

CANDLELIGHT

Beta Phi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha • Purdue University
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FALL 2018

Homecoming
2018
attendees.



Homecoming 2018

Beta Phi Brothers Reconnect and Reminisce

Brothers, simply put, Homecoming 2018 was one of the best events we've held at the house in a very long time. We had a tremendous contingent of alumni from the late 1960s and early '70s in attendance. We also had large numbers of alumni from various eras join us—and Purdue won convincingly!

A noon kickoff always compresses what we can do before the game, but we held a great annual re-election of the Home Association officers, joined in a quick singalong, and enjoyed amazing fellowship. Brandon of Holmestyle Catering did a tremendous job with the food and refreshments as always. This year's scholarship award winners were **Nathan Bruns '17** (\$1,200 Arthur Bowes for academic achievement and leadership), **David Stolz '16** and **Dylan Beucher '17** (\$1,000 each Robert Rain for academic and leadership), and **Ben Collier '17** (\$1,200 Charlie and Mary Kent for most improved GPA).

I want to take a moment to recognize Brothers **Brian Doolittle '70** and **Richard Duncan '69**. They are officially retiring from the Beta Phi Foundation board. They have both donated countless hours and dedicated significant portions of their lives to the health and benefit of the foundation and Chapter. They will be truly missed but never forgotten as they plan on returning for future events. **Chuck Rice '87** and **Tyler Viernow '85** have replaced them and will be great members of the board. If you have the opportunity, please thank them all for their service to our great Chapter. We are thrilled that board member **Kirk Cerny, Beta Gamma '88**, will replace Brian as vice president of the foundation. Kirk has served as a member of board since January 2008 and has been an integral part of the decisions and projects over that time.

Maybe the best part of the day was the reception after the game. We have never had so many alumni join us and stay for such a long time. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves, reminiscing and reconnecting after many years. This is truly the single most important aspect of the fraternity and specifically Beta Phi. When we all get together,

years seem to fade away and it seems like just a few days ago we all lived in the house. Anyone who comes back these days gets to experience the Chapter House at its finest. The undergraduates do a great job of maintaining the house. It's more than that though. They also go the extra mile to make sure alumni, wives and guests are properly hosted. I arrived to the house at 7 a.m. and watched a great number of members working extremely hard to help make our experience special. Thank you to all those members. Many of them joined in the festivities after the game, which made the house feel like home again.

Homecoming is now recognized as our Annual Day of Giving. Alumni donated over \$500 in either cash, checks or credit cards to specifically assist with the foundation annual operating fund. Thank you!

Mark your calendars for October 12, 2019—Homecoming next year. In addition, make a note that Homecoming 2022 is the Beta Phi 100-year anniversary. We challenge all alumni to reach out to brothers from their eras and join us for every event, but 2022 will be special.

Old Masters will be held on December 1 and 2 this year with **Tom Eyre '71**, **Ralph Born '72**, **Greg Delaney '73**, and **Dave Pepler '74** as our distinguished alumni.

We do have one specific challenge from **Jeff Copeland '69**. Jeff recognized that our flag pole is in need of an upgrade, and he is challenging his pledge class to take on this project. He has committed to paying half the cost if the rest of you will chip in for the balance. We estimate the entire project to cost \$7,700. It will include a 30' flag pole and a commemorative plaque with the names of those who participated. Jeff can be reached at fastcar09@gmail.com, (614) 395-7665 (cell), or 6167 Sunbury Rd., Westerville, OH 43082-8608. Or you can contact me at joe.conti@construcks.com, (715) 498-4498, or 3530 Enchanted Drive, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494.

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Homecoming 2018

(Continued from page 1)

Over the last number of years, we have challenged our undergraduates and alumni to join forces. We want Beta Phi to be known as the preeminent chapter at Purdue University. We are truly on that path. We can be proud of our Chapter, our alumni and our undergraduates. It takes everyone. We have more than 40 alumni who are active on the Beta Phi Foundation, Home Association and Alumni Advisory Board, in some way, every day, week, and month. I personally want to thank each and every one of them. Join us! You're going to love the experience.

Sincerely in Phi Phi K A,

Joe Conti '85

President, Beta Phi Foundation
(715) 498-4498

joe.conti@construcks.com



Front row, from left: Jim Barr '66, Brian Doolittle '70, Geoff Boling '70, Bob Blakey '70, and Rex Martin '72. Back row: Ric Collins '69, Dan Herron '68, Nick Walker '68, Jeff Copeland '69, Pete Velde '71, and Bob Drag '70.



Dan Herron '68 and wife Jean, Wanda and Nick Walker '68, Jeff Copeland '69, and Ric Collins '69.

HOME ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES CHAPTER'S EFFORTS

The Home Association has relied heavily on the property management services of Dick Cypher and his expertise for many years. As part of his work, Dick performs a weekly inspection of the house and prepares a report that is sent to the Home Association Board, Chapter leadership, and Alumni Advisory Board. Those reports often include incidence of damage, leftover debris, and the occasional failure to reload the water softener with more salt.

As I enter my fifth year on the Beta Phi Home Association board, I want to recognize the marked improvement I've seen in those reports between the start of my tenure and today. Damage is being reduced, trash is going into trash cans, and someone finally remembered to lock all of the windows on the first floor (only took four years)! This improvement has been discussed in each of the last three Home Association meetings, and I hope it continues to be a discussion topic.

One of our primary goals as advisors to the undergraduates is to help foster a winning culture, and a culture of constant improvement. It's impossible to create that culture without taking pride in your work and pride in your environment. To the undergraduates, thank you for your efforts in maintaining the house we all cherish. Smythe chapters understand that everything must be done the right way, including making sure the water softener has salt.

Fraternally,

Matt Folz, Theta Omicron '07

Home Association President
matthew.r.folz@gmail.com

THANK YOU, LOYAL BETA PHIS

The 40 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 \$27,000 toward the undergraduates' scholarship and recruitment activities, in addition to the upgrades to wireless internet within the house. We would not be the Chapter we are today without you!

Carol Fitch
Richard A. Glenn '49
Gerald E. Grant '54
Gerald E. Grant '54
Robert L. Rain '55
C. Craig Hudson '56
Don W. Rain '58
Richard L. Russell '58
Harry G. Chase '59
William C. Young '62
Charles N. Hetrick '63
David C. Follmer '64
William D. Preston '64
Martin C. Hegglin '65
Wendell L. Pieper '65
Raymond W. Schier '65
Robert D. Baker '67
Paul L. Pence '67
Paul L. Pence '67
R. Richard Hofmann '69
Greg R. Blakey '70
Geoffrey C. Boling '70
Thomas D. Pogue '70
Thomas W. Eyre '71
G. Michael Ketz '71

Bruce C. Bailey '72
William A. Samuelson '73
L. William Gates '76
Curtis B. Edwards '79
Robert J. Nice '82
Michael R. Sutton '82
Gary A. Brownfield '83
Scott E. Thompson '84
Tyler W. Viernow '85
Michael D. Wright '85
Stephen M. Gillig '89
Thomas C. Callahan '92
Jeffery M. Wunderlich '93
William A. Kinder '95
Casey J. Hiers '01



ΠΚΑ

Beta Phi: Home from the Beginning for Raymond Schier '65

Finding a home on the Purdue campus was important to **Raymond Schier '65**. The reception by the Pikes during rush (now called recruitment) was warm and friendly. "That impressed me, and I always felt that way about ΠΚΑ. I've never forgotten that."

Ray says being a member of Beta Phi Chapter played a large part in "staying the course and was helpful" on his path to graduation. "Pi Kappa Alpha helped me to discover discipline, manners, and how to make my life meaningful." Ray served the Chapter as rush chairman and song leader. He was also on the kitchen crew. "My pledge class had four or five of us on the crew. We worked together, which was reflective of the whole [Chapter House] atmosphere." He was also one of the few with a car, so that "made me pretty popular!"

After graduation, Ray started his career in aviation. As a captain on Boeing 727, 747, and DC-10 aircraft, he flew mostly to the Far East for Northwest/Delta Airlines. He is grateful to have had such a fulfilling career and credits Pi Kappa Alpha for providing the foundation. Retired at 50, Ray says he felt like he needed to accomplish more. "Five years later I was bored!" He and his wife, Phyllis (a Purdue

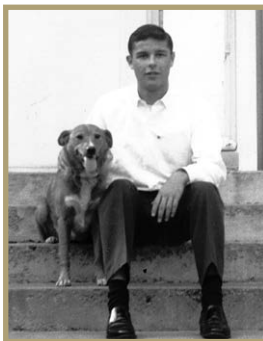


Alpha Delta Pi), enjoyed travel, golf, and private aviation until Phyllis passed away in 2014.

While he says that college life kept him busy during his undergraduate years, Ray remembers having meals together every evening and rushing home from class to hang out. "We were like a family." So keeping in touch with Beta Phi brothers over the years has been a priority for Ray. They correspond via email, and his pledge class gets together for a reunion every year.

The friendships are but one reason Ray has been supportive of the Chapter over the years. He also wants other young men to have the experience he still treasures. His hope is that alumni can maintain the necessary guidance and that collegiate members embrace the lessons older generations are willing to impart.

Ray says he has felt very lucky throughout life, with every endeavor that came along. "I didn't come from anywhere special, and ΠΚΑ made it special. I am just the luckiest person in this world."



Ray and house dog Lady. Ray can be contacted at nwplane@hotmail.com.

PI KAPPA ALPHA MAINTAINS SUCCESS IN ACADEMICS AND RECRUITMENT

Chapter Raises Over \$12,000 for Philanthropy

Beta Phi continued to show its excellence and growth last semester. With the transition of a new executive board going into this fall, it was imperative to set goals and expectations for the summer. The new executive board developed a list of goals to achieve before fall for each area of operation. In addition to the goalsetting, Beta Phi sent two representatives to the National Convention in Richmond, Virginia. Brothers **Matt Retzke '16** and **Dhruv Bhargava '16** celebrated Pi Kappa Alpha's 150th year at the place our fraternity was founded.

In the spring, we recruited and initiated 16 quality men into our Chapter. That pledge class was the first to test out Beta Phi's updated four-week new member education plan. For this fall semester, we recruited 25 men who were recently initiated. Our proud history of a strong ROTC presence grows, as we have new members representing Navy, Army, and Air Force branches.

Beta Phi participated in Relay for Life for the fourth year in a row. This event gives organizations an opportunity to meet cancer survivors and hear their stories while raising money for the American Cancer Society. Beta

Phi members raised an outstanding \$7,950 for the event. This fall, Beta Phi held our annual philanthropy event, PIKE Firefighter Challenge. This is an opportunity for sororities and fraternities to compete in firefighter-related challenges to raise money for the Fallen Firefighter Foundation. Beta Phi raised \$4,550 from the event, which is a huge improvement from the \$2,917 raised the year before.

Regarding academics, Beta Phi had a Chapter cumulative GPA of 3.03 and a new member cumulative GPA of 3.04. Both of these beat the all-men's GPA of 2.96 and the all-IFC GPA of 3.00.

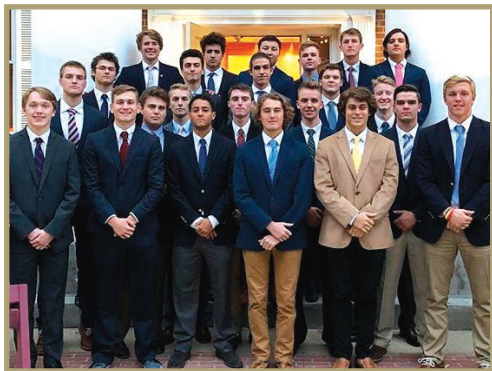
Beta Phi looks forward to continually improving operations and winning another Robert Edgar Smythe award!



In φκκΑ,
Alex Durre '19
Chapter President
(260) 443-9254
purduepikepresident@gmail.com



(Left) All participants of the PIKE Firefighter Challenge benefitting the Fallen Firefighter Foundation. (Right) Brothers Dhruv Bhargava '16 and Matthew Retzke '16 at National Convention at 47 West Range, the founding room of Pi Kappa Alpha on its 150th year.



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WELCOME, FALL 2018 NEW MEMBERS

Davis Ashbrook
Davidson, N.C.

Andrew Pannel*
Lafayette, Ind.

Andrew Borkowski
Fishers, Ind.

David Paroda
State College, Pa.

Brad Bucklund
Duxbury, Mass.

Leon Petrulio*
Exeter, N.H.

Ryan Carr
Hollis, N.H.

Spencer Peyrot
Metuchen, N.J.

Owen Eveler
Goshen, Ind.

Conrad Pierceall
Madison, N.J.

Adam Finke
Davidson, N.C.

Thomas Powell
St. Charles, Ill.

Connor Heerschop
Goshen, Ind.

Justin Prukop
Seattle, Wash.

Jacob Hirschak
Valpo, Ind.

Adam Syrek
Centreville, Va.

Dub Jellison
Noblesville, Ind.

Alex Van Der Linden
Lexington, N.C.

Joey Keeler
Fortville, Ind.

Ryan Zihenni
Englewood, N.J.

Weston Keeven
St. Louis, Mo.

* Legacy

Richard Knoche
Lyon, France

Isaac Messer
San Jose, Calif.

Austin Mueller
St. Louis, Mo.

Patrick Oven
San Francisco, Calif.



If you would prefer to receive the *Candlelight* e-newsletter,
please e-mail jgoodman@penningtonco.com.

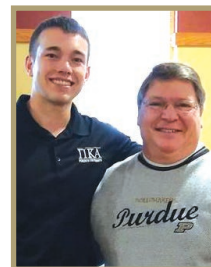
Alumni News

Edward L. Neufer '59 is a realtor with Re/Max Results and lives in Fort Wayne, Ind. He has two children, Patricia and Betsey; his son, J. Edward, passed away. He is a season football ticketholder, and his granddaughter, Lindsay Neufer, is the Alpha Gamma Delta president at Purdue. E-mail: edneufer@gmail.com

Dennis J. Drag '66 retired in 2012 as associate vice president at Moffatt & Nichol. For 30 years, he's been the district administrator for California District 36 of Little League Baseball. He is also the stewardship chair for the UCLA Annual Fund and a dean's committee member at Purdue that reviews engineering curriculum. Dennis and his wife, Leslie, live in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., and have two children, Darren and Devin. E-mail: dragphd@hotmail.com

Larry W. Sexton '82 is vice president sales of Office360. His career has taken him and wife Tracey to Ft. Lauderdale, Indianapolis, Columbus, Ohio, and Naperville, Ill., and finally to Fishers, Ind. They have two sons, Kevin and Scott. "Small-world story is this: Scott married Grace, daughter of **Brian Walker '81**, in 2012 and they have blessed Brian, Julie, Tracey, and me with two grandsons." E-mail: larrywsexton44@gmail.com

Joseph A. Conti '85 is now president of Construcks Inc. and American Trucking Corp., after Brother **Steve Mathy '81** approached him in April 2017 about a position with his company. Joe and his wife, Cheryl, live in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., and have two children, Kaitlin and Joey. E-mail: joscon_61@yahoo.com



Dan Buechler '17 was awarded the Robert Rain scholarship.



Nathan Bruns '17 was given the Arthur Bowes scholarship.



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