



THE ALPHA PILOT

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

ALPHA PI HOSTS EPIC 150TH

A TIME TO
RECONNECT

Having attended the centennial celebration way back in 1973, I can say we surpassed that event by a wide margin with our sesquicentennial this past April. It was, as one of our youngest brothers remarked, “epic!”

HONORING A BROTHER

Our events began with the plaque unveiling for the new Pagel Recreation Facility honoring Marine Captain **John “Bauca” Pagel ’73**, who died in 1982 in a peacetime helicopter accident off the USS Iwo Jima.

A highlight of our presentation to his wife, Holly, was the fact that she brought ten friends and relatives to the dedication. Several folks remarked they were surprised we remembered Bauca 41 years after his passing. We were surprised they thought we’d forgotten.

FRIDAY FESTIVITIES

Following the memorial, we started the rest of the evening with our Friday night beer supper, reminiscent of the great sorority mixers at Alpha Pi. Brothers and guests feasted on a buffet of gourmet salads and sandwiches. The food certainly beat the old staple of beer suppers from back in the day: the dreaded tuna noodle casserole.

We counted 250 attendees at our Friday event. Alumni were blown away by the improvements and upgrades the Beta Building Association had been able to make with the money raised through our successful fundraising efforts led by Campaign Chairman **Bart Kocha ’80**.

SATURDAY’S GATHERING

The main event of the weekend was dinner at the Madison Doubletree, owned by brother **Dave Lenz ’71**. Dave provided the brothers

staying there with the “friends and family” rate. A mind-boggling 220 alumni, members of the active chapter, and guests made it to the reception and following buffet dinner.

Speeches were made by BBA President **Max Lord ’07**, Chapter President **Mikey McGuire ’25**, and General Fraternity President **Tom Cassady, Cincinnati ’76**. “The energy that filled the room—one of excitement, reminiscence, and real enjoyment of one another’s company—was palpable,” noted McGuire. “Being able to meet so many people that came through the same place at different times and in different ways, yet still finding genuine connections at the drop of a hat, just left a smile on my face,” he added.

“We’ve initiated about 450 Alpha Pis in the last 20 years,” remarked Lord. “More than half that number has been initiated in the last five, and several recent graduates came back to celebrate. You could see how impressed older alumni were with the chapter’s substantial growth.”

“For me, the greatest moment was seeing all the ‘fraternal fifties’ alumni take the stage at the end of the evening,” noted Bart Kocha. We were blessed to have more than three dozen brothers with 50 or more years in Alpha Pi over the weekend. On a personal note, I had forgotten how funny **John Evans ’70** was. I woke up in the morning and couldn’t figure out why my sides hurt so badly, then it hit me—Evie!”

FINANCIAL OBSTACLES

A challenge facing the sesquicentennial committee was funding active members for this event without punching a hole in the chapter’s social budget or charging alumni a much higher fee for the weekend. Kudos to **Fred Goetzke ’92** for stepping in and volunteering to pay the cost of dinners for the 100+ active members

attending. Fred was recognized by the Dias several times, with each mention of his name bringing wild cheers from the room.

As the evening ended, our guests walked back to their rooms or to the buses going back to the house. The remaining folks hanging back by the hotel bar remarked that we did this so well, we ought to do it again. *So we will!*

THE HOUSE CENTENNIAL

In 2026, we will gather at 622 Mendota Court to celebrate the centennial of the house. Everyone involved in planning the 150th is sure we can top ourselves for the occasion; this time, weather permitting, with some outdoor activities for guests.

As we look toward our 151st year at the University of Wisconsin, we would be remiss if we didn’t engage in a little chest pounding:

- We are the oldest Greek organization in continual operation at UW.
- We are the largest chapter in the Big Ten and eighth largest in the entire fraternity.
- We are the only Beta chapter on lakefront property.
- Our brothers have held every political office the state has: governor, state legislature, U.S House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate.
- We have five brothers in the UW Athletics Hall of Fame.

**What else is to come for Alpha Pi?
Only time will tell!**

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

What Did Our Youngest Brothers Think of the 150th Celebration?



Active members share a toast to 150 years.

We started off the year in extravagant fashion with a weekend of festivities to celebrate our chapter's fabled history. 150 years is not a milestone often met, and our alumni made sure that ours would be met with the proper fanfare.

It was truly a special sight to see so many faces find their way back to the house, reuniting over lunch and old stories. I think I speak for all 177 actives when I say Saturday's anniversary banquet was an event unlike any other.

The sheer number of people who took the time to come together and fill a banquet hall for the sole purpose of commemorating the shared experience of being a Beta was impressive. What I knew before was immediately proven, that the bonds built within our chapter are bonds for life. Thank you to all those who were able to join us in celebrating and thank you for giving us a reason to celebrate!

Yours in *_kai_*,
Mikey McGuire, #2345, UW 2025

Another Fall with Alpha Pi

Members Strive for Success

As we find ourselves back in full swing for another fall term, there are many things to look forward to. Between a new season of Badger football, a fresh slate of classes, and a whole lot of weekends to work for, it feels like there's an endless stream of excitement for Alpha Pi.

It can be hard to keep track of all the good things going on lately, but the same can be said for every single one: it's all possible at 622 Mendota Court.

HOUSE UPDATES

Our beautiful chapter house continues to see improvements thanks to the continued hard work of our alumni. The top floor of the house boasts a complete redesign and gives actives a new common area for enjoying each other's company, entertaining guests, or relaxing after a long day.

Three floors down, the chapter room found new additions in four sets of French doors that really make the most of our one-of-a-kind view of Lake Mendota. These updates, and the ones in store for the future, could not be made possible without the constant support from our alumni network. For that, we thank you!

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There's no doubt that the past year has been busy for Alpha Pi, and I wouldn't want to go about the 150th year of our beloved chapter's operation any other way. **Ben Miller '26** and **Roman Hauch '26** represented Alpha

Pi this summer at Beta's general convention in Dallas, Texas. They learned important life skills and came back with new ways to help our chapter continue to thrive.

Our philanthropic efforts have been on full display as well, raising more than \$100,000 through UW's Humorology program for Madison's Canopy Center. We also hosted our annual Betawatch tailgate to fundraise for the Robert Michael Wood Foundation.

Meanwhile, the men of Alpha Pi continue to uphold the second highest GPA on campus, proving once again just the kind of men we are.

FRATERNAL REFLECTIONS

As I reflect on my time with Alpha Pi, I could not be happier with what it has offered me. Beginning the second half of my undergraduate career, I am given a new perspective on the chapter. Seeing more and more young men come in and begin the journey I set out on two years ago, I could not be more excited for what the future holds.

The house is filled with people who genuinely care about those around them, which has been a true recipe for success. I am blessed to have been given the opportunity to lead such a fine group of people, and I have been increasingly grateful for the time I have left. Damn glad.

Yours in *_kai_*,
Mikey McGuire, #2345, UW 2025
 mmmcguire7@wisc.edu



Alpha Pi's very own celebrate an intramural hockey championship.



The chapter comes together to commemorate another great year in Madison.



Chapter Officers

President

Mikey McGuire '25

Vice President

Michael Shea '25

Treasurer

Tim Gaston '25

Secretary

Ethan Breedlove '25

Social Chairmen

Jacob Taubman '25

Daniel Wilcox '25

Recruitment Chairmen

Jack Bania '25 | (414) 559-6059

Drew Hicks '25 | (612) 244-6753

Risk Managers

Zachary Peterson '25

Cameron Klein '25

Pledge Educator

Ben Miller '26

Alumni Chairman

Hunter Bania '25

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Brady DeGuzman '26

Thomas DiNunzio '26

Jonathan Gatewood '26

Aidan Higgins '26

Ibrahim Ibrahim '26

Fidel Jaramillo '26

Michael Kelley '26

Matthew Lia '26

Carson Pacheco '26

Alex Vlasik '26

Will Young '26

Jack Zavorka '26

SAVING LIVES AND RAISING AWARENESS

George Moore '79 on the Battle Against Opioid Addiction

Beta brothers carry an unwavering commitment to various goals, be it career aspirations or personal missions. One such dedicated individual is **George Moore '79**, who takes pride in carrying on the Beta legacy established by his father. As a father himself, George honors his late son through the George Moore IV Recovery Fund.

THE BENEFITS OF BROTHERHOOD

"I became a Beta in fall 1975, my freshman year," George said. He remembers his father, **George Moore Jr. '49**, taking him to the Alpha Pi house during Homecoming—George was impressed by the various generations of alumni reconnecting and sharing stories.

George enjoyed living amongst members with different backgrounds and personalities. Chapter meetings were a great opportunity to develop communication skills that had benefits beyond college. "Listening, addressing concerns, and leading discussion to come up with a solution helped me immensely later in my professional sales career."

BATTLING AN EPIDEMIC

When George and Cindy lost their son, George IV, seven years ago to opioid addiction, they were unprepared for the shock and grief that followed. George traces his son's misuse of heroin back to a prescription for a sports injury more than 10 years prior.

"Cindy and I decided to start a grassroots effort on addiction awareness so other parents were not caught unaware by a loved one's hidden addiction problem." After joining groups and programs in Wisconsin, George and Cindy worked with another couple in 2018 to start Ethan's Run for Addiction Awareness.

This event gave way to the GIV Memorial Golf Outing in 2019. Both events, combined with the 501(c)(3) GIV Recovery Fund, generate more than \$115,000 each year supporting rehabilitation assistance at the Culver House sober living facility.



"It's the Beta way to live your life helping others in need. That's why we do it."

George Moore '79 (left) and Bart Kocha '80 with the OAK installed in the Alpha Pi house.

STAYING CLOSE TO HOME

Part of George's efforts against the opioid epidemic is installing free Overdose Aid Kits containing Narcan, addiction hotline info, fentanyl test strips, and rehab resources in schools, businesses, and municipalities. George was glad to work alongside **Bart Kocha '80** and install an OAK in the Alpha Pi house, meeting with the chapter for Narcan training. George and Bart are working with 40 fraternity and sorority presidents in IFC to provide OAKs in all houses.

George and Cindy have worked with state legislation in the battle against opioid misuse, assisting in passing a bill to decriminalize fentanyl test strips. Recognizing the need to inform legislators on the causes and effects of opioid addiction in Wisconsin, George also helped draft Senate Bill 206 requiring Narcan to be available in all public and private schools.

"People often ask me, 'How do you have the mental capacity after your son died to be on a mission to impact the opioid epidemic?' I must admit, it can be very emotional at times, like receiving a call from a friend whose relative has overdosed/saved by Narcan and is in the hospital, asking if I can go visit them."

George is glad to see alumni brothers at reunions, sporting events, and GIV fundraisers. He is extremely grateful to the Betas who have donated in the battle against opioid addiction. You can connect with George at gemoore3@att.net and visit the GIV website at GIVrecoveryfund.org.



Sights from the 150th Celebration



Want More?

You can see more photos from the event online at tinyurl.com/AlphaPi150thEvent.



Never Too Late to Make a Difference

Bob Schnese '83 Shares Unique Path to Leadership



“Seeing those nine men taught me what being a Beta was about, and I needed to do everything I could to give back.”

When **Bob Schnese '83** learned he would receive the Francis W. Shepardson Award—the General Fraternity’s highest honor—he was truly humbled to be included among Beta men he sees as visionaries.

“When I gave my remarks in Dallas, I wanted to emphasize to undergraduates and alumni alike that it took me 13 years to really figure out what Beta Theta Pi meant to me,” Bob explained. “I realized how fortunate I was and that I still had time to accept a prominent role.” That epiphany led Bob all the way to a General Fraternity presidency, despite never being a chapter president—he wants fellow brothers to understand that regardless of background, there is always time to serve.

NEW BEGINNINGS

That’s not to say, however, that Bob didn’t appreciate what Beta had already given him. He joined Alpha Pi not only for the “awe factor” of the chapter house by Lake Mendota, but for the friends and the serious students he met there as well. Bob would serve as a chorister and pledge educator as an undergraduate, followed by corresponding secretary—this opened his eyes to the size of the Beta brotherhood. Though he appreciated being part of Beta through these roles, he still saw himself as a follower, not a leader.

That began to change when Beta explored building a chapter at UW-Oshkosh, where Bob lived with his family in 1991. Bob, then 31, was their best hope of finding an alumni advisor, which they needed to start the process; he hesitated until **Bob Grand, Wabash '78** told him a fraternity saying: “The man doesn’t seek the job, the job seeks the man.”

Bob agreed after discussing the opportunity with his wife, which led him to decades of volunteering with Beta Theta Pi. “Seeing that chapter start was a rebirth for me, watching

the brothers wrestle with the issues of the founding process,” he said. “Seeing those nine men taught me what being a Beta was about, and I needed to do everything I could to give back.”

GETTING IT DONE TOGETHER

In 2001, Bob joined the Fraternity Board of Trustees, learning from an “all-star team” of alumni over three years. This term as Vice President coincided with Beta’s first major capital campaign. He found his way back to the board in 2014, where he was soon nominated for General President. He then had to meet with chapter presidents from across the nation, who ultimately elected him to the office. “They asked some very tough questions, but I enjoyed the process.”

During his presidency, Bob was proud to help grow the Friends of Beta, a non-affiliated co-ed group that helps the fraternity with mentorship and accountability. He’s also proud of helping pass substance-free housing, which the fraternity implemented to prevent tragedies like the death of Timothy Piazza at Penn State.

To Bob, his service is about working together as brothers of Beta Theta Pi. “We need to aspire to be leaders and to break the barriers we still deal with, whether it’s color, religion, or gender.”

After two consecutive terms as president, Bob stepped down in 2020 and joined the advisory council, where he enjoys working with the board and seeing the fraternity continue to evolve. “Right now, the board already looks so different than when stepped off a few years ago. I’m not looking for a new job for now, but it’s nice to be included and still have a voice.”

WHY GET INVOLVED?

Though fraternities face challenges in an ever-changing world, Bob believes that the

fraternity experience, particularly Beta, is a wonderful networking experience. Not just professionally, but also to find lifelong friendships and relationships. Beta also instills the value of service, particularly “giving of self,” through programs like the Wooden Institute; working with groups like the Boys and Girls Club inspires brothers to volunteer their time, talent, and treasure.

Beta also provides people who will support one another through hard times and pivotal moments. It was the aid of caring brothers, for example, that helped Bob decide to stop drinking in 1994. “I would not be accepting the Shepardson Award this year if that hadn’t happened.” Bob knows Beta has plenty of growth left and hopes he can inspire fellow “late bloomer” alumni to get involved in their own ways.

“I’m a blessed man, and Beta has a big part in that,” he said. “My luck and gratitude isn’t about an award so much as people giving me the opportunity to serve. I hope I’ll have those opportunities in the future.”

THE FUTURE

For now, Bob intends to do whatever the General Fraternity and Alpha Pi feels he can help with. He also enjoyed seeing brothers at the chapter house for the celebration in April and looks forward to helping the chapter house grow even better over time.

“Beta creates great leaders who can lead far beyond Beta Theta Pi. I’m so proud that Alpha Pi is one of those places, and I hope this great trend continues.”



To connect with Bob or learn more about his volunteer work, you can reach him at bobschnese@gmail.com.





THE ALPHA PILOT

BETA THETA PI

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Submit Your Updates Today

In the spirit of our 150th anniversary, the Alpha Pi Chapter would like to keep our alumni in full focus for future issues of *The Alpha Pilot*. Be sure to share any personal life updates or photos of Beta gatherings to our communications coordinator, Caroline Hammond, at chammond@penningtonco.com.

Be sure to include "Beta Theta Pi Wisconsin Alumni Update" in the subject line.

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



Beta Theta Pi - University of Wisconsin



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betawisconsin.org



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CLOSING OUT ALPHA PI'S 150TH YEAR



Read inside this issue of *The Alpha Pilot* for a sesquicentennial celebration recap and see how you can support Alpha Pi through our new annual campaign. Plus, enjoy alumni feature articles and the latest updates from our youngest brothers!

The Latest on Our Annual Campaign

CELEBRATE OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A YEAR-END GIFT TO ALPHA PI



Our annual campaign is off to a great start! Since kicking off our effort last fall, devoted alumni have already contributed more than \$20,500 for the brotherhood.

We are so grateful for all who planned and attended the 150th anniversary event earlier this year, especially the huge efforts of brother **Rod Taylor '72**.

We have celebrated Alpha Pi all year long, so what better way to round out our 150th year than by giving back to the brotherhood that did so much for us? Thanks to our annual campaign, **you** can play a role in ensuring brothers have a great time at gatherings like this.

You can make an annual gift by scanning the QR code above to visit tinyurl.com/AlphaPiAnnualFund or by writing a check to Alpha Pi Alliance and mailing it to:

Alpha Pi Alliance - University of Wisconsin
c/o Travis Lemke
1254 Scenic Ridge Dr.
Verona, WI 53593-2265

Yours in *_kai_*,
Hans Hofmeister, #1791, UW 1991
Jeff White, Ph.D., #1813, UW 1992
Frederic Goetzke, #1824, UW 1992