



# THE BETA Piper

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA AND THE BETA PI CHAPTER

SPRING 2021

## PATCHING THINGS UP IN 2021 New Roof Is Set for Installation



**A**fter months of evaluating next steps with our chapter house roof, alumni leaders of the Housing Corporation approved work in March to install a new roof system after the school year. Work is planned to begin in late May.

Once installed, the roof system on the chapter house will be new from top to bottom. The existing roof, as well as legacy sub-surfaces of old roofing materials underneath it, will be removed. Then, the new reinforced EPDM fully adhered roofing system will be installed.

### Made Possible by Alumni Support

The project will cost approximately \$68,000. It will be partially paid for by the generous gifts of alumni in recent months. The remaining amount will be paid for with the society's cash reserves and loan financing, provided by the University of Minnesota Foundation.

The roof issue arose last summer, when a variety of leaks in the house occurred. Several roofing problems were found, including many membrane tears, and bad joints and seams. Several experts inspected the roof, and consistently shared a recommendation to start over with a new system. Going forward, we expect to only access the roof for annual inspections. The chapter will not have access, and new locks and hatches are being installed, as well.

### Correcting Pipe Issues

Housing Corporation leaders have also addressed leaking pipes in the chapter house foyer and chapter room in recent months.

Between the foyer and Greiner (living) room on the main floor, a broken water pipe was found in December, after chapter members discovered water damage showing in the ornate plaster along the wall and ceiling. To fix the issue, the ceiling needed to be opened up, the pipe needed to be fixed, and the space needed to be dried out. The finishing touches are still in progress.

Water has also impacted the chapter room ceiling, caused by asbestos-insulated steam pipes. This is the third occurrence of this issue, so the Housing Corporation elected to mitigate all remaining asbestos-wrapped pipes in the space for a cost of \$3,200. Lastly, snaps are owed to by **Cian Chase '07** for his many efforts to resolve the water-related issues at the house during the past year.

Yours in \_kai\_,

**Branden Peterson '05**

Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota  
branden@betathetapisocietymn.org



*The chapter house roof will be fully removed and replaced in May 2021.*

## Welcoming Our 2,000th Member in 2021 Meet Our Milestone Initiate!

**O**n February 6, 2021, the 2,000th member of the Beta Pi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi was initiated into our brotherhood. The individual to receive this honor was none other than **Sean Farrell '23**, an industrial and systems engineering major from Kohler, Wisconsin. Brother Farrell started his pledging journey at Beta Theta Pi in the fall of 2019. Like many who came before him, he joined to find a community on campus to call home. Unfortunately, due to the rigor of the chemical engineering major and not finding passion for his education in the fall of 2019, he did not make the GPA requirement to be initiated into the fraternity. However, this

did not deter our competitive-spirited Brother Farrell from finding his passion and continuing with Beta Theta Pi.



With aid from brothers, Brother Farrell decided to change his major to industrial and systems engineering and continue pledging Beta Theta Pi, which set him on a trajectory of success. Since then, he has increased his cumulative GPA by 0.4, accepted a cooperative education opportunity as a quality engineer at the Kohler Company, and has never felt better. Brother Farrell attributes his recent success to the

*(Continued on page 4)*





**Left:** Brothers Lideen '23 and Farrell '23 leading a new member education meeting in early March.



**Right:** Brothers packaging food at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan, Minn.

## Normalcy on the Horizon at Beta Pi Chapter

**W**ith the semester winding down and vaccination opportunities opening up, there is a lot of hope for the future of the chapter. Throughout this semester, the active chapter has pushed to have more in-person events and meetings as much as the circumstances allowed. With this goal, the responsibility of planning safe and responsible gatherings fell onto the shoulders of our executive team. Through their hard work we were able to host hybrid meetings, with options to attend in person and masked up or through a Zoom call. We also brought back internal chapter events such as brotherhood boot hockey, intramurals, and March Madness watch parties. The brothers of Beta Pi also got creative when it came to interacting with other chapters on campus. As the semester comes to a close, brothers are hopeful to bring back regular chapter operations this fall.

### FOCUSING ON RECRUITMENT

As we near graduation, we must say farewell

to nearly 30 seniors. Although this is near half our chapter, we are hopeful and excited for the emphasized importance of recruitment. We initiated nine brothers this spring and have a seven-man pledge class. **Chris Tadros '22**, our recruitment chairman, has several recruitment events planned in the coming months to cultivate interest from the incoming freshmen class as well as friends of brothers. Through his guidance and the assistance from the rest of the chapter, it is our goal to welcome a multitude of men that exhibit qualities of a Beta. If you know of any young men who express interest in Greek life and share our values, please pass on my or Chris' contact information to them.

### CONTINUING PHILANTHROPIC TRADITIONS

We look forward to the return of more traditional events and were excited to host our annual "Beta Theta Pies" philanthropy on April 15. Guests were invited to pie a brother in the face or enjoy a delicious slice. They could

attend in person or watch it live from their home through the streaming website Twitch. This year, our goal was to raise \$2,000 for the Aurora Center. This organization provides survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence with resources, support, and education on the University of Minnesota campus.

### THANK YOU

On behalf of the active chapter, I would like to thank our parents, family, and alumni for your continued support—especially over the past year. The pandemic has been a struggle for everyone, but thanks to our support system we have stayed afloat and focused. Fall 2021 is tentatively planned to have in-person classes and regular campus operations. Thank you again for your support in the success of Beta Pi.

Yours in \_kai\_,  
**Ethan Pickering '22**  
Chapter President  
picke202@umn.edu

## ALUMNI SOCIETY FINANCIAL UPDATE

**A**s the Beta Theta Pi Society of MN, we have made positive strides in the past few months to improve our financial position and address pressing needs at the chapter house. First, we are thankful to alumni who responded to our end-of-year appeal to support the upcoming roof replacement project. In total, 36 alumni brothers have donated \$8,125 so far toward the effort; the list of donors is below/on page 3.

In recent weeks, we completed the refinancing of our chapter house during times of historically low interest rates. We were also able to pay off a significant portion of our short-term loans and improve our ongoing cash flow. Overall, our organization now has \$474,000 in long-term debt. While donations and savings will help us with the roof project, we need additional capital to complete the project. To help, we worked with the University of Minnesota Foundation to refinance our existing UMN

Greek Loan. Instead of taking on additional debt, we will be extending our current loan, holding our debt balance at the current level.

Our objective for the near future is to establish a budgeting procedure to help us improve our long-term financial planning. While we are in a more stable financial situation, the maintenance-related expenses and building repairs always continue on our 94-year-old chapter house. Alumni support is critical to building repairs, improvements, and servicing debt. Thank you for your support.

In \_kai\_,  
**Jack Liang '13**  
Treasurer, Beta Theta Pi Society of MN  
jliang42@gmail.com





*The newly initiated members on initiation night, February 6. From left: Jacob Bechtold '23, Josh Brown '23, William Allan '24, Owen Ratgen '24, Stephen Owen '23, Christopher Tadros '22, Nahiyian Shariff '22, Logan Dahl '22, and Sean Farrell '23.*

## Welcome, New Members

### FALL 2021 INITIATES

**William Allan '24** • Prior Lake, Minn.

**Jacob Bechtold '23** • Bloomington, Minn.

**Josh Brown '23** • Somerset, Wis.

**Logan Dahl '22** • Maple Grove, Minn.

**Sean Farrell '23** • Kohler, Wis.

**Stephen Owen '23** • Brookfield, Wis.

**Owen Ratgen '24** • Lino Lake, Minn.

**Nahiyian Sharif '22** • Maple Grove, Minn.

**Chris Tadros '22** • Minnetonka, Minn.

### SPRING 2021 PLEDGE CLASS

**Ryan Ballot** • St. Anthony, Minn.

**Matthew Basken** • Prairie du Sac, Wis.

**Benjamin Elsner** • Verona, Wis.

**Trevor Frane** • Plover, Wis.

**Alexander Halatsis** • Centerville, Minn.

**Ryker Rofshus** • Albert Lea, Minn.

**Thomas Wolfe** • Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

## YOUR SUPPORT RAISES THE ROOF

### Thank You, Generous Brothers!

As Jack wrote on page 2, thank you so much to the brothers who have aided in our roof replacement efforts. Beta Pi thrives thanks to brothers like you. Also, thank you to all the alumni participants of last year's golf outing. Proceeds from the event have been allocated to this roof project, as well.

Gerald T. Carroll '55

Donn P. Barber '56

Kingsley R. Ondich '56

James C. Thorp '57

Dennis W. Potter '59

Stanley A. Thompson '59

G. Charles Champlin '60

Bruce E. Johnson '61

Roger N. Johnson '62

John B. Rovick '62

J. Dixon Tews '63

William L. Valentine '63

James D. Acers '64

John H. Avery '64

Richard L. George '66

William L. Laakso '69

David L. Mitchell '69

Jeffrey O. Stewart '69

Jeffrey D. Ohm '70

Irving P. Knelman '71

Alfred S. Alliegro '81

Paul W. Barber '84

William H. Madden Jr. '86

David A. Horner '91

Guy L. Andrews '92

David F. Servais '92

Bradley J. Christ '97

Nicholas M. Lampi '99

Mark L. Nevermann '99

Nathan J. Deno '01

Scott J. Heineman '03

Richard M. Norton '03

Travis M. Fischer '05

John D. Nerva '06

Colin N. Close '13

Adam J. Long '19

## OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

**Gerry R. Wilson '52**, former chapter president of Beta Pi, passed on to Our Mystic Shrine on November 4, 2020 in Temecula, Calif. Gerry founded Wilson Creek Winery with his family in 2000. His motive to start the winery was to reunite his scattered family and to create a legacy that will endure through the generations. He poured his hard-earned retirement into the business so the family can could together again. Gerry is remembered for his kindness, compassion, love, and graciousness.

**James "Jim" B. Stoltman '57** passed on to Our Mystic Shrine on September 11, 2019. Jim was a devoted archaeologist who felt privileged to serve as a teacher, researcher, and counselor to those who entered UW-Madison's Department of Anthropology. When he wasn't digging in the dirt with his students or analyzing ancient pottery under a microscope, he loved to play tennis, drink a good martini, travel with Sallie, fish, sip fine cognac, play poker, adore his grandchildren, listen to favorite songs (most notably "Ripple"), and throw overripe bananas while vigorously gesturing during meetings.

**David Ziegenhagen '58** passed on to Our Mystic Shrine on January 29, 2020, in Cloverdale, Calif. Husband to Mary, brother to Barbara, John, and Peg, and father to Eric and Marc, David was always full of warmth and jokes, and played a variety of music instruments. He was the founder of the *Burnsville Current* and *Current* newspapers, CEO of Stratis Health, and served in leadership roles with the U.S. Peace Corps, Mental Health Association, and other not-for-profit organizations.

**Robert E. Murphy '69** passed on to Our Mystic Shrine on April 17, 2020. Rob worked for many years at IBM in sales and sales management and was part owner of a business equipment company. Rob was an avid golfer and member at Minnesota Valley Country Club for many years. He also loved horse racing. He loved his family and friends and delighted in phoning friends on a regular basis to remind them of favorite stories.

**Ben Peterson '02** passed on to Our Mystic Shrine on March 23, 2021 in Fergus Falls. He enjoyed all sports and played in rec softball and volleyball leagues in the Twin Cities. He played on the basketball and baseball teams and was manager for the girls' volleyball team while attending high school in Moose Lake. He was a movie fanatic and especially enjoyed science fiction and Justice League movies.

# Got a Story Suggestion or Feedback?

We welcome a future story idea or feedback for this newsletter; they help us improve! Email them to **Branden Peterson '05** at [branden@betathetapisocietymn.org](mailto:branden@betathetapisocietymn.org).

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## Alumni Volunteer Opportunities

Got time and talents to give back to Beta Pi? Our alumni society welcomes new volunteers to contribute to our efforts to support the undergraduates, help with the chapter house, and assist with alumni relations activities. Reach out and share your interest via email to [betathetapi.minnesota@gmail.com](mailto:betathetapi.minnesota@gmail.com).

## Visit Us Online



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



Beta Theta Pi –  
University of Minnesota



Beta Theta Pi Alumni –  
University of Minnesota



@beta\_minnesota



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Join Us For Our Beta Alumni Golf Outing

Our tradition of an annual Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota golf outing will continue on Friday, June 25 at Keller Golf Course in Maplewood, MN. All Beta brothers are invited to participate in this afternoon of brotherhood and golf. We hope you join us! Sign up as a single or as a group.

To sign up, contact **Brent Anderson '85** at [brent.a.anderson@ubs.com](mailto:brent.a.anderson@ubs.com) or (612) 280-3150.

## Welcoming Our 2,000th Member

*(Continued from page 1)*

quality men at Beta Theta Pi who greeted him with open arms by aiding him in his endeavors and standing by him.

After an extended COVID-19 pledging semester that turned into a year, Brother Farrell was finally initiated into the brotherhood in February of 2021 as the 2000th member. Since becoming an active member, he has fulfilled the responsibility of assistant to new member education. Next

year, he looks to potentially take up the executive position of new member education to relay all the benefits that the chapter has given him and guide the pledges in their journey of becoming active members.

Overall, Brother Farrell is deeply humbled by the privilege of being the 2000th member of our chapter and is looking forward to memories he will make with brothers in the upcoming years.