

FALL 2020

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## MAINTAINING OUR VALUES IN ADVERSITY

### *Beta Phi Embraces Safety in the Fall*

To say 2020 has been bizarre might just be the understatement of the year. While we all find ourselves social distancing and following COVID-19 protocols, we also need to regain productive normality—both in our personal and fraternal lives.

On the fraternal side, Beta Phi has navigated a safe reopening, and Chapter operations are underway. In the near term, we have cancelled our annual Pike Old Masters and cannot host an on-campus gathering around football. At the time of writing, the Big Ten has determined we will play an eight-game football schedule — without fans. Sadly, we also had to cancel our annual golf tournament — a first in 15 years of playing.

However, onward we march! In the spring I wrote that we have established and endowed new scholarships, and we've worked through the year to provide these awards for our undergraduates. The Foundation is constantly exploring how best to manage the resources entrusted to us by our supportive and generous alumni. We have continued our meetings and management virtually this year, not letting the pandemic stand in the way of progress for Beta Phi.

Apart from turmoil created by an invisible enemy, Greek Life continues its battle on other fronts. There is a national movement to disband Greek organizations due to perceived “discrimination.” The words and deeds we have consistently conveyed in my 30-plus years with Beta Phi are quite the opposite. Each year, we invite “those whom we deem worthy of our regard” to join our Chapter. That’s how young men become brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha: by

embracing our values, including integrity, scholarship, and high moral character. We believe in the importance of virtue and commitment to living those values. We recognize that truth is the foundation of all lasting association, and we seek wisdom and knowledge while serving others in modesty and dignity. If an individual can make this commitment honestly, that is our test for membership. Period.

#### ONCE A PIKE, ALWAYS A PIKE!

The day will come when we can resume in-person fellowship and spend time with one another. We are already planning events for summer 2021, and big plans are underway for our 100-Year Anniversary in the fall of 2022! We invite everyone to join us each year, but if you have to choose, 2022 is the biggest year to put a visit on your calendar.

Another priority is keeping our brothers involved and engaged with Beta Phi as they graduate. We are looking for graduates within the last 10 years to help us with events including reunions, golf outings, Old Masters, and the 100-Year Anniversary, to name a few. Perhaps, once involved, you'll decide to join one of the alumni boards. Since we already have a solid core of alumni involved, we believe you will find that the time commitment minimal and the rewards immeasurable. I invite you to contact me with questions about service to Beta Phi.

In the bonds,

**Joe Conti '85**

President, Beta Phi Foundation

joe.conti@construcks.com | (715) 498-4498

## Home Association Establishes Safety Procedures and Restrictions for the Fall

The Beta Phi Home Association's primary goal is to provide a safe and educational environment for our brothers. When it became clear last spring that we could not do so, we closed the Chapter House for the remainder of the semester and provided each brother with a \$750 refund—a partial reimbursement, but an amount we could provide without putting ourselves in a financial bind.

With Purdue University's decision to bring students back this fall and open its residence halls, we were obligated to fulfill our lease agreements. This came with additional costs, which we incurred attempting to accomplish our primary goal. Among the numerous policies, procedures, and expenses were the following:

*(Continued on page 2)*

# THANK YOU, GENEROUS BETA PHI BROTHERS

Thank you to the 59 supporters who have committed more than \$14,500 to Beta Phi so far in 2020. These donors listed below stepped up to invest in Beta Phi's future, and we could not be more grateful. Every dollar supports the programming and facility 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 with any corrections. *Contributors list is current as of October 20, 2020.*

Gerald E. Grant '54	Martin C. Hegglin '65	Robert D. Blue '68	Alvin G. Rohrer '72	Steven A. Beeler '89
C. Craig Hudson '56	Wendell L. Pieper '65	Daniel T. Herron '68	Gregory L. Delaney '73	M. Adam Agnew '90
Jim M. Thompson '57	Robert W. Raichle '65	Philip D. Preuninger '68	John B. McCormick '73	Michael P. Millikan '91
Richard L. Russell '58	Robert K. Rosler '65	Jeffrey L. Copeland '69	William A. Samuelson '73	Thomas C. Callahan '92
Harry G. Chase '59	James W. Barr II '66	R. Richard Hofmann '69	Jeffrey M. Etter '77	Joseph L. Gerzema '92
Dale J. Frost '59	David C. Dayton '66	Donald M. Swanson '69	Larry J. Lautner '77	Jeffrey H. Edler '95
Harry F. Hixson Jr. '60	Michael A. McNamara '66	Geoffrey C. Boling '70	Timothy B. Groves '79	Ben Phillips '10
Charles D. Kent '60	Kenneth A. Probst '66	Brian R. Doolittle '70	Brian T. Lernihan '79	Nancy Adams and
William C. Young '62	David A. Walters '66	Thomas D. Pogue '70	Timothy J. Prickel '80	Kim DeWeese
Charles N. Hetrick '63	Robert D. Baker '67	Thomas W. Eyre '71	Robert J. Nice '82	In memory of
David C. Follmer '64	Jeffrey B. Orwig '67	Gregory M. Ketz '71	Dean S. Moya '83	Edward Neufer '59
Donald W. Johnson '64	Paul L. Pence '67	Thomas Maddox '71	James E. Shaw II '84	
John W. Bevelhimer III '65	Steven D. Scruggs '67	Bill Chen '72	Timothy J. Lorenc '88	

## Home Association

*(Continued from page 1)*

- Expanded move-in dates and times to ensure no more than one brother was using one stairwell at a given time (and encouraged family not to participate in move-in).
- Rearranged the common area furniture to facilitate distancing and marked furniture placement with painter's tape.
- Doubled the common area cleaning schedule with our provider.
- Purchased 25 wall-mounted gel hand sanitizer dispensers to place around the Chapter House, as well as a backpack-mounted disinfectant sprayer facilitating the daily disinfecting of high-traffic areas and items, like stairwell handrails.
- Canceled out-of-house meal contracts, while in-house meals were served individually on disposable materials. Brothers were encouraged to eat in their rooms, but we also created a dining schedule so that if they chose to eat in the kitchen area, it would be limited.
- Disabled key fobs for certain entrances, ensuring entrance would be through two of the four stairwells, and encouraged brothers to exit through the other two.
- Authorized our property manager to sanitize the air filters in each room's climate control unit weekly, and to remove and wash those filters twice as frequently.

Those are a few of the many steps we have taken to accomplish our goal. This has been a difficult task during this pandemic, but I am proud of the steps the board has taken this year to provide as safe an environment as we can.

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

## The Search for Composites Continues *Send Your Beta Phi Memories for Our Archives!*

We've made good progress in our search for lost Beta Phi Chapter composites. We secured almost all of the years after 2003-04 from the company that has produced our composites since the early 2000s. Yet we still need our alumni to step up and fill in the remaining missing years. If you didn't keep your copies, maybe someone in your pledge class did; this could be a good time to reach out and encourage others to help.

Again, I'm happy to make a copy of your original if you want to hold on to yours. We're still targeting project completion in time for our 100th anniversary reunion in 2022. As you can see from the list to the right, we really need those classes from the late '80s through the early 2000s to step up. Please call or email me with any questions, or if you have any digital composites. Physical copies can be sent to my home address below.

Stay healthy,  
**Rex Martin '72**, Secretary and Historian  
 Beta Phi Foundation  
 rexmartinpiano@gmail.com  
 (317) 445-5077 (mobile)  
 8912 Keevers Drive  
 Indianapolis, IN 46234



Following are the years that are still needed to complete the project:

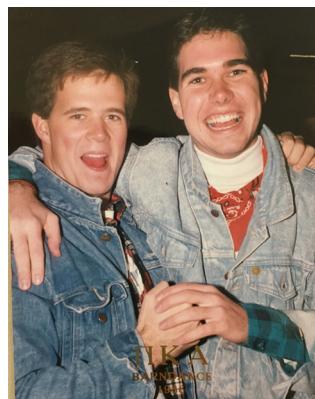
All dates prior to 1950	
1950	1991-92
1951	1992-93
1952	1993-94
1955	1994-95
1957	1995-96
1959	1997-98
1960	1998-99
1961	1999-00
1968	2000-01
1987-88	2001-02
1988-89	2002-03
1989-90	2003-04
1990-91	2007-08

# AN ETERNAL BOND

## *Michael Millikan '91 Overcomes Obstacles with Help from Pike Brothers*

For brothers like **Michael P. Millikan '91**, the Pike brotherhood extends past a lifetime and is an eternal bond. On January 6, 1989, Mike was riding back to Purdue with one of his friends to begin his sophomore year when they were suddenly broadsided by another car on Highway 26. "It was a very bad car accident," Michael E. Millikan, Mike's father, said. "The EMTs thought Mike was dead before they pulled him out and took him to Memorial Hospital in Indianapolis." In an instant, Mike's life was changed forever. However, he was not alone. Not only did Mike have the support of his family, he also had his PIKE brothers looking out for him.

Mike spent over five months in the hospital, as the doctors could not get him to come out of his coma. Mike's mother, Mary Jane, stayed by his side for the entirety of his stay in the hospital, with his father and four sisters visiting frequently. "He went from 185 pounds down to 119," Mike's dad said. "It was determined that Mike had sustained a traumatic brain injury with ruptured blood vessels effecting different parts of his brain." As a result of Mike's injury, he struggles with his speech, movements, and short-term memory. During his time in the



*Mike Millikan '91 (left) at PIKE's barn dance in 1988.*

hospital, several of Mike's Beta Phi brothers, including **Doug Kinder '93** and **Mike Ward '91**, visited him at least once a week. "They did their best talking to him and trying to keep his mind active while he was in a coma," Mike's dad said. "It meant a lot to our family." After returning home from the hospital, Mike began a six-month rehab process while living with his parents.

As an active member of Beta Phi Chapter, Mike loved spending time with his brothers and was a natural leader. "Mike would always stick up for everyone," Mike's dad said. "He came out of high school as an All-State defensive back

and had great discipline." When his parents came to visit during Parents Weekend, they saw Mike tossing a ball against the wall, with his room organized and tidy. "Myself and Mary Jane were both smokers when Mike was growing up," Mike's dad said. "One day we got a call from Mike complaining that his clothes smelled like cigarettes after he had them washed at home, and he encouraged us to stop smoking. I felt horrible, it really struck a nerve with me. From that day on I made it my goal to quit." Mike just wanted the best for all those around him.

After the passing of Mike's mother, Mary Jane, Mike's dad decided that it was time to organize funeral plans for the two of them. "I asked Mike what he wanted his headstone to look like and he requested that we put a Purdue insignia and a PIKE crest on it," he said. "I spoke with the catholic cemetery director and she told me we would need permission from PIKE before proceeding." At this point, Mike's dad reached out to **Joe Conti '85** via cell, and to his surprise he answered right away. Joe sent an email with a letter of approval, and the design for Mike's headstone was finalized with a P insignia in the lower right corner and a PIKE crest in the lower left corner. "To be able to get this done in a timely manner means so much to us," Mike's dad said. "Mike looks back on his days with PIKE as some of the best days of his life."

Recovering from a traumatic brain injury takes time and dedication. Mike has spent the majority of his life battling, and today he has progressed to the point where he lives on his own and can drive himself wherever he needs to go. "He calls me daily and sees every day as a new day," Mike's dad said. "He's got such a great attitude and sense of humor." Mike enjoys going to horse races, visiting his family lake house, and going out to dinner with his father. He would be thrilled to reconnect with his PIKE brothers and can be reached at [mpmillikan41@gmail.com](mailto:mpmillikan41@gmail.com) or (260) 415-4165.

## **Persevering Through 2020**

### *Brothers Welcome Largest Fall New Member Class at Purdue*

The brothers of Beta Phi have done exceptionally well adapting to these unprecedented times. Moving back into the Chapter House and understanding new guidelines was uncharted territory for everyone, but we have made the most of it. Even though the spring semester was cut short, I did my best to facilitate our new members' education process over the summer; we initiated seven young men in September.

Of course, recruitment is a largely discussed topic here. **Adam Peterson '19** stepped up as recruitment chairman for the Chapter, and we used tools like Zoom, Chapter Builder, Instagram Advertisements, and much more to

put together the largest new member class this fall at Purdue, consisting of 39 young gentlemen.

Moving forward, we are planning a Virtual PIKE Fireman's Challenge and several other online fundraisers. This will be an exciting way of getting our new members involved and a great way to show them how events operate behind the scenes. We look forward to overcoming these strange times together as we maintain as much normalcy as possible.

Fraternally,  
**Will Weisbrod '21**, Chapter President  
(281) 210-4484  
[purduepikepresident@gmail.com](mailto:purduepikepresident@gmail.com)



*Beta Phi's spring 2020 initiates. Top row, from left: Maxwell VanAusdall, Nate Cramer, Matt Wilson, and Ben Hartley. Bottom row: Eric Billy, Jimmy Drescher, and Jake Richards.*

# Getting to Know Chapter Advisor Ben Phillips '10

**B**en Phillips '10 has served as the chapter advisor and chairman of the Alumni Advisory Board since 2012—two years after graduating from Purdue. Additionally, Ben has served as the treasurer of the Home Association since 2013.

Ben lives in Westfield, Indiana, with his wife, Brittany. He is a director at the CPA and consulting firm Katz, Sapper & Miller in Indianapolis. His experience includes IT controls auditing, financial statement audits, taxes, and general business consulting.

You can reach Ben at [benphillips.purdue@gmail.com](mailto:benphillips.purdue@gmail.com) or by mobile at (612) 968-2868.

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### CHAPTER ETERNAL



**Edward L. Neufer '59** entered Chapter Eternal on September 9 due to COVID-19. He was raised on a small farm and attended Topeka High School where he was Student Council president,

senior class president, and captain of the basketball team. He chose Purdue University to complete his B.S. in agriculture economics. He joined the Purdue Military Band and between his sophomore and junior years, enlisted in the United States Army as part of the GI Bill to finish his college degree. He served in the Army from 1955 to 1957 in the 3rd Division Band. After his service, he resumed his college education at Purdue and joined Pi Kappa Alpha, where he served as recruitment chairman and president. He also served as past president of the Purdue Alumni Association and helped raise charitable contributions for multiple Purdue foundations. Ed attended every Purdue function he could, loved spending time at the Pi Kappa Alpha house, and rarely missed a home basketball or football game. He will be missed by his beloved friends, family, and brothers.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**J. Hank Amt '41** recently celebrated his 100th birthday! He lives in Franklin, Ind., with his wife, Janet.

**Jim Thompson '57** shares that his latest book, *Abandoned*, is on Amazon. It is a story of his birth parents abandoning him on a strange doorstep when he was 6 months old, based on newspaper articles he found about their arrest and trial and his adoption. Jim was abandoned on the doorstep of an aviation mechanic, and he

# CANDLELIGHT



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please email [alehr@penningtonco.com](mailto:alehr@penningtonco.com).

earned a degree in aeronautical engineering at Purdue before spending 23 years in the United States Air Force. He lives in Carmel, Ind. Email: [jamesmiltonthompson@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmiltonthompson@gmail.com)

**William R. Morgan '58** retired from 62 years as a practicing pharmacist in January 2020. He lives in American Fork, Utah.

**Tom Kaiser '61** is living the retired life in San Diego, Calif. He often meets up with **Dick Justice '61** and **Harry Hixson '60** for lunch or bridge. They are all doing well health-wise and trying to keep as busy as possible, considering COVID-19. Email: [roctom@aol.com](mailto:roctom@aol.com)

**H. Paul Wedel '64** retired in 2010 and moved to a 55-and-up retirement community; he is “enjoying every minute.” He lives in Plainfield, Ill., with his wife, Catherine. Email: [pcwedel1@comcast.net](mailto:pcwedel1@comcast.net)

**Thomas Maddox '71** shares that 2020 is the 45th year of business for T. L. Maddox Co. ([www.tlmcos.com](http://www.tlmcos.com)). It is also his 45th year on the Home Association BOD. Thomas and his wife, Sue, have been married for 47 years. They have lived in their house in Chesterfield, Mo., for 43 years. Email: [tlm@tlmcos.com](mailto:tlm@tlmcos.com)

**Jack McKelvy '76** retired in March 2019 from S&B Engineers and Constructors after many

years in the power and energy sectors. Jack and his wife, Rosalyne, reside in Cranberry Township, Pa., where they enjoy the outdoors and travel. Email: [mckelvy3@verizon.net](mailto:mckelvy3@verizon.net)

**Jamie Martindale '83** is teaching in Thailand with his partner, Veronika. He is loving the expat life. Email: [jsmartindale26@gmail.com](mailto:jsmartindale26@gmail.com)

**Robert C. Hopf '87** is a caregiver to his soon-to-be 94-year-old mother. He moved to Cottonwood, Ariz., in August of 2019. Bobby's brothers (and former roommates), **Scott Lods '89** and **John Romanowski '86**, came to visit him in October 2019. Email: [rchopf@aol.com](mailto:rchopf@aol.com)

**J. Chris Klettheimer '92** works in the FBI Miami field office and is assigned as the senior resident agent in the Key West office. His oldest son, Connor, graduated college this year and started law school this fall. His sons, Luke and Jamison, are attending Key West High School and are captains on the swim team. Chris and his wife, Jennifer, live in Summerland Key, Fla. Email: [jc18735@gmail.com](mailto:jc18735@gmail.com)

**Aaron “Lunchbox” Smith '09** and his wife, Megan, welcomed their second child, Payton, into the world on June 10; he's a healthy baby boy who weighed 8 pounds 14 ounces and was 22 inches long. Everyone is home and recovering in Charleston, S.C.