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Beta Mu Is Back!

Alumni Return for Beta's Installation Ceremony

As you all know by now, Beta Mu regained its charter at last summer's convention. That celebration was witnessed by just the few who were fortunate enough to attend. So on March 24, we celebrated this achievement with the entire undergraduate community as well as any interested alumni. The formal Installation included a ritual event at the Chapter House followed by a banquet at the Lafayette Country Club. General Fraternity President **Bob Schnese, Wisconsin '83**, attended the event, provided gifts to chapter, and was the keynote speaker. Brandon Cutler, director of Greek Life also joined the event. He spoke highly of the achievements of the Fraternity on campus and indicated that we are a finalist for a "Fraternity of the Year" award at Purdue. We also unveiled a plaque to celebrate the success of the recent capital campaign and to honor those alumni who made

significant gifts. This plaque will be mounted in a prominent location in the Chapter House. We are thankful for the generosity of our alumni.

But for me, the most important piece of the Installation was to have alumni come back, reconnect in the bonds of brotherhood, and join in the celebration. Most notably, I was overwhelmed by the attendance of **George Harmon '49** and **Jack Longstreth '51**, who came back together. That's what it's all about: creating lifelong friendships. And the fact that they've stayed connected and wanted to be a part of recognizing the significance of the event speaks volumes. We were honored to have their presence.

Speaking of alumni, it was announced that **Philip Nelson '56** is one of this year's recipients of the

Oxford Cup. This is the highest honor bestowed upon alumni by the General Fraternity to recognize Betas of achievement. As you may recall, Brother Nelson was highlighted in this newsletter in the winter of 2015 as he was awarded the World Food Prize (the "Nobel Prize" for agriculture). Purdue also had the food science building renamed as the Philip E. Nelson Hall of Food Science in his honor.

Not to be outdone, Beta Mu **Stephen Bechtel Jr. '46** also had a building named after him. The Bechtel Innovation Design Center opened last fall on campus. Having two buildings on campus named after Betas is something of which we should all be proud.

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(1) A group of alumni from the 1980s with Chapter President Conner Selch '20. (2) Regional Chief Andy Thomas, Wisconsin-Oshkosh '97, Leadership Consultant Ethan Bell, Wisconsin-Oshkosh '16, Cary Wood '89, Tom Hoover '82, and Bob Schnese, Wisconsin '83. (3) Refounding Father Griffin Hoover '18 addresses the crowd at Beta Mu's Installation ceremony in March. (4) Past President Cameron Murray '19 at this spring's Installation ceremony. (5) Jack Longstreth '51 and George Harmon '49 at Beta Mu's Installation ceremony.



Conner Selch '20 gives a speech to alumni and friends at Purdue Beta's Installation ceremony.



Steve Hannah '18 and Doug DeVries '21 at Grand Prix practice. Steve is Doug's mentor due to his prior Grand Prix driving experience.

BETA MU WELCOMES 33 NEW MEMBERS THIS SPRING

The spring semester has been very eventful for the Beta Mu Chapter. We are focused on making overall house improvements to generate a more welcoming place that provokes brothers to spend more time at the house together. Just recently we had two new water fountains with filtered water bottle fillers installed to provide cleaner and more easily accessible water in our house.

This semester we initiated our fall 2017 new member class. This class totaled to 33 new members who have proven to be great additions to our Chapter. In addition, we have participated in philanthropic events this semester. Brothers **Jake Irvin '18** and **Bailey Surprenant '20** created an event in which sororities could visit the house and watch the finale of the TV show, *The Bachelor*. All of the proceeds were donated to the ALS Foundation. Following that we had a philanthropy with Chi Omega on April 12 with all proceeds being donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Along with philanthropy, we push our brothers to be actively involved in community service, requesting each member to complete 10 hours per semester. We often have great numbers as a result from this and strive to reach higher numbers each year.

Our chartering ceremony was a great event and we are so thankful for all of the alumni support and help we received. We could not have done it without you! We are also very grateful for the amount of alumni that came out to the event and attended. This is something that means a great deal to all of our members and we appreciate it.



Yours in _kai_,
Conner Selch '20
Chapter President
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Brothers Jake Irvin '18 and Bailey Surprenant '20 at our philanthropy for the ALS Foundation.

SCOTT HAYES '68 BELIEVES BETA IS HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST

Scott Hayes '68 was immediately impressed with Beta Theta Pi during recruitment. From the members he met at the house to the house itself, Beta Mu displayed a sense of high quality.

As Scott progressed as an undergraduate, numerous leadership opportunities arose that gave him a sense of confidence and pride. "I didn't want to fail or bring embarrassment to myself or the Chapter," Scott said. "I was fortunate to have many friends in the house who were also in leadership roles, which helped motivate me to excel and fulfill my responsibilities successfully. There were also many upperclassmen—**Dave Byrne '65**, **Dave Rose '67**, **Dane Tubergen '67**, **John Carroll '67**, **John Mitchell '67**, and **Jeff Latchaw '67**—who I looked up to and who were great leaders. I probably learned more in my three years in the house that I used in life than I learned in my classes. You learn about leadership, organization, and building relationships."

Now as an alumnus, Scott looks back fondly on his time with Beta Mu. "I gained so many friends through Beta Theta Pi. Last year, my pledge class celebrated 50 years of membership and while we haven't stayed extremely close over the years, it was almost as if no time had passed. We picked up right where we left off 50 years ago, which is amazing to me. But when you form strong bonds like this, it's hard to imagine it any other way.

"When I was an undergraduate, the Chapter was in or near the top 10 in grades at Purdue. We were always first or second in intramurals, and had a strong sense of brotherhood; I thought that was a wonderful balance to maintain. I was on the board of the Beta Mu Chapter House Association for 30-some years, during which time I witnessed a cycle—sometimes



we were good, sometimes bad—and when we were bad a few times we were really bad. I wanted to see the Chapter maintain its status as an excellent Chapter of Beta Theta Pi, and for several of those years it did not. When we celebrated Beta Mu's 100th anniversary, the Chapter was once again in the top 10 in grades and placed high in intramurals, so it was nice to see us return to the high level of greatness we should expect of our Chapter. Unfortunately, the Chapter did not maintain that level of accomplishment and it lost its charter. Now Beta Mu has been

recolonized and been reinstalled as a Chapter in good standing. The current crop of young men are doing a commendable job of living up to the standards of our Fraternity. They hold each other accountable and that seems to be the key."

Scott has high praise for Beta, and while it's been both rewarding and frustrating at times, he doesn't regret anything about the time he's spent working with the Chapter, or for that matter, the General Fraternity. The sense of doing good is rewarding, and Scott takes that to heart. "I was blessed to be the emcee of Beta Mu's 75th and 100th anniversary celebrations, and I said at the 100th that Beta Theta Pi's adoption of the Men of Principle initiative is the most important fraternity initiative in existence. Its purpose is to develop young men of principle to live a principled life. Since its re-chartering, Beta Mu appears to be doing just that."

Scott and his wife, Mary Jane, live in New Castle, Indiana. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. Now that Scott has retired from practicing law, he stays active by serving on the boards of several community organizations as well as golfing, keeping up with his photography, and, of course, watching Purdue sports. You can contact Scott at rshmj46@gmail.com.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Conner Selch '20
Martinsville, Ind.

VP of Brotherhood
Zane Smith '19
Fishers, Ind.

VP of Programming
Daniel Livermore '18
Carmel, Ind.

VP of Communications
Kameron Foellinger '20
Fishers, Ind.

VP of Education
Nigel Wilson '19
Anderson, Ind.

VP of Recruitment
Evan Jamieson '21
Okenos, Mich.

VP of Finance
Aditya Jariwala '20
Fishers, Ind.

VP of Risk Management
Matt Hoskins '20
Fishers, Ind.



Welcome, New Members

Curran Adamson
Vincent Alerding
Oliver Balicanta
Robbie Cammalleri
Jeremy Costelle
Anthony Crouthamel
Doug DeVries

Zach Dunlap
Bryan Eckmann
Andrew Etchison
Cooper Feeney
Vinny Ferrari
Cooper Fettes
Jake Hughes

Jacob Irvin
Evan Jamieson
John Kish
Conner Lach
Jonathan Livermore
Peyton Mann
Caophi Nguyen

Shaan Patel
Matthew Quigley
Jeff Radzik
Adam Shumaker
Jack Stickney
Bailey Surprenant
Julian Tessarzyk

Christian Vasquez
Cole Walchle
Cameron Walsh
Cameron Wilson
Leo Wroblewski

ALUMNI UPDATE

MEMORY AND MYSTIC SHRINE

Richard H. Cook '54 entered Our Mystic Shrine on September 25, 2017. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Barbara; daughters, Leslie and Cheryl; three grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

ALUMNI NEWS

Thomas M. Popchey '73 reports that after 20 years of employment with the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc., he retired in December. "Prior to my retirement, the society's board of directors nominated and approved my induction as an honorary member. Over the last 20 years, I served as the society's director of administration and the chief administrative officer of its subsidiary, the IHSN Building Corporation. I look forward to my retirement years, and plan on spending time traveling with my wife, Karen, and watching our grandchildren participate in school activities and sporting events. My Beta experience was instrumental in preparing me for a long and successful career, but it's now time to wind down a bit."



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And as we finish the school year and look forward to the return to campus in the fall, I am reminded of the role of alumni in our recruitment process. If you know of any young men coming to Purdue that you think would be good Betas, please provide their contact information in a timely manner to VP of Recruitment **Evan Jamieson '21** at ejamieson2017@gmail.com, or submit it through our website, purduebeta.com/undergraduate-chapter/recommendations.

Finally, I am reaching out to all alumni to solicit volunteers to join the board. We have a need for general members as well as a treasurer (with training). If you're interested in serving, please contact me.

Yours in _kai_,
Tom Hoover '82
House Corporation President



Page 1: Photos from Beta Mu's Installation Ceremony

Page 2: Chapter Update – 33 New Members

Page 3: Scott Hayes '68 on Why Beta Is Above the Rest

A group of alumni from the 1980s with Chapter President Conner Selch '20.



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