

CANDLELIGHT

Beta Phi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha • Purdue University
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SPRING 2011

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SPECIAL PIKE EVENT

Beta Phi 90th Anniversary—September 30-October 2, 2011

Our annual Pike reunion this fall will be the celebration of 90 great years as Pi Kappa Alpha on Purdue's campus. We are planning a great weekend and want to extend a special invitation to all of our alumni to attend and participate.

Most of the anniversary celebration will take place on Saturday, October 1. We will have a lot of old pictures and memorabilia at the Chapter House to look over while alumni dust off their vocal chords and join together in singing some of our great Fraternity songs. The undergraduates will provide tours of the Chapter House and also host a generous lunch buffet for all alumni, family members, and guests. There will be a great football game as Purdue plays Notre Dame and the Foundation will purchase a block of tickets. After a big rival football game, everyone is invited to a Foundation-sponsored gathering with wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres. This celebration will take place in the lobby of the Dauch Purdue Alumni Center, one block south of the Memorial Union.

We encourage you to contact brothers from your era at Purdue and make this a special gathering with those whom you shared great times. If you would like contact information for brothers in your era, please let me know. We will have a photographer on hand for group photos and we hope to have a special guest speaker. Come back to see improvements that have been made to the Chapter House.

We have secured a block of rooms at two hotels in the area:

- Fifteen rooms have been reserved at the Fairfield Inn by Marriott, 4000 State Road 26 East, Lafayette, IN 47905, at a rate of \$169.99 per night plus tax for a minimum two nights stay. Please call (765) 449-0083 and mention Pi Kappa Alpha to get the group rate before August 30.
- Ten rooms have been reserved at the University Plaza, 3001 Northwestern Avenue West Lafayette, IN 47906, which is closer to campus. Their rate is \$219 per night plus tax for a minimum two nights stay. You can reach them at (765) 463-5511 and mention Pi Kappa Alpha to get the group rate before the July 30 cutoff date.

Because of the popularity of the Notre Dame game, hotels are filling up fast. Be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible before they run out.

Our 90th Pike anniversary will be a special, memorable event—make arrangements now to attend. An event reminder will be mailed soon asking you to register for the weekend's events and giving you instructions on how to order football tickets.

I look forward to celebrating 90 great years as Pikes at Purdue with you this fall!

In the bonds of $\phi\phi\kappa\alpha$,
Rich Russell '58, Beta Phi Foundation President
rich@richandphyllis.com



Beta Phi alumni and undergraduates gathered in front of the Chapter House during the eighth annual Pike reunion on November 5-7.



Joe Conti '85 was presented with the Beta Phi Loyal Order Award for providing outstanding leadership and assistance to the Chapter.

EIGHTH ANNUAL PIKE REUNION REKINDLES BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD

Congratulations to Joe Conti '85 on
His Beta Phi Loyal Order Award

The eighth annual Pike reunion was held November 5-7 on the Purdue University campus. Brothers from across the country gathered for a weekend of reminiscing and rekindling the friendships that we hold so dear. On Friday evening, we enjoyed a reception and fine dinner in one of the grand old rooms of the Purdue Memorial Union. On Saturday morning the Chapter House opened up its doors and greeted the alumni and their wives, family, and friends. Many were impressed with the renovations to the first floor areas, including the new study area, founders lounge room, new decorative paintings on the walls in the living room, and a refinished pool table.

Jim Thompson '57 directed the alumni and undergraduates in a rousing chorus of traditional PIKA songs. Immediately afterward, the following scholarships were awarded to deserving undergraduates: Bob and Mary Lou Rain Scholarship for leadership to

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EIGHTH ANNUAL PIKE REUNION

(Continued on page 2)



Many were impressed with the renovations to the first floor areas, including new decorative paintings on the walls in the living room.



Jim Thompson '57 directed the alumni and undergraduates in a rousing chorus of traditional PKA songs.

Derek Worsley '11, Charlie and Mary Lynn Kent Scholarship for the most improved G.P.A. (in one year) to **Shiv Rana '12**, and Arthur Stutz Bowles Scholarship for the highest G.P.A. to **Matt Rall '12**. In addition, the Beta Phi Foundation, through Purdue University, provided two scholarships to Beta Phi students who could benefit from financial aid.

Joe Conti '85, head of the Alumni Advisory Committee, was then presented with the Beta Phi Loyal Order Award for providing outstanding leadership and assistance to the Chapter. The selection of this award was made by the undergraduates. We then all gathered in front of the Chapter House for a group photo. A delicious luncheon was served in the dining area and many then walked the short distance to Ross Ade Stadium for the football game against the Wisconsin Badgers.

That evening, we gathered at the Lafayette Country Club for our closing banquet. Another great year for our Chapter was summed up with presentations by **Rich Russell '58** from the Beta Phi Foundation, Joe Conti from the Home Association and Alumni Advisory Committee, and Derek Worsley from the Chapter. Those who gathered were appreciative of the opportunity to share, once again, in the bonds of brotherhood as we look forward to the future and the 2011 festivities surrounding the celebration of our 90th year at Purdue.

In the bonds,
Rex Martin '72

NEW COLUMNS PROVIDE UPDATED LOOK TO CHAPTER HOUSE

Thank You to Volunteers for Stepping Up

We continue to maintain and improve the physical plant at 629 N. University. The house has been on display to many alumni during the football and basketball seasons and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to the many alumni who have sent e-mails acknowledging the great condition of the house and the warmth of the Chapter during recent visits.

I want to note a welcome addition to the board. **Aaron Smith '09**, a former SMC of Beta Phi and Chapter representative of the national Fraternity, was elected to the board at Homecoming. We appreciate his energy and enthusiasm and look forward to many years of service to Pi Kappa Alpha.

The most dramatic change to the house is the pillar project. This has been a concern of the board for several years, but replacement of the columns looked to be prohibitively expensive. We found a better solution with Bob Pierson of DEC Associates, who is in the business of manufacturing aluminum covers for structural pillars. He is also the father of **Brad Pierson '13**. Bob and Brad came to us with ideas on how to make the pillars look fantastic without having to replace them or get into significant related construction issues.

After gathering all of the engineering data needed to fabricate the covers, Bob was asked how much this would cost. The answer—nothing! Bob Pierson and DEC Associates donated the columns. However, we did have to ship them from the west coast to West Lafayette. Enter **Joe Conti '85**, who works for Landstar, a national trucking company. When asked about transportation, Joe promptly said, "I can get it for you wholesale."

Finally, the columns had to be installed. We have no shortage of construction and engineering alumni, and one stepped up in a big way. **Bill Kinder '95**, who with his brother operates a commercial construction business based in Fort Wayne, took over the installation details. We expected to pay for his service, but again, it was donated. At the end of the project, Bill just smiled and said, "Merry Christmas."

I want to say a big thank-you to **Greg Louis '85**, a member of the Home Association, who oversaw and facilitated the project from start to finish. The Chapter saved tens of thousands of dollars on this project because of the magnanimous efforts of these gentlemen. A big Phi Phi to each of them!

In other news, we completely redid the floors of the second and third floor bathrooms over Christmas break. These were

Chapter Officers

President
Joe Schraffenberger '12
(502) 235-5748
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Internal Vice President
Matt Rall '12

External Vice President
Javier Castaneda '13



New caps were placed over the old wooden pillars donated by Robert Pierson, a Pike from the Delta Gamma Chapter at Miami of Ohio and father of Brad Pierson '13. Brother Bill Kinder '95 of Michael Kinder and Sons Inc. also provided the installation at no charge to the Chapter.

gathering puddles of water, were very slippery, and had become very dingy. This is a big cosmetic, as well as functional, improvement, particularly when considered in conjunction with the recent replacement of the sink areas with solid surface countertops. Perhaps on a more nostalgic note, we recently provided a new foosball table for the brothers, something that was extremely popular in the 1970s and '80s. This, together with the pool table refurbishment, has been a source of constant use and enjoyment by the undergraduates.

At the request of the brothers, we have provided a new computer server to provide for online storage of in-house files and course outlines. We furnished the hardware, but the new technology committee has promptly taken responsibility for setup and implementation.

The board is working hard for our Fraternity at Purdue. Please join us in that effort with your support and presence at the golf outing this summer, which is being held in memory of Rob Kirk, a very popular member of the Chapter during my time as an active.

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

Bob Nice '82

President, Pi Kappa Alpha Home Association Inc.
rjnice@nice-law.com

Treasurer
Eric Prickel '14

Risk Manager
Brad Pierson '13

Sergeant-at-Arms
Nathaniel Grove '13

Secretary
Steven Soeka '12

Beta Phi Resurgence

Chapter Makes Improvements in Several Areas

The gentlemen of Pi Kappa Alpha are participating in the greatest shift of our beloved Fraternity's culture in this generation. We are moving forward with what we believe our Fraternity should be and not what it has been in recent years. The Beta Phi Chapter is under sanctions from Purdue regarding incidents from last spring; however, this has given us a chance to take a step back and reevaluate our fraternal mission. My goal as president is to bring us from a Chapter that is performing to a Chapter that is near excellent. Both of these terms are defined by National to evaluate the overall state of an individual chapter and following this plan will set us on course for the ultimate goal of becoming a Smythe Award-winning chapter once again.

Chapter Attends Conferences to Improve Leadership

We have made improvements in every area of the Chapter to accomplish these goals—most notably in academics, house management, recruitment, pledge education, and alumni relations, which are the building blocks on which a fraternity can thrive. Treasurer **Eric Prickel '13**, Sergeant-at-Arms **Nathaniel Grove '13**, and Recruitment Chairman **Matthew Seidl '13** attended the Chapter Executives Conference at the Pi Kappa Alpha headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee, over winter break to build their leadership skills and gain the knowledge to take our Chapter where it needs to be. Furthermore, 25 men attended the Pike University Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois, to further improve the leadership quality of the Chapter. The Beta Phi Foundation made generous donations to help offset the costs of these leadership events and we thank them for that.



Undergraduates Thankful for Alumni Network

One of the biggest assets we have is our alumni network. Before being president I was the alumni relations chairman and I've seen firsthand how hard our alumni work for us and the benefits they bring to our Fraternity experience. I feel very blessed and reassured to have the positive support of all alumni who care about their past enough to influence our future. Last semester for example, new caps were placed over the old wooden pillars. These caps were donated by Robert Pierson, a Pike from the Delta Gamma Chapter at Miami of Ohio and father of **Brad Pierson '13**. Brother **Bill Kinder '95** of Michael Kinder and Sons Inc. also provided the installation at no charge to the Chapter. This is a prime example of the time, talent, and treasure that alumni have given and continue to give to make Pi Kappa Alpha a dominant fraternity at Purdue University.

I anticipate this year to be one of the best as all the pieces are finally coming together to achieve a common goal of success. It will be a time that when I, and many of my fellow undergraduates, reflect on our years at Purdue University, we will tell our children that our time spent in the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity made us into the men, fathers, and husbands we are today. The continued support from alumni, family, friends, and undergraduate members of the Beta Phi Chapter will only accelerate the pace at which we all build an organization we can be proud of, for although we were once a Pike, we will always be a Pike.

In the bonds,

Joe Schraffenberger '12

Chapter President

(502) 235-5748 | jschraff@purdue.edu

GRAND PRIX 2011 WILL INCLUDE BETA PHI

Ben Phillip '10 Welcomed to the Alumni Advisory Board

Many of you may have heard about the untimely death of one of our brothers from the early 1980s, **Rob Kirk '82**. It certainly took us all by surprise and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. We are planning on having this year's golf outing/reunion include a memorial for Rob.

PI KAPPA ALPHA TO PARTICIPATE IN GRAND PRIX

As far as the Chapter is concerned things are going quite well. While our house occupancy is down this semester, the undergraduates are enthusiastic and cooperating with all aspects of our current disciplinary status on campus. The Chapter has conducted itself in such a manner that earlier in February, President **Joe Schraffenberger '12** and I met with Assistant Dean Pablo Malavenda. The purpose of our meeting was to ask that we be allowed to participate in Grand Prix as Pi Kappa Alpha, which is one of the stipulations of our probation. Pablo has been impressed enough that he agreed to take our petition to the Dean's Office on our behalf. We have officially been granted the privilege and are looking forward to having many alumni come back and see the Pike Flyer once again. The race will be held on April 16.

As has been the case for the last few years Brother **Doug Wright '86** is deeply involved and working with the crew and driver. We aren't sure if we can duplicate or better our third place finish from last year. We do know we are going to be competitive. Who knows, with a little luck we might just find ourselves back on the podium.

RESCHEDULING OF PIKE OLD MASTERS

Last December we had scheduled our annual Pike Old Masters. Brothers **Dick Duncan '69**, **Jeff Quinto '85**, **Garth Carter '85**, and **Mike Iem '87** were set to represent the alumni. That happened to be the weekend of one of our many large winter storms and only Brother Iem was able to make it to the house. He provided a fantastic presentation for the undergraduates. We are working to reschedule the remaining three to come in on April 30 and are trying to coordinate all the activities.



ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD GROWS

Our Alumni Advisory Board has grown by one member. **Ben Phillip '10** graduated last December and has taken the position of recruitment chairman. We do a good job during recruitment, but this position is specifically designed to get our recruiting process to continue year round. Ben will work with the undergraduates assigned to recruitment and the recruitment chairmen to enhance our ability to bring quality young men in the bonds. Please join me in welcoming Ben in his new role.

2011 PIKE GOLF OUTING

The summer golf outing/reunion is scheduled a little later in June than we had originally planned. Events at the Birch/Boilermaker Golf Complex made it necessary for us to schedule the event for Saturday, June 25. We are looking to have our best turnout ever. **Russ Strobach '84** and **Greg Rogers '84** are working to get their entire pledge class back for a 30-year reunion. That along with the inclusion of something for Rob Kirk should inspire many first-time faces at our event. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

My role as Chapter advisor has been made much easier and less time consuming with the Alumni Advisory Board in place. I have been able to focus on working closely with the executive board to make sure the Chapter is continuing down a positive path. I would be lying if I did not say there have been some bumps in the road, but overall the Chapter is running well. The Home Association continues to upgrade the living conditions and the undergraduates are respecting the Chapter House. Good situations and habits can do nothing but allow us to improve as a Chapter. Our ultimate goal is to begin competing again for Smythe Awards and we are not too far away from making that a reality. Come back to the house and meet the men that live there. See what is being accomplished and **enjoy Beta Phi**.

Sincerely in φφκκ,
Joe Conti '85

Beta Phi Foundation Board

President

Richard Russell '58
(810) 577-8689
rich@richandphyllis.com

Vice President

Brian Doolittle '70

Treasurer

Bruce Pershing

Secretary and Historian

Rex Martin '72

Member

Kirk Cerny, Beta Gamma '92
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Michael Wright '85

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Robert Rain '55

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BETA PHI NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Beta Phi is working on a project to convert all Chapter composites to digital files. The Home Association is working with a company to make this happen. However, a flood ruined our smaller composites from several years. We are in need of brothers who have composites from the years 1993, 1999, 2000, 2003, and 2008, so that the company can scan a copy for our use. Please contact **Alex Britton '07** at (414) 403-1109 or via e-mail at arbritton@gmail.com if you can assist us in this project.

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Respect Formed Foundation for Alumnus' Lifelong Pike Bond

Spotlight on Brian Walker '81



When **Brian Walker '81** went through Greek recruitment in the fall of 1977, he liked what he saw at the Pi Kappa Alpha house. Not only was his Lebanon, Ind., hometown friend **Bob Taylor '79** a Pike, but the other brothers were high-caliber men, as well. One of his pledge brothers, **Greg Gibbs '80**, was also a hometown friend. There was one factor, however, that was most persuading. "I wasn't going to join a fraternity where they physically hazed pledges. I had more respect for myself than that," Brian proclaims. "The Pike house was different from the others. They treated pledges with respect."

Brian's decision to join Beta Phi reaped more rewards than avoiding a black-and-blue pledgship. "I gained lasting friendships," he says. "The Fraternity was an opportunity to grow as an individual." Living and working together with nearly 90 men, Brian learned how to capitalize on a wide range of personalities to achieve a goal. "It was a great team-building experience. We learned how to work as a team to resolve conflicts in an amicable way. That has a lot to do with the business world and with life in general."

The starting point guard and co-captain for the 1979-81 Boilermakers, Brian knows a little about teamwork. While he was busy setting records for steals and assists for the Final Four-gracing squad, his Pike brothers made sure he wasn't excluded from the Chapter's events. "The social committee would look at the Purdue basketball schedule when they were scheduling events and dances," Brian says. "They would schedule a dance for 90 brothers based on the one weekend I could be there. That was really appreciated!"

Thanks to the dedication of his Pike brothers, Brian didn't miss out on the walk-outs, social functions, and dances that became some of his favorite memories. In return, he committed himself equally to Beta Phi, serving as pledge trainer and vice president during his membership. "The Fraternity taught me balance more than anything. I learned to budget my time well."

After earning a bachelor's degree in management, Brian attended the IU School of Law at Indianapolis. He afterwards returned to Lafayette, where he could stay involved with his beloved Pikes. He spent his Monday evenings attending meetings as Chapter advisor until the birth of his three children—Samuel, Grace, and Olivia—reprioritized his time. Along with his wife of 25 years, Julie, he still counts on his Pike brothers who live nearby, **Tim Weaver '80**, Greg, and Bob, to help him cheer on Boilermaker athletics. "You have to remember where your roots came from as you move through the stages of life," Brian says. "The Fraternity is a part of your life. If you don't stay connected, it's like that part of your life didn't exist."

To contact Brian, e-mail him at bwalker@ball-law.com.



JEFF LANGSTON '92 BUILDS ON LESSONS LEARNED

As each phase of life progresses, lessons of preparation are learned. Throughout his studies and career, **Jeff Langston '92** has built upon the experiences from the previous stage. Even as he began his days at Pi Kappa Alpha, Jeff recognized the skill-building opportunities that were available.

As he watched the older brothers in the Chapter who had invited him in and made him feel at home in the house, Jeff's interest in being involved in the running of the Chapter increased. He held both the roles of house manager and vice president while living in the Chapter House, experiences that would prepare him in a number of ways for life after college.

"My jobs in the house were all preparation to be in management. The house became an opportunity to practice organization and networking. Being able to live in a group with others in the Chapter House provided insight into how to get along with other people. You are forced to be close with 60 other guys, so you have to morph in order to get along with others. This skill helps as you go into the real world."

These abilities were valuable as Jeff began work after college for Procter and Gamble as a financial analyst in Maryland, where he met his wife, Wendy. The couple lived in Switzerland for a year and, upon returning to the states, Jeff began work again for Procter and Gamble, this time in brand management. He took advantage of the expertise found at the company and worked hard to learn from the experience.

Reflecting on these times, Jeff offers this advice, "At every opportunity, take on leadership positions even if they are small. This will prepare you for larger opportunities and develop an important skill set. Consistent organizational behaviors and communication skills are transferable from job to job. Take opportunities to develop a budget, a recruitment plan, or strategies at any chance you get.

Jeff has now returned to the family business, Heartwood Custom Homes, in Carmel, Indiana, where he is a custom home builder. He works with his brother, **Jim Langston '92**, and has built a home for PKA brother **Frank Smith '91** and done major remodeling work for Brother **Ben Dennet '95**. Jeff and Wendy have three children: Jack, Thomas, and Nichole. He can be reached at jeffl@heartwoodhomes.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Eighth Annual Pike Golf Outing

Saturday, June 25

Birch/Boilermaker Golf Complex

More information to follow on

www.pikapurdue.org.

Ninth Annual Pike Reunion and Beta Phi 90th Anniversary

September 30-October 2

Purdue vs. Notre Dame

Homecoming

October 22

Purdue vs. Illinois



Thank You, Generous Alumni

Thank you to all alumni who gave to Beta Phi in fall 2010! Your contributions amounted to \$5,470 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 website at www.pikapurdue.org.

CANDLELIGHT



Beta Phi Foundation, Inc.

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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.*

HELP US INFORM YOU ABOUT BETA PHI!

SUBMIT YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TODAY

We have made a concerted effort to solicit e-mail addresses from our alumni in order to inform you of Beta Phi information and upcoming events. Many of you have responded and we sincerely thank you for sending your information. However, we still have blank spaces next to the names for many of our alumni. We ask that you make sure to fill out and return the enclosed bio update to update your e-mail address.

LOG IN FOR EVEN MORE BETA PHI UPDATES

Create or log in to your Facebook account and join our Facebook group! Simply search for Purdue Pikes today.

Beta Phi also has a LinkedIn group. To join, go to www.linkedin.com and search for Purdue Pikes to join our group. If you have any questions, please contact the administrator, **Cody Cusic '12**, at ccusic@purdue.edu.