

# THE BETA Piper

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

FALL 2019

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BETA PI

### THE CHAPTER HOUSE IS DRY

In accordance with a decision from the General Administration, the Beta Pi Chapter house is now dry. We are passing this information along as the decision also applies to any and all alumni and alumni events held at the house, unless a licensed vendor with insurance is present to provide and serve alcohol. This means that alumni will no longer be able to bring alcoholic beverages with them when making visits to the chapter house. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### KEEP IT CLEAN!

To prepare for the fall semester, the Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota initiated a whole house cleaning as well as completed a few projects that carried over from the spring semester. In August, the Beta Pi Chapter house underwent a professional cleaning of all common areas. The spruce up included a polishing of the travertine in the living room, a strip and wax of the dining

room VCT, carpet cleaning throughout all hallways and common rooms, and a cleaning of all bathrooms. Even the kitchen appliances received some TLC! We are also working with a handyman to do some minor repairs to the front door frame and sand/refinish the handrail on the front staircase.

### STAYING ON TRACK

In the last few months, we have greatly reduced our expenses for emergency repairs. This allows us to better plan for long-term repairs and housing improvements. We are identifying additional projects to make the living space more comfortable and welcoming. We want to stay competitive with surrounding housing options and ensure the chapter house is a desirable option for our members.

As of August 2019, the Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota holds assets of around \$13,000. Our short-term outstanding debt is around \$70,000. Our long-term debt, including our

mortgage, is around \$440,000. The majority of our long-term debt is for our University of Minnesota Foundation loan. In the future, we will be looking for options to consolidate our debt burden.

### MANY THANKS

The Housing Corporation greatly appreciates your contributions, especially the capital campaign donations, and support to make this chapter a success.

Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,

**Jack Liang '13**

Treasurer

Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota  
jliang42@gmail.com

**Jake Helms '07**

Alumni Relations Committee Co-Chairman  
jakezhelms@gmail.com  
(605) 359-6904



## The Ride of a Lifetime

### Bill Madden Jr. '86 on Biking and Beta

From June 15 to June 21, **Bill Madden Jr. '86** proudly represented Beta Theta Pi in the best bicycle ride of his life: Race Across America 2019. This 3,080-mile bike race raises funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. "Teams came from across the world to compete and raise money," Bill said. "I was on an eight-person team, including one racer from Italy, another from Germany, and my older brother, Mike. The race was personal for our team, as the daughter of one of our cyclists has leukemia." The event took place across 12 states, beginning in Oceanside, Calif., and ending in Annapolis, Md. Bill's team finished the race in six days and 10 hours, raising more than \$48,000.

"Our biggest challenge was lack of sleep," Bill said. They aimed for five hours of sleep per night but found themselves averaging 2-3 hours instead; he noted that this was just a small reflection of the struggle those with blood cancers endure each day. "One of the most memorable and

*(Continued on page 2)*





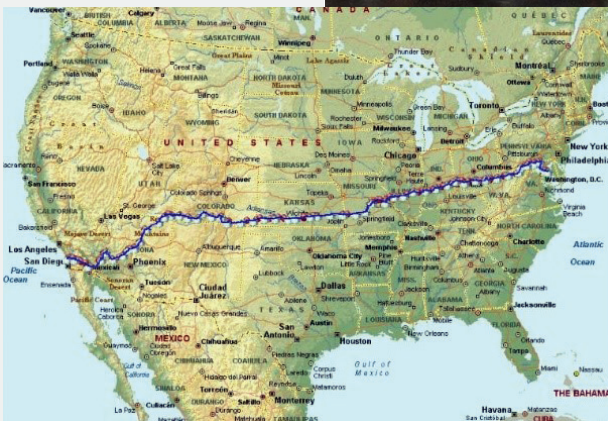
## Bill Madden Jr. '86 on Biking and Beta

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moving moments was when I rode through Gettysburg, Pa., during dusk. I felt a spirit come over me, and I slowed down, taking time to soak in the scenery and some of our history," he said. "It really was the best ride of my life."

Bill looked into Beta Pi as a freshman at the recommendation of his father, **Bill Madden '47**. "Beta wasn't a large chapter at the time, but it was a close-knit group with great friendships and camaraderie. I've remained close friends with many of them!" Bill befriended a fellow architecture student while living in the chapter house, and they went on to work at the same company for about 10 years. "I wasn't as much of a partier in college," Bill said, "but some of my most meaningful fraternity memories were hanging out with small groups of brothers, going out to dinner, or going on ski trips. For me, building those personal connections and friendships was even more meaningful than the larger fraternity events."

Thanks to his architecture background, Bill had the opportunity to give back to Beta Pi in a big way when he was asked to help remodel the chapter house for the campaign. "This was the first time I got heavily involved as an alumnus beyond simply attending reunions, and I'm so glad I did." Not only did Bill give back to Beta Theta Pi in a big way, but in reconnecting with the chapter he rekindled old friend-



ships, made new ones, and got to meet the stellar active brothers. "Beta has been like family to me. It's given me friendships and a support group, and it's a great group to stay involved in and give back to however you can."

In addition to biking, Bill enjoys hiking, gardening, downhill skiing, and architectural design. You can connect with Bill at [whmadden@gmail.com](mailto:whmadden@gmail.com).

## MANY THANKS TO OUR 2019 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

We are grateful to the following 18 alumni who gave \$2,165 in the spring 2019 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 equally 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.

### Loving Cup Society (\$100 to \$499)

Gerald T. Carroll '55  
Donald E. McGrath '55  
Donn P. Barber '56  
William C. Hand '56  
Irving P. Knelman '71  
Charles H. Christensen '58  
G. Charles Champlin '60

Morgan K. Nelson '67  
William L. Laakso '69  
Jeffrey O. Stewart '69  
E. Walt Slibeck '70  
Alfred S. Alliegro '81  
David F. Servais '92  
Jeffrey D. Ohm '70  
Edward J. Dittberner '02

### Beta Dragon Society (Up to \$99)

David G. Ohlson '63  
John H. Avery '64

## OUR SPRING 2019 BETA PI NEW MEMBERS

**Miles Campbell '21**  
Maple Grove, Minn.

**Luke Gehring '21**  
Hartland, Wis.

**Joel Nielsen '21**  
Rochester, Minn.

**Ashvin Pidaparti '22**  
Maple Grove, Minn.

**Samarth Saini '22**  
Maple Grove, Minn.

**Stephen Sturek '20**  
Minnetonka, Minn.





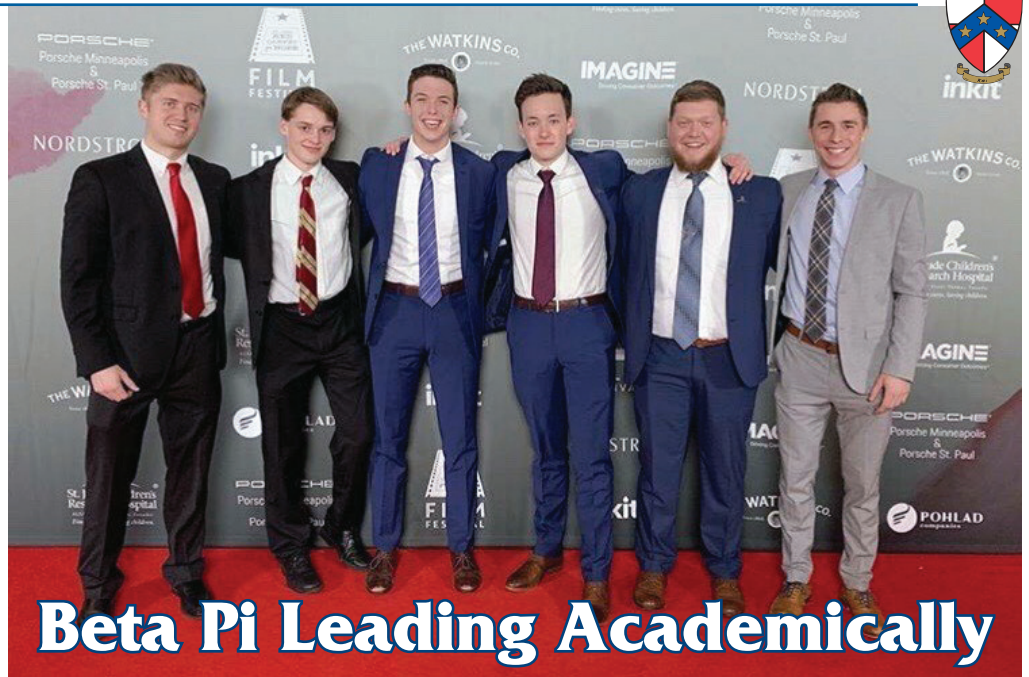
Betas Kyle Wong '22, Finn Gunderson '21, Matthew Berns '21, Rijul Malik '19, Douglas Lang '22, Sai Gouravajhala '22, Evan Ditter '20, Dylan Bivens '22, Vail Baumer '20, Jacob Post '20, and Devan Barth '21 win the intramural soccer championship.



Graduating seniors Rijul Malik '19, Jacob Brua '19, Josh Dysthe '20, Jacob Post '20, Matthew Boehne '19, David Bock '19, Adam Long '19, and Eric Swenson '19 attend their last formal in college at Springbrook Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.



Brothers Douglas Lang '22, Carter Volk '22, Jacob Post '20, Sam Orth '21, Matthew Berns '21, Evan Stenslie '22, Ames Olson '22, and Will Van Syoc '20 volunteer at A Night to Remember, a prom for kids with special needs, in Saint Michael, Minn.



## Beta Pi Leading Academically

As we enter the fall semester, we look toward our extensive accomplishments throughout the past 12 months, but specifically during the spring semester. Although the chapter has been growing, the love for one another has not diminished and the bond we share with each other has never been closer throughout my four years as a part of this chapter.

### Beta Pi Pushing the Boundaries

In the spring of 2019, Beta Pi secured the second spot out of all 29 fraternity chapters on campus with a GPA of 3.40 recorded by our 91 members. This places us 0.20 above the 3.20 all-men's average and 0.09 above the all-fraternity and sorority average of 3.31. We have proven our top-notch academic performance while pushing each other to be our best.

### Shining On

Our chapter was lucky enough to receive a few awards in recognition of the effort put in to not only our school work, but our chapter. The Fraternity Purchasing Association, in association with the Interfraternity Council, awarded brother **Adam Long '19** the prestigious award of Treasurer of the Year. Adam is the second Beta in a row to win this award!

### Pies for Beta Pi

The first week of May we held our annual Beta Theta Pies philanthropy where we sell pies and slices to those who donated, but we also allow people to pie *us* in the face. As always, the event was a tremendous amount of fun and we raised \$1,500 for the Aurora Center! The Aurora Center provides survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence with resources, support, and education on the University of Minnesota campus.

### Intramurals

Beta has its hand in just about every intramural sport that the University of Minnesota has to offer. This year we successfully brought home yet another intramural championship, this time in soccer led by senior captains **Evan Ditter '20**, **Jake Post '20**, and **Vail Baumer '20**. However, both broomball and hockey came up short. After going undefeated during the regular season, both sports had heartbreaking losses in the championship to some very competitive teams.

Going into my final year at the University of Minnesota, I have realized as a chapter we have much to be grateful for. From our families, friends, and alumni who have all donated their time, effort, and monetary gifts toward the Beta Pi Chapter, nothing goes without gratitude. The chapter has changed a lot in my time and I strongly believe it is for the better as we continue to build strong men with strong values. In addition, the chapter house is always open for anyone to stop by and we look forward to seeing you at our alumni tailgates this football season!

Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,  
**Nick Gionet '20**  
 Chapter President  
 gione003@umn.edu

# Save the Dates

- **HOMECOMING WEEKEND**  
Homecoming Parade  
*Friday, October 4, at 6:30 p.m.*

Homecoming Game  
*Saturday, October 5*

We encourage alumni to watch from the chapter house.

- **ALUMNI TAILGATE**  
*Saturday, October 12*

Tailgate is three hours before kickoff at the chapter house.

Cash Bar.

RSVP to Jordan Paladino at  
jordanpaladino@gmail.com or  
(805) 630-5290

- **ALUMNI HOLIDAY DINNER**  
*Thursday, December 19*

Town and Country Club

Time: 6 p.m.

RSVP to Jake Helms at  
jakezhelms@gmail.com

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# BETA Piper

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF BETA PI

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

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## FAST FACTS

**3.40** GPA

MEMBER COUNT:



**91**

RANKING:

**2nd**

place among  
29 fraternities

## AWARDS



*Congratulations to Adam Long '19, named Elliot P. Pinck  
Treasurer of the Year! This is the second year in a row  
that Beta has been given this award.*



## PHILANTHROPY:

*Betas participating in Gamma Phi Beta's Moonball  
philanthropy volleyball tournament.*

**Raised**  
**\$1,500**  
**for Aurora Center**



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