

ROBERT L. COTTRELL *MIAMI '54*

Oxford, Ohio, August 1, 2003 — Former Beta Theta Pi Administrative Secretary and Foundation Director Robert L. Cottrell, *Miami '54*, was presented with the Francis Wayland Shepardson award at the 164th General Convention of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity in Oxford, Ohio, on July 24.

Cottrell, a relentless worker, is a member of the Beta Theta Pi Foundation Board of Directors and serves as campaign advisor to the Fraternity's *Upon These Principles* capital campaign. He was chapter president as an undergraduate at Miami University. After graduation, he was house corporation president for two terms and then district chief, which led to his election as vice president and member of the Board of Trustees, 1971-74. During his term as administrative secretary, 1991-98, Cottrell took the lead in the establishment of the Fraternity's Foundation and Administrative Office. He was also director of the Beta Theta Pi Foundation, 1998-99.

Raised and educated in Southwest Ohio's Oxford-Hamilton community, Cottrell, a Phi Beta Kappa, graduated *summa cum laude* in economics from Miami where he was an Air Force ROTC distinguished military graduate. On active duty in the mid-'50s, Cottrell flew single-engine jets.

In his distinguished career with Kroger, he was promoted to vice president, Store Operation Service, in 1964; vice president, Corporate Procurement and Trade Relations in 1977; vice president, Distribution Administration 1979, and vice president, Wholesaling, and chairman of the Board of Foodland Distributors in 1984. After leaving Kroger in 1988, he established Cottrell & Associates, a management-consulting firm to the food industry, and served on an interim basis as senior vice president of operations for Circle K Corporation.

In 2001, he was honored as the Fraternity's 46th Oxford Cup recipient, an award given to recognize achievement of the highest order by a member. Recipients must have brought honor to the Fraternity through distinguished service and accomplishment in their chosen professional fields.

He and his wife Nancy, a Kappa Kappa Gamma and Miami graduate, are parents of three sons, all Miami Betas: Philip F. '78, Robert S. '79 and Richard F. '80.

Involved with his community and alma mater, Cottrell was a trustee of the Ft. Hamilton-Hughes Hospital, 1977-85, providing financial leadership for a \$42 million expansion; trustee and president of the Board, Hamilton Community Home Assn., 1979-86; elder, trustee and chairman of the finance committee, Hamilton Presbyterian Church, and chairman, of the Butler County Children's Services Board, 1993-99. For Miami, he was chairman, advisory council of the School of Applied Science; vice chairman and trustee, Miami University Foundation, and a member of the advisory council of the School of Business and the Resource Development Board. In 1989, he received the John E. Dolibois Alumni Award for service to the University.