



# BETA MU LINK

BETA THETA PI AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY • PURDUEBETA.COM

## The Alumni Impact

### Maintaining Our Fraternal Bonds

#### TEAMWORK

As a house corporation, we keep a close relationship with the undergraduate Chapter and work together to maintain superiority on campus. They continue to pursue excellence in all aspects of campus life that we value—academics, campus leadership, philanthropy/community service, intramurals, Men of Principle, and a risk-management approach to their social life.

#### STOP BY SOMETIME

The undergraduates always enjoy when alumni visit the house. Feel free to stop by after a sporting event or anytime you happen to be on campus. Please remember that if you visit, the house is dry—that applies to undergraduates and alumni alike. Please respect this rule for the betterment of everyone.

#### FINANCES

The financial health of the house corporation remains a priority. We appreciate all contributions from our alumni, and we continue to make steady progress thanks to your support. I am eager to have a “burn the mortgage” party in the near future. Please help make that happen soon!

#### GOLF OUTING ON MAY 20

We are very excited about the upcoming golf

outing and reunion on campus, coming up on May 20. This gathering includes a brunch at the house, followed by golf at Purdue's Ackerman-Allen Course. See the details below. It's not too late to get involved. Please make an effort to get back and encourage your friends to join you.

#### HAVE YOU REUNITED LATELY?

We always love to hear stories about brotherly gatherings and pledge class reunions. If you have such an event, please send me pictures and information to share with others in future publications.

#### BOOKMARK US!

And please keep your contact information up to date so we can continue to reach you. We send out reminders by mail and electronically, but you can proactively do it by going to our website at [purduebeta.com/alumni/update-your-contact-information](http://purduebeta.com/alumni/update-your-contact-information).

#### OPEN POSITIONS

As a reminder, we still have a vacancy on our board. I am especially interested in more involvement from our younger alumni. If you would like to serve, please contact me.

Yours in \_kai\_,

**Tom Hoover '82**

Beta Mu House Corporation President  
[thomas.c.hoover@aptiv.com](mailto:thomas.c.hoover@aptiv.com)

## THANK YOU, DEVOTED ALUMNI

### Your Contributions Keep Us Going

We appreciate every donor on this list who has prioritized Beta Mu Chapter. The names below represent donations since our last newsletter as of April 12, 2023. Your financial support allows us to keep growing our proud brotherhood at Purdue.

Add your name to the list below by using the enclosed envelope to send in your donations or dues. You can also donate online by visiting [tinyurl.com/btppuannual](http://tinyurl.com/btppuannual) or scanning the QR code to join your brothers.



#### John Wooden Club (\$5,000 and up)

Jay D. Merrell '82  
Chad Zamarin '98

In honor of  
The Beta Mu Pledge  
Class of 1994/1995

#### John Riley Knox Club (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Robert N. St. Jean '69  
Richard J. Bond '79  
Thomas Hoover '82  
James E. Dora Jr. '86

#### Beta Mu Founders Club (\$500 to \$999)

Robert Knepper Jr. '55  
John D. Miller '82  
Mike Assaad '94  
John C. Tyrpin '94  
Harold "Hank" Vice '99  
Byron K. Wheeler '99

#### Kai Club (\$200 to \$499)

Howard Harman '51  
Robert McLean '62  
Phillip L. Zellers '64  
John E. Mitchell '67  
Jan Deemer '68  
R. Scott Hayes '68  
Bob Butsch '75

D. Page Hoover '91  
Grady Martin '97  
Mike R. Switala '12

#### Wooglin Club (\$100 to \$199)

Clifford A. Dunton '57  
John Hoyt '57  
Raymond W. Gass '59  
Phil Kuebbeler '60  
Ralph R. Mason '60  
George E. Shortle Jr. '62  
Thomas Gerber '63  
Brendan O'Brien '63  
Grant H. Martin '67  
Roger Schenkel '68  
Mark M. Owen '74  
Daniel M. Palermo '84  
John C. Kestler '85  
Kent Whitaker '86  
Joe Beaty '18

#### Beta Dragon Club (Up to \$99)

Robert Billman '52  
Robert L. Harshman '56  
Dean A. Wilson '64  
John Canterbury '65  
David P. Todd '82  
Mark Sanfilippo '91  
Griffin W. Hoover '18  
In honor of  
Chuck Hoover  
Sean Eddington '19

## SAVE THE DATE

### Alumni Golf Outing

Here are the details to share with your Beta brothers:

**Date:** May 20

**Start time:** 10 a.m.

(Meet at the  
Chapter House)

**Brunch:** 10 a.m.-noon

Fully catered brunch  
on the back deck of  
the house.

**Golf:** 1-5 p.m.

Shotgun start at the  
Purdue Ackerman-  
Allen Course

**Cost:** \$135/player  
(Includes green fees,  
catered brunch,  
drink tickets at the  
course, etc.)

**Sponsorships  
available  
and NEEDED:**

Event sponsor: \$2,500

Hole sponsor: \$250

Undergrad Sponsor:

Anyone willing to  
chip in for these guys?

**Lots of contests/  
prizes:**

Longest drive

Longest putt

Lowest score

Hole-in-one

Mulligans

50/50 raffle

And more!

Please contact Committee Chairman **Byron Wheeler '99** at [byron.wheeler@talktotucker.com](mailto:byron.wheeler@talktotucker.com) or (317) 760-3782 or visit [tinyurl.com/betamu2023](http://tinyurl.com/betamu2023) to sign up or for additional information.



# A Community Commitment

## SETTING THE STANDARD OF BROTHERHOOD

The spring semester of 2023 has been an incredible time for Beta Mu Chapter. We've excelled in the classroom, in athletics, and in the community.

### ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

One of the most notable achievements was winning the indoor soccer championship as well as both the A and B league intramural basketball championships. The A team, led by **Grant Johnson '25** and **Max Wilson '25** with 18 points each, defeated Theta Chi 53-41. The B team, led by **Nolan Groninger '23**, defeated BYX 34-32.



*Completing their undefeated season, one of our intramural basketball teams celebrates a championship victory.*

### LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Our very own **John Law '24** was awarded IFC Brother of the Year. This award recognizes an outstanding Fraternity brother who has made

significant contributions to the organization and demonstrated exemplary leadership skills. Brother Law's commitment to the Fraternity's values and mission is truly commendable, and his recognition is well-deserved.



*Senior brothers take a trip to the Smoky Mountains on spring break.*

### ACADEMICS

The Fraternity had an exceptional fall semester, achieving the sixth-highest GPA among all Fraternities on campus and the highest among Fraternities with over 100 members. The Fraternity continues to hold a high academic standard, and its members' hard work has paid off.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

This spring, the Fraternity's members have made a commitment to make an impact. The Chapter has participated in several projects aimed at improving the lives of others. One of their notable activities was assisting Habitat for Humanity in building houses for those in need.

The house also teamed up with the Purdue Epics program to provide equipment for use by Native American groups in the Dakotas.

Two brothers, **Rodrigo Davila '26** and **Guy Griffey '26**, went on mission trips to Pensacola and South Africa, where they helped with various humanitarian efforts such as providing education, building infrastructure, and improving healthcare access.

Overall, the Fraternity has had a tremendous spring semester from winning sports championships to academic excellence to recognition for outstanding leadership and service to the community. Our Chapter aims to continue this trend of excellence going into the next school year!

Yours in \_kai\_,  
**Tommy Maurer '25**  
President

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
**Tommy Maurer '25**

Vice President of Programming  
**Max McCorkel '25**

Vice President of Recruitment  
**Blake King '25**  
(817) 449-3004  
bhking@purdue.edu

Vice President of Communication  
**Grant Johnson '25**

Vice President of Brotherhood  
**Eamon Hays '25**

Vice President of Education  
**Erik Nelson '25**

Vice President of Finance  
**Matthew Haubry '25**

Housing Manager  
**JC Cadle '25**

Vice President of Risk Management  
**Evan Pittman '25**

## Congratulations, Graduating Seniors

**Alex Boyd** | Fort Wayne, Ind. | Biology  
**Lucas Brown** | Zionsville, Ind. | Finance  
**Rokas Burnos** | Naperville, Ill. | Industrial Engineering  
**Ryan Cassidy** | Noblesville, Ind. | Construction Management Technology  
**Keagen Dorsten** | Carmel, Ind. | Selling and Sales Management  
**Camden Frieling** | Buffalo Grove, Ill. | Mechanical Engineering  
**Luke Godfrey** | Carmel, Ind. | Construction Management  
**Nolan Groninger** | Warsaw, Ind. | Mechanical Engineering Technology  
**Samuel Hildebrand** | Fishers, Ind. | Industrial Engineering  
**Joshua Hoeft** | Indianapolis, Ind. | Selling and Sales Management  
**Austin Howse** | Carmel, Ind. | Mechanical Engineering  
**Logan Johnson** | Warsaw, Ind. | Industrial Engineering  
**Luke Kaehr** | Carmel, Ind. | Health Communications  
**Jack Kauffman** | Indianapolis, Ind. | Civil Engineering  
**Matthew Keppler** | Raleigh, N.C. | Industrial Engineering  
**Noah Kestler** | Columbus, Ind. | Law and Society

**Christopher Kottowski** | Fishers, Ind. | Finance and Accounting  
**Allen Langdon** | Carmel, Ind. | Industrial Engineering Technology  
**John Leighty** | Fishers, Ind. | Selling and Sales Management  
**Curtis Martin** | Noblesville, Ind. | Selling and Sales Management  
**Timothy Metken** | Carmel, Ind. | Mechanical Engineering Technology  
**Payton Riechmann** | Okawville, Ill. | Industrial Engineering and Economics  
**Christopher Romano** | Middletown, N.J. | Finance and Accounting  
**Isaac Ross** | Carmel, Ind. | Mass Communication, Selling, and Sales Management  
**Thomas Rzeszutko** | Carmel, Ind. | Accounting  
**Alexander Scarcelli** | Zionsville, Ind. | Economics  
**Ryan Schellin** | Boynton Beach, Fla. | Mechanical Engineering  
**Jared Schingel** | Indianapolis, Ind. | Civil Engineering  
**Joshua Schumann** | Carmel, Ind. | Economics and Finance  
**Benjamin Strullmyer** | Effingham, Ill. | Mechanical Engineering  
**Thomas Tanselle** | Carmel, Ind. | Industrial Engineering  
**Blake Wilson** | McCordsville, Ind. | Construction Management



# THE HEART OF BETA

## Nick Economos '96 Is Proud to Call Beta Theta Pi His Fraternity

**N**ick Economos '96 will always be grateful to Jody Pishkur '94 for talking him into attending a Beta recruitment event because it changed his life. When he first joined, he was drawn to the strong brotherhood, social events, competitive intramural sports, and the impressive physical structure of the Chapter House, but what truly set the Fraternity apart was the sense of community and the opportunities for personal and professional growth.

"Through my interactions with my brothers, I have formed close bonds and have been able to grow and develop in ways I never could have imagined," he said.

While Nick has many great Beta memories, like intramural championships, Orchid Formals, and the home run derby, his favorite was living in the house with his younger brother, Pete '97. Nick had put his education on pause for a few years and moved to Breckenridge, Colorado, to pursue competitive mogul skiing in the USSA Rocky Mountain Division. It was special for him to live with Pete upon his return to Purdue; since they are four years apart, they didn't have a chance to attend high school together.

Nick not only formed lifelong friendships and memories, but he also developed valuable social skills, honed his leadership abilities, and learned how to deal with adversity. The experiences he gained from Beta Mu motivated him to remain involved.

"When you receive all that, it's hard not to stay connected and give back."



*"I am grateful for the friends, memories, and experiences I have gained through my involvement with Beta Theta Pi, and I am proud to call it my Fraternity."*

Nick enjoyed working with the executive board and house board when he served as Chapter president, and he wanted to continue that experience as an alumnus. After attending several house board meetings, he was asked to join. They were in the early stages of planning a house remodel and capital campaign when Nick took on the role of president. Although he was only a few years out of school with limited board experience, he was surrounded by several experienced brothers like Craig Fread '77, Kevin Comer '71, Bob Hall '72, Jim Dora '86, Scott Hayes '68, John Laurie '86, and Grant Martin '67, and together, they got some younger alumni involved, including Kevin Schulhof '96, John Tyrpin '94, Dan Breier '94, and Scott Nordlund '94.

"The most rewarding aspect was being able to work with these great men and leaders and seeing firsthand how much they cared for our Chapter," Nick shared.

*"Through my leadership roles within the Chapter and on the board, I discovered the true heart of Beta Theta Pi: its values of mutual support, intellectual growth, trust, responsible conduct, and integrity. These values align closely with my own beliefs and principles."*

Nick's involvement in Chapter leadership provided a foundation for his entrepreneurial pursuits. After earning a degree in financial counseling and planning, he was self-employed from the start and formed a partnership with a CPA in the late '90s. In 2012, he left and founded Fiduciary Financial Partners and has loved every minute of the journey. He is grateful that he gets to wake up every day and help people improve their financial lives.

"It's more than just dollars and cents. It's about helping people create security and freedom so they can live their lives on purpose and focus on what is truly most important to them," he shared.

Nick met his wonderful and supportive wife of 24 years, Martha, at Purdue. They have three fantastic daughters, ages 18, 15, and 13, and a mini Aussie named Storm.

Nick has been alpine skiing since he was 3 and is in his 48th year. He also loves fishing and plays pickleball a few times a week.

**You can connect with him at**  
**[nick@fiduciaryfp.com](mailto:nick@fiduciaryfp.com).**

## NICK REMAINS INVOLVED IN HIS COMMUNITY

- He serves on the executive board and is treasurer of Female Strong, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that offers hands-on programs, mentorship, and experiences that build confidence in middle and high school girls, propelling them to become future leaders.
- He is a board member and president of the DuPage Legal Assistance Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides legal help to those in need in DuPage County, Illinois.
- He serves on the advisory council of the West Suburban Community Pantry.
- He is a member of the Entrepreneurs Organization and a former executive board member and treasurer of the EO Chicago Chapter.



Nick with his family.



# ALUMNI NEWS

**Jim Corliss '61** is glad to stay connected with **Phil Kuebbeler '60**, **Ralph Mason '60**, **Bill O'Neal '60**, and **John Stein '60** with multiple Zoom gatherings throughout the year. Jim resides in Newport News, Va.

**Dave Thompson '64** lives in Greensboro, N.C.. He came out of "Beta retirement" nine years ago, and Dave now serves as a General Fraternity officer and district chief for the current North Carolina Chapters. Email: sgtdat@triad.rr.com

**Grant Martin '67** has served on the Beta Mu House Board since 2003. He is proud of the active Chapter receiving the Sisson Award and remaining a top Fraternity in academics on campus. Grant lives in Monticello, Ind. Email: ghmart@yahoo.com

**Kerry Blind '72** is a retired landscape architect and planner who still volunteers for coastal environment causes. Kerry and his wife enjoy morning walks on the beach in St. Simons Island, Ga. Email: kerry.blind@gmail.com

**Skip Davis Jr. '74** volunteers at his church's food pantry, takes the Holy Eucharist to shut-ins at a local senior healthcare facility, and enjoys travel to see his son and family in the Czech Republic. Skip resides in Greenwood, Ind. Email: candyman123150@yahoo.com

**Russ Hamilton '74** worked his way up to a plant manager role at Chevron before retiring after 26 years, and he is now a world expert in making semiconductor polysilicon for electronics and solar. He works as a VP in Norway, China, and South Korea, and he has spent \$8 billion on projects that add up to 85% of the industry market. Russ lives in Benton City, Wash. Email: russ@hamiltoncellars.com

**Dave Bowman '77** is still the owner of engineering/contracting businesses serving hospital facilities. In his spare time, Dave loves golfing at Medinah Country Club. He has been married to Barb for 45 years, and they live in Arlington Heights, Ill. Dave enjoys traveling, scuba diving, and underwater photography. Email: dave.bowman@premier-companies.com

**Claude Plumlee '80** lives in Indianapolis, Ind., where he enjoys a flexible schedule and watches Purdue basketball and football.

**Bryan Fleck '04** resides in Carmel, Ind. Bryan is a firefighter/paramedic with the Indianapolis Fire Department. He also founded Blue Creek Knives, an online knife shop that carries the best brands in the world. Email: bryan@bryanfleck.com



# BETA MU LINK

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

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## MEMORY AND OUR MYSTIC SHRINE

**Bill Bassett '61** entered Our Mystic Shrine on January 14, 2023. Upon graduating, he designed bridges and highways for the State of Indiana before he was called to serve in the Army as a second lieutenant. After serving as a combat engineer in Wildflecken, Germany, he was honorably discharged.

Returning to Indiana, Bill worked for a consulting engineering company in Indianapolis, and in 1966, he accepted the position of Miami County highway engineer and moved to Peru, Ind. In 1968, he established William Bassett and Associates in Kokomo, which was an architectural and engineering design firm and a construction management company. Bill was a dedicated member of Grace United Methodist Church, the Security Federal Savings Bank Board, and the Kokomo Family YMCA Board. He loved the outdoors, spending time with his family, and Purdue sports.

**John Knopf '64**, devoted Purdue and Beta Mu Chapter alumnus, entered Our Mystic Shrine on November 1, 2022, at his home in Marina Del Rey, Calif., after living with pancreatic cancer. He was a successful businessman who specialized in crisis management. John is survived by his loving wife, Roberta, and stepchildren, Spencer and Andrea Franklin.

**Steven Overbeck '65** entered Our Mystic Shrine on June 13, 2022. He started his career in construction after graduating from Purdue, eventually growing Summit Construction Co. Inc. into a well-respected business in the Central Indiana area and becoming its owner. Family meant everything to Steve, including his wife, Mary Kay, and children Scott, Mary Lynn, Kassy, and Dan.

**John Carroll '67** entered Our Mystic Shrine in April 2022. His wife shares, "John ran out of 'Earth hours,' but he is still ours. When we think of him, believe me, he is a Beta still. John was so proud of his Beta Theta Pi. It certainly became lifelong and lifetime."

**Bruce White '75** entered Our Mystic Shrine on January 19, 2023, after living with cancer. Bruce went on to complete the Harvard Graduate School of Business Owner/President Management program, and in 1985, he founded White Lodging. What started as a single hotel grew into one of the country's largest and best privately held hospitality companies, and Bruce loved every aspect of the business.

In 2008, he followed his lifelong passion for the American West and the outdoors and acquired Brush Creek Ranch in Saratoga, Wyoming, which he grew into three luxury guest ranches that are consistently recognized as some of the top resorts in the world.

Bruce was dedicated to the future of Purdue, and he served on the Board of Trustees for several years. The White and the White Family Foundations supported the school in many ways, including through the establishment of the Dean V. White Real Estate Finance Program and the creation of the White Lodging-J.W. Marriott Jr. School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Bruce was also instrumental in the success of our *Return to Dominance* capital campaign.

**Mark Johanson '80** entered Our Mystic Shrine on November 3, 2022, after living with younger-onset Alzheimer's Disease. Mark met his wife, April, at his first job at IBM in San Jose, Calif., and they later moved to Orinda, where they raised their two daughters, Amanda and Alyssa. He spent most of his career in the tech and financial industries and retired in 2016 as a financial advisor for Charles Schwab.

For several years, Mark led Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation in Lafayette, Calif., to fund non-profits in the East Bay. Mark, who was a varsity football player at Purdue, continued to cheer on his team after graduation. He also enjoyed outdoor activities, listening to music, and making people laugh. He was a devoted father and never missed his daughters' activities.