

CANDLELIGHT

BETA PHI CHAPTER OF PI KAPPA ALPHA • PURDUE UNIVERSITY
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Spring 2026

Lasting Brotherhood Bonds

We Hope to See You at Our Reunion This Fall

I hope this issue of *Candlelight* finds everyone well and enjoying their summer. I recently found a copy of *Candlelight* from when I was the SMC back in 1985. My entire message was to our alumni asking them to come back to the house. That said, this year, Beta Phi welcomed **Don Duvall '99**, **Matt Swisher '08**, and **Shane Cullina '09** as the 2026 Pike Old Masters. As in the past, we have strived for Beta Phi alumni who excel in their field. I am personally very grateful to **Josh Bellman '08** and **Evan Schmitt '09** for continuing the Pike Old Masters tradition. Having alumni return to meet with the undergraduates is arguably the most important thing we do.

The bonds we make while in the house remain strong. There is a group of us from the mid-1980s who get together every year for a golf trip. 2025 was a trip to the mountains of Colorado, where we golfed and fly-fished on the Colorado River. In 2026, we are planning to go to Maui. It is my sincere wish that every one of our undergraduates and alumni can work to maintain the true friendships we make during our short time living at 629 University.

Our 2026 Beta Phi Reunion weekend is October 10 vs. Minnesota. I hope as many of you as possible can join us. We will give updates on the state of the Chapter and the financial position of Beta Phi Foundation. We will also present as many as eight scholarships this year. Our primary fundraising initiative is the Chapter Maintenance Fund. Getting that fully endowed will take some time, but we are making strong progress.

There is not a single year that goes by when brothers return for the first time in many years. Almost all will tell me they wished they had come back sooner. We will be sending out reminders and the schedule of events as we draw closer. Mark your calendars and try to make the trip. Phi Phi—I know you will enjoy it.

In the bonds of $\phi\phi\kappa\alpha$,
Joe Conti '85
President (Emeritus)
(715) 498-4498 | joscon_61@yahoo.com



Craig Morris '84 and Mark Koza '86



Alumni from the mid-'80s enjoying time in Colorado together. At table, from left: John Kerkhove '85, Rob James '86, Mark Koza '86, Pete Schmitz '84, Garth Carter '85, Mike Lemley '84, Joe Conti '85, John Romanowski '86, Mike Wright '85, Mike Maloney '85, Craig Morris '84, and Kirk Dauksavage '86.



REFLECTING ON A STRONG SPRING

Chapter and Member Activities

Beta Phi Chapter had an active spring semester across leadership, philanthropy, recruitment, and campus involvement.

Pikes continue to have a strong presence in campus leadership. Former Chapter President **Nathan Stenseth '28** is now halfway through his role as Interfraternity Council president, having taken the position at the start of the year. Recent initiate **Gaven Acosta '28** serves as a Daniels School of Business senator in Purdue Student Government, and **Jack Butwin '28** holds the role of vice president of finance for Purdue University Dance Marathon, an organization of roughly 700 active members. On the professional side, 39 brothers secured internships this semester across 20 different industries. In intramurals, our softball team won back-to-back championships, and our basketball team made a great run in the playoffs.

Our Grand Prix build is progressing well. Our driver, **Nolan Richards '25**, is making significant strides in his racing, and he set an extremely impressive lap time of 26.5 seconds. Safe to say the team is on track to qualify for next year's race and put on a good showing.

The Chapter held two philanthropic events this semester. The first was a fundraiser hosted in our parking lot in partnership with Purdue University Dance Marathon, with several fraternity/sorority groups setting up booths. The second followed the Purdue vs. IU game, where we sold hot chocolate and cookies to benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The two events raised a combined \$1,708, but even more important was the groundwork they set; both being new events, we believe that we can build off them and continue to thrive philanthropically.

Our spring pledge class welcomed 24 new members, nine of whom will be living in the Chapter House this fall. We hope to carry that momentum into next semester's recruitment week. Overall, the Chapter has a bright future ahead, and we look forward to all that's to come.

In the bonds of ΦΦκκ,
John Higgins '28
Chapter President



The fall 2023 pledge class during our Nashville formal.



Beta Phi's softball intramural team after the championship win.

Chapter Goals

- Bring in a fall pledge class of 30 or more members.*
- Achieve a Chapter-wide GPA of 3.25 or above for the fall semester.*
- Increase the total raised through philanthropic events compared to this semester.*

The NEW Old Masters

Hear from the Program's Leaders

Several years ago, **Josh Bellman '08** and **Evan Schmitt '09** were honored to participate in the same Old Masters event. This annual PIKE speaker series has brought Beta Phi alumni back to Purdue—now for 20 years and counting—to share their career stories and professional paths with our undergraduates as they build their own networks.

Evan and Josh became close friends as pledge brothers and leaders in the Chapter House. Speaking at Old Masters was a wonderful opportunity to support the Chapter again and meet their younger brothers. Now, as leaders of the program itself, the two men hope to keep growing the annual event and ensure it keeps up with the times.

“Purdue has such a high pedigree, and to see it advance in technology and education is fantastic. PIKE needs to keep up with that, and we are working to lead the way,” Josh said.

The 2026 Old Masters boasted one of the highest event turnouts in the program's history. Student attendees were consistently engaged, and alumni speakers each handled sessions in their own unique way, which is one of the leaders' favorite parts.

“Many coworkers and colleagues have told me how unique Old Masters is,” Josh added. “I enjoy learning from the undergraduates, too, and I hope the lessons continue to be a two-way street. I feel each year gives us better turnout and even more worthwhile alumni engagement.”

Beta Phi is always looking for passionate alumni to join Old Masters in the future. Everyone's story is unique, so consider sharing yours; the undergraduates would love to meet you!

For more information, reach out to Josh at josh.bellman@gmail.com or Evan at e.schmitt812@gmail.com.

Welcome, New Members!

Gaven Acosta | Cave Springs, Ark.
Miles Badman | Newton Centre, Mass.
Harris Cantley | Commack, N.Y.
Ethan Chen | Warren, N.J.
Ronin Conroy | West Lafayette, Ind.
Owen Ellis | Brownsburg, Ind.
Jett Gheaja | Valparaiso, Ind.
Ronit Gupta | Saddle River, N.J.

Nate Hughes | Indianapolis, Ind.
Cortland Kizior | Jasper, Ind.
Blake Konger | Indianapolis, Ind.
Austin McGrath | Oxford, Ind.
Ben Miller | Elkhart, Ind.
Leif Moilanen | Roanoke, Ind.
Matteo Ouellet | West Lafayette, Ind.
Rakesh Ravi | Austin, Texas

JD Rupp | Middlebury, Ind.
Gabe Sidel | New York City, N.Y.
Nick Sifuentes | Tinley Park, Ill.
Nico Stair | West Lafayette, Ind.
Will Stiles | Bremen, Ind.
Aditya Vadlamani | Marvin, N.C.
Will Ward | Crown Point, Ind.
Dylan Woerpel | Crown Point, Ind.

Why We Joined

HEAR FROM SOME NEW MEMBERS

“I did not go through recruitment in the fall because I was worried about my schoolwork. A lot of my friends rushed PIKE, though, and recommended it heavily. During recruitment, I noticed that the brothers were all similar to me when it came to school. I signed my bid and could not be happier that I did.”

—**Harris Cantley**

“I was certain I didn't want to go through recruitment in the fall because I wasn't sure how I would balance my commitment to ROTC, academics, and a social life. However, after deciding to give it a shot, rushing PIKE was the best decision I could have made. Instead of hindering my prior commitments, it served as a support system to help me succeed further.”

—**Aditya Vadlamani**

“As a legacy, I already had a good idea of the culture and brotherhood, but I was still excited to rush around and meet the guys on my own. After meeting everyone at the recruitment events, any doubt I had was gone. I loved my possible class and the brothers, and I couldn't see myself anywhere else.”

—**Jett Gheaja**



JOIN THE SEARCH PARTY!

Help Us Reconnect with Lost Brothers

Brothers, we are on a mission to rekindle bonds and preserve the rich legacy of PIKE, and we need you to help us locate some “missing” members!

Unfortunately, we have lost touch with some of our brothers over the years, but we believe you can help us reconnect. **Your firsthand knowledge of your pledge class, the experiences you shared during your time with Beta Phi, and what you’ve shared together since graduating is invaluable.**

Help us reach out to those listed below by sharing their contact info with updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com or by reaching out yourself to bring them back into the Beta Phi fold. You’ll be helping revive the bonds that make PIKE special while reaching out to a cherished brother to catch up!

Scott Garlich
Douglas H. Harris Jr.
Vikram Kolluru
Lucas Maus
Charles G. Purvis
Carlos Reyes
Gordon T. Sowers
James S. Gilfillan '48
Kean W. Stimm '48
John Y. Coffman III '72
Fernando A. Pacheco '74
Steven R. Cruze '75
Daniel P. O'Donnell '75
Timothy M. Eaton '86
Mark A. Shivpuri '88
G. Howard Hubley '94
John R. Kane '95
Timothy D. O'Connor '01
Jesse R. Cross '02
Mike Otto '10
Roger Timms '10
Jose Gutierrez '11
Shiv Rana '12
Carem Habayeb '15
Qais Marar '15
Lucien Sleiman '15
Sacheev Mandhle '16
Ganesh Sreeram '17
Nalin Bhat '18
Connor Chambers '19
David Garcia '19
Mohammad El Asad '21
Alejandro Ferrigno '21
Luis Gil '21
Gerardo Rocha '21

Raul Garcia Granados '22
Richard Knoche '22
James Conrad Alexander
Van Der Linden '22
Anders Bech-Willumsen '23
Sebastian Guardia '23
Xuanqi Liu '23
Varun Ashish Rege '23
Marcus Moller Terkelsen '23
Tobias Bautista '24
Carson Bennett '24
Jack Blanthorn '24
Michael Bobber '24
Patrick Brown '24
Josh Clark '24
Josh Downham '24
Jack Goodman '24
Zach Herman '24
David Hoffman '24
Christos Kaifas '24
Cooper Keillor '24
Mike Mattern '24
Kyle McKeon '24
Will Messmer '24
Khaya Ngoma '24
Joe Patton '24
Hayden Payne '24
Rahul Prasad '24
Prajesh Sivakaran '24
Troy Tamura '24
Jason Tankersley '24
Ege Toplu '24
James Vollmer '24
Dylan Yoder '24
Murat Zamir '24

Thank You, Loyal Brothers

WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY

Thank you to the supporters who have given to the Beta Phi Foundation so far in 2026. 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 sgrow@penningtonco.com with any corrections.

Craig Hudson '56
Rollin C. Dix '57
Richard L. Russell '58
William C. Young '62
Martin C. Hegglin '65
Kenneth G. Bassler '69
Geoffrey C. Boling '70

Brian R. Doolittle '70
John L. Hammond Jr. '71
Bruce C. Bailey '72
Alvin G. Rohrer '72
Timothy B. Groves '79
Joseph A. Conti '85
Grant Peterson '24

Supporting Beta Phi Foundation

Thank you for your support of Beta Phi Chapter and our Beta Phi Foundation. All gifts to Beta Phi Foundation are 100% tax deductible and directly impact our Chapter and its initiatives.

To give online:
Visit 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

Please do **not** mail to 629 N University St.

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.

Keep Our Connection Strong Update Your Contact Information Now

Did this email reach you at your preferred email address? Was it forwarded to you?

In this fast-paced world, staying connected matters more than ever. Help us maintain the bond that makes PIKE special by updating your digital contact information while it's top of mind.

Your details ensure you receive the latest Beta Phi news, event invites,

and opportunities to reconnect with fellow alumni. Simply send your updated information to updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com with “Purdue PIKE Email Update” in the subject line.

Please also help us share this issue of *Candlelight* by forwarding it to your pledge brothers. Thank you for helping us strengthen our PIKE connection!

Who Will Carry the Torch?

From one generation to the next, our brotherhood endures through those willing to continue our Beta Phi traditions. Help us find the young men who will honor our past and shape what comes next. Send their info, including how we should contact them, their hometown and year in school, and why you think they'll fit in, to **Joey Skuraton '29** at jskuraton14@gmail.com.

