

# THE ALPHA PILOT

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

## The Changing Greek Landscape

*A Comprehensive Look at Chapter Operations*

This year has brought significant challenge, reflection, and necessary change. We are grateful for your continued interest, support, and commitment to the long-term strength of Alpha Pi.

### ALPHA PI REORGANIZED

During 2025, it became clear that Alpha Pi Chapter had moved away from several core fraternity principles, rituals, and operating policies. After careful evaluation, the General Fraternity suspended the chapter's charter in August 2025 and initiated a formal reorganization process.

This ongoing effort is focused on rebuilding a values-based culture grounded in accountability, leadership development, and respect for tradition. The goal is to protect the integrity of the fraternity and ensure Alpha Pi is reestablished in alignment with the Men of Principle initiative and national standards.

**BIG NEWS:** on February 13, 2026, Alpha Pi Chapter's suspension was lifted. Thanks to the hard work of the actives who are brought in to the new culture, Alpha Pi's is back on track for a sustainable and successful future.

### BBA HOUSE CORPORATION UPDATES

In parallel with the chapter reorganization, the BBA took deliberate steps to strengthen its governance and operations in alignment with the General Fraternity House Corporation's core values of Safety, Community, and Operational Excellence.

In August, CSL Management, a preferred GFHC vendor, was engaged as the chapter house's property management company. This partnership introduced greater structure, oversight, and operational consistency.

Graduate student **Remy Grayson** was hired as the new live-in housing director, improving daily oversight, resident accountability, and communication between tenants and the BBA. Hear from Remy on page 3 inside.

Thanks to significant alumni effort and financial support, the house was thoroughly prepared



for fall 2025, welcoming 27 tenants. With the combined work of CSL Management, Remy, and the residents, the house is now in the best physical condition it has been in for years.

Interest in the fraternity remains strong: 33 pledges joined this fall, and 28 members have already committed to living in the house for fall 2026. These numbers reflect continued student engagement and positive momentum.

### LAWSUIT RESOLUTION

In February 2025, two chapter leadership team members filed a lawsuit against the BBA alleging uninhabitable living conditions. The suit was represented by an attorney who is also a Beta parent. While the BBA strongly disagreed with the claims and believed the matter could have been resolved without legal action, the case was settled in September 2025.

Because the General Fraternity holds the BBA's insurance policy, it incurred significant legal expenses associated with the deductible. The BBA incurred approximately \$10,000 in related operating expenses. Importantly, Alliance donations were not used for legal costs and remain restricted exclusively for house improvements.

The BBA regrets that legal action replaced what should have been constructive dialogue among brothers, chapter leadership, and the board, underscoring the importance of communication and collaboration.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The challenges of 2025 reflect broader shifts across Greek life nationwide. Sustaining a strong culture and effective self-governance is increasingly difficult when members often reside in the house for only one year, typically as sophomores.

Other trends include stricter substance abuse and risk management policies driven by safety and insurance requirements, increased parental involvement, reluctance among student leaders to live in-house, and a more litigious environment.

These realities reinforce the need for strong alumni engagement, professional management, and clearly defined expectations. We remain confident that with sustained alumni involvement and shared commitment, Alpha Pi will emerge stronger and well-positioned for the future.



*Our new members are ready to grow together through Beta's time-tested values.*



*The sophomore pledge class meets with the BBA.*

# CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

## Alpha Pi's Latest Highlights

### BROTHERS GROW TOGETHER

Among our major accomplishments this semester was raising \$90,000 through Humorology for Geo's Garden. This powerfully reflects our commitment to philanthropy and community impact, made possible by broad member participation and collaboration with partner organizations.

The chapter continued to focus on accountability and support among its members, encouraging brothers to consistently attend study hours and allowing peer mentorship to assist in times of academic struggle. It mirrored the general purpose of developing well-rounded men who can function in academic and social life. Several brothers continued to remain active in campus organizations and as leaders, which provided options to expand Beta Theta Pi's influence.

We also successfully established a new executive board and initiated a new pledge class. At Conclave this January, I learned lessons about leadership, accountability, and



*Alpha Pi Chapter members participate in The Loving Cup.*

influence. These sessions emphasized leading by example, holding peers to high standards, and using influence responsibly to create positive change within the chapter. The board has begun setting clear expectations and standards, while our newest members have shown enthusiasm and commitment to learning about our values and traditions.

### THE ALUMNI IMPACT

Alumni engagement was another semester highlight. We hosted a tailgate where brothers and alumni came together to reconnect and celebrate the fraternity. Singing "The Loving Cup" together reinforced our shared history and lifelong Beta bonds. We also had the opportunity to connect with those who came before us and laid this fraternal foundation which provided valuable insight into alumni relations and long-term chapter sustainability.

### WHAT'S NEXT

Looking ahead, our goals include improving academic outcomes, expanding philanthropy efforts, and continuing to build strong relationships with alumni. By staying committed to our values and holding one another accountable, we aim to further advance the success and reputation of our chapter.

Yours in *\_kai\_*,  
**Jack Levi #2495, UW 2027**  
President

## Chapter Officers

President  
**Jack Levi '27**

VP of Education  
**Joe Bell '28**

VP of Recruitment  
**Will Fairchild '28**

VP of Administration  
**Brian Murdoch '28**

VP of Risk Management  
**Hans Baurmeister '28**

VP of Finance  
**Andrew McLaughlin '28**

VP of Brotherhood  
**Joey Gelb '28**

VP of Programming  
**Nick Cantrell '28**





# Providing Stability from the Inside

## MEET NEW HOUSE DIRECTOR REMY GRAYSON

**“The changes taking place are intentional and focused on long-term sustainability, not quick fixes. Continued alumni engagement and support are invaluable as we rebuild a chapter alumni can be proud of.”**

After a year of significant transition, Alpha Pi Chapter is moving forward with a renewed housing and operational model focused on stability, accountability, and long-term success. At the center of that effort is **Remy Grayson**, our new house director, who will be supporting the chapter for two years during this critical rebuilding period.

“As the house director, my job is to be the in-house connection point for where long-term strategic planning meets everyday execution,” Remy explained. While the General Fraternity House Corporation and CSL Management oversee operations and policy, Remy focuses on implementation at the house level. “My role concentrates on ensuring that systems and policies are implemented consistently, identifying proactive solutions to maintenance issues, and keeping open lines of communication with all parties involved.”

The priorities of his tenure are clear. “I have three key areas of focus: operational efficiency, repairing culture and building trust, and developing a new generation of effective chapter leadership,” he said. Establishing consistent maintenance, housekeeping, and housing systems came first. “That foundation provides a safe, functional, and well-maintained environment for our brothers to live and work.”

Next is restoring trust. “I am committed to rebuilding relationships with the current membership, alumni, and university partners through open communication and by being accountable for our actions,” Remy explained. Over time, he hopes to help create leaders who “understand their role as responsible stewards of both the house and the chapter’s strong reputation.”

That progress has already begun to show. “The most rewarding aspect of the role has been watching members take ownership, improve communication, and invest in the house beyond themselves.” At the same time, he acknowledged that change is not instant. “Shifting long-standing habits and mindsets has been the most challenging part. Culture change takes time and consistency.”

When Remy first arrived, the condition of the facility underscored the need for change. “There was over \$20,000 in visible damage,” he said. Still, he saw opportunity. “There was a core group of members who cared and simply needed clearer direction and accountability.” Today, member-led improvements, particularly among the sophomore class, have reshaped both the house and its culture.

Looking ahead, his vision is clear. “My goal is for the fraternity to be stronger, more cohesive, and more responsible than when I arrived,” he said.

For alumni, he offered reassurance: “The changes taking place are intentional and focused on long-term sustainability, not quick fixes. Continued alumni engagement and support are invaluable as we rebuild a chapter alumni can be proud of.”

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Remy recently graduated from Oregon State University, where he studied education alongside tourism and recreation management. He brings experience in education, operations, and hospitality, including work with Marriott International. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in special education alongside an MBA from UW–Madison.

## Why They Joined



“Because of how brothers interact amongst themselves and with others. This, along with the legacy Beta has at Wisconsin, were the two major driving factors that made my choice clear.” –**Nick Cantrell '29**, *Chicago, Ill.*



“Being from out of state and the only person from my high school to attend UW–Madison, I showed up not knowing a soul. Joining a fraternity was a great way to meet a bunch of likeminded people to share college experiences with. During recruitment, Betas were by far the most relatable and genuinely interested in what I had to say to them. Those traits have only continued to present themselves.” –**Miller Kapfhammer '29**, *Poughkeepsie, N.Y.*



“They stood out as genuine, responsible students who I’d like to be friends with. Beta’s values of mutual assistance and intellectual growth reside within each member, allowing my brothers and me to become closer, whether it’s lifting weights or studying together. Going to school halfway across the country was a challenge, but joining Beta gave me a home away from home.” –**Logan Feinstein '29**, *Westfield, N.J.*



“To connect with a good group of likeminded guys. I felt like the fraternity’s goals aligned with my personal values, which made it an easy decision.” –**Brayden Kijanka '29**, *Morristown, N.J.*



# 622 Mendota Court Turns 100!

## A LOOK BACK AT THE HOUSE'S HISTORY

**A**t midnight on February 11, 1925, the Alpha Pi house at the University of Wisconsin burned to the ground.

“Oh, that was bad,” you’re probably thinking, but no; it saved the house from the indignity of the wrecking ball because the housing corporation had authorized a new house on the same site a mere six weeks earlier. After the fire and during construction, the housing committee campaigned to the city to keep our house number which, thankfully, we have to this day.

### MANAGING THE PROPERTY

When you own lakefront property, your lot isn’t valued by its acreage so much as it is for its shoreline. The fact that Alpha Pi owned a double lot consisting of 88 feet of prime Lake Mendota shoreline, a mere two blocks from campus, made rebuilding the house an easy decision. An interesting fact about lakeshore homes: what we think of as the back of the house is actually regarded as the front. Conversely, the Mendota Court side is the back. Said another way, the three most important things about waterfront real estate are the water, the water and, of course, the water!

A much harder decision was how to pay the \$58,000 the new house was going to cost. Adjusted for inflation, today that would equal a little over \$1 million—still a bargain by any measure.

The General Fraternity at the time was in awe of how Alpha Pi raised the money to rebuild. We took out a 6% mortgage for \$38,000 from an insurance company, a \$10,000 second mortgage consisting of 10-year promissory notes at 5% from 18 alumni, and \$10,000 raised from \$5-\$1,000 alumni donations via a letter-writing campaign. The class of 1895 donated the \$500 for the living room fireplace in honor of **Walter Tratt**, who died while enrolled, and local Beta mothers raised \$430 to furnish it.

### BUILDING ANEW

The new house, completed in 1926 in an Italianate style, was designed by architects E.J. and J.R. Law to be fireproof: brick exterior, red tile roof, steel window casements, cement

floors, and a steel beam support structure throughout. The plan was designed to house 35 men, although when I arrived in 1969, we were able to cram in 44. When we rebuilt the fourth-floor Penthouse in 2021, we were able to look at the original blueprints.

*The Beta Theta Pi Magazine* did a terrific write-up on the completion of the house in a 1926 issue, and what was of particular interest was that the room that now holds the pool table was referred to as “the Trophy Room,” and the penthouse was referred to as “the Alumni Room.” As a now 76-year-old alumnus, I can assure you that neither I, nor my pledge brother **Al Kaniss '72**, have any desire to visit a fourth-floor walkup, despite the honor of the whole thing!

Not surprisingly, the basement chapter room was mentioned in the story but not our bar room. I suspect that prohibition from 1920-33 was the reason for this omission.

### RECENT UPDATES

In 2019, we raised \$1.75 million to reinvigorate the house. These donations paid for the Pagel Exercise Room, new first-floor furniture, new windows on the first-floor lakeside, a rebuilt HVAC, tearing out the old fire escape and moving it to the Lake Street side, and rebuilding the penthouse.

And now, the house is 100! In the three years I lived in the house, I always picked a lakeside room. However, we always said that living on the lakeside was like having malaria: when the steam heat was on, you had the hot sweats; when it was off, you had the cold shakes! I still get an absolute thrill to look at photos of our then-new house from 1926 and be able to pick out the windows of the rooms I lived in as an undergraduate. Damn glad!

Yours in *\_kai\_*,  
**Rod Taylor, #1448, UW 1972**  
rst72badger@gmail.com  
(952) 607-9454

## 622 MENDOTA COURT



★ ★ ★ *Home* ★ ★ ★



# Alpha Pi Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of 622!

JOIN US THIS APRIL!

We celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the classes from the '60s and '70s in March 2019, and 80 brothers from that era came home. We followed that up with our chapter's 150th anniversary at UW in April 2023, and 220 brothers showed up for that epic event.

**Our next celebration is the 100th anniversary of our house at 622 Mendota Court, which we'll kick off on April 17-18, 2026.**

## FRIDAY

"A Few Beers with the Brothers" will take place at the house from 7-10 p.m. We will serve beer in the dining room and basement and will provide charcuterie trays in the dining room. If you attended the 150th celebration, you know the Friday event was wall to wall Betas—as it should be. Dress is casual. I'd say, "Come as you were," but I'm afraid we'd scare the current undergraduate if we did.

All rooms in the house will be open for viewing, and we encourage you to revisit the

scenes of your misspent youth. This would also be a great time to check out the new, improved penthouse. We have, quite literally, raised the roof on this iconic room, so it's well worth the four flights of stairs (five from the bar room).

## SATURDAY

Our banquet will be at the Madison East Doubletree Hotel (4402 East Washington Avenue). This hotel was the scene of our 150th, and we're hoping for the same "lightning in a bottle" effect. Cocktails will run from 6-7 p.m., with a buffet dinner starting at 7. Since this is on the property of **Dave Lenz '71**, we are getting the friends and family rate.

## RESERVATIONS

Heavily discounted hotel rooms will be available for Friday and Saturday stays. We will provide further reservation details in a later email, though the rate for the 150th was so low that several brothers gave up plans of sleeping in their cars at the Lake Street Ramp and actually paid for a room!

This is all available to alumni for the low price of \$175 per person for the weekend. This price will allow us to comp every undergraduate attending, who are luckily even tighter with a buck than we were in school!

For **Al Kaniss '72** and me, these celebrations are like Christmas morning. You don't know what you're going to find under the tree when you come downstairs, but you know it's going to be terrific and the start of many happy memories. Sadly, we are losing our brothers to old age at an alarming rate. As a result, I don't do "somedays," as in, "I'll come back for Homecoming someday," or "I'm sure I'll see them all again someday."

Book now—our next gathering may be in a place they don't serve beer!

Yours in *\_kai\_*,  
**Rod Taylor, #1448, UW 1972**  
rst72badger@gmail.com  
(952) 607-9454

## 622 MENDOTA COURT



★★★★ Home ★★★★★

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF 622 SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY**  
"A Few Beers with the Brothers"  
7-10 p.m.  
Chapter House

**SATURDAY**  
**Banquet**  
Madison East Doubletree Hotel  
(4402 East Washington Avenue)  
Cocktails will run from  
6-7 p.m., with a buffet  
dinner starting at 7.

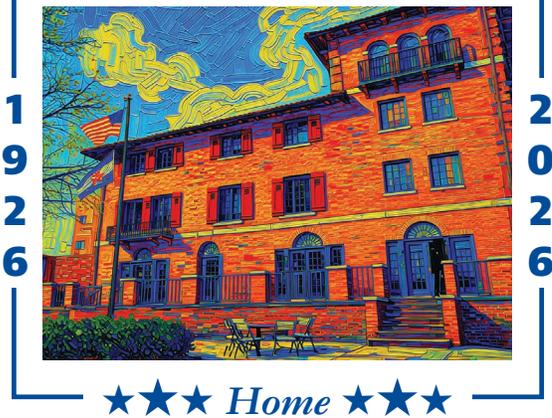
\$175 per person



# BUILDING BROTHERHOOD TOGETHER

Check inside for the latest Alpha Pi updates (622 is turning 100!) and do your part to help us grow Beta Theta Pi.

## 622 MENDOTA COURT



## BETA THETA PI

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

*Address Service Requested*

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

**CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!**



Beta Theta Pi - University of Wisconsin



beta\_wisconsin



betawisconsin.org



linkedin.com/groups/1207295



## Who Will Carry the Torch?

*Send Us Your Member Recommendations*

From one generation to the next, our brotherhood endures through those willing to continue our Alpha Pi traditions. Who do you know with the resilience, leadership, and honor to carry our brotherhood's torch into the next generation?

Help us find the young men who will honor our past and shape what comes next. Send their info, including how we should contact them, their hometown and year in school, and why you think they'll fit right in with Beta Theta Pi, to **Will Fairchild '28** at (715) 348-2605.

# Alpha Pi Anniversary Events

The Beta house in Madison is turning 100 years old, and we're celebrating all year. Join Alpha Pi alumni and undergraduates at one (or all) of three planned events:

### Spring Event

*April 17-18 (Friday and Saturday)*

This anniversary is an opportunity to honor our shared history, reconnect, and celebrate the legacy that continues to shape our brotherhood. Hosted by **Rod Taylor '72** and **Al Kaniss '72**.

### Summer Event

*August 1-2 (Saturday and Sunday)*

Two days of summer fun centered around the chapter house with a casual lakeside barbecue, bonfires, sunset boat rides, and golf outing options. Families are welcome.

### Fall Event

*October 3 (Saturday)*

Nothing beats a fall Saturday in Madison and Camp Randall. More information to come, but plan to return to Madison for the final celebration of 622 Mendota Court during Homecoming weekend.

More details are still to come for all events. For questions and preliminary RSVPs, contact **Scott Running '89** at [spdsc8er@yahoo.com](mailto:spdsc8er@yahoo.com) or **Logan Feinstein '25** at [loganjfeinstein@gmail.com](mailto:loganjfeinstein@gmail.com).

*Can't wait to celebrate? Look inside for articles about the history of 622 Mendota!*