

97 Years at Purdue

# CANDLELIGHT

Beta Phi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha • Purdue University  
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FALL 2017

## RECOVERED CHARTER AND SMYTHE AWARD MAKE 2017 A STANDOUT YEAR



**B**rothers, it is indeed a great time to be a Beta Phi Pike! The Smythe Award capped off a long and hard climb to the highest level. It was unveiled at Homecoming, along with our recovered charter.

For those who don't know, our original charter had been lost for about 40 years. We had believed it was lost forever. In late fall 2016, shortly after Homecoming, the Chapter president, **Andrew McGowan '17**, received a package in the mail simply addressed to the president. It had no return address on it or anything identifying who sent it. The postmark was from somewhere near Columbus, Ohio. Inside Andrew found our *original* charter—printed on lambskin and extremely well maintained.

**Bob Nice '82**, **Rex Martin '72**, and I began a project to restore some of our Chapter history. Last spring we asked in the *Candlelight* for donations to help pay for the project. We received gifts from **Jim Thompson '57**, **Jeff Langston '92** and his brother, **Jim Langston '92**. That put the wheels in motion. Through a great deal of research, Rex was able to put together our petition for charter and a photo history of all the houses we've lived in at Purdue.

So now our petition for charter, original charter and brief history are in their own case, along with our brand new Smythe Award in the Alumni Room of the Chapter House. Please make sure you stop in and enjoy the display. One note of mystery however: see if you can figure out which name from the petition has been removed from the charter.

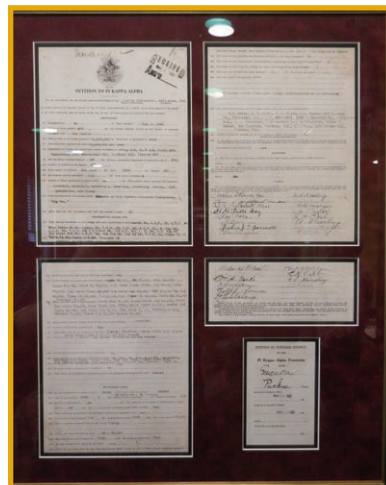
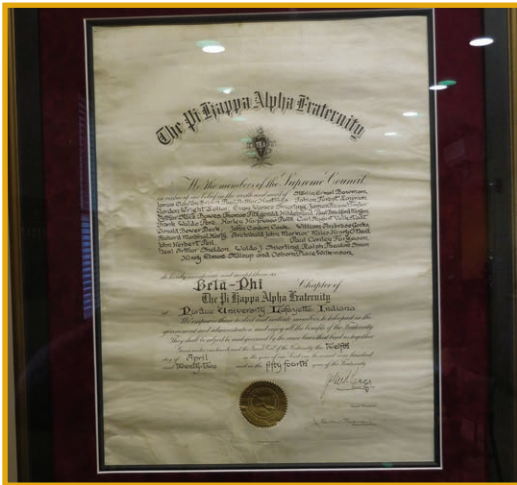
Sincerely in φκκλ,

**Joe Conti '85**

President, Beta Phi Foundation

(812) 629-3356

joscon\_61@yahoo.com







## BETA PHI WINS ROBERT ADGER SMYTHE AWARD

On July 29 at the biennial Pi Kappa Alpha Academy in Memphis, Tennessee, the Beta Phi Chapter won its first Smythe Award since 1988. Congratulations are in order. Congratulations foremost to the active members who invested the time and effort needed to win an award given to only 10% of Pi Kappa Alpha chapters annually. As the Chapter focuses on the next goal, I'd like to humbly submit why I believe every chapter should strive for this award, and what this award means.

The Smythe Award is given to a chapter based on its performance in key areas of fraternal programming, including but not limited to community service, philanthropy, academics, athletics, recruitment, and campus involvement. I've never asked **Justin Buck, Epsilon Iota '96** why Headquarters emphasizes programs like those, but it's been my impression that a chapter's worth is directly tied to its ability to improve its membership, as I discussed in my spring *Candlelight* article. In fact, every category used to grade a chapter is a reflection of the chapter's ability to produce competent, considerate, and successful young men.

Those men graduate from college into respectable careers (academics), take active leadership and non-leadership roles in their community

(community service and campus involvement), and hopefully contribute financially to their community with the understanding that we, as college graduates, have been very fortunate (philanthropy). These are a few examples.

A Smythe Award is a confirmation that the Beta Phi Chapter is on the correct path toward building a positive fraternal experience that will improve the communities these men eventually move to. I intentionally use the word "path," because it's important to understand that the Chapter has not "arrived." From experience, the first Smythe is the easiest. Great fraternal experiences are larger than awards, and it is up to the Chapter to develop goals and a culture that awards themselves do not create. As alumni, it is our job to help those young men along that path.

Fraternally,  
**Matt Folz, Theta Omicron '07**  
Home Association President  
Matthew.r.folz@gmail.com

## Welcome, Fall 2017 New Members

**Darius Amir-Aslani**  
New Canaan, Conn.

**Faisal Darwazah**  
Amman, Jordan

**Matt Hobbs**  
Greensburg, Ind.

**Leo Ohandjanians**  
Los Angeles, Calif.

**John Sevakis**  
Brownstown, Ind.

**Alden Westhafer**  
Greensburg, Ind.

**Ben Baroody**  
Dallas, Texas

**Mohammad El Asad**  
Jordan

**Jordan Jones**  
Warsaw, Ind.

**Josh Parower**  
Westport, Conn.

**Drew Shelton**  
Los Gatos, Calif.

**Seth Wheatley**  
Georgetown, Ind.

**Jack Bender**  
South Bend, Ind.

**David Falcone**  
Clifton, Va.

**Michael La Spisa**  
South Barrington, Ill.

**Aaron Pate**  
Dallas, Texas

**Michael Spence**  
St. Charles, Ill.

**Carlos Wilson**  
Arlington, Va.

**Nate Bruns**  
St. Charles, Ill.

**Karl Hauser**  
Pekin, Ind.

**Adam Mahmalji**  
Dallas, Texas

**McGwire Plumer**  
Noblesville, Ind.

**Jack Szpizky**  
Philadelphia, Pa.

**Ryan Winkler**  
Denver, Colo.

**Andrew Carpenter**  
Troy, Mich.

**Gavin Hensley**  
Danville, Ind.

**Colin McDonough**  
White Plains, N.Y.

**Evan Radovanic**  
Shrewsbury, Mass.

**Rhiggs Thomas**  
Michigan City, Ind.

**Winston Woodfork**  
Indianapolis, Ind.

**Ty Clark**  
Sheldon, Ill.

**Tyler Ramirez**  
Shakopee, Minn.



## THANK YOU, LOYAL BETA PHIS

This has been our most accomplished post-capital campaign year yet. The 41 alumni listed below have stepped up to invest in Beta Phi's future and we could not be more grateful. Thank you for committing more than \$11,000 toward the undergraduates' scholarship and recruitment activities. We could not have won the Smythe Award without you!

Richard A. Glenn '49	David J. Johnson '74
Robert L. Rain '55	Jeffrey M. Etter '77
C. Craig Hudson '56	Robert J. Nice '82
Richard L. Russell '58	Robert J. Shusta '82
Edward L. Neuffer '59	Michael R. Sutton '82
Charles D. Kent '60	Stephen L. Clapp '83
Fredric C. Westendorf '60	Dean S. Moya '83
William C. Young '62	Craig Morris '84
Martin C. Hegglin '65	W. David Bevirt Jr. '85
Wendell L. Pieper '65	Joseph A. Conti '85
Raymond J. Nardelli '67	Tyler W. Viernow '85
Jeffrey B. Orwig '67	Michael D. Wright '85
Jeffrey L. Copeland '69	Stephen M. Gillig '89
Richard L. Duncan '69	Thomas C. Callahan '92
R. Richard Hofmann '69	James R. Langston '92
Brian R. Doolittle '70	Jeffery C. Langston '92
Stephen A. Little '70	William A. Kinder '95
Thomas W. Eyre '71	J. Ryan Maggart '95
Bruce C. Bailey '72	Benjamin A. Phillips '10
Joseph J. Lazzara '73	

## In Memoriam: Stephen A. McKinney '67

**Steve McKinney '67** passed away on August 2, 2017, in Melbourne, Florida. Steve was born in Anderson, Indiana, and attended St. Mary's High School. He was an outstanding student and an accomplished athlete, competing in baseball, basketball, and track. These skills translated to his Pike experience as he was an avid participant in intramural athletics. He enjoyed golfing, fishing and other activities in his later years.

Steve joined Beta Phi in 1963, the year before the present Chapter House was finished. He and his pledge class were among the first occupants of the house. Steve roomed with his friend and pledge brother Bob Busse for most of his time as a Purdue Pike. Brothers will always remember their hidden beer cooler in their room.

Steve graduated with a degree in industrial engineering in 1966 and joined Westinghouse Corporation in Baltimore, Maryland. He retired in 1998 and moved to Melbourne, where he worked for several other manufacturers. He served as division quality assurance manager, as well as several other quality assurance management positions during his career.

Steve and his wife, Rhonda, have three sons and one grandson.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Edward J. Bauman '50**, 92, Greensboro, N.C., passed away on March 22, 2017. In 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged in 1945 as an air combat crew member. He attended Purdue University on the GI bill. He worked for Blue Bell Incorporated, was named president, CEO and chairman of the board in 1982 and was instrumental in managing the merger between Blue Bell and VF Corporation. Following the merger, Ed was one of the founders of Anderson Bauman Tourtellot Vos & Company and enjoyed over two decades of his retirement years sharing his business expertise, helping distressed businesses back to success. He was a trustee of Guilford College, Lees-McRae College, the Children's Home Society and many more organizations. Ed is survived by his wife, Vivien, and three sons, Jeff and wife Mary Alice, Jim, and Kim and wife Tricia, and grandchildren, Mark and Mike Bauman.

**John C. Kaiser '61** passed away on November 9, 2016. After graduating in 1961, John married Janet Brom and joined the U.S. Navy. He was stationed in Hawaii and Greece and served on the USS Meredith in Vietnam. Beginning civilian life in 1971, John moved his family to Pittsburgh to work for Reliance Electric (later Rockwell Automation). As Rockwell's Asia Pacific manager, John and Janet lived in Hong Kong from 1994 to 1998. John is survived by Janet; son Eric and daughter-in-law Annie; son Evan and daughter-in-law Paula; granddaughters Hannah and Emily; grandson Daniel; sister Phyllis Ballas; and sister-in-law Marilynn Reed.

### ALUMNI UPDATE

**Richard Russell '58** and his wife, Phyllis, live in Bear Lake, Mich., and spend January-May at their Sanibel Island cottage. They are blessed with many friends and enjoy singing in their church choir at both locations. They have two grown children, Dan and Lynn. Rich retired as CEO of North America Hardware Association and is president of a Bear Lake watershed, which he started 10 years ago. E-mail: rich@richandphyllis.com

**George Gregg '59** and his wife, Sharon Tice, love living in the Saddlebrook senior community north of Tucson, Ariz. They have two children, Kevin and Darryl. George enjoyed reading the article on **John "Dabo" Dabaskins '59**. "He was a mover and shaker at Purdue, so his successes were exactly what we knew would be. I was proud to know him." And he says hello to **Richard Russell '58**. George retired in 1998 as an engineering manager with Automatic Spring Company in Chicago. He has been a math tutor for junior high students for 18 years and is an officer in his church.

**Dave Johnson '74** is enjoying retirement life with his wife, Debbie, in the hill country of Burnet, Texas. His time is filled volunteering for CASA and visiting his six children and 11 grandchildren. Dave traveled with **Ed Wundrum '73** to visit with good friend and Brother **EH Sawyer '73** in Lexington, Ky., just before he passed away. "Rest in peace, EH. We will miss you," Dave writes.

**Kevin Altman '86** retired in 2010 after 24 years of active duty in the Air Force, then went right back to work as an Air Force civilian and is the executive director at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Yorktown, Va., and have five children: Karina (25), Nikolas (23), Elizabeth (16), Aaron (13), and Kassandra (11). E-mail: kevinaltman@hotmail.com

**Kyle Dickson '92** and his wife, Christina, live in Carmel, Ind. They have four children: Matt, Joe, Hannah, and Audrey. Kyle is an associate broker with Coldwell Banker and has helped Brothers **Andy Banning '93**, **Scott Beck '92**, and **Travis Jensen '95** relocate. E-mail: callkyle@realtor.com

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
**Wesley Groves '18**  
Miami, Fla.

External Vice President  
**Mitchell Reeser '19**  
Decatur, Ill.

Treasurer  
**Varun Prakash '19**  
Naperville, Ill.

House Manager  
**Stephen Schraffenberger '18**  
Floyds Knobs, Ind.

Risk Manager  
**Charlie Meisel '19**  
Livingston, N.J.

Recruitment Chairman  
**Avery Szatny '19**  
Houston, Texas

Internal Vice President  
**Eli Scherrer '19**  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Sergeant-at-Arms  
**Alex Wade '18**  
Monticello, Ind.

Secretary  
**Justin Foster '19**  
Naperville, Ill.

New Member Educator  
**Nick Basel '18**  
West Bloomfield, Mich.

# 2017 PIKE ALUMNI GOLF OUTING



From left, Andy Hardie '01, Colby Huffman '99, Casey Hiers '01, and PJ Loehrer '03. Picture taken by Brad Ritchie '00, who flew in from California to enjoy the event, offer moral support, and DJ for the winning team. Go Pikes!

Twenty-eight golfers met at Purdue's Ackerman-Allen Course on June 24 for the 2017 Pike golf outing. Two foursomes tied for first place with a score of -14, with the tie-breaker decided by a dramatic coin toss at the Chapter House cookout following the golf outing. The winning team was **Casey Hiers '01, Andy Hardie '01, PJ Loehrer '03, and Colby Huffman '99**. The second place team was **Bryce Espey '10, Ross Barclay '10, Ben Phillips '10, and Geoff Sullivan '10**.

Mark your calendar now for the 2018 golf outing on Saturday, June 23.

# CANDLELIGHT



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## Beta Phi Members Honored to Receive Smythe Award

### *Chapter Maintains Campus Leader Status*

Last spring our Chapter was performing at its highest level in a long time. We stood our ground as the campus leader in community service hours for the third semester running and third highest philanthropy dollars raised as well. In addition, we initiated an incredible pledge class with a very large ROTC involvement.

Thanks to the generosity of the Beta Phi Foundation, we were able to send numerous guys to Pike leadership conferences: 30 brothers to a leadership development conference in Chicago last February and six to the Academy in July. The Academy offered the opportunity for us to represent our Chapter on a national level and receive awards.

This leads to the best part, the Smythe! I, along with five other pikes, had the incredible opportunity to accept a Smythe Award for our Chapter this summer in Memphis. It was a great honor and reflects the quality of men ΠKA has

been fostering in recent years. It has been a long journey since 1988, but this Chapter definitely deserved it and now has something to show for all of our hard work.

The steps going forward will mirror the success recently, starting with our recruitment this fall. We have a fall pledge class of over 30 SLAG young men, furthering our image on campus. As each new pledge class is brought in, we have increased our ROTC numbers on campus, serving well in our community and later our country. Words cannot express how excited I am for our Chapter; I believe we are making great strides with great men and our recognition is beginning to reflect that.



Phi Phi K A,  
**Wesley Groves '18**

Chapter President

(305) 450-2999

[purduepikepresident@gmail.com](mailto:purduepikepresident@gmail.com)



*Brothers at the Academy accepting the Smythe Award. From left to right, Brothers Townsend '15, Whittaker '15, Prakash '15, Groves '14, Insko '15, and Scherrer '15*



*Brothers Vetter '16 and Peebles '15 announcing our Pikes with Puppies Calendar, which raised over \$500 for Natalie's Second Chance Dog Shelter.*



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