

# CANDLELIGHT

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



Spring 2024

## BETA PHI UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

### A Word from the Newly Elected Beta Phi Foundation Board President

It has been a long time since I have been charged with writing an update for *Candlelight*. In fact, it was in 1993 when I wrote my last update as SMC. Reflecting upon my undergraduate years in the house, it was easy to update on the great things happening; the house was newly remodeled, we were top three in athletics, every sorority on campus desired to be partnered with us, GPA was above average, and we simply had an awesome group of active brothers on campus. In my mind, as I am sure others would agree, Pi Kappa Alpha was the best all-around fraternity, hands down.

#### Personal Impact

During my undergraduate years, getting involved both internally and externally played a large role in my leadership development. Furthermore, I met my wife through fraternity connections, and we have been married for more than 27 years. It has been amazing to see the number of brothers in my era alone that are in major leadership roles in business. I know for sure their time at PIKE played an integral role in some fashion.

I challenge you to reflect on what your time at PIKE brought to your success today!

#### Continuing to Serve

Today, more than 30 years later, I am writing as the newly elected Beta Phi Foundation president. In all honesty, questioning, *what in the hell did I get myself into now? Don't I have enough on my plate?* As the fourth-generation owner with my brother, **Doug Kinder '91**, of a 132-year-old family business, leadership of the past gave us and many before an opportunity. Under our leadership today, we look forward to passing the baton to the next generation stronger than ever.

Beta Phi Chapter celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, and again, leadership of the past and present has given us all the great honor and opportunity to live out the PIKE experience. As Foundation president, I have huge shoes to fill for prior Foundation President **Joe Conti '85** and **Richard Russell '58** prior to him, who was one of the original board members of the Foundation when it came into existence in 1992. I remember getting calls from Rich to check in and see how we were doing when I was the SMC, challenging me to keep the Chapter on the right path and providing advice.

#### The Beta Phi Foundation

What does the Foundation even do? We are a board of Beta Phi brothers from different decades that provides counsel, advice, and financial support to the on-campus Chapter. We have a goal of implementing Chapter sustainability through endowed scholarships and programs that impact the present and future of the Beta Phi brotherhood.

Today, Beta Phi Foundation has more than \$500,000 in investments and another \$350,000 in scholarship endowments to support our overall goal to endow the future of PIKE with its facilities and brotherhood.

Many have asked me, "What value does the Foundation bring to you as a board member?" For me, it's peace of mind that others will have the opportunity to live their college experience beyond Purdue through leadership and the bonds that Beta Phi brotherhood has given to us all.

**Wishing you all a very successful 2024!**

Fraternally,

**Bill Kinder '95**

President, Beta Phi Foundation Board



## READ ABOUT OUR BROTHERS PHILANTHROPY INSIDE

Brothers gather after competing in Tri Delta's Frats at Bat philanthropy. PIKE placed second in money raised and brother attendance.

# Cementing Our Status at Purdue

## BETA PHI KEEPS PUSHING FORWARD

Beta Phi Chapter has been busy! With great successes in philanthropy, academics, socials, and more, we are among the highest-performing Chapters on campus.

### Strengthening the Brotherhood

During my time as president, the Chapter has grown relations with the Purdue Interfraternity Council executive board and Purdue FSCL staff. These new relationships have helped the Chapter maintain compliance with regulations developed by IFC to ensure brother and guest safety. Furthermore, this has resulted in the Chapter's great standing and high compliance score with Purdue University.

Beta Phi is growing rapidly. Under the direction of **Michael Bobber '25**, the Chapter brought in 32 new members in fall 2023. These brothers have quickly taken up leadership positions throughout the house and look forward to leaving their mark.

Spring 2024 recruitment has been a great success under the direction of VP Membership **Ethan Jost '26**. The Chapter has brought in around 30 new members that we look forward to initiating this spring.

### Classroom Success

The Chapter has become one of the strongest houses in academics under the direction of **Hayden Hohman '26**. Beta Phi achieved an astounding cumulative GPA of 3.22, one of the highest among fraternities with more than 100 members. Compared to a year ago, the new members' GPA has grown 0.52 points up to 3.12.

These achievements in the classroom have seen dividends in internships and job offers. Prestigious companies like J.P. Morgan, Honda, Arm, and ADM have sought out brothers to fill their talent needs.



*Pikes participate in PIKE Toy Drive, a new philanthropy event introduced this year to give donated toys to the less fortunate in the Lafayette area.*

### Philanthropy Efforts

This fall, the Chapter participated in its largest philanthropy event of the year, the Pi Kappa Alpha Dream Girl competition. Through a variety of events, most notably PIKE's Fireman Challenge, women from various sororities compete to earn points to become the next PIKE Dream Girl (fall 2022 winner: Kappa Kappa Gamma).

This event led to more than \$5,000 donated to the Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation. Overall, Beta Phi Chapter has grown into and maintained our identity as of one of the top houses on campus.

Fraternally,

**Jacob Kaplan '25**

President



*The fall 2023 new member class gathers outside the Chapter House. We are excited to see what they can bring to PIKE.*

## Welcome, New Members

Cristobal Arrus  
Raziq Aziz  
Max Bradford  
Samuel Burnitz  
Gustavo Caillaux  
Luke Carnoy  
Ben Chesnosky  
Aidan Cousseau  
Troy DeHaan  
Holden Deno  
Kamden Dodson

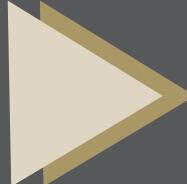
Nick Favero  
Ty Gushiken  
Ben Harris  
McCartney Hong  
Matthew Krugh  
Imran Maayah  
Tim Malatia  
Ryan McFall  
Izak Mock  
Ohinoiyi Momoh  
Dylan Myers

Morgan O'Malley  
Andrew Payton  
Jacob Peterson  
Tyler Quisling  
Kekai Romanowski  
Nathan Schoenherr  
Neil Skly  
Nate Stenseth  
Luke Wampler  
Jacob Xanders

Do you know a young man attending Purdue University who would be a great fit for PIKE?

Be sure to send a referral to VP Membership **Ethan Jost '26** via email at [joste@purdue.edu](mailto:joste@purdue.edu). Please include the student's full name, contact information, and any legacy connections.

**HELP US GROW  
THE BROTHERHOOD**  
Submit a Recruitment Referral



# THANK YOU, 2023 SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the 73 supporters who committed more than \$25,000 to the Beta Phi Foundation 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 with any corrections.*

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Geoffrey C. Boling '70	Brandon Stahl '06
Brian R. Doolittle '70	Richard Carstens
Robert A. Drag '71	Joyce Fidler
Dennis E. Dreyer '71	In memory of
John L. Hammond Jr. '71	Ralph Born '72
Gregory M. Ketz '71	

An additional thank-you to those who have already extended support in 2024. We appreciate your dedication and generosity!

William C. Young '62	John M. Weaver Jr. '76
Geoffrey C. Boling '70	William A. Kinder '95

## Another Momentous Reunion CELEBRATING OUR CHAPTER'S RICH LEGACY

On the weekend of September 29-30, 2023, Beta Phi alumni gathered at the Chapter House for the annual PIKE reunion. Our traditional golf outing was held at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex on Friday, September 29. The following day, alumni from all eras dating back to the '50s gathered in friendship and brotherhood.

A buffet-style meal, provided by the Chapter, was catered for alumni, family, and friends. The annual Home Association update and officer election kicked off the formal activities. **Bill Kinder '95**, with assistance from **Charlie Hetrick '64**, presented scholarships to the following Chapter members for outstanding leadership and academics:

Glasgow/Kent –  
Most Improved  
GPA  
**Cian Mulkey '26**



Charlotte and Charlie  
Hetrick – Leadership  
and Scholarship  
**Will Messmer '25**



Bowes –  
GPA and Leadership  
**Daniel Nunez '26**



Robert Rain –  
Highest GPA  
**Troy Tamura '25**



### Honoring Our Past President

**Joe Conti '85**, Beta Phi Foundation president for the last nine years, was awarded a plaque that will bear his name for his outstanding and dedicated service. It will be placed outside the Chapter library. Joe will remain on the board for a couple more years with a focus on recruiting younger alumni to serve.

A succession process is essential in making sure the boards remain perpetual. Honorary gavels were presented to the two past presidents, **Rich Russell '58** and Joe, and newly elected president, **Bill Kinder '95**, who has served on the board for several years and whose company was instrumental in the 2015 house renovation.

### Recognizing PIKE History

**Brian Doolittle '70** and **Rex Martin '72** led a ceremony that rededicated the plaque memorializing the five brothers involved in a tragic auto accident on December 4, 1969.

**Michael Neely, Roger Lantz, Walter Brown Jr., and Warren Hillman III** lost their lives while **Don Anderson '70** was critically injured. **Peter Velde '71** and **Mike Nowling '72** spoke eloquently of the trauma and enduring strength and camaraderie of our brotherhood, and a solemn prayer was offered in their memory.



*The plaque honoring our lost brothers.*

**James Thompson '57**, author of a new book, *Memories of an Old Pike*, a chronicle of fraternity life in the '50s at our previous location on Andrews Street, then provided a book signing and discussion.

The Chapter members led alumni in a sing-along of Pi Kappa Alpha songs before everyone gathered outside the front of the house for a photo. The day concluded with a Homecoming victory on the gridiron over Illinois. A great time was had by all, gathering in brotherhood, friendship, and cherished memories.



*Our reunion attendees gather outside the house.*

# Are You Staying Engaged with PIKE?

Our brotherhood at Purdue keeps growing, and it's up to us as alumni to ensure their strong fraternal future on campus. Check below for details on how you can support Beta Phi Foundation today as you enjoy the latest *Candlelight* updates.

Also, be sure to check the inserted bio update form and confirm your information or submit any necessary revisions.



# CANDLELIGHT

## Beta Phi Foundation, Inc.

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Purdue Pikes

## Support Beta Phi Today

Beta Phi Foundation looks to our alumni to fund our scholarships, endowments, and initiatives. As a reminder, **Beta Phi Foundation** is different than PIKE Foundation.

PIKE Foundation is Pi Kappa Alpha National. Anything you donate would go to national, and they would provide Beta Phi with a portion of that donation. **Donations to Beta Phi Foundation go directly to Beta Phi Chapter.** We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are entirely tax deductible.

While you are welcome to designate where you want your donation to be allocated, **our greatest priority is funding our Chapter House maintenance campaign.** This fund will support any annual or planned Chapter House maintenance projects. The undergraduate Chapter also has an initiative of their own to support renovations.

The Home Association has created a depreciation schedule to assist in predicting when things like the roof or boiler will need to be replaced.

This initiative became the last of the priorities identified when Beta Phi Foundation was created more than 30 years ago.

You can contribute today by following the instructions below. 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

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to Give!



*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.*