

# Alpha Slants of BETA THETA PI



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER WINTER 2013

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Alpha Chapter recently honored exemplary alumni during the annual Alpha Hall of Fame induction ceremony held in Oxford. The ceremony recognized **Howard “Luke” Kenley ’67**, **R. Conrad Leslie ’47**, and **Foster Jay Cole ’24** (posthumously). The ceremony was conducted at the chapter house and attended by local alumni, chapter brothers, advisors, and members of the community. Following the presentation, all guests enjoyed tours of the Alpha Chapter museum and archives.

### Howard “Luke” Kenley ’67

Luke is a successful businessman and Indiana state legislator. He was born in 1945 in Fort Stockton, Texas, while his father was serving in World War II. Luke grew up in a family that understood personal sacrifices have to be made to ensure the greater good. When his mother passed away when he was just nine, he took on many responsibilities for his seven younger siblings.

During high school in Indiana, Luke was an outstanding athlete and served as senior class president and captain of the football team. While in Noblesville High, he found the love of his life, Sally. Following graduation, Luke attended law school at Harvard and completed his degree after enlisting to serve his country during Vietnam.

The Kenleys settled in Noblesville where they raised their twin sons and daughter. Luke joined his father in the family grocery business. Under his leadership it grew from 20 employees to 175 and expanded from \$2 million to \$16 million per year in sales.

Service defined most of Luke’s life. Indiana Governor Bowen appointed him in 1974 as Noblesville city court judge, a position he served for 15 years, handling more than 40,000 cases. He was first elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1992 and was recognized as the Freshman Legislator of the Year. He proceeded to serve as the chairman of the State Budget Committee and in numerous other leadership roles. Luke served as co-chairman of the Indiana Republican Platform Committee for every state convention since 1994. In 2003, he made an unsuccessful bid for Republican nominee for governor of Indiana, losing to Mitch Daniels. Luke served as a board member of the Noblesville Boys and Girls Club for more than 25 years and has been active with the Central Indiana United Way Board.

Luke was excited to return to the Beta house in 2007 during the class’s 40th reunion to pay tribute to the memory of his pledge brother and Medal of Honor recipient **Terrance C. Graves ’67**.

### R. Conrad Leslie ’47

The *New York Times* identified R. Conrad Leslie as the most widely read private crop forecaster in Agribusiness. His monthly corn, soybean, and wheat production estimates were of such interest to food people they

were quickly distributed around the world by Reuters, Dow Jones and other news services.

If not for World War II, Leslie would not have become a grain futures analyst. Before the war, he studied pre-medicine at Miami University. During the war, Leslie became a B-24 bomber pilot and flew 35 missions over Germany. For this, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three clusters.

When Leslie returned to school, he changed his major to banking and finance and his studies were enhanced by serving two years as chapter treasurer.

After graduating in 1947, Leslie became a salesman at Procter and Gamble. When Merrill Lynch announced it was starting a program to bring Wall Street to the rest of the country, Leslie quickly joined. While there, he became impatient with the dormant stock market. A greater challenge to Leslie was the daily price activity in the grain futures market. There was also a need to educate farmers on how to hedge their crops.

After moving to Chicago and during his 50 years in the business world, Leslie appraised the overnight news and wrote a pre-opening market letter to the brokers at four different New York Stock Exchange firms. Leslie’s collection of market wisdom was presented to the financial world via his book, *Conrad Leslie’s Guide for Successful Speculation, Stocks, Commodities, Gold*. The book garnered serious attention from the *Chicago Tribune* and was featured by the paper on 10 separate occasions.

In 1961, Leslie began to produce his own farm-based estimates to enable efficient Agribusiness marketing decisions, which was released in quicker fashion in comparison to the USDA. At the request of the Nixon White House, he conducted a special survey to identify the size of the probable U.S. wheat harvest before Washington granted the Russian Wheat Sale. Leslie also advocated for congressional action to allow Americans to buy gold back when gold was priced at \$35 an ounce. Through radio, television, and his publications, Leslie and others were successful in getting President Nixon to lift the ban in 1975. Leslie became one of the early sponsors for the establishment of an “all day” gold futures market in America.

At his 50-year anniversary as a member of the Chicago Board of Trade, he was awarded a special plaque. When he retired at 78, Senators Lugar and Harkin thanked him for his 50 years of service to American Agribusiness on behalf of the Senate Agriculture Committee. The City of Xenia recently selected him to be “Citizen of the Year.”

Brother Leslie believes, “We are all here on earth to build bridges for those who follow.” He and his wife, Cynthia, live in Oxford.

(Continued on page 6)



Luke Kenley ’67, accepted the Hall of Fame Award.



R. Conrad Leslie ’47 (r), accepted Hall of Fame Award from Grandson Jeff Leshner ’13.

## Thank You, Loyal Brothers, for Your Generous Support

The following list of donors encompasses annual giving to Alpha Chapter since 2009. We are extremely grateful to the 63 brothers who contributed \$14,405 to our fall 2012 annual appeal. The support you give makes a difference to our chapter and its future. If you would like to contribute to the annual fund, please make your check payable to Beta Theta Pi Foundation Alpha Chapter Account and send it to Alpha Chapter House Company, P.O. Box 940, Oxford, OH 54056.

We hope more alumni will join their brothers and contribute to our ongoing annual campaign. If an error has been made in recording your name or you've been mistakenly omitted from our list, we sincerely apologize. Please contact **Mike Leonakis '04** at [mikeleonakis@gmail.com](mailto:mikeleonakis@gmail.com) with any corrections.

### Beta Bells Society

(\$2,500 and above)

- \* Bob H. Kurz '58
- Anne A. Brown

### Alpha Slant Society

(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

- Bill M. Summers '44
- Don A. Gerber '51
- \* Pete Hieronimus '53
- \* Don E. Taylor '60
- \* Wayne L. Nicely '61
- \* Tom C. Fey '68
- \* Doug S. Wagner, M.D. '78
- Tom W. Hook '81
- Thomas L. Weyhrich '91
- Zac T. Haines '05

### Old Main Society

(\$500 to \$999)

- \* Conrad Leslie '47
- \* Fred F. Brower '50
- \* Ron P. Helman '55
- Bob W. Schneebeck '55
- \* Duff Shardelow '55
- John A. Stottlemeyer '55
- Harry B. Kuder '55
- \* Mike Foley '60
- \* Bob Wertz, M.D. '61
- \* Pete W. Barnhart '66
- \* Bill F. Alderman '67

- \* Luke A. Kenley III '67
- \* Tim K. Pistell '69
- Bill Haywood '74
- Tom A. Ritter '90
- Steve D. Seiple '03

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(\$100 to \$499)

- Bill M. Junk '38
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- \* John E. Hocking '48
- Wayne Gibson '48
- Dick A. Herrmann '48
- \* Dick Shafer '50
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- \* Bob L. Cottrell '54
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- \* Bruce I. Susong '54
- Mel A. Baker '55
- Bob B. Huebschman '54
- \* Henry Jung '55
- Frank S. Koffend '55
- \* Dave A. Bergstrom '56

- \* Don E. Widman '56
- \* Ralph J. Sogard '56
- \* Jim F. Sommer '57
- \* George J. Budig '58
- John M. Groom '58
- Barry H. Kent '58
- \* Skip McCallum '59
- Nick Mourouzis '59
- \* William T. Neal '59
- \* Ronald H. Corradini '60
- \* Jack R. Jeneson '60
- \* Denny Tamcsin '60
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- Jay J. Rock '92
- \* Brian D. Fey '00
- Justin R. Beck '02
- Brad Daugherty '03
- Brad E. Humpal '03
- \* JB Scherpelz '05
- Michael B. Rollins '10

### Pink and Blue Society

(Up to \$99)

- \* Howard S. Dodd Jr.
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- Edward J. Murphy '51
- Ted C. Hardy '55
- John R. Little '55
- Con B. Weinrich '57
- \* Herbert N. Young Jr. '57
- Paul E. Dahnke '54
- \* Ken M. Strader '58
- Harry A. Hattenbach '60
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- David L. Doyle '72
- Jay H. Ellis III '77
- Tom A. Pierce '77
- Chip R. Clark '81
- \* Lawrence M. Hanrahan '83
- Ben Beshear '01
- Jack C. Weston '02
- \* Mike D. Leonakis '04
- Michael S. Wolford '04
- Bill E. Rutledge '05

\* Donor to the fall 2012 appeal.

## John Stefanski '13 Elected Student Body President

Campus leadership has always been a fundamental aspect of Alpha Chapter. It is stressed during the pledge process and the chapter has achieved great results because of it. Our chapter boasts three of the last five student body presidents and the last two student trustees appointed by the governor of Ohio.

Our very own **John Stefanski '13**, is upholding this tradition of cultivating leaders with his role as the new student body president. Stefanski has been involved with Associated Student Government as a senator and on numerous university committees. It was no surprise to the brothers in the chapter when Stefanski decided to make a run for student body president

in a field of equally ambitious students. In the end, he successfully made his case and won his election with 55% of the total votes cast.

Since being elected, Stefanski has set policy priorities for his presidency. He has identified academic advising as his principal policy area and is collaborating with Miami University faculty and administrators to identify ways to improve the delivery of advising resources.

Stefanski is a senior majoring in public administration. He plans on attending graduate school after Miami.

# ALPHA HOUSE COMPANY DEDICATED TO FUTURE OF CHAPTER

## Alumni, Thank You for Your Support

**A**lpha House Company strives to be the voice of Alpha Chapter alumni when governing the two properties located at 200 and 208 East High Street in Oxford. Filling the two buildings with 51 successful undergraduates is a task we are dedicated to accomplishing. A necessary step to completing that task is making the chapter house attractive to quality members.

### ELIMINATING OUR MORTGAGE

Thank you, **Tom Fey '68**, for your expertise and helping the Alpha House Company eliminate the \$600,000 mortgage. Alumni, thank you for helping us accomplish this major feat. We plan to constantly improve Alpha Chapter and make it one of the best fraternal chapters in the country.

### ANNUAL FUND STRENGTHENS ALPHA CHAPTER

Maintaining fraternal relations with alumni is essential to the future of the chapter. Also essential to the future of Alpha is continued support by every alumnus. In order to achieve this, we will continue to send you the *Alpha Slants of Beta Theta Pi* newsletter. This newsletter is designed to help members stay in touch and cultivate awareness and involvement in the chapter. These two newsletters will contain alumni news, information on upcoming events, reports on various chapter activities, current lists of undergraduate and alumni officers, and a list of all those who have contributed to the annual appeals. Your support in our annual appeals will ensure that Alpha Chapter is properly maintained and our legacy continues to thrive. Thank you to the 63 alumni for giving \$7,175 to the fall 2012 appeal and showing support for the chapter.

Also included in this newsletter is a biographical update that allows you to update the information we have on record. These updates also provide information for the alumni news section of the newsletter where you can find what your brothers have accomplished since graduation. The updates are a vital tool in maintaining Alpha Chapter records and our ties with one another.

### IMPROVING ALPHA CHAPTER

The Alpha Chapter purchased the original administrative office at fair market value in 1995. Over time, maintenance to the chapter house needed to be completed. To comply with the prevailing Oxford code and fire capacity regulations, the Alpha House Company conducted a major renovation during the 1998-2000 closure of the chapter house. Alumni, thank you for supporting Alpha Chapter during that renovation period.

Although the buildings continue to be in good condition, we have to maintain its attractiveness to potential members. Undergraduates are regularly polled in order to find out what repairs and upgrades are necessary. We also look forward to receiving alumni input on how to move forward with the improvement of the chapter house.

### MAINTAINING OUR LEGACY

Last September, Alpha House Company launched a new committee to review and benchmark Alpha Chapter's student experience. We used undergraduate and alumni surveys to compare the Alpha experience with premier undergraduate experiences across the country. In the upcoming months, the committee will include a diverse group of alumni, undergraduates, and advisors who are dedicated to increasing the quality of the undergraduates' living experience. We are seeking new and efficient ways to improve Alpha Chapter and welcome suggestions from alumni.

We look forward to seeing you at the 175th anniversary in Oxford on August 7-10, 2014. I encourage you to stop by and visit the chapter the next time you are in Oxford.



Yours in \_kai\_,  
**Peter W. C. Barnhart '66**  
 Alpha House Company President  
 (614) 436-2343  
 pwcbbanana@gmail.com



John Stefanski '13 received the Brian Breittholz award.

## Chapter Advisory Board

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Chapter Counselor<br><b>Jeff Rundle</b> ,<br><i>Kansas State '03</i> | Pledge Education/<br>Risk Management<br><b>John Reineke</b> ,<br><i>Central Michigan '10</i> | Leadership<br>Development<br><b>Jonathan Brant '75</b>                     |
| Kai Committee<br><b>Justin Warren, SMU '10</b>                       | Social/Philanthropy<br><b>Jenna Noah</b>   | Sophomore Programming<br><b>Scott Ebsen '06</b>                            |
| Finance/Housing<br><b>Tom Fey '68</b>                                | Ritual<br><b>Kyle Grand, Wabash '11</b>  | Alpha Slants Editors<br><b>Lot Kwarteng '14</b><br><b>Brian Breittholz</b> |
| Recruitment<br><b>Dan Fogle '07</b><br><b>Phil Fernandez '06</b>     | Alumni Relations<br><b>Brian Breittholz</b>  |  |

## Alumnus Honored with Shepardson Award

*Pete W.C. Barnhart '66*  
*Dedicated to Beta Theta Pi*



**J**n August, **Peter “Pete” Barnhart '66** was presented the prestigious Francis W. Shepardson award at the General Fraternity's 173rd convention in Chicago. The award recognizes brothers who embody the spirit and dedication of Brother Shepardson and epitomizes the concept of lifelong service to the Fraternity.

Pete was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, and attended Miami University in the early 1960s. Shortly after graduation, the General Fraternity hired him to oversee the Oxford operations as an administrative secretary.

Following his professional work at Beta, Pete entered the world of banking and finance and worked as a senior vice president for National City Bank, now known as PNC Bank, in Columbus, Ohio, where he recently retired after 29 years.

Pete devoted much of his free time to Beta Theta Pi and other community organizations. He is a member of the Arthritis Foundation national board and serves as chairman of the budget and finance committee. Pete was awarded the Arthritis Foundation Lifetime Achievement award. He has been a long-time servant of Beta Theta Pi and currently serves as the president of the Alpha House Company.

Beginning in 1981, Pete served as vice president of the board of trustees. His time on the board followed his five-year term as the fourth administrative secretary from 1972 to 1977. Pete has also volunteered as assistant chapter counselor for Alpha Eta Chapter at Denison University and as the chapter counselor for Theta Delta Chapter at Ohio State University.

Pete served our country in the National Guard from 1973 to 1993, following his active duty service in the Air Force. He is an individual who has used personal time and talents for the service of others. Pete portrays the exceptional values that Beta Theta Pi tries to instill in its undergraduate men, and the brothers of the Alpha chapter salute him for being a model for us to follow.

## AROUND CAMPUS

### BRAD BATES, MICHIGAN '81, ACCEPTS POSITION AT BOSTON COLLEGE

**Brad Bates, Michigan '81**, has been a progressive and driving force behind Miami University's athletic department since his arrival in November of 2002 as athletic director. His unique vision of developing a culture of champions both on and off the field made Miami athletics a model for intercollegiate athletic programs.

President David Hodge recently announced that Brad accepted a new position as director of athletics at Boston College. “Brad Bates has always upheld the highest standards of integrity and the highest expectations for our student-athletes, coaches, and staff,” said Hodge. “He has been relentless in pushing the vision that all Miami student-athletes should graduate – and graduate with at least one championship ring. He has been an exceptionally articulate spokesperson on behalf of Miami values and ambitions. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him well in his new position.”

### Miami University Provides Valuable Education

Miami University is a place where students not only enjoy social activities but also receive a valuable education. Students are exposed to diverse backgrounds and are fully employable after their time at Miami. In order to fulfill its commitment to excellence, Miami is always looking for new ways to return value to their students for their tuition dollars.

SmartMoney.com's survey is one of many national rankings that recognize the value of an education from Miami University. According to SmartMoney, Miami ranks 11th in the nation for return on tuition investment. The ranking is based on alumni who receive the highest salary return for the tuition they paid. Miami is focused on continually increasing the return students receive.

### New Winter Semester

One way Miami has increased the value of a Miami University education is by changing the length of the winter semester. Trustees recently approved adding an academic session of approximately three and a half weeks to the university's academic calendar. Starting in the 2013-2014 academic year, after the normal winter term, students will be able to partake in an academic session that will provide them opportunities to enhance their educational experience. During the academic session, students can study abroad, conduct research, complete an internship, or take an additional class. Miami University will be the first public university in Ohio to offer a winter academic session.

### Shrinking Energy Costs

With all of the additional activity on campus, Miami is also seeking ways to shrink energy costs and emissions. Miami is drilling more than 300 geothermal wells on the western campus to heat and cool residence and dining halls. The geothermal heating and cooling project is the largest of Ohio colleges and universities. It is also implementing a long-range housing plan to renovate and add new residence and dining halls. Miami is committed to reducing greenhouse emissions and ending on-campus coal burning by 2025. The pursuit to educate students efficiently, demonstrates Miami's commitment to implement sustainability while improving quality of life.

### Highest Ranked for Study Abroad Program

The university is succeeding on campus, but is also ranked highly abroad. Miami University has the highest rate of undergraduate students who participate in study abroad programs among public doctoral universities nationwide. According to the Open Doors 2012 report by the Institute of International Education, more than 40 percent of Miami students will study abroad before they graduate. Typically, one in six students who study abroad is enrolled at the Miami University John E. Dolibois Center in Luxembourg.

As men of Beta Theta Pi, we continue to add to the educational value at Miami University by fostering a positive academic environment for our members. Alumni, we invite you to take a tour of the campus and see all that Miami University and Alpha Chapter have accomplished. We look forward to seeing you.



*Construction of the new Armstrong Student Center is fully underway.*

# GREEK WEEK COMPETITIONS UNITE BROTHERS

## Alpha Chapter Excels on Campus

Good-natured fraternal rivalries have always been a hallmark of Greek life. Greek Week at Miami remains the premiere showcase for chapters to demonstrate their talents and spirit. The weeklong festivities consisted of various events such as flag football, puddle pull, and basketball, along with service events throughout the week. Chapters compete off the field/court while donating blood during the community blood drive, contributing canned food for and families in need, and raising funds through CROP Walk to address world hunger.

As last year's Greek champions, personal pride and chapter bragging rights were also on the line. We had a strong showing in all of the service events. We were the chapter with the most chapter members who donated blood and raised the most money for the canned food drive. We also won events, such as volleyball and ultimate Frisbee, and placed highly in almost every other event.

Heading into the final day of Greek Week, the brothers of Beta Theta Pi pulled away from the pack, in terms of points accumulated, but were still in a dead heat with Sigma Phi Epsilon. Even with valiant efforts, the chapter placed second overall while SigEp took the first place trophy. In good sportsmanship, we congratulated SigEp on a job well done but with the understanding that next year will bring a renewed determination from the Alpha Chapter.

Alpha Chapter was not only successful in Greek Week but also in academics. With a 3.22 G.P.A., we are ranked third out of 31 fraternities. Our G.P.A. is higher than both the all-men's average and all-fraternity average. The brothers continue to make strides toward improving and are dedicated to being the best on campus. Alumni, we invite you to visit Alpha Chapter to see the many other things we have accomplished.

Fraternally,  
**Steven Bowman '15**



Brothers took first place in the volleyball competition during Greek Week.



Undergraduates competed heavily during the puddle pull and other Greek Week activities.

### G.P.A. Grade Report

<b>Beta GPA:</b>	<b>3.22</b>
<b>All-Fraternity GPA:</b>	<b>3.02</b>
<b>All-Men's GPA:</b>	<b>2.95</b>
<b>Beta Rank:</b>	<b>3/31</b>

## Technology Enthusiast Ryan Graves '06 Launches UBER

**Ryan Graves '06** spent the past six years in the pursuit of his own form of happiness. An avid surfer, blogger, and technology enthusiast, Ryan resides in San Francisco, California, and is the cofounder of UBER.

The journey that began after Ryan left Miami University is admirable. Ryan majored in economics and started his career with PartnerSolve. Even though he learned valuable business lessons there, Ryan ultimately left the company due to a lack of satisfaction. At his next venture with GE, Ryan was amidst a very traditional corporate environment that was too big for his personal style.

To move at his own pace, Ryan started his first entrepreneurial venture with Social Dreamium. The venture was not successful, but Ryan gained valuable insights. After this, Ryan found himself at a crossroads and had to decide whether he was going to be a start-up kind of guy or go the corporate route.

To find direction, Ryan took an unusual risk. He took a position as

an unpaid intern with Foursquare. Ryan made many networking connections in small business development. After interning, he moved back into the entrepreneurial world and cofounded UBER. Ryan ran UBER for a year in San Francisco and devoted himself wholly to the operations of the business. After the initial success of UBER in the San Francisco market, Ryan set out to establish teams in select cities.

At UBER, Ryan oversees an innovative company that allows individuals the convenience of requesting a ride through an Android or iPhone. UBER launched in several cities, including New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago, and has been featured on CNN.

Although the work done at UBER is not new and is being replicated across the country, Ryan and his team still remain leaders in the industry by providing all-around quality. When asked about his advice to promising undergraduates who will want to start ventures of their own, he simply said, "Everyone is an entrepreneur; be able to build greater value out of yourself."

# PLAN YOUR REUNION TODAY!

Miami's Alumni Weekend is the perfect opportunity to organize a reunion of brothers on campus. **This year's Alumni Weekend will take place June 20-23.** The Miami University Alumni Association will coordinate reunion activities for the classes ending in 3's and 8's (e.g., 1963, 1968, 1973). As always, the Fraternity will host an open house on Saturday afternoon for brothers back on campus.

Take advantage of all the University-planned activities and plan a mini-reunion of your class during the weekend celebration. To learn more about Alumni Weekend, go to [www.miamialum.org/alumniweekend](http://www.miamialum.org/alumniweekend). To schedule your reunion within the reunion, contact **Brian Breittholz** at [bbinoxford@gmail.com](mailto:bbinoxford@gmail.com).

## Executive Officers

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**Alex Busam '14**  
[busamag@muohio.edu](mailto:busamag@muohio.edu)

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BETA THETA PI  
— MEN OF PRINCIPLE —

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## HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Foster Jay Cole 1924** (posthumous)

In 1969, Miami University's Maintenance and Stores building was renamed for **Foster J. Cole '24** recognizing Foster who served the university for 41 years under various titles including business manager and director of purchases. He was a national leader in the field and served as president of the National Association of Educational Procurement association in 1934. The Cole Service building houses the university's physical facilities department, which is responsible for developing and maintaining a safe, attractive, and functional campus.

During his undergraduate years at Miami, Brother Foster was president of Alpha Chapter, president of the Interfraternity Council, and business manager of The Recensio. In the late 1920s, he instituted the idea of having someone paid to manage the house, plan for meals, and chaperone social events. This led to the chapter hiring the first housemother on Miami's campus, Mary J. Anderson. Mom Anderson was the predecessor to Alpha's longest serving housemother, Helen B. Troth, who served from 1931 to 1961.

Brother Foster remained active with the fraternity as an alumnus, advising Alpha and raising funds for the construction the Beta Campanile, which was gifted to Miami upon the 100th anniversary of Beta's founding. Foster assisted the fraternity's leadership coordinate general conventions in Oxford in 1939, 1954, and 1964.



*Alpha Hall of Fame guests enjoyed tours of the Alpha Chapter Museum and Archives.*