



BETA MU LINK

BETA THETA PI AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY • PURDUEBETA.COM

Committed to Community

BETA MU FOCUSES ON GIVING BACK AND GETTING INVOLVED

*This spring
has been
eventful for
Beta Mu!*

For our philanthropic efforts, we raised a whopping \$72,000 for Tyler Trent Foundation, which is focused on pediatric cancer research. We also hosted a car wash with Tri Delta that raised money for Riley Hospital for Children, as well as a philanthropy kickball tournament with Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Our Chapter had a solid year academically with a 3.3 Chapter GPA. This placed us in the top five in fraternities with over 100 members, and top 10 overall in fraternities on campus. Academics continues to be a priority, and our hard work pays off.

For athletics, we were intramural dodgeball champions, runner-up in intramural flag football, and runner-up in the Greek Basketball Association, which brother **Max Wilson '25** helped start here at Purdue. Our intramural sports chairman, **Matthew Etchison '26**, has made sure our Chapter is well-involved in each sport offered. While we didn't win every intramural this year, we were a top team in every league we played in and will be back to win next year.

The Chapter has committed several hundred hours to community service. Members have picked up trash along highways and served in



Brother Andrew Kinder '26 received the 2023 Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award in recognition of his persistence in his fight with Leukemia.

retirement homes as well as prepped homes for winter months. The care for one another pours out to the community through our great efforts. Community Service Chairman **Will Strahm '26** does a great job of ensuring the Chapter has plentiful opportunities to serve and make an impact on our Lafayette community.

The Fraternity has had a semester that has encouraged us to grow in many areas. We look forward to the opportunity to push ourselves to set Beta Mu up for future success.

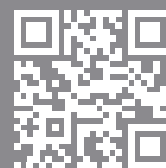
Yours in _kai_,
Magwire Graybill '26
President



The Beta dodgeball team secured an Intramural Championship this winter!

THANK YOU, LOYAL BROTHERS

We appreciate every donor on this list who has prioritized Beta Mu Chapter. The names below represent donations since our last newsletter and as of March 25, 2024. Your financial support allows us to keep growing our proud brotherhood at Purdue. Add your name to this list by visiting purduebeta.com or scanning the QR code to join your brothers.



We Appreciate
Your Support

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

John A. Laurie '86
Chad Zamarin '98
In honor of the
Beta Mu Pledge Class
of 1994-95

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

Howard Harman '51
Robert N. St. Jean '69
Kevin Comer '71

Craig Whelden '73

In memory of
Beta Mu Pledge Class
Members of 1970
Who Have Passed
Richard J. Bond '79
Kevin McCarter '79
Thomas Hoover '82

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

Vincent K. Jones III '63
Joe Rierden '72
Michael W. Wells '75
James E. Dora Jr. '86
John C. Tyrpin '94

Kai Club (\$200 to \$499)

Raymond W. Gass '59
Donald Atkinson '64
Grant H. Martin '67
John E. Mitchell '67
R. Scott Hayes '68
Thomas Work '70
Ronald W. Schenkel '71
Marc Fooksman '81
William D. Moss '81
Patrick Hughes '91
Edward Usher '92
Peter M. Economos '97
Harold "Hank" Vice '99
Mike R. Switala '12

Wooglin Club (\$100 to \$199)

Clifford A. Dunton '57
George R. Caruso '58
William W. Slemmons '60
Brendan O'Brien '63
George A. Raub '63
Phillip L. Zellers '64
John R. De Vries '65
Phillip W. Ward '65
Mark M. Owen '74
Bob Butsch '75
Jeffrey Osborn '88
Kelly J. Eads '89
D. Page Hoover '91
Mark Sanfilippo '91

Beta Dragon Club (Up to \$99)

Anonymous
Ryan Cassidy
Julio A. Hernandez,
University of the Pacific '16
Robert Bradford Jr. '59
David Yoder '62
Richard Bond '68
John N. Lawson '79
Steven M. Klinger '86
Kevin E. Mayer '91
Byron K. Wheeler '99
Sean M. Klinger '17

BROTHERHOOD AND BIPARTISANSHIP

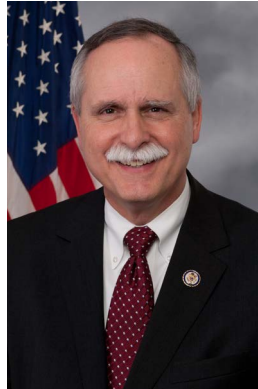
How David McKinley '69 Brought Beta Mu Values to Capitol Hill

I first encountered Beta Theta Pi through General Fraternity President **Francis M. "Chub" Rich, Illinois 1925**, who was also living in my hometown of Wheeling, West Virginia. We had many conversations about the Fraternity, and during recruitment the members of Purdue's Beta Mu seemed the most genuine of all the men. Since then, I have continually realized what a good decision I made 60 years ago.

Beta Mu gave me some of my fondest memories, including attending Orchid formals, winning intramural sports trophies, taking road trips with **Gordon Ulrey '68** and **Jim Byron '68**, and being thrown into the Wabash River when I got engaged. I also enjoyed the responsibility of being house manager for two years and working in the kitchen.

As an undergraduate, Beta Mu taught me to learn from people with different perspectives and diverse cultural, environmental, and socio-economic backgrounds. We had members from Mexico, the Bahamas, London, and Holland as well as men from California, New York, and the upper Midwest. I would one day directly apply those lessons when interacting with congressional members.

My career in politics began with an interest in the state legislature. My theme then and now is "Do we want to be part of the solution or part of the problem?" West Virginia was hungry for new perspectives, so I was privileged to serve 14 years in the WV legislature and lead the state GOP as its chairman. I spent the bulk of my time as the ranking minority member of the Finance Committee.



In 2011, I ran and prevailed against a 14-term incumbent to represent West Virginia in the U.S. Congress. (There were three other Betas in that election: Nevada, Illinois, and Philadelphia!) We had a tremendous staff that proved its effectiveness by getting 36 of our pieces of legislation signed into law and over 100 amendments voted onto other bills.

Now that my tenure in Congress has come to an end, I spend much of my time writing. I have published a book recounting our achievements in Washington. I also have two in the works; one traces the genealogy of the McKinleys from Scotland to Wheeling and the other focuses on making the Old Testament easier to understand and highlighting Judaism's impact on modern Christianity.

My final book will be co-authored with Congressman Bobby Rush of South Chicago—he as a Black activist and former Black Panther and I as a conservative Republican from Appalachia. We want to tell the story of the bipartisanship we forged in Congress and the successes and opportunities for our country that were derived from that relationship.

David and his wife, Mary, have four children and six grandchildren. David enjoys restoring his 1928 Studebaker and traveling. He and Mary have also restored his grandparents' historic 1920s home to its original charm. If you'd like to know more about David's career or upcoming books, you can contact him via email at davidmckinleywv@gmail.com.

BETA MU WORKING TO REGAIN UNIVERSITY'S CONFIDENCE

Although Beta Mu remains near the top in academics and is No. 1 in philanthropy, poor decisions made by a few undergraduates have resulted in the whole Chapter being held responsible, with Beta being placed on probation. This probation is enforced by both the university and the General Fraternity.

The most serious incidents involved alcohol, while there were also risk management problems involving pledge education and social events. Most sanctions of the probation involve the elimination of social functions for this calendar year, then limited social functions through spring 2025. The General Fraternity also has some educational directives that must be completed during the probation. We are cooperating with the university and General Fraternity and are involved in negotiating fair sanctions.

The house corporation has lost some confidence in the Chapter's ability to self-govern, so **we are even more hands-on at this point to make sure there are no further incidents.** Two years ago, they were awarded the Chapter of the Year Award on campus, but we've seen a change in culture by some brothers who seem to be defiant of the rules.

We have spoken with the executive team twice this semester face-to-face, and I am confident in their commitment to lead the house through this transition and come out stronger. An important piece of the recovery is to improve the relationship/transparency with the university—that has been prioritized. Another part of the solution is an improved disciplinary process (i.e. Kai board), which has lost some power as a deterrent. I have also spoken to the full Chapter and demanded an immediate change in behavior.

I truly believe that a majority of the house is filled with good brothers, and there's an incredible demand to be a Beta on campus: 750 rushees, 45 accepted bids, 40-plus new members, and an all-time high in anticipated live-ins next year approaching 70-plus. As mentioned earlier, the house is near the top in academics and is No. 1 in philanthropy, so there is reason to be optimistic about returning to the top very soon.

Yours in _kai_,
Tom Hoover '82

Beta Mu House Corporation President

Beta Needs Your Support

Alumni support is needed now more than ever to sustain our great Chapter. As mentioned before, we are saving up and looking for your support to eventually replace the roof as it approaches the 100-year mark. We are delaying this as long as possible so we can have the funds to support this in a fiscally responsible manner.

Please scan the QR code or visit purduebeta.com to make your gift today. We truly appreciate your support!



ALUMNI NEWS

Carl Johnson '64 is the executive chairman of SemiQ Inc. in Lake Forest, Calif., the executive chairman of Clas-SiC Wafer Fab Ltd. in Lochgelly, Scotland, a general partner of CJ&M Holdings (investment partnership), and the Texas director of Cobereat/II-VI Foundation in Pennsylvania. He resides in Fairview, Texas. Email: cjj26@msn.com

Craig "Beckett" Whelden '73 shares that after 30 years in the Army and another nine with the Marine Corps, he is now semi-retired in Bluffton, S.C. He was inducted into the Purdue University ROTC Hall of Fame in 2011 and was the ROTC Commissioning Speaker in 1999 and 2011. In 2019, he published an award-winning book on leadership and became a motivational keynote speaker. In early 2021, he was introduced to an aerospace startup developing hypersonic propulsion technology for both defense and commercial use and is now the president of Velontra Inc. After an introduction from **Bill Elmore '75**, his company spent five weeks at Purdue's Zucrow Labs achieving Mach 4.5 and 100,000 feet with their propulsion system in their wind tunnels. While there, Craig stopped by the Beta Mu house and had a chance to engage the brothers during a Chapter meeting. "Very proud of what the current crop of brothers have achieved." Craig resides in Bluffton, S.C. Email: wheldencraig@gmail.com

Bryan Fleck '04 is a firefighter/paramedic with the Indianapolis Fire Department. He's also the founder of Blue Creek Knives, an online knife shop that carries the best brands in the world. "Visit bluecreekknives.com to shop and support a Beta business." He lives in Carmel, Ind. Email: bryan@bryanfleck.com

Chapter Officers



VP of Communications
Max Elliott '26



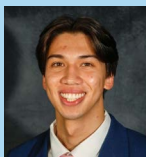
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Magwire Graybill '26



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Decker Anderson '26



Recruitment
Evan Dickinson '26
(219) 307-6305
evandickinson17@gmail.com



VP of Brotherhood
Michael Setiawan '25



VP of Risk Management
TJ Allan '27



VP of Programming
Nicholas Mates '26



VP of Education
Owen Munkholm '26



House Manager
Wayne Hsieh '26

Memory and Our Mystic Shrine

Dale Roberts '50 entered Our Mystic Shrine on August 10, 2023. Dale graduated with a Bachelor's in Forestry. He was a devoted Boilermaker and member of the John Purdue Club. He joined the Army in 1946 and was assigned to the ski troops in Colorado. In the early 1950s, he started Capitol Building Supplies with a partner and became a successful supplier and installer of windows and doors for some of the most notable buildings in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. Dale married his wife, Mary Jo Cooper, in 1953. They had four children, several grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Dale enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He went on many hunting and fishing trips with friends over the years.

Donald M. Gwinnup '53 entered Our Mystic Shrine on September 17, 2023.

Robert Bolman '59 entered Our Mystic Shrine in February 2023.

George "EB" Shortle '62 entered Our Mystic Shrine on April 18, 2023. He graduated with a bachelor's in electrical engineering and as part of Eta Kappa Nu and Tau Beta Pi. After graduation, he served in the Navy for two years before obtaining an MSEE and beginning his career at Boeing. He married wife Judy in 1967, and they moved to Santa Barbara to start their family, children John and Rebecca. EB had a 34-year career at General Research Corporation, but he also found time for his love of the outdoors and photography.

John D. Walter Jr. '65 entered Our Mystic Shrine on June 9, 2023 after living with cancer. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics. Shortly after graduation, he married Vicki, who he met on a blind date in college, and began working at Dow Corning Corporation, a lifetime career. Daughter Elizabeth came in 1975, eventually bringing with her six grandchildren who John adored. John also loved being involved in youth ministry and the church in his later years and believed in love as a complete sentence.

Randall Saal '67 entered Our Mystic Shrine on June 23, 2023.

SAVE THE DATE

Beta Golf Outing

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

We are excited to host another golf outing! We hope it will be even bigger than last year's successful event. The day will kick off with a 1 p.m. shotgun start on the Purdue golf course followed by a barbecue at the Chapter House with food, prizes, and more brotherhood. More details will be sent out shortly. Please save the date and encourage your friends to join you!



Scan Me!



BETA MU LINK

Beta Mu Chapter of Beta Theta Pi
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**Beta Theta Pi –
Purdue University**

Congratulations, Graduating Seniors!

BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR ENDEAVORS

Carter Bailey

Carmel, Ind.
Electrical engineering

Fletcher Birnbaum

Zionsville, Ind.
Mechanical engineering

Luke Etchison

Carmel, Ind.
Electrical engineering

Eli Everson

Zionsville, Ind.
Finance and accounting

Alek Foellinger

Fishers, Ind.
Accounting, finance

Billy Georgen

Morristown, N.J.
Accounting, finance

Collin Gernhardt

Old Saybrook, Conn.
Mechanical engineering

Brent Gleason

McCordsville, Ind.
Selling and sales
management

Cameron Greeson

Zionsville, Ind.
Mechanical engineering

John Houde

St. Charles, Ill.
Finance

John Law

Bloomington, Ind.
Civil engineering

Andrew Lobbia

Novi, Mich.
Construction management

Nico LoPresti

Fishers, Ind.
Selling and sales
management

Owen Mahin

Franklin, Ind.
Industrial management

Joe Mathioudakis

Indianapolis, Ind.
Business analytics and
information management

Chris Pappas

Zionsville, Ind.
Civil engineering

Vumsee Polisetti

Atlanta, Ga.
Applied statistics

Dylan Prince

Chester, N.J.
Civil engineering

Owen Reno

Indianapolis, Ind.
Civil engineering

Nolan Sauer

Greenwood, Ind.
Industrial management

Jasper Suiter

Indianapolis, Ind.
Computer science

Charlie Thrift

Redwood City, Calif.
Biochemistry

Gabriel Vaughn

Indianapolis, Ind.
History (pre-law)

George Wajda

Fishers, Ind.
Business analytics and
information management

Ted Walter

St. Louis, Mo.
Mechanical engineering



Brothers from the senior class get in some golfing during spring break. From left: Carter Bailey '24, Owen Mahin '24, John Law '24, Cameron Greeson '24, and Gabriel Vaughn '24.