

# THE BETA Piper

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF BETA PI

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

SPRING 2019

## ALUMNI DONATIONS FUFILL CONSTRUCTION LOAN FOR HOUSE RENOVATIONS House Corporation Shifts Focus to Remaining Loans

Financially, the past few months have been challenging and incredibly rewarding. The Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota has been working diligently to pay off our remaining balance from our renovation and ensuring the everyday operation of the chapter house.

Recently, with the help of our generous alumni and friends of Beta Pi, we were able to pay off the construction loan that we used to fund the renovation projects. We now turn our attention to our other loans and obligations.

In 2019, we will focus not only on paying down these loans to the best of our ability, but also finding ways to improve the house. We

want to ensure that the house is welcoming and functional for all our current members and alumni. We also look to complete additional room improvements and proactively upgrade our facilities, including the kitchen. We will continue to ensure that the society is in good financial standings with our partners.

As of February 2019, the society holds assets of around \$10,000. Our short-term outstanding debt still exceeds \$101,000, where our long-term obligations, including our mortgage, are around \$420,000. In the next three years, our goal is to completely pay off all our promissory notes and other short-term loans. Once these loans are retired, the only remaining debt on our balance

sheet will be our current mortgage and the loan from the University, which was specifically earmarked for fraternities to improve their living spaces.

We want to thank all those that helped us on this journey. The Housing Corporation greatly appreciates all the contributions that were made for the capital campaign and we look forward to your continuing support.

Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,

**Jack Liang '13**

Treasurer

Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota  
jliang42@gmail.com

## Chapter Room Repairs Completed

For most of the past two years, the chapter room has been an increasingly musty and often wet place. The conditions inside the room have been increasingly poor, and not meeting our standards as a Housing Corporation for

the chapter. Thankfully, over December and January, the chapter room got a big refresh to fix these persistent issues and at a very fair price tag.

Partially funded by generous gifts from alumni in 2018, a new drain tile system has now been installed in the chapter room, along with new walls and flooring. These repairs were completed or orchestrated by fellow alumnus and House Corporation volunteer, **Cian Chase '06**.

The interior drain tile system was installed along the rear foundation wall in the chapter room. To do so, we removed several layers of finished wall coverings (drywall, wood paneling and plaster on metal lath) and old, glued-down carpeting. An abatement of asbestos floor tiles was required as well. Then, our waterproofing contractor installed a membrane against the foundation wall, designed to capture any water coming through the wall and divert it into a trench, which had

to be dug out from the concrete. This trench drains any captured water into a newly installed sump pump basket, which is then pumped out of the house.

After installation, this system was covered by a new layer of framing and sheetrock. Finally, we installed new commercial carpet tiles throughout the entire chapter room and had all the walls painted with a fresh coat.

We now have a chapter room that looks and smells fresh. More importantly, the improvements will prevent any future water intrusions from affecting the wall and flooring materials inside. When all said and done, the project was completed for under \$9,000—a figure well under what we feared the full cost may be.

Beta snaps are owed to Brother Chase for his time and talents in this endeavor, and many other building improvements in recent years.



*This winter the chapter room was gutted, and a new drain tile system was installed, fixing the draining and water issues. Stop by the chapter house to see the completely refreshed chapter room!*





# Thank You, Annual Campaign Donors

We are grateful to the following 15 alumni who gave \$3,710 in the fall 2018 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.

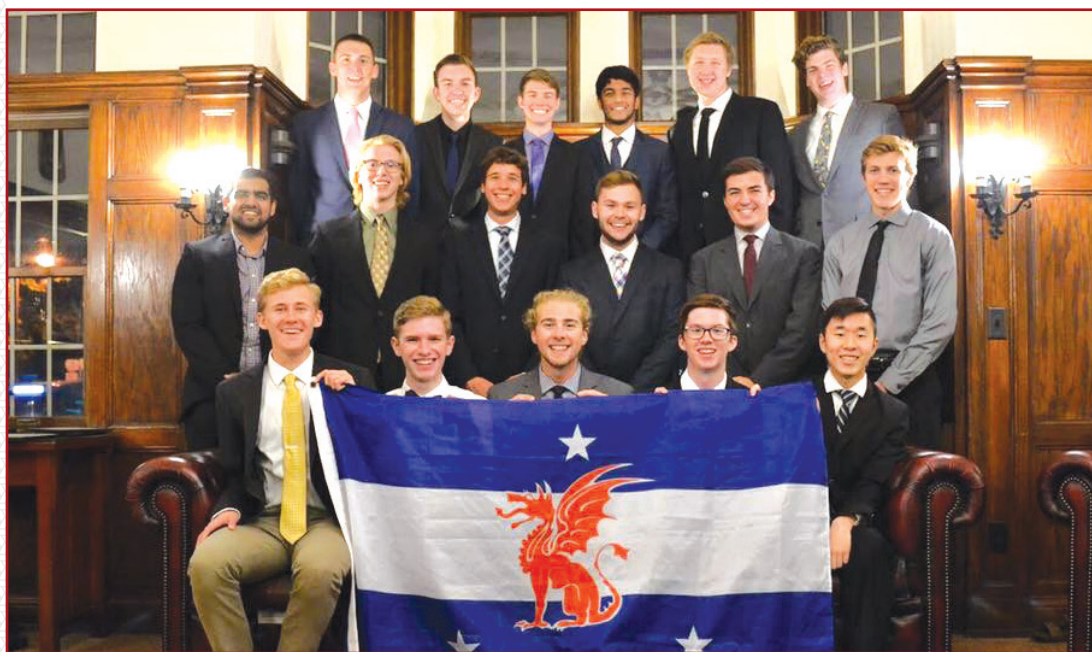
If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift(s), or we have mistakenly omitted your gift, we sincerely apologize. If corrections to your giving records are needed, please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661. Thank you, again, for your loyal support.

**Beta Diamond Society**  
(**\$1,000 to \$2,499**)  
Bertram G. Leach '52

**Beta Pi Society**  
(**\$500 to \$999**)  
Charles G. Cunningham '49  
Richard L. George '66  
David A. Horner '91

**Loving Cup Society**  
(**\$100 to \$499**)  
Donald E. McGrath '55  
Donn P. Barber '56  
Stanley A. Thompson '59  
George Champlin '60  
J. Dixon Tews '63  
Jeffrey D. Ohm '70  
E. Charles Carpenter Jr. '90  
Michael R. Vieira '11

**Beta Dragon Society**  
(**Up to \$99**)  
Joseph J. Kraska '72  
James D. Acers '64  
Paul Bolin '07



*The first pledge meeting of the fall 2018 pledge class. From left: Peter Gontarski '22, Chance Farmer '22, Doug Lang '21, Carter Volk '22, Kyle Wong '22, Rijul Malik '19, Ames Olson '21, Nate Cozine '22, Luke Vannurden '21 (transfer from Loyola University Chicago Beta), Ethan Dorn '22, Evan Stenslie '22, Miles Powell '22, Dylan Bivens '21, Miles Campbell '21, Sai Gouravajhala '22, Aaron Marthaler '20, and Bill Risher '22.*

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**Miles Campbell '21**  
Maple Grove, Minn.

**Joel Nielsen '22**  
Rochester, Minn.

**Samarth Saini '22**  
Maple Grove, Minn.

**Stephen Edward '22**  
Minnetonka, Minn.

**Gunnar Osteboe '22**  
Plymouth, Minn.

**Samuel Smidt '21**  
McKinney, Texas

**Luke Gehring '22**  
Hartland, Wis.

**Ashvin Pidaparti '22**  
Maple Grove, Minn.

## Alumnus Gift Restores Fireplace

We want to recognize Beta Pi alumnus **Brent Anderson '85** who recently made a new \$15,000 donation, on top of his \$25,000 capital campaign gift, for repairs to the distinctive main floor



fireplace and chimney in the Chapter House. In the place that will be known going forward as the Anderson Fireplace, contractors installed a new liner and the fixed the deteriorating firebox. The fireplace can safely be used once again!

*Pictured: Branden Peterson '05, Brent Anderson '85, Chris Edwards '87, and Jerry LaMere '87.*





1. Beta Pi Chapter celebrating after a successful Light the Row philanthropy event in early December. 2. We hosted a denim-themed Greek "wedding" at the chapter house between Wyatt Sutton '20 (shown horizontal) and his long-time girlfriend in Phi Mu. Pictured from left to right: Logan Breuning '20, Jacob Post '20, Benton Campbell '19, Vail Baumer '20, Nicholas Gionet '20, Shane Claffey '19 and Will Van Syoc '20. 3. Seventeen brothers spent a Sunday afternoon playing paintball for a brotherhood event south of the Twin Cities. 4. The fall 2018 pledge class enjoying a dinner together at the end of the fall 2018 semester. Pictured from left to right: Dylan Bivens '21, Doug Lang '21, Aaron Marthaler '20, Sai Gouravajhala '22, Bill Risher '22, Evan Stenslie '22, Miles Powell '22, Miles Campbell '21, Carter Volk '22, Ethan Dorn '22, Nate Cozine '22, Luke Vannurden '21 (transfer from Loyola University Chicago Beta), and Peter Gontarski '22.

# BETA PI 75 MEMBERS STRONG

## Chapter Raises \$4,000 for Aurora Center

**H**ello, members of Beta, families and friends! The Beta Pi Chapter at the University of Minnesota has now been on campus for 130 uninterrupted years, which is currently the longest-standing fraternity at the U of M. Over the past few months, the Beta Pi Chapter has been involved with intramurals, philanthropy, and other chapter events.

### #1 IN GRADES

Although the fall 2018 chapter GPAs are not yet known, the Beta Pi Chapter finished first overall over the cumulative 2017-2018 school year, with a chapter GPA of 3.41. At the end of this past semester, we elected a new academic chairman, **Josh Hoag '21**, who will continue to promote academic excellence and intellectual growth.

### PHILANTHROPY

We held our annual *Light the Row* philanthropy where we hang lights on the outside of the chapter house, sync them to music, and project said music out onto University Avenue for

everyone to hear. The chapter was able to raise over \$4,000 throughout the course of the week and the money went toward the Aurora Center. The Aurora Center provides survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence with resources, support, and education on the University of Minnesota campus.

### MEMBERSHIP

After initiating 15 men in January 2019, we stand at 75 members with eight pledges currently signed. Over the past three years, the pledge program has consistently been revamped, altered, and improved to fully prepare all the men who walk through our doors for years of everlasting memories and principled values.

### INTRAMURALS AND CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Volleyball, football, hockey, soccer, basketball, broomball, you name it, Beta has a hand in it. Whether it's playing in 11 p.m. games in the fieldhouse or competing for the broomball championship in front of a crowd of 30 brothers

decked out in Hawaiian attire, there's a spot for everyone. Aside from intramurals, the chapter is also involved in other activities such as Minnesota Student Association (MSA), Volunteer Tax Association (VTAP), Ski and Snowboard Club (SSC), Minnesota Gopher Football, Long Form Improv, and many more. Even though this is just a small fraction of the activities that the chapter is involved in, it gives a good picture of how well-rounded the chapter is.

We are very grateful for all of alumni, families, and friends who have donated their time, effort, and monetary gifts toward the Beta Pi Chapter. We hope that you have seen growth from not only our members, but from the chapter as well. Thank you all for everything and feel free to stop by the house at any time and say hello!



Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,  
**Nick Gionet '20**  
Chapter President  
gione003@umn.edu



# SAVE THE DATES

## Alumni Society Spring Event

**Thursday, May 16, at 6 p.m.**

Campus Club in Coffman  
Memorial Union

Cost will be \$40 per person

For more details, please  
contact **Jake Helms '07**  
at [jakezhelms@gmail.com](mailto:jakezhelms@gmail.com)  
or (605) 359-6904.

## Alumni Golf Outing Sunday, June 9

Keller Golf Course in  
Maplewood, Minnesota

Come on out and join  
our group this year! Contact

**Brent Anderson '85** at  
[brent.a.anderson@ubs.com](mailto:brent.a.anderson@ubs.com)  
to sign up.

# THE BETA Piper

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF BETA PI

Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota  
Dinkytown Station-P.O. Box 13225  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

*Address Service Requested*

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LAWRENCE, KS  
66044  
PERMIT #570

## Alumni Winter Gathering



*Around 30 Twin Cities-area Betas gathered for a winter banquet in December at the St. Paul Town & Country Club. We were honored to have John Cunningham, the Deputy Athletics Director from the University of Minnesota, as our guest speaker.*

## Chapter Officers

Chapter President  
**Nicholas Gionet '20**  
(952) 836-4548  
[gione003@umn.edu](mailto:gione003@umn.edu)

VP Recruitment  
**Matthew Berns '21**  
(515) 689-1824  
[berns179@umn.edu](mailto:berns179@umn.edu)

VP Brotherhood  
**Carter Ridl '21**  
  
Risk Management  
Chairman  
**Joshua Dsythe '19**

VP Programming  
**Aaron Blanchard '21**

VP Finance  
**Jacques Frank-Loron '21**

VP Ritual  
**Jimmy Lipsey '21**

New Member Education  
Chairman  
**Easton Crupper '21**

VP Communication  
**Luke Ainsworth '21**

Alumni Relations  
Chairman  
**Jacob Post '20**  
(763) 234-4863  
[postx185@umn.edu](mailto:postx185@umn.edu)



[betathetapisocietymn.org](http://betathetapisocietymn.org)



Beta Theta Pi –  
University of Minnesota



Beta Theta Pi Alumni –  
University of Minnesota



@Beta\_UMN



Beta Theta Pi Alumni –  
University of Minnesota