



THE ALPHA PILOT

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

A HOME FOR MEN OF PRINCIPLE

First Look at Beta Renovations

What started as a desperately needed maintenance project two years ago has turned into a renaissance at our historic Madison chapter house. I am excited to think about upcoming special dates and everyone enjoying the renovated house: annual Homecoming and Jubilee celebrations, the 150th anniversary of Alpha Pi in 2023, and the 100th anniversary of our house in 2026.

Thanks to the time of dedicated volunteers and the generosity of over 220 alumni, we recently exceeded our two-year goal of raising \$1.2 million. Despite the extra COVID-related challenges, we also renovated the entire first floor and addressed badly needed HVAC improvements. Finishing touches included two chandeliers found on eBay and historic Badger pennants donated by **Rod Taylor '72**.

The first-floor renovations included the addition of a restroom for guests and a renovated kitchen and dining room. Currently, hot meals are being brought in for most of the live-in brothers. The others are learning to cook and occasionally clean in "The Beta Bodega."

The original elegance of the chapter house is showcased in these pictures. The gas fireplace is finally working. The new mantle, paneling, and tile work are spectacular. The foyer, lobby, billiards room, study hall, and stairs have all been renovated or rebuilt. Visit our website at betawisconsin.org to see additional pictures of the completed projects.

And while the BBA has been busy restoring the house to its original glory, the active chapter has been making history of its own. They proactively seek out IFC leadership positions, run a very successful philanthropy, a golf tournament benefitting the Robert Michael Wood Foundation, and maintain one of the better Greek GPAs on campus. With 160 members, they are now the sixth-largest Beta chapter in the country. The house is full this year, and despite COVID challenges, they have done an excellent job with recruitment, bringing in a strong class of 32 this past fall.

(Continued on page 6)



One of the chandeliers installed in the renovated chapter house.



A peek at the billiards and chapter rooms.

Forever Thankful to Our Alumni

You've Truly Made Your Mark on Alpha Pi

We are deeply grateful to the following brothers for committing \$1,220,000 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 and above)

Ted Kellner '69
Frederic Goetzke '92

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

Anonymous
Alpha Pi Actives
Jeff White '92

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

John Anderson '66
John Evans '70
Rod Taylor '72
Mike Imse '77
Chris Mortenson '77
George Moore '79
Glen Tellock '83
Tom Halquist '86
Max Lord '07

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

Lawrence Wallden '61
William Dietrich '62
Ken Siebel '63
Robert Hendricks '65
Charley Giesen '68
Clyde Robinson '68
Jim Mack '70
Robert Feind '71
Dave Lenz '71
Mike Muoio '74
Bart Kocha '80
Michael Liebow '82
H. Robert Foerster '83
Thomas Lathrop '84
Robert Downing '91

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

John Hofmann '64
Robert Paul '64
Louis Wagner '64
Thomas Johnson '67
Robert Vig '69
Francis Quinlan '70

Randy Randolph '70
Jim Giesen '72
Al Kaniss '72
Chuck Lucas '72
Scott Nettum '72
Ron Buss '73
Tom Oberwetter '74
Karl Hilgendorf '75
Bernie Verhoeven '76
Craig Jones '77
Robert Lucas '77
Lisle Blackburn '78
Larry Patzman '79
Roger Friede '81
Perry Atterholt '83
Bob Schnese '83
Mark Schultz '83
James Cornelius '85
Matt Gunderson '85
Adam Pottner '96
Tym Rutkowski '09
Peter Machmeier '12

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

Carlyle W. Fay '48
Thomas Gilbertson '65
Richard Kimbell '66
Miles Adam '66
Gerald Condon '68
David Mayland '68
John Oros '69
Al Krug '70
Tom W. Jones '70
Rudy Schmidt '70
John Kelley '71
James Dushek '72
Jim Thompson '72
Tim Sanders '73
Peter Stone '73
Kim Wise '75
John Zupanc '75
Bruce Huibregtse '76
Joel Marker '79
Mark Hoffmeister '83
Steve Southwell '83
Andrew Smart '84
Hans Hofmeister '91
Robert Romeo '16

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

Walter Ebling '54
Philip Frensz '54
Geo F. Hilgemeier Jr. '55
Tom Means '56
Joe Irwin '58
Daniel Worden '62
John Bargren '63
Jerry Lyman '63
Jan Weisburg '63
Wright B. George '65
Jay Capouch '67
John Tietz '68
John Poser '68
Jim Pearce '68
Dennis Christensen '69
Michael Fullwood '69
William Yanakos '69
Larry Stover '69
Joseph Buchanan '71
David Egelhoff '71
Greg Markos '71
Don McLuachlan '71
Stephen Hilmer '72
William Perrigo '72
Bob Renebohm '72
Don Thayer '72
Quinn Williams '72
Steve Gunderson '73
Michael Haas '74
Randy Pflugsten '74
Dan Siedlecki '75
Stephen Meyer '76
Jim Rauwerdink '76
Dave Huibregtse '76
Tony Canepa '77
Richard Hase '77
John Wilkie '77
Dave Zimmerman '77
Jim Egan '79
Matt Frost '79
Jeff Holtshopple '79
James Miner '79
Tom Brennan '80
Mark Kaiser '81
Dave Schmidt '81
Scott Gillespie '82
Jim Jones '82

**CAMPAIGN STATUS
AT-A-GLANCE**
As of February 28, 2021

**\$1.5 MILLION
GOAL**



**\$1,220,000
TOTAL
CONTRIBUTIONS**

**223
CONTRIBUTORS**

Tom Frost '83
John Hay '85
Robert Klockow '85
Thomas Miller '85
William Zink '85
James Curtis '86
Felix Caruso '87
Boyd Miller '87
Oyvind Wistrom '92
Dr. Bradley Garcia '94
Michael Powers '96
Dan Schuster '96
Mark Zenker '97
Andy Stravers '07
Jacob Hentges '18
Sam Haack '19
John Boosalis '20
Henry Cooper '23

**Canoe Hole
(\$100 to \$999)**
Paul Tauche '48
Rollie McGinnis '53
Charles Kuehn '53
Ted Crabb '54
Terry Gautsch '55
William Boettge '59
Charles Elliott '59
John Nolan '59
Douglas Russell '59
Alan Cole '61



2021 LOOKS BRIGHT FOR BETA

Starting 2021, the Beta Building Association (BBA) sees areas of opportunity to stabilize and manage our record chapter size. We hired a new property management company and meal planning service, both of which have produced immediate results and have been well-received by the actives. The chapter recruited another double-digit member class this spring, and the house will be full again for the 2021-22 school year to keep us marching along.

We are planning for the 150th anniversary celebration in 2023 and, regulations permitting, plan to host alumni events later this year. We hope you will be able to join the largest Beta chapter in the Big Ten on Mendota Court to renew the bonds of brotherhood and celebrate our shared success in the second half of the year.

Yours in *_kai_*,
Max Lord, #1991, UW 2007
 BBA President



Alex Gross, '23 and Evan Hertzberg, '23 enjoy Super Bowl LV in Tampa, Florida.

Brothers had a blast at our philanthropy golf outing.

From left: Joey Elert '23, Dylan Han '23, Alex Gross '23, Jake Kaplan '23, Jake Hamilton '23, Jack Bowman '23, Jack Linton '23, and Shane Kearns '23.



ACTIVES AND ALUMNI TEE OFF FOR KIDS

As you have heard before, this year is unlike any other, and with that our philanthropy had to change with the times. The whole idea of a philanthropy is to create an event that brings the most money to the foundation. It's hard to think of events that can meet our fiscal goals while properly social distanced and following Wisconsin COVID guidelines, but one idea stuck out like a sore thumb: a golf fundraising event.

So that's exactly what we did! We invited all the brothers and some alumni to play, raising money for the Robert Michael Wood Foundation. This wonderful organization seeks to improve the quality of life of children affected by a pediatric stroke, and to help the families of those in the NICU. The foundation was brought to Beta by former Philanthropy Chairman **Louis Monette '19** and we have worked with them ever since.

As philanthropy chairman for the second year in a row, my goal this year is to create a new annual event that will gain widespread community recognition. I believe this will lead to more money for the foundation in the long run.

—**Ryan Tully, #2208, UW 2022**, Philanthropy Chairman

Canoe Hole (Continued)

Richard Vitkus '61
 Curt Garmager '64
 James Ball '65
 John Davenport '66
 Bruce Defnet '66
 Richard Kimberly '66
 Patrick Sommerfield '67
 Dan Kimberly '69
 Dick Schwarte '69
 Martin Ciotti '70
 Robert Waddell '70
 Edward Albright '71
 Odin Thorpe '71
 Gregory Barney '72
 Robert Liebhauser '72
 Frederic Speaker '73

Charles Gross '75
 Jim Haas '75
 James Mellor '77
 Jeff Schaefer '77
 Gerald Schmidt '77
 Michael Terry '77
 Jim Olson '79
 David Dretzka '79
 Joe Gonzalez '81
 Greg Zimmerman '81
 Rick Abegglen '82
 Tim Eigenfeld '82
 Paul Hanusa '82
 Jeffry Hampton '84
 Michael Berghamer '84
 Michael Wahl '85
 Ethan E. Vielehr '86

Christopher Flood '87
 James Gould '87
 John Curtis '88
 Ramin Eghbali '88
 Scott Running '89
 Daniel Edelman '90
 David Tennessen '90
 David Walters '91
 Scott Braun '93
 Rob Nicholas '93
 Stephani Nicholas '95
 Mike Goggin '96
 Jeff Freemyer '99
 Daniel Polenska '01
 Andy Stein '01
 Daniel Breitenbach '06
 William Maguire '06

Jesse Graewin '09
 Travis Lemke '09
 Justin DeAngelis '11
 Hunter Holtshopple '11
 Nicholas Norton '12
 Donald Buteyn '13
 Lee Southwell '15
 Nate Ford '18
 Derek Campbell '19
 Louis Monette '19
 Austin Mose '20
 Ben Peterson '20
 James Rhode '20
 Alex Mendelson '21
 Wyatt Begley '23
 Ben Kangas '23



The Second Greatest Hoops Game in Badger History

The Badgers' 2015 Final Four victory over Kentucky is widely regarded as the greatest game in Wisconsin basketball history. The team, led by Player of the Year Frank Kaminsky, defeated an undefeated University of Kentucky team. Seven of UK's players would go on to play in the NBA, versus just two for UW.

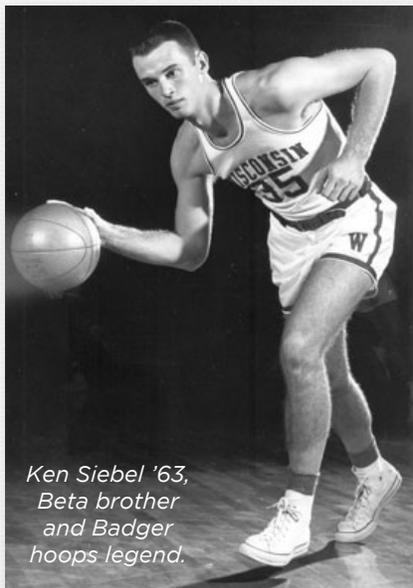
Many have forgotten what is remembered as the Badgers' greatest hoops victory before this, and that's a pity, because the Betas, led by Brother **Ken Siebel '63**, were a major part of that win, contributing two other starters, **Mike O'Melia '64** and **Tom Hughbanks '62**. We also contributed **David Grams '64** and **Arne Quarana '64** to what Pathe Newscasts refers to as "The Cinderella Team."

March 3, 1962, was a snowy afternoon in Madison, but despite the inclement weather, a crowd of 13,545 fans packed the Field House to see third-year coach John Erickson's (Beloit '49) team take on a No. 1 ranked Ohio State team, undefeated in the last 47 regular season games. The Badgers' 86-67 victory made this game "the year's greatest upset."

OSU's team featured four members who would end up in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame: coach Fred Taylor, Jerry Lucas, John Havlicek, and a sixth man named Bobby Knight, who would go on to win three NCAA Championships as the head coach of Indiana. In 1997, for perspective, Lucas and Havlicek were named among the 50 greatest NBA players of all time. Lucas appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* as a student and was spoken of then as one of the best collegians ever.

UW had a good team but then, as now, had no real superstars. During the regular season they'd beaten No. 3 ranked Dayton and No. 4 Providence, but had lost badly, twice, to No. 2 Cincinnati. "In those days there was very little scouting, or film," notes Siebel. "We would just go out and try to play our game. We clearly overachieved that night!"

Ken Siebel grew up in Rock Falls, Illinois, where he starred at their high school. "Both my parents were factory workers," he told me recently. "When I was 9 years old my mother sat me down and said, 'On Monday I start at the factory, they're paying me \$26 a week, and I'm



*Ken Siebel '63,
Beta brother
and Badger
hoops legend.*

going to save \$25 of it every week so you can go to college.' My mom had grown up during the depression and had always wanted to go to college, but didn't have the money," Siebel recalls.

OSU went into the game riding a 27-game winning streak. Wisconsin's strategy was to play them in a man-to-man defense that shut down their outside shooters, and to run fast breaks on every offensive play; it worked! Siebel held Havlicek to nine points on 3 for 15 shot attempts, while his team shot an anemic 24 for 75 (32%) to UW's 39 for 77 (51%). Don Hearndon shot a career best 29 points for UW, with Siebel next at 22.

Coach Fred Taylor pulled his two All Americans, Lucas and Havlick, with a minute to play and the game decided, to a standing ovation from the Badger faithful. "Instead of going to their bench, they came to our bench and stuck out their hands to me and they shook my hand and they said, 'Coach, you deserve to win, your team played a great game.'" Coach John Erickson noted in the next day's *Wisconsin State Journal*.

The absolutely euphoric crowd carried two Betas, Siebel and O'Melia, off the floor: a moment captured in a front-page photo in the *State Journal*. O'Melia would display that photo in his office until his dying day. Coach Erickson put the game ball in the Field House trophy case

and noted after the game, "This is the greatest thing in my life, other than my wife and baby."

"Havlicek was very nice about me guarding him in an interview years later," Siebel notes. "He was an amazing guy!"

The Badgers would finish 17-7 for the year and 10-4 in the Big Ten for second place in the conference. If you've forgotten how they did in the NCAA tournament that year, it's because they didn't go. "In those days, only conference champions got to play in the tournament," Siebel explains. "Today, we'd be a three or four seed."

Ken Siebel would end up as Wisconsin's MVP in 1961, '62 and '63. He was drafted in the sixth round of the NBA draft by the then Baltimore Wizards, but turned them down.

"Back then, starting pay for rookies was \$12,000-\$15,000," Siebel recalls. "All the travel was by bus, and I figured if I was going to be seventh man on the team I'd sign. After trying out, they made me an offer, but I realized I'd be eighth man at best, so I declined and went back to earn my MBA from UW instead."

The thing about that team was that they all did exceptionally well after graduation. Siebel has had an extremely successful career in finance and investment research; Mike O'Melia became a superior court judge in Arizona; Tom Hughbanks was Phi Beta Kappa and had a long career at Johnson's Wax; Lonnie Ostrum earned his Ph.D.; and even their sixth man, Pat Richter, found fame as a statue in front of the Kohl Center. As our former athletic director, Pat is widely credited with the rebirth of UW's sports programs.

"I loved the Beta house," Siebel told me recently. "We had such a great group of guys there, and other than sports it was the best part of my college career."

One thing Ken failed to note was that his second daughter, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, was an athlete too, playing soccer at Stanford University, where she went on to earn her MBA (daughters Brooke and Jessica played tennis at Duke and Princeton). If her name sounds familiar, it could be because of her award-winning film documentaries, or it could be because she's also California's First Lady.

John Hofmann '65 summed up the day to me pretty well recently: "Boy, was there ever a celebration at the house that night!" Damn glad.

— Written by **Rod Taylor, #1448, UW 1972**





Members of the class of 2021 all decked out: Alex Filo, Benny Boelter, Owen Westerheim, Cole Isip, Peter Shannon, and Jackson Coldiron.



Chapter President Charlie Mavon rolls up his sleeves to help with the interior renovation projects.

ALPHA PI REAPS ITS REWARDS

Actives Credit Alumni Engagement with Undergraduate Success

As the new Alpha Pi chapter president, I am excited to introduce myself to all the friends and alumni of the chapter, as this group makes the continued excellence of our fraternity possible through both donations and moral support. In short, I am a junior studying economics and the political economy. I am from the western suburbs of Chicago and I enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing and hiking. Previously, I have served the house as junior risk manager and house manager. Serving Beta has truly been one of the greatest blessings in my life, and I am excited to commit myself to the chapter's continued success.

Such success is seen through the recent renovations to the house itself, which have vastly upgraded both the functionality and aesthetics of the chapter room. New wood window framing, along with new cabinetry on either end of the chapter room/dining space, allows for proper storage on the first floor while adding striking visual appeal. Our district chief recently discovered old chandeliers bearing the Beta crest, which have been refurbished and rewired. They now hang in the entryway and the billiards room, adding a unique design to the house.

These renovations are made possible by the continual commitment of the alumni and donors, in the form of donations and interest in maintaining the chapter that they hold dearly to their hearts. Without the alumni support we have received in recent years, we as a chapter could not hail the impressive academic and fraternal achievements that have been characteristic of Alpha Pi's recent history. We have now grown to be among the top 10 largest Beta chapters while maintaining some of the highest academic achievement on Wisconsin's campus. By committing money and support, the alumni signal to the actives that they are dedicated to the continual growth of the fraternity, displaying the message that Alpha Pi is not simply for college days alone.

In sum, thank you all for your continued support to the fraternity. Together, as actives, alumni, and friends of the Alpha Pi, we are and can build a truly unique place for young men to grow and prosper.

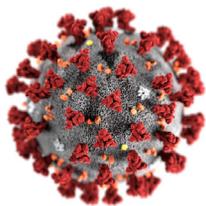
Yours in *_kai_*,
Charlie Mavon, #2260, UW 2023
Chapter President

Beta Brothers Weigh in on COVID Life

I, like many fellow incoming freshmen of the class of 2024, felt a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the start of my first college semester. Most young men go through these emotions as a freshman, to be fair, but COVID presented an even greater challenge. Educationally, the class of 2024 was presented with asynchronous lectures and Zoom discussions, with microphones muted and cameras turned off. Socially, the class of 2024 was granted limited in-person contact, with common areas closed and would-be friends shipped off to isolation.

I can confidently speak for myself and the fall 2020 Alpha Pi pledge class in saying that pledging Beta Theta Pi gave us the support we needed

to thrive as young men. Whether it was the study halls offered in the chapter room, the brotherhood dinners, or the weekly check-ins by pledge fathers and actives, pledging offered us resources that were hard to find anywhere else on campus. The 33 new members, previously unknown to one another, quickly became a tight-knit family, trusting and relying on each other like a true brotherhood.



Pledging Beta Theta Pi gave support and guidance to myself and my pledge brothers at the time when we needed it the most.

—**Connor Mallahan, #2301, UW 2023**





THE ALPHA PILOT

BETA THETA PI

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

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 66044
PERMIT #570

A HOME FOR MEN OF PRINCIPLE

(Continued from page 1)

I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed working on this project over the last two years. Aside from a few donations and Homecoming visits, I had been away from the Beta house for almost 40 years. Reconnecting with old friends and meeting Betas from before and after my time has rekindled an almost-forgotten passion. Working with the current Betas has been unbelievably rewarding, reminding me of a very special time every day.

I have been so impressed at the dedication, time, and financial support that poured out from all corners when we needed it most. And I have been inspired by all the Betas involved with the day-to-day running of this place, year after year.

If you find yourself with the time, I strongly encourage you to reengage with Beta Theta Pi. There's a lot more work to be done. And if you are currently swimming in careers and family,



A glance at the new dining area.

just know that the house will be here for you down the road. We really are Betas for life.

Yours in *_kai_*,
Bart J. Kocha, #1613, UW 1980
Campaign Chairman
(262) 210-7035 | bkocha@wi.rr.com



betawisconsin.org



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



**Beta Theta Pi -
University of
Wisconsin**



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