



# THE ALPHA PILOT

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



## ONWARD AND UPWARD

A New Approach for 2024 and Beyond

**A**lpha Pi Chapter has come a long way since the mid-2000s. Back then, we struggled to find even 40 members to join our chapter. Today, we boast a full house of 150! Where our Beta Building Association was once operating in crisis mode, we are now firmly in management mode, focusing on refining what it means to be an Alpha Pi active, officer, and alumni volunteer. Our trajectory is strong, and we're building an even brighter future!

Thanks to the support of our generous alumni, the BBA has recently accomplished several key projects. These upgrades are creating a more vibrant and comfortable environment for our on-campus brothers, ensuring Beta remains competitive.

### CHAPTER HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

- **Private rooms on the second floor** have been freshly painted for the first time in years, an upgrade that enhances the living experience. The third-floor rooms and common spaces are scheduled to be painted in 2025.
- The **flat roof** over the front entry was replaced in August.
- New **washers and dryers** were added in October.
- **Dining room upgrades** include the addition of a commercial-grade water bottle filler, a chilled salad bar, and a rinsing sink. These improvements offer healthier options and convenience for our members.
- We have also introduced a **live-in chef**. If you attended Homecoming 2024, you likely met Chef Brandon. He cooks five days a week, providing fresh, healthy meals. We're proud of how this initiative is elevating the members' quality of life.
- To accommodate our growing chapter, we have installed **durable, heavy-duty dining tables and chairs** that can withstand the daily use of 150 college men. These pieces will serve the chapter for years to come.
- We've ordered **new furniture for the chapter room**, creating a comfortable and welcoming space for meetings and events.
- The **Penthouse** now boasts a new 65" high-resolution TV, with additional furnishings to follow. This space is becoming a great spot for relaxation and bonding.
- To enhance safety, we've installed **external cameras** around the house and first-floor cameras inside, ensuring the security of brothers

and guests.

- For comfort, a **new HVAC system** has been installed, providing a more reliable and efficient way to regulate temperatures.
- We also purchased an **event grill**, which has already been put to great use during recruitment events and Homecoming. Expect more fun chapter-wide dinners soon!



Beyond the new upgrades, we continue to provide **professional cleaning services** for common spaces and bathrooms three times a week, with mat and towel service twice a week.

### DEDICATED LEADERS

We've added important roles within the chapter to further improve operations, including a Steward position, which allows actives to take ownership of meal service (meet our first Stewards on page 5!). In addition, **Aidan O'Brien '27**, our house manager, is doing a great job settling into his role. Finally, we've brought on new BBA members who are fully invested in this new approach. Three new members, **Hans Hofmeister '91**, **Scott Running '89**, and **D.L. "Wally" Walters '91**, have joined **Jeff White '92**, **George Moore '79**, **Bart Kocha '80** and myself to form a revitalized Beta Building Association.

We are excited about the direction Alpha Pi is heading and appreciate the continued support from alumni like you. Here's to even greater success in 2024 and beyond!



Yours in *\_kai\_*,

**Bob Downing, #1807, UW 1991**, BBA President  
downingbt@sbcglobal.net

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Weekend @ Rudy's  
Bama vs Badgers 9-14-24

# Beta Alumni Bring the Heat to Phoenix



Brothers gather for a reunion at Sarah's house—daughter of Rudy Schmidt '70. Photo credit: Jim Haas #1503, UW 1975

## A REUNION OF THE '60S AND '70S

On September 13 and 14, 18 Betas from the late '60s and early '70s gathered in Phoenix, Arizona, to watch the Badger/Bama train wreck and to party like it was 1969! The weekend started at the Buffalo Chips Saloon in appropriately named Cave Creek, Arizona. This cowboy-themed venue offered live bull riding, always a safe and sane activity whenever alcohol is served around old men. Brother **Chuck Lucas '72** observed, "Them bulls looks fierce," so the brothers, possibly for the first time ever, wisely passed on the opportunity.

Early Saturday morning, we gathered at the spacious home of our friendly host, Sarah (daughter of **Rudy Schmidt '70**), and her wife, Liz, for a dose of good old-fashioned midwestern hospitality. History will record the game as a blowout, but the brothers managed to salvage the morning by retelling stories we've all heard a thousand times but still roar in laughter at.

An early observation of the morning would be that the most frequently heard word was "what?" "I could have paid for my airfare, and both nights at the hotel, if I'd been smart enough to sell the NIL rights to the weekend to a hearing aid company," brother **Chris Moarn '71** noted ruefully. The cane franchise would have done well too.

At lunchtime, we celebrated losing our starting quarterback, and probably the rest of our season, by grilling bratwurst imported all the way from State Street Brats in Madison. Given the fact that I worked at the old 'Brathaus' for a semester in 1970, I was given the rare honor of cooking for the brothers. There's something about grilling outside in the desert at noon over a flaming grill that really opens your pores! If it wasn't for the honor of the whole thing, I would have just as soon passed the tongs—really.

We concluded our weekend with a lovely dinner at The Boulders restaurant in Scottsdale. Over cocktails and dinner, we told so many embarrassing stories about each other that it soon became painfully obvious why we only did these gatherings once a year at most.

The good news is that in 10 months the celebrants will have forgotten they were ever in Phoenix, so **Al Kaniss '72** and I are already talking about 2025.



Yours in *\_kai\_*,  
**Rod Taylor, #1448, UW 1972**  
rst72badger@gmail.com



# Those Fabulous Beer Suppers

## THE STORY OF A LOST TRADITION

**W**e've lost a few traditions over the 152 years we've been on campus, but none have been mourned more deeply than those fabulous beer suppers of the '60s and early '70s. The beauty of the beer supper back then was that it combined the three things the brothers loved above all others: cute girls, beer, and food—although the less said about the food, the better.

The way it worked was that on a designated Friday night before a home football game, we would supply the band and the beer, and the sorority we invited would supply the food. This was no half-assed thing; I can remember us paying a band called Harvey Scales and The Seven Sounds over \$1,000 in 1968. That was a lot of money then, but when the singer's first name is Twistin', as you can only imagine, they wouldn't come cheap.

The pledges would start carrying all the first-floor furniture up to the second floor around 4:30 p.m., followed by rolling up the red carpets in the living room and TV room. The piano we had was manhandled into a corner of the living room, and they would put padded tarps over our much-loved color TV.

By 5 p.m., the two bathrooms upstairs would be fogged up with steam as the brothers showered up for the event. The sink area would be filled with the heady scent of the colognes that were so popular back then. With names like English Leather, Brut, and Hai Karate, they sound today like something from a dominatrix's toolkit, but everyone wore them. One brother would anoint himself with patchouli oil, purchased no doubt from some State Street bohemian shop. I refuse to even mention the trend of "soap on a rope" that was also popular in the day.

I'll never forget the sound of the sororities singing their fire-up songs as they swung down Francis Street and then across the Towers parking lot to us:

*"You take the legs of Betty Grable,  
You take the hips from old Mae West,  
You take the face of Mia Farrow,  
And from Jayne Mansfield take the chest,  
WE NEED THE CHEST!  
And then you put them all together,  
Sweeter than Theta, or Pi Phi,  
You get a lot more lovin' in this whole wide world,  
From a perfect Gamma Phi!"*

It was, admittedly, an old song, even then. During the next few hours, it would be just us and the sorority in the Beta Barroom, an environment a lot more conducive to getting to know someone than just about any place else you can imagine. Brothers married girls they met at beer suppers—no kidding!

The food they brought with them can only be described as execrable. How anyone can bring an entree of tuna noodle casserole to a gathering of close-talking young men and women I'll never understand. "Is that fish on your breath, or is it just me you're trying to disgust?" We would all breathe a sigh of relief when the entree was beefy macaroni casserole, although that would be swimming in its own grease. You didn't go to a beer supper for the food!

Beer suppers were the best way I've ever seen to meet women, aided of course by the golden nectar that has brought courage under fire to our kind for more years than we'd care to admit. In my four years, our beer on tap was Miller High Life. We paid \$13 a half-barrel (15 1/2 gallons). The mere aroma of Miller High Life today still puts my senses on alert like a pointer dog on hunt.

There's no doubt in my mind that when the time comes that I'm lying, dying, and preparing to travel to Wooglin, I'll still remember those fabulous beer supper nights, and the girls singing in four-part harmony to meet the Betas:

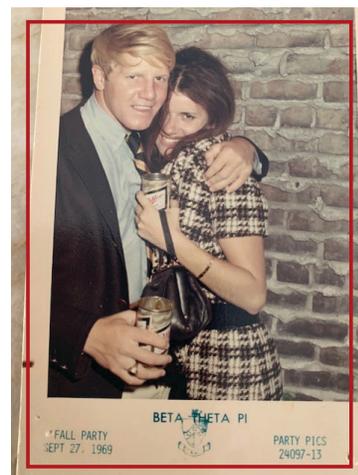


*"We are the Joy Girls of 'A Chi O,'  
Hello, hello, Helloooooo!"*



To reminisce on this and other Beta traditions, contact the author. He'd love to dish about the dirty details.

Yours in *\_kai\_*,  
**Rod Taylor, #1448, UW 1972**



*The author with a partygoer at a 1969 beer supper.*

# Submit Your Recruitment Referrals



## HELP US GROW THE BROTHERHOOD

**D**o you know any young men who would make a great addition to Alpha Pi? Send all referrals to one of our vice presidents of recruitment. Please include the student's full name, contact information, hometown, and any legacy connections.

**Beran Evran '26**  
(262) 225-1010

**Erik Messmer '26**  
(216) 317-2290



# A Promising Year

## ENHANCING THE BROTHERHOOD

**A**lpha Pi Chapter has made significant strides in fostering both academic excellence and brotherhood over the past year. Committed to enhancing our members' educational achievements, we have implemented a collaborative study program utilizing the facilities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This initiative has proven successful, as we observed notable improvements in our members' academic performance. Our academic chairman has been instrumental in creating a structured framework that encourages group study sessions, and we have also facilitated tutoring opportunities among brothers, ensuring that all members have access to the support they need.

In addition to our academic initiatives, our chapter has been bolstering its advisory network. With all advisor positions filled, we have established a cohesive support system that allows every executive board member to seek guidance and navigate challenges effectively. The collaboration with dedicated chapter advisors and engaged alumni has significantly enhanced our operational efficiency, particularly in budgeting and procedural tasks. This newfound structure has strengthened our relationships with national representatives and the university, promoting smoother operations within the chapter.

Exciting developments are on the horizon as we have wrapped up another successful recruitment

season. With a new kitchen and in-house cook, our chapter house is set to accommodate many active members, which bodes well for our community's growth. The addition of these amenities has already generated enthusiasm among current members, and we anticipate a vibrant house filled with engaged brothers next year.

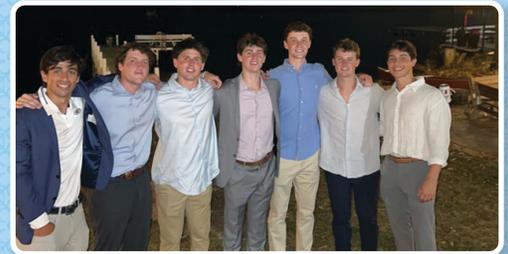
Athletically, the chapter is gearing up for the ice hockey intramural playoffs, showcasing our commitment to fostering a competitive spirit and camaraderie among members. Our fall formal was held at the end of November and further enriched our social calendar. Recently, we held a successful golf outing at Yahara Hills, which served as a brotherhood event and allowed us to contribute to philanthropy.

Homecoming was a resounding success, featuring live music at our tailgate, where alumni and current members came together to enjoy the festivities. Attendees had the chance to savor delicious meals prepared by our new chef, contributing to an enjoyable atmosphere filled with laughter and connection. Overall, Alpha Pi Chapter is thriving and committed to academic excellence, brotherhood, and community engagement as we look forward to a promising year ahead.

Yours in *\_kai\_*,  
**Jared Shimelman '26**  
President



*Brothers take new members to one of Madison's best restaurants, Rare Steakhouse.*



*Executive and junior recruitment chairmen celebrate after a successful recruitment for our chapter.*



*Members celebrate their senior year in Vegas with friends.*

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**Alexander J. Anderson** | Piedmont, Calif.  
**Hans R. Baurmeister** | Darien, Conn.  
**Joe Bell** | Richmond, Virg.  
**Finn R. Burdick** | Fontana, Wis.  
**John R. Carroll** | Tampa, Fla.  
**Eren A. Evran** | Grove, Wis.  
**Willis T. Fairchild** | Cedarburg, Wis.  
**Griffin Fisher** | Milford, Conn.  
**Alex E. Forman** | Redondo Beach, Calif.  
**Everett Forte** | San Diego, Calif.  
**Joseph H. Gelb** | Suffern, N.Y.

**Jack A. Gorden** | Inver Grove Heights, Minn.  
**Declan Higgins** | Sacramento, Calif.  
**Jack R. Levi** | Highwood, Ill.  
**Matthew A. Liberopoulos** | Garden City, N.Y.  
**Brady R. Longstreet** | Westfield, N.J.  
**Andrew J. McLaughlin** | Piedmont, Calif.  
**Brian D. Murdoch** | Mercer Island, Wash.  
**Tristan A. Oliver** | Upper Saddle River, N.J.  
**Joseph O. Otradovec** | Green Bay, Wis.

**John T. Philbin** | Northbrook, Ill.  
**Matthew C. Reilly** | Ridgewood, N.J.  
**Jack L. Schwartz** | Avon, Colo.  
**Liam J. Steeves** | Lafayette, Colo.  
**Omeed Tabrizi** | Saint Paul, Minn.  
**Matthew Vitale** | Barrington, Ill.  
**Jack B. Wall** | Fanwood, N.J.  
**Teddy H. Whittaker** | New Canaan, Conn.  
**Matthew J. Wolsko** | Broomfield, Colo.  
**Nicholas H. Womack** | Shorewood, Wis.  
**Christian D. Zurawlow** | Pine Brook, N.J.



# THANK YOU, LOYAL BROTHERS!

## WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you to the brothers who have contributed to Alpha Pi Chapter this year. Your support keeps our brotherhood strong.

You can add your name to this list by scanning the QR code to donate at [tinyurl.com/AlphaPiAnnualFund](http://tinyurl.com/AlphaPiAnnualFund).



Or mail a check to: Alpha Pi Alliance - University of Wisconsin, c/o Travis Lemke, 1254 Scenic Ridge Dr, Verona, WI 53593-2265

James B. Gollhardt '60  
Peter O. Mueller '62  
John H. Bargren, M.D. '63  
Jerry R. Lyman '63  
Jan J. Weisberg '63  
Gerald C. Condon Jr. '68  
James T. Pearce '68  
Michael D. Fullwood '69  
John T. Evans '70

Robert L. Feind Jr. '71  
Alan C. Kaniss '72  
Charles N. Lucas '72  
Roderick S. Taylor '72  
Timothy E. Sanders '73  
Peter J. Stone '73  
Michael R. Haas '74  
Karl L. Hilgendorf '75  
Robert J. Moore '77

Roger A. Friede Jr. '81  
H. Robert Foerster III '83  
Andrew J. Smart '84  
James R. Curtis '86  
James M. Gould '87  
Scott D. Braun '93  
Andrew R. Danner '94  
Michael Powers '96

## Chapter Officers

President  
**Jared Shimelman '26**  
Vice President  
**Charles Van Ness '26**

VPs of Risk Management  
**Benjamin Miller '26**  
**Ryan Zunenshine '26**

VP of Finance  
**Jacob Tomlinson '26**

VP of New Member Education  
**Patrick Smith '27**

VP of Administration  
**Michael Vitale '26**

VP of Alumni Relations  
**George Wied '26**

Social Chairmen  
**Asa Wold '25**  
**Jack Hertz '26**

VP of Philanthropy  
**Dominic Burclaw '26**

VPs of Recruitment  
**Beran Evran '26**  
(262) 225-1010

VP of Academic Affairs  
**Michael Kelly '26**

**Erik Messmer '26**  
(216) 317-2290

VP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
**Sebastian Gratson '26**

Athletic Chairman  
**Carson Lindell '26**

## Serving Up Success



Beta's new chapter house kitchen is complete, and with the fall semester in full swing, our new meal plan with Greek House Chefs has begun! To help brothers communicate effectively with our GHC staff, Alpha Pi has constructed the new officer position of Steward. Now you can learn about the program directly from our new Stewards themselves: **Ben Schneider '27** and **Holden Smith '27**.



Ben Schneider '27

### First, can you describe Alpha Pi's new Steward role?

**Ben:** As Stewards, Holden and I act as a liaison between Beta members and the chef/kitchen staff, facilitating meal plan details and arrangements. This allows us to advocate for the brothers' needs as they arise.

**Holden:** We also help organize chapter events that involve making larger amounts of food.

### How did this position come to be, and why did you accept it?

**Ben:** Chapter President **Jared Shimelman '26** pitched this new leadership opportunity at the start of the school year. We knew the new meal plan would require a dedicated two-person position to be successful.

**Holden:** Ben and I were both looking to get more involved with the chapter, and we decided (along with the vote of our brothers) that we would fulfill this role effectively.

### What are your goals for the first year of this role and program?

**Holden:** To create an efficient and well-functioning meal plan that everyone can agree on. We also plan to organize several events where food is catered from our kitchen.

### What does the ideal Steward look like to you?

**Ben:** The ideal Steward is communicative, organized, and a reliable leader for our fellow in-house brothers.

### Lastly, share a little about yourselves and your Beta experience.

**Holden:** The brotherhood has had nothing but a positive impact on my college experience, allowing me to meet many new people and form close friendships early on in my college years. I am thankful to be a greater part of this chapter as a Steward, and I hope that this position continues to grow and serve brothers in the future.

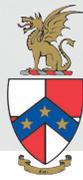
**Ben:** It was always a dream of mine to attend UW-Madison like my two older brothers, and Beta truly made me feel at home while I acclimated to a new environment. It has allowed me to make connections and develop leadership skills that will benefit me out of college.

*Holden is studying mechanical engineering and can be reached at [hsmith46@wisc.edu](mailto:hsmith46@wisc.edu). Ben is majoring in consumer behavior and marketplace studies; you can reach him at [btschneider2@wisc.edu](mailto:btschneider2@wisc.edu). We wish both brothers the best as they help GHC (and the Steward office itself) serve Alpha Pi!*



Holden Smith '27





# THE ALPHA PILOT

## BETA THETA PI

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

*Address Service Requested*

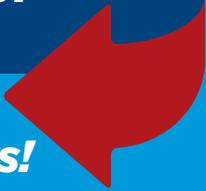
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*Brothers enjoy a great evening at a Madison Capitols game.*

**See inside for the latest**

**Alpha Pi Chapter news!**



**CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!**



Beta Theta Pi - University of Wisconsin



beta\_wisconsin



betawisconsin.org



linkedin.com/groups/1207295

## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE VARSITY COLLECTIVE?

A New Way to Support Wisconsin Student-Athletes

**D**id you know that **Fred Goetzke '92** and **Ted Kellner '69** are board members of The Varsity Collective, which is an effort to maximize Badgers' success through NIL support?

Student-athletes started earning control of their Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) in 2021. The Varsity Collective allows fans to make tax-deductible donations to support NIL deals for Wisconsin student-athletes. Learn more at [thevarsitycollective.com](http://thevarsitycollective.com).



**THE VARSITY COLLECTIVE**

## CHAPTER GOALS

# 1

**The chapter is committed to maintaining our academic excellence.**

Last year, we saw great improvement as members studied in group settings using UW-Madison facilities. Our academic chairman has continued to provide a framework for members to work together and receive tutoring from brothers when needed.

# 2

**We continue to build upon our advisory network.**

With the help of dedicated chapter advisors and support from other alumni, the chapter has been operating much more efficiently in terms of budgeting and procedural tasks as we look to our alumni for guidance. With all advisor positions filled, every executive board member has someone to turn to when problems arise, and this has allowed us to operate smoothly with nationals, the school, and within chapter operations.

# 3

**With another successful round of recruitment, we expect the chapter house to be filled with actives next year.**

All members are extremely happy with the new addition of a kitchen and in-house cook, and this has increased our projected number of live-in members for next year. We want to continue upon this trend of recruiting new members who share our goals and are excited to live in our historic chapter house.