

# THE BETA PIPER

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

FALL 2016



*Chapter members and alumni are wowed by the renewed living room, featuring new custom Beta-themed carpets and durable, commercial-grade leather furniture.*



*The basement received new paint, finishes, lighting, and a new TV entertainment center. It was even shiny after a professional cleaning!*



*The third-floor bathroom was gutted and everything was redone!*

## CHAPTER REOPENS AFTER BIG IMPROVEMENTS

This fall, the Beta Pi chapter house is nearly 90 years old. But it is renewed once again! For the first time in decades, a fresh and remodeled chapter house reopened for the fall semester to many very excited Beta Pi undergraduates. Following the successful capital campaign, the summer's chapter house renovation work was the most extensive in chapter history—and at a cost of close to \$1 million.

As a result of \$750,000 in alumni donations and hundreds of hours by volunteers in recent years, the chapter house is full of highlights right now. We strongly encourage you to make a visit back to Beta Pi to see the big improvements firsthand.

### *Improvements Big and Small*

Upon entering the chapter house, a visitor will see a greatly enhanced entry space and living room immediately. The living room was beautified in multiple ways, including new lighting, a fresh paint job, restored paneling, and commercial-grade leather furniture. The highlight of the space is most certainly new Beta badge custom rugs spread throughout the room.

One of the most costly and important enhancements to the building was to install a new fire suppression/sprinkler system to improve safety and mitigate insurance costs. The new system spreads through all areas and bedrooms of the house. It required a new water line to enter the building from University Ave., and new plumbing was neatly added and incorporated in ceilings, hallways, walls, and rooms.

All bathrooms were redone—and they now amaze! We replaced worn-out plumbing, fixtures, lighting, and more. On the first floor, the men's urinal/storage area was overhauled top to bottom. This space is now a full men's bathroom. On the second and third floors, bathrooms were gutted to add new showers, toilets, sinks, vanities, lighting, etc. You may even notice how the old musty smell in these areas is no longer present.

For entry into the building, members and volunteers now have a key fob system for entering through new front and back doors. These enhancements improve security and meet a standard held by many campus buildings and residence halls.

Study and educational spaces have been vastly improved and chapter members immediately started using them more. The first-floor library was greatly improved and is now a better study area for members and guests. It features improved desks, chairs, lighting, and doors. On the second floor, the shared computer room was fixed up to hide utilities, increase desk space, and improve general usability of the room.

*(Continued on page 2)*





## CHAPTER REOPENS AFTER BIG IMPROVEMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

A few select bedrooms were included in the renovations as a test for future renovation of all bedrooms at a later date. The first-floor townie bedroom and second-floor president's room and ante room received new flooring, utilities, renovated walls, and lighting.

In the rest of the bedrooms, most remained untouched except for new sinks, cabinets, and fire sprinkler heads.

On the outside of the building, one can see marked improvements to the historic brick structure, which was in rough shape. We have done extensive restoration work to deep clean the exterior and replace eroding bricks, worn out mortar, and broken limestone. Additional work will come in the future.

### Thank You, Brothers

Several brothers were instrumental to the summer work and deserve our thanks! Local architect **Bill Madden Jr. '86** was employed with us through the spring and summer months of this project. Bill's vision and knowledge were instrumental to helping us make wise choices and maximize value for our alumni donations. **Cian Chase '08** and **Adam Gilman '06** supported several projects. Longtime House Corporation and campaign volunteer **David Stiff, Indiana '77** led financial matters to secure new loans and replace the old mortgage.

### More Renovations Needed

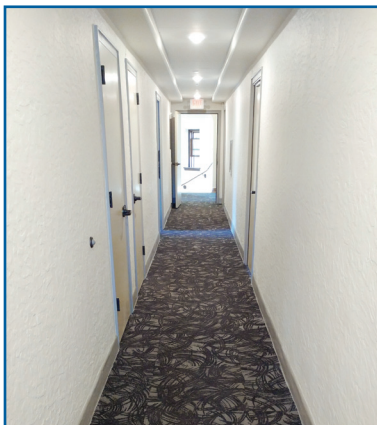
Despite all the renovations, we estimate another \$250,000 to \$500,000 is needed to renovate more spaces such as the bedrooms, chapter room, kitchen, etc.

On the exterior, continued improvements are desired to improve security, enhance the brick façade, and add new landscaping features.

### Alumni Support Continues

Chapter members and volunteers are so thankful for \$750,000 in contributions by alumni and other supporters that made this work possible. All Beta brothers should be proud of the state of the chapter house, the undergraduate chapter, and the significant impacts made by our brotherhood.

In \_kai\_,  
**Branden Peterson '05**  
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bp1681@gmail.com



*The second- and third-floor hallways are much brighter thanks to new LED lighting, new carpets, and freshly painted walls.*



*New Beta badge rugs welcome visitors to the enhanced chapter house.*



*Inside the brand-new first-floor men's room.*

## Alumni, Please Help Us Fund Future Projects and Retire Debt

In addition to alumni gifts supporting the renovations, the society also acquired significant financial lending support from local banks, the University of Minnesota Foundation, alumni brothers, and the chapter. At time of publication, the society carries more than \$761,159 in debt, which is the most debt in our organization's history.

Beyond our contingency planning, several urgent and necessary projects came forward after walls were opened up and extensive remodeling was underway. This increases cost and scope of work extensively. Examples included mold removal, asbestos abatement, and enhancing building and property security.

The debt increase was expected, considering the extent of renovations and organizational expenses. Thankfully, we benefited from low interest rates for loans. Our financial position now requires that we must stress the importance of continued success by the active chapter, and support by alumni to continue giving back to Beta Pi in the years to come.

Since capital campaign efforts began in 2013, alumni and supporters have given \$476,981 to date. THANK YOU, brothers! We expect to collect an additional \$283,744 in upcoming years, as campaign pledges are fulfilled and new donations are made.

As a collective brotherhood, we are all making a huge impact and lasting legacy for our chapter. Thank you for your support. This milestone achievement of a renovated chapter house marks a great time in Beta Pi history!



## Join Us for a Beta Alumni Holiday Dinner

*Beta Super Lawyer Rick Morgan '80 to be Featured*



We cordially invite you and all Beta brothers to join us for a semi-formal holiday dinner on Thursday, December 15, at the Town & Country Club in St. Paul. The theme will be "2016, a Great Year for Beta Pi!"

In addition to the traditional activities of holiday gatherings, this year's event will feature Beta alumnus **Rick Morgan '80** as our distinguished speaker. Morgan is a prominent Minnesota lawyer who once served as a live-in advisor to the chapter while attending law school. His speech is titled, "Building a House, Building Men of Principle."

Social hour and cocktails will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. For attire, a coat and tie is recommended. Business casual is acceptable. Due to the timing of this publication, we apologize for informing you last minute! Please sign up as soon as possible if you'd like to attend. We are also inviting alumni to this event via e-mail, phone calls, and social media.

There are three dinner options: London broil steak, chicken, or walleye. All will come with a dinner salad, rolls, seasonal vegetable, and dessert for \$40. A cash bar will also be available.

Please register online at <http://betapiholidaydinner.eventbrite.com> or contact **Bert Leach '52** at (952) 593-0821.

## Beta Theta Pi Leads to Career for Doug Zakaras '03

When **Doug Zakaras '03** decided to join Beta Theta Pi in 1999, it was the brotherhood, dedication to hard work, and the ability to have fun that appealed to him. Now more than 10 years later, Doug realizes that on top of all that, Beta gave him a chance to grow as a person and discover a career path.

"For the first time in my life, I began to feel connected to something much larger than myself," Doug says. "I am proud of the history of Beta Pi, as well as Beta Theta Pi, and the contributions that its members have made to the University of Minnesota and their communities."

During college, Doug was an involved member of Beta Pi, serving as treasurer. Some of his favorite memories come from his time living in the chapter house, and he will never forget the fun and support that the brotherhood brought him.

The summer of his junior year, Doug attended the Beta Wilderness Challenge outside of Park City, Utah, and permanently moved to Utah shortly after that. After nearly a decade of working in private education, he decided to pursue a career he was more passionate about—physical fitness.



Now, Doug trains group fitness classes at a local Park City gym, CrossFit Park City, and travels on most weekends to facilitate courses for CrossFit Inc. He also runs a business that provides strength and conditioning programming and training to youth athletes.

"If it weren't for Beta Theta Pi, I would never have moved to Utah and found the career path I'm on today. If I had never attended the Beta Wilderness Challenge, I doubt I would be where I am today," Doug says.

Although moving away from the Beta Pi Chapter has made staying involved difficult for Doug, his Beta brothers are still some of his best friends, and he makes an effort to stay in touch with them.

"The life experiences from Beta, both good and bad—brotherhood, support, fun, and friendship—are a huge part of who I am. Absolutely I would not be where I am today without Beta."

*Doug and his wife, Siri, live in Park City, Utah. In his spare time, Doug enjoys skiing, biking, and spending time outside. His e-mail is [dzakaras@gmail.com](mailto:dzakaras@gmail.com).*

## THANK YOU, GENEROUS ALUMNI, FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are grateful to the following alumni who gave in the spring 2016 appeal of our annual giving campaign. The success and achievements of Beta Pi are directly attributed to the support and involvement of its members. The active brothers are grateful for and proud of the donations they receive from alumni. Donations to the annual campaign are separate from the capital campaign, yet very important for the ongoing success of Beta Pi.

If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift(s), or we have mistakenly omitted your gift, we sincerely apologize. If corrections to your giving records are needed, please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661. Thank you, again, for your loyal support.

James B. Stoltman '57  
Charles H. Christensen '58  
C. David D. Cooper '61

Irving P. Knelman '71  
Bradley E. Carter '81  
Michael R. Vieira '11

Kyle L. Mueller '13

**It's not too late to send in your gift! Donate online at [www.btpbetapi.kintera.org/donate](http://www.btpbetapi.kintera.org/donate) by the end of 2016 to add your name to our list of generous donors.**





## Tom Grewe '56 Thankful for Beta Pi Experience

Before **Tom Grewe '56** even attended the University of Minnesota, he was exposed to the values and traditions of Beta Theta Pi early on by his uncle, **Herbert Grewe '31**, who is a Beta Pi alumnus. "Joining Beta Pi was an easy decision for me; I didn't ever look at any other fraternities on campus. The house and the men in the chapter made a lasting impression on me and I knew I was destined to be part of the brotherhood," he says.

Living in the chapter house, playing touch football in the fall with brothers, and being on the hockey team provided Tom with the ultimate fraternal experience and prepared him for life after college. He says, "Beta Pi truly brought out the best in me, and challenged me to excel not only in the fraternity but in all aspects of life. I learned how to maintain a healthy balance between personal obligations, school, and work, which benefitted me greatly in dental school and helped lead me to a successful career in dentistry."

As an alumnus, Tom's Beta Theta Pi roots remain intact and he enjoys keeping in touch with the chapter through *The Beta Piper* newsletters. "Reconnecting has been difficult, but whenever I have the opportunity to interact with brothers it is always a good time." He has maintained a connection with **Donald McGrath '55** and values the friendship they've shared over the years. Tom attended the alumni Pig Roast event in October

and was thrilled to rekindle old bonds from his undergraduate days in Beta Pi. "No matter where life takes you, your fraternity brothers remain a constant," he says.

After attending the University of Minnesota for six years, Tom graduated with a DDS degree. He went into the U.S. Public Health Service for one year in San Francisco, California, where he served as an intern, then was assigned in the Public Health Service to an Indian reservation in Sisseton, South Dakota. Tom eventually returned to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to practice dentistry with his father and uncle, who were both dentists. When he turned 62, Tom sold his practice to a husband and wife in the area and has been retired since. He and his wife spend winters in The Villages in Florida and summers in Wisconsin. In his spare time, Tom takes pleasure in playing golf and exercising as he embraces living a healthy, active lifestyle, and traveling with his wife. They recently visited Lu Cerne, Switzerland, during their four-week trip to Europe.

*Tom has three children: Brad, a surgeon at a male clinic in Eau Claire; Peter, who runs a business relative to computer software and hardware out of his home; and Ann, who was on the television series Anyplace Wild. He enjoys spending time with his grandchildren. You can contact Tom at tom.grewe@gmail.com.*

## Ensuring Your Investment

Now that the capital campaign has come to an end, Beta Pi Housing Corporation will continue to be stewards of your donated funds. We will do all in our power to protect everyone's investment. Going forward, we will enter into an annual fund drive to guarantee that we can make appropriate and timely improvements and repairs to the house. We encourage everyone to participate at an annual level that doesn't break your budget, but assists us in our goals.

All of the money raised will support our annual chapter operating expenses, including alumni events and communication. Additionally, it will provide necessary resources for undergraduates to continue to excel in academics, campus leadership, community service, and philanthropic efforts. By sending a gift to Beta Pi's annual campaign, you are helping us in our efforts to encourage, in every way we can, all alumni to become active participants in supporting the needs of our undergraduate brothers.

Brother, we ask that you reflect on your association with Beta Pi and acknowledge the lifelong friendships and other benefits you have gained through your membership in the fraternity. We know that behind every gift there is a memory, a reason, a purpose for giving. What would yours be?

We hope that you will be able to return to 1625 University Ave SE, meet the active members, and witness the dividends of your investment.

In \_kai\_,  
Beta Pi Housing Corporation  
The Capital Campaign Board  
betathetapi.minnesota@gmail.com



## Alex Jobin '17 Proud of Beta Pi's Continued Excellence

I am incredibly excited and honored to be serving as Beta Pi's chapter president. After serving as kai, philanthropy chairman, and VP of communications, I am excited for the new challenges that await me in this position. I want to continue our great 127-year history by challenging our executive team and the rest of the chapter to keep improving. I have two goals that I want to work toward during my term. The first is to grow our chapter size with our improved recruitment committee. The second goal is to improve our attendance in our Beta leadership programs, especially in regard to Wooden and our 177th Convention in Oklahoma City this year.

Of course, we will also strive for continued success with our chapter GPA.



In \_kai\_,  
**Alex Jobin '17**  
Chapter President  
jobin008@umn.edu

*Above: Beta Pi placed first in the Gamma Phive-K, a 5K race hosted by Gamma Phi Beta to support Girls on the Run!*



## Executive Officers

President

**Alex Jobin '17**

jobin008@umn.edu  
(651) 283-3942

VP Brotherhood

**Ben Hacker '17**

VP Communications

**Evan Jobin '18**

VP Recruitment

**Benjamin Russell '18**

betapi1878@gmail.com  
(952) 250-1454

VP Pledge Education

**Collin Bawolek '18**

VP Programming

**Kobie Spaeth '17**

VP Ritual

**Jackson Ridl '18**

VP Risk Management

**Cameron Holl '17**

VP Finance

**Mason Williams '17**



*In October, Beta Pi members and other Greek chapters created a Homecoming house front. Happy Homecoming from our "Finding Goldy" Greek family!*



*The annual summer Beta golf outing continues! On July 17, 32 Minnesota Betas enjoyed a great summer day on the links at Keller Golf Course in Maplewood.*

## House Renovations, Alumni Events, and Recruitment Success Bring Excitement to Beta Pi

**H**ello again, brothers! I am the alumni relations chairman of the Beta Pi Chapter, and I'm here to update you on the state of our chapter for the fall semester.

### Chapter Celebrates Renovations and Pig Roast

On October 1, the Beta Pi Chapter had one of the biggest alumni gatherings in recent memory—the alumni Pig Roast! We had more than one hundred alumni in our beautiful new house, checking out the renovations and eating some delicious pig while watching the Gopher football game. It was a great time, but if you didn't attend, don't worry and be sure to look out for this event next fall! The chapter is extremely grateful for the time and money that our alumni have donated and we want you to know that you are always invited to the house. A special shout-out to **Cian Chase '07**, **Bill Madden '86**, and the rest of the housing committee for their hard work this past year leading the funding and execution of our house renovation!

### Beta Bonds Takes on Gulf Shores

Last spring, 23 Beta Pis went down to Gulf Shores, Alabama, to celebrate their spring break with some of the other Greek chapters on the Minnesota campus. Two of our most eccentric seniors, **Alex Skoglund '16** and **Connor Doherty '16**, even converted an old school bus into a party

bus equipped with bunk beds for the ride down! In short, everyone who participated got a nice break from their academics by relaxing and goofing around on the beach.

### Successful Recruitment Boosts Chapter Morale

Recruitment Chairman **Ben Russell '18** motivated our chapter to strive for excellence among our recruits during last recruitment and we now have a pledge class of 20 men and counting! This continues the trend of our growing membership and we expect to have at least 75 members by the time recruitment comes to a close. Also, the Beta Pi Chapter initiated its seven neophytes from last spring into our brotherhood during the first week of October. A special thank-you goes out to all the alumni who helped us with the initiation week.

If you have any questions about these events or would like to talk about the chapter, please don't hesitate to send me an e-mail or give me a call.



In\_kai\_

**Josh Van Benschoten '18**

Alumni Relations Chairman

betapi1876@gmail.com

(805) 795-0875

*To join the mailing list for future events and communication, e-mail betathetapi.minnesota@gmail.com.*



*The fall 2016 pledge class.*

## Welcome, New Members

**Tehaam Adhami '20** • Fargo, N.D.  
**Gregory Arnold '19** • Plymouth, Minn.  
**Vail Baumer '20** • Chanhausen, Minn.  
**Jack Bernick '20** • Savage, Minn.  
**Max Bernstein '20** • Deephaven, Minn.  
**Robert Bjerke '20** • Kansas City, Mo.  
**Logan Breuning '20** • Lino Lakes, Minn.  
**Peter Debroot '20** • Green Bay, Wis.  
**Evan Ditter '20** • Maple Grove, Minn.  
**Josh Dysthe '19** • Prior Lake, Minn.

**Brian Engel '20** • Marshfield, Wis.  
**Nick Gionet '20** • Edina, Minn.  
**Sujeet Kohli '20** • Maple Grove, Minn.  
**Michael Kruse '20** • Marshfield, Wis.  
**Isaac Loosbrock '20** • Chaska, Minn.  
**Josiah Markink '18** • St. Paul, Minn.  
**Luka Rolling '20** • Meadows, Ill.  
**Robert Stemler '20** • Minnetonka, Minn.  
**Anthony Tabet '17** • Blaine, Minn.  
**Will Thompson '20** • Fargo, N.D.



# ALUMNI UPDATE

## OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

**Richard B. "Dick" Weigel '42** entered Our Mystic Shrine on February 14 at 95 years of age. He served in World War II as a U.S. Navy lieutenant on *LST #447* in the South Pacific, and then spent his working career as a CPA, business and financial manager, serving in his last professional decades as CFO of the Frederick O. Watson real estate businesses. Dick loved to play tennis and was a regular finalist in club championships at the Interlachen Club well into his 90s. He is survived by five children, Richard, William, Nancy, Kati, and Charles; two sisters, Marian and Patricia; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

### **William F. Appel '49**

entered Our Mystic Shrine on April 8. He was a devoted husband to Louise Appel for 65 years, who preceded him in death, and is survived by his loving children, Nancy, Peggy, James, and Elizabeth. Bill was a nationally renowned pharmacist for more than 60 years. After serving in the Navy as a lieutenant, he began his lifelong career in pharmacy when he joined Appel Pharmacy, founded by his father in 1915. Highlights of his distinguished career include receiving the Harold R. Popp Award and Daniel B. Smith Award, earning an honorary Ph.D. from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, serving as vice president of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, and serving as president and treasurer of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Bill had many outside interests, including spending time with his family, golfing, and boating on Lake Minnetonka and the St. Croix River.



**Donald E. Hanscom '49** entered Our Mystic Shrine on September 1 as a resident of Louisville, Ky. He served in the Navy during WWII, then went on to work in sales and management in the corrugated box industry. He retired in 1992 and enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, and lake time in Dale Hollow, Tenn. Don was a charter member of HCCC and a member of Christ Church Methodist. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lorie; children, Kurt and Sue; grandchildren, Walt and Nelsen; sister, Dorothy; and nieces and nephews.

### **Ames E. Anderson '56**

entered Our Mystic Shrine on December 23, 2014, at the Oak Hills Living Center in New Ulm. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; daughter, Greta; twin grandsons, Dylan and Zachary; and



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sister, Barbara. Ames received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in music from the University of Minnesota. After graduating, he taught music at St. Olaf College in Northfield and then at Martin Luther College in New Ulm from 1961 to 1998. Ames was united in marriage to Ruth Vornholt on June 9, 1962, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. His career as a church organist began in his teens and continued throughout his life. Ames regularly presented recitals at Martin Luther College and throughout the Midwest. He was an avid scholar, a lover of opera, and traveled extensively. Ames was a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, American Guild of Organists, Sioux Trails Guild of Organists, and the Minnesota and Brown County Historical Societies.

**Michael C. LaJoie '73** entered Our Mystic Shrine unexpectedly in June as a resident of Aurora, Ill. Michael is survived by his wife,

Susan; three children, Graham, Christine, and Morgan; and sister, Cathy.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Todd C. Myers '00** says his favorite memory from the Beta house is **Tom Books** cooking great meals, the incredible fellowship, and singing Beta songs as loudly as possible. Todd works in executive search with Kensington International, and owns and operates a career coaching business called Midwest Talent Advisors. E-mail: [tmyers@kionline.com](mailto:tmyers@kionline.com)

Secure Beta Pi's  
continued excellence by donating  
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