



BETA MU LINK

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



General Fraternity President Bob Schnese, Wisconsin '83, with Oxford Cup winner Philip Nelson '56.



Philip Nelson '56 giving his acceptance speech.



Tom Krajewski '81, Bill Moss '81, Rob McKay '81, and Jay Merrell '82 tailgating after the Homecoming game.

Beta Makes Great Strides Nationally and at Purdue

The Beta Mu Chapter and Beta Theta Pi Fraternity continue to be organizations in transition, both moving in positive directions. For the General Fraternity, bold steps were taken last summer at the annual convention. The event's theme was "A Courage to Lead," and under that mindset the group added a substance-free housing policy into the official Risk Management Policy. Although it doesn't affect us as we are already dry, we are convinced substance-free fraternity housing is the future of the Greek community, and the health, safety, and well-being of our men must remain Beta's number one priority. It was also at that convention where I met Brother **Dave Thompson '65**, who has taken his Beta Mu spirit to North Carolina where he has been giving back and helped both High Point and Elon University to become new chapters of the Fraternity. I am humbled by his service to our good and great Fraternity.

Speaking of alumni doing good things, this year's Homecoming celebration was highlighted by the Oxford Cup award being presented to **Philip Nelson '56**. Joining other Beta Mu Oxford Cup winners **John Wooden '32** and **Stephen Bechtel Jr. '47**, Brother Nelson received the highest honor

bestowed upon Beta alumni. Philip has previously been awarded the World Food Prize, the "Nobel Prize" for Food Sciences. The Food Science Building that he helped design at Purdue was renamed in his honor as the Philip E. Nelson Hall of Food Science. This year's Homecoming also featured a tailgate near the stadium during and after the game. It was very popular and something we plan to continue in the future.

For the Chapter, the undergraduates have continued to thrive one year after getting the charter back. They've maintained their status as having one of the top GPAs for fraternities. They are taking advantage of leadership opportunities on campus and involved in multiple community service and philanthropic endeavors. They are a great group of young men and represent us well in West Lafayette. Of course, sustainability remains as a priority.

Yours in _kai_,
Tom Hoover '82

Beta Mu House Corporation President
thomas.c.hoover@aptiv.com



Brothers from the late 1980s and early '90s bonding at a Boilermaker tailgate.



John Tyrpin '94, Ryan Kratz '95, and Scott Attar '91 enjoying the Beta Mu Homecoming tailgate.

Beta Mu Never Stops Striving to Be the Best

Chapter Seeks to Strengthen Brotherhood This Fall

Since we obtained our charter last year, the new executive team doesn't stop at just meeting standards. We have managed to build the brotherhood stronger than it has ever been before. We are making our return to dominance a reality and maintaining our values of the cultivation of the intellect. For the past four years since being back on campus, Beta Mu has improved our cumulative GPA to a 3.25, which puts us among the top five fraternities at Purdue. One of the biggest challenges we have faced coming back was returning as a substance-free house. This is particularly hard at Purdue because we are one of the few fraternities to take on this new era of Greek culture. Although this has been difficult, the brothers of Beta Mu have worked our way into being relevant on campus. The men of this Chapter have proven to Greek life at both Purdue and nationally that we are more than the standard Fraternity house. We are men of principle.

We had a very successful recruitment this year. It lasted about two weeks, and had over 100 potential new members at every event. Of those short-listed, 37 were inducted to become members of this year's newest fall '18 class. Beta Mu is very excited to teach these fine young men what it takes to be men of principle, and VP of Education **Nigel Wilson '19** is doing a phenomenal job.

The brothers' involvement on campus is at an all-time high. On September 22, for the second year in a row, one of our very own Beta Mu brothers won Homecoming king. Congratulations to Brother **Grant Wood '19** for winning this prestigious honor! At the Pi Kappa Alpha Fireman's Challenge philanthropy event, our brothers took first place again for the second year in a row. Furthermore, our biggest philanthropy event for the fall semester is paired with Kappa Alpha Theta. We are cohosting the Theta Beta Grill-Off, which is a competition to produce the best dish for a multitude of taste testers, and hopefully we, too, will come home with a win. In addition, we also held a few date functions and brotherhood events. One which we hold every fall, Camp Beta, was held on September 29. This is our annual date function where we take a road trip to Turkey Run State Park and canoe for three miles on Sugar Creek. We also held our annual brotherhood retreat, which included camping at Indiana State Dunes. It was a great time where brothers and new members had fun camping, participating in outdoor activities, and bonding with each other.



At the 179th Beta Theta Pi General Convention, Beta Mu was happy to bring along three of our undergraduate brothers. Pictured from left: Cooper Feeney '21, Jim Corliss '61, Leo Wroblewski '21, Dave Thompson '64, Tom Hoover '82, and Zane Smith '20.



Beta Mu is proud to announce our second year winning Pi Kappa Alpha's Firefighter's Challenge.



Grant Wood '19 was crowned Purdue's Homecoming king this fall.

In conclusion, the brothers of Beta Mu yearn to keep moving forward. For the 2018-19 school year, we have decided to put more emphasis on building an even stronger brotherhood and striving to obtain the top GPA on campus within all of the fraternities.

Yours in _kai_,
Zane Smith '20
 Chapter President
 smit2625@purdue.edu

Welcome, New Members

Ayrton Birnbaum / Whitestown, Ind.
Carter Cates / Noblesville, Ind.
Thomas Counsell / New Berlin, Wis.
Nicholas DeChiaro / Plainview, N.Y.
Gregory Derfus / Closter, N.J.
Husam Elgaali / Fishers, Ind.
James Frusciante / Middleton, Wis.
Baxter Govan / Jupiter, Fla.

DICK BUELL '72 MAKES LARGEST DONATION IN PURDUE'S HISTORY TO ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Dick Buell '72 holds a special place in his heart for Purdue University, specifically the basketball program. As a freshman, a key factor in his joining Beta Theta Pi, in addition to its members' generosity and the recently remodeled facility, were the basketball players living in the house at the time. An avid sports fan, Dick admired the senior members who, at the time, thought nothing of living in the house all four years. Dick also enjoyed the Beta brothers and that was enough to win over his decision to join a lifelong organization.

Now 50 years later, Dick is once again showing his admiration for Purdue's basketball team by making a significant donation to the program. This summer, Dick made the largest one-time gift in Purdue athletic history by donating \$10 million. "When I began allocating funds from my estate, giving to Purdue athletics was a priority. I have been very fortunate in my life to work at four different companies as CEO over a span of 28 years. I credited my family, hard work, and Purdue with making this possible. I love sports in general at Purdue, but I specifically admired Purdue basketball and wanted to start giving back now. Matt Painter is a model coach and a leader to those athletes. He makes sure they not only play hard, but enjoy the sport in a positive way. Matt is a very special guy, and is a large part of the reason I chose to support the basketball program in this manner."

In planning for the future of Purdue basketball, Dick also has hopes for the future of Beta Theta Pi's Beta Mu Chapter. "There was a time at Beta Mu when things weren't as encouraging as they are today. I'm pleased to see current membership is in high spirits and willing to put in the hard work to maintain our newly remodeled facility. I personally would love to see academics remain a top priority as much as intramurals. It's important that our members remember that they're at Purdue to receive an education and ultimately a job. There's a lot of learning that goes into your accomplishments, and academics is a great indicator of how you'll be in your career."



"In today's world, it's important to look at how the Chapter moves forward not only by attracting quality new members, but by focusing on the issues of young people today. From an alumni perspective, we need to make sure there are programs in place for young men to seek out mentorship opportunities and discuss timely issues, including drug and alcohol use, academic performance, and the ongoing conversation on sexual assault. Everybody is in a place where they can influence the future of our members; it's a matter of who is willing to do the job."

Dick lives in Naples, Florida. He spends a lot of time volunteering in the community. He works with the Harry Chapin Food Bank in Naples, which has been very successful providing meals to the homeless and senior community. They have also been heavily involved in providing school meals (breakfast and lunch) to needy children in the area. Dick was a member of the Board of the Directors of the Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation for 17 years, and is in the process of becoming indoctrinated in the Fourth Presbyterian Church to volunteer serving meals to the homeless. "My exposure to those in need was a real soft spot with me, and I later learned that children were a large part of that population. When you have school programs that provide meals during the year, what happens to the kids in the summer months who rely on that food as their only meals? Harry Chapin now has 18 new food delivery trucks that go to the areas in southwest Florida where it's needed for primarily children and senior citizens. The need was there and I decided to get involved."

Dick is enjoying his retirement years. He works out almost every morning and again in the afternoon 3-4 days a week. He enjoys playing golf and swimming laps, as well as bicycling, often doing so on the streets in Naples, and along Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. Dick is taking on some new challenges; he is learning pickleball, bacci ball, and ballroom dancing.

You can contact Dick at ldbuell@gmail.com.

Brandon Ganderson / Brownsburg, Ind.

John Groen Jr. / Munster, Ind.

Grant Gunderson / Lake Elmo, Minn.

Cody Gutwein / Brookston, Ind.*

(Cousins **Jeff Welsh '82** and **Mark Mayhew '78**)

Caleb Hancock / Fishers, Ind.

Jacob Hess / Fort Wayne, Ind.

Elijah Hostetler / Westfield, Ind.

William Huber / Indianapolis, Ind.

Michael McKee / Lafayette, Ind.

Roger Phaneuf / Grand Rapids, Mich.

Ethan Pio / Morristown, N.J.

Ryan Plummer / Noblesville, Ind.

Benjamin Pugach / Southlake, Texas

Bryce Randolph / Noblesville, Ind.

Andrew Redman / Zionsville, Ind.*

(Uncle **David Siegel, DePauw '87**)

Nicholas Regier / Spring, Texas

Blake Shaffer / Columbus, Ind.

Jack Skinner / Kent, Ohio

Alex Spiros / Urbana, Ill.

Evan Spiros / Urbana, Ill.

Brayden Stewart / Noblesville, Ind.

Huntington Stoinoff / Dallas, Texas

Matthew Toth / Indianapolis, Ind.*

(Brother **Erich Toth '15**)

Luke Walters / Noblesville, Ind.

Joseph Wede / Carmel, Ind.

Noah Whited / Carmel, Ind.

Owen Williams / Indianapolis, Ind.

Kyle Zachmann / Indianapolis, Ind.

Michael Zarras / Morris Plains, N.J.

*Legacy; relative in parentheses

ALUMNI UPDATE

Memory and Mystic Shrine

Richard M. Sullivan '49 entered Memory and Mystic Shrine on November 10, 2017. Richard is survived by his wife, Estelle, and children, Skip, Scott, Sue, Sally, and Rich. He also had nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Richard loved to curl, play golf, and played tennis into his 80s. He was also a dedicated church volunteer, but his primary passion was family. Friends and family will remember his zest for life; infectious smile; the love of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and an amazingly upbeat, get-it-done attitude.

Thomas R. Lugar '55 entered Memory and Mystic Shrine on August 9. He was a man of deep faith and lived by simple philosophies—honesty, fairness, service, and love—which he applied both personally and professionally. Tom raised orchids in his greenhouse, spent years building complex model ships, and enjoyed capturing memories through photography—taking, printing and sharing with others. He also loved cheering on the Purdue Boilermakers, playing bridge with friends, and watching and participating in the various activities of his wife of 60 years, Sally; children, **Todd '84**, Scott, and Nancy; and five grandchildren.

John Manhart '59 entered Memory and Mystic Shrine on December 9, 2017. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carolyn; three children, Laura, Melissa, and John; and 10 grandchildren.

Leonard “Butch” Santino '83 entered Memory and Mystic Shrine on May 23. He was a resident of Tucson, Ariz., and loved spending time with his family. He is survived by his mother, Loretta; wife, Jinky; children, Chelsey, Stephan, and Vincent; and numerous family and friends.

ALUMNI NEWS

Gary Shearer '57 got tired of retirement, so he bought a company and is still working. He would love to hear from his Beta pledge brothers, class of '57. Gary and his wife, Connie, live in Bonita Springs, Fla., and have two children. E-mail: gshearerhsd@comcast.net

Gilbert Mesec '59 lives in a rural county in Virginia and was lucky to get a home on a tributary of the Potomac River. He had a portable business as he was able to set up offices in his new home. Gilbert and his wife, Liz, also have a small shop where they could make product. They have a yard bordering on three acres that keeps him busy. E-mail: sales@swangate.com

Dr. John R. DeVries '65 experienced a proud moment when he was present for his grandson's initiation to Beta Mu in January. He and his wife, Colleen, live in Saint John, Ind., and have four children.



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Steven N. Dillon '67 and his wife, Marti, enjoy retirement in Plano, Texas. They have nine grandchildren with one more on the way. They will celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary in November. E-mail: smdillon67@reagan.com

Thomas M. Popcheff '73 retired from Sigma Theta Tau International, but will remain engaged with the nursing honor society as an honorary member. He also serves as the president of the Speedway Indiana Redevelopment Commission and vice president of the Speedway Public Library Board of Trustees.

Arthur M. Davis Jr. '74 looks forward to retiring, especially since his wife, Julie, retires in two years. Their daughter, Sarah, lives in Indianapolis; their son, Eric, lives in Prague; and their daughter, Kelly, lives in California. Arthur spends lots of time hanging out with his 10-year-old grandson, Remy. E-mail: candyman123150@yahoo.com

Joseph Gabbert '74 is happily remarried in retirement after a successful career in Silicon Valley. His wife is from Europe, where he worked and lived in the past. They had a baby girl in February. “Life is full of wonder and joy here in our charming Southern California beach town of Encinitas.” E-mail: joesfsb@gmail.com

Daniel C. Weis '87 got together with pledge Brothers **Kent Whitaker '86**, **Tim Gigot '86**, **Tim Fox '86**, and **Fran DeYoung '85** for three days of golf, a few cocktails, and lots of stories back in April at Pawley's Island, S.C. More recently, he met up with Brothers **Chris Lee '86**, **Ted Labus '86**, and **Jim Dora '86** in July for breakfast while visiting family in Indianapolis. E-mail: dan.wcs@comcast.net