



THE BETA PIPER

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA AND THE BETA PI CHAPTER

FALL 2021



Alumnus Todd Myers '00 provides tips regarding interviews and professional life to actives in the Greiner room.



Betas and friends watch the Homecoming parade from the comfort of the porch.



Brothers spend their Sunday in the basement watching TV.

MOVING FORWARD

Undergraduates Thrive as Activities Return to Campus

Beta Pi Chapter had an exhilarating start to the semester and stayed busy with recruitment, Homecoming, and getting back into the swing of things. This fall, we were able to recruit 12 pledges from all different walks of life and majors ranging from CDES to Carlson to CSE.

Post-recruitment, we quickly went into Homecoming week where we were paired with Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Tau Omega, and Alpha Phi to build Greek relations through a karaoke night, a grill out, and the infamous lip-sync dance at the end of the week. It was a well-put-together week thanks to brothers **Carter Volk '22**, **Ryan Ballot '24**, and **Carter Ridl '21**, who helped facilitate communication between the groups and prepare each event. Moreover, with in-person classes, intramurals are also back. The brothers of Beta Pi were quick to sign up for volleyball, cornhole, softball, and football.

In October, brothers were able to enjoy a nice getaway from the hustle and bustle of campus life during a trip up to Alexandria, Minnesota. Thanks to brother **Jon Riley '21** and his family, we were able to stay in multiple cabins. During the weekend, brothers could be seen playing disc golf, golf, and the semesterly football game. When we weren't testing our athletic abilities, we were playing various card and board games that showed our mental prowess in strategy. The other highlight of the weekend was, of course, the Golden Gophers beating the Boilermakers 20-13.

Between recruitment and Homecoming week, we were able to have alumni come to the house and speak to the active chapter about their lives and professional development. **Todd Myers '00** supplied insights on how to convey your skills during interviews, gave incredible financial advice for when we step out of the college setting, and talked about his personal journey. We were also fortunate to have **Sam Orth '21**, **Joel Nielson '21**, and **Jack Zutter '21** talk about their undergraduate experience. These recent alumni elaborated on what they benefited from during their four years, what they found to be important, and what we shouldn't let distract us. It was an impeccable experience with words of wisdom that are applicable to everyone—no matter their age.

Working with brother **Peter Gontarski '22**, I am hoping to have one or two more of these events with alumni in the area who can come to the house and have conversations with the active chapter. If you have interest in participating in this or in ritual, please feel free to reach out to Brother Gontarski at gonta004@umn.edu or (678) 365-6839.

Yours in __kai__,
Ethan Pickering '21
Chapter President
(224) 203-1240
picke202@umn.edu



A Brother Through and Through

How Joshua Knudson '04 Became a Man of Principle

Joshua Knudson '04 remembers his time as an active brother with admiration. Beta Theta Pi instilled Joshua with lifelong memories and leadership development through courses that he was a part of, such as The Men of Principle Initiative. One of his favorite memories was reading ritual in the library of the administrative office in Oxford when he was president and preparing for initiation. He also enjoyed his time bonding and growing his relationships with his brothers.

"My favorite chapter memory was winning the local chapter of the year award." Joshua shared. "Singing on the porch together afterward with the award was pure joy."

An important part of being a brother means giving back to the chapter. Beta Pi provided many students, like Joshua, with a place to be their home away from home, and he is forever grateful for that.

(Continued on page 2)



THANK YOU, LOYAL BROTHERS!

Add Your Name to Our List of Loyal Donors Today

We are deeply grateful to the following brothers for committing \$10,125 to Beta Theta Pi's spring annual campaign. These alumni recognize the importance of ensuring the future of Beta Pi Chapter and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. As Beta Pi looks to build upon its success for the remainder of 2021, please consider joining your brothers today in giving back to our brotherhood!

Beta Diamond Society (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Thomas A. Gruber '62
Brent A. Anderson '85

Beta Pi Society (\$500 to \$999)

Matthew S. Hunt '94
Jonathan R. Hoveland '04
Douglas D. Rogers '55
In memory of
Wallace S. Rogers '51

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

Billie Rogers
In memory of
Wallace S. Rogers '51
Kenneth A. Tessmer '48

Gerald T. Carroll '55
Donn P. Barber '56
Kingsley R. Ondich '56
Stanley A. Thompson '59
Jon W. Webber '60
David F. Hewett '61
Jay T. McCluskey '61
John B. Rovick '62
Scott R. Berry '63
John H. Avery '64
Charles J. Suk '68
William L. Laakso '69
Robert A. Stein '69
Jeffrey D. Ohm '70
E. Walt Slibeck '70
Joseph J. Kraska '72
Wesley F. Chapman '82
Bradley G. Ketz '83
George A. Turner '83

Robert M. Alliegro '84
Robert J. Brunmeier '84
Brent A. Anderson '85
David E. Engler '85
Joseph M. Jones '85
Paul J. Roberts '85
James R. Curtis '86
Jerry W. LaMere '87
Gregg E. Robinson '88
Scott A. Martin '89
Bradley H. Obert '89
Bradner H. Smith '90
David A. Horner '91
Bradley R. Martin '95
Mark L. Nevermann '99
Matthew R. Butryn '02
Scott J. Heineman '03
Benjamin R. Elliott '05
Branden C. Peterson '05

Aaron T. Docken '06
Lech F. Literski '06
Bryan C. Patrick '06
Brian P. Sondag '06
Jacob Z. Helms '07
Aviran S. Sethi '09
Thomas F. Cramblit '11

Beta Dragon Society (Up to \$99)

Peter Hyberger, ND '20
C. David D. Cooper '61
James E. Brunzell '71
Christopher P. Edwards '89
Richard M. Norton '03
Christopher Gables '08

How do I give back today?



- 1 For checks, please make the donation payable to Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota, and mail to Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota, Dinkytown Station-P.O. Box 13225, Minneapolis, MN 55414
- 2 For online gifts, visit www.betathetapisocietymn.org
- 3 Interested in making a large gift (e.g., sale of stocks)? A limited tax deductible option is available. Contact Branden at branden@betathetapisocietymn.org or (612) 963-2989 for details

A Brother Through and Through

(Continued from page 1)

"I believe experiences make people happy and lead to a fulfilling life, and Greek life is experiences first and foremost," Joshua said. "It makes the college experience so much more than just class. It is a family at a time when many of us have moved away from home for the first time."

Joshua now lives hundreds of miles away from Minneapolis, which makes it hard to get back to his brothers, but he cherishes the times he can.

"I really enjoyed the time I was able to make it back for Homecoming," Joshua said. "I saw many of my brothers, and although it had been years, it felt like I had only been away from them for days."

He advises any brother to make an effort to go back—whether it's for a football or hockey game or just to stop by and say hello.



Joshua is a doctor in Bismark, North Dakota. From a young age, he was exposed to the medical field through his mother, who is a physician assistant. He found medicine remarkably interesting and complex and ended up following suit.

"I enjoy having the training and expertise to repair some of the most complex machines in the world," Joshua said. "Medicine affords me the ability to constantly learn and apply what I learn in the operating room or the trauma bay."

You can connect with Joshua at joshua.j.knudson@gmail.com.



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Pictured are 10 of our 11 pledges in 2021. Top row, from left: Jonathan Frankki, Tom Frankowski, Adin Nelson, Logan Lang, and Simon Horning. Bottom: Richard Li, Zach Ahearn, Daniel Peters, Jacob Polzin, Tommy Knickerbocker (potential new member), and Chevy Post. Not pictured: Jayden Johnson

Zach Ahearn '25
Jordan, Minn.

Jonathan Frankki '25
Roseville, Minn.

Tom Frankowski '25
Minneapolis, Minn.

Simon Horning '24
Shakopee, Minn.

Logan Lang '25
 Fargo, N.D.

Richard Li '23
Hong Kong, China

Adin Nelson '22
Andover, Minn.

Daniel Peters '25
Hastings, Minn.

Jacob Polzin '25
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Chevy Thomas Post '25*
Rogers, Minn.
(Jacob Post '20)

*Legacy



The chapter house's new roof and hatch!

Chapter House Gets an Update

Beta Theta Pi Receives New Roof

Thanks to the generous support from alumni brothers, our plans were fulfilled and a new roof was installed on our Beta Pi chapter house in June, which resolved a major concern on our property.

In 2020, multiple leaks and drainage issues were found on the old roof. After a thorough assessment of the full roof system by multiple professionals, the Housing Corporation determined a full replacement of the roof was the best course of action.

At the start of the summer, crews spent close to a week on site to demolish and extract the old roof and then installed a new EPDM-based system that should last for decades. In total, the roof project was completed for \$80,116.

The new roof is more secure and restricted from access. To help maintain the integrity

of the surface, we installed new roof hatches with a lock system in place. This will prevent chapter members from accessing the area.

To keep on top of any potential issues, we will also begin to inspect the surface annually with our roof contractor. This should help us identify and address small issues before they become more significant and costly.

Thank you to all supporters of this project. This is one of our most expensive projects in years, and all gifts have helped us to pay for a good portion of the project up front while financing the remainder.

Yours in __kai__,
Branden Peterson '05
Campaign Director
branden@betathetapisocietyymn.org



Alumni Events Update

At the time of publication, it is uncertain when the Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota will host the next alumni event in the Twin Cities because of the ongoing pandemic.

We greatly miss gathering together as a brotherhood and are hopeful to do so by the spring of 2022. Look for further communication from us on when the next event can occur! Happy holidays!

THE SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL PICTURE IS STABILIZING

Ongoing Support Is Critical

It's fall again, and a new academic year is upon us. In recent months, we have continued taking action to improve our alumni organization's financial position by consolidating our debts.

Back in the spring semester, we completed the refinancing of our first mortgage. We then took full advantage of our relationship with the University of Minnesota Foundation's Greek Loan Program and refinanced our existing loan. With the proceeds—combined with the generous gifts of alumni—we paid for our roof replacement project.

At this point, we paid off our short-term loans from various lenders, and we consolidated our debt into two long-term obligations. Although our long-term debt still stands at over \$500K, we are in a much better financial situation than we were a year ago.

The newfound stability in our finances has allowed us to build a better cash cushion. This allows us to better manage some of the unexpectedly high-cost repairs that come from managing our historic chapter house. As you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, the repairs to the building continue to surface, and they need to be addressed in an urgent manner.

We are also preparing to take on additional short-term projects, including some fixes and upgrades to the electrical system in the third-floor bedrooms. Just like last year, the volatile nature of operating a fraternity house during a pandemic looms over us. These repairs and contingency plans are what we are focused on going into the winter months.

As a reminder, our organization depends on revenue from two sources: rent from Beta Pi chapter members and alumni donations. We wouldn't be able to succeed as a chapter without your help. Gifts of all sizes help us continue our work, so thank you for your support!

Yours in __kai__,

Jack Liang '13

Treasurer, Beta Theta Pi Society of MN
jliang42@gmail.com

THE BETA Pi per

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Mystic Shrine

Robert P. Johnson '49 passed away on April 28, 2021, at the age of 96. He worked in sales in the printing industry for over 40 years and was very active in his church and Boy Scouts. Bob and his wife, Jean, who preceded him in death, enjoyed spending summers with family at their cabin in Lutsen, Minn., and winters in Dunedin, Fla. Bob is survived by his daughter, Becky (Steve); sons Randy (Supatra), Brad (Peggy), and Charlie (Lisa); and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Wallace S. Rogers '51, of St. Anthony Village, Minn., passed away on April 20, 2021, at the age of 92. Wallace was an avid fisherman and enjoyed hunting and golf, but his happiest days were spent on his boat. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Billie; daughters Leslie (Dave) and Judy (Tom); brothers Lloyd (Pat) and Doug (Jane); grandchildren Jake, Sydney, Jordan, and Samantha; and many nieces and nephews.

Robert "Bob" A. Oswald '88, of Saint Paul, Minn., passed away on January 16, 2021, at the age of 55. He was an avid outdoorsman and was happiest when doing what he loved most: hiking, backpacking, climbing, and snowboarding. He is survived by his mother, Lucy Oswald; his brother, Tom; sisters Nancy (Lon) and Susan (Larry); and his nieces and nephews.

Another Hole-in-One Event!

Our summer golf tradition continues! On June 25, we welcomed a band of local Betas to gather again at Keller Golf Course in Maplewood, Minnesota, for a beautiful summer day on the links. Congrats to our winning team, Team Martin, and a big thank-you to all who attended and took the time to donate to our roof project!

Team Martin came in first place and took home our new Beta Pi Cup trophy. From left: Peter Hyberger '20, Brad Martin '95, Scott Martin '89, and Bob Martin.

