

# CANDLELIGHT

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



Fall 2023

## Preparing for the Future of Our Home

### UPDATES ON OUR MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENT

#### RSVP FOR GOLF BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

We hope you've already seen the emails regarding our golf outing on September 29 and the reunion on September 30. If you've not registered for the golf event yet, please do so immediately. We are hoping that by combining the golf outing with our reunion, we will get a larger turnout for both.

#### SECURING THE CHAPTER HOUSE

I wanted to provide everyone with an update on our current fundraising program. The Home Association has put together a "Depreciation Plan" for the Chapter House. By doing so, it enables us to look forward and plan for items like the roof or a new boiler. The Foundation initiated a fundraising campaign that would, at its completion, fully endow these types of recurring repairs. We announced this during our 100-year celebration last fall.

As of July 18, we have received donations specifically marked for the maintenance program totaling \$5,775. While this may seem like a slow start, we must remember that the first year the Beta Phi Foundation existed, we raised \$1,000. Through your tremendous ongoing support, the Foundation has been able to fully endow all our scholarships and the tutoring program.

This maintenance program endowment would be the culmination of over 30 years of existence, generous contributions, intelligent stewardship of those donations, and countless hours of work.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

**The bottom line is that without you, our incredible alumni, none of this would be possible.** The current target is to raise \$500,000 to put into an endowment for the maintenance program. This is a long-term project that we believe will secure our Chapter House for decades to follow.

**SUPPORT THE  
MAINTENANCE  
FUND TODAY!**



Please keep this in mind should you decide to donate. Also remember that the BPF is a 501(c)(3) corporation and any donation from you is tax deductible. As always, the BPF will apply your donations where you instruct us to, so when you make your donations, please identify accordingly. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on September 29 and 30!

In the bonds of ΦΦΚα,  
**Joe Conti '85**  
President, Beta Phi Foundation  
joscon\_61@yahoo.com  
(715) 498-4498

**Stay connected by  
visiting [pikapurdue.org](http://pikapurdue.org).**



## A Great Time to Be a Pike

### P. Scott Ritchie '83 Recalls Early '80s House

**P. Scott Ritchie '83** visited several fraternities during recruitment at Purdue, but Pi Kappa Alpha stood out the most. Beta Phi not only had the best mix of academics, athletics, and social life, but it also had a good reputation, and the house offered many amenities close to campus.

Witnessing the camaraderie between the "Four Ls," **Greg Lernihan '81**, **Larry Leszczynski '81**, **Doug Lisak '81**, and **Mark Lamp '82**, during recruitment events influenced Scott's decision to join PIKE, and throughout recruitment, he was grateful to have his big brother, **Mark Kendall '82**, to guide him.

Beta Phi was at an all-time high when Scott was in school, as demonstrated by their five Smythes. From 1979-83, the Chapter had great leadership from **Dave Heckel '78**, Greg, and **Rod Eaton '83**. During that time, PIKE won all-campus basketball and flag football and the Grand Prix and was an intramural athletic champion for several years.

Beta Phi was filled with diverse men, including varsity athletes in basketball and baseball, academically gifted members who boosted the

house GPA, and members who were in key positions of PSUB, the Gimlet, the *Debris* yearbook, *The Purdue Exponent*, and other academic and service organizations. Other members used their talents to manage and maintain the house, coordinate recruitment, pledge training and instruction, and more.

"It seemed like everyone did something to move the Chapter forward," Scott said.

As Scott looks back, he recalls many memorable moments, including having **Steve Mathy '81** serve as Ingress Coordinator and watching **Brian Walker '81**, **Kevin Stallings '83**, and **Greg Eifert '84** play at Mackey Arena. Scott also enjoyed the summer work sessions to paint and clean the house, the "Snow Bowl" during the blizzard of 1981, and sleeping in the second-floor cold-air dorm.



*Scott and his family at the December 2021 wedding of his daughter, Katie, and her husband, Matt.*

"I remember one morning when **Ed Mackowiak '82** had to shake the snow off his comforter out the window that was next to his bunk bed. It was truly a cold-air dorm," Scott shared.

(Continued on page 4)



# THANK YOU, 2023 SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the 37 supporters who have committed \$9,500 to the Beta Phi Foundation so far in 2023. 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 August 17, 2023.*

C. Craig Hudson '56	Daniel T. Herron '68	Brian T. Lernihan '79
Rollin C. Dix '57	Steven D. Scruggs '68	P. Scott Ritchie '83
Jim M. Thompson '57	Kenneth G. Bassler '69	William Billeaud '85
Richard L. Russell '58	Jeffrey L. Copeland '69	Robert L. Browning '85
Donald J. Orr '61	Geoffrey C. Boling '70	Joseph A. Conti '85
William C. Young '62	Brian R. Doolittle '70	James Maas '85
Charles N. Hetrick '63	John L. Hammond Jr. '71	Kirk D. Dauksavage '86
Donald W. Johnson '64	Gregory M. Ketz '71	Thomas C. Callahan '92
James W. Barr II '66	Bruce C. Bailey '72	David W. Deahl '92
Kenneth A. Probst '66	Gregory L. Delaney '73	Joseph L. Gerzema '92
David A. Walters '66	John B. Gripman '73	William A. Kinder '95
Robert D. Baker '67	Joseph J. Lazzara '73	
Paul L. Pence '67	David J. Johnson '74	

# WELCOME, NEW BROTHERS!

*Our new brothers are all sophomores for the 2023-24 year.*



*Newly initiated members pose with their new member educators to celebrate their achievements.*

Jeffery Blanz	Hudson Hile	Cole Mitchell	Stephen Sinning
Ty Brunk	Hayden Hohman	Cian Mulkey	Sean Sinovic
Robbie Chalmers	Jonathan Huang	Bryce Murray	Cooper Skerry
Joseph Deckard	Ethan Jost	Danny Nunez	Andrew Smith
Milan Dhawan	Max Kerkhove	Tolu Olutimayin	Shinno Tanaka
Evan Ebbole	Tristan Kraus	Danny O'Rourke	Jake Taylor
Diego Eke	Avi Kumar	Jake Pfau	Dan Tennett
Tanner Erny	Kauldon Larson	Kyle Quinn	Will Weinzapfel
Nick Federici	Jacob Lecure	Alfonso Rego	Carson Whitehead
Trent Fox	Aidan Manickam	Jack Rider	Alec Wolfe
Nikhil Friedman	Manish Mantena	John Scott	Leo Zheng
Chase Grossnickel	Gavin McCormack	Donovan Shuff	
Nick Harper	Ross McElmurry	Abi Sidiharth	

# Your Donations Matter

## How You Can Help Beta Phi

Donations to the Beta Phi Foundation can have an incredible impact on the Chapter House and our members. Whether supporting the Chapter House Maintenance Fund (our current area of focus), general scholarships, or annual operations, every gift benefits the future of PIKE at Purdue.

Make your contribution now by giving online or by check. We would be grateful for your loyalty and help.

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

*Know  
Someone We  
Should Know?*

## Send Us Your Recruitment Referrals Today!

Please refer any potential new members to **Michael Bobber '25** at [mbobber@purdue.edu](mailto:mbobber@purdue.edu). Along with your recommendation, please include their current year and year of graduation, hometown, background information, major, and any relevant legacy connections. Thank you for helping to ensure Beta Phi's continued growth!



# Moving Beta Phi Forward

## Chapter Advisor Jordan Jones '21 Has High Hopes for New School Year

I am pleased to be entering my third year as Chapter advisor and chairman of the Alumni Advisory Board. I am a fall 2017 initiate and a 2021 graduate. During that time, I served as secretary and risk manager on my way to becoming Chapter president for the 2019-20 school year. Outside of PIKE, I majored in communications and served on the executive board for The Paint Crew, the men's basketball student section. I have greatly enjoyed staying involved with the Chapter post-graduation.

I feel strongly that Beta Phi is continuing to move in a positive direction and is competing as an elite Chapter on Purdue's campus. Whether it be working with the Home Association on improvement projects, handling compliance matters with the IFC or PIKE headquarters, or simply looking to better the Chapter, we have accomplished some good things over the past few years.

Now, entering another year, I am eager to see what the Chapter accomplishes. I am pleased to assist them with whatever they see fit.

In the bonds of ΦΦΚα,  
**Jordan Jones '21**  
Chapter Advisor

*As is the case with all our alumni groups, we are always welcoming new volunteers. Please email me at [jordanjones574@gmail.com](mailto:jordanjones574@gmail.com) should you be interested in getting involved.*

**Jim M. Thompson '57** lives in Carmel, Ind., and is still writing.  
Email: [jamesmiltonthompson@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmiltonthompson@gmail.com)

**Bill E. Jegen '66** graduated with a Juris Doctorate after Purdue and practiced law for 43 years in Glen Ellyn, Ill. For 28 years, he also operated a farm in Carroll County, Ill.

# Ready for a Fantastic Year Ahead

## Reflecting on Our Accomplishments as We Continue to Grow

Beta Phi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha has amassed a wealth of accomplishments in the past year. Ranging from monumental academic improvement to a strong and consistent philanthropy campaign, Purdue Pikes have been putting a stamp of good works to reflect our character at Purdue University. As president and internal vice president, I am proud to share the impact Beta Phi Chapter has made.

### REFOCUSING ACADEMIC PRIOROTIES

Our most impressive accomplishment is our GPA increase. Two semesters of inconsistent new member education and misplaced priorities put our overall fall 2022 GPA at 2.9, with new-member GPA being even lower at 2.6.

The stress on academics and the new system placed by Academic Chairman **Josh Clark '25** resulted in a cumulative house GPA of 3.14 and a new-member semester GPA of 3.02. This massive improvement is commendable, and we will build on this academic system to raise our GPA even higher during my next two semesters as president.

### STAYING STRONG IN PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy has always been a strong point of Beta Phi Chapter, as PIKE Fireman's Challenge continues to be a success and campus favorite (\$10,350 raised). Along with that, money was also raised with smaller events such as Pie a Pike and PIKE x AXO Car Wash. In addition, the PIKE Dream Girl competition increases philanthropy participation and involvement from sororities across Purdue. These important events



*Brothers gather at the local fire department for the annual PIKE Fireman's Challenge fundraiser.*

were all organized by brothers **Caden Chen '25** and **Alex Pons '25**.

### ALWAYS INVOLVED

I want to congratulate Brother **Tejas Chandrasekhar '25** for winning the Intramural Tennis Championship. PIKE fields teams for all sports and will continue to find a way to win!

We had multiple Pikes participate in Winterization volunteering as well as volunteering in the soup kitchen in Lafayette. Our brothers are involved in clubs across campus, and this culture of campus involvement will continue to grow.

Pi Kappa Alpha is eager to exceed our expectations and have a great school year!

In the bonds of ΦΦΚα,  
**Jacob Kaplan '25**  
Chapter President

# CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
**Jacob Kaplan '25**

Treasurer  
**Kyle McKeon '25**

Internal VP  
**Mike Mattern '25**

External VP  
**Caden Chen '25**

VP Membership  
**Michael Bobber '25**  
[mbobber@purdue.edu](mailto:mbobber@purdue.edu)

VP Communications  
**Cooper Keillor '25**

Sergeant-at-Arms  
**Alexander Pons '25**

Health/Safety Officer  
**Christos Kaiafas '25**

## RECRUITMENT CHAIRMEN

**William Messmer '25**  
[wmessmer@purdue.edu](mailto:wmessmer@purdue.edu)  
(812) 661-7756

**Jonathan Huang '26**  
[huan1797@purdue.edu](mailto:huan1797@purdue.edu)  
(408) 621-9469

**Ethan Jost '26**  
[joste@purdue.edu](mailto:joste@purdue.edu)  
(317) 495-8916

# PIKE

## Alumni News

His advocacy was the Masonic Fraternity, having served as Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bill's daughter and granddaughter are Purdue alumnae. "Boiler Up!" He resides in Wheaton, Ill.  
Email: [billjegen@gmail.com](mailto:billjegen@gmail.com)

**Philip D. Preuninger '68** formed a consulting business in 2015, leaving corporate employment. His focus is on aerospace rocket launch equipment for ground support. His main location work is installations at Cape Canaveral and Vandenberg for NASA, SpaceX, ULA, Blue Origin, and others. He lives in Apple Valley, Minn. Email: [philpreuninger@gmail.com](mailto:philpreuninger@gmail.com)



**SEPTEMBER 29-30**

While registration for Friday's golf and dinner closes on September 8, you can still join us for the after-dinner social and activities on Saturday. We look forward to seeing you!

**FRIDAY**

**1 p.m.** Golf Tournament  
**6:30 p.m.** Dinner and Foundation Update  
**9 p.m.** Harry's Chocolate Shop

**SATURDAY**

**9:30 a.m.** Activities at the Chapter House  
**3:30 p.m.** Kickoff against Illinois

**GOLF/DINNER REGISTRATION:**  
**2023PIKEGOLF.EVENTBRITE.COM**

**Beta Phi Foundation, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 442100  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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# A Great Time to Be a Pike

*(Continued from page 1)*

*"I really enjoyed fraternity life at the PIKE house and my years at Purdue. While Purdue prepared me academically for my future career plans, the time spent in the fraternity and serving it were all very fulfilling and rewarding."*

Scott lived in the house for three years and had great roommates, including **Kenny Acton '82**, **Larry Kindig '82**, and **Greg Eifert '84**, and he met many other interesting and influential people.

"Living with a hundred people in a single housing unit taught me patience, respect for others, the ability to work with others, and an appreciation for differing points of view," Scott said. "I believe those lessons have served me well in the practice of law."

Scott is a shareholder/director at Clausen Miller P.C., where he has worked for the past 34 years. His practice deals primarily with representing product manufacturers, construction entities, and general tort and commercial litigation. Scott has enjoyed being a lawyer and has been involved in cases with some of the most talented plaintiff and defense lawyers in the country.

In his career, Scott has met a broad array of interesting people and has even run into several Beta Phi Pikes around the country.

Scott met his wife, Kathy, while they were both at the Krannert School of Management at Purdue. They have three wonderful children, Katie, Meghan, and Michael. The family enjoys returning to Purdue for football and basketball games and campus visits as well as visiting national parks and monuments across the U.S.

Scott is grateful for the lifelong friendships he created in PIKE. He and **Ed "Cooker" Mackowiak '82** have gone on several backpacking and mountaineering trips together, and Scott enjoys any opportunity to play golf with Cooker, Greg Eifert, **Jeff O'Loughlin '83**, Ken Acton, and **Pete Wieand '83**.



*You can connect with Scott at [pritchie@clausen.com](mailto:pritchie@clausen.com).*



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



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