ABOUT BETA BETA BETA

TriBeta was founded in 1922 at Oklahoma City University by Dr. Frank G. Brooks and a group of his students. The idea of an honor and professional society for biology students spread rapidly and by 1925, the society was a national organization. Biennial national conventions of student and faculty members began in that year and in 1930 the society journal, BIOS, began publication of student research, articles of interest to biologists, and society news. As the society grew, it was divided into regional and district groups, each of which holds a convention annually. At the heart of every district and national meeting are student research papers presented in the style of graduate meetings. Awards are given for outstanding individual and chapter accomplishment.

CONVENTIONS

National registration fees help support 15 district conventions every year and the national convention every other year. Just as the local chapter is the Center of the TriBeta programs, the district convention is the most important regional project. It offers members a chance to report their research and to hear from outstanding graduate investigators and teachers who give invited lectures and hold informal discussions. Like graduate society meetings, the national conventions offer a chance to share current research and discuss scientific issues. Field trips have become an important part of the national convention which is often centered around some biological feature unique to the convention locale. Students who present papers at the national convention are eligible for research stipends. TriBeta also helps defray travel costs by offering travel grants to chapters attending the convention.

AWARDS

- Frank G. Brooks Award - for excellence in undergraduate research presented in an oral session at district or national meetings of the society.
- The McClung Award - for the most outstanding paper published in BIOS each year.
- The Loyd M. Bertholf Outstanding Chapter Award - for exceptional chapter accomplishment. (Annual)
- The Chapter History Award - for outstanding display of chapter activities in scrapbook format. (Biennial)
- John C. Johnson Award - for excellence in undergraduate research presented in a poster format at district or national meetings of the society.
- Beta Beta Beta Research Scholarship Award - intended to support undergraduate research by awarding cash scholarships annually to students conducting student research.

THE LOCAL CHAPTER

Individual membership in TriBeta is through a chapter on the campus of a four-year accredited college or university. There are now more than 560 chapters offering their members activities and experiences that enrich and extend but do not duplicate the primary requirements for the biology major. The national constitution provides a framework for chapters' activities, but each chapter is free to function in accordance with its own needs and school philosophy. Chapter programs typically include guest speakers, reports of research by members and department faculty, field trips, maintenance of collections, community service, and social gatherings. Most chapters have a lounge or office on campus. A faculty advisor provides continuity and experience to the student members.

THE LOCAL CLUB

A TriBeta Club may be formed at any Junior or Community College. The club functions as any chapter does, but is affiliated with a nearby chapter.

PURPOSE

Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society is a society for students, particularly for undergraduates. It seeks to encourage scholarly attainment in this field of learning by reserving its regular membership for those who achieve superior academic records and who indicate special aptitude for and major interest in the life sciences. It desires to cultivate intellectual interest in the natural sciences and to promote a better appreciation of the value of biological study and thus welcomes into associate membership all those students who are interested in biology. Beta Beta Beta also endeavors to extend the boundaries of man's knowledge of nature by encouraging new discoveries through scientific investigation and to this end encourages undergraduate students to begin research work and report their findings in the journal of the society, BIOS.

It emphasizes, therefore, a three-fold program: stimulation of scholarship, dissemination of scientific knowledge, and promotion of biological research.

"If I were to attempt to describe the typical Beta Beta Beta chapter, I should say that it is a group of twenty to thirty upperclass, undergraduate students of superior scholastic attainment with a faculty counselor and one or more faculty members. The group meets semi-monthly for chapter business and programs originating with its own members or with occasional outside speakers. In addition to its meetings, the chapter carries out several projects of scientific or educational value during the year and participates in one or more activities sponsored by the national organization. It should be added however, that there are many deviations from a program such as this and that there is no desire to establish a definite pattern of chapter activity. Beta Beta Beta insists only that each chapter shall function usefully. In some colleges it does this by being highly honorary; in a few colleges it functions largely as a seminar group; in other colleges the provisional (associate) membership plan is used to include nearly all eligible biology majors."

FRANK G. BROOKS
Founder, Beta, Beta, Beta Biological Society