

THE BETA PIPER

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

SPRING 2018



The 2018 executive team at the Keystone Regional Leadership Conference.



Shane Claffey '19 and Nick Gionet '20 represent Beta in a campus charity hockey tournament.

Board of Trustees Amends Housing Policy

All Beta Theta Pi Chapter Houses to Be Alcohol-Free by 2020-21

The spring has been an exciting semester for Beta Pi. With 18 brothers newly initiated and 11 more men pledging, our chapter is growing in size and influence. We will be intentional and proactive in future recruitments to ensure we continue attracting the best men at the University of Minnesota.

BØΠ BOARD OF TRUSTEES DRY HOUSE MANDATE

Over the winter, BØΠ's Board of Trustees passed an amendment to the fraternity-wide housing policy, mandating that all 36 remaining "wet" houses become dry by the 2020-21 school year. Though this policy is a significant change and affects our members, we are thankful that our brotherhood is not built on alcohol, but on core values, shared experience, and genuine care for one another.

SECOND-HIGHEST FRATERNITY GPA AT U OF M

Last fall, our chapter performed strongly in academics, earning the second-highest GPA of the 30 fraternities on campus with our 3.36! Our intramural teams are also performing well, scoring a second-place win in the Greek broomball league during winter.

ALUMNI AND FAMILIES VISIT CHAPTER HOUSE

Beta Pi alumni returned to the chapter house on Friday, February 23, for food and fellowship before the Gopher basketball game. Brotherhood weekend was held at the home of **Vail Baumer '20** on Lake Minnetonka, and included rounds of mafia, video games, and football. Our Parent's Day was held Saturday, April 7, giving Beta Pi families the chance to visit our chapter house and enjoy some social time and dinner with the chapter.

SUPPORTING THE AURORA CENTER

As of fall 2017, our philanthropic efforts now support an on-campus service known as The Aurora Center—a treatment center that provides

support, resources, outreach, and education to students regarding sexual assault and relationship violence. This is an important issue within our chapter and on campus, and sadly, budget constraints have affected The Aurora Center's services.

BROTHERS' CAMPUS COMMITMENTS

Beta Pi members are committed to their involvements both in and outside of the fraternity. Several brothers participate in the snowboard and ski club, the volunteer tax assistance program, People Serving People, Jazba (an Indian dance performance), and TEDx (an independently-hosted TED Talks event).

SPRING JAM AND SOCIAL EXCHANGES

We will be paired up with Phi Mu, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Triangle, and Delta Upsilon for Spring Jam this year. Our members will participate in a variety of events, including Ballyhoo, a group dance competition, and Greek Beats, a battle of the bands event. We have a slate of social exchanges with sororities planned this semester, including bowling, yoga, and service events. Our chapter is always eager for Homecoming in the fall and the chance to connect with some of our seasoned alumni.

The active chapter is always appreciative of opportunities to meet with alumni and thank you for your support. Because of you, members' collegiate experiences are enriched. Please feel welcomed to stop by the chapter whenever you're in the area.

Yours in __kai__,
David Bock '19
Chapter President
(612) 968-4275
betapi1893@gmail.com



Chapter Room Water Issue to Be Addressed This Summer

Will Be Ready for Use by Fall Semester

Plans are underway to address an ongoing water intrusion issue in the Beta Pi house Chapter Room this summer. The room first began experiencing the issue last year, when water started running in several places on the floor after a heavy rain or snow melt. Numerous short-term solutions have been tried, but a long-term fix is needed.

House Corporation volunteer **Cian Chase '08** has taken the lead role in investigating the water issue, identifying contractors who could assess and fix the problem. We will likely install a drain tile system in the room, repair wall damage, and determine if floors and walls will need to be opened. After completing these tasks, we will clean up and remodel the Chapter Room in time for it to be used for the fall 2018 semester.

This project is expected to cost a minimum of \$18,000. As of March 2018, the project is still being planned, and will require approval from the House Corporation prior to being moved forward. Funding availability for this project is the most critical factor.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Charles B. Webber '53 entered Chapter Eternal on August 6, 2017, while at his home. Charles, an Austin, Minn., native and one of six children, attended Austin High School before attending U of M in pursuit of a political science degree. In 1953, he married Alice Jean Irvine, with whom he would raise four daughters. Charles spent two years in the U.S. Army and, later, enjoyed a 40-year career in the insurance industry. He was very involved in St. John's Episcopal Church, St. John's Hospital lay chaplain program, Jackson Hole Rotary Club, and Jackson Hole Community Band.

BETA PI RAISES \$4,405 IN ANNUAL DONATIONS

We are grateful to the following 17 alumni who gave \$4,405 in the fall 2017 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 Diamond Society
(*\$1,000 and above*)
John Snore '54

Todd Watson '82
David Engler '85
James Curtis '86
Aaron Jastrow '87

Beta Pi Society
(*\$500 to \$999*)
Bertram Leach '52
Kingsley Ondich '56
Richard George '66

Beta Dragon Society
(*Up to \$99*)
Joseph Kraska '72

Loving Cup Society
(*\$100 to \$499*)
Robert Kropp '48
Wallace Rogers '51
Donald McGrath '55
George Champlin '60
Jan Ebbert '63
John Tews '63
William Laakso '69
Jeffrey Ohm '70

Want an easier way to give? Visit www.betathetapisocietymn.org to make your gift to our annual campaign online today!



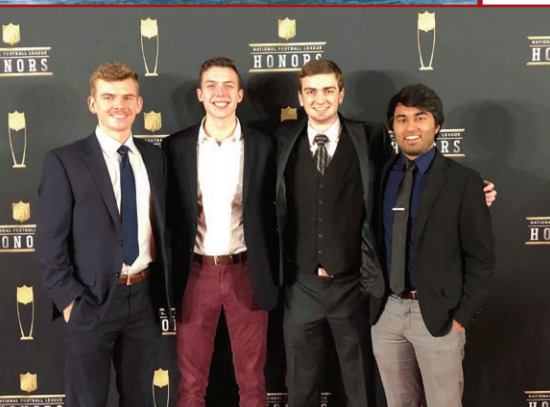
A Beta Alumni Boat Cruise on Lake Minnetonka

We invite all alumni, significant others, and family to join us for lunch and 2-hour boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka. Sign up and join us at 12 p.m. on Saturday, June 9 for a boat ride with Wayzata Bay Charters (687 Excelsior Blvd., Excelsior, MN 55331). \$40/adult. We hope you and your Beta sweetheart will join us for this social outing on the water while enjoying good fellowship and a good meal.

Make A Reservation:

Jordan Paladino '15 - jordantpaladino@gmail.com, (805) 630-5290

Jake Helms '07 - jakezhelms@gmail.com, (605) 359-6904



Will Van Syoc '20, Matthew Berns '21, Evan Ditter '20, and Sujee Kohli '20 at the NFL Honors Ceremony at Northrop Auditorium.



The biannual brotherhood weekend football game is a great way to bring Beta Pis together.



BΘΠ Society Maintains Focus on Debt Reduction

Driven by Alumni Support, Pledge Fulfillment

Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota is now 1.5 years beyond the most significant chapter house renovations in our history. The top priority after the safety and wellbeing of our undergraduate members is paying down the loans associated with building improvements. We'd like to share a financial update so that you can understand how we are handling financial obligations and planning for the future.

As of March 2018, we have a debt balance of \$608,000, with a major portion of it due in the next four years. Since 2015, we've paid down more than \$400,000 thanks to the generous contributions of our alumni and supporters, as well as rent collections of chapter members. We collect \$9,000 in revenue monthly (rent to the chapter) and incur \$7,500 in monthly expenses. At the time of this writing, we have approximately \$12,000 in cash on hand. Unfortunately, new property issues continue to surface unexpectedly—though fewer than before our remodeling—and add further stress to our budget.

To date, we have received 79 percent of all campaign pledges, totaling \$755,000. We anticipate approximately \$150,000 in pledged gifts to be made, primarily as multi-year *The North Shall Increase* capital campaign pledges from alumni are fulfilled.

New donations and fulfillment of pledges will allow us to eliminate our debt in a timely fashion. There are multiple ways to make these gifts, including a tax-deductible option to the Beta Theta Pi Foundation in Oxford, Ohio. If you choose this option, please ensure your gift is designated to the Minnesota chapter. You may also send checks to our P.O. Box (Dinkytown Station-P.O. Box 13225, Minneapolis, MN 55414) or via www.betathetapisocietymn.org (look for a donation button). THANK YOU!

Recent visitors can attest that our chapter house is much-improved since the renovation, making this a wise investment. The renovation also enables the active chapter to be successful in recruitment, culture, member retention, academics, etc. You can be proud of your association to Beta Theta Pi and Beta Pi Chapter. Thank you for your support.

In _kai_,

Jack Liang '13

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

NEW VOLUNTEERS JOIN ADVISORY TEAM

Alumni of All Ages Are Encouraged to Join Our Team

The advising team has undergone recent advisory role transitions. Three of our long-term volunteers are stepping down to pursue other endeavors. I want to give a big thank-you to **Alex Hill '11**, **Joel Livingood '11**, and **Ken McDonald '09** for giving their time to the chapter over the past several years.

the team; alumni **Brian Rappl '11** and **Casey Kuenn '15** have come onboard, along with friends of Beta Jessica Chung, Anna Kytonen-Coffman, and Alex Brown. While the latter three individuals are new to the fraternity, they are happy to offer their time to advise the undergraduates.

a strong relationship with the chapter and working to assist the chapter in pushing their Keystone goals forward. We are always looking for more volunteers to serve the fraternity. If you are interested in learning about volunteer and mentor opportunities, please contact me at cnclose@gmail.com.

Welcome, New Advisory Team Members

I am excited to welcome five new advisors to

Additional Mentors and Volunteers Needed

The new advising team is focused on building

In _kai_,

Colin Close '13, Beta Pi Counselor
cnclose@gmail.com

WELCOME TO THE BROTHERHOOD

Devan Barth '21
Anoka, Minn.

Finn Gundersen '21
Madison, Wis.

Adam Leligdon '21
Lenexa, Kan.

Jimmy Lipsey '21
Wilmette, Ill.

Jack Schroder '21
Rosemount, Minn.

Karthik Bungolay '21
Denver, Colo.

Joshua Hoag '21
Maple Grove, Minn.

Sam Linden '20
Somerset, Wis.

Jonathan Riley '21
Minneapolis, Minn.

Teja Upadhyaya '21
Woodbury, Minn.



Evan Jobin '19 and Teddy Geraghty, Zeta Tau '18 met while studying abroad in New Zealand.

Our members always enjoy a good game of broomball.

Beta Pi's spring 2018 pledge class.

**Save the Date: Alumni
Boat Ride on Lake Minnetonka.
Open to page 3 for details!**

Chapter Officers

President

David Bock '19

(612) 968-4275 | betapi1893@gmail.com

Vice President of Finance

Adam Long '19

Vice President of Brotherhood

Eric Forester '18

Vice President of Ritual

Grant Zastoupil '19

Vice President of Recruitment

Jake Post '20

(763) 234-4863 | betapi1934@gmail.com

Vice President of New Member Education

Nick Gionet '20

Vice President of Programming

Peter Degroot '20

Vice President of Risk Management

Shane Claffey '19

Vice President of Communications

Will Van Syoc '20

Alumni Relations Chairman

Eric Swenson '19

THE BETA Pi

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SHAPING A BETA PI'S CAREER

How the Fraternity Influenced Ryan Demmer '99

The Beta Pi Chapter at the University of Minnesota was intriguing to **Ryan Demmer '99**, who found the active members welcoming and good-natured. His initial interest in the fraternity stemmed from its longstanding traditions and reputation for being academically rigorous. While pursuing his bachelor's degree in public health with a business and life sciences emphasis, Ryan was initiated into the Beta Pi Chapter.

Ryan befriended his big brother, **Ivan "Butch" Weiss '97**, and **Scott Allen '95** right away—members who ultimately proved very influential for him. "They both played a part in my decision to join the chapter and my engagement in chapter life," he said. In fact, it was because of Scott's convincing that Ryan took an elective public health course during his freshman year—a fateful choice that played a huge role in Ryan's ultimate career path. "That course introduced me to epidemiologic research in understanding disease etiology," he recalled. Soon after, he changed his major from engineering to public health.

During his active years, Ryan served on Beta Pi's executive council as house manager, executive-at-large, and chapter president. "My time at Beta allowed me not only to make lifelong friends, but exposed me to an array of new ideas and opportunities in life," he recalled. "My ability to serve in leadership roles within the chapter helped me grow and created opportunities that have served me well ever since."



Getting to know a chapter's active members should be something undergraduates do before making a decision to join a Greek organization, according to Ryan. "The individuals in the fraternity will shape your values, behaviors, and work ethic during an important time in your life." He also encourages students to consider the strength of the national organization as a whole, paying special attention to potential leadership opportunities available to the members.

After graduating from U of M, Ryan went on to earn a master's of public health and a Ph.D. in epidemiology. Today, he is an associate professor of epidemiology at U of M, interested in researching microbial etiologies of cardiovascular disease and Type 2 diabetes. "I am particularly interested in the human microbiome and how bacteria in the mouth and gut can influence health," he revealed. Ryan previously lived in New York for over 10 years, working in the department of epidemiology at Columbia University.

Though his days of being in the active chapter are behind him, Ryan keeps in touch with several of his Beta Pi brothers through alumni functions. "My family recently returned from a vacation in Florida, where we spent the week with **Nick Lampi '98** and his family," he revealed. In his spare time, Ryan plays golf, pool, and softball and appreciates the occasional Netflix binge. He and his wife, CloEve, and their children, Ashton, Makenna, and Addison, also enjoy spending family time at the lake.

You can connect with Ryan at demm0009@gmail.com.