



# THE BETA PiPiper

CELEBRATING 134 YEARS OF BETA PI

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETA THETA PI SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

SUMMER 2024



Antony Hanson '25, Samuel Garber '26, and Aarav Paul '27 make tamales during a brotherhood event.

## THANK YOU, Generous Donors!

Will More Brothers Step Up Today to Support Our Chapter Needs?

We extend our sincere gratitude to our brothers and friends listed below for donating \$4,049 to Beta Theta Pi so far in 2024. These alumni continue to be Men of Principle and are dedicated to ensuring brothers of today and tomorrow will thrive. Our alumni remain an important part of the success of Beta Pi, and your support will go a long way.

### Want to support our spring 2024 appeal?

Scan the QR code to visit [tinyurl.com/mnbetapidonateannual](https://tinyurl.com/mnbetapidonateannual), or mail in your gift with the enclosed envelope to contribute today.

- Karen W. Acers
- In memory of James D. Acers '64
- John F. Enghauser II '59
- Bruce E. Johnson '61
- Jan F. Ebbert '63
- J. Dixon Tews '63
- William L. Valentine '63
- Richard L. George '66
- William L. Laakso '69
- Robert A. Stein '69
- E. Walt Slibeck '70
- Alfred S. Alliegro '81
- Paul W. Barber '85
- Bradley J. Christ '97
- Nicholas M. Lampi '99
- Mark L. Nevermann '99
- Benjamin R. Elliott '05
- John J. Hutchinson '07
- Ryan A. Marek '12

## PRESERVING OUR HOME

### Update from the House Corporation Board

As summer 2024 begins, we'd like you to know and be proud of the fact that our Minnesota chapter is doing well. As alumni volunteers, several of us get opportunities to engage with the chapter and get to know this welcoming, caring, and respectful group of young men.

#### Kitchen Upgrade

In recent months, our House Corporation has been working on a plan to replace the chapter's commercial dishwasher. The existing unit regularly leaks and is more than 30 years old. We expect to have the new unit installed and ready for the fall semester, at a cost of approximately \$16,000.

#### Living Room Patch Job

In the chapter house's living room, visitors will certainly notice a large hole in the ceiling. In winter, another slow leak occurred in a 100-year-old return line to the boiler, which led to a 2x3-foot chunk of plaster ceiling crashing to the floor.

Thankfully, no one was injured, and the slow leak was stopped. These old lines in ceilings on the first couple of levels are beyond their lifespan and will likely cause more leaks until we stop using them.

#### What's Next?

Aside from these two projects, we're beginning to discuss more work on our entire property. For example, if you were to visit our block on University Avenue, you would note that all neighboring fraternity houses on the row now have metal fences and/or artificial turf installed on the front facades.

As always, we seek to remain competitive and promote Beta Pi as the best choice of fraternity for potential new members and returning residents alike.

Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,  
**Scott Heineman '03**  
President, Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota  
[hein0219@umn.edu](mailto:hein0219@umn.edu)

OUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT. GIVE TODAY!



Beta Theta Pi Society of Minnesota

Beta Pi's Annual Campaign

An investment in the future of Beta Pi Chapter will ensure our continued success at The University of Minnesota and provide a legacy upon which to build an even greater brotherhood.



# CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

## Undergraduates Wrap Up Successful Year



Brothers past and present unite! Our seniors enjoy their last formal as undergraduates with alumni Carter Volk '22 and Thomas Wolfe '23.



Conner DeJong '23, Vincent Nguyen '25 and Nathan Vielmetti '27 man a table during the Beta Theta Pies event with Aurora Center.

### Making a Difference

**Cody Sweet '26** successfully organized our annual Light the Row event in December, raising over \$1,000 to prevent sexual violence on campus. Additionally, **Simon Horning '24** and **Paul Goff '26** continued our longstanding relationship with the Aurora Center by volunteering as violence prevention advocates. Paul received the Outstanding Service Award due to his efforts as an advocate. Our annual philanthropy event, Beta Theta Pies, took place on April 19, and we ended up with another \$2,500 for this worthy cause.

### Bettering Ourselves

Before leaving for winter break, we wished **Zachary Ahearn '25** good luck as he departed

to study abroad in Taiwan. During the break, various executive team members attended the Keystone Regional Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas. There, they developed essential leadership skills while meeting Betas from across North America.

### Hitting the Books

Continuing our pattern of dedication to academics, Beta Pi Chapter earned a 3.42 GPA in the fall semester, again ranking in the top five in IFC. Our academic chairmen, **Owen Ratgen '24** and **Kyle Nilson '27**, have committed the members to attend weekly study events and monthly grade checks to further our academic achievements this year.

### Hello, Goodbye

With five seniors graduating, we're excited for the next chapters of our brothers' journeys. These men have ardently embodied our chapter's five core values and will continue to do so as they transition into the professional world. We are also proud to announce we initiated two new brothers, **Sohom Chatterjee '27** and **Christopher Dixon '26**, this semester. They already embody the five core values, and we are happy to welcome them to the brotherhood.

Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,  
**Mikil R. Foss '26**  
President

## BEFORE THEY GO... Parting Words from Some of Our Seniors

*"Beta has been instrumental in making lasting memories with my friends and developing the skills that will help me succeed for the rest of my life."*

—Ryan J. Ballot

*"Beta has taught me I will always want to associate myself with people who I see as having good morals, which has led to meaningful friendships I will have for years to come regardless of where I go after college."*

—Conner B. DeJong

*"Beta has been an amazing community that helped me learn and grow while being challenged to improve myself as a man and a leader."*

—Simon C. Horning

## CHAPTER GOALS

1

Successfully attract 20-25 new members by implementing effective recruitment strategies. Employ novel methods to establish connections with all members and encourage their enthusiastic involvement in our group.

2

Improve academic performance by implementing strategies to further our success, such as grade checks and scheduled study events.

3

Build community bonds by getting involved in local outreach programs and projects and establishing relationships with groups in our area. By working and offering our time, we aim to make a difference while demonstrating the importance of unity and helping others.



# Always Room to Stay Connected

## Why David Servais '92 Decided to Volunteer with Beta

*“Fraternity life provided me a great opportunity for personal and professional growth at an early age, and I want to help ensure that others get that opportunity at our chapters.”*



**T**hough he financially supported Beta Pi Chapter in years past, **David Servais '92** found himself unable to get more directly involved for decades. Then, as a recent empty nester, he decided to step up and give back as our newest District Chief. “Fraternity life provided me a great opportunity for personal and professional growth at an early age, and I want to help ensure that others get that opportunity at our chapters,” he said.

“The primary purpose of the District Chief is to be an ambassador for the General Fraternity to the active chapters, advisory teams, and housing corporations in the district,” David explained. “And while I’m just getting up to speed in my role, my key responsibilities will be maintaining open communications and developing strong working relationships with those groups and providing guidance where needed.”

### Forging New Bonds

Coming to UMN from out of state, David looked at the fraternity scene to find friends and a support network. Beta Pi introduced him to a group of young men from diverse backgrounds with a shared interest in building something positive. “Conversations with **Wally Bjorkstrand '88**, **Scott Martin '89**, **James Keeler '89**, and other leaders in the house played a big role in my choosing Beta.”

The fraternity provided David with leadership and management opportunities not readily available outside the Greek system; he was

fortunate to serve in roles like sergeant-at-arms, pledge educator, and president. Major events like Homecoming, Campus Carnival, and Initiation Week always stand out, but when David sees his fellow alumni, they reminisce the most about the nicknames, jokes or pranks, and other organic experiences that come from young college men living together. In that way, Beta taught him to find common interests with other people and appreciate the differences that made them unique.

“I’m looking forward to engaging with the active chapters in the district to better understand today’s Greek experience and provide them with support when needed,” he said. “I’m also excited to reacquaint myself with the rituals and the songs that played a big part in all our Beta experiences.”

### Making Bonds Last

As David and his brothers married and started families and careers, he didn’t stay in touch with as many as he would have liked. Having lost a few brothers from his era in recent years reinvigorated him to get involved and reconnect with more—something he hopes to do at Gopher football tailgates, Homecoming, and other reunions in the years to come.

“We all have so many things competing for our time these days, but volunteering or staying engaged doesn’t have to be difficult,” he added. “Simply attending some of the alumni events is a great way to start and learn about the different volunteer opportunities available. If you don’t have time, consider supporting the chapter through financial contributions to help maintain the chapter house. We all know what we put that house through while we were there, and every contribution, regardless of amount, will help ensure it sticks around for our future Beta Pi brothers.”

David lives in Lakeville, Minnesota, where he enjoys following Gopher football and taproom hopping around the Twin Cities with his wife, Kari. To connect or learn more about his District Chief role, find him at [servais\\_d@msn.com](mailto:servais_d@msn.com).

*“We all have so many things competing for our time these days, but volunteering or staying engaged doesn’t have to be difficult.”*

## Welcome, New Members

**Sohom Chatterjee '27**  
Dallas, Texas

**Christopher L. Dixon '26**  
Edina, Minn.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
**Mikil R. Foss '26**

Vice President of Brotherhood  
**Samuel L. Garber '26**

Vice President of Finance  
**Jacob T. Polzin '25**

Vice President of Communications  
**Arnav Jain '26**

Vice President of  
New Member Education  
**Tyler J. Drew '26**

Vice President of Risk Management  
**Nicholas A. Johnson '26**

Vice President of Ritual  
**Jonathan W. Day '26**

Vice President of Programming  
**Connor V. Graf '26**

Vice President of Recruitment  
**Jacob W. Loveall '26**  
[lovea009@umn.edu](mailto:lovea009@umn.edu)

# THE BETA Piper



Mark your calendars  
for this upcoming  
alumni event!

## HOMECOMING PARADE

Friday, October 25,  
at 6 p.m.

1625 University Ave SE

Reunite with brothers  
of all eras at the  
chapter house!

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

Address Service Requested

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PERMIT #570

## Lend a Hand Become a Beta Pi Volunteer

### Are you interested in giving back to Beta?

We invite you to consider volunteering!  
Several opportunities exist for you to lend your  
experience and skills in a variety of ways. This  
is a great way to make a difference, work with  
other Betas, and engage with undergraduates.

For more information, contact Beta Theta Pi  
Society of MN President **Scott Heineman '03**  
at hein0219@umn.edu.

Here are our top needs at this time:

- Finance/Accounting
- Property Management
- Secretary
- Archivist/Historian
- General Board Members
- Help evaluate needs and vote on motions.



*On Friday, April 26, Beta brothers of various eras returned to the chapter house for an evening of reuniting and dining. It was our first Minnesota spring banquet since the COVID-19 pandemic!*



*After the Beta Doxology, attendees enjoyed a meal around a table that stretched the entire length of the basement.*

## Creating Connections Alumni Event Recap

We recently hosted our first formal alumni gathering in several years, and the turnout was nothing short of spectacular! We were thrilled to welcome over 20 alumni, along with 25 undergraduates, to enjoy a vibrant atmosphere filled with the joy of forging bonds across generations of Beta Pi brothers. The evening was a testament to the enduring camaraderie and spirit that defines Beta. We look forward to making this an annual event, with plans to host another gathering next year.