



THE BETA PiPper

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INSIDE:

Alumni Spotlights
2

Chapter Officers
2

Beta Pi
Raises the Bar
3

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A LANDMARK YEAR AT BETA PI

Chapter's 125th Anniversary Marked with Significant Upgrades Ahead

This year marks Beta's 125th year at the University of Minnesota, and our Housing Corporation meets regularly to preserve our chapter house.

The current Beta Pi house has loyally served our members since 1927 and is the source of an abundance of fond memories. Dating back to our founding in 1889, our chapter has initiated more than 1,800 men. The chapter house is the first place that lifelong brotherhood has grown its roots, and the identity of our chapter and alumni are intrinsically tied to it.

NEW ROOF WILL BE INSTALLED

While our members have prospered in recent years, the aging Beta Pi chapter house has presented the Housing Corporation with several structural and financial challenges. For example, in May we will replace the roof, which has caused leaks in bedrooms and ceilings on the third floor. This may be a \$50,000+ expense; but once installed, a new roof will provide energy savings, improved drainage, and a longer life span.

We have also completed other quick fixes that the property has urgently required, such as removing mold caused by water leaks and replacing the water heater. These fixes are critical, but also deplete our reserve funds, which has created urgency for larger-scale renovations and long-term solutions. Starting with improvements to safety and compliance, there are several needed changes



In December, more than 40 alumni and actives gathered for dinner and Beta songs at our annual holiday banquet held on campus in the Coffman Memorial Union.

coming and we look forward to sharing our plans with alumni later this year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT

Our Housing Corporation volunteers and undergraduate members are thankful for the generous gifts that will set us on a path to secure Beta memories and brotherhood at Beta Pi for many generations. These commitments will help

ensure that Beta Pi remains strong at the University of Minnesota, which would not be possible without the aid of our alumni.

Please contact me if you are interested in finding out how you can help, including volunteer functions. In upcoming months, some of the volunteer roles and knowledge we are in need of include renovation planning, project management, construction, interior design, repairs, and landscaping.

It is through the selfless actions of our alumni that we are constantly reminded, "Once a Beta, Always a Beta, Everywhere a Beta."



In _kai_,

Scott Heineman '03

Beta Theta Pi Society of MN President

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HOUSING CORPORATION

Beta Theta Pi Society of MN
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House Manager

Cian Chase '08

Secretary

Mark Churchill '02

Treasurer

David Stiff, Indiana University '77

Jack Liang '13

Members

Dick Shinoffield, University of Iowa '63

Mike Loehrer, University of South Dakota '68

Justin Miller '00

Steve Edwards '05

Branden Peterson '05

CJ Eisler '08



Alumnus Takes Beta Experience to Thrilling Places



Brian Howe '86 came to the Beta Pi Chapter as a legacy member. His grandfather was an alumnus and helped orchestrate Brian's membership by writing a letter requesting the active members reach out to him. Through that initial communication, Brian decided to join and, as a result, he made lifelong friends, many of whom he says are still some of the best men he knows.

Brian graduated with a B.A. in economics. He works as chief strategy officer and co-founder of Thrill On, a social media outlet for outdoor enthusiasts to share their adventures and connect with other thrill-seekers. "I met another entrepreneur who had the idea. At the time, I wasn't looking for an e-commerce opportunity and told him he should think about something more social. He did it and blew me away. That seed of an idea has grown into a few million monthly users and millions of videos, pictures, and gear."

His initial interest in entrepreneurship took hold as a Beta. Along with another brother, Brian started a business selling book bags. "It was a great idea, but we didn't really know what we were doing. It was an awesome experience that left me with a taste for being on my own."

The desire to start his own business might not have come about had he not been a part of Beta Theta Pi. Brian maintains a network of brothers who keep in touch on a regular basis and considers those friendships to be lifelong. "Beta Pi is a brotherhood. We care about each other and genuinely root for each other. We always looked after one another, and we're always thrilled when we hear of successes of one another. It's hard to find those types of friends."

Brian and his wife, Brenda, live in Greenfield, Minnesota, and have four children. In addition to his busy work schedule, Brian also serves as chairman of his church, Riverwood, and as founder and chairman of Riverworks, a non-profit organization that feeds one in seven unique people in the Rockford/Greenfield community annually through a food shelf. The organization also operates a thrift store, provides services for kids and families, and runs a number of community events. You can contact Brian at brian.howe@thrillon.com, and be sure to visit www.thrillon.com to discover the world's most thrilling photos and videos.

CATCHING UP WITH OLYMPIAN JOHN BENTON '92

Interested in a Beta alumni curling club? We have a natural candidate for head coach and player in **John Benton '92**.

John participated in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Canada, for Team USA. He recently made a return trip to the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, as a broadcaster for NBC.



John has made curling a central part of his career and life. While working primarily in IT for Fairview Services since his days at the U of M, he regularly competed in state and national competitions. He was close to retirement when an Olympic opportunity arrived. "I was about two weeks away from retiring in 2009 when I received a call from U.S. Olympic curler skip John Shuster. He made a strong case for me to play. I told him I would give it one more shot, and I'm so glad I did."

Recently, John played a key role in one of the newest clubs, the Four Seasons Curling Club, at Fogarty Arena in Blaine, Minnesota. He is director of curling operations and enjoys leading the facility, growing the game, and coaching at various levels.

John met his wife, Carrie Maciej, through the sport and they were married in 1997. The couple lives in Saint Michael, Minnesota. John is a Beta Pi legacy, his father, **George Robert Benton '43**, and grandfather, **George Bosley Benton 1912**, were alumni. Both have passed.

"One of my best Beta memories is having my dad come back to the house for a Homecoming game. It was one of the most special times that I can remember to have him share the history and his stories."

John started reconnecting with Beta brothers a few years ago and welcomes anyone to e-mail him at jbcurler@gmail.com. Find him on Facebook and you'll enjoy many curling photos and insights. You can also connect with him on Twitter or LinkedIn.



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Vice President Brotherhood
Lucas Smith '15
Minneapolis, Minn.



Charlie Burton '17 with his big brother, Brian Doherty '14, at initiation in Oxford.



In February, longtime Housing Corporation volunteer Mike Loehrer, University of South Dakota '68, was presented the Outstanding Greek Advocate Award by the U of M Greek community.



Nahom Tsegaye '15, Alex Jobin '16, Ben Hacker '16, and Mike Swenson '16 at Light the Row 2013.

Beta Pi Raises the Bar in 2014

Chapter Excels in Academics, Philanthropy, and Recruitment

Greetings, brothers. This is my third year studying at the University where I am pursuing a BFA in graphic design. Coming from the town of Moorhead, Minn., and not knowing much about Greek life, I joined Beta my freshman year. The main reason I chose Beta was because I was told that it focused on leadership and developing men of principle. In the past three years, I've seen this organization grow and cannot wait to see what the next year will bring.

Academics on the Rise

With the help of a new program we deemed Study Buddies, I'm happy to report that last fall Beta Pi had a GPA of 3.18, which is an increase from last year's 3.16. This put Beta above the all-Greek average and seventh among all IFC fraternities. The fall 2013 pledge class alone earned an impressive 3.42 GPA. Great job!

Chapter Membership Remains Strong

This semester we initiated 13 new brothers from the fall 2013 pledge class in Oxford, Ohio. With the addition of these men and another 11 this spring, our active chapter sits at a healthy 70 members. We had a lot of success in recruitment this spring and we hope to continue that momentum into the fall.

Beta Pi Hosts Successful Parents Day

We recently held our annual Parents Day with close to 60 parents and grandparents in attendance. The event took place at the Campus Club, where guests were treated to a delicious meal and a few words from one of our advisors, **Adrian Gonzalez '11**, and me. Afterward, parents were invited to spend time at the house and enjoy desert.



Initiation in Oxford, Ohio. From top: Cameron Holl '17, Chris Page '17, Matt Schalow '16, Jake Woll '17, Hunter Sager '16, Alex Jobin '16, Ty Leech '17, Neil Nelson '17, Trey Johnson '17, Charlie Burton '17, Stuart Schumacher '17, Matt Brooks '17, Mason Williams '17, and Pledge Educator Noah Reetz '14.



Desmond Cariveau '14 with his parents at the Campus Club on Parents Day.

Spring Events Raise Awareness

In April, we hosted our very first Beta Bash Week. This is a philanthropic-focused week where both sororities and fraternities compete in various challenges. There was a change challenge where the chapter that gathered the most change won and donated all collected funds to the Special Olympics. We also spent a day picking up trash along University Avenue with other chapters on campus. The week concluded with our annual spring Beta Theta Pies. This year we pushed the event back a few weeks due to inclement weather. This event brought in a lot of money that we donated to the American Cancer Society.

Spring Jam is approaching and we are paired with Sigma Nu and Alpha Omicron Pi. This year there is a competition between the pairings to collect the most pop tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. We have collected pop tabs to support this amazing cause. We are also practicing for the Ballyhoo dance competition and the Greek Beats band competition.

With strong recruitment, rising academics, and a house full of excellent men, I would say our chapter is in great shape. That being said, nothing is perfect and we will always strive to be better. I'd like to thank our alumni for your support and extend an invitation for you to stop by the chapter house at any time.



In _kai_.

Nate Wong '15

Chapter President

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SAVE THE DATE: BETA THETA PI OF MINNESOTA'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Join Beta Pi the weekend of Friday, October 3, for the chapter's 125th anniversary celebration! Various activities are planned for the weekend, including class reunions, campus tours, and a formal dinner. Events will take place at the Beta Pi chapter house, University of Minnesota, and Millenium Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. All alumni, spouses, and significant others are welcome. For more information, visit www.betapievent.com, or contact **Jake Helms '07** at (605) 359-6904 or jakezhelms@gmail.com.

ALUMNI UPDATE

OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

Richard W. Duermer '48 entered Our Mystic Shrine on January 16, 2002. He was a resident of Wayzata, Minn.

Dr. Richard F. Kindy '49 entered Our Mystic Shrine on March 27, 2011. He was a resident of Minnetonka, Minn.

Robert A. Brown '53 entered Our Mystic Shrine on October 22, 2013. He was an active member of the communities in which he lived, including serving on the Board of Directors at the Carlisle Hospital and the Carlisle Country Club. After retiring, Robert and his wife, Norma, moved to Beaufort, S.C., where he was active in his church choir. He is survived by his wife and children: Carla, Todd, Scott, and David.

Francis G. Lampert '53 entered Our Mystic Shrine on May 18, 2013. He was a resident of Canton, Ga.

Richard E. Powers '55 entered Our Mystic Shrine on April 26, 2013. He was a resident of Bluffton, S.C.

Rodney P. Brannon '58 entered Our Mystic Shrine on February 16, 2012. He was a resident of Minneapolis, Minn.

Louis E. Chappuie '60 entered Our Mystic Shrine on June 3, 2012, following a two-year struggle with brain cancer. Lou will always be remembered for his celebration of life, generosity, and his moral character. Lou is survived by his wife of 45 years, Emily, children Anne and Louis III; and grandchildren: Lara, Suzan, Louis, and Jonathan.

Dr. Jerry T. Reese '64 entered Our Mystic Shrine on August 10, 2012. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a flight surgeon and completed his residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis. He retired from his orthopedic practice at Fairview Southdale and Abbott Northwestern Hospitals in 1995. Jerry is survived by his wife, Lea Rae, daughter, Allison, and son, Ryan.

ALUMNI NEWS

Stanley C. Goodsill '40 is 95 years old and

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lives a great life with his wife of over 60 years. As a member of the International Executive Service Corps, they have traveled to Malaysia and Cairo, Egypt, where Stan set up accounting for the Malaysia Rubber Group and for an independent CPA, respectively. Stanley lives in Charlottesville, Va.

Donald E. McGrath '55 and his wife, June, live in Spicer, Minn., and have four children. His grandson, Luke, joined Beta at Case Western in the fall, and a good friend of his, **Mason Williams '17**, is a member of Beta Pi Chapter. E-mail: dmcg1@tds.net

Mark E. Merrill '66 and his wife, Elizabeth, moved to Phoenix in 2012 to be near their daughter's family. They enjoy the gentler climate, hiking, biking, playing pickle ball, doing home improvements, and traveling. Mark and Elizabeth have two children, Jennifer and Benjamin. E-mail: merrill_liz@hotmail.com

Ryan D. Fuller '98 is the owner of RDF Enterprises. He and his wife, Katie (a Tri Delt from UND), were married last August. They live in Minnetonka, Minn. E-mail: ryanf1541@gmail.com

Join Beta Pi for a Summer Golf Outing



The Annual Beta Pi Sponsor Golf Outing will take place Thursday, June 19, at Tartan Park Golf Course in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. Tee times begin at noon. Contact **Brent Anderson '85** at (612) 303-5990 or brent.a.anderson@ubs.com to RSVP or for more information. We hope to see you there.

Welcome, New Members

Garret Bunn '17 • Fargo, N.D.
Mike Eide '16 • Fargo, N.D.
Nick Harrie '16 • Fargo N.D.
Ryan Hedblom '17 • Minnetonka, Minn.
Ian Johnson '17 • Pelican Rapids, Minn.
Nick McMonigle '17 • Rochester, Minn.

Wesley Sandholm '16 • Oakdale, Minn.
Jordan Sell '17 • Wayzata, Minn.
Kobie Spaeth '17 • Eden Prairie, Minn.
Ian Stewart '17 • Worthington, Minn.
Joe Viavattine '17 • White Bear Lake, Minn.