



THE ALPHA PILOT

Alpha Pi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Wisconsin

THE PRESERVATION OF THE ALPHA PI CHAPTER HOUSE

Strategic Investments, Strong Governance, and Impressive Young Men

This *Alpha Pilot* highlights the tremendous progress of our capital campaign. It also recognizes that the transformation of Alpha Pi has been about much more than raising money to restore our beloved 95-year-old chapter house. **Will Paulson '23** spotlights a chapter of young men we can all be proud of. **Max Lord '07** discusses the proactive governance and accountability changes that have been made to support the sustainability of Alpha Pi Chapter. Please note, many of these changes were designed to promote strong financial stewardship and ensure your donations have a lasting impact. For my section, I will focus on the investments we have made and would like to make going forward.

With over 250 contributors through September, we have already more than doubled our next-best campaign. Thanks to your support and the ongoing efforts of 20 solicitors, the *Preservation of the Alpha Pi House* campaign has already raised nearly \$1.3 million. By the year's end, we will have completed several renovation projects, made major safety and security upgrades, and overhauled the entire HVAC system. Included in the many improvements already completed are upgraded bathrooms, a new boiler and furnace, the addition of a gym, the first-floor restroom and attic apartment, and numerous upgrades to the basement and first floor.

The remaining long-term building/renovation projects highlighted in our strategic facility assessment by Potter Lawson are within our reach. With your help we would like to:

- Complete masonry and window repairs and replace the existing vinyl flooring on the first floor with something more in line with the historical character of the building.

- Reconstruct the original lakeside veranda and provide additional doorways to outdoor terrace from living and dining spaces, per the original design.
- Restore the penthouse so it is once again the focal point it was designed to be.

We are within \$200,000 of the goal we first announced at the Spring Jubilee in 2019. Whether you are topping off your original pledge or pledging for the first time, every gift is critical regardless of the size. Seeing the early success of the effort **Sam Haack '19** initiated with young Betas has been especially inspiring. Let me know if there are any brothers we may have missed that you would like us to contact, or use this opportunity to reach out and encourage their participation yourself!

Please be sure to join fellow alumni and actives at Homecoming on Oct. 30, to see the changes in our home and feel the renewed spirit of Alpha Pi. If you can't make it, there will be several other open house opportunities this fall, including alumni-sponsored gatherings for home football games versus Michigan, Northwestern, and Nebraska. We have also highlighted "before and after" pictures on our alumni website at betawisconsin.org (event photos will be posted there as well).

Damn glad to be a Beta!

Yours in _kai_,

Bart J. Kocha, #1613, UW 1980

Campaign Chairman

(262) 210-7035 | blocha@wi.rr.com

The Inception of the Beta Fund

How These Brothers Have Stayed Connected over Five Decades



Beta Fund members meet for a convention.

In January 1968 during a ski trip with their Alpha Pi brothers, **Ted Kellner '69** and **James Pearce '68** came up with a way to keep a terrific group of fraternity brothers together for a lifetime. Their plan was to create a fund—the Beta Fund—that would financially link their future together. Little did they know, their idea would still be going strong over 53 years later.

Clyde Robinson '68 remembers receiving a letter from Ted the following year that said, "We have started the Beta Fund—send me a check for \$500 and when Pearce finishes his law and MBA program at Stanford, he will draft the necessary documents to make it official."

(Continued on page 3)

Within \$200,000 of Our Goal

Thank You, Generous Alumni!

We are deeply grateful to the following brothers for committing more than \$1.3 million to the *Preservation of the Alpha Pi House* campaign. These individuals recognize the importance of ensuring the future of Alpha Pi Chapter and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience by making an investment in the future of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Wisconsin.

If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please advise **Bart Kocha '80** at (262) 210-7035 or bkocha@wi.rr.com. Thank you!

Order of Wooglin (\$100,000.00 and above)

Ted D. Kellner '69
Frederic J. Goetzke '92

1873 Club (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Anonymous
Alpha Pi Actives
George Moore '79
Jeffrey C. White, Ph.D. '92

1926 Club (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

John R. Anderson '66
John T. Evans '70
Roderick S. Taylor '72
Michael J. Imse '77
Chris R. Mortenson '77
W. Perry Atterholt '83
Glen E. Tellock '83
Thomas J. Halquist '86
Maxwell S. Lord '07

Loving Cup (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

William V. Dietrich '62
Lawrance E. Wallen '62
Kenneth F. Siebel '63
Robert E. Hendricks '65
Charles W. Giesen '68
Clyde M. Robinson III '68
James C. Mack '70
Robert L. Feind Jr. '71
David A. Lenz '71
Donald J. McLaughlan '71
Michael D. Muoio '74
Bart J. Kocha '80
Michael S. Liebow '82
Harry "Rob" Foerster III '83
Thomas C. Lathrop Jr. '84
Andrew J. Smart '84
Robert B. Downing '91

Penthouse (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

John R. Hofmann '64
Robert G. Paul '64
Louis J. Wagner '64
Thomas B. Johnson '67
Robert C. Vig '69
Francis E. Quinlan Jr. '70
Charles A. Randolph '70
James M. Giesen '72
Alan C. Kaniss '72
Charles N. Lucas '72
Scott H. Nettum '72
Ronald K. Buss '73
Thomas R. Oberwetter '74
Karl L. Hilgendorf '75
Bernhard W. Verhoeven '76
Craig Jones '77
Robert P. Lucas '77
Lisle W. Blackburn '78
Laurence S. Patzman '79
Roger A. Friede Jr. '81
Robert L. Schnese '83
Mark R. Schultze '83
James M. Cornelius '85
Matthew A. Gunderson '85
Joseph M. Kronsoble '85
Adam N. Pottner '96
Tym A. Rutkowski '09
Peter A. Machmeier '12

Pleasure Dome (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Carlyle "Bud" Fay '48
Thomas E. Gilbertson '65
Miles R. Adam '66
Richard A. Kimbell '66
Gerald C. Condon Jr. '68
David A. Mayland '68
Thomas W. Jones '70
Alvin K. Krug '70
Rudy A. Schmidt '70
John M. Kelly '71
James F. Dushek '72

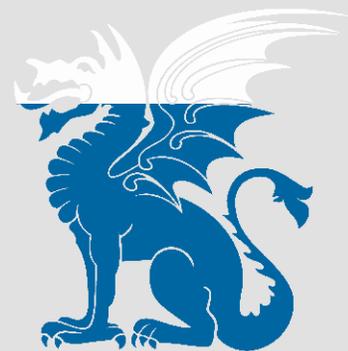
James T. Thompson '72
Timothy E. Sanders '73
Peter J. Stone '73
Daniel F. Siedlecki '75
Kim A. Wise '75
Bruce D. Huijbregtse '76
John E. Zupanc '76
Joel T. Marker '79
Mark A. Hoffmeister '83
Steven C. Southwell '93
James R. Curtis '86
Hans Hofmeister '91
Robert Romeo '16

Dragon's Lair (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Walter Richard Ebling '54
Phillip H. Frensz '55
George F. Hilgemeier Jr. '55
Thomas E. Means '56
Joe R. Irwin '58
Daniel E. Worden '62
John H. Bargren, M.D. '63
Jerry Ross Lyman '63
Jan J. Weisberg '63
Wright B. George '65
Bruce K. Defnet '66
Jay B. Capouch '67
William J. Conroy '68
James T. Pearce '68
John S. Poser '68
John C. Tietz '68
Dennis D. Christensen '69
Michael D. Fullwood '69
John J. Oros '69
Larry K. Stover '69
Joseph R. Buchanan '71
David C. Egelhoff '71
Richard K. Hanneman '71
Gregory C. Markos '71
Odin A. Thorpe '71
Stephen J. Hilmer '72
William R. Perrigo Jr. '72
Robert B. Rennebohm Jr. '72

CAMPAIGN STATUS AT A GLANCE As of September 30, 2021

**\$1.5 MILLION
GOAL**



**\$1,302,079
TOTAL
CONTRIBUTIONS**

**244
CONTRIBUTORS**

Donald B. Thayer '72
Quinn P. Williams '72
Steven C. Gunderson '73
Michael R. Haas '74
Randy E. Pflingsten '74
Stephen J. Meyer '76
David M. Huijbregtse '76
James D. Rauwerdink '76
Anthony C. Canepa Jr. '77
Richard F. Hase '77
John D. Wilkie '77
Jim Egan '79
Matthew M. Frost '79
Jeffrey D. Holtshopp '79
James H. Miner '79
Mark A. Kaiser '81
David J. Schmidt '81
Scott R. Gillespie '82
James D. Jones '82
Thomas A. Frost '83
David K. Francis '85
Gary Frings '85
John B. Hay '85
Robert F. Klockow '85
Thomas A. Miller '85
William R. Zink '85
Felix Willis Caruso Jr. '87
BJ Miller '87



Patrick J. Krill '91
 Oyvind Wistrom '92
 Bradley H. Garcia, Ph.D. '94
 Michael Powers '96
 Andrew J. Stravers '07
 Jacob J. Hentges '18
 Samuel L. Haack '19
 John Boosalis '20
 Henry Cooper '23

Canoe Hole
 (\$100 to \$999)

Paul E. Tausche '48
 Charles E. Kuehn '53
 Rolland S. McGinnis '53
 Theodore E. Crabb Jr. '54
 Terence J. Gautsch '55
 Richard G. Oakford '56
 Allan J. Payleitner '57
 William F. Boettge '59
 Charles E. Elliot '59
 David G. Meissner '59
 John M. Nolan '59
 Douglas D. Russell '59
 James B. Gollhardt '60
 Alan C. Cole '61
 Richard F. Vitkus '61
 Ronald B. Williams Jr. '61
 Stephen W. Larsh '63
 John W. Lierk '63
 Curt M. Garmager '64
 James H. Ball '65
 John R. Davenport '66
 Richard M. Kimberly '66
 Robert M. Tasker '66
 Patrick N. Sommerfield '67
 Dan M. Kimberly '69
 Richard Schwarte '69
 William R. Yanakos '69
 Martin J. Ciotti '70
 Robert T. Waddell '70
 Edward G. Albright '71
 Gregory A. Barney '72
 Robert E. Liebhauser '72
 Craig R. Johnson '73
 Ric Speaker '73
 Charles R. Gross '75
 James R. Haas '75
 James L. Mellor '77
 Gerald G. Schmidt Jr. '77
 Michael J. Terry '77
 David R. Zimmermann '77
 Jeffrey S. Schaefer '78
 David C. Dretzka '79
 James M. Olson '79
 Thomas F. Brennan '80

Joe R. Gonzalez '81
 Gregory G. Zimmerman '81
 Rick L. Abegglen '82
 Timothy G. Eigenfeld '82
 Paul J. Hanusa '82
 James D. Atterholt '84
 Michael Berghammer '84
 Jeffry B. Hampton '84
 Michael J. Wahl '85
 Ethan E. Vielehr '86
 Christopher J. Flood '87
 James M. Gould '87
 John R. Curtis '88
 Ramin Eghbali '88
 Scott R. Running '89
 Daniel M. Edelman '90
 David Tennesen '90
 David L. Walters '91
 Robert Nicholas '93
 Andrew R. Danner '94
 Nicholas G. Stephani '95
 Michael M. Goggin '96
 Daniel T. Schuster '96
 Mark J. Zenkner '97
 Jeffrey J. Freemyer '99
 Dan Polenska '01
 Adam Stein '01
 Daniel K. Breitenbach '06
 William B. Maguire '06
 Travis R. Lemke '09
 Jesse Graewin '10
 Justin D. DeAngelis '11
 Hunter J. Holtshopple '11
 Nicholas J. Norton '12
 Donald Buteyn '13
 Lee Southwell '15
 Nathaniel Ford '17
 Derek T. Campbell '19
 Louis M. Monette '19
 Matt P. Berghoff '20
 Russell Knight '20
 Austin Mose '20
 Ben Peterson '20
 James Rohde '20
 Alex Mendelson '21
 JP Remijas '21
 Wyatt Begley '23
 Ben W. Kangas '23

The Inception of the Beta Fund

(Continued from page 1)



Beta Fund members gather at Harrah's Casino in Southlake Tahoe in the late '70s.

“At that time, I was putting myself through dental school at Northwestern, and to me, that money was tuition dough,” Clyde said. “But I thought if I don’t write a check this minute and send it off, I’ll likely regret it for the rest of my life. So, I mailed the check.”

With Ted’s letter, the Beta Fund began their journey to become a financial source for these brothers to remain connected. The Fund wouldn’t be complete without its current members: **Bruce Defnet '66, Jay Capouch '67, Thomas “TJ” Johnson '67, Cort Condon '68, Larry Kener '68, Jim Mestl '68, John Oros '69, Dick Schwarte '69, Jim Weingart '69, Alvin Krug '70, Charley Giesen '68, David Mayland '68, John Boyajian '68, and Frank Quinlan '70.**

“From an investment standpoint, the Beta Fund has done well,” Ted said. “However, and more importantly, we now have college friends that are still able to come together and have remained close friends for over 50 years.”

The Fund started with \$6,000 and some monies have been added along the way, but a \$500 investment made at the outset has grown to approximately \$475,000—a 16.4% compound rate of return over 53 years. Total assets of the Beta Fund stand at \$40.1 million today.

The initial purpose of the group is achieved every year by holding conventions. Their first convention was in the winter of 1972 at a rented house in Park City, Utah. Ensuing conventions have included ski trips, golf outings, numerous Wisconsin Bowl visits, bare boating, and foreign excursions.

“The bond among Beta Fund is fabulous and unique,” Charley said. “I have never known so many people taking divergent life paths and still remaining as close as we were 53 years ago when we graduated from UW. When we get together, it is always exciting to see each other again—it seems as though we pick up exactly where we left off.”

Additionally, the Funders meet for mini conventions every so often as well as holding special conventions for the brothers and their wives. A few outrageous gatherings have been held to focus on commemorating investment milestones; these celebrations are stag events that last several days and involve fun maximization!

“The continuing camaraderie and fraternal esprit de corps have been a joy,” Clyde said. “It doesn’t matter what you have achieved, how big a dog you are, or where you live, because when you are with this group for a convention, it’s no holds barred. There is nonstop needling, lots of pranks and yuks, and usually sleep deprivation—rather like at the Beta Theta Pi house.”



Preserving Our Home for the Future

How Brothers Are Chipping In

As Alpha Pi has grown to become one of the largest chapters in Beta's Broad Domain (and the largest chapter in the Big Ten), the Beta Building Association (BBA) has worked to modernize operations to reflect our new membership levels. All leases, billing, and payments are now handled electronically, resulting in a significant increase in timely rent payments. Our new meal plan vendor from last semester (Upper Crust Food Service) has proven so popular that a large number of live-out members have joined the dinner-only plan, further strengthening the bonds of brotherhood throughout the chapter.

Almost 80% of our membership lives outside the house, but nearly everyone uses the house and what it has to offer. To keep the chapter competitive on campus and to protect our investment, all members of the chapter now pay parlor fees and security deposits. Parlor fees will go directly toward improvements for the house; this semester, we are putting them toward a new phone-based access system, speaker system,

and chapter room TV. Security deposits from all members will cover any damages to common areas of the house and furniture that go beyond normal wear and tear (if the responsible party is not determined).

All these changes are based on best practices from other fraternities of similar size—both Beta chapters across the country and chapters here in Madison. With them, we expect to solidify the chapter's recent successes and position ourselves well into the future as we approach 150 continuous years as the Alpha Pi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

Damn glad to be a Beta!

Yours in *_kai_*,
Max Lord, #1991, UW 2007
BBA President
mslord@gmail.com

THE LAFOLLETES AND ALPHA PI

The Legacy of Robert LaFollette Jr. 1917

If you believe one of our favorite Beta songs, "Adam was the first man to wear a Beta pin." Spoiler alert: he wasn't, but that's just one of many tales that we share about our legacy.

When I pledged Alpha Pi way back in 1968, I was told that Wisconsin's greatest politician, "Battling Bob LaFollette," was one of us. He wasn't, but his son **Robert LaFollette Jr. 1917** (1895-1953) was—and "Battling Bob" didn't like it one bit!

Bob had made his name, and even run for president in 1924, as a staunch member of the now long gone Progressive Party. To his credit, he received 16.6% of all votes cast in that election, making him far and away the most successful third-party candidate in American history. You could summarize the Progressives pretty succinctly by calling them "anti-elitists."

Beta at Wisconsin was, as most fraternities were back in 1913, elitist. So when Robert pledged, there was plenty of friction between father and son. It's a matter of history now, but Battling Bob did not want his namesake in a fraternity, a fact he made quite well known at the time. Robert, who had been groomed from birth to govern, defied his fiery dad.

As a second son myself, I can tell you from my own vast experience that when you're the "spare to the heir," everything is easier the second time around—which probably explains why there wasn't a public comment from the senior LaFollette when his second son, **Phillip LaFollette 1919**, followed his older brother to Alpha Pi.

Robert would never graduate from UW and was kept out of World War I by illness. He served as his father's personal secretary in the Senate



from 1919 to Bob's death in 1925, at which point he took over his seat in the Senate.

Politically, "Young Bob" (as Robert was known) was an isolationist in the run up to World War II, and would later oppose Joseph Stalin and the formation of the United Nations. He was known during his political career as a champion of organized labor and as a man beholden to no one who spoke and voted his conscience freely.

Robert and Phillip were the leaders and lifeblood of the Progressive Party in Wisconsin during the middle portion of the 20th century, with Phillip serving two terms as governor of Wisconsin from 1931-33 and 1935-39. A true man of the people, it was said that people greeting him on the street just called him Phil.

Robert lost his seat in the U.S. Senate in 1947 after 22 years of service after being defeated in the Republican primary by a scant five thousand votes. He and his father had held the same seat for a combined 41 years. His opponent had accused him of being a draft dodger—a pretty wild accusation considering "Young Bob" would have been 46 years old at the time of Pearl Harbor.

Robert died by his own hand in 1953, reportedly from depression over being accused of being soft on communism. He and his family are remembered through a high school and a plethora of other memorials to their devotion to the state.

"We are the people." Damn glad!

Yours in *_kai_*,
Roderick Taylor, #1448, UW 1972





(Left) Brothers Jack Curcio '22, Zeke Fine '22, Ryan Tully '22, Zach Bradbury '22, Matthew Parma '22, Azad Saadeh-Vaziri '22, Alec Wallbruch '22, and Ryan Oppegaard '22 attended the Badgers' opening game of the 2021 season against Penn State at Camp Randall. (Right) Brothers from the fall 2019 member class present outgoing president Charlie Mavon '21 (center) with a parting gift upon his graduation.



Brothers Evan Hertzberg '23, Cole Kyle '23, Zach Schlossman '23, and David Kimel '23 at the Lollapalooza music festival in Chicago this summer.



Brothers in the fall 2019 member class celebrate the birthday of Joseph Elert '23 (front, second from left) down in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, after finishing finals in May.

A Sense of Normalcy

Alpha Pi Brothers Excited for a Strong Year

As the new president of Alpha Pi Chapter, I think I speak for all active members when I say that this fall semester has been one of the more highly anticipated ones in recent history. With a return to in-person events on the horizon, brothers both young and old are excited for the events that make the college experience at the University of Wisconsin truly one of the best in the nation. Tailgates, sorority socials, mom and dad weekends, formals, and brotherhood events are among those that we are looking forward to most this semester.

I took over for **Charlie Mavon '23** as chapter president after his graduation this spring. While my term of only one semester is shorter than a typical presidential term, I nonetheless hope to leave a great impact on the chapter and continue to facilitate its upward trajectory. After initiating a spring class of 13 new members, the chapter's total membership stands at 137, making it the fifth-largest chapter in all of Beta's broad domain. The chapter also boasts an overall GPA of 3.62, placing it in the upper ranks of Beta chapters as well as the fraternities on UW Madison's campus.

As 622 Mendota Court once again becomes abuzz with activity, live-in members look forward to future house upgrades made

possible by your generous donations. A new air conditioning system, permanent fire pit, restructured shoreline, and new portico (reminiscent of the one the house had in the past) are just a few of the many changes being discussed for the future.

One of the greatest experiences I have had as a member of this chapter was seeing our brothers in the class of 2021 graduate this spring and having the opportunity to join in the celebration of their achievement. As we reminisced in the backyard looking out at Lake Mendota, my mind was drawn back to when I was in that same spot less than two years earlier, meeting those same men for the first time as a prospective new member at a recruitment event. I think experiences like these are what make Alpha Pi truly special. Despite our large and growing size, both in terms of undergraduates and alumni, the fraternal bonds shared between members of our chapter are stronger than ever. I look forward to welcoming all of you back to campus to continue strengthening those bonds this fall.

Yours in *_kai_*,
Will Paulson, #2261, UW 2023
 Chapter President
 wjpaulson@wisc.edu

Chapter Officers

President
Will Paulson '23
 wjpaulson@wisc.edu

Treasurer
Jack Linton '23

Risk Managers
Joseph Elert '23
Jake Kaplan '23

New Member Educators
Walker Bigelow '23
Charlie Wied '24

Social Chairmen
Jake Bennett '23
Bo Youman '23

Vice President
Zach Schlossman '23

Alumni Relations
 Chairman
Michael Combs '23

Secretary
Jack Bowman '23

Recruitment Chairmen
Luis Felemovicus '23
Matthew Salatto '23

Philanthropy Chairman
Ryan Tully '23



PHILANTHROPY UPDATE



THE ALPHA PILOT

BETA THETA PI

Alpha Pi Alliance
1254 Scenic Ridge Dr.
Verona, WI 53593

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The second annual Beta Theta Pi Philanthropy Golf Outing was a huge success! Over 70 brothers and alumni participated this spring, raising over \$2,500 for the Robert Michael Wood Foundation. The philanthropy committee's goal going forward is to continually find ways to get more brothers and alumni involved with our events to raise the most money possible.

To support this effort, we will be holding an additional philanthropy event at the chapter house in October that will feature a live band and food. After three semesters without a normal event, our whole chapter is excited to host them in person once again. To celebrate, the philanthropy committee has made an ambitious goal of \$5,000.

If you have any questions, comments, or want to learn more, please contact me.

Yours in *_kai_*,
Ryan Tully, #2208, UW 2023
Philanthropy Chairman
rtully@wisc.edu



Welcome, Spring New Members

Reiv Mohammadi '23

Charles Klafeta '24

Brent Bartelt '24

Charlie Klimpel '24

Jayden Boateng '24

Nicky Lutz '24

Keegan Crapitto '24

Eric Markey '24

Eric Elgaard '24

Charlie Schuster '24

Josh Etzel '24

Red Tornehl '24

Ziyad Fakhuri '24



betawisconsin.org



Beta Theta Pi -
University of
Wisconsin



[beta_wisconsin](https://www.instagram.com/beta_wisconsin)



[linkedin.com/
groups/1207295](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1207295)