



# CANDLELIGHT

BETA PHI CHAPTER OF PI KAPPA ALPHA • PURDUE UNIVERSITY

*Published by the Beta Phi Foundation*



Summer 2022

**Cheers to 100 Years of Brotherhood!**

*Don't Miss the Event Decades in the Making*

## SERVING THE FOUNDATION

I want to begin by sharing that Bruce Pershing has announced his retirement as treasurer of the Beta Phi Foundation. Bruce has served Beta Phi for 30 years, providing thoughtful and excellent guidance. No one has been more loyal to our Chapter. I want to personally thank Bruce and ask all of you to thank him as well during our centennial celebration. Bruce, you will be missed, and you leave big shoes to fill.

That said, the search is on for his replacement. If you are interested or have someone to recommend for treasurer of the Foundation, please let me know ASAP. It would be great to find someone who could work with Bruce during his last few months.

## FINANCIAL UPDATES

Beta Phi Foundation remains very strong financially due to all your support. We will announce the results of our fundraising campaign

for the tutoring program on October 15 and also begin the process of looking at the additional needs at 629 University. The members of the Home Association will be providing additional information at that time.

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

I look forward to seeing every one of you at the 100-year celebration. You'll find more information regarding this event on page 4 of this newsletter. I'm truly looking forward to spending time with my most cherished friends in the world.

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

**Joe Conti '85**

President, Beta Phi Foundation  
(715) 498-4498

## EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

### PIKE Prepares for Another Stellar Year

#### Recruitment

We started 2022 off on a great note by building a pledge class of 42 new members. A month later, we had 39 new initiates—the largest class on campus (with the highest retention rate as well). In the spring, we initiated 14 new brothers into Beta Phi Chapter, a very strong number of great men for the spring.

#### Philanthropy

Our Dream Girl competition, along with PIKE's Fireman Challenge held in September, collected over \$15,000 for the local fire department and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. During the Dream Girl competition, sororities held events with us where they collected money for their respective philanthropies. We ended up raising \$17,614 for the Dream Girl events, which earned us the No. 1 spot in philanthropy dollars raised for the fall semester.

The brothers had a great time participating in all the events, from the dodgeball tournament to Pie-a-Pike. Many of us became closer with others in the Greek community at Purdue, and all the sororities thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you to **Sean O'Sullivan '23**, **Jack May '24**, and **Reed Tillinghast '24**, among many others, who worked hard to host successful events.



*Brothers bringing their A-game for the Tyler Trent Annual Golf Scramble during the Purdue Grand Prix weekend to raise money for cancer research. The team won the tournament and received a donation in their name. From left: Erik Jacobson '24, Brennan Chopp '24, Avery Hollinden '24, and Conall Farney '23.*

#### Sports

In the spring, we fielded multiple teams for each sport and were competitive in each game. Our talented 3 vs. 3 soccer team had a great season and won the top-bracket championship.

#### Extracurriculars

In late March, the brothers took off to Milwaukee for the weekend and had a great time at the PIKE 2022 Formal with their beautiful dates. The Westin Milwaukee hosted our outstanding award ceremony and steak dinner.

(Continued on page 2)

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



*Alek Rudy '23, Anish Saha '23, Gus Rupp '23, and Adam Peterson '23 at a tailgate before a football game.*



*We wish our 2022 graduating brothers well as they celebrate this spring! From left: Tyler Ramirez, Colin McDonough, Jack Bender, and Nick Roszkowski.*

## EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

### International Convention

In late July, four of our members traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, for the PIKE International Convention. **Brennan Chopp '24, Erik Jacobson '24, Conall Farney '23, and Thomas Comte '24** learned about the important aspects of our brotherhood and how to be a better leader.

### Goals

For the upcoming 2022-23 academic year, we want to prepare ourselves and our brothers for excellence. Below are the areas we intend to focus on the most and our game plan to ensure success for another year.

### Finances

- Budget all expenses before the beginning of the semester.
- Have everyone know the tutor allowance and where to find tutors.
- Responsibly spend money on events and not decrease budget by an unhealthy amount prior to end of semester.
- Have money carry over into the next semester.
- Budget for home improvements and brotherhood events.

### Recruitment

- Secure the largest pledge class at Purdue in the fall and spring—which has been achieved the past two years. We are aiming for around 45 new members.
- Reach top five in pledge class size for all PIKE chapters.
- Have 90% retention rate of new members.
- Recruit new members who can accomplish a 3.0 GPA or higher.

### Academics

- Increase cumulative GPA by at least .1.
- Increase semester GPA by at least .2.
- Increase number of brothers utilizing tutoring fund.
- Have three brothers serve as teacher assistants or work as an educator in some way at Purdue.
- Work with the Beta Phi Foundation to increase the number of scholarships available.

I know our brothers are capable of amazing things, and we can't wait to share our accomplishments next semester. We are also eager to celebrate 100-years of Beta Phi and hope to see you back at the Chapter House for the celebration this fall!

Faternally,  
**Brennan Chopp '24**  
President



*This four-man team took home the gold during the basketball tournament brotherhood event in early April. From left: Erik Jacobson '24, Michael Bobber '25, Jason Mair '24, and Thomas Darland '25.*



*PIKE brothers and Purdue sororities gathering for the fall 2021 PIKE Fireman's Challenge in September. The event raised money for firefighters and was a part of the Dream Girl philanthropy tournament.*



# Thank You, 2021 Supporters

**T**hank you to the 108 supporters who committed more than \$60,000 to Beta Phi Foundation in 2021. These donors listed below stepped up to invest in Beta Phi's future, and we could not be more grateful. Every dollar supports the educational programming necessary to keep Pi Kappa Alpha a premier fraternity at Purdue. 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.

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## Welcome, New Members!

Cole Beckman '25  
Jonathan Bami '25  
Nicolas Castracani '25  
Thomas Darland '25  
Alexander Deja '25  
Ryan Dreeves '25  
Justin Ebrahimi '24  
Sutton Motes '25  
Andrew Totty '25  
Elias Walker '25  
Brock Wilsey '25

## Why We Went PIKE

**James Vollmer '25**

"I truly believe the brotherhood in this house is stronger than any other Chapter House on campus ... and because academics come first."

**Dylan Yoder '25**

"I chose to join PIKE because of the people and the real brotherhood that I saw between brothers when I went through recruitment."

**Josh Clark '25**

"I wanted to feel a greater sense of connection to my community at Purdue, and there was no better way than to join the PIKE brotherhood when given the opportunity. Those endless connections are made while an unbreakable bond is formed."

You can refer incoming freshmen or current Purdue students to

**Reed Tillinghast '24** at (954) 881-3876,  
**Brennan Chopp '24** at (317) 316-6550,  
**James Vollmer '25** at (203) 610-0180, or  
**Rahul Prasad '25** at (408) 917-0786.

Please include their interests/hobbies and grades from high school or first year of college.



# Join Us for Beta Phi's Centennial Celebration

Plans continue for our 100-year anniversary celebration! While we don't have a kickoff time for the game against Nebraska on October 15, here's what we have planned.

## Centennial Celebration Schedule

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

**6-11 p.m.**

An informal gathering will be held at the home of **Scott Lods '89** for anyone coming into town.

Join us at:  
802 Wexford Dr.  
Lafayette, IN 47905

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

**Activities will begin at the Chapter House at 8 a.m.**

The agenda for the day will be sent out once we know the kickoff time; however, we will have the following events:

- House tours
- Announcements, presentations, and speeches
- Elections/relections of Home Association and Foundation members
- Scholarships announcements and awards
- Professional photographer on site until 4 p.m.
- Raffle items will be on display. You don't need to be present to win, but we hope you stick around!

Depending on kickoff time, there may be a reception at the Chapter House after the game. More information to follow as available.

Other notes:

- Check-in and registration desk will be manned by undergraduates.
- Food will be catered by Homestyle Catering.
- Please purchase your tickets and make hotel reservations early. The Foundation does NOT have tickets or a block of rooms.

We will send out emails and an additional mailing with more information as it comes—look out for those communications.

**We can't wait to see you there!**



# CANDLELIGHT



**Beta Phi Foundation, Inc.**

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Calendars!**

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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External Vice President  
**Will Messmer '25**

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Sergeant at Arms  
**Michael Bobber '25**

Vice President of Membership  
**Reed Tillinghast '24**

Vice President of Communications  
**Joe Patton '25**



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