

# THE BETA Piper

CELEBRATING 135 YEARS OF BETA PI

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

FALL 2025

## A FRESH PATH FORWARD

### Alumni Society Update

As we work our way through another successful year, Beta Pi Chapter and the Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota are entering a season of renewed energy and focus. With new leadership in place and a number of exciting projects already underway, we're building a strong foundation for the year ahead!

#### BOARD RESTRUCTURING

This summer marked a major step forward in the evolution of our alumni board. In May, we officially elected a new slate of alumni volunteers led by **Branden Peterson '05** as the new Housing Corporation president. Additionally, **Bob Brunmeier '84** will be filling the newly integrated position of executive vice president of the Society.

These updates were designed to better reflect current needs and to make it easier for more brothers to contribute, including a myriad of different Beta PIs spanning across the decades. Clearer term lengths, more defined expectations, and several newly created roles are already helping us move more efficiently and strategically. We're grateful to the alumni who stepped up to serve and to those who passed the torch with care and commitment.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

We still face pressing infrastructure challenges, particularly with the original cast-iron water and steam pipes that have served the chapter house for nearly a century. These aging systems are increasingly prone to failure, creating risks for both safety and property damage. We are actively developing a detailed plan and

timeline for their replacement, with the goal of completing this critical work in forthcoming summers.

We are also exploring ways to make the chapter house a more comfortable, modern, and competitive place to live. With on-campus apartment options becoming more popular, living outside the chapter house has become increasingly common—making it even more important to invest in improvements that encourage brothers to live in. Our intention is not just to fix what's broken, but also to invest in a living environment that reflects the pride, tradition, and ambition of Beta Pi.

Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,  
**Tyler Drew '25**  
VP Alumni Engagement  
tylerdrewcom@gmail.com

## Alumni Board Roster

President  
**Branden Peterson '05**

Executive Vice President  
**Bob Brunmeier '84**

Secretary  
OPEN

Vice President of Finance  
**Paul Vilella '04**

Vice President of Property Management  
**Ed Pelava '87**

VP of Risk and Compliance  
**Steve Edwards '05**

VP of Alumni Engagement  
**Tyler Drew '25**

VP of Development  
**Jake Polzin '24**

Sergeant in Arms  
**Paul Goff '25**

General Member  
**Bill Madden '86**

General Member/Ex-Officio  
**Scott J. Heineman '03**

General Member  
**Jim Curtis '86**

## Welcome, New Members

Adam Barry | Woodbine, Iowa  
Aidan Bendickson | Fox Point, Wis.  
Christopher Bengry | Hopkins, Minn.  
Logan Bradley | Pardeeville, Wis.  
Adam Christopherson\* | Edina, Minn.  
Will Dardis | St. Louis, Mo.

Joe Gratz | Atwater, Minn.  
Ben Groebner | New Ulm, Minn.  
Alex Hunt | Minneapolis, Minn.  
Truman Hutson | Chanhassen, Minn.  
Brandon Pena | Roselle, Ill.  
George Pick | Melbourne, Australia

Adriel Raygoza | St. Paul, Minn.  
Bodee Schmiesing | New Ulm, Minn.  
Dane Tessmer | Woodbury, Minn.  
Tian Yu\* | Beijing, China

\*Spring 2025



# Three Decades on the Green

This year marked the 30th Annual Beta Pi Golf Tournament, a cherished tradition that brings brothers together for a day of camaraderie, competition, and giving back. Held at the scenic Keller Golf Course, the event welcomed 25 attendees and successfully raised over \$2,000 to support chapter programming and alumni engagement.

Congratulations to the winning team—**Danny Peters '25**, **Tyler Drew '25**, and **Logan Dahl '22**—who took first place with an impressive performance. A special thank you goes to **Brent Anderson '85**, whose continued dedication to organizing and managing this event over the years has played a vital role in its lasting success. His commitment has helped make the tournament a meaningful annual gathering for brothers across generations.

Thank you to all who participated and supported the tournament. We look forward to celebrating again next year!



## BETA PI BROTHERS TAKE FLIGHT



**Miles Powell '22** is currently serving as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the U.S. Navy, stationed at Naval Air Station Meridian in Mississippi. He is progressing through the Navy's strike flight pipeline, flying the T-45C Goshawk as part of an intensive curriculum that includes approximately 160 flight hours—40 of which are solo. Since commissioning after graduating in 2022, Powell has spent the past two years in flight school. He is on track to earn his Wings of Gold in April 2026, after which he will move on to fly either the F/A-18 Super Hornet or the F-35C Lightning II. Upon completion, he will serve a minimum of eight years on active duty.

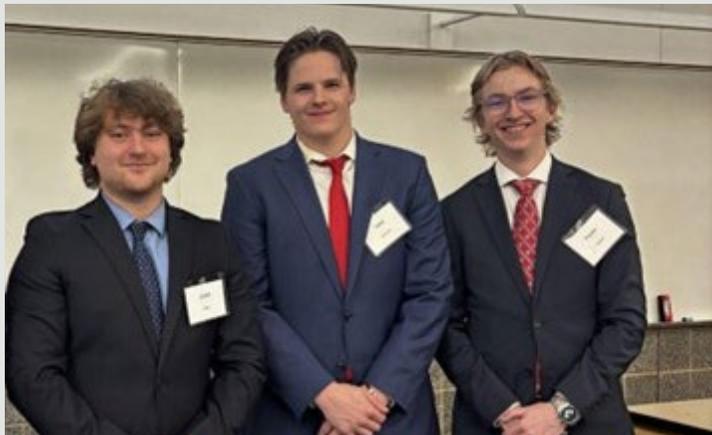


**Jake Polzin '24** is advancing his career in commercial aviation. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, he recently passed his Certified Flight Instructor checkride—a major milestone that qualifies him to train new pilots and brings him one step closer to flying for a major airline.

We look forward to watching both brothers continue to excel in the skies!



## Brothers Excel at Carlson Case Competition



**Caleb Maas '26, Gabriel Anderson '26, and Payton Whalen '28** (pictured above) proudly represented Beta Pi at the 18th annual Carlson School of Management Supply Chain Case Competition, hosted at the University of Minnesota. Competing against other top undergraduate teams within the university, the trio earned an impressive second-place finish.

Their presentation stood out to a panel of judges made up of industry professionals from a range of Twin Cities-based companies, who praised their clear communication, sharp analysis, and collaborative approach. The achievement highlights not only their individual strengths but also the professional development, teamwork, and support system fostered within Beta Pi.

## Memory and Our Mystic Shrine

**James Carter '70** entered Our Mystic Shrine on November 23, 2023, at age 75. A proud South St. Paul native, Jim played football at the U of M then spent nine seasons with the Green Bay Packers. After retiring from the NFL, he built a successful business and became deeply involved in addiction recovery work, helping countless others. Known for his loyalty, humor, and generosity, Jim was a devoted husband, friend, and teammate. He is survived by his wife, Victoria Miller, and a wide circle of loved ones who will miss him deeply.

**Roger Gilles '60** entered Our Mystic Shrine on May 4, 2025, at age 87. A Minneapolis native and Evans Scholar, Roger lettered in golf and graduated with a degree in philosophy. After serving in the U.S. Army Reserves, he built a successful career in business, eventually becoming owner and CEO of Total Glass Distributing. Roger had a lifelong love for learning, completing a master's in management later in life and teaching at the college level. He was known for his quick wit, steady presence, and love of learning, which he carried throughout his life. Roger is survived by his wife, Shirley, daughter Renee, and four grandchildren, all of whom carry forward his legacy with love.

## CHAPTER GOALS



**Rank among the top three fraternities on campus in GPA by the end of the academic year.** Academic Chairman **Brett McGraw '26** is driving this effort through structured grade checks, peer-led study sessions, and a new recognition system for brothers achieving a 3.5 or higher. The chapter will also track cumulative GPA progress each semester to ensure accountability and momentum.

**Achieve 100% new-member participation in brotherhood events, educational programming, and chapter meetings.** Each pledge has been assigned a Big Brother, and a semester-long development plan—including workshops, house history sessions, and leadership training—is underway to ensure full integration and a strong start to their Beta Pi experience.

**Increase house residency from 19 to at least 24 by fall 2026.**

A targeted outreach plan, including house tours, updated pricing info, and live-in incentives, will be launched this spring to secure commitments from current underclassmen.

## WHY DID THEY CHOOSE BETA PI?



Getting to know brothers has been great—and getting to know people on a personal level has been even better. I have appreciated talking to other finance majors in the house, and the advice I have received has been phenomenal. Beta seemed so well connected, from the youngest guys to the oldest, and I hope to strengthen such connections in the future.” —**Logan Bradley**



“I first came by during the summer. **Ashton Demmer '26**, making me feel valued and cared for, was instrumental in my joining the house. I appreciate that the conversations aren't just surface level; the connections are what separates us from other houses.” —**Will Dardis**



“It was an easy decision for me because of the quality members and the house. Everything is upkept and in order, which reflects its members well. Everyone is socially responsible and well connected. People are a team here.” —**Joe Gratz**

# The Kind of Man You'd Stand Beside

Think of the men you'd trust in your corner—the ones who...

- ✓ SHOW UP
- ✓ LEAD BY EXAMPLE
- ✓ MAKE OTHERS BETTER

That's the kind of man we're looking for to join Beta Pi.

If you know a young man who fits that description, we want to meet him!

Please send his info to **Ashton Demmer '27** demme029@umn.edu so we can get in touch and show him what our brotherhood is all about.

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

 @beta\_minnesota



*A fall weekend of brothers catching up. Thank you to Evan Boerboom '26 for hosting at his house!*



*Congratulations on first place, Jonny Day '26!*



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## NEW BETA HEIGHTS

### *Our Chapter's Exceptional Morale*

**B**eta Pi has turned the page on a thrilling new semester! As a fraternity, our chapter has continued its legacy of service, leadership, and exceptional brotherhood moving into fall 2025.

This summer, brothers **Damien Lyon '28**, **Westin Allen '28**, **Payton Whalen '28**, **William Luther '28**, and **Aidan Flannery '28** had the opportunity to attend the Wooden Institute in Beta's birthplace of Oxford, Ohio. The event is Beta Theta Pi's hallmark program that develops initiated members into quality, principled leaders by teaching them the fraternity's history, values, and what **John Wooden, Purdue 1932** believed to indicate success.

In terms of athletic endeavors, **Noah Quigley '28** made headlines at the Army's famed Air Assault school, nearly breaking the national 12-mile Ruck March record as he finished as the course's Honor Graduate. The 12-mile event is recognized as the culminating event for the course's completion. **Jonny Day '26** made progress toward being a Pro-Card bodybuilder,

taking first as an amateur competitor at the Los Campeones Natural Cup this July.

Our members remain steadfast in fulfilling their philanthropic duties. **Paul Goff '25** and William Luther worked exceptionally hard putting together the annual Beta Theta Pies charity event for the Aurora Center and its mission to prevent sexual violence at UMN.

Beta Pi pledged roughly \$1,000 to support its efforts. **Logan Jakubowski '27**, an Aurora Center Advocate, and **Purdy-Hilts '27**, a Boynton Health Sexual Violence advocate, both contribute tirelessly as volunteers.

Chapter President **Jacob Loveall '26** has done an exceptional job as a leader. Many brothers would say Beta Pi is at an all-time high under his tenure, significantly improving member attendance for chapter meetings and events. Brother Loveall has proven to be a pillar of the house's present growth, and we cannot be more appreciative of his efforts.

Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,  
**Noah Quigley '28**