52-63), “*Animal Adaptations to Environmental Influence*” by Rena Caskey of Peru College. L. G. Balfour Company authorized as official jeweler and improved design for keys announced.
- December 1931 – Fourth Biennial convention, New Orleans, Louisiana (BIOS 2(4): 204-210). Brooks reported 28 chapters, including 3 chapters in China, and 1153 members. Constitution changed to divide the *Central Region into two, North Central and South Central*: also chapter officers changed to make the chapter counselor “ex officio the chapter treasurer” in order to “insure better bookkeeping for the chapter and a more permanent filing of records and receipts”. Incorporation plan dropped because incorporation in Oklahoma entailed restrictions not suitable for a national organization. Brooks reported *ritual committee had prepared ritual* for initiation and similar one was being prepared for installations, both of which would be made available for use. (Note this ritual was not adopted as mandatory and we find no record that a specific ritual has ever been required; our ritual is recommended and is available for use by our chapters as they wish (see 1969 for revision).
- December 1933 – Convention was to have been held with AAAS in Boston, but after a poll of chapters it was cancelled by President Goldsmith because Boston was an inconvenient location, the depression made expenses difficult to meet, etc. Election of officers, reports, and other business was carried on by mail.
- March 1935 – *McClung Award for student research* announced (BIOS 6(1) 227)
- October 25, 1935 – *Dr. C.E. McClung initiated as first national honorary member* by Rho Chapter at Gettysburg College.
- December 1935 – Biennial Convention, St. Louis, Missouri (BIOS 7(1): 54-59. *Dr. C.E. McClung elected president. McClung award for student research* endorsed by the convention. Brooks reported the three chapters in China were facing
- Summer 1936 – The *national office moved to Mt. Vernon, Iowa*. Dr. Brooks transferred to teach in Cornell College in Mt. Vernon. The national office was established there and *BIOS* printed there for many years (see 1956).
- November 13-15, 1937 – *First Regional Convention* held at Birmingham-Southern College by the Southern Region (BIOS 7(4):227-231) under the direction of Vice-President W.K. Butts.
- December 1937 – Biennial convention, Indianapolis, Indiana (BIOS 9(1): 33-37). Constitution changed to provide for regional conventions. Cash awards for the essay contest were increased, and a special committee was appointed to be in charge of the McClung Awards for undergraduate research. All these changes were part of a continuing discussion and effort toward ensuring more student

- participation in Beta Beta Beta. From this time on, regional conventions or local meetings of a few chapters became increasingly frequent. Four national honorary members elected.
- December 1939 – Biennial convention, Columbus, Ohio. Brooks reports financial condition good. For the first time BIOS has become self-sustaining and there is a small surplus to be placed as a *reserve fund at interest*. *A song book for biologists* was suggested and various small changes were made in fees and committees. *Financial aid for the district or regional conventions* was voted.
- 1940 – *First edition of "Songs of Biology" published.*
- December 1940 – "*Of Things Bi-illogical*", collected and mounted by B.R. Weimer of Bethany College, first appears in BIOS. Dr. Weimer continued this section without interruption until 1966.
- January 1941 – Biennial Convention, Dallas, Texas (BIOS 13(1): 28-32). A committee headed by Dr. Lloyd Bertholf reported for the policy committee on a number of *constitution changes* which were voted by the convention. These included more careful definition of "Departments of biology" and "biology majors", as well as provisions for the division of the regions into districts.
- 1941 – Dr. Chenfu F. Wu, Vice-President of the Region in China, left China for the U.S. after long negotiation with the Japanese who were occupying China, only to be taken over by the Japanese, (BIOS 13(3): 181-185).
- 1942-1944 – "Tri Beta in Wartime", as reported by Dr. Brooks in BIOS 12(4): 226-227 and 13 (1): 38-39. Honor Roll of Tri Beta in BIOS 12(4): 227-230.
- 1943 – No convention held because of *War Conditions*. The Office of Defense Transportation discouraged all conventions. Necessary business and election of officers was done by mail. Brief report in BIOS 14(4): 181-182.
- May 6, 1944 – Ninth (Special) Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (not with AAAS) (BIOS 15(2): 92-96) was authorized by vote of the chapters as a meeting of cabinet members and those near-by counselors who could attend to transact pressing business. Brooks reported 43 chapters, nearly 5000 members and that Tri Beta had done remarkably well in spite of depleted college enrollments during the war. Plans for the post war enlargement of the society's program were discussed.
- 1945 – Two chapters established in *Puerto Rico*.
- January 17, 1946 – *Death of Dr. C.E. McClung*, President of Beta Beta Beta (BIOS 17(1): 61-62).
- March 28, 1946 – Biennial Convention, St. Louis, Missouri (BIOS 17(2): 105-111) included a memorial service for Dr. C.E. McClung. Dr. Lloyd M. Bertholf was elected President. *A new region was established for Puerto Rico* with Dr. G.E. Potter as Vice-President in charge. *A coat of arms (shield)* was presented and was approved by the convention. *Application for affiliation with AAAS* authorized, since the requirement of having 100 members who were also members of AAAS was then certain.
- December 1947 – *Silver Anniversary* Convention, Chicago, Illinois (BIOS 19(1): 33-38). Special luncheon with talk by Dr. Brooks on "The First Twenty-five Years of Beta Beta Beta" (BIOS 19(1): 29-32) and by Dr. R.W. Gerard, University of Chicago, on "The Future Direction of Biological Teaching and Research".
- 1950 – *Revised ritual* published for the first time as a separate booklet. Had hereto-fore been included in constitution booklet.

- December 1951 – Biennial Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (BIOS 23(1): 42-48). *A Symposium on Pre-medical Education* was co-sponsored with Alpha Epsilon Delta Premedical Society, the medical sciences section of the AAAS and the American Society of Zoology (BIOS 22(4): 283). *Constitution changes* involved “Society” and “honor” to “honorary” etc. Fees changed from \$5.00 to \$6.00 for active members and from \$2.00 to \$3.00 for provisional. The *three chapters in China removed from the rolls*.
- December 1953 – Biennial Convention, Boston, Mass. (BIOS 25(1): 44-50). *Revised set of rituals* presented, adopted, and ordered to be printed. Bernal R. Weimer elected President.
- December 1954 – *An expanded regional convention* was held with AAAS in Berkeley, California, to give Western Chapters a chance to participate. No official business meeting of national organization was held but policies were discussed.
- February 4, 1955 – *100th chapter installed* at University of Delaware, Alpha Psi.
- March 4, 1955 – Death of Frank G. Brooks; Mrs. Frank G. Brooks became acting secretary and Dr. A. Richards, editor of BIOS.
- August 11, 1955 - Beta Beta Beta was ruled a tax-exempt non-profit organization by the Federal Internal Revenue Service, and we still operate under this ruling.
- September 7, 1955 – Convention held with AIBS at Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan (BIOS 26(3): 148-153). *Mrs. Frank G. Brooks was elected secretary-treasurer*. A resolution was passed naming *Dr. Brooks founder* of Beta Beta Beta (BIOS 26(3) 156), and the name of the Undergraduate Essay Competition was changed to the *Frank G. Brooks Essay Award*.
- October 1955 – *Memorial issue of BIOS* for Dr. Brooks (vol. 26, no. 3).
- December 10, 1955 – *Death of W.H. Goldsmith*, first president of Beta Beta Beta.
- 1956 – *National Office transferred to New York City* with Mrs. Brooks’s removal to that city.
- December 1956 – The *McClung Memorial Reviews* start in BIOS see vol. 27, 28, 29.
- December 1957 – Biennial Convention at Indianapolis, Indiana (BIOS 29(1): 34-41). *Small lapel pins* added to the larger pins already available from Balfour. *Dr. V.M. Tanner* and *Dr. Lloyd M. Bertholf* elected honorary members. *Dr. George H. Mickey* elected president.
- 1958 – *New edition of rituals* printed with some changes as a result of suggestions.
- December 1959 – Biennial Convention, Chicago, Illinois (BIOS 31(1): 41-49). A *redistribution of chapters in districts* was approved, the changes having been circulated and discussed at length. Also voted that any chapter desiring to change its district may do so by formal petition to the officers of the society. *Dr. John C. Johnson, Sr.* elected as an honorary member.
- 1960 – *Dr. George P. Mickey* resigned and *Dr. H.P. Sturdivant* was elected president.
- 1961 – *Dr. Lloyd M. Bertholf* gave Beta Beta Beta the sum of \$1000 to establish an annual award for chapter excellence.
- December 1961 – Biennial Convention, Denver, Colorado (BIOS 33(1): 55-57). *Betholf Award for Chapter Efficiency* announced. Mrs. Frank G. Brooks elected a national honorary member. On a trial basis, a sum of \$25.00 for each district was voted to be used for an award to be decided on by the districts. *Dr. A. Richards* resigned as editor of BIOS and was replaced by *Dr. J. Teague Self*. Tea and open house at the home of *Dr. and Mrs. John C. Johnson, Sr.*

- December 1963 – Biennial Convention, Cleveland, Ohio (BIOS 35(1): 50-57). Due to lack of participation and interest in essay writing, the Frank G. Brooks Essay Award was changed to *Frank G. Brooks District Award*. \$3,000 was set aside, the interest from which to be used for plaques for the award. A committee was appointed to decide on criteria (not this is the basis for the present award plaques for the best research papers presented at the district conventions). A separate grant of \$25.00 was voted for each host chapter of a district convention.
- 1964 – The biennial convention was changed to December 1966 instead of December 1965 by poll of the chapters since the vote on this at the 1963 convention had been very close.
- December 1966 – Biennial Convention at Washington, D.C. (BIOS 38(1): 44-50). The cabinet recommended that there be a *student representative* on the cabinet, that the rituals be revised and that there be a committee which would include *students to work on membership requirements*. Also one constitution change was made so that officers start their terms at the beginning of the fiscal year instead of directly after the convention. *Dr. E.G. Stanley Baker* elected president.
- September 1, 1967 – *Mrs. Brooks resigns as secretary*. *Dr. Louis E. Bush* elected secretary-treasurer and managing editor of BIOS. *National Office* moved to *Drew University, Madison, N.J.*
- December 1967 – National cabinet meeting, Summit, New Jersey, at home of Dr. Bush. This is the first of the cabinet meetings held regularly not only in the years of the conventions as in the past, but also in the alternate years. *Mrs. Frank G. Brooks* elected Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus and voted a special honorarium of \$1000.
- March 1968 – BIOD publication office moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- 1968 – Beta Beta Beta *affiliates with the American Institute of Biological Science*.
- September 1968 – *Committee of students and faculty meet to consider membership requirements* for Beta Beta Beta.
- December 1968 – Biennial Convention, Dallas, Texas (BIOS 40(1): 31-35). *Revised constitution with restatement of membership requirements* approved to be sent to the chapters for the final vote. “Provisional membership” changed to “Associate membership” open to all those with an interest in biology. Initiation fees raised to \$10.00 for activities and \$5.00 for associate members. A *revised and somewhat simplified ritual* prepared by *Dr. Elizabeth Lunn* was presented to the convention and was approved for publication. A commemorative booklet with citations which had been passed by the cabinet and regions was available for signatures and was sent to Mrs. Brooks.
- March 1969 – New constitution approved by the chapters.
- December 1969 – Executive Committee meeting with AAAS, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1970 – Decals of the Beta Beta Beta key and shield prepared for giving to each new member; also available to chapters at 5 cents a set.
- December 1970 – Biennial Convention, Chicago, Illinois (BIOS 42(1): 36-38). Name of Bertholf Award changed from Bertholf Award for Chapter Efficiency to *Bertholf Award for Chapter Effectiveness*. Honorary membership set at \$10.00.
- October 1971 – *Student forum at Second National Biological Congress* at Miami sponsored by Beta Beta Beta and AIBS Student Chapters. A member of Beta Beta Beta acted as a moderator, and one member of Beta Beta Beta and three from AIBS student chapters discussed various aspects of ecological and population problems.

- 1971 – *Special plaque with Beta Beta Beta shield* made available for chapter and district use for special awards.
- December 1971 – Executive committee meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Plans for the 50th Anniversary Celebration were made. It was voted to grant *\$50.00 instead \$25.00 to the host chapters* for each district convention.
- December 1972 – Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration and Biennial Convention, Washington, D.C.
- 1974 – AAAS, American Association for the Advancement of Science, changed their annual meeting from December, therefore Beta Beta Beta met separately from AAAS. Announcement of a change in By-Law IV of the National Constitution to read “The fiscal year of the society shall be from October 1 to September 30” (previously read “from September 1 to August 31”). Small travel subsidies for delegates coming from farther than 500 miles to the Biennial Convention were given. Lambda Gamma Chapter of Ohio Northern University sent a ritual for the installation of chapter officers to the national office. The executive board made it available to all chapters.
- December 28, 1974 – 23rd National Convention held in Puerto Rico. Met on a college campus and separately from AAAS
- December 27-30, 1976 – 24th National Convention held in Fullerton, CA at California State College jointly with the Western Society of Nationalists. Because so few Brooks Award papers are published in BIOS, the executive committee made the following decisions:
1. The Frank G. Brooks plaque 1st place to be given to the chapter. The student author or authors judged 1st, 2nd, or 3rd be given inscribed certificates. A cash award of \$75 will be given to the author of any paper given a Brooks Award and accepted for publication in BIOS within six months of the date of the convention. To take affect beginning with conventions held after October 1, 1976.
 2. The McClung Award for the best paper published in BIOS each year by an undergraduate Beta Beta Beta member was raised from \$50 to \$100 to take affect with the immediate certificates will also be available for other awards (graduate student papers, chapter awards, etc.) in those conventions that have them.
- December 27-30, 1978 – 25th National Convention held in Houston, TX hosted by Delta Upsilon Chapter of Texas Southern University and Delta Omega Chapter of University of Houston. The convention cost was \$100 for room, board, and all events. The membership fee for graduate, honorary, and regular members was increased to \$14.00. The membership fee for associate and promoted members was \$7.00. There were seven concurrent research report sessions.
- December 28-31, 1980 – 26th National Convention held in Memphis, TN hosted by Memphis State University. BIOS Editor James Nagle was authorized to establish and Editorial Review Board.
- December 27-30, 1982 – 27th National Convention held in Huntsville, AL hosted by Beta Zeta Chapter of University of North Alabama. Changes to the Constitution effective September 1, 1983. Membership fees for graduate, honorary, and regular members were increased to \$20.00. Membership fee for associate and promoted members was increased to \$10.00. Graduate, honorary, and regular members shall receive 2 years subscription to BIOS to the chapter or \$2.00 home

- delivery fee. Associate members shall receive 1 year subscription to BIOS to the chapter or \$1.00 home delivery fee. New chapter application fee was changed to \$100. A professional audit yearly starting with 1981 fiscal year by a certified public accountant was accepted.
- 1984 – 28th National Convention held in Tempe, AZ hosted by Arizona State University
- 1986 – 29th National Convention held in New Orleans, LA hosted by Loyola University, Tulane University, University of New Orleans, Dillard University, Southern University, Xavier University
- 1988 – 30th National Convention hosted by University of Puerto Rico. Regular membership fee changed to \$30.00, Promoted to \$10.00, and Associate to \$20.00.
- 1990 – 31st National Convention held in Charleston, SC hosted by Tau Nu Chapter, The Citadel. The Executive Committee voted the next Biennial Convention to take place in late May or early June, ending on a Sunday and not to take place over Memorial Day.
- June 6, 1992 – 32nd National Convention hosted by Upsilon Delta Chapter of Drew University.
- June 1-5, 1994 – 33rd National Convention held in Waukesha, WI hosted by Carroll College. Approved the use of honor cords and medallions at graduation by Regular Honor Society Members. A research grant fund was established and applications for research grants were mailed to each chapter. Guidelines for John C. Johnson poster sessions were accepted and included in the Constitution.
- May 30 – June 2, 1996 – 34th National Convention held in Erie, PA hosted by Theta Omega Chapter of Gannon University. The Yokley Award was established with \$5,000. The Executive Committee approved two Amendments to the Constitution:
1. Allowing two year Junior Colleges to form Tribeta clubs in which students could become associate members and attend and participate in all Tribeta functions.
 2. A nondiscrimination clause was added.
- 1998 – 35th National Convention held in San Diego, CA. The first Yokley Award was given for *Outstanding Faculty Advisors, Outstanding Yokley Faculty Leadership Award, and Outstanding Yokley Faculty Service Award*.
- June 1-5, 2000 – 36th National Convention – Ponce, Puerto Rico
- May 29 – June 2, 2002 – 37th National Convention held in San Antonio, TX hosted by Saint Mary's University and Palo Alto Junior College. New Chapter Application fee was changed to \$300.
- May 26-30, 2004 – 38th National Convention held in Grand Junction, CO hosted by Mesa State College
- May 2006 – 39th National Convention held in Melbourne, FL hosted by Florida Institute of Technology. For the first time in almost twenty years the membership fee was increased to \$45 for regular, graduate, and honorary. The associate membership fee was increased to \$35. The promoted fee remained \$10.
- September 2007—The honor cord was included at no extra charge in the membership materials for regular, promoted, graduate and honorary members.