

THE BETA PiPper

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF BETA PI

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

FALL 2022

A BETA DAY IS ON THE HORIZON!

Beta Pi Revitalizes Alumni Engagement

Campus has been bustling with students this fall, which is a stark difference compared to two years ago with quarantines and online classes. Now that COVID-19 is making a smaller impact on in-person activities, more brothers are finding value in living on campus. This August, 25 brothers moved into the chapter house, which is up from 11 the previous semester! The undergraduates are excited to have a full house again.

This semester, we're also resuming in-person alumni events! At the end of September, the undergraduates welcomed alumni and friends for the Homecoming parade. The Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota works closely with the undergraduate chapter to ensure alumni feel

welcome at the chapter house. Homecoming is a great opportunity to visit your alma mater and show friends and family what Beta meant to you. If you were unable to attend this year, be on the lookout for the date next fall!

Mark your calendars! December 2nd will be our first formal alumni event in three years. We are hosting a Beta Pi Alumni Social at the McNamara Alumni Center on campus. Following the social, the undergraduates will be initiating the fall pledge class at the chapter house. All Beta Pi alumni are encouraged to attend. To learn more and sign up visit betapi.eventbrite.com. For questions, contact **Nate Wong '15** at (701) 212-7017 or nate@betathetapisocietymn.org.

Over the summer, the chapter advisor has been working closely with the chapter to cultivate successful recruitment and offer continued support in the transition to substance-free housing. They are also working to help the chapter improve operations to win future Sission and Knox awards. In October, three members of the advisory team attended an Advisor Academy hosted by Beta General. If you have an interest in joining the Beta Pi advisory team, reach out to **Casey Kuenn '15** at casey.kuenn@gmail.com.

Yours in __kai__,
Nate Wong '15
Chapter Advisor



BTP Society and House Corporation Updates

From a financial perspective, the Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota is in a more stable position now compared to recent years. In the short term, we are focused on addressing the ongoing maintenance needs at the house while making plans for large capital projects within the next few years. A major house remodel project may be on the horizon to address multiple needs, including potential updates to our heating system.

Our current cash balance is around \$15,000, and our long-term debt is \$506,550. Our two main revenue sources consist of donations from alumni and the chapter's monthly rent. The chapter now pays a combined \$10,300 per month for rent with the most-recent increase (a larger rent increase was instituted this year after two years of COVID rent reprieve). Thank you for your support of our society and our ongoing support of the chapter house.

For questions, please contact **Jack Liang '13** at jack@betathetapisocietymn.org.

Hidden behind plaster walls and in between floors, pipe leaks are challenging to access and costly to mitigate. Right now, it is a game of wait-and-see for the next leak. As a result, we must seriously consider a major project to mitigate this repeating problem and ensure a well-researched and wise investment decision is made.

We are now in an information-gathering stage and will be making a plan in the months to come.



A new set of Beta Theta Pi letters are added to the front of the chapter house in September, replacing the former set.

If you have recommendations, knowledge, and/or expertise to share, we highly encourage you to contact **Scott Heineman '02** at hein0219@umn.edu or **Cian Chase '08** at cian.chase@gmail.com. We also need short-term volunteers to help with research and evaluating options. Please contact us if you're interested in getting involved.

TESTING AN AIR CONDITIONING PROGRAM

We are partnering with chapter members to provide them with an optional air conditioning solution for the hot summer months. In light of continued challenges with chapter members breaking policy and installing A/C units into windowsills, the Housing Corporation has purchased a set of portable A/C units; members can now rent a unit from the Housing Corporation at a reasonable price. At the end of the season, units will be taken off-site for storage. No window units are allowed at Beta Pi, as these units often damage windowsills.

HOUSE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

Since the start of 2022, the House Corporation has spent \$43,709 on repairs to the building.

- Replaced front door jamb and threshold (thanks to **Jeffrey Ohm '70**).
- Replaced suspended ceiling tiles with water damage in chapter room.
- Installed new hand dryer in third-floor bathroom.
- Mounted new house letters to front of house.
- Repaired leaks and heating issues with commercial dishwasher.

(Continued on page 3)

OLD HEATING SYSTEM NEEDS WORK – VOLUNTEERS/EXPERTS NEEDED

The original chapter house pipes, which bring heat to rooms from the boiler, are increasingly cracking and failing. The pipes are nearly 100 years old.



Owen Ratgen '24 and Wes Lideen '23 at the recruitment tabling event in Coffman Memorial Union before the start of the spring 2022 semester.



The chapter-wide spikeball tournament during our semesterly brotherhood weekend in the spring. This weekend was graciously hosted by Will Allan '24 and his family in Prior Lake, Minnesota.



Brothers supporting brothers! Members attend a spring dance fest in the Union Depot in St. Paul, where brothers Chris Tadros '22 and Ames Olson '22 performed amazingly!



Beta Pi hosts our annual Beta Theta Pies philanthropy event on April 21. Guests were invited to donate and throw whipped cream pies at brothers. We raised over \$3,000 in support of the Aurora Center for Sexual Violence in this event alone!

LIVING OUR VALUES

Brothers Support One Another Through Goals and Struggles

Beta Pi has been influential in philanthropic efforts for the Aurora Center for Sexual Violence on campus by raising \$6,000 in the past year. We continue to keep a strong relationship with the Aurora Center, thanks to **Wes Lideen '23** volunteering as a Violence Prevention Advocate (along with many other contributing members).

The chapter has been steadfast in brotherhood by holding semesterly bonding weekends and has supported the wider community by participating in campus-wide Greek events. Over the summer, Wes, **Sean Farrell '23**, and **Jake Polzin '25** traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, for the 183rd General Convention. Meeting brothers from other chapters, as well as General Fraternity officers, sent our brothers home with a fresh sense of brotherhood and pride for our great fraternity that has spread throughout the chapter. This semester, we are excited to welcome home **Trevor Frane '23**, who recently studied abroad in Ireland—another example of Betas taking on the world.

Unfortunately, **Matthew Basken '23** had a bad fall outside of his home in early May, resulting in a hospitalization for many weeks. Beta brothers and their families have all banded together to support him during this time. We are proud to announce that, after months of continual rehab, he is striving to return to school and the chapter in the spring 2023 semester.

With a strong focus on academics, Beta Pi recorded a 3.49 GPA in the spring, ranking third in the IFC. Due to the incredible work of VP Recruitment **Owen Ratgen '24**, Assistant to Recruitment Jake, and the rest of the chapter, we are excited to welcome 18 new members into our chapter—one of the largest new member classes in recent years.

As the semester progresses, we all look forward to initiation week November 28–December 2 and our annual Light the Row philanthropy on December 8th. With the excitement of new members joining our great fraternity, the chapter looks forward to passing along our five core values of Mutual Assistance, Integrity, Trust, Intellectual Growth, and Responsible Conduct in building up Men of Principle.

Yours in __kai__,
Wes Lideen '23
Chapter President
lidee004@umn.edu

Chapter Officers

President
Wes Lideen '23

VP Programming
Nathan Dirkes '23

VP Brotherhood
Jacob Bechtold '23

VP Communications
Will Allan '24

VP Finance
Trevor Frane '23

VP Risk Management
Ryan Ballot '24

VP New
Member Education
Sean Farrell '23

VP Recruitment
Owen Ratgen '24
ratge006@umn.edu
(651) 210-0149



BTP Society and House Corporation Updates

(Continued from page 1)

- Made plumbing repairs in second-floor bathroom (replaced hand dryer and faucet, repaired toilet).
- Replaced flagpole mounting bracket on front exterior and purchased new Beta flag.
- Repaired rear staircase and installed new steel nose to prevent future degradation of the concrete stairs.
- Repaired/repainted water-damaged plaster walls in basement as well as rear staircases.
- Installed additional circuit breakers to provide additional power for third-floor sleeping rooms, third-floor hallway lighting, and basement commissary refrigerators.

COMPLETED PROFESSIONAL CLEANING FOR:

- All common-area floors, including the travertine in the Greiner Room and spiral staircase; bathroom and kitchen floor tile; glue-down carpeting in the first-, second-, and third-floor hallways; and enameled concrete staircases.
- All bathrooms, including showers, countertops, and toilets.
- Custom Beta Theta Pi rugs for Greiner Room.
- Kitchen ventilation hood.

As you can see from this list, a considerable amount of work is needed to maintain the historic building. We have more small repairs as well as large projects on the horizon, and your support (of any kind) contributes to enabling us to fulfill our mission. To all who gives their time, treasure, or talents to help make this possible – thank you!

Yours in __kai__,
Cian Chase '08
 House Coup Volunteer
 cian.chase@gmail.com
 (651) 491-3439

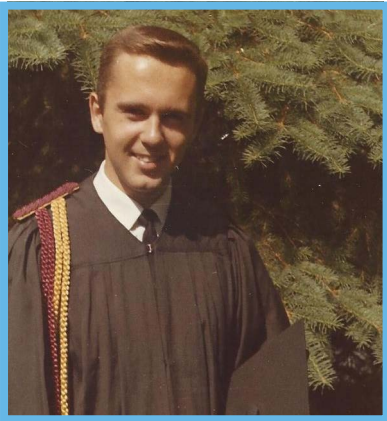
Growing as Brothers

Bruce Johnson '61 Shares How Beta Pi Changed His Life

I spent the first two years of college living at home—coming back after class and hanging out with my high school friends. I began to realize that a full college experience would require more involvement with campus activities. I had heard about fraternities and went through rush (now recruitment) week, visiting six or seven houses—unsure if I'd join any.

It was the Beta house that caught my attention, seeing the members' self-confidence and bonds of brotherhood. It was also clear that they valued academic achievement. I determined that pledging would provide me with more interaction and involvement in campus life. The members that I met that week seemed to be cut above the other fraternities in terms of maturity; I decided that I would benefit most from pledging there.

Soon after pledging, I chose **James Reese '60** as my big brother—finding out later that he was not only the chapter president, but also president of the Minnesota Student Association. Despite his busy schedule, Jim had time to listen to me and provide advice and guidance.



Bruce on graduation day.

One of the remarkable and memorable experiences at Beta Pi Chapter was the spirited singing. Beta was blessed with the good song "Marching Along," which always impressed the sorority sisters at co-ed dinners. The chapter music master, **Robert Hervey '61**, coached the chapter to an interfraternity singing contest victory.

chapters. **Richard Sjowall '64**, a friend of mine, was chosen. Richard asked me to help him draft his opening speech and assist him as he prepared for the convention. Unfortunately, on the morning of the first day, I arrived at the convention hall door to find that Richard had been called away for a family emergency—and that I was being asked to preside over convention in his stead.

Needless to say, this was a shock and a challenge that I was not sure I could fulfill. There were only about 10 minutes to decide, but at the urging of our alumni advisor, **Peter Greiner '51**, who later became General Fraternity President and is the namesake of the Beta Theta Pi Leadership College, and Brother **Jack Ebner '65**, I overcame my fears and accepted the position. With the support of the convention attendees, this turned out to be a great experience. I presided over all four days of the convention, attended by several hundred undergraduates and alumni.

This was truly an event that taught me, among other things, that I could make quick decisions and that I had previously unknown courage to face my trepidations. Peter later asked me to work as a legal clerk at his firm while finishing my last law school year.

I believe that my experience with Beta contributed greatly to my professional success. I believe in supporting the chapter so that the younger men will have the opportunity to benefit and grow in the same manner.

Bruce lives in Ashland, Oregon, and can be reached at belwood9225@msn.com.



Bruce, Burton Folsom, Nebraska '49, Paul Van Riper, De Pauw '38, and Dr. Seth Brooks, St. Lawrence '22 at the 125th Beta Convention

For Beta's 125th General Convention, fraternity leaders decided that the convention president should be an active member from one of the

Have you kept up with any fellow alumni over the years?

Ken Smith '67 has been a lifelong friend. We stay in touch and keep each other up to date on the events of our lives. We have shared many adventures together, and after all these years, we can still make each other laugh.

What are you most proud of in your career?

During the first years of the AIDS crisis, I drafted wills and provided estate advice, on a pro bono basis, to many who were afflicted by the epidemic and without financial resources. One client, a local Native American chief, made me an honorary member of his tribe.



Bruce in 1970.



GOLF OUTING RECAP

Meeet the new Beta Pi Cup champs! Back in June, the team of **Dave Engler '85**, **Brad Obert '89**, **Wes Chapman '82**, and **Brent Anderson '85** took home the trophy for our annual summer golf outing. Twenty-four brothers played this year. We'll be back out again next June!

The following participants made gifts ranging from \$100 to \$250 to support chapter house improvements, raising \$1,815 altogether. Thank you, brothers!

Wes Chapman '82
Steve Kanner '83
Bob Alliegro '84
Bob Brunmeier '84
Brent Anderson '85
Dave Engler '85
Pete Thoresen '87
Scott Martin '89
Jay Myers '97
Ryan Fuller '98
Brad Obert '98
Scott Heineman '03
Branden Peterson '05
Lech Literski '06
Avi Sethi '09



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Alumni Updates

Ken A. Tessmer '48 was raised in Alexandria, Minn. Years ago, Ken and a small group of brothers held mini-reunions there, including **Bill Appel '49**, **Jim Norton '48**, **Ed LaFave '47**, **John Bultrud '48**, and **Bill Madden '47**. Ken lives in Scottsdale, Ariz. Email: katesmer@gmail.com

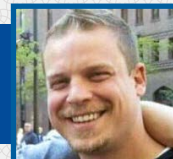
Jeffrey D. Ohm '70 lives in Minneapolis and runs his own handyman business. Email: jeffrey.ohm96@gmail.com

Our Mystic Shrine

Robert M. Morse '91 –
 April 16, 2022



Alan J. Noy '00 –
 July 1, 2022



Welcome, Fall 2022 New Members!

Nicholas Hartl '26
 Wayzata, Minn.

Ethan Hebert '26
 Lowell, Mass.

Tyler Drew '26
 Mount Prospect, Ill.

Jacob Loveall '26
 Kenosha, Wis.

Paul Goff '26
 Northfield, Minn.

Jonathan Day '26
 Elm Grove, Wis.

Finnian Buelow '26
 Fond Du Lac, Wis.

Samuel Garber '26
 Mahomet, Ill.

Cody Sweet '26
 Sammamish, Wash.

Noah Ebner-Borst '25
 Scarsdale, N.Y.

Brett McGraw '26
 Denver, Colo.

Nicholas Johnson '26
 Minneapolis, Minn.

Mikil Foss '26
 Lincoln, Neb.

Arnav Jain '26
 Ventura, Calif.

Lucas Ramey '26
 Champlin, Minn.

Brady Waters '26
 Bloomington, Minn.

Tyler Cook '26
 Antioch, Ill.

Graham Lideen '26*
 Northfield, Minn.
 (Brother **Wes Lideen '23**)

*Legacy