



BETA MU LINK

BETA THETA PI AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY • WWW.PURDUEBETA.COM

HOPE ON THE HORIZON IN 2021—BETA MU LOOKS FORWARD TO RETURN TO NORMALCY

Matching Gift Challenge Allows Brothers to Give Back to Beta at Purdue in Bigger Way

From the house corporation perspective, the spring semester has been a quiet one, and that's a **very** good thing. There have been very few COVID-19 cases (three total as of this writing—two newly initiated members not living in the house, and one brother who moved home for two weeks following his positive test). The revised procedures at Purdue have helped to avoid the whole-house quarantine that affected us twice in the fall. There were no significant symptoms of those who tested positive, thank goodness!

ADHERING TO PURDUE'S COVID-19 GUIDELINES

We remain connected with university officials, meeting with them regularly to make sure the Beta Mu Chapter is following the Protect Purdue guidelines. The university is facilitating vaccinations for all students this spring prior to

the end of the semester, and we encouraged all brothers to do their part in this pandemic and get vaccinated.

HOPEFUL OF RETURN TO NORMALCY THIS FALL

The university's plans for the fall are no different than the rest of society; the goal is to try to return to life as normal as possible, but also be as **safe** as possible. So, it's too early to project what things will look like, including football and Homecoming, but we will keep monitoring the situation.

TAKING CARE OF THE HOUSE AND EACH OTHER

The house remains in good condition with only a few minor projects planned for the summer. The brothers and our maintenance contractor are taking care of the facility and maintaining high cleanliness standards, and the entire

facility is being optimized for studying with social distancing in mind.

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF BETA MU

Our fundraising challenge is off to a good start, and we truly appreciate the early responses. As a reminder, the pledge class of '94-'95 is challenging the rest of us by matching any donation of \$1,000 or more. Please consider joining the challenge and essentially doubling your donation!

And as always, we are looking for volunteers to serve on our board. If you're interested, please contact me. Thank you for staying connected to Beta Mu Chapter!

Yours in _kai_,
Tom Hoover '82

Beta Mu House Corporation President
thoover6060@aol.com

A Legacy of Leadership at Beta Mu

Kevin Comer '71 Shares How He's Benefited from His Service to Beta



One day in the fall of 1967, **Kevin Comer '71** was in his freshman English class when one brief conversation with Barb Blackhall Pittman would change his life forever. Barb, who later married **Dave Pittman '69**, asked Kevin if he was going to join a fraternity, and he was strongly considering it at the time. Barb let Dave know about Kevin's interest and the rest is history. Kevin simply couldn't say no to Dave and the Beta Mu brothers, who all shared his passion for academics and athletics.

"I was taken away with what a beautiful house it was. I was told the house was going to be remodeled in the spring and summer of 1968 and the brothers were going to move temporarily into Terry Courts for the spring semester," Kevin said. "In the fall of 1968, the house would be remodeled. Most of the fraternity houses at the time had cold-air dorms, but once the Beta house was remodeled, it had individual rooms."

Kevin was impressed by how Beta Mu was self-governed. And he was thankful for the opportunities to serve as vice president and kitchen steward as an undergraduate. However, that was just the beginning of Kevin's legacy of leadership at Beta Mu. He served on the Beta Mu House Corporation for nearly 40 years—most of the time as treasurer.

"I feel the long-term success of our Fraternity has been due to having a very strong and active board," Kevin said. "During my time on the board, we had extremely loyal and competent board members. We spent a great deal of time raising funds from our generous and loyal alumni and regularly updated the house and made it one of the best fraternities on campus."

Kevin credits the likes of **Bruce White '75**, **Stephen Bechtel Jr. '48**, **William Elmore '75**, **John Merrell '50**, **Andrew Stephens '79**,

(Continued on page 2)

Alumni Support Is Key to Beta Mu's Success

Thank You for Your Commitment to BΘΠ!

Beta Mu extends its sincere thanks to the following brothers who supported Beta Mu since our publication last fall with dues and donations. Your commitment to our brotherhood means so much to our undergraduate brothers as they navigate an academic year unlike any other. To join these loyal brothers in supporting Beta Mu, please visit purduebeta.com and make your gift today.

Howard Harman '51	Kevin Comer '71	William Tippet '83
Robert Knepper Jr. '55	Michael McCoy '73	Michael DeMasie '86
John Young '56	William Irish '74	Kent Whitaker '86
Clifford Dunton '57	William Elmore '75	D. Page Hoover '91
James Eibel '58	Michael Wells '75	Darren Lueking '93
David Thompson '64	George Cooper '78	John Tyrpin '94
Dr. John DeVries '65	Richard Bond '79	Andrew Bauer '95
Steven Overbeck '65	Thomas Lupfer '79	Nathan Weis '98
Phillip Ward '65	Andrew Stephens '79	Chad Zamarin '98
Terri Earnest '66	Thomas Hoover '82	Matthew Bundy '99
John Mitchell '67	Jay Merrell '82	Byron Wheeler '99
Richard Shoemaker '67	John Miller '82	Grant Hoover '14
William Horton '70	Patrick Shanahan '82	

A Legacy of Leadership

(Continued from page 1)

Michael Wells '75, **Terri Earnest '66**, and **Stephen Poe '77** for their generosity to the Chapter and making his difficult job as treasurer much easier. He's also thankful for the board presidents he had the honor of working with, **Bob Hall '72**, **Cary Wood '89**, and **Tom Hoover '82**.

As a true Man of Principle, Beta wasn't the only organization that benefited from Kevin's hard work and talents. Upon graduating from Purdue, Kevin was a computer systems analyst and COBOL programmer, working for Shell Oil and International Harvester in Chicago. He then moved back to his hometown of Kokomo, Indiana, and bought into his father-in-law's wholesale business. Following his father-in-law's retirement, Kevin became a co-owner with Jerry Solloway. Together, they grew the business to sales of more than \$3 million over 13 years. While Kevin and Jerry were very successful, they decided to sell the business and embark on other endeavors.

"I decided to go back to school and took 30 additional hours of course work to get the prerequisites to sit and pass the CPA exam. I then worked for a local CPA firm for five years," Kevin said. "My final career was working for Delphi Electronics Corporation as a CPA/financial analyst for more than 13 years. I retired in January 2009."

Amid all Kevin's accomplishments and lifelong dedication to Beta, he was blessed to have the full support of his first wife, Sene, whom he proposed to during his junior year Orchid formal dance. He'll never forget his Beta brothers throwing him into the Wabash River on December 13, 1969, to celebrate.

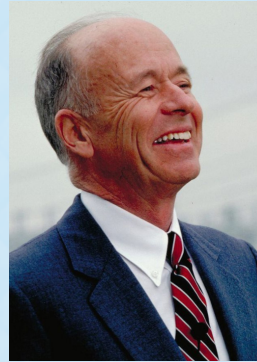
"Sene and I were married for almost 43 years until she died of cancer in 2013," Kevin said. "My family is very important to me. Sene and I were blessed to raise three wonderful children."

Family remains of the utmost importance in his marriage with his second wife, Sandy. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their 11 grandchildren. You can connect with Kevin at kmcomer111@aol.com.

A MARVELOUS BETA MU BUSINESSMAN

Remembering Stephen Bechtel Jr. '46

When it comes to being a Man of Principle for a Principled Life, few Beta Mu Betas have been more successful than **Stephen Bechtel Jr. '46**. We're sad to share that Steve Jr. passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on March 15, 2021, but his legacy will never be forgotten within our brotherhood.



Along with having several Beta brothers to look up to when he was at Purdue, Steve Jr. had two excellent role models in his grandfather, W. A. Bechtel, and his father, Steve Bechtel Sr. Steve Jr. cherished every moment he spent with his grandfather and father, as they built an extremely solid foundation of their family's renowned global engineering and construction company, Bechtel.

"Hoover Dam was a make-or-break proposition for my grandfather," Steve Jr. stated on the history page on bechtel.com. "It became the birthplace of many of the great traditions of the present Bechtel organization."

Steve Jr. began his decorated career with Bechtel as a field engineer in 1948 after he'd earned his engineering degree from Purdue and MBA from Stanford. As Steve Jr. stayed true to Beta's core values of mutual assistance, intellectual growth, trust, responsible conduct, and integrity in the early stages of his career, he proudly worked his way to succeeding his father as Bechtel's CEO in 1960.

Steve Jr. took Bechtel to exponentially new heights during his 30 years as CEO. Signature projects that were completed under Steve Jr.'s leadership included the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system in the San Francisco area, the King Khalid International Airport in Saudi Arabia, and the early stages of the Channel Tunnel between England and France. Bechtel has remained in great hands with Steve's successors, his son, Riley, and now his grandson, Brendan.

"My grandfather leaves behind a remarkable legacy of accomplishment, integrity, excellence, and commitment to customers and communities," Brendan shared in a press release on bechtel.com. "In every aspect of his life, he was driven by his strong values and a vision for helping to build a better world, which continue to guide us in partnering with customers today."

Family truly meant everything to Steve Jr. He and his wife, Betty, had five children, 16 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren. His family helped instill in him the importance of giving back. Steve Jr. founded the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation in 1957 to significantly enhance science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and the environment throughout California. According to *Forbes*, his foundation's \$25 million gift to San Francisco's Presidio in 2013 was a record gift given to a national park. *The New York Times* also reported that S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation donated \$50 million to help launch the Summit Bechtel National Scout Reserve in West Virginia in 2009.

Amid Steve Jr.'s astounding accolades and charitable commitments, he remained dedicated to Developing Men of Principle for a Principled Life at Beta Mu. His generous contributions to the Beta Mu Chapter House Association and Beta Theta Pi Foundation will have a profound impact on Betas at Purdue for generations to come. Thank you, Steve Jr., for showing us what being a Beta is all about.



Fletcher Birnbaum '24, John Law '24, Logan Johnson '23, Tommy Rzeszutko '23, Owen Mahin '24, Luke Godfrey '23, Nico LoPresti '24, Alex Boyd '23, Ryan Schellin '23, and Keagen Dorsten '23 volunteering at Therapeion Therapeutic Riding Center. Brothers assist in grooming horses, cleaning stables/barns, and as riding guides for kids with disabilities.



Vinicius Ferrari '21, Adam Shumaker '21, Cooper Fetters '21, Cameron Walsh '21, and Jacob Hughes '21 at March Madness. During the tournament, many brothers grouped up and drove downtown to watch some of the games in person.



Cole Walchle '21 participated in Purdue's Grand Prix this spring. He worked his way up to 5th place before getting hit by another driver and damaging the kart, ultimately finishing in 14th place. Great job, Cole!



This spring, seven brothers were members of the Rising Professionals Club, which hosted an event to honor distinguished Purdue alumni. Pictured back row, from left: Carter Bailey '24, Owen Reno, '24, Jared Schingel '23, and George Wajda '24. Front row: Collin Gernhardt '24, Joe Mathioudakis '24, and Tim Metken '23.

BETA MU RISES ABOVE THE PANDEMIC CHALLENGES, MAKES THE MOST OF TIME AT PURDUE

Brothers Remain Focused on Philanthropy, Academics, and Campus Involvement

Despite the challenging year we have had, our involvement in extracurriculars, as well as our focus on academic achievement, professional development, and intramural athletics, has remained high. Most notably, during the fall semester, we raised more than \$17,000 for the Tyler Trent Research Foundation. The fundraiser, led by Philanthropy Chairman **Ryan Plummer '22**, was publicized as Buzz a Beta. If our goal were reached (which was originally set at \$5,000), then roughly a dozen members would shave their heads as incentive to donate. The brothers proudly wore their shaved heads around campus for a multitude of personal reasons but all for the general purpose of honoring and sympathizing those affected by cancer.

Additionally, in the field of philanthropy and community service, brothers have been making weekly trips to Therapeion Therapeutic Riding Center to maintain stalls. These horses serve as therapy to children with disabilities, and volunteer work for them is always needed and appreciated.

Academically, the brothers earned a fall semester GPA of 3.33, which ranks Beta fifth

of the 41 chapters on Purdue's campus. We see this as a testament to hard work and our core value of intellectual growth. Brothers are also involved in several clubs on campus: to name a few, Old Masters, Purdue Think, Purdue Dance Marathon, School of Management Employers Forum, MedLife, and Rising Professionals.

Our devotion to our future careers is evident as well. Nearly half of all non-senior brothers have secured internships for 2021. Despite Purdue's reluctance to allow intramural athletics to return to normal, we have pounced on every open sporting league that we can join. This includes kickball, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, golf, and soccer. In the fall, our kickball team won the fraternity league championship.

I'm proud of how resilient Beta brothers have been during the last year, and we're grateful for the ongoing alumni support through good times and bad. We look forward to gathering with alumni at Purdue again once it's safe to do so. Until then, stay healthy and be well.

Yours in _kai_,
Luke Godfrey '23
Chapter President

Congrats, Spring 2021 Graduates!

Curran Adamson '21 | Construction Management | Fort Wayne, Ind.

Roberto Cammalleri '21 | Mechanical Engineering | Haworth, N.J.

Jeremy Costelle '21 | Mechanical Engineering | Avon, Ind.

Douglas DeVries '21 | Nursing | St. John, Ind.

Andrew Etchison '21 | Finance | Carmel, Ind.

Cooper Feeney '21 | Financial Planning and Counseling | Carmel, Ind.

Vinicius Ferrari '21 | Mechanical Engineering | Fishers, Ind.

Cooper Fetters '21 | Chemical Engineering | Carmel, Ind.

Eli Graves '21 | Political Science and Law and Society | Indianapolis, Ind.

Jacob Hughes '21 | Construction Management | Carmel, Ind.

Evan Jamieson '21 | Mechanical Engineering | Okemos, Mich.

Connor Lach '21 | Finance | Carmel, Ind.

Jonathan Livermore '21 | Accounting and Finance | Westfield, Ind.

Peyton Mann '21 | Professional Flight | Bourbonnais, Ill.

Shaan Patel '21 | Mechanical Engineering | Rolling Meadows, Ill.

Matthew Quigley '21 | Cyber Security | Garden City, N.Y.

Adam Shumaker '21 | Civil Engineering | Fishers, Ind.

Jack Stickney '21 | Mechanical Engineering | Libertyville, Ill.

Christian Vasquez '21 | Mechanical Engineering | Rensselaer, Ind.

Cameron Walsh '21 | Industrial Engineering | Carmel, Ind.

Cameron Wilson '21 | Industrial Management | McCordsville, Ind.

Leo Wroblewski '21 | Kinesiology | Carmel, Ind.

Chapter Officers

President
Luke Godfrey '23
Carmel, Ind.
(317) 674-6768

Vice President of Recruitment
Ethan Copner '23
Zionsville, Ind.
(317) 441-7175

Vice President of Brotherhood
Allen Langdon '23
Indianapolis, Ind.

Vice President of Programming
Joshua Hoeft '23
Indianapolis, Ind.

Vice President of Risk Management
Nolan Groninger '23
Warsaw, Ind.

Vice President of Education
Joshua Schumann '23
Carmel, Ind.

Vice President of Finance
Curtis Martin '23
Noblesville, Ind.

Vice President of Communication
Timothy Metken '23
Carmel, Ind.



BETA MU LINK

Beta Mu Chapter of Beta Theta Pi
Purdue University
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested

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

Find
Beta Mu
Online



purduebeta.com



Beta Theta Pi –
Purdue University

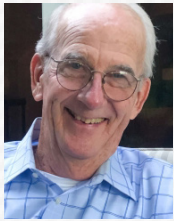


@betapurdue



[purduebeta.com/
capital-campaign](http://purduebeta.com/capital-campaign)

MEMORY AND OUR MYSTIC SHRINE



Bob Shenk '64 entered Our Mystic Shrine on January 10, 2021, after suffering from symptoms related to lymphoma. He was always sharing stories of his years as a Beta. Bob's wife, Mary, and their three children will miss his bright smile. He

first worked for Cincinnati Milacron, a leading CNC machine tool producer, where he was named Salesman of the Year in 1970, 1974, and 1976. He later showed his entrepreneurial talent in forming Shenk Tool Gauge, which produced a series of useful diagnostic tools. Later, Bob started Shenk Machinery. It was here that his prowess as a machine tool salesman shined most brightly. Bob loved supporting the manufacturing needs of leading companies in the Bay Area, including Apple, Tesla, FMC, and Intuitive Surgical.



Myrwin "Red" Anderson '47 entered Our Mystic Shrine on August 30, 2020, in Madison, Ind. He studied physical education at Purdue; however, his college career was interrupted by his enlistment in the Naval Aviator Corps in 1941. After

his honorable discharge, he returned to Purdue to complete a bachelor of science and a master of science while lettering in basketball, baseball, and track. Red earned the Big 10 Medal of Honor for academics and athletics during his senior year at Purdue. After graduating in 1947,

he moved to Batesville, Ind., where he was hired as the high school basketball coach. After four successful seasons and marriage to Janet Downey, he was hired in Madison as the high school basketball coach in the fall of 1950. With this move began a nearly 40-year career with the Madison school corporation. The highlight of his career was when the faculty and school community organized a campaign to rename the Michigan Road School as M.W. Anderson Elementary in 1986. Red was honored by the establishment of three scholarships in his name: one for Madison Consolidated High School graduates who had attended his namesake school, and two at Purdue established by his former basketball players. He is survived by Janet; children Sherry, Kevin, Shelly, and Shawny; three grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.



Dean Shoupp '56 entered Our Mystic Shrine on January 12, 2020, after a brief illness. He served as president and recruitment chairman during his undergraduate days at

Beta Mu. Dean graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering and immediately began his career with Caterpillar Tractor Company. After moving around the country for his job, Dean settled in Richmond, Va., and founded James River Equipment, a John Deere dealership in Ashland, Va. He later sold the business and moved to McAllen, Texas, and then Tulsa, Okla., where he worked for several Caterpillar dealerships before retiring in Florida

with Kelly Tractor. In 1956, Dean married his high school sweetheart, Carol Ann Harping. They had four children, Beverly, Cynthia, Steven, and Douglas, and 11 grandchildren. Dean was a beloved husband and father who loved to enjoy a glass of wine or martini while telling a story or two. A sports enthusiast, Dean enjoyed playing golf and followed Purdue and Miami Dolphins football.



David Lazor '82 entered Our Mystic Shrine on April 25, 2021. David and his wife, Stacey, were married for 29 wonderful years, and they have three children, Devin, Annie, and Nathaniel. Dave was a proud Purdue

Boilermaker and made lifelong, faithful friends at Beta. Always the optimist, he cheered on his Boilers on the football field and basketball court and was never disappointed in losses but was "just glad they were competitive." A born engineer, Dave was a transformational thinker in his business dealings and in his personal life. A devoted and selfless partner, Dave opened every door, washed every dish, and took on every dreaded household task. He lived a life of humble service, caring for neighbors as well as strangers, feeding the homeless in shelters, providing technology for under-resourced students, mowing lawns, shoveling driveways, and silently just showing up. By far, Dave's greatest joys were his children; in this role, he absolutely shined. Dave's absence is everywhere, as he served his family and community in so many ways.