

# CANDLELIGHT

Beta Phi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha • Purdue University  
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## BROTHERHOOD:

### *Alumni Groups Work Together to Strengthen Beta Phi*

**B**rotherhood—it lasts a lifetime, it is always with us, and we are all connected by a common bond, regardless of age. This all ties into our theme for 2009: Once a Pike, Always a Pike. I want to take this opportunity to express the great strengths of Beta Phi's brotherhood. Our Chapter has more than 1,700 living alumni across the United States. This fall Beta Phi will celebrate 88 years as a Pike chapter at Purdue and is one of the largest fraternities on campus.

A quote from **Roy Hofer '57** at his Beta Phi 50th class reunion expresses this bond. "Beta Phi rounded out my college experience. No other relationship with college friends can compare with the relationships created with brothers in a good fraternity experience. Although brothers go in different directions after graduation and your contact with them becomes less frequent, when you do get together, no matter what period of separation, it is as though you have never been apart. These are priceless relationships that only the fraternity experience can give you."

Beta Phi has a strong base created from a lasting brotherhood. The strength in our success is reflected in four groups that interact with each other. We are unique in how this has come together. Over 70 years ago when we acquired a house at 629 Andrew Place and remodeled it into a Pike fraternity house, the project was undertaken by

alumni. The Home Association continues today with many loyal alumni contributing time and talents. In 1992, a small group of Beta Phi alumni decided it would strengthen the Chapter by forming a local Beta Phi Foundation, allowing our alumni to contribute tax-exempt gifts to support Chapter House improvements, provide scholarships, and provide funds and leadership training. The foundation is managed by nine Pike brothers.

The newest addition in assistance to the Chapter is the Beta Phi Chapter Advisory Board. This group is made up of 10 alumni, and each counsels an undergraduate officer. Due to the normal semester changes with our undergraduates, this new group of alumni advisors is quite important in strengthening the continuity of our processes.

All of us can be proud of a strong, successful structure and the bonds we call brotherhood.

Fraternally,  
**Rich Russell '58**  
Beta Phi Foundation President  
rich@richandphyllis.com



*This summer the Home Association turned its attention to the first-floor restroom facilities, which were in need of renovations. The ladies' room has new flooring, countertops, faucets, beveled-glass trim, lighting, wood slat blinds, and decorative accessories. For more details, see the story on page 2.*

## SAVE THE DATE

### SEVENTH ANNUAL PURDUE PIKE REUNION October 23-25

Activities include Friday evening hospitality and dinner and a Saturday alumni sing-a-long, lunch, and football game.

Visit [www.pikapurdue.org](http://www.pikapurdue.org)  
for more information  
and to register.

# Home Association Makes Improvements to Chapter House

*Study areas, main floor restrooms, and four student rooms receive updates*

**T**he Home Association has been busy over the summer, and there are many positive changes taking place at 629 University Street.

The Home Association has made it a priority to not only maintain but improve the physical condition and appearance of our fraternity house. Over the last two summers, the first floor has been a primary area of focus. It has suffered from deterioration in appearance and functionality over the last decade. As a consequence, it simply did not provide the first impression that is so important for family, guests, and prospects to experience.

Last year we refurbished the library and computer room. The library was turned into a study room, and we modified the computer room into a more private study area. After dry-walling the block walls and installing wood floor, it has become one of the most sought-after study areas in the house.



*The new and improved ladies' room.*

This summer, having seen the increased usage of the study areas, we added a built-in desk area at the north end which permits an additional three users. We bought a pull-down screen for use in Powerpoint-style presentations and artwork to enhance the character of the room. All have been well received.

We also turned our attention to the first-floor restroom facilities. They were both in need of dramatic rehabilitation. The ladies' room has new flooring, countertops, faucets, beveled-glass trim, lighting around the mirror, wood slat blinds, and decorative accessories.

The men's restroom received new flooring, painting, and countertops. The material is of a high grade that should stand the test of time notwithstanding a high level of usage and abuse.

Finally, we remodeled an additional four student rooms, bringing us to a total of 10 remodels over the last two summers. In



*The men's room received new flooring, paint, and countertops. The materials are of a high grade that will stand the test of time.*

doing so, we are keeping the quality of the living areas to a very high standard that compares well with other housing options at Purdue.

I can assure you that the Chapter is doing well; it is filled with quality young men, and the house is in the best condition in recent memory. If you are interested in volunteering for the Chapter and could commit to four meetings per year, usually at Purdue, then let me know as there are a few positions becoming available this fall.

In the bonds of φκκκ,

**Bob Nice '82**

Home Association President  
rjnice@nice-law.com

## Undergraduates Attend Leadership Retreat

**I**t was a great summer, and I hope that it treated all of you very well. Several weeks ago Pledge Educator **Pranav Bhimalli '12**, Risk Manager **Chaz Reeves '11**, and I attended the Student Leaders Retreat offered by Purdue University. At the three-day retreat, we learned many valuable lessons we are able to bring back to the Chapter. It was a great networking opportunity for all of us, and I established many connections for our Chapter with Purdue faculty, administrators, and leaders of other campus organizations.

This summer, Pranav also attended our Fraternity's conference at the National Headquarters in Memphis. While there, he picked up several awards Beta Phi earned, including another 100+

man chapter award, which we have received the last several years. The Chapter has actually grown from 46 members last spring to nearly 58 this fall.

After returning to campus last month, we were amazed at the new Chapter House renovations. On top of the improvements from last winter, four third-floor rooms were updated, as well as the main floor men's and women's restrooms. The restrooms are done just in time for Purdue football season.

With that said, I invite all alumni to come out to visit the Chapter House during football weekends. Every Saturday the front

door will be open, and we will have juice, coffee, and doughnuts available.

We appreciate all that you have done for the Chapter. Thanks again for all of your support, and if you have questions about the Chapter please e-mail me. It is always great to hear from alumni who are curious about what is going on these days at Purdue!

In the bonds,

**Kyle Russell '10**

Chapter President  
kprussel@purdue.edu

# New Alumni Advisory Committee Formed

- Alumni, contact **Joe Conti '85** about the Pike Old Masters program
- 64 Beta Phis attend the Sixth Annual Golf Tournament
- Mark your calendars for the Alumni Reunion on October 23-25

**I**would like to announce the newly created Alumni Advisory Committee. We are fortunate to have several alumni step forward and play a greater role in Beta Phi. In the past we had a Chapter advisor that served on the Home Association. Now we have a group of advisors assigned to specific Chapter officers and committees.

The purpose of the committee is to have a greater degree of continuity from year to year. The members will report to me but will have direct contact with the undergraduates they are assigned to. By utilizing that communication we will be better organized for the future. Maintaining files and communication with new officers and committees will enable the Chapter to build on the past rather than continually reinvent the wheel.

## Pike Old Masters

We are looking for four alumni to participate in the Fourth Annual Pike Old Masters Program. The purpose of Old Masters is to introduce the undergraduates to alumni who can provide advice, avenues for resumes, internships, and jobs. In this tough economy it can help jump-start the career of one of our own. This year's event will take place in December if all schedules will allow. Once alumni arrive on Saturday afternoon, the Old Masters will be treated to a Boiler basketball

game and dinner. On Sunday morning alumni will enjoy breakfast and adjourn for breakout sessions, where they will have the opportunity to talk with smaller groups of undergraduates. Please contact me directly if you are interested.

## Sixth Annual Golf Tournament

Beta Phi hosted another great golf tournament on June 13; thank you to all who attended. I would like to personally thank Brother **Greg Louis '85** for his great work in organizing the event. We had 56 golfers and 64 total attendees. **Pete Weiland '83** and his son, Mike, **Bob Nice '82**, and **Ken Ewing '62** won the tournament with what they described as the perfect round—20 under par!

After golf we enjoyed dinner on the front patio served by our house cook, Rob Holmes. Prizes were awarded, there was a great deal of reminiscing and storytelling, and we headed down to The Chocolate Shop for a nightcap. Next year's golf tournament will be in June, either the weekend before or after Fathers Day. We are still looking for enough attendees and golfers for a shotgun start, and I hope you will join us.

## For the Good of the Order

The graduating seniors were true leaders in leaving the Chapter in far better condition

than when they arrived. House occupancy is climbing, more seniors are living in the house, and damages are declining. We finished seventh in the Grand Prix, second in athletics, and have raised the Chapter G.P.A.

I encourage alumni to join us for the Alumni Reunion Weekend on October 23–25 for the football game against Illinois.

In the bonds of φφκκ,

**Joe Conti '85**

Chapter Advisor

(812) 204-3623 | [jconti@landstar.com](mailto:jconti@landstar.com)

## ALUMNI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHAPTER HOUSE EXECUTIVES  
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**Joe Conti '85**

SCHOLARSHIP

**Russ Strobach '84**

FUNDRAISING AND  
PHILANTHROPY

**Greg Rogers '84**

**Bob Browning '85**

TREASURERS

**Bruce Pershing**

**Ryan Raber '05**

GRAND PRIX

**Doug Wright '86**

RECRUITMENT

**Tom Beno '08**

PLEDGE EDUCATION

**Aaron Smith '09**

ALUMNI RELATIONS

**Charles Stargell '09**



*Four student rooms were remodeled over the summer, bringing the total of remodels to 10 over the last two summers.*



**Right:** Brother Daniel Leffler '10 purchased all new washers and dryers for the laundry room in the Chapter House. He set up a company known as Leffler's Laundry LLC, and will be taking responsibility for maintenance of the machines as well as collecting a semester fee to use them from all in-house brothers.

# Beta Phi's Andrew Place Chapter House Has Long History

## Extensive Collaboration and Planning Led to University Street Move

**B**uilt as a fraternity house, 149 Andrew Place was the oldest Greek home in the state of Indiana, if not the entire country. It was originally built for Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, and Pike bought it in the 1920s when the new Phi Psi house was built.

Though the men in the Chapter did their best, it was difficult to attract rushees since most other fraternities had much better and newer housing. During the 1930s and '40s the Home Association was extremely prudent in the management of funds—probably too prudent. This attitude was fostered by the Great Depression. During the second World War, most fraternities turned their houses over to the Navy V-12 program. Many continued to operate as fraternities, pledging and initiating members of the Navy program. Our Home Association elected to keep our house open as a private entity. Since there were not enough men to fill the house, four other fraternities shared the Andrew Place house. Those occupants were not as careful with the premises as our own brothers. Fire destroyed much of the third floor in 1944.

After the war, the Home Association continued their prudent management, despite cash in the bank, refusing to make any major improvements. In 1948, S.M.C. **Bill Lanier '49** (who also happened to be president of the Student Union) attended the Pike National Convention and approached National Vice President L. A. McCall about the competition

we faced with other fraternities and about the overly prudent management style of the Home Association. L. A. made a trip to Purdue the following spring, met with the Home Association, and motivated them to embark upon a remodeling program, which was completed during the summer of 1949. The result was the white columned house in which so many Pikes have lived. One of our Kappa Sigma neighbors mentioned that before the remodeling they referred to the Pike house as “the barn,” and after the remodeling they called it “the manor.” The cost of the remodel was \$25,000—an amount that in today's dollars seems insignificant, but it was a lot of money in 1949.

Since the house was originally built for Phi Kappa Psi, many Pikes of years past will recall Phi Psi alumni showing up at Homecoming asking if they could walk through the house, since that is where they had lived.

Our property on Andrew Place had long been a part of the University's long-range plan. Today, a multi-storied University parking garage stands on the property. Claude Wickard served on the Home Association and was also, at the time, a University trustee. His efforts played no small part in beginning the process of acquiring the University location. The initial contract with Purdue was signed in November 1962 and the Andrew Place property deed was handed over to Purdue in summer 1963. Ground was broken in May 1963 and the move to University Street was made in February 1961.



*Beta Phi's first Chapter House at 149 Andrew Place (left) was the oldest Greek home in the state of Indiana. Beta Phi moved to their current home on University Street in February 1961.*

# THANK YOU, GENEROUS ALUMNI

Thank you to all alumni who gave to Beta Phi in spring 2009!

Your contributions amounted to more than \$11,000 and are greatly appreciated.

You allow us to provide an environment where our brothers 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 diverse cultures, workplaces, and communities. These gifts make it possible for Beta Phi to continue its tradition of excellence at Purdue.

To see a complete list of donors, please visit the Beta Phi Web site at [www.pikapurdue.org](http://www.pikapurdue.org).

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Earl W. Uphouse '49** retired from the military in 1992 after 30 years of service and established a small business in Orlando, Fla., which he sold before retiring. He and his wife, Shirley, live in the mountains of Marble, N.C., and love it. E-mail: [wuph@dnet.net](mailto:wuph@dnet.net)

**David C. Dayton '66** and his wife, Janiel, are retired. The couple spends eight months of the year in Naples, Fla., and the remaining months in Denver, Colo. They have three granddaughters.

**Stephen A. Little '70** moved to Cincinnati in 2008 after living in Paris for five years. He is senior vice president at Schneider Electric.

**David F. Hulata '97** is finishing his residency in anesthesiology at Northwestern McGaw Medical Center in Chicago, Ill. He and his wife, Antoinette, were married in September 2008 (photo on right.) Shareef Haq attended the wedding. David also caught up with **Dave Christensen '98** and **Tom Kelso '99** at Shareef's wedding in late 2008. David and Antoinette live in Bloomingdale, Ill. E-mail: [dhulata@gmail.com](mailto:dhulata@gmail.com)



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# CANDLELIGHT



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### 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.*

## BETA PHI HOME ASSOCIATION

### PRESIDENT

**Bob Nice '81**  
(317) 269-3500  
rjnice@nice-law.com

### CHAPTER ADVISOR

**Joe Conti '85**

### MEMBERS

**Jim Thompson '57**  
**Ken Ewing '62**  
**Tom Maddox '71**  
**Chris Roark '01**  
**Jesse Cross '02**  
**Matt Newton '02**  
**Justin Hurley '05**  
**Ryan Raber '05**

## RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Alumni, we value your referrals.  
Please submit recommendations to  
Recruitment Advisor **Tom Beno '08**  
at [tbeno@masselec.com](mailto:tbeno@masselec.com) or  
3309 Eastover Ridge Dr., Apt. 138,  
Charlotte, NC 28211  
or  
Chapter President **Kyle Russell '10**  
at [kprussel@purdue.edu](mailto:kprussel@purdue.edu)



## WEB SITE

Visit the Purdue Pike Web  
site for news about the  
Chapter, fellow alumni, and  
upcoming events!

[www.pikapurdue.org](http://www.pikapurdue.org)