

# CANDLELIGHT

BETA PHI CHAPTER OF PI KAPPA ALPHA • PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
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Fall 2024



**P**hi Phi-nally! I lived in Lafayette and was a senior in high school the last time Purdue made a Final Four. Beta Phi was well-represented in Glendale, Arizona, for Purdue's first Final Four since 1980.

**Tyler Viernow '85** graciously brought his RV and hosted our tailgate. **Mike Wright '85**, **Mike Burmeister '86**, and I assisted Tyler in getting everything set up on Saturday and Monday nights. We had numerous brothers from several different eras in attendance.

On Saturday, we arrived early and greeted many of our brothers, wives, and friends. The excitement was incredible for several of us who also attended the January 1, 2001, Rose Bowl. Many years of frustration turned the trip into that much more fun.

The Boilermakers winning on Saturday made the party after the game that much better. Unfortunately, we did not get the win on Monday. However, that did not stop Pikes from thoroughly enjoying the event. The best way I can describe our tailgate was that on both Saturday and Monday nights, we were politely asked by the parking lot security staff to "wrap it up," as we were some of the only people left in the entire lot. Please enjoy these pictures of the event. Here's a thought: the Final Four in 2026 is in Indianapolis!

Fraternally,  
**Joe Conti '85**

From left: John Romanowski '86, Scott Lods '89,

Joe Conti '85, and Mike Wright '85.



**Know  
Someone We  
Should Know?**

**Send Us  
Your  
Recruitment  
Referrals  
Today!**

**P**lease refer potential new members to any of the brothers below. Along with your recommendation's name, please include their contact information (preferably phone number), and we will direct them to an interest form that can be filled out for PNMs.

**Robby Chambers '26**  
(219) 487-1579

**Ethan Jost '26**  
(317) 495-8916

**Jacob Peterson '27**  
(574) 343-3388

**Nate Stenseth '27**  
(408) 802-6737

**Thank you for helping to ensure Beta Phi's continued growth!**

# A Leader Through and Through

## DR. ROBERT BROCKHAUS '66 COMMITS TO BROTHERHOOD AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

**D**r. Robert Brockhaus '66 headed off to Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy (now Missouri S&T) with seven of his high school friends, and they all joined PIKE. Bob quickly discovered that PIKE offered many leadership opportunities and knew it would be the right fraternity for him. He served as a chapter officer for four semesters, and the Chapter received the Smythe Award his senior year. At that time, only one chapter received the Smythe each year. PIKE has made a significant impact on Bob's life as you will see.

### COMMITTED TO PIKE

Bob believes in the fraternity system, which motivates him to remain involved with PIKE. After graduation, he became the district president for Kansas chapters. At the time, he was working for Ralston Purina and was shortly transferred to Lafayette, Indiana. Only 23 years old, he began eating some meals at the PIKE house at Purdue. In 1963, he became their Chapter Advisor when they moved into the present Chapter House. Bob took a leave of absence from Ralston Purina in 1965 to attend Purdue's Krannert Graduate School of Business. He remained Chapter Advisor until his graduation in 1966.

Upon graduating, Bob rejoined Ralston Purina and eventually transferred to St. Louis. He left to open a restaurant, which was across the street from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He began teaching part-time at the university and became involved with the new PIKE Chapter on campus. From 1969-73, he served as the district president for Missouri chapters.

After teaching part-time, Bob desired to become a full-time professor of business and entered the doctorate program in business at Washington University in St. Louis. Upon completion, he joined the Saint Louis University faculty, and in 1990, when PIKE established a chapter on campus, he served as its faculty advisor until 2004. He also joined the Alpha Kappa Chapter House Corporation Board, became president in 2006, and has been serving in that position ever since.

"It's great to see young men grow in their maturity, develop leadership skills of their own, learn from mistakes and good decisions and successes that they and others make," Bob shared.

### PIONEERING IN ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

Entrepreneurship runs in the Brockhaus family veins; Bob's grandparents, father, brother, and now son, also a Pike, all owned businesses. Bob has also owned several businesses and was a pioneer in entrepreneurial education, and the leadership skills he gained in PIKE have been valuable throughout his career. When Bob first joined the SLU faculty in 1973, the department chairman asked him if he would teach an entrepreneurship course in the summer.

"I learned a lot teaching the course, and the students loved it," he said. "Entrepreneurship was taught in only a few universities. I was told by a senior faculty member, 'Brockhaus, this is Mickey Mouse stuff. If you keep pushing to have a permanent entrepreneurship course, you're not going to get tenure.'"

However, he did pursue and established courses and a center. The entrepreneurship program Bob started became one of the top five in the country. *Success Magazine* ranked the faculty he assembled as the best entrepreneurship faculty in the country.

Bob began assisting other universities' entrepreneurship programs in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world, holding several visiting endowed professorships, including a Fulbright Fellowship to New Zealand. He served as the international president and later as the executive director of the International Council for Small Business and was the first holder of the Coleman Chair in Entrepreneurship at SLU. He and his wife own a consulting practice, the Brockhaus Group, which assists large, family-owned businesses around the world. A few years ago, Bob was honored by SLU with the Robert H. Brockhaus Chair in Entrepreneurship.

Bob is proud of many moments in his career, and as he looks back, he recalls it was enjoyable but challenging, as entrepreneurship education was not considered important when he first began teaching. Today, thanks to his work and that of other pioneers, entrepreneurship is taught across campuses around the world.



You can connect with Bob at [bob@brockhausgroup.net](mailto:bob@brockhausgroup.net).

**T**hank 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 BY MAIL:

Make your check payable to Beta Phi Foundation and mail to:

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#### TO GIVE ONLINE:

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

Please do **not** mail to PO Box 2853 or Blueberry Lane. These are old addresses no longer affiliated with the foundation.

*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.*

**SUPPORTING  
BETA PHI  
FOUNDATION**

Brothers Kyle Quinn '26, Tim Malatia '27, Dan Tennen '26, and Aidan Cousseau '27 fishing in Europe during a study abroad trip this summer.



Pikes take spring 2024 graduation pictures under Purdue Arch.

# Consistently Improving Beta Phi

## ACADEMIC AND PHILANTHROPIC SUCCESS

### STRENGTHENING OUR BROTHERHOOD

Over the past year, Beta Phi Chapter has significantly expanded its campus presence, excelling in IFC/FSCL relations, recruitment, and philanthropy. Under the guidance of **Michael Bobber '25** and **Ethan Jost '26**, our Chapter welcomed over 60 new members, many of whom have quickly assumed leadership roles. Four of these members now hold key positions on the executive board, including treasurer, external vice president, vice president of communications, and vice president of membership. Others have taken on vital cabinet roles, such as the innovations team and the professional development committee.

To support this influx of new members, we've established committees focused on strengthening alumni connections and enhancing professional development. Internal Vice President **Hayden Hohman '26** is spearheading initiatives to connect brothers with alumni for industry insights and advice on securing internships and research opportunities.

If any alumnus is interested in helping, reach out to him at [hbhohman@gmail.com](mailto:hbhohman@gmail.com).

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

This past semester, Beta Phi emerged as a leader in academics, achieving a 3.21 term GPA and a 3.24 cumulative GPA. This improvement is largely due to the dedication of Academic Chairman **Leo Zheng '26**, who organized and led weekly study sessions for the brothers. Our academic success has also led to increased internship opportunities, with members being recruited by prestigious companies such as Toyota, ADM, Dell, and Boeing.

We also had the pleasure of seeing 28 of our brothers graduate this past spring. We look forward to the impact they will make in the world going forward and wish them the best in their new journey!

### PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our Chapter's commitment to philanthropy and community service saw remarkable growth

last year, earning us high regard from Purdue University and the West Lafayette community. We raised over \$4,000 this spring, a significant increase from the previous year's total of \$0. This achievement, driven by the hard work of **Hayden Hohman '26** and **Jake Taylor '25**, has enhanced our reputation among Greek organizations and university faculty.

Additionally, we saw a substantial rise in service hours, with brothers completing over 500 hours of community service under the supervision of Community Service Chairmen **Jack Rider '26** and **John Scott '26**. This far exceeded the contributions of many other campus organizations.

Overall, Beta Phi made tremendous strides last year, solidifying our position as one of the most influential Chapters on Purdue's campus.

Fraternally,  
**Stephen Sining '26**  
Chapter President



Brothers from fraternities across campus wait their turn to play in the Pike X Beta dye tournament to support Riley Children's Hospital.



Pikes participate in the Pike Polar Plunge, a newly introduced philanthropy event that donates all proceeds to the Lafayette Urban Ministry to help clothe families in need.

**M**any Pikes traveled to Arizona to celebrate Purdue's appearance in the Final Four. Check out a recap and more photos inside!



*Boilermakers fans excited for the Final Four. From left: Mike Wright '85, Diane Mirr Spangler, Julie Hummel Reiners, Cathy Amazon Murata, and Tyler Viernow '85.*

# CANDLELIGHT

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Purdue Pikes



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Purdue Pikes

## Chapter Officers

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**Stephen Sining '26**

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**Tim Malatia '27**

Internal Vice President

**Hayden Hohman '26**

Health and Safety Officer

**Bryce Murray '26**

Vice President of Membership

**Nate Stenseth '27**

Vice President of Communications

**Ben Chesnosky '26**

External Vice President

**Kamden Dodson '27**

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**Jacob Lecure '26**

## Thank You, 2024 Supporters

**T**hank you to the 34 supporters who have committed more than \$17,000 to the Beta Phi Foundation so far in 2024. 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 with any corrections. *Commitments are as of September 2, 2024.*

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Jeffery C. Langston '92

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**PIKE**