

## **WILLIAM W. BERRY** ***VANDERBILT '68***

*Toronto, Ontario, June 29, 2006* — The prestigious Francis Wayland Shepardson award was bestowed upon former Assistant General Fraternity Archivist William W. Berry Jr., *Vanderbilt '68*, (posthumously) at the 167th General Convention of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity in Toronto, Ontario, June 29.

Bill Berry had a deep and profound love for Beta Theta Pi; that love followed him all the days of his life as he often reminded Betas, young and old, to “earn your badge every day.” Sadly, Berry passed away from cancer in 2001.

A graduate in education, Berry attended Vanderbilt School of Law and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1972. He was an enthusiastic student of astronomy and the American Civil War. While serving as assistant General Fraternity archivist and chairman of the Museum Committee, which supervised the creation of the Beta Museum — a focal point of the Administrative Office in Oxford — he frequently made the drive from Nashville to Oxford for a long weekend of organizing the archives, searching historic files and even taking a polishing cloth to the John Reily Knox Loving Cup.

Berry attended his first General Convention in 1966. Twenty years later, he would become secretary of the 147th General Convention, and later, president of the 149th Convention held at Toronto's Inn on the Park in 1988. He served as official parliamentarian at two other Conventions. Berry was frequently identified as Beta's foremost authority on *The Code of Beta Theta Pi*, and he coordinated the original production of *The Singing Fraternity* CD.

In total, Berry attended some 18 Conventions and served the Fraternity as a chapter counselor, financial advisor, house corporation president, district chief and regional director.