

# THE ALPHA PILOT

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

## 2023 Is Alpha Pi's 150th And We're Celebrating ALL Year!

We have reached a truly incredible milestone of 150 continuous years of Beta at UW-Madison. Our chapter has seen a lot over these years, from the growth of UW and Madison to the growth of Beta with up to 215,000 lifetime members. And in that regard, Alpha Pi is the sixth-oldest chapter still in continual operation.

To celebrate this accomplishment, we are planning a party on April 21-22! We hope to see you in Madison—be sure to read more about the event from organizer **Rod Taylor '72** on page 2. You can RSVP for the event today at [tinyurl.com/AlphaPi150](http://tinyurl.com/AlphaPi150) or by scanning the QR code!



While our party will be a great chance to revisit campus, the celebration doesn't end there. We encourage you to join pledge class brothers at reunion events, schedule your own trip back to Madison sometime this year, or even just take the time to call up brothers and reconnect after all these years. We're sure your pledge fathers or pledge sons would be glad to hear from you again.

If you find the time to meet up with brothers, we would be proud to share pictures from your gatherings in future publications. Be sure to send any photos to our alumni relations coordinator, **Austin Mose '20**, at [amose@wisc.edu](mailto:amose@wisc.edu) or (847) 687-1502. Alumni contributions are always nice to share in our newsletters, so don't hesitate to share your fraternal festivities.

While alumni brothers have gone their own ways over time, we continue to modernize the house to make it attractive to the active members of today. This past fall, we have completed a few exterior improvement projects like working on the terrace doors. Those who visit us in Madison this April can see for themselves just how much work has been done for the future of Alpha Pi.

Thank you for being a part of this journey over the past 150 years. We couldn't have made it this far without loyal alumni brothers like you, and we encourage you to join brothers in celebration of Beta Theta Pi brotherhood.

Yours in *\_kai\_*,  
**Max Lord, #1991, UW 2007**  
Beta Building Association President

## The Latest on Our Annual Campaign

### Funding Future Opportunities

Our annual campaign is off to a great start! Since kicking off our effort in fall 2022, our devoted alumni have already contributed over \$10,800 for the brotherhood.

We are all very much looking forward to the 150th anniversary event, and thanks to our new annual campaign, you can play a role in ensuring brothers have a great time at gatherings like this.

Alpha Pi is planning on celebrating our proud legacy all year long, especially when Homecoming rolls around. What better way to celebrate than by giving back to the brotherhood that did so much for us? Be sure to stay tuned for future updates, and in turn, more alumni events funded by the annual campaign.

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



The house's renovated terrace doors turned out great!



# Alpha Pi's 150th Is Upon Us!

## WILL WE SEE YOU THERE?

We are expecting 200 Betas to gather at the house for our beer supper on April 21, as well as at the Madison Doubletree for our banquet on April 22. Our numbers have been swelled due to the generous donation by brother **Fred Goetzke '92**, who has offered to cover the cost of all undergraduate members at our Saturday banquet.

The cost for alumni at the two-evening event is \$150 per person. This includes dinner and beer at Friday's beer supper, as well as hors d'oeuvres, dinner, wine at the table, and the 150th party favor on Saturday.

In an effort to bring together as many brothers as possible, we are doing two direct mailings and this notice, in the *Alpha Pilot*.

These functions are always like Christmas for me: you don't know what's going to show up under the tree, but you know it's going to be terrific!

We still have rooms available at the official hotel of our 150th, the Madison Doubletree, at \$79 a night. You can't sleep in your car in the Lake Street ramp that cheap (although you could shower at the house), so book it today and mention the Beta 150th for the rate. Their phone is (608) 244-4703.

We are still gathering old photos from Beta days gone by for display at our events. Please send photos or memorabilia to Tara Rose Gross, 7828 Midden Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306. If you have any questions, call Tara at (571) 289-1017. Tara is married to brother **Charlie Gross '75**, so she speaks fluent Beta.

Sadly, we have lost brothers **Larry Wallden '62**, **Andy Cohn '70** and **Gary Hildebrand '70** in the last few months. Don't put off coming because "you'll catch us at Homecoming." Catch us now and there's a good chance that we'll still be upright!

*University of Wisconsin*



Questions, problems, the odd compliment? Call me at (952) 607-9454 or, for the shy, [rst72badger@gmail.com](mailto:rst72badger@gmail.com). See you all at 622 Mendota Court on April 21. Come as you used to be!

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

## CHAPTER GOALS

# 1

Grow Alpha Pi's presence in philanthropy and community service in Madison and surrounding communities.

# 2

Reiterate the importance of Beta's Men of Principle Initiative to active members and the UW community as the chapter's size and reputation continues to grow.

# 3

Maintain the chapter's standing in the top three GPAs out of all Madison fraternity and sorority life.

## WELCOME, NEW BROTHERS



**Jack Belconis** | Park Ridge, Ill.

**Alex Buna** | Boonton, N.J.

**Dominic Burclaw** | Hartland, Wis.

**Tyler Etzel** | Dousman, Wis.

**Beran Evran** | Elm Grove, Wis.

**Jake Fern** | Ortleigh Beach, N.J.

**Luca Georgescu** | Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Sebastian Gratson** | Berkeley Heights, N.J.

**Roman Hauch** | Bloomington, Minn.

**Jack Hertz** | San Diego, Calif.

**Alex Horgan** | Franklin Lakes, N.J.

**Jackson Knaus** | Hartland, Wis.

**Sam Knowlton** | Boulder, Colo.

**Carson Lindell** | Verona, Wis.

**Andrew McDonagh** | Winnetka, Ill.

**Erik Messmer** | Cleveland, Ohio

**Philip Micale** | Ridgewood, N.J.

**Benjamin Miller** | Naples, Fla.

**Jacob Morris** | Burnsville, Minn.

**Reilly Parks** | Los Angeles, Calif.

**JJ Perez** | Mequon, Wis.

**Carter Powelson** | Geneva, Ill.

**Joe Seuryneck** | Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Camden Schmidt** | Germantown, Wis.

**Sky Shaw** | Los Angeles, Calif.

**Oliver Sherwin** | Cleveland, Ohio

**Jared Shimelman** | Framingham, Mass.

**Jacob Tomlinson** | Detroit, Mich.

**Charlie VanNess** | Oakland, Calif.

**Michael Vitale** | Barrington, Ill.

**George Wied** | Green Bay, Wis.

**Asa Wold** | Saint Paul, Minn.

**Ryan Zunenshine** | Mansfield, Mass.



# RISING TO THE CALL

## A New Year Presents New Opportunities

As the new year begins, we find ourselves back at a certain spot on Mendota Court, eager to return and excited about what the spring term has to offer. The days of lounging on our beloved dock are replaced with polar plunges and hockey games out on the newly frozen lake. The snowy expanse reminds us all of the blank slate that stands before us as the new semester begins, and only one thing can be known for sure: the brothers of Alpha Pi will make the most out of whatever is thrown our way.

To add to the excitement of the new year, we are thrilled to see big changes to the chapter. A brand-new dock, firepit, and fire escape were all major projects over the summer. The penthouse is in the midst of a full renovation, giving the top layer of the house a fresh, modern look. On the main floor, our chapter room and kitchen are opened up with three brand-new sets of French doors to take advantage of our one-of-a-kind lakefront view. A very special thank-you goes to our alumni network whose generosity made these projects possible.

An impressive group of 30 brothers studying abroad this semester leaves some big shoes to fill in terms of leadership within our chapter and in the UW community. Their hard work over the past year has not only prepared the rising leaders of the chapter, but has also earned them a semester full of new experiences overseas.

In their place, new brothers have risen to the occasion and taken their new responsibilities in stride. **Jack Bania '25** was elected to Madison's Interfraternal Council.

**Dante White '24, Drew Hicks '25,** and I represented the chapter at Beta's annual Keystone Leadership Conference. Multiple brothers, including **Ethan Breedlove '25, Zach Leshar '25, Patrick Tuohy '25,** and **Daniel Wilcox '25,** have engaged in philanthropy efforts throughout the chapter's involvement with Humorology, a student-run fundraising organization for Madison's Respite Center. We are also proud to report the second-highest GPA among 27 UW fraternities, proving again the great things Alpha Pi men can accomplish.

Taking a step back to appreciate the past year and look ahead at the future of this chapter, I cannot help but be excited for what is to come. As we enter the 150th year of Alpha Pi Chapter, we are blessed to be here to celebrate the work of over 2,300 men to make this place what it is today.

Yours in *\_kai\_*,

**Michael McGuire, #2345, UW 2025**

President

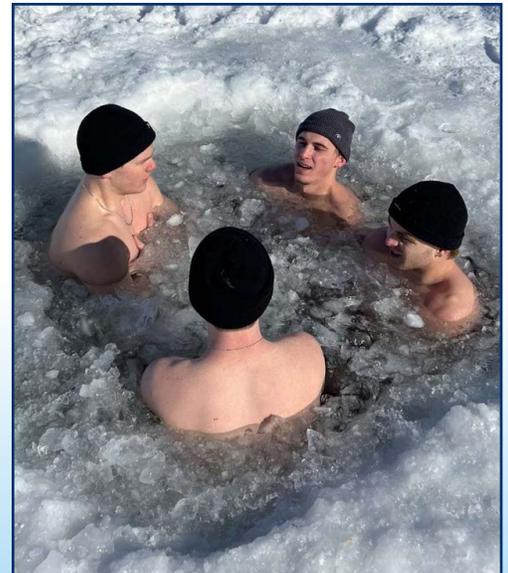
mmmccguire7@wisc.edu



From left: Dante White '24, Michael McGuire '25, and Drew Hicks '25 represent Alpha Pi at the annual Keystone Conference in St. Louis, Mo.



Alpha Pi brothers and their dates exploring a new city at their 2022 fall formal in Chicago, Ill.



Brothers Ethan Breedlove '25 (top left) and Zach Leshar '25 (top right) start their day strong with an ice plunge at Lake Mendota.

## Chapter Officers

Chapter President  
**Mikey McGuire '25**

VP of Brotherhood  
**Mike Shea '25**

VP of Finance  
**Tim Gaston '25**

VP of Risk Management  
**Zach Peterson '25**

VP of Risk Management  
**Cameron Klein '25**

Social Chairmen  
**Jacob Taubman '25**  
**Daniel Wilcox '25**

VPs of Recruitment  
**Jack Bania '25**  
(414) 559-6059

**Drew Hicks '25**  
(612) 244-6753

VP of Education  
**Sam Kredell '25**

VP of Administration  
**Ethan Breedlove '25**

Service and Philanthropy Chairman  
**Patrick Tuohy '25**

Diversity, Equity,  
and Inclusion Chairman  
**Dante White '24**



# Where Are They Now?

## Derek Campbell, #2117, UW 2019 Credits Beta for Preparing Him for Life

### Derek's favorite college memory:

"I can confidently say that my favorite Beta memory was when Wisconsin football knocked off No. 5-ranked LSU at Lambeau Field in 2016."

"It wasn't until my senior year that these words truly sank in. I leave you with them as I believe they are as relevant as ever."

### The Bridge Builder

by Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway,  
Came, at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide,  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with  
building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head;  
"Good friend, in the path I have come,"  
he said,  
"There followed after me to-day  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been as naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building this bridge  
for him!"

### Formative to Manhood

As I made my way around the room that was hosting the tabling event in the fall of 2015, I genuinely didn't know a thing about Greek life, let alone what sets one chapter apart from another. I shuffled along from table to table, collecting recruitment calendars and making quick small talk with members of various houses. I had almost missed the Beta table, which was positioned just before the exit. By luck or fate, I happened to turn on my way out and my attention was caught by the bright-colored shirts and friendly smiles of **Ben Belzer '17** and **Danny Mackenthun '17**. Little did I know at the time, those two would become two of my closest friends. They called me over and made sure I would be attending their next recruitment event. I rushed a few other fraternities with my best friend and roommate, **Riston Smith '19**; however, after hearing about Danny and Ben's vision to rebuild Beta back to what it once was, I knew Alpha Pi was the house for me.

It's hard to overstate the impact Alpha Pi has had on my life. I have made memories and friendships that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Since my college days, I've also come to realize that my years in this chapter were extremely formative to who I am as a man. Many of the lessons I learned during my time as an undergraduate continue to be relevant in my adult life.

### Prepared for Success

Following graduation, I had the opportunity to work for Governor Tony Evers on his policy staff before recently being appointed as the Wisconsin State Federal Director and making the move to Washington, D.C. From working on pressing public policy matters facing my home state of Wisconsin, helping to respond to the challenges of an unprecedented pandemic, and helping to create innovative programs to set Wisconsin up for a future of success, I've had nothing short of an amazing and fulfilling experience.

My job has also allowed me to have quite a bit of fun in a professional capacity. Representing the governor at this past year's White House Christmas Reception, I was able to fly my mom out as my guest. She was thrilled to see where my career has taken me, yet I think she was even more thrilled when we got a selfie with the president. Another highlight was catching up with fellow Alpha Pi alumnus **Ted Kellner '69** at Milwaukee Night in Washington, D.C., this past fall. An event aimed at bringing government officials and the private sector together to celebrate and support the growth of Milwaukee, it was great to see Betas there representing both sectors.

Those experiences aside, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that I couldn't have made it to where I am today without the people I met and the experiences I had during my time in the chapter. Between Ben Belzer, the executive assistant to the governor at the time, helping me prepare for my interviews, and the leadership qualities I was able to build and hone while in Beta, I have been able to advance in my career in no small part due to the fraternity.

### Bridge Building; Paying It Forward

The relationship between alumni and undergraduate members is stronger than it has been in decades. Now, I believe it's as important as ever to think about how we, as alumni, can continue to pay it forward and 'build bridges' for the Betas that will come after us. In addition to financial contributions to the house (which have been extremely generous and much appreciated), please consider reaching out with professional opportunities and career advice. Even more valuable than money are the experiences that you have had in your careers.

Consider steps like joining the "Beta Theta Pi, Alpha Pi Chapter" group on LinkedIn or forwarding internship opportunities to someone like **Max Lord '07**, who can share them with our younger brothers. I'm glad to be a Beta; I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Yours in *\_kai\_*,

**Derek Campbell, #2117, UW 2019**

derek.campbell.wi@gmail.com

(920) 883-8287



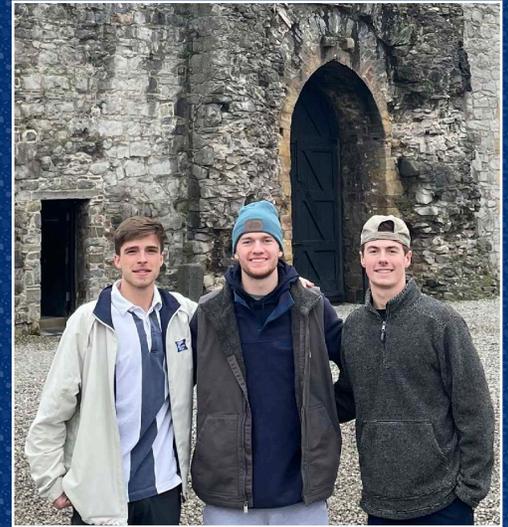
"I would be remiss if I didn't point out that I couldn't have made it to where I am today without the people I met and the experiences I had during my time in the chapter."



# BETAS ABROAD



*From left: Henry Brooks '24, Rob Michaelson '24, Charlie Wied '24, and Mark Shults '24 visit a palace in Madrid.*



*From left: Josh Etzel '24, Charlie Klafeta '24, and Charlie Klimpel '24 at King John's Castle.*



*From left: Daniel Kjeldsen '24, Eihan Zoland '24, Jackson Jedlicka '24, Connor Mallahan '24, and Eric Elgaard '24 visit King John's Castle in Limerick, Ireland.*



*From left: Tommy Gibney '24, Henry Brooks '24, Charlie Wied '24, and Mark Shults '24 on a skiing trip in Andorra.*

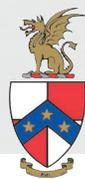


*Alpha Pi brothers take a break from their studies abroad to reunite for a weekend overseas.*



*From left: Rob Michaelson '24, Mark Shults '24, Reiv Mohammadi '23, Tommy Gibney '24, Henry Brooks '24, Liam Dillon '24, and Charlie Wied '24 at an FC Barcelona game in Spain.*





# THE ALPHA PILOT

## BETA THETA PI

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

*Address Service Requested*



[betawisconsin.org](http://betawisconsin.org)



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



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

**f** Beta Theta Pi - University of Wisconsin

## Registration for Our 150th Event Is Open!

### RSVP TODAY!

Make your plans for our 150th anniversary event by visiting [tinyurl.com/AlphaPi150](http://tinyurl.com/AlphaPi150). You can read all about this momentous occasion on page 2.



*Scan the QR code  
to register!*

## Translating “The Boys of Alpha Pi”

In 1892, Brother **J.F.A. Pyre** wrote “The Boys of Alpha Pi,” our chapter song. Our chapter was just nineteen years old then! Over the past 131 years, a lot of the words have gotten lost in translation, so in recognition of our upcoming sesquicentennial, we thought we would translate some of the keys stanzas into current English.

### “There’s a bully gang of boys at old Wisconsin”

In this sense, bully means jolly, worthy, or admirable. Theodore Roosevelt’s favorite word was bully, which he used to mean terrific. As president from 1901-09, he referred to the job as a bully pulpit.

### “Always ready for a jolly or a guy”

A jolly back then was a good time. A guy was typically a male friend.

### “Like the lucky, plucky boys of Alpha Pi”

Plucky is defined as showing determined courage in the face of difficulties.

### “To the happy, scrappy boys of Alpha Pi”

Scrappy, as used here, means determined, or pugacious.

### “Where-so-ever there is war upon the tapis”

Tapis derives from tapestry, or a scene woven into a piece of cloth, but in this sense, it means under consideration.

### “Tackle hard, or send the pigskin sailing high”

Football was originally made from inflated pig bladders, hence their shape. Cowhide, however, has been used for most of the sport’s history. The first college game was won by Rutgers over Princeton in 1869. Rutgers hasn’t won a game since.

### “Speak a speech, or steer a boat, or take a fall from Minnesota”

In wrestling, taking an opponent to the ground is known as a fall.

### “The stuff and sand that money cannot buy”

Sand means courage, stamina, and perseverance.

### “When the days of milk and honey are no more boys”

This comes from the Bible. It means a time of abundance when life is easy.

### “And our trembling fingers balancing the bumper”

A bumper was defined as a glass filled to the brim with beer or alcohol.

### “To the harum scarum boys of Alpha Pi”

Harum scarum means reckless and impetuous. Hey, if the shoe fits ... right?

### “A cup of health to every Beta here”

A common toast before a meal back then was to your health.

### “Oh, true as the blue of the true sky!”

To be true blue is to be unwaveringly loyal or faithful.

### “Here’s how to the boys of Alpha Pi”

Hau was a traditional greeting of the Lakota tribe from men, to men

Let’s enjoy our chapter song with fresh perspective, hopefully to sing on for another 150 years with a fuller knowledge of its meaning.

Damn glad!

**Roderick Taylor, #1448, UW 1972**