



SPRING 2017

## BETA PHI RECLAIMS ORIGINAL CHARTER DOCUMENT

### Historic Chapter Heirloom Returns Home to West Lafayette

April 12 will mark the 96th anniversary of Beta Phi at Purdue. With that thought in mind, I want to bring a significant turn of events to your attention. Some 40-plus years ago (as best anyone can remember), the original charter document for the Pike Beta Phi Chapter in West Lafayette, Indiana, was lost. It has now been found. Sometime just after our reunion last fall, the charter was received in the mail by Chapter President **Andrew McGowan '17**. There was no return address, but the postmark was from near Columbus, Ohio. To whomever found and returned our charter to us, THANK YOU!

It has fallen on us to preserve, protect, frame, and get our charter displayed. We feel it would be a great addition to our new Alumni Room, especially with our centennial anniversary just around the corner. We are planning a display in the Alumni Room with our petition for charter, the charter itself, and some historical Chapter location photos for all to see. From the local Emanon Club to the current spring pledge class, everyone should know and remember our history. The charter itself is printed on lambskin, so preserving it is a little more complicated than just picking out a picture frame. We have already been in contact with ΠΚΑ National, and they have recommended some individuals to contact, but cannot offer much assistance with this process due to the lambskin. The cost will be significant. Initial estimates look to be as high as \$3,000. If there are any alumni who wish to donate to this historical preservation by contributing to the Beta Phi Foundation, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our goal is to have this project completed for our football reunion and Purdue Homecoming September 23 vs. Michigan, so mark your calendars and please join us. We look forward to another great weekend of fellowship. Hopefully our new football coach will improve the team so we can enjoy the game.

Every year, the Beta Phi Foundation supports many events: Homecoming, scholarships, mailings, databases, Old Masters, and the golf outing, which is on June 24. Some of the most successful programs we have put in place over the last 10 years are the tutoring program and financial support in sending our new Chapter officers and chairpersons to Pike Leadership Conferences such as Pike University. We are proud to announce that Beta Phi sent 23 undergraduate members to Pike University last winter. We have seen a direct correlation between these leadership events and the improvement and use of the Chapter House. In addition, the undergraduates have now achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.04. This is above the all-men's average and continues to climb.

It is only through your generous contributions that these programs are possible. We sincerely hope those of you who have supported these invaluable programs in the past will continue to do so in the future. It is also our hope that many of you, who have been watching and waiting to see improvements, will also begin to support these events and everything that the Chapter House and the Beta Phi Foundation oversee. Now that our capital campaign is drawing to a close, we need your yearly support more than ever to make sure that our 96-year-old fraternity continues to remain as strong and vibrant as ever.

Sincerely in φφκκ,

**Joe Conti '85**

President, Beta Phi Foundation

(812) 629-3356

joscon\_61@yahoo.com



*Brothers from the Beta Phi Chapter  
in Chicago for the Pike University  
Leadership Summit.*

## Beta Phi Surpasses Purdue's Academic Average

Last fall was wildly successful for our Chapter with many great accomplishments. We welcomed 29 new members to Beta Phi during a successful recruitment season. In addition, we raised more than \$16,000 for charity (placing us second on campus) and logged over 2,500 hours of community service (putting us number one out of fraternities).

Perhaps our proudest accomplishment was our Chapter GPA of 3.04. After several semesters of continual improvement, we were able to break the 3.0 mark, putting us a full .2 above the campus-wide average.

Thanks to some of our alumni donors, I have attended two leadership conferences this past year and have brought along over 20 other members. We all learned many valuable skills, which we will use to better Beta Phi. Thank you to those who helped us attend these conferences. Please consider continuing to give so that we can send more members this year.

We hope to further excel on campus and increase the strength of our brotherhood. This spring, we have many great events lined up.

I am very excited for the things that are to come during my run as president.

In φφκκ,

**Wesley Groves '18**

Chapter President

purduepikepresident@gmail.com

# LONG-RANGE PLANNING

It was decided a few years ago when **Joe Conti '85** was stepping into the position of president of the Beta Phi Foundation, **Bob Nice '82** was stepping down as president of the Home Association Board, and new leadership was stepping into the Chapter Advisory Board that we needed to focus on long-range planning. A committee was formed to help all of our alumni groups prepare and plan for the future of Beta Phi at Purdue. This group consists of: Joe Conti, **Charlie Hetrick '63**, Bob Nice, **Matt Folz, Beta Omicron '07**, **Ben Phillips '10**, and **Rich Russell '58**, chairman.

This committee has expanded since we originally met three years ago. Our last meeting was held May 17, 2016, and focused on having a better understanding of the other three fraternities who make up our West Lafayette city block. Attending this group meeting were alumni housing officers from Sigma Phi Epsilon, Acadia, Alpha Gamma Rho, and ourselves. Each of the four fraternities gave an open and candid assessment of their local chapter and building structure. There were also discussions on the importance of the four fraternities maintaining their existence and buildings on this city block. Tony Hohn from AGR, who works for the university, gave us an update on the university's position regarding properties on the island consisting of Russell, Waldrun, and University Streets. At the present time, there is no threat to our block. A lot of good ideas were exchanged at this joint meeting. A second meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2017. AGR will host this meeting at their chapter house.

The other goals are the continued working relationships of our three separate alumni groups, future needed Chapter House renovations, relationships with our National Headquarters, Beta Phi alumni relations, supporting Chapter leadership, improving scholastics, a strong financial base, keeping ahead of local Greek competition, and an orderly plan for the future of Beta Phi on Purdue's campus.

As a long-range planning committee, we will seek professional advice and understanding from professionals outside our own group. We will keep our alumni advised on our findings and recommendations.

In φφκκ,

**Rich Russell '58**

Chairman of the Beta Phi Boards

# Meet Beta Phi's Home Association President

## "Why Fraternity?"

It's important to answer the "who" before the "why." My name is **Matt Folz, Beta Omicron '07**, and last September, I was elected as Beta Phi's newest Home Association president. Born and raised in Evansville, Indiana, I am the first person in my family to attend college, and by default, the first to experience fraternities. I entered college indoctrinated by the lazy stereotypes levied at fraternities, and only joined to play intramural football. I am here today because the fraternity demanded I do more.

As mentioned in the autumn *Candlelight*, I joined a successful chapter at Indiana State University. While Smythe Awards are a convenient measuring stick, the hallmark of a successful chapter is its ability to demand and receive the unified efforts of its members toward common goals that improve the entire brotherhood. I joined a group of young men and alumni advisors that demanded I leave my comfort zone and embrace risks and responsibilities that are necessary lessons in living a fulfilling life. By the time I graduated, I built a resume and skill set that led me to a position with the International Fraternity.

I visited 23 chapters during my year as a chapter consultant, and spent six weeks refounding the Zeta Lambda Chapter at Adrian College. In fall 2011, another chapter consultant and I spent 10 days in West Lafayette structuring Beta Phi's recruitment program. With the members' buy-in, they recruited more than 50 men in those 10 days. The Chapter's work ethic and receptiveness motivated me toward spending two extended chapter visits with Beta Phi that year. While most chapters see their consultant three or four days per year, I spent over 20 days working with the Beta Phi brothers during my one-year assignment.

My ambitions led me back to Indiana, and I enrolled in the Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis in 2012. Law school is not conducive to a life outside of the library, but familiar faces like **Bob Nice '82** and **Joe Conti '85**, in their infinite patience, continually included me in Beta Phi, and this is my fourth year on the Home Association Board.

## Now the "why." Why am I here?

I'm a young alumnus, and I'm continually learning lessons most alumni already know. Building a successful legal practice while balancing a happy home life with my 1-year-old daughter, Jordy, and my wife, Laura (AXΩ), makes for a busy schedule. My time commitments have become intentional. I intentionally carve out time for the fraternity, and specifically Beta Phi, because in my short time as an undergraduate member of Pi Kappa Alpha, I received invaluable opportunities for personal and professional growth that have, and will continue to, positively impact my life. My continued involvement is out of generosity for those opportunities, and I want to be a piece of the puzzle in an organization that continues to demand more from its members, with the understanding that when we demand more of ourselves, we often receive more.

I look forward to this opportunity to serve as Beta Phi's Home Association president, and appreciate the work of every alumnus before me. I am here because they were there.

Fraternally,

**Matt Folz, Beta Omicron '07**

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

# THANK YOU, 2016 ANNUAL DONORS

Our third year post-capital campaign was quite the success with 63 alumni who stepped up to invest in Beta Phi's annual campaign. Thank you to those donors for committing almost \$12,000 in 2016! Your gifts help support our undergraduates' scholarship and recruitment activities, as well as our alumni communications.



# REMEMBERING BETA PHI ALUMNUS JOHN "DABO" DABASINSKAS '59

**John "Dabo" Dabasinskas '59** entered Chapter Eternal on November 29, 2016, at the age of 80.



He was an instrumental business leader with over 50 years of experience in a multitude of industries. He earned his B.S. in civil engineering from Purdue and, upon graduation, served in the United States Air Force, earning the rank of captain. While serving, Dabo was issued an Air Force Commendation Award from Congress for his leadership in designing, constructing, and activating a combat operations center under budget and ahead

of schedule. After finishing in the service, Dabo entered into the business world taking a job at Caterpillar Tractor Company.

After a great run of 20 years with Caterpillar, Dabo decided to start working with mid-sized family owned companies, holding numerous positions in executive leadership. Companies across numerous industries all benefited from Dabo's leadership and business insight.

Throughout his career, Dabo maintained an interest in helping make his community stronger. His many charitable endeavors

included serving on the Tampa Bay Housing Authority Board of Directors, with a period as the chairman of the board, serving on the Board of Leadership Tampa, president of the Tampa Bay Propeller Club, and serving on the board of directors for the Florida Aquarium and American Victory Ship. Additionally, he was on numerous church leadership councils and boards, and served as a board member for several local YMCA organizations.

Dabo is survived by his wife, Gina, six children, and 10 grandchildren.

## Welcome, New Members

**Dhruv Bhargava**  
*Aurora, Ill.*

**Brock Eibling**  
*Zionsville, Ind.*

**Rafael Lovas**  
*New Canaan, Conn.*

**Nicholas Biddle**  
*Dover, Del.*

**Jack Hartig**  
*Troy, Mich.*

**Ashwin Mahesh**  
*San Jose, Calif.*

**Ethan Blythe**  
*Granger, Ind.*

**Connor La Ganke**  
*Gilbert, Ariz.*

**Devin McDonough**  
*LaGrange, Ky.*

**Dylan Buechler**  
*Ferdinand, Ind.*

**Enrico Lazareto**  
*South Bend, Ind.*

**Peter Mihm**  
*Rock Island, Ill.*

**Jackson Davis**  
*Santa Monica, Calif.*

**Travis Lee**  
*Laguna Niguel, Calif.*

**Noah Pao**  
*San Diego, Calif.*

**Andrew Davison**  
*Santa Rosa, Calif.*

**Andrew Lepore**  
*Maple Glen, Pa.*

**Anthony Polinski**  
*Saint Charles, Ill.*

**Turner Dunlop**  
*Noblesville, Ind.*

**Andrew Lietman**  
*Chagrin Falls, Ohio*

**Matthew Retzke**  
*Downers Grove, Ill.*



**Adam Ruth**  
*New Canaan, Conn.*

**David Stolz**  
*St. Louis, Mo.*

**Jake Watkins**  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

**Paul Sieczkowski**  
*Orland Park, Ill.*

**Michael Szipszky**  
*Newtown Square, Pa.*

**Michael Wood**  
*Spring, Texas*

**Matas Stankus**  
*Burr Ridge, Ill.*

**AJ Vetter**  
*Schaumburg, Ill.*



*Austin Hoffmann '15 represented Pike at ZTA's Big Man on Campus philanthropic event.*



*Members of Beta Phi congratulate Olivia Owczarzak, Delta Zeta, on becoming IKA Dream Girl.*

2017

Save  
the date!

Alumni Golf Outing  
and Reunion  
June 24

Pike Reunion and  
Purdue Homecoming  
September 23

# CANDLELIGHT



**Beta Phi Foundation, Inc.**

P.O. Box 2853

West Lafayette, IN 47996-2853

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If you would prefer to receive the *Candlelight* e-newsletter, please e-mail [jgoodman@penningtonco.com](mailto:jgoodman@penningtonco.com).

## Chapter Officers



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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