

CANDLELIGHT

Beta Phi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha • Purdue University
Published by the Beta Phi Foundation



FALL 2008

INSIDE:

BETA PHI
PROMINENT
ON CAMPUS
2

BETA PHI
SUCCESSFUL IN
GRAND PRIZ
3

ALUMNI NEWS
4

**Thank you to all
alumni who have
given to Beta Phi
in 2008!**

Your contributions are greatly appreciated and allow us to provide an environment where our brothers can gain valuable leadership skills, are prepared for a lifetime of community involvement, pursue excellence in their values and achievements, and develop a greater appreciation for the diverse cultures, workplaces, and communities. Your gifts make it possible for Beta Phi to continue its tradition of excellence at Purdue.

Help us reach our goals for 2008 by making a contribution today. Please visit our Web site, www.pikapurdue.org, to see a full list of contributors. Please send checks to:

Beta Phi Foundation
Pi Kappa Alpha at Purdue
P.O. Box 2853
West Lafayette, IN 47996

BETA PHI HOME ASSOCIATION WORKS TO IMPROVE CHAPTER HOUSE

Renovations Taking Place in Library, Computer Room

All hail, Purdue! School has begun and with it another year of fraternity life. I presided over a home association meeting this summer, and I am fresh with the knowledge of improvements to the Chapter House and the accomplishments of the brothers.

I want to let you know about how strong the leadership of our organization remains at Purdue. **Evan Schmitt '09** is starting his second semester as SMC. He takes the position very seriously. He has surrounded himself with an excellent group of elected and appointed officers. At our meeting, he presented an organizational chart breaking down the duties of each office and committee. I'm sure this effort over the summer will result in a very effective administration for the fall semester. Be sure to review Chapter activities at www.purduepikes.com.

Joe Conti '85 has been an active board member for many years and is a past president of the board. He now serves as Chapter advisor and is present at Chapter meetings each month. I very much appreciate his role as a liaison to the Chapter and an advisor to them on issues apart from the physical structure.

We have seen a lot more alumni in attendance at football and basketball events during the past year, which is wonderful. At the same time, we have received some negative feedback about the appearance and condition of the house, primarily dealing with the appearance of the first floor. We also heard similar comments from some parents. We spent the last year looking into this issue and took action over the summer to address several concerns. As we contemplated the changes, we consulted with brother **Greg Louis '85** from Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Greg is an architect and has worked with the Beta Phi Foundation to develop a long-term plan for the house. Before we reached any decisions, we requested and received Greg's input. I want to personally extend my heartfelt thanks to him and to his staff for their efforts on the Fraternity's behalf.

We are remodeling the first floor study room. This is the long conference room on the right side of the hallway as you turn left after coming in the front door. We painted, installed new hardwood flooring, a commercial air conditioner, built-in cabinets, a digital projector, and blinds. Two long tables have been purchased to facilitate studying.

Across the hall is what we have most recently referred to as the computer room. We have found that it is not necessary to provide computers, and therefore, removed the computers and shelving, placed drywall over the block walls, and installed hardwood flooring in this room as well. The closet will contain a multifunction fax/scanner/printer for use by all brothers. We're in the process of purchasing furniture and other decorative fixtures for the room. When completed, this room will have a very strong Pike flavor!

We ordered 18" letters that will spell out "Pi Kappa Alpha" above our front entrance. This will identify us to all passersby in grand style.

(Continued on page 2)

Beta Phi Foundation Prepares for Planned Giving

The Beta Phi Foundation is pleased to offer our Purdue Pike alumni another way to contribute to our Chapter foundation. Some of our alumni have expressed an interest in leaving a gift to Beta Phi Chapter in their estate planning. The foundation is now able to accommodate planned giving and, with our 501(c)(3) IRS status, gifts can be tax deductible. The foundation can receive gifts of stock, bonds, insurance, and real estate.

It is preferred that planned giving to the Beta Phi Foundation be prepared by your accountant or lawyer. If the professionals working with you would like documentation of our 501(c)(3) certification, we would be pleased to accommodate.

Also, if you would like more specific information regarding planned giving and estate planning, please contact me. Any size or type of gift will help provide a solid future for the Pike brotherhood at Purdue University.

In the bonds of φφκκ,
Rich Russell '58

Beta Phi Foundation Board President
(231) 864-3929 | rich@richandphyllis.com

BETA PHI HOME ASSOCIATION

(Continued from page 1)

We are also doing some little things that can have a big impact, such as repainting the basement wainscoting in traditional garnet and gold, touching up the paint in the stairwells and the lobby, and repainting the lines on the basketball court with a new ΠKA at the base of the free throw line. The house will soon be looking stellar!

Of course, these improvements take money. I want to extend my appreciation and that of the board members to the Beta Phi Foundation, which provided us with a grant of \$27,000 to make all of this possible. Ultimately, thanks go to our alumni, who fund the foundation through their annual giving, their participation in the annual golf outing, or their direct contributions to the foundation. In whatever manner or amount you contribute, I want to let you know that we see and feel the effects of that generosity at 629 University.

If you haven't visited recently, there is an alumni room immediately to the left as you enter the front door. This is an open space that once housed the president's room. Accordingly, as an alumnus, you will always have a place of honor within the house.

In closing, I hope that life is treating you well and that you cherish your memories of fraternity life at Purdue. All the best!

Sincerely in φφκκ,
Robert J. Nice '82
 President

Beta Phi Home Association
 rjnice@nice-law.com

P.S. If you ever have specific questions or concerns about Pi Kappa Alpha at Purdue or wish to refer a prospective member for recruitment, you may e-mail me.

Beta Phi Prominent on Campus

Active Members Meet Goals in Campus Involvement, Academics

I hope everyone's summer has gone well and that most of you are planning to catch at least one football game this fall. I appreciate all the feedback I received from our alumni about their satisfactions and concerns regarding the Chapter and facility. We have taken the communication to heart and are ready to meet all issues head on this year.

All Pike members are extremely excited about what we have accomplished and what lays ahead. Past President **Aaron Smith '09** attended the True Pike Challenge in Boulder, Utah. The challenge is an outdoor leadership experience that takes undergraduates through a seven-day field course encounter and pushes them to the limit and beyond. Aaron also represented the Beta Phi Chapter at National Convention.

We have met our goal for improvement in campus involvement. We are represented executively on IFC, Boiler Gold Rush, honorary fraternities, and in the Grand Prix, where our driver finished first among all rookie drivers. We came in first in intramu-

rals this semester and took second overall. Our fraternity G.P.A. was raised by one tenth of a point out of 4.0, which is outstanding. We are well positioned for recruitment this year thanks to our recruitment chairman, who worked hard all summer.

Our Chapter House renovations are a work in progress, but we expect them to be completed soon. We are convinced that this alone will motivate the active members to improve in campus involvement and academics, and we hope to raise our Chapter G.P.A. by at least five tenths of a point this semester.

Please visit our new Web site, www.purduepikes.com, to keep up to date with the active Chapter. I encourage everyone to come by the house if you are on campus to meet the active members. Thanks for your time and BOILER UP!

In the bonds of φφκκ,
Evan Schmitt '09
 SMC
 (812) 598-3332 | [easchmit@purdue.edu](mailto: easchmit@purdue.edu)

RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Alumni, we value your referrals. Please submit recommendations to **Evan Schmitt '09** at [easchmit@purdue.edu](mailto: easchmit@purdue.edu).

In an effort to keep you updated and informed of Beta Phi news, we ask that you visit our Web site at www.pikapurdue.org and update your mailing and e-mail addresses.

Alumni Enjoy Fifth Annual Pike Golf Tournament

More than 65 Beta Phis Attend

The fifth annual Pike golf tournament was held on Saturday, June 21, at Purdue's Kampen Course. More than 65 brothers attended the event with first-time attendees from as far away as Hawaii (**John Romanowski '86**) and Baltimore (**Steve Clausman '85**). The day started with lunch at the course followed by a scramble format. Prizes were awarded for best drives, closest to the pin, and lowest team score. The winning score was 13 under with two teams tied at 12 under.

After the golf outing everyone returned to the Chapter House, where dinner was served and prizes awarded. After a quick clean-up the crowd headed out to some of the local watering holes to catch up and tell many of the same stories that have only grown over the years. Thanks to the younger brothers for keeping the alumni entertained. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended this year's event. It is great to see new faces every year.

Next year's golf outing will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009, at Purdue University.



Will get cutline information from client.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended this year's event. It is great to see new faces every year.

Beta Phi Successful in Grand Prix

Alumni Involvement Contributes to Success

Beta Phi was extremely successful in the Grand Prix this year. Our return to the track was tremendous! Keep in mind this was a rookie team, rookie driver, and a completely new cart, and we were sponsored almost entirely by alumni. The Pike Flyer gained speed during practice and was easily fast enough to make the field. However, a mishap during qualifications forced us to start the day with the sprint races, but we dominated our heat and qualified for the main event. After beginning the race in last place, **Ben Phillips '09** (under the coaching of **Doug Wright '86**) finished 11th! He was honored as top rookie in the field. Next year looks very promising as the team and driver will all return. We are considering putting together a spring alumni event for the Grand Prix.

You will find an article about our annual golf tournament on page 2—another tremendous event. I know other alumni enjoy seeing brothers from their pledge class as much I do. If you're not a golfer, then join us for dinner at the house and socializing that evening. We have settled on the Saturday after Father's Day for our future events, so mark your calendars!

We assembled a team made up of members of the foundation board, home association, and active Chapter to address several key issues:

1. Improve perception—too many times the alumni only hear about the negative things that go on. We need to do a better job of communicating and providing evidence of all the good news.
2. Increase alumni attendance for events such as football and basketball games and organized alumni events.
3. Develop and nurture a closer relationship between all three organizations.

We hope by improving these areas that both the alumni and active members will feel confident in Beta Phi and work together to improve the Chapter.

Our Pike Old Masters program is becoming a great success. Last spring **Brian Doolittle '70**, **Steve Mathy '81**, and **Russ Strobach '84** were our distinguished guests. We are moving the timing up to December for the 2008 event. We feel this will allow more time

for potential job or internship opportunities for the undergraduates. We already have one alumnus committed and are looking for two or three more. Please contact me if you have an interest in becoming a Pike Old Master.

Don't forget about our annual Pike reunion on the weekend of October 3-5. Catch up with your Pike brothers and cheer on the

Boilermakers as they take on Penn State! I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Visit our Web site, www.pikapurdue.org, for more information.

In the bonds of $\phi\phi\kappa\alpha$,

Joe Conti '85

Chapter Advisor

(812) 204-3623 | jconti@landstar.com

Entrepreneur Learned from the Best

SPOTLIGHT ON HARRY F. HIXSON JR. '60

Harry Hixson '60 knew that dorm life at Purdue was not for him. When he found out that Navy ROTC friend **Scott Fitch '62** pledged Pi Kappa Alpha, Harry decided fraternity life might be worth a try.

Beta Phi became a home away from home for Harry and provided him with many growth and leadership opportunities. "I was recruitment chairman my junior year and SMC my senior year. Learning to balance my academic work with the demands of fraternity life was a big help to me later in my career when I had work and family demands to balance."

One of Harry's favorite Beta Phi memories is of his pledge class walkout when they disabled the house heating system. Harry also fondly remembers the costume party dance when he and other brothers cleared out the dorm and used it as a dance floor. "My date and I went as a scar-faced gangster and his moll."

While at Purdue, Harry studied chemistry and chemical engineering on a Navy ROTC scholarship and graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1960. After serving in the Navy, Harry returned to Purdue and earned a Ph.D. in physical biochemistry in 1970. Harry also had the opportunity to attend the Executive MBA Program at the University of Chicago where Abbott Laboratories sponsored him. He earned his MBA in 1978 and was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree by Purdue in 1999. At Abbott, he met George Rathmann, the founder of Amgen. He joined George at Amgen and eventually became president and chief operating officer.

Although Harry has spent a lot of time in the classroom, he knows that leadership and real-world learning are important. Harry believes



that leadership training should begin as early as possible. "My experience in Pi Kappa Alpha and in the Navy provided me with an early start in leadership training." Harry thinks it is important to surround himself with strong leaders in order to become a leader, and that is reflected in his leadership style. "I try to be open-minded and listen seriously to employee ideas and opinions. I try to reach a consensus among the management team on major decisions. I also try to be available and manage by 'walking around' the laboratories and offices frequently. I want employees to think of me as a reasonable and trustworthy person."

Harry credits much of his success to learning from the best early in his career, and he thinks recent graduates should make every effort to do the same. "Find an industry or technology area that interests you. Go to work for the number one or two ranked company in that industry, learn their business, and get all of the in-house training you can get. Then identify a service or need that your company is not providing. Go out and start a company that provides that service."

Harry is the chairman of BrainCells, a private San Diego biotechnology company he co-founded with Dr. Fred Gage. Harry is also on the board of three public biotechnology companies, Sequenom, Arena Pharmaceuticals, and Infinity Pharmaceuticals. Harry serves on the board of directors for the San Diego Opera, is a Cub Scout den leader and a PAC committee chairman.

In his free time Harry enjoys listening to classical music and opera, playing piano, and sailing with friends and family on his 42-foot sailboat. Harry and his wife, Teresa, live in La Jolla, California, with their children, Harry III and Claire-Marie. Harry also has two grown daughters, Ashley and Blair.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Sixth Annual Purdue
Pike Reunion**

October 3-5, 2008
Purdue vs. Penn State

**Sixth Annual Purdue Pike
Golf Tournament**

June 20, 2009
Purdue University

For more information, visit our Web site:
www.pikapurdue.org

BETA PHI HOME ASSOCIATION BOARD

PRESIDENT

Bob Nice '81

(317) 269-3500

rjnice@nice-law.com

CHAPTER ADVISOR

Joe Conti '85

MEMBERS

Jim Thompson '57

Jesse Cross '02

Ken Ewing '62

Matt Newton '02

Tom Maddox '71

Justin Hurley '05

Chris Roark '01

Ryan Raber '05

CANDLELIGHT



Beta Phi Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 2853

West Lafayette, IN 47996-2853

Address Service Requested

PRSR
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
PERMIT #570

ATTENTION:

*This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents.
If your Pi Kappa Alpha son is still attending Purdue University, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House.
If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.*

ALUMNI NEWS

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Robert H. Morrison '41 entered Chapter Eternal on February 29, 2008.

John A. Holm '50 passed on to Chapter Eternal on November 17, 2007. He was a resident of Dearborn, Mich., at the time of his death.

Dick Shierling '54 entered Chapter Eternal on July 20, 2008 at the age of 76. He was a resident of Quincy, Ill. at the time of his death. Dick received dual degrees in economics and industrial psychology while at Purdue.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Frank W. Marshall '47 has been retired for 21 years and happily married to his wife, Jeannette, for 60 years. He enjoys playing golf two times a week and participating in two bowling leagues. E-mail: marshafw@davispc.com

Charles J. DeVilbiss '49 self-published a small railroad history book, *The Sapulpa and Tulsa Trolley Connection*. He resides in Shreveport, La. E-mail: maganchas@bellsouth.net

Duane F. Hogsett '49 and his wife, Berni, spent six weeks in Santiago, Chile, studying Spanish in January and February 2008. He celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year. He lives in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Richard L. Russell '58 enjoys helping community organizations in Bear Lake, Mich. He also helped coordinate a singing group in his winter community of Sanibel Island, Fla. Rich is developing residential property for sale on his Michigan farm property. He and his wife, Phyllis, have two children, Dan and Lynn. They would love visitors at their lake home during the summer. E-mail: rich@richandphyllis.com

Philip M. Goebel '63 retired as owner of San Anselmo Veterinary Clinic in 1994. He resides in Novato, Calif., with his wife, Diana. They have three children: Gretchen, Lynn, and Gregory.

Daniel C. Edmundson '67 is a partner at Troutman Sanders in New York, N.Y. He lives in Chambersburg, Pa. E-mail: daniel.edmundson@troutmansanders.com

Thomas W. Eyre '71 and his wife, Elaine, are settling into Findlay, Ohio. They look forward to seeing everyone at the fall reunion. E-mail: teyre@woh.rr.com

Harvey R. Gerry '78 lives in Wiesbaden, Germany, with his wife, Teresa, and two of his 13 daughters.

Michael B. Nichols '86 is a senior project engineer at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, Ind. He resides in Mooresville, Ind.

Kenton E. Hoppas '94 lives in Encinitas, Calif., with his wife, Mimi, and their daughter, Scout. He works in San Diego, Calif.

Chris Kuhn '05 lives in Marietta, Ga., where he works for Kone Elevators as a senior sales representative. E-mail: christopher.kuhn@kone.com