

# CANDLELIGHT

BETA PHI CHAPTER OF PI KAPPA ALPHA • PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
*Published by the Beta Phi Foundation*



Fall 2025

## A Chapter You Can Be Proud Of

*Alumni Efforts and Events Update*

### GAME DAY GATHERING

Mark your calendars for a Beta Phi Reunion on Saturday, October 4, as the Boilermakers take on Illinois. As has been the case in the last few years, the schedule of events is dependent on kickoff time. Check your email and [pikapurdue.org](http://pikapurdue.org) for details!

### COMMUNICATION UPDATE

The Foundation continues to work on our social media communications. Please continue to check our LinkedIn page for updates. The most recent composite post came with some great background information on the featured individuals. We welcome any alumni to share any stories or articles you feel would be interesting and fun. Visit [linkedin.com/company/purduepike](https://www.linkedin.com/company/purduepike) today.

### A NEW CAMPAIGN

Our financial sub-committee continues to review our investment package to make any necessary adjustments and ensure we are always the best possible stewards of your donations. We are excited to update you on our current fundraising endeavor: *The House Maintenance Fund* campaign. The gifts you donate to this fund will soon make up an endowment that will assist in paying for annual maintenance and costly, depreciable concerns like the roof, boiler, and kitchen appliances. To date, we have collected and raised \$45,280 with your generous support; our target to become fully endowed is \$500,000.

### WE NEED YOU!

I have a personal request for all alumni of all ages! As board members step away, we will always be looking for younger men to fill those positions. I remain on a mission to locate alumni thinking about giving back via their time. If you are considering becoming a more active member by serving on the Alumni Advisory Committee, Home Association, or Foundation, please contact me. The more people involved means a smaller time commitment required from each person and the stronger Beta Phi will become. You will be surprised as to how much benefit we would receive from just a few hours of your time!

Beta Phi Chapter remains a source of pride for us. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in October!

In the bonds of  $\phi\pi\kappa\alpha$ ,  
**Joe Conti '85**  
President (Emeritus)  
(715) 498-4498  
[joscon\\_61@yahoo.com](mailto:joscon_61@yahoo.com)



*Several brothers from the fall 2024 pledge class attend a Pike University event in Chicago. From left: Aidan Cousseau '28, Morgan O'Malley '28, Ben Chesnosky '28, Nate Stenseth '28, Kamden Dodson '28, and Matthew Krugh '28.*

## Thank You, 2025 Donors

*Beta Phi Thrives with Your Support*

**T**hank you to the supporters who have committed more than \$10,200 to the Beta Phi Foundation so far in 2025. These donors, listed below, stepped up to invest in Beta Phi's future, and we could not be more grateful. If you have been omitted from our contributors list, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our communications coordinator at [alehr@penningtonco.com](mailto:alehr@penningtonco.com) with any corrections. Commitments are as of September 25, 2025.

William C. Young '62  
Charles N. Hetrick '63  
Kenneth G. Bassler '69  
R. Richard Hofmann '69  
Brian R. Doolittle '70

Geoffrey C. Boling '70  
Bruce C. Bailey '72  
William A. Samuelson '73  
Craig A. Leeke '80  
William J. Billeaud Jr. '85

Greg Louis '85  
Stephen M. Gillig '89  
Christine and  
Eric Denney\*

*\*A 2024 gift erroneously omitted from the donor list published in the spring newsletter.*

# Leading in Scholarship and Service

## Updates from the Undergraduates

**B**eta Phi Chapter had a strong year academically, philanthropically, and in campus involvement. Our brotherhood continues to emphasize academics as a foundation for success, maintaining a 3.27 GPA. Our newest members also demonstrated impressive dedication to scholarship, with the spring 2025 class achieving a 3.51! These results highlight our commitment to excellence and accountability.

Philanthropy remained a central priority. Between events such as the Pie-a-Pike



*Nathan Schoenherr '27 and Tanner Erny '26 explain the rules of Dream Girl, one of our major fall events and one of the largest philanthropy events on campus.*

fundraiser, the Pike Fireman Challenge, and Pike Pickleball, we raised a total of \$5,000 for charitable causes over the past year. Pike Pickleball was organized by **John Scott '23** and by **Ben Harris '23**, who helped to establish the event as a tradition that combines competition with community impact. The Chapter remains proud of the effort and creativity put into building these events and the difference they make in our community.

Beta Phi also maintained a strong presence in intramurals. We are proud of finishing second in the GGA Golf League, with leadership from **Tyler Quisling '23** in fall 2023 and **Will O'Neil '23** in spring 2023. Athletics remain an important part of brotherhood and visibility on campus, and these results demonstrate the members' competitiveness and teamwork.

Membership growth and development were also major highlights this year. The Chapter initiated 30 new members in fall 2024 and an additional 15 brothers in spring 2025. These 45 initiates represent a broad and diverse group of students who are already contributing to the academic, social, and philanthropic life of the Chapter.

Their energy and involvement ensure that Beta Phi will remain strong for years to come.

This year also marked a new chapter for our involvement in Purdue's Grand Prix. Beta Phi expanded to two racing teams, giving more brothers a chance to compete. For Pike A, **Jake Taylor '23** started in 11th place in the sprint race and moved up to finish 7th, setting his personal best track time. For Pike B, **Nolan Richards '25** began in 13th place and fought his way to third, just one spot away from qualifying for the main race. While both teams fell short of qualification, their progress showed great promise and laid the foundation for future success.

Overall, we continue to build on a tradition of excellence by focusing on academics, philanthropy, athletics, and member development. We are proud of the progress made this year and look forward to continuing to strengthen our presence at Purdue University.

Fraternally,  
**Nathan Stenseth '27**  
President  
purduepikepresident@gmail.com

## Purdue Grand Prix 2025



*Driver of the Pike Garnet kart, Nolan Richards '28, during his qualifying race on the Grand Prix track during Race 67.*



*The driver of the Pike Gold kart, Jake Taylor '26, celebrates following a third-place finish in a qualifying race during Grand Prix Race 67. He is supported by the pit crew: Chris Denny '28, Frankie Davis '27, and Ashwin Benegal '28.*



*The Pike Grand Prix team conducts its first meeting of the 2025-26 academic year. Plans were made to find a shop/garage and to elect a new crew chief.*

## Chapter Officers

President **Nathan Stenseth '27**  
(408) 802-6737 | purduepikepresident@gmail.com  
Treasurer **Cristian Salazar '28**  
Internal Vice President **Dante Bush '27**  
External Vice President **Joseph Ivancich '28**

Vice President of Membership **AJ Cincotta '28**  
(973) 524-1605 | acincott@purdue.edu  
Risk Manager **Luke Wampler '27**  
Sergeant-at-Arms **Luke Carnoy '27**  
Communications **Nick Favero '27**

# Welcome, New Members

**Graham Benish '29**  
*Mequon, Wis.*

**Dawson Black '29**  
*Paducah, Ky.*

**Max Carter '29**  
*New Braunfels, Texas*

**Connor Daniels '28**  
*Carmel, Ind.*

**Carson Fellows '29**  
*Stillwater, Minn.*

**Jose Foster '29**  
*Munster, Ind.*

**Arnold Galeano-Mendoza '28**  
*Plymouth, Ind.*

**Lucas Guerra '29**  
*West Lafayette, Ind.*

**Jamo Husbands '29**  
*San Clemente, Calif.*

**Paxton Klitzsch '29**  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

**Osman Lin '29**  
*Great Neck, N.Y.*

**Ski Matos '29**  
*Cliffside Park, N.J.*

**Tyler Melgoza '28**  
*Munster, Ind.*

**Sai Nikkam '28**  
*San Antonio, Texas*

**Gabe Olsen '29**  
*Sheboygan, Wis.*

**Brayden Plummer '29**  
*Mishawaka, Ind.*

**Kyle Price '29**  
*Rockville, Ind.*

**Harrison Raposo '29**  
*Boulder, Colo.*

**Declan Ross '29**  
*Erie, Colo.*

**Joey Skuratov '29**  
*Mendham, N.J.*

**Blake Trilli '29**  
*Munster, Ind.*

**Max Weinstein '29**  
*Arlington, Va.*

**Eliot Zimmerman '28**  
*Battle Ground, Ind.*

## ENHANCING THE PIKE NETWORK

### Joe Gerzema '92 Joins Our Communication Efforts



*"My goal now is reaching out to our Beta Phi brothers, informing them of all the great things going on in the house, sharing alumni updates, and eventually bringing everyone home to connect with and support our Chapter."*

Ever since graduating, **Joe Gerzema '92** has stayed close to the PIKE brotherhood; social media has been extremely helpful. He always kept up with Beta Phi news, but when his son **Patrick "Paddy" Gerzema '28** accepted a bid, Joe decided it was time to get more involved.

As we announced in the Spring 2025 newsletter, Joe is the newest member of the Foundation board. "I was honored to be nominated by fellow board members **Joe Conti '85** and **Bill Kinder '95**." Joe has built his skills throughout his sales management career (mostly sports television media in the Chicago and Detroit markets), and he brings that talent to the board as social media chairman.

"I've spent a big portion of my career reaching current and potential customers through the power of social media," Joe explained. "My goal now is reaching out to our Beta Phi brothers, informing them of all the great things going on in the house, sharing alumni updates, and eventually bringing everyone home to connect with and support our Chapter."

#### PART OF A TEAM

Joe joined PiKA as a junior, inspired by his Purdue swimming teammates who were brothers. Together, they were part of a long list of varsity athletes in Beta Phi—in swimming, golf, tennis, wrestling, baseball, and football.

"Pi Kappa Alpha gave me a sense of tradition, excellence, and brotherhood and of belonging to something special," Joe said. "I credit my brothers for helping me value relationships, camaraderie, and respect for one another." He cherished

the relationships they built in college, which represented something stronger than any individual.

A favorite memory from his junior year was watching Beta Phi's team of eight win the IFC Basketball Championship in overtime versus their cross-campus rival, Beta Theta Pi. "To beat them, and in that fashion, was historic."

#### NOT JUST FOUR YEARS

Whenever Joe steps back into 629 University Street, many great memories come flying back. He hopes all the brothers he connects with through the board will come back to visit, if not more. "From advising the Chapter to offering career expertise or just reconnecting, we would love to have you. PIKE at Purdue must be one of the greatest memories of your life; why not still be involved and influence the brothers of today?"

Today, Joe is proudest of the family he has grown with his wife, Melanie. They live in the Detroit area and have four children: Paddy, Nora, Libby, and Jack. Joe is also proud to call numerous Pikes his closest friends to this day.

"A week doesn't go by when I'm not visiting, calling, texting, or interacting on social media with a fellow Pike. They've stood up in my wedding, been there when I've needed them, and are my favorite Purdue fans to join in cheering on our football and basketball teams."

Want to connect with Joe or learn more about Beta Phi's digital communications? Write to him at [josephgerzema@mac.com](mailto:josephgerzema@mac.com).

## Supporting Beta Phi Foundation

Thank you for your support of Beta Phi Chapter and our Beta Phi Foundation. All gifts to the Beta Phi Foundation are 100% tax deductible and directly impact our Chapter and its initiatives.

### To give online:

Visit [pikapurdue.org](http://pikapurdue.org) and access the **Beta Phi Foundation** or **Giving Back** menu links.

### To give by mail:

Make your check payable to Beta Phi Foundation and mail to:  
Pi Kappa Alpha – Purdue University  
Payment Processing  
PO Box 2187  
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

Please do **not** mail to 629 N University St.

*Remember that Beta Phi Foundation is its own 501(c)(3) separate from PIKE Foundation. We at Beta Phi Foundation appreciate your support and ask that all donations for Beta Phi Chapter come through us. A tax receipt will be provided.*

## KEEP YOUR EMAIL CURRENT WITH BETA PHI!

Did this newsletter arrive in your preferred inbox? If not, let us know at [updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com](mailto:updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com) with “PIKE Purdue Email” in the subject line, and help us share the news by forwarding this issue to your pledge brothers!



## 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 Phi.

If you know a young man who fits that description, we want to meet him! Please send his info to **AJ Cincotta '28** at (973) 524-1605 or [acincott@purdue.edu](mailto:acincott@purdue.edu) so we can get in touch and show him what our brotherhood is all about. Be sure to include his name, year in school, email, and why you think he'll be a good fit.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Thomas G. Kaiser '61**, a resident of San Diego, often meets with **Harry Hixson '60** and **Dick Justice '61** for lunch to reminisce about the great times they had at 149 Andrew Place. “We remember sleeping in the cold dorm and being sung to by **Booker** (who was, at the time, the only football player in the house),” Thomas shared. “His favorite lyrics were ‘Glenwood girls won’t you come out tonight, come out tonight.’” Email: [rocntom@aol.com](mailto:rocntom@aol.com)

**Allen J. Budnick '65** said, “The new affiliates in blue blazers and red ties looked great! Very professionally dedicated.” Allen lives in Aiken, Ind.

**David A. Walters '66** manages the website for his club, [classicchevyclubspringfieldmo.com](http://classicchevyclubspringfieldmo.com). He calls Springfield, N.Y., home. Email: [dave.walters.pr@gmail.com](mailto:dave.walters.pr@gmail.com)

**Thomas L. Maddox '71** has served 50 years on the Home Association Board of Directors. He has had a 50-year career in business and has lived for 48 years in the same house in Chesterfield, Ind. He has also been married for 52 years to Sue. Thomas was featured in a recent issue of the *Candlelight*. Email: [tlm@tlmc.com](mailto:tlm@tlmc.com)

**Jeffrey M. Etter '77** is still in touch with a couple brothers who return his phone calls. He turns 70 soon and would love to play some four square in front of the Chapter House! He lives in Huntington, Fla. Email: [etterjeff34@yahoo.com](mailto:etterjeff34@yahoo.com)

**Aaron M. Smith '09** started in the position of director of construction in fall 2024 with Highland Resources Inc. He is leading redevelopment of Magnolia Landing in Charleston, S.C., which is 192 acres of mixed-use property on Ashley River. The project is a 10- to 15-year, \$3 billion master development. Email: [aaron.smith1585@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.smith1585@gmail.com)

### Do you still have any PIKE memorabilia?

“I still have my signed pledge paddle and a ruby goblet with the crest from the 1970 fall pledge class dance.” —**Gregory M. Ketz '71**

“My pin and recent award flags.” —**Thomas L. Maddox '71**

“I donated everything I had!” —**Jeffrey M. Etter '77**

“My favorite sweatshirt.” —**Michael W. Montgomery '88**