



THE BETA Piper

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

FALL 2018

CHAPTER WINS ANOTHER KNOX!



Beta Pi Chapter with the John Reilly Knox Award, earned in the 2017-2018 school year and awarded at the 2018 summer national convention.

HOW BETA THETA PI SET ME UP FOR SUCCESS

Jeremy Weidman '03 Reflects on His Time in Beta Pi

Walking through Territorial Hall, **Jeremy Weidman '03** recalls the high praises he heard of Beta Theta Pi. Some of his best friends who lived in the residence hall with him joined Beta. He was looking to be a part of something bigger and experience new things. "I attended a couple recruiting events at the house and had a great connection with all the guys." It was a perfect match.

Jeremy remembers going on weekend retreats to a brother's parents' house, playing football, cooking meals for 50 guys, setting goals, and celebrating Beta's lore and heritage. "I also loved walking over to Mariucci Area in below zero weather with about 15 Betas. We were even fortunate enough to watch the Gophers win two national championships."

To this day, Beta Pi has impacted almost every aspect of Jeremy's life. "My brothers were amazing. They challenged me to believe in myself more than I did and to try new things outside of my comfort zone. I knew that I would have a great time in the

chapter during my time as an undergrad. What I did not realize at the time was that the connections that I made would help me land my first job, meet my amazing wife, and be the primary reason I come back to Minneapolis after moving away. Because of Beta, I have traveled more, moved three times for work, and pushed myself harder in my career."



Jeremy continues to support Beta Pi because he saw some amazing alumni lend their support while he was an undergrad. "Leaders like **Mike Loehrer '68**, **Bob Schnase '83**, **Jim Curtis '86**, and **Scott Allen '95** made my experience as a Beta much better. Once we had entered the workforce my wife, Andrea, and I felt it was important to try and do the same as these great men. During my undergraduate years in Beta Pi, I knew that I was participating in something great. I look back at that time and all I feel is gratitude and pride. I am so thankful for the gift of my lifelong friends and I am so proud to be a Beta."

One alumnus who had a tremendous impact

on Jeremy's time at Minnesota was **Scott Heineman '03**. They were next-door neighbors at Territorial Hall and roommates for three years. "He is one of the most dedicated men I have ever met. He has made the most impact on me as an individual. Scott's ethics, values and commitment to the fraternity are unmatched. Scott was a key influencer in getting the chapter to Oxford for initiation every year."

Jeremy stays connected with many of his brothers from his collegiate years. "My core group of friends from Beta are spread over many parts of the country so we plan a couple different annual trips that include skiing, golfing, fishing, and Vegas. I see my best friends 3-4 times a year during these trips." After graduating with a bachelor's of arts in communication, Jeremy began working at Target in store leadership. After 10 years he left to work for Apple. Jeremy has been married to his wife, Andrea, for 12 years. They have three children, Madelyn (7), Zachary (4), and Hazel (2). Jeremy currently lives in Seattle, Wash., and is a store leader for Apple.

You can connect with Jeremy at weidman1634@icloud.com



We Need Your Continued Support

To date, *The North Shall Increase* capital campaign has collected \$621,356.07 towards the chapter house renovations of recent years. These donations represent 82 percent of the total pledged commitment of \$759,349. Pledges continue to come in, but the frequency is slowing dramatically. It is concerning, as it impacts our society's ability to fulfill lender obligations and keep up ongoing expenses (e.g., building maintenance).

One of our current priorities is to collect campaign pledges that are behind schedule. If you have a past due pledge, a forthcoming pledge/gift coming up, we request that you fulfill the gift in a timely fashion.

The Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota is heavily leveraged with overall debt of \$603,786 comprised of the following:

Western-Bank Mortgage.....	\$162,167
Western-Bank Construction Loan	\$68,200
University of Minnesota Foundation Loan	\$273,585
Chapter and Alumni Promissory Notes.....	\$46,569
Other short-term credit debt	\$53,265

The construction loan must be paid off in full by March 1, 2019.

Since the completion of our major chapter house renovation, we have been relying on the proceeds of campaign contributions to pay down the principal of the construction loan and other related debt. For us to meet this deadline, we need to collect on average \$11,000 per month.

It is imperative that donors send their donations in on time and for those who are delinquent on their pledges to submit their gift.

Thank you for your support. When you give, you help ensure that the active members continue having a well maintained chapter house, our alumni society fulfills its purpose, and we meet our financial obligations.

Want to give? There are multiple ways to make these gifts, including a tax-deductible option to the Beta Theta Pi Foundation in Oxford, Ohio. If you choose this option, please ensure your gift is designated to the Minnesota Chapter. You may also send checks to our P.O. Box (Dinkytown Station-P.O. Box 13225, Minneapolis, MN 55414) or donate via www.betathetapisocietymn.org (look for a donation button).

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

RECRUITMENT UPDATE

This fall was a difficult but rewarding time in the Greek community for both IFC and Panhellenic recruitment. IFC saw a decline in the number of men signed up for rush of roughly 40% from last year, with similar numbers for Panhellenic. With that, Beta saw a decline in our newest pledges of only about 20% while not sacrificing the quality of our pledges with a 17-man pledge class. This situation has kept us grounded in our values as an organization and given the chapter a welcome challenge in recruitment. We are excited about the quality men who have joined our organization and look forward welcoming them into the brotherhood.

Dylan Bivens '21
Upland, Calif.

Sai Gouravajhal '22
Los Angeles, Calif.

William Risher '22
Fargo, N.D.

Miles Campbell '21
Maple Grove, Minn.

Douglas Lang '21
Henderson, Minn.

Evan Stensile '22
Maple Grove, Minn.

Nate Cozine '22
Mt. Prospect, Ill.

Aaron Marthaler '22
Mankato, Minn.

Luke Vannurden '21
Rice, Minn.

Ethan Dorn '22
Sun Prairie, Wis.

Rijul Malik '19
Eden Prairie, Minn.

Carter Volk '22
Gurnee, Ill.

Chancellor Farmer '22
Rosemount, Minn.

Ames Olson '22
Saint Anthony Village,
Minn.

Kyle Wong '22
Prior Lake, Minn.

Peter Gontarski '22
Cedarburg, Wis.

Miles Powell '22
Deerfield, Ill.



Andy Burns '90, Mark Chambers '89, Marc Anderson '89, Jim Keeler '89, John Chambers '88, Brent Anderson '85 and Chris Ganos '89. Needless to say, Wooglin's spirit was present and everyone had a great weekend participating in the pre-wedding and post-wedding activities.

Congratulations, Jim Keeler '89

It was with great pleasure that a number of Minnesota Betas from the '80s gathered in Phoenix on a very warm June day to celebrate the wedding of my little brother, **Jim Keeler '89**. After the wedding, Jim and Maggie spent some time in Sedona, Arizona, enjoying the high plains geology and relaxing atmosphere.

Jim has been a staunch supporter of Beta, including the recent capital campaign supporting the Beta Pi chapter house, and in service of numerous national leadership roles. He is still working for Nationwide Insurance, so please look him up on social media or email him at keelerj85258@msn.com. and wish him well.

In __kai__,
Brent Anderson '85



Road trip to Utah! Sixteen brothers took a spring break hiking trip to Colorado and Utah this past summer.

Excitement Builds at Beta Pi

UNDERGRADUATES CONTINUE TO LEAD THE WAY

Hello brothers, families, and friends of Beta! It is always exciting to share the things we accomplish and traditions we preserve of our 129-year (and counting) history at the University of Minnesota. Some things, like the spirit we show in the Homecoming competitions each year, will never change. Others, such as the names and majors of the men in the house, change over time. Here are some things that Beta Pi is anticipating this fall:

HEADQUARTERS ROLLS OUT SUBSTANCE-FREE POLICY

Last February, Beta Theta Pi General Fraternity issued an extension of the substance-free housing program that includes all chapter houses, including ours. While certainly one of the larger changes we encounter this year, we recognize that it should not impact the strength of our brotherhood. I am optimistic that the new policy, which removes alcohol from the chapter house, will lead to a safer house for our members and guests.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Betas have always given attention to cultivation of the intellect, and last semester we demonstrated this with the second-highest GPA on campus (3.36/4.00). At the same time, we

boast the highest cumulative GPA on campus; our members excel in every classroom.

LIGHT THE ROW

This fall our philanthropies and causes are the same as in previous years. We will host our annual Light the Row event on December 6 to raise funds benefitting The Aurora Center. The Aurora Center provides survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence with resources and support on the U of M campus. We also anticipate continued service involvements with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Southwest Seniors, Habitat for Humanity, People Serving People, and more.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

After initiating 9 more brothers this fall (September 27), our numbers stand at 76 brothers with 17 pledging members. Our pledge program continues to prepare pledging members to spend four years, and the rest of their lives, living the values we were founded upon.

HOMECOMING 2018

Our Greek Homecoming pairings were Kappa Alpha Theta and Chi Psi this year. We built a house front and competed in lip-sync competitions to beat our neighbors along Fraternity Row.

The Homecoming football game this fall was against Iowa on October 6. Alumni and actives gathered to Row the Boat on Saturday and watch the parade on University the night before. We had a great time with everyone who came back for Homecoming.

Aside from our Homecoming pairing, we have a full social calendar this fall, with exchanges, a formal weekend in Wisconsin, and an ice skating date party. We have a high-quality intramural presence in flag football, hockey, broomball, soccer, and volleyball.

This fall we have much to be thankful for, including brothers who built a bridge ahead of us. Brothers are brothers, for life; and you are always welcome to stop by the house for a visit!



In __kai__,

David Bock '19, Chapter President
bockx115@umn.edu

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

David Bock '19

(612) 968-4275 | bockx115@umn.edu

VP Finance

Adam Long '19

VP Brotherhood

Eric Foerster '18

VP Ritual

Grant Zastoupil '19

VP Recruitment

Jake Post '20

(763) 234-4863 | postx185@umn.edu

VP Programming

Peter Degroot '20

VP Risk Management

Shane Claffey '19

VP Communications

Will Van Syoc '20

Alumni Relations Chairman

Eric Swenson '19



The Beta volleyball team after competing in the Gamma Phi Beta philanthropy tournament.

BETA ALUMNI HOLIDAY DINNER

Thursday, December 13

Location:

The Town & Country Club

Address:

300 N Mississippi River Blvd
St Paul, MN 55104

Time:

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:30 p.m. Dinner

RSVP:

jakezhelms@gmail.com or
(605) 359-6904

THE BETA Piper

Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota
Dinkytown Station-P.O. Box 13225
Minneapolis, MN 55414

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ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

John A. Copper '57 entered Chapter Eternal on May 24, 2017, at the age of 82 years old. A Minneapolis native, John attended U of M for his undergraduate studies. He later moved to California with his wife, Jan, where he would earn his master's in engineering at the University of Southern California. John enjoyed an aeronautical engineer career spanning more than three decades with McDonnell Douglas, and was a volunteer for several philanthropic organizations in his retirement. He will be missed by his sons, Steve and Doug, and his five grandchildren.

ALUMNI NEWS

George Champlin '60 began studying for the diaconate in the Episcopal Church after his retirement in 2000. "In 2011, I was ordained an episcopal deacon and now serve at two churches: St. Bartholomew's, and to a lesser extent, Iona-Hope Episcopal Church," he shares. "My wife, Barbara, and I spend six and a half months each year in Florida, and the rest of the year in Bemidji, Minnesota, where we are located on two lakes: North and South Twin. Life is good!" Email: bcchamplin64@gmail.com

Renovations to the Chapter Room

Deferred from the spring and summer due to financial limitations, House Corporation alumni volunteers for the Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota are now planning to finally fix a significant water intrusion issue impacting the Beta Pi chapter house.

In and around the chapter room, water is leaking behind walls and running along the basement floor after heavy rain events. It is a constantly damp environment with a threat of mold, making it a safety threat and not a desirable space to be in. A new drain tile system will be installed, at an initial estimated cost of \$18,000. This will likely be paid for with a line of credit.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The society's top area of focus is paying down the construction loan for the renovations that occurred in the summer of 2016.

Planned capital campaign gifts provided by alumni and chapter rent payments are earmarked for reducing this debt. In addition to paying down this construction debt, we also continue to manage a mortgage and a separate renovation-related loan from the University of Minnesota Foundation.

Support from alumni is critical. Gifts of all amounts ensure we meet our financial commitments and address issues to the property at 1625 University Ave. that arise.

In __kai__,
Branden Peterson '05
Campaign Director
bp1681@gmail.com



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