



# THE BETA Piper

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF BETA PI

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

SPRING 2020

## BETA PI NAVIGATES NEW NORM AMID CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

### Milestone Brotherhood Golf Event in the Works

**A**t time of this message, alumni volunteers for the Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and monitoring support needs for the undergraduate chapter members and the building.

With all in-person classes transitioned to online/virtual settings, chapter members are experiencing college life in a very different manner as society deals with this health pandemic. After the University of Minnesota campus closed, all members living in the chapter house moved except for 11 men due to travel restrictions. They are following strict CDC guidelines. University of Minnesota operations have been impacted significantly, and the chapter is operating much differently now as well. The chapter house remains open and available for living arrangements and meals, and we have been encouraged by chapter leader's actions to promote increased cleaning efforts and routines in an attempt to keep the men in good health. It is a day-by-day situation.

### Focused on Debt Reduction

The focus of the Housing Corporation continues to be on paying down short- and long-term debt, and this has been greatly supported by alumni and friends of Beta. In total, the society holds \$474,633 in debt to date, which includes several short-term debts totaling \$62,108.

Considering this financial position, we would like to consolidate our multiple loans and take advantage of low interest rates in the months ahead.

### Chapter House Upkeep

Thankfully, only relatively minor repairs to the chapter house have been needed in recent months. The roof experienced a leak this winter, and the front door has needed some repair, among other smaller-in-nature fixes. As a reminder, alumni donations at any time help us keep up with these repairs and avoid us taking on additional debt.

### DONATE TODAY

- ★ To make your gift online, visit [betathetapisocietymn.org](http://betathetapisocietymn.org).
- ★ For checks, please make them payable to Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota and mail them to:  
Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota  
Dinkytown Station-P.O. Box 13225  
Minneapolis, MN 55414-5225

### Spring Banquet Cancelled Due to COVID-19

In light of the coronavirus and the federal and state-level guidance for social distancing, we regretfully have canceled plans for our annual spring banquet this year. We always look forward to this event and to see all the brothers who attend. In hopes of returning to normal mid-year, we will hope to gather this fall, but plans are not defined yet. Do you have any ideas or suggestions for a fall or holiday event later this year? Let us know. For questions, contact **Jake Helms '07** at (605) 359-6904 or [jakezhelms@gmail.com](mailto:jakezhelms@gmail.com).

### 25th Anniversary: Beta Pi Sponsor Golf Outing

If you like to swing the sticks and enjoy some great Beta brotherhood, sign up to join us annual golf outing on Sunday, September 13. It's our 25th consecutive year of gathering for a round of 18 holes.

We are seeking to find 50 golfers this year—the more, the merrier! In general, we have 30-40 men to play year-to-year, but considering the significance of the event and the early notice (wink, wink!), you should put it on your calendar and plan to join us.

In honor of the milestone, we are returning to play at the course where this outing began, at the Les Bolstad, University of Minnesota Golf Course.

Lastly, our society owes thanks and gratitude to alumni brother Brent Anderson's passion and efforts to make this event happen year-to-year. Back in the first year (1995), this event began after a need arose to fundraise for significant repairs to the chapter house boiler. Brothers have gathered annually to enjoy some brotherhood fun and raise some funds to support various needs at the chapter house or with the Housing Corporation. The event has become a nice tradition that we plan to continue indefinitely.

**RSVP to Brent Anderson '85** at [brent.a.anderson@ubs.com](mailto:brent.a.anderson@ubs.com) or **Branden Peterson '05** [bp1681@gmail.com](mailto:bp1681@gmail.com).

We hope to see you there! Stay safe and healthy.

Yours in \_kai\_,  
**Branden Peterson '05**  
Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota  
[bp1681@gmail.com](mailto:bp1681@gmail.com)





# BUDDY, BETA, AND BELIEVING IN HIMSELF

*Tyler McKean '07 Credits Beta Pi Brothers for His Competitive Edge*

Training in the long winter months hasn't been easy for **Tyler McKean '07** and his dog, Buddy, but their competitiveness has propelled them to be one of the best skijoring teams in the world. They finished 14th at the 2017 International Federation of Sleddog Sports World Championships. Their success on the national level has been highlighted by winning the 2019 Chuck & Don's Skijoring Loppet and One-Dog National Championship and earning runner-up honors in the same race in February.

The results haven't been the only thing that's motivated them either. As Tyler and Buddy closed in on the finish line at the 2020 national championships, they heard the support of their fan section, which included Tyler's ultimate frisbee teammates and Beta Theta Pi brothers.

"That's one of those things where the perseverance and determination that I learned from my Beta brothers helped me out," Tyler said. "To be competitive in skijoring, you have to train not only yourself, but your dog to be in top physical shape. You have to do it in the wintertime when people don't normally love to be outside."

Tyler's Beta brothers have been there for him during the highest of the highs and lowest of the lows since he joined Beta Pi Chapter. He already knew Beta was full of good guys prior to arriving at the University of Minnesota since he had worked with a few active members at a Boy Scout summer camp, but soon realized that his fraternity experience was something that would last much longer than four years.



*Tyler McKean '07 and his dog, Buddy, compete in the Chuck & Don's Skijoring Loppet and One-Dog National Championship 10,000-meter race.*

"My sophomore year, my grandmother passed away. Without me asking, there were probably a half-dozen guys from the chapter who went to the funeral with me," Tyler said. "That was touching. That's when I knew that those guys were pretty good friends to have and cared a lot about me."

Beta gave Tyler some much-needed confidence that benefited him in college and during his career as the facility and program manager for the City of St. Paul. He has kept Beta in mind while working with several teenagers and young adults.

"I never forget that you can have a very positive influence on people in that age group," Tyler said. "It doesn't take that much effort and it doesn't hurt you, but it can make a world of difference to that one individual. Sometimes you're not even going to know the impact you're going to make by helping them out, giving them advice, and encouraging them to do their best."

Tyler strives to be the ultimate team player at work and in his other activities, one of which is ultimate frisbee. His love for ultimate frisbee began at Beta during intramurals and has grown with every throw of the disc.

"I've been lucky to be on some good teams," Tyler said. "We've consistently been going to national championships and went to a world championship a couple of years ago. That's been awesome to think that that ties back to Beta."

You can connect with Tyler at [mckean.tyler@gmail.com](mailto:mckean.tyler@gmail.com).

## Your Gifts Make a Difference!

Alumni Support Key to Chapter's Success

A heartfelt thank-you to the 17 alumni and friends who donated \$3,100 in the fall 2019 appeal of our annual giving campaign. Without alumni giving back, our brotherhood would not have reached the level of success it enjoys today. The brothers following in our footsteps are thankful for the steadfast support and benefit greatly from alumni contributions. Whether through scholarships or leadership opportunities, the undergraduate experience is undoubtedly enhanced by generous

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.

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

Donald E. McGrath '55  
J. Bradner Smith '55  
Peter A. Von Eschen '55  
Donn P. Barber '56  
Kingsley R. Ondich '56  
Stanley A. Thompson '59

J. Dixon Tews '63  
John H. Avery '64  
Richard L. George '66  
William L. Laakso '69  
Jeffrey D. Ohm '70  
E. Walt Slibeck '70  
David A. Horner '91

### Beta Dragon Society (*Up to \$99*)

Roger N. Johnson '62  
William L. Valentine '63  
William H. Madden Jr. '86  
Ann Leech

*Thank you donors!*



## Brothers Determined to Raise Beta's Bar at The U of M



*After the Golden Gophers won the game against Penn State, the Betas rushed the field to celebrate the historic victory.*



*Beta brothers took home the broomball title during intramurals.*



*As part of the new emphasis on community service, the brothers went to Feed My Starving Children to pack meals for those less fortunate.*

**B**eta Pi Chapter stands strong at 73 initiated members and six pledges to date. In January, the chapter initiated 12 new members into our brotherhood. To better develop our members, we have implemented new mental health initiatives, created brotherhood opportunities without alcohol, and launched a new chapter-alumnus LinkedIn group. The LinkedIn group is of specific import to readers here, and we aim to use it as a place for active members to seek membership and advice from alumni in their respective professional fields. We would love your help in this effort. If you are interested in being added to this group, please reach out to me via email.

### Focused on Academic Achievement

Our chapter cumulative GPA is at 3.33, with our fall 2019 GPA at 3.30 and our new member GPA at 3.42. We are proud of our new member class for posting the highest new member GPA in all of Minnesota Greek Life. Our chapter's fall GPA was lower than desired, so new measures have been implemented with the hopes of bringing up the GPA of all members. These measures include study hours, regular checkups with Beta Pi's academic chairman, and reminding brothers of the academic services provided by the university. The college demographics of the fraternity currently sit at 39% College of Science & Engineering, 24.7% College of Liberal Arts, 19.5% Carlson School of Management, 7.8% College of Biological Sciences, 5.2% College of Education and Human Development, 3.9% College of Design.

### Campus and Community Involvement

In 2019, the chapter raised roughly \$5,500 for the Aurora Center, a university group we have been proud to support for the past several years. The Aurora Center provides resources to survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence and educates students on these issues.

This past year, the brothers were victorious in intramural soccer and broomball and participated in other intramural sports, including basketball and volleyball. The brothers enjoyed the alumni tailgates last fall and look forward to hosting more. Once things are back to normal in terms of the current health pandemic, active brothers aim to reinvigorate our community service program by holding chapter-wide events, weekly community service opportunities, and using a chapter meeting to provide a chapter community service opportunity.

### Update on Dry House Policy

With the fraternity moving to being completely alcohol-free in August of 2020, Beta Pi Chapter is being proactive and innovative in the way it holds social events. We seek to be in line with the General Fraternity policy and provide our members with ways to meet new people on campus and host guests at fraternity functions. We are looking further into third-party venues for events. The chapter is proud to have successfully made all changes required to be on good standing with the General Fraternity and in line with the policy.

### Shaping Men of Principle

This transition year is a very important year for the direction of our brotherhood. My goal for us this year is to grow the legacy and spirit of our chapter. We pride ourselves on being one of the longest standing and strongest Beta chapters, and we strive to further that in the upcoming school year. Through changes like implementing more member development, emphasizing community service, and creating new brotherhood events, we hope our members will keep growing and flourishing in our good and great fraternity. Our goal, as it has always been, is to find and cultivate Men of Principle and build future leaders.

Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,

**Jacques Frank-Loron '21**

Chapter President

fran1002@umn.edu

## Visit Us Online



betathetapi  
societymn.org



Beta Theta Pi  
Alumni – University  
of Minnesota



Beta-Minnesota

Mark Your  
Calendar



## BETA PI ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

Sunday, September 13

University of Minnesota Golf Course.  
Golf at 12 p.m. followed by dinner.

RSVP Brent Anderson '85 at (612) 280-3150  
or Jake Helms '07 at (605) 359-6904

Stay tuned for more details!

## 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chapter President  
**Jacques Frank-Loron '21**  
(608) 698-7687  
fran1002@umn.edu

VP Recruitment  
**Jake Smith '21**  
(612) 695-8119  
smit8824@umn.edu

VP Brotherhood  
**Miles Powell '22**

Risk Management Chairman  
**Nick Gionet '20**  
**Ethan Pickering '21**

VP Programming  
**Ethan Dorn '22**

VP Finance  
**Aaron Blanchard '21**  
**Josh Hoag '21**

VP Ritual  
**Easton Crupper '21**  
**Bill Risher '22**

New Member Education Chairman  
**Peter Gontarski '22**

VP Communication  
**Sai Gouravajala '21**

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

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Minneapolis, MN 55414

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## WELCOME TO THE BROTHERHOOD!

**Gabriel Baggot '23**  
*Northfield, Minn.*

**Joshua Brown '23**  
*Sommerset, Wis.*

**Yosue Canaviri '23**

**Adam Castella '23**  
*Merrick, N.Y.*

**Nathan Dirkes '23**  
*Sommerset, Wis.*

**Sean Farrell '22**

**William Gustafson '23**  
*Sacramento, Calif.*

**Parker Holum '21**  
*Hudson, Wis.*

**Wesley Lideen '23**  
*Northfield, Minn.*

**Thomas O'Connell '21**  
*Fairfield, Conn.*

**Stephen Owen '22**

**Griffin Renner '22**  
*Alpharetta, Ga.*

**Nahiyan Sharif '22**

**Dalton Simms '23**  
*Rochester, Minn.*

**Chris Tadros '23**  
*Eden Prairie, Minn.*

**William Toth '23**  
*Lexington, Ky.*

**Nathan Twardock '23**  
*Grayslake, Ill.*

**David Villarama '21**  
*Rochester, Minn.*

## Send Us Your News

Inside this newsletter is a form for you to update your contact information and send us updates on your personal life. We'd love to feature you and update our brothers on what's new! Please fill it out, fold it, and mail it back to our communications team.