

2016 National Convention Report
Bethel University, Gamma Omega Chapter
May 30 – June 5, 2016

The 2016 Beta Beta Beta National Convention was held on the beautiful campus of Bethel University, Gamma Omega Chapter in St Paul, Minnesota. The onsite convention coordinators were Dr. Brian Hyatt and Dr. Bryan Anderson.

There were 135 delegates from 46 different colleges attended the conference. There were 10 executive board members, 4 district directors, 20 faculty advisors and 84 students and 17 guests in attendance. There were 4 oral sessions with a total of 28 oral presentations and 4 poster sessions with a total of 26 poster presentations.

We would like to thank the Faculty and Staff of Bethel University Bryan Anderson, Melissa Cordes, Teresa DeGolier, Joy Doan, Amy Dykstra, Andrea Hendricks, Brent Hoernemann, Brian Hyatt, Ian Johnston, Bill McVaugh, Pa Moua-Yang, Patti Paulson, Ken Petersen, Jeff Port, Tim Shaw, Paula Soneral, Jon Van Berkom, and Sara Wyse. Student Volunteers were Elliot Blankespoor, Brian Bristol, Sophie Morris, Christina Resnikoff, and Cally Zevnick. Special thanks to Debra Martin of planning and leading the Mayo Clinic and Eagle Center trip, Joanna Klein for planning and leading the Walker Art Center trip, Bruce Erickson and Phillip W Fitzpatrick Chair of Paleontology, for the behind the scenes tour at the Science Museum of Minnesota, Pa Moua-Yang for her work on the program, and Brita MacInnes for designing the t-shirts and program cover.

The executive committee arrived Monday May 30, 2016 and met Tuesday May 31, 2016. The committee approved an increase in the funding for the undergraduate research grant to \$60,000. An increased the district convention host grant to \$500. The nominations committee presented the following nominations. All nominations were approved at the business meeting Saturday night June 4, 2016.

Dr. Julie Ballenger -- Southeast Vice President
Dr. Amy Morris – Northcentral Vice President
Dr. Adam Ryburn – Southcentral Vice President
Dr. Steve Ropski – President

Students and faculty began arriving on Bethel University campus Wednesday June 1. The convention opening and welcome was delivered by Dr. Don Roush, National President, Beta Zeta Chapter, and University of North Alabama.

The Keynote speaker was Dr. Michael T. Osterholm.

Dr. Osterholm is a frequently invited guest lecturer on the topic of epidemiology of infectious diseases. His presentation was “Emerging Infections in Modern World: A View from the Front Windshield and Rearview Mirror” specifically discussing the Zika virus.

Dr. Osterholm is Regents Professor, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, the director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, a professor in the Technological Leadership Institute, College of Science and Engineering, and an adjunct professor in the Medical School, all at the University of Minnesota.

He is also a member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and the Council of Foreign Relations. In June 2005 Dr. Osterholm was appointed by Michael Leavitt, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to the newly established National Science Advisory Board on Biosecurity. In July 2008, he was named to the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center's Academy of Excellence in Health Research. In October 2008, he was appointed to the World Economic Forum Working Group on Pandemics.

From 2001 through early 2005, Dr. Osterholm, in addition to his role at CIDRAP, served as a Special Advisor to then-HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson on issues related to bioterrorism and public health preparedness. He was also appointed to the Secretary's Advisory Council on Public Health Preparedness. On April 1, 2002, Dr. Osterholm was appointed by Thompson to be his representative on the interim management team to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). With the appointment of Dr. Julie Gerberding as director of the CDC on July 3, 2002, Dr. Osterholm was asked by Thompson to assist Dr. Gerberding on his behalf during the transition period. He filled that role through January 2003.

Previously, Dr. Osterholm served for 24 years (1975-1999) in various roles at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the last 15 as state epidemiologist and chief of the Acute Disease Epidemiology Section. While at the MDH, Osterholm and his team were leaders in the area of infectious disease epidemiology. He has led numerous investigations of outbreaks of international importance, including foodborne diseases, the association of tampons and toxic shock syndrome (TSS), the transmission of hepatitis B in healthcare settings, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in healthcare workers. In addition, his team conducted numerous studies regarding infectious diseases in child-care settings, vaccine-preventable diseases (particularly *Haemophilus influenzae* type b and hepatitis B), Lyme disease, and other emerging infections. They were also among the first to call attention to the changing epidemiology of foodborne diseases.

Dr. Osterholm was the Principal Investigator and Director of the NIH-supported Minnesota Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance (2007-2014) and chaired the Executive Committee of the Centers of Excellence Influenza Research and Surveillance network.

Dr. Osterholm has been an international leader on the critical concern regarding our preparedness for an influenza pandemic. His invited papers in the journals *Foreign Affairs*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Nature* detail the threat of an influenza pandemic before the recent pandemic and the steps we must take to better prepare for such events. Dr. Osterholm has also been an international leader on the growing concern regarding the use of biological agents as catastrophic weapons targeting civilian populations. In that role, he served as a personal advisor to the late King Hussein of Jordan. Dr. Osterholm provides a comprehensive and pointed review of America's current state of preparedness for a bioterrorism attack in his *New York Times* best-selling book, *Living Terrors: What America Needs to Know to Survive the Coming Bioterrorist Catastrophe*.

Thursday was Student's Day. Oral presentations were Thursday morning with a mid-morning break. Poster presentations were Thursday afternoon in the Robertson Center Gym with a midafternoon break.

All meals were delicious and nutritious at the Brushaber Commons Dining Center. Bowling was offered to anyone Thursday evening.

Friday and Saturday were field trip days to the following destinations Mayo Clinic and Eagle Center, Science Museum of Minnesota, Interstate State Park, Wargo Nature Center, Mall of America and SeaLife Aquarium, and Walker Art Center. After the field trips on Friday Bethel University treated anyone who wanted to attend to popcorn and a movie.

Saturday evening was the awards banquet in which the Brooks Award winners and Johnson Award winners were announced. Other awards were Traditional Scrapbook Award – Angelo State University. E Scrapbook award was 1st place University of Puerto Rico-Cayey and 2nd place was University of Puerto Rico-Aguidilla. The Largest Delegation was University of Puerto Rico-Aquidilla. The Most Miles Traveled was given to University of Puerto Rico-Aquidilla.

A short business meeting was conducted. The nominations committee made the motion to elect the nominated vice presidents and president. It was approved to increase the research grant and the district host grant. The 2018 national convention was still undecided. It could be California State University, Monterey Bay, California or Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL The business meeting was adjourned and the 2016 National Convention was officially closed.

On behalf of the National Executive Committee I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who presented, judged, participated and worked to make this convention a successful demonstration of the outstanding talents possessed by students and faculty associated with Beta Beta Beta.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Roush
National Secretary/Treasurer