

Steven Browning Sample

Illinois '62

Oxford Cup Roll No. 040

Dr. Steven B. Sample has always been a step or two ahead of his time. More than six years before Beta Theta Pi piloted its critically acclaimed *Men of Principle* initiative in 1998, Dr. Sample had installed his 14-point Minimum Standards for the University of Southern California Greek community. The USC president defined the goal of these Standards: "To achieve a Greek system representing real excellence in the student experience, a Greek system which can be described as the best in the U.S. and which will bring significant credit to the University." His vision has achieved that and more.

An electrical engineer, musician, outdoorsman and inventor, he became USC's 10th president in 1991.

Active in Beta Theta Pi from his undergraduate years, Brother Sample earned a Beta Founders Fund scholarship in 1960. He is married to the former Kathryn Brunkow of Park Ridge, Ill. The Samples of San Marino, Calif., have two daughters, Michelle Sample Smith and Elizabeth Ann Sample.

Sample served on the Beta Theta Pi Vision Committee in 1996 and was Keynote Speaker at the Fraternity's 159th General Convention in Miami, Fla.

In addition to earning B.S.E.E., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois, he has received honorary doctorates from the University of Nebraska, Purdue University, Hebrew Union College, University of Sheffield, England and Canisius College.

His patents in digital appliance controls have been licensed to practically every major manufacturer of appliance controls and microwave ovens in the world. Nearly 200 million home appliances have used his inventions.

After earning his Ph.D. degree in 1965, he worked for a year as a senior scientist at Melpar Inc., a research and development firm. He then joined the faculty in electrical engineering at Purdue University, where he also worked as a consultant to industry.

Sample served as deputy director for academic affairs at the Illinois Board of Higher Education, 1972-74, and as executive vice president for academic affairs and dean of the Graduate College at the University of Nebraska, 1974-82.

Sample came to USC from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he had served as president since 1982. While there, SUNY-Buffalo was the first public university in New York or New England to be elected to membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU).

Sample is a trustee of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and the Regenstrief Medical Foundation. He was a founding member of the California Business-Higher Education Forum and is a member of Project California, the Coalition of 100 and the Los Angeles Business Advisors.

Erv Johnson, APR, Idaho '53, Editor, The Beta Theta Pi