

# CANDLELIGHT

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



Spring 2023

## To the Next 100 Years

### HOW TO KEEP UP WITH BETA PHI

**M**y first major announcement for this edition is the change we are making to our Golf Outing—please mark your calendars! To attract more people, we will hold our golf outing the same weekend as our reunion. We will play golf on **Friday, September 29**, in the afternoon and then attend our reunion on Saturday, September 30, as the Boilermakers take on Illinois. More information to follow.

We have officially kicked off our fundraising campaign to fully fund Chapter House maintenance projects, as announced during our 100th anniversary. This is a long-term project and was one of the original “goals” when the Beta Phi Foundation was formed over 30 years ago. We all understand that the house and property at 629 University is the garden spot for our Chapter; the physical house is now 60 years old and will need to be maintained. You, our alumni, have been incredibly generous in helping maintain the house. It is our goal to create a fund that will allow the maintenance and depreciation of costs to become self-funded and perpetual, in the same way our scholarships and tutoring program are. Your contributions to this fund will solidify our physical house and property’s status for generations. Please keep this in mind if you choose to contribute.

As always, if you have specific thoughts about where you want your donation to be placed, just let us know. The Beta Phi Foundation serves as the custodian of your generous contributions and will apply yours wherever you desire.

We look forward to seeing you all this fall. Hopefully, our new format will entice and allow for more of you to join the golf outing!

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



*As a friendly reminder, please note that the PIKE Foundation is a separate entity from the Beta Phi Foundation. We at Beta Phi Foundation appreciate your support and ask that all donations for the Beta Phi Chapter come through us.*

## REFLECTING ON A CENTURY AT PURDUE

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION RECAP

#### OUR BEGINNINGS AT PURDUE

Beta Phi Chapter held its 100th anniversary celebration this past October 14 and 15. This was a grand event recognizing this great Chapter's long and storied history. Chartered on April 12, 1922, Beta Phi Chapter was established by members of a local Purdue fraternity named Emanon. These young gentlemen certainly had a sense of humor, deriving their name from the words “no name” spelled backward. They began their journey in a small West Lafayette home with a modest 31 members.

Legendary founder **Arthur S. Bowes** served as president of the Senior Pan-Hellenic Council in 1922-23, his senior year, and later received



the Distinguished Achievement Award from Pi Kappa Alpha National in 1958. The Chapter has moved its home twice since 1922 and, since 1964, has remained at its coveted location on University Street right next to the campus. It has won many awards over the years, including eight Smythe awards (in 1971, each year from '82 through '88, and 2017) and the House of the Year award in 2019.

#### CREATION OF THE FOUNDATION, HOME ASSOCIATION, AND ADVISORY BOARDS

This Chapter has been blessed with many dedicated alumni who have been committed to sustaining it these 100 years. In 1992 and with incredible foresight, alumni **Rich Russell '58** and **Charlie Hetrick '64** initiated the Beta Phi Foundation Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that provides scholarships and financial aid for its deserving members. Begun with a modest investment of \$2,000 followed by the generous contributions of many loyal alumni, it now has an asset value of just over \$1 million.

Also in place is the Home Association, which oversees the affairs of the Chapter and maintenance of the property, and the Alumni Advisory Board, which provides a direct connection between alumni and undergraduate members.

*(Continued on page 2)*



# REFLECTING ON A CENTURY AT PURDUE

*(Continued from page 1)*

## A DAY TO CELEBRATE A CENTURY

The anniversary celebration began with an open house at the local home of **Scott Lods '89** on Friday evening, October 14. This was an opportunity for returning alumni to reconnect in an informal, laid-back environment. On Saturday morning, October 15, the formal celebration began with alumni arriving early at the Chapter House, greeted by members with a flower for spouses. At noon, the Home Association held its annual meeting for electing officers and board members.

Then, the annual Chapter scholarships were presented by Beta Phi Foundation President **Joe Conti '85** to four outstanding candidates. Those receiving awards of \$1,200 each were:

- **Jack May '24**, for the Charlie Hetrick Scholarship
- **Joshua Clark '25**, for the Glasgow/Kent Scholarship
- **Joshua Downham '25**, for the Robert Rain Scholarship
- **Troy Tamura '25**, for the Arthur S. Bowes Scholarship

Next, members entertained the alumni with a choral rendition of the great traditional Pi Kappa Alpha songs, "How'd You Like to Be a PKA," "May I Speak My Heart," and "Down in Old Virginny." Then, we had a fabulous catered luncheon, which continued through the afternoon hours.

In the evening, we held special presentations for **Rich Russell '58** and Bruce Pershing. Rich, as one of the founders of the foundation, has served as its president and then chairman of the board since its inception in 1992. His contributions and foresight have been monumental in sustaining and nurturing this great Chapter. The new alumni room that has been established at the Chapter House is named in honor of Rich and his wife, Phyllis. To conclude Rich's ceremony, we presented him with a large photo of himself and Phyllis, placing another copy outside the alumni room. Bruce was honored as the reliable and trustworthy treasurer of the Beta Phi Foundation; he is retiring after 30 years of dedicated service.

**Tom Maddox '71**, president of the Home Association, encouraged alumni to contribute to a new endowment fund that would provide funds to cover long-term maintenance and upgrades to the property. The alumni present heartily supported the idea, and several made

financial commitments to help get it off the ground. (You can read more about the fund on page 1.)

**Rex Martin '72** then made a pitch for the completion of the composite photo project. He has received most of the photos, dating back to the 1950s, from alumni and Pike National but asked for help from the alumni to finish it up.

Many alumni took the opportunity to visit their old rooms and reminisce with the young men now occupying their old digs about the good times they experienced. Someday, maybe years in the future, these new brothers will be having the same experience with brothers yet to be.

The group then gathered in front of the Chapter House for our traditional reunion photo. Afterward, we held a raffle to raise funds for the Beta Phi Foundation, with prizes including six 100th anniversary flags (one of which was signed by the alumni and brothers) and four footballs signed by Purdue Football Coach Jeff Brohm.

## DID YOU GET YOUR MERCH?

Also available for purchase were hats, shirts, and flags with the 100th anniversary logo. **For those who couldn't attend or didn't have a chance to purchase these commemorative items, there are still a few shirts of various sizes and 25 hats available for sale.** Please contact Joe Conti at [joscon\\_61@yahoo.com](mailto:joscon_61@yahoo.com) to purchase them.

Finally, each brother present was given a commemorative 100th anniversary coin as a memento. Then it was time to head to the stadium for the Purdue vs. Nebraska football game. Many alumni sat together in one section, cheering on the Boilermakers to a hard-won victory.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This special gathering of 140 longtime friends and brothers was one for the ages. The joy of reconnecting with fellow Pikes, who shared this space and experience together at such an important time in their lives, is both reflective and meaningful. One does not part ways having not been touched by the experience.

Here's to the next 100 years of PIKE at Purdue!





*Left: Caden Chen '25, Jack May '24, and Alex Pons '25 (center) planned and organized a very successful Pike's Fireman Challenge in September with the support of the Purdue Fire Dept. We had 25 teams from other Greek organizations participate in the fundraiser obstacle course. This was one of many events included in our annual DreamGirl competition. Right: Our 100-year anniversary on October 15, 2022. We had an amazing turnout, and it was a great celebration of an even better 100 years of history.*

## Year 101 of Beta Phi

### Brothers Support Brothers Year-Round

To start the spring 2023 semester, brothers hosted an amazing two weeks of recruitment, resulting in our biggest spring new member class ever. We pinned 33 new members in February and are at the top spot for new-member class size. Many of these members are roommates and friends of our current freshman members, so it's great to see the positive impact of our fraternity on its members. They have started learning the history and the values of Pi Kappa Alpha and are becoming stronger men—and, hopefully soon, brothers.

We have also added a new chairman to the health and safety board: the mental health chairman. As the first to hold this new role, **Jake Pfau '26** leads weekly meetings with brothers and also provides any relevant resources or direction.

Also, our second-floor "Brother's Lounge" received a major renovation with new couches, a projector and screen, a sound system, and new decorations. Thank you to the Beta Phi Foundation for the monetary support, and big thanks to **Dylan Yoder '25, Patrick Brown '25, and Jacob Kaplan '25** for getting the project done.

Later this spring, we will be going on our annual formal outing in downtown Chicago, hosting a black-tie event on a yacht on Lake Michigan. Also, we will be hosting our amazing mothers for Mom's Day in mid-April, including brunch and goat yoga activities. We look forward to sharing more news with you as the year continues!

Fraternally,  
**Brennan Chopp '24**, President



*Left: Josh Downham '25 (right) is one of four undergraduate scholarship winners at the anniversary celebration for his 4.0 GPA as a PharmD student. Joe Conti '85 (left) and the rest of the Beta Phi Foundation members chose Josh to receive this award. Right: Ethan Jost '26 completes his second marathon in Disney World. Ethan is an active representative of all the pillars of SLAG.*

# Thank You, 2022 Supporters

**T**hank you to the 93 supporters who committed more than \$72,000 to the Beta Phi Foundation in 2022. 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.

Gerald E. Grant '54	Robert D. Blue '68	Gregory L. Delaney '73
Robert L. Rain '55	Daniel T. Herron '68	Joseph J. Lazzara '73
C. Craig Hudson '56	Philip D. Preuninger '68	David J. Lowe '73
Frank S. Rekosik '56	Steven D. Scruggs '68	William A. Samuelson '73
Rollin C. Dix '57	Kenneth G. Bassler '69	Craig A. Beebe '74
Jim M. Thompson '57	Jeffrey L. Copeland '69	Jeffrey R. Noble '74
Don W. Rain '58	R. Richard Hofmann '69	Alexander G. Bashenow '75
Richard L. Russell '58	James M. Little '69	Ronald E. Picciotti '76
Fredric C. Westendorf '60	G. Robert Blakey '70	Jeffrey M. Etter '77
Richard A. Justice '61	Geoffrey C. Boling '70	Larry J. Lautner '77
William C. Young '62	Douglas G. Clay '70	Robert F. Rossiter Jr. '78
Charles N. Hetrick '63	Brian R. Doolittle '70	David C. Moya '79
Donald K. Willing '63	Thomas D. Pogue '70	Kentton C. Grant '81
Roger A. Bair '64	Craig Swanson '70	Brian W. Walker '81
David K. Brennan '64	John C. Weisgerber '70	Christopher J. Inglot '82
Donald W. Johnson '64	Coley J. Cassiano '71	James A. Wehsollek '82
Gary H. Johnson '64	Dennis E. Dreyer '71	Dean S. Moya '83
Tony Loesch '64	Thomas W. Eyre '71	Stephen R. Hanon '84
Steven P. Sidwell '64	Paul W. Hemmer Jr. '71	William J. Billeaud Jr. '85
John W. Bevelhimer III '65	Thomas L. Maddox '71	Robert L. Browning '85
Martin C. Hegglin '65	Douglas F. Reed '71	Joseph A. Conti '85
Ronald J. Laub '65	R. Michael Reed '71	Timothy J. Lorenc '88
Wendell L. Pieper '65	Eberhart K. H. Starost '71	Scott L. Lods '89
Robert W. Raichle '65	Peter A. Velde '71	Steve S. Szurek '90
Robert K. Rosler '65	Bruce C. Bailey '72	Joseph L. Gerzema '92
Dennis J. Drag '66	Bill J. Chen '72	Jeffery C. Langston '92
Kenneth A. Probst '66	Richard H. Deane '72	Michael J. Throneberry '94
Robert D. Baker '67	Mark S. Lindsay '72	William A. Kinder '95
Jeffrey B. Orwig '67	Randall S. Meyerholtz '72	John F. Cyr '96
Paul L. Pence '67	Michael R. Nowling '72	Casey J. Hiers '01
Harold G. Rohrer '67	Alvin G. Rohrer '72	Brendan Fry '10

An additional thank-you to those who have already expressed support in 2023. We look forward to seeing what we will accomplish together!

Jim M. Thompson '57	Jeffrey L. Copeland '69	John B. Gripman '73
Donald J. Orr '61	Geoffrey C. Boling '70	Brian T. Lernihan '79
William C. Young '62	John L. Hammond Jr. '71	P. Scott Ritchie '83
Charles N. Hetrick '63	Gregory M. Ketz '71	Robert L. Browning '85
Robert D. Baker '67	Bruce C. Bailey '72	Thomas C. Callahan '92

## TIME TO UPDATE THOSE ROLODEXES

*Beta Phi Foundation Has a New Address for Donations*

**W**e understand that some of our most loyal donors may have the Beta Phi Foundation address saved in their contact books or may be automatically enrolled with their banks for regular giving. **For that, we thank you for your unrivaled generosity!**

However, we have a new address specifically for receiving donations, and we'd appreciate you confirming that you have the most current information in your files.

**If you are mailing a check donation, please ensure it is directed to our payment processing address:**

Pi Kappa Alpha –  
Purdue University  
Payment Processing  
P.O. Box 2187  
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

Sending all mailed donations to this address will help us expedite the handling and acknowledgment of your gift, so thank you for your diligence and generosity!

Meanwhile, our online donation option has not changed and can be found at our website, [pikapurdue.org](http://pikapurdue.org).

**No matter how you choose to give, thank you for supporting Beta Phi.**

# CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
**Brennan Chopp '24**

Treasurer  
**Erik Jacobson '24**

VP of Membership  
**Michael Bobber '25**  
mbobber@purdue.edu  
(708) 638-0472

External VP  
**Will Messmer '25**

## Health and Safety Officer **Thomas Darland '25**

Secretary  
**Sean Soltis '24**

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

Internal VP  
**Jacob Kaplan '25**

## Mental Health Chairman **Jake Pfau '26**

# Welcome, New Members



### *The fall 2022 pledge class after initiation.*

Ty Brunk '25	Cian Mulkey '26
Joseph Deckard '26	Bryce Murray '26
Evan Ebbole '25	Danny Nunez '25
Tanner Erny '26	Jake Pfau '25
Nick Federici '25	Kyle Quinn '26
Nicolas Harper '26	Adam Sellhorn '26
Hudson Hile '26	Stephen Sinning '26
Johnathan Huang '26	Andrew Smith '26
Ethan Jost '26	Shinnosuke Tanaka '25
Cooper Kerry '26	Jake Taylor '25
Kauldon Larson '25	Dan Tennen '26
Manish Mantena '25	Will Weinzapfel '26
Gavin McCormack '26	Alec Wolfe '26
Ross McElmurry '26	

# *Send us Your Recruitment Suggestions*

**F**or new member referrals, contact VP of Membership **Michael Bobber '25** at (708) 638-0472 (call/text) or [mbobber@purdue.edu](mailto:mbobber@purdue.edu). Please include the potential member's age/year in school, social media accounts, and contact info.

## *Catch Up with Bill Jegen '66*

Bill practiced law for 43 years in Glen Ellyn, Ill. For 28 years, he also operated a farm in Carroll County, Ill. Bill lives in Wheaton, Ill., and is a member the Masonic Fraternity, having served as Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Illinois in 2012. His daughter and granddaughter are Purdue alumnae.

Email: billjegen@gmail.com

# Update Your Biographical Information

And Tell Us What You've Been up To!

**T**his *Candlelight* newsletter includes a bio update insert. Please review the information we currently have for you; if it has changed or if we are missing any info, please fill out the form and return it to us as soon as possible. You have the option of mailing the form back via USPS or returning it digitally. Check the insert for more detailed instructions.

***We would also like to hear about what you've been up to!*** News items about you and your Beta Phi brothers could be included in the alumni news section of our next newsletter.

<p>In an effort to update our alumni records so we can better serve our members, Beta Phi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha at Purdue University is asking you to review the contact information listed on this form. If you need to update this information, please cross out the old and write the new below.</p>	
<p><b>Res:</b> &lt;&gt;ResName&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Middle:</b> &lt;&gt;MiddleName&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Last:</b> &lt;&gt;LastName&gt;&gt; &lt;&gt;NameSuffix&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Preferred First Name:</b> &lt;&gt;NickName&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Grade Year:</b> &lt;&gt;GYear&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Initiation Year:</b> &lt;&gt;IYear&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Graduation Year:</b> &lt;&gt;GYear&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Spouse:</b> &lt;&gt;Spouse&gt;&gt;</p>	<p><b>Children:</b> &lt;&gt;Children&gt;&gt;</p>
<p><b>Email:</b> &lt;&gt;Email&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Home Phone:</b> &lt;&gt;HomePhone&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Cell Phone:</b> &lt;&gt;Mobile&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Business Phone:</b> &lt;&gt;BusinessPhone&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Mailing Address:</b></p>	
<p>&lt;&gt;Address Line 1&gt;&gt; &lt;&gt;Address Line 2&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p>&lt;&gt;City&gt;&gt; &lt;&gt;State&gt;&gt; &lt;&gt;Zip Code&gt;&gt; &lt;&gt;Country&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Employer:</b> &lt;&gt;Business&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Title:</b> &lt;&gt;Title&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>Retired:</b> &lt;&gt;Retired&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">If no, what year? &lt;&gt;RetiredDate&gt;&gt;</p>	
<p><b>RETURNING IS EASIER THAN EVER.</b> Fold this self-mailer so that the logo is on the front and the address is on the back, then place a stamp on the back and drop it in the mail. Or scan and email it to <a href="mailto:updatemycards@purdue.edu">updatemycards@purdue.edu</a> with "Pi Kappa Alpha - Purdue University" in the subject line.</p>	

# Chapter Eternal

John D. Jones '57  
April 2022

William A. Kuczynski '64  
January 9, 2021

# CANDLELIGHT



## Beta Phi Foundation, Inc.

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**Thank You for a  
Great 100 Years!**

**T**hank you to all our brothers who helped make the centennial event a success!

For a recap of the celebration (and a brief history of PIKE at Purdue), check out the front page.



You can view our complete photo album by visiting [tinyurl.com/100atPIKEPurdue](http://tinyurl.com/100atPIKEPurdue) or using the QR code.

**See more from  
Year 101 of  
Beta Phi on page 3!**



Brennan Chopp '24 and Jack May '24 visit the Pike House at the University of Wisconsin before the Purdue vs. Wisconsin football game in October.

## LAST CALL FOR PHOTO COMPOSITES

**ATTENTION:** This will be my *final* plea for composite photos to include in the Beta Phi Chapter alumni archives. We have done quite well but desperately need a few more to complete the collection.

I targeted the years from 1950 onward, knowing that it might be difficult to find those older ones from the '50s. Still, I know they are out there, and I really need your help to complete the project, especially those from 1960 forward.

**Help me keep our photo history alive for generations to come!**

Following are the years we still need. Please contact me at your earliest convenience. *I can make copies of your photo if you want to retain your original.*

1950	1957	1987	1991	1998
1951	1959	1988	1995	2007
1952	1961	1989	1996	2008
1955	1968	1990	1997	

In the bonds of φφκα,

**Rex Martin '72**

Historian

[rexmartinpiano@gmail.com](mailto:rexmartinpiano@gmail.com) | (317) 445-5077



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