



# THE BETA Piper

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

SPRING 2017

## Alumni Society Enjoys Chapter Successes, Continues Facility Work

We are thrilled to see the chapter enjoying and taking good care of the rejuvenated Beta Pi Chapter house, which reopened in September 2016. The alumni leaders and volunteers of the Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota have continued with smaller interior improvements to the house as of late.

Now wrapping up their first academic year with the renovated chapter house, the Beta Pi Chapter is riding high and having strong results in membership, academics, brotherhood, and more. This spring and summer, some additional projects are in the works. Outside the house, steel grates are planned for basement window spaces to improve safety, reduce risk of injuries, and increase building security.

Landscaping improvements are also planned. Inside the building, a number of ideas are still being evaluated to provide educational spaces, additional comforts, and smaller-scale improvements.

In the years to come, additional large renovations are needed for most bedrooms, shared rooms, and the kitchen. However, coming out of the \$1 million in renovation costs incurred in 2016, the Housing Corporation is focused primarily at this time on monitoring cash flow and reducing debt during this phase.

The current debt owed by our society is \$662,970. Between September 2016 and March 17, 2017, we have paid down \$148,146 thanks to donations. THANK YOU, brothers!

Our society's revenues stem almost exclusively from rent to the undergraduate chapter and donor contributions. With continued strong performance of the Beta Pi Chapter and the steady and generous support of Beta Pi alumni and friends, we will be in a stronger financial position in the years ahead of us.

In \_kai\_,  
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## The Power of Building Relationships

Ricardo Cazarin '86 Attributes Successful  
Career to Connections in Beta Pi

Like many college students, **Ricardo Cazarin '86** desired to form meaningful, lasting connections with like-minded individuals when he attended the University of Minnesota as a freshman. "I wanted to be involved at the University and once I saw the movie *Animal House*, I was inspired to join a fraternity," Ricardo jokes. "However, what really made Beta Theta Pi stand out from the rest were the members themselves. These brothers made me feel at home and with them, I forged bonds that truly mattered. The University became smaller because I had my Beta brothers."



A zealous member, Ricardo wasted no time pursuing leadership opportunities in Beta Pi and was elected as sergeant-at-arms for the chapter. It wasn't just the leadership, however, that helped pave the way for Ricardo in Beta Theta Pi. Ricardo's big brother, **Steve Kanner '83**, who he describes as "a great person and fun to be around," made a significant impact on Ricardo's Beta Theta Pi experience. Ricardo also cherishes the connection he formed with Tom, who served as the chapter's cook for 16 years. "I loved going back to the house to talk with Tom," he says. Being surrounded by brothers who provided unwavering support and encouragement also inspired Ricardo's professional success. "In the fraternity, I built a set of friends who helped me network and when I started my own company in 1998, my first two or three customers were Beta brothers," Ricardo says.

More than 30 years later, Ricardo still makes it a priority to stay connected to Beta Pi as an alumnus and served on the chapter's advising board from 2000 to 2003. He has also maintained close bonds with brothers. "**Rollin Thorton '83** is in the process of refinancing my home, since he is a mortgage broker; **Pete Thorsen '87** provides employee benefits to my company; and **William Madden '86** and I see each other socially," he says. "Learn to be a good friend and keep those relationships forever if you can. They will make your life easier and more colorful." Ricardo also enjoys attending the University's Homecoming game and celebration each year with his daughters.

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## Beta Pi Raises \$2,400 in Annual Donations

We are grateful to the following alumni who gave \$2,400 in the fall 2016 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.

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

Jay T. McCluskey '61  
Richard L. George '66

Morgan K. Nelson '67  
William L. Laakso '69  
Joseph J. Kraska '72  
George A. Turner '83  
David E. Engler '85  
Mark L. Nevermann '99

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

Robert F. Kropp '48  
Donald E. McGrath '55  
Donn P. Barber '56  
Stanley A. Thompson '59  
Charlie Champlin '60

**Beta Dragon Society**  
(Up to \$99)  
Kenneth A. Tessmer '48  
John B. Rovick '62

*Funding projects and retiring debt requires the support of every alumnus—including YOU!  
Make your annual donation online today  
at [www.btpbetapi.kintera.org/donate](http://www.btpbetapi.kintera.org/donate).*

## Join Us for Our Monthly Beta Luncheons

All Betas from across our broad domain residing in the Twin Cities Metro Area no longer must wait for the annual spring banquet, the summer golf outing, or the holiday banquet to enjoy some serious \_kai\_ in a relaxing setting! There is another opportunity to enjoy the brotherhood of men that occurs every month. Over the last 15 years, Betas representing a span of many generations and chapters have been getting together regularly for lunch to participate and share in some Beta spirit. This event is held at noon on the second Wednesday of every month at the Dover Restaurant and Bar located in DoubleTree by Hilton at 1500 Park Place Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

The only exceptions are those months when another major alumni event is scheduled. These luncheons by design are informal, reasonably priced, and held in a welcoming atmosphere. The luncheons have no agenda, and solicitation or fundraising of any kind is strictly not allowed. They are meant to encourage open discussion on any subject and generally provide an opportunity to communicate updates on the local Beta Pi Chapter. The next scheduled luncheon is June 14. For more information, please contact either **Bert Leach '52** at (952) 593-0821 or **David Stiff, Indiana '77** at (651) 248-8888.

## WELCOME TO THE BROTHERHOOD

### New Members

**Grant Badger**  
Rochester, Minn.

**TJ Botten**  
Chicago, Ill.

**Benton Campbell**  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Luka Pavlokis**  
Rolling Meadows, Ill.

**Matt Pillatsch**  
Naperville, Ill.

**Jake Post**  
Rogers, Minn.

**Iain Schmitt**  
Atlanta, Ga.

**Wyatt Sutton**  
Minneapolis, Minn.

**Will Van Syoc**  
Los Altos, Calif.

**Daniel Waddell**  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

### New Initiates

**Tehaam Adhami**  
Fargo, N.D.

**Vail Baumer**  
Chanhassen, Minn.

**Jack Bernick**  
Savage, Minn.

**Max Bernstein**  
Deephaven, Minn.

**Duncan Bjerke**  
Leawood, Kan.

**Logan Breuning**  
Lino Lakes, Minn.

**Peter Degroot**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Evan Ditter**  
Maple Grove, Minn.

**Josh Dysthe**  
Savage, Minn.

**Brian Engel**  
Marshfield, Wis.

**Nick Gionet**  
Edina, Minn.

**Sujeet Kohli**  
Maple Grove, Wis.

**Michael Kruse**  
Marshfield, Wis.

**Robbie Stemler**  
Excelsior, Minn.

**Anthony Tabet**  
Blaine, Minn.

**Will Thompson**  
Fargo, N.D.



*The spring 2017 pledge class proudly displays the Beta flag.*



*Alumni attend a recent Beta luncheon. From left: David Stiff, Indiana '77, Bruce Kelley '50, Bill Engelhardt '54, Dick Shinofield '62, Bert Leach '52, Kingsley Ondich '56, Floyd Hagen '60, Bill Luger '50, Bede Clapp '49, Daryl Polley '71, and Bob Harris '52.*





## Undergraduates Celebrate Growing Membership, Claim Top GPA in U of M Greek Community

I am truly honored and excited to serve the chapter in the upcoming year as president. With a newly renovated chapter house and strong alumni support, we are dedicated to building on the strong momentum from past semesters and developing a culture of excellence in all areas. Some of our recent successes include reclaiming the top GPA of any Greek organization for the fall 2016 semester with an impressive 3.43, which stands well above the all-men's (3.13) and all-campus (3.21) averages. Our chapter size is the largest it has been in years and we became the chapter with the most Wooden Institute graduates in the nation—121 to be exact! We look forward to another record-breaking year as we strive to excel in all areas and develop ourselves as Men of Principle.

### Brothers Set the Bar High in Philanthropic Success

Our chapter is excited to start our second year being partnered with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for both philanthropic and community service opportunities. Last fall, we raised over \$1,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at our annual Light the Row event. Our members also volunteered at the CFF's Breath of Life Gala, helping them fundraise over \$100,000 in one night, as well as participated in their IDS Tower Run.

### Chapter Boasts Growing Membership

The chapter is proud to share our current undergraduate membership is the largest it has been in years at 66 active members. The spring recruitment charge was led by VP Recruitment **Eric Swenson '19**. With a strong chapter effort, the spring pledge class was closed with 10 new members, bringing our total chapter size to 76 undergraduates.

*Beta Pi received the Outstanding Chapter Support Program and Outstanding Community Service Program awards at the UMN Greek Awards.*



*Our executive team attended the annual Keystone Leadership Conference in Chicago.*

### Undergraduates Connect with the Greek Community

Beta Pi held a yoga exchange in February with Gamma Phi Beta, led by **Jay Alexander '19**. We also held a karaoke exchange with Phi Mu in February, and a wedding exchange last November at Blarney's Pub and Grill with Alpha Omicron Pi that included wedding toasts and a mock ceremony for **Chris Page '17** and AOII Chandler Gardiner, with **Charlie Burton '17** serving as the officiant and **Jake Woll '17** as best man. In addition, the executive team attended the Keystone Leadership Conference in Chicago in February to discuss and implement ways to better improve the chapter and leaders within the chapter.

### Members Recognized for Outstanding Achievements

**Anthony Tabet '17** received the Churchill Scholars Award and will be conducting cancer research at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom, later attending MIT for graduate school. **Jackson Ridl '18** is president of the TEDx club on campus, which coordinates production of TED talks on campus. **Jordan Sell '17** will attend medical school at the University of Northwestern in Chicago on a full ride scholarship in the fall. **Jay Alexander '19** is a certified yoga instructor who teaches yoga classes at the UM Rec Center. **David Bock '19**, **Jack Bernick '20**, **Matt Boehne '19**, **Ben Russel '18**, and **Daniel Waddell '19** are all involved in the Volunteer Tax Assistance Program, which is designed to help people file their taxes.

### Beta Pi Appreciative of Alumni Leadership

The alumni Pig Roast was held on October 1, 2016, and was one of largest alumni gatherings in years at the Beta Pi Chapter house to celebrate the new house renovations, which we as a chapter greatly appreciate. **Cian Chase '07** and **Bill Madden '86**, along with the rest of the housing committee, led the charge on the renovations, which included complete renovations of almost every room in the house, new bathrooms, couches, and rugs. We cannot emphasize enough how appreciative we are. In December, Beta Pi held its annual holiday alumni dinner at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul, featuring lawyer **Rick Morgan '80** as a guest speaker.

### Alumni Attend I-Week Festivities

Last fall, we welcomed an incredible group of young men to Beta Pi as members of our fall 2016 pledge program, and in January, 16 new brothers joined our ranks with their initiation. Several alumni attended the I-Week fireside chats, but I would especially like to say thank you to **Jake Helms '07**, **Casey Kuenn '15**, **Brad Beauchene '15**, and **Wesley Sandholm '16** for their willingness to lend a hand in facilitating the I-Week rituals. We look forward to what our 2017 spring pledge class has in store for the future.

### Join Us for Our Upcoming Events

We apologize for not organizing an alumni spring banquet this year. Due to some changes to the alumni relations committee and additional complicating factors, it did not come together. We seek to hold it again in 2018. Additional alumni events are planned this year, including the annual golf outing in July, a Homecoming/Pig Roast event in October, and a holiday event in early December. Look for more information by mail in the months to come.



In\_kai\_,  
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## Ricardo Cazarin '86

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Ricardo owns a marketing and advertising company, Cazarin Interactive, which he founded in the basement of his home in 1998. Today, the company is comprised of a team of 20 people developing cutting-edge website design solutions for companies of all sizes, with categories ranging from consumer goods to manufacturing. The company's website can be found at [www.cazarin.com](http://www.cazarin.com). "I am the founder—president—janitor when needed," he says. In his spare time, Ricardo plays racquetball, travels around the world for fun, and is part of Rotary International. "In 2007, I launched the campaign One Act of Kindness, [www.oneactofkindness.org](http://www.oneactofkindness.org), which encourages simple acts of kindness between strangers, and have people sending me notes from around the world who have received acts of kindness. I also created Act of Peace, [www.actofpeace.org](http://www.actofpeace.org), to help bring peace to Nigeria and to countries where there is war."

When he is not hard at work, Ricardo enjoys spending time with his wife, Mary, and their three daughters: Meghan (19), Ashley (16), and Grace (11). You can contact Ricardo at [ricardo@cazarin.com](mailto:ricardo@cazarin.com).

**"Learn to be a good friend and keep those relationships forever if you can. They will make your life easier and more colorful."**



*Brothers participate in the Relay for Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society.*



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University of Minnesota  
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## OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

**Richard A. Tickle '48** entered Our Mystic Shrine on February 4 at the age of 92 in Bloomington, Minn. After graduating from Washburn High School, Dick served in the Navy during WWII. He married his high school sweetheart, Elizabeth MacLaughlin, in 1947. Dick went into business with his father and his siblings, all of them guiding The Adjustable Joist Company very successfully for many years. He served on the board of the Minneapolis Automobile Club and was also very involved with Beta Theta Pi at the University of Minnesota. Dick and Betty traveled extensively throughout the world and treated their family to some amazing adventures. One of Dick's greatest passions was building his beloved lake home on Bob Lake, where so many wonderful family memories were created and will continue.

**Dale M. Merrick '49**, age 89 of Roseville, Minn., entered Our Mystic Shrine on May 21, 2015. Dale joined the armed forces in November 1943 and served for 18 months in the European Theater. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1949. He married Mildred Kathleen Swanson on July 31, 1948, in Fairmont and they lived together in the St. Paul area for 67 years. Dale worked at 3M until he ventured out on his own as a manufacturing representative. He partnered with friends in 1970 to form Reell Precision Manufacturing, which became his life's passion. During his active retirement, Dale loved to play golf and bridge and was a longtime member of Midland Hills Country Club.