

RONALD P. HELMAN

MIAMI '55

August 9, 2014 – Oxford, Ohio– The prestigious Francis Wayland Shepardson Award was bestowed upon Ronald P. Helman, *Miami '55*, at the 175th General Convention held in Oxford, Ohio, August 7-10.

Ronald P. Helman, *Miami '55*, was born on July 13, 1933, in Canton, Ohio. He attended Miami University and was initiated into the Alpha Chapter on November 2, 1952, as Roll No. 1013. Graduating from Miami with a Bachelor's degree, he earned his Master of Science from Miami in 1957.

Helman's involvement with the Fraternity runs deep. From 1965-72, he served as Beta's third administrative secretary following in the footsteps of Ralph N. Fey, *Miami '40*, and Frederick F. Brower, *Miami '50*. Under Helman's guidance, the Beta Leadership Fund was launched, and the Fraternity began using computers to save membership records. From 1984-87, he was a vice president on the Fraternity's Board of Trustees, and was a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors from 1996-2002. In 1991, Helman was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Interfraternity Conference. He continues to serve on Beta's Advisory Council.

Helman is very dedicated to his beloved Alpha Chapter. He organized the Alpha Class of '55 Reunion tradition beginning in 1960. Members of the class have met on Miami's campus every five years and have donated gifts to the chapter at each reunion. Helman established the Badge Award, given to the Alpha Chapter senior with the top GPA.

Besides the Fraternity, Helman is devoted to his alma mater. He was a member of Miami's Alumni Association Executive Council, president of the alumni association from 1971-72, and in 1980, served as the chairman of the fundraising committee for the 25th Anniversary Reunion of his class. In 2013, he was awarded the University's Bishop Medal.

Other distinctions and volunteer efforts include being named Oxford Citizen of the Year for 1969 and serving as a board member for the Rotary Club of Houghton, Mich., and Houghton's Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly.

Professionally, from 1976-96, Helman was the executive director of the Michigan Tech Fund of Michigan Technological University. Following his retirement from MTU, he served for 18 months as a part-time advancement advisor to former Finlandia University President Robert Ubbelohde. In his retirement, Helman remained busy, coaching three community campaigns totaling \$1.3 million for Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly, the Copper Country Humane Society, and the new Portage Lake District Library.

Helman and wife Lou Elyn, a sister of Kappa Kappa Gamma, are parents to Betsy, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Randy, *Central Michigan '84*, Founding Father and former chapter president, and Roger, *Michigan '89*, who also served as chapter president. Helman's grandson Alexander '17, is a Re-founding Father of the Gamma Psi Chapter at Michigan State University.

Through annual giving to the Beta Theta Pi Foundation, Helman and his sons created the Ronald, Randall and Roger Helman Scholarship, which provides merit scholarships to Miami, Michigan and Central Michigan undergraduate members on a rotating basis. Besides the Alpha Chapter, Helman has roll numbers from the Gamma Psi Chapter at Michigan State University (No. 1000) and the Epsilon Gamma Chapter at Central Michigan University (No. 200).