



BETA MU LINK

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

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES, UNPRECEDENTED MEASURES

Closed the House to Keep Our Brothers Safe

Sorry for the delay in getting the spring *Link* newsletter out to everyone. The original update I wrote had to be pulled back for reasons in which everyone is obviously aware. As of writing this in mid-March, we have closed down the house for the rest of the semester. The original plan was to shut down for two weeks after spring break which was consistent with the University's plan for online only classes for that period. The University encouraged students to go home and take classes remotely. Then when the University extended that to the end of the semester, we chose to follow that lead. Technically speaking we could have chosen to keep the house open (dorms are still but residents encouraged to go home) but with the health and safety of our undergraduate members of utmost importance it was an easy decision to close without exception. On behalf of the House Corporation we wish good health to all undergraduate and alumni brothers during these unprecedented times.

On a more positive note, I continue to be encouraged by the progress made here at Beta

Mu—by undergraduates and alumni alike. Most notably, the new member class received an award for the highest new member GPA of all fraternities, sororities and co-ops. That's quite an accomplishment, and we are very proud. The new members are also active on campus in leadership positions, community service hours, and various philanthropy projects.

I am excited to see the continuing engagement from our alumni community. Events such as Homecoming, Conclave, and Stag are continuing to grow in popularity and attendance and I ask brothers to reach out to their friends to encourage participation in the future. We were really disappointed to have to cancel Stag this year—but it will make our next Stag even more exciting. I also see many pledge classes staying connected over the years and organizing reunions which is great to see. We are thankful to all who have donated, and still ask everyone to continue to support.

The house remains in great shape. Recently we purchased a number of new armoires for

the undergraduates use. We also have a great relationship with the Mom's Club and appreciate their support as they helped maintain the property by purchasing items including study room chairs and tables, printers, and window treatments. We are proud to call 150 Littleton one of the finest fraternity houses anywhere.

As always, we continue to look for volunteers to join our board. A couple of members have fulfilled their obligations and are looking to be replaced. If you would like to give back and serve the Chapter, please contact me.

As we look forward to the fall semester, I also ask you to support the recruitment effort by providing recommendations of new students who would make great Betas. Please contact **Carter Cates '22** at cates2@purdue.edu or fill out the referral form at <http://purduebeta.com/undergraduate-chapter/recruitment>.

Yours in _kai_,
Tom Hoover '82
Beta Mu House Corporation President



Beta Mu Takes the High Road During Hard Times

The spring semester started off great at Beta Mu, with a new executive team consisting of eight fine brothers. We kicked off the semester by initiating all new members with a minimum GPA of 3.43: 35 members in total. This is the second highest IFC new member GPA and the fifth-highest new member GPA on campus. On January 25, we held our popular social event, Beta Watch, at the Chapter House. Beta Mu takes special pride in this event because it helps us build and maintain our strong relationships with other organizations on campus.

Our philanthropy chairmen, **Ryan Plummer '22** and **Bryce Randolph '22**, have made great efforts to ensure our philanthropy events are successful this spring. Unfortunately, many of these events have been canceled. However, we were able to host our annual Moms' Day celebration on March 5 with brunch, a silent auction, and bowling.

Our newly elected community service chairman, **Husam Elgaali '22**, has worked to organize different events for the Chapter. On February 9, a group of brothers paired with Phi Mu to make Valentine's Day cards for a local retirement home. Furthermore, we paired with the Boys and Girls Club in Lafayette, as well as Food Finders, to stay involved in the community this year.

With the new circumstances that the world is undergoing, Beta Mu has closed down for the remainder of the semester. It brings great sadness to the Chapter to miss out on the last few months at Purdue for some members. However, we are using all of our resources to try to incorporate as much brotherhood into our lives as we can despite not being together.

Yours in _kai_,
Ethan Pio '22
Chapter President
(973) 722-1862 | epio@purdue.edu



CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Ethan Pio '22 | *Mendham, N.J.*
epio@purdue.edu

Vice President of Brotherhood

Blake Shaffer '22 | *Columbus, Ind.*

Vice President of Programming

Ayrton Birnbaum '22 | *Zionsville, Ind.*

Vice President of Recruitment

Carter Cates '22 | *Noblesville, Ind.*
cates2@purdue.edu

Vice President of Education

Tom Counsell '22 | *New Berlin, Wis.*

Vice President of Risk Management

Brandon Granderson '22 | *Brownsburg, Ind.*

Vice President of Finance

Roger Phaneuf '21 | *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Vice President of Communications

Ben Pugach '22 | *Southlake, Texas*

Brothers Celebrate 25th Anniversary Reunion

Written by **Byron Wheeler '99**

The Beta Mu pledge class of 1994-95 got together on campus for our fraternal 25th reunion last fall. We had great attendance; 77% of the pledge class made it out for the weekend. We rented an Airbnb together off campus and spent most of the weekend just hanging out together, cooking, telling stories, reminiscing, and generally catching up. We also made it to campus for the Illinois game, but took cover from the rain in a bar and then went to the house for more great memories. It was a pleasure to meet many of the fine young men living there today.

Many brothers had not seen each other for 20+ years and it was like no time had passed. Now, all of us are in contact through a WhatsApp thread. It was obvious that weekend that our shared experiences had left us all with an inseparable bond even after all these years! Rat Dog!



From left: Chad Zamarin, Nathan Weis, Byron Wheeler, Justin Noel, Corey Doyne, Harold Vice, Scott Swiger, Neal Lux, Michael Porter, and Harry Channon. Not Pictured: Timothy Schwipps, Robert Gruber, and Adam Smith.

Beta Mu Alumnus Joins Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame



In February, seven former student athletes were inducted into the Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame. Among the 2020 inductee class were three basketball stars, including **Bruce Parkinson '77**. He joins **Jerry Sichting '79** who was a member of the 2012 Hall of Fame class.

Bruce played with the Boilermakers for four years of college, lettering each year. In his career he scored 1,224 points and 14 double-doubles. That career total ranks him eighth in the Big Ten, and he still holds school records for assists in a game, season, and career.

Congratulations, Bruce! Beta Mu is honored to call you a brother.

Building Upon Beta's Principles

Craig Lewis '15 Cherishes Life-Changing Trip to Malawi

When Craig Lewis '15 first arrived in West Lafayette to attend Purdue, he experienced a bit of a culture shock. As a New Jersey native, the Midwest almost felt like foreign land to him. Getting a degree was the top priority for Craig nonetheless, and he wanted to surround himself with people who push him to achieve that and his other goals. The men of Beta Mu answered Craig's call.

"I learned a ton through Beta. I'm a very social person and I've tried to keep that in me," Craig said. "Beta was a great starting point for reaching out and doing things you might not be comfortable with. That led me to being able to do a lot of different things on my own."



One thing that impressed Craig about Beta was the fraternity's commitment to supporting different charities. Craig will never forget representing Beta in Sumo Slam, which benefitted a local children's hospital.

"It was a big competition between the fraternities," Craig said. "I remember going up against one of the guys who was on the football team. It was an all-out battle."

Beta prepared Craig to tackle a variety of challenges in the real world. Craig worked for Skanska USA Building in New York City for about two and a half years, but he couldn't stop thinking about a part of the Purdue experience that he couldn't fulfill. Due to his family's finances being tight, Craig didn't have the opportunity to study abroad in college. Thanks to the solid career he started at Skanska and confidence he gained at Beta, Craig filled that void and then some when he decided to quit his job and travel the world for nearly a year. It was another major culture shock for Craig, but this time it left him wanting more.

After Craig returned to his job with Skanska, he combined his passions for construction, charity, and traveling all into one trip. Craig reached out to Habitat for Humanity about one of their trips to go to Malawi, Africa, in February 2019 to build a home for a single mother and her five children. With the help of his family, coworkers, friends, and Beta brothers, Craig raised more than \$3,000 for the build. He was joined by 15 others from around the U.S. on the life-changing week-and-a-half trip.

"We went to a village in the middle of Malawi and were greeted by almost 1,000 people. They



sang songs for us and led us into the camp because they knew what we had done to get to that point with raising money," Craig said. "The family was living in a mud hut that was wide open to animals coming into it. It was dangerous. Their homes can get washed away. It gave them something that could withstand storms and the animals that are out there."

Craig always enjoys capturing photos of the cities he travels to and made sure to get plenty of them in Malawi. Those photos are worth way more than 1,000 words to him.

"They don't even have mirrors, so they didn't know what they looked like," Craig said. "I'm out there taking all these pictures and showing them to the children and the people who live there and they are cracking up."

Craig can't wait to make another trip like the one to Malawi. He's also planning a trip to a place that no longer feels like foreign land to him. Craig is returning to West Lafayette this year for Homecoming.

You can connect with Craig at cjlewis1992@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING BETA MU!

In the fall we announced a fundraising effort to raise another \$700,000 for our Chapter House and to reduce our long-term debt. To date we have raised nearly \$100,000 for this effort. We wish to thank the following brothers for their generous support, and we hope to add more names to this list this year!

George C. Harmon '49
Howard Harman '51
James B. Lester '56
Clifford A. Dunton '57
John Hoyt '57
James S. Crane '59
John D. McDougle '60
James E. Corliss '61
Michal McClure '62
Robert McLean '62
Thomas Faulkner '63

Phillip L. Zellers '64
John Canterbury '65
Grant H. Martin '67
Richard Bond '68
Jan Deemer '68
R. Scott Hayes '68
Lee Saberson '68
Roger Schenkel '68
Walter Bender '69
David McKinley '69
David Pittman '69

Robert N. St. Jean '69
M. Stephen Huss, M.D. '70
William W. Reid '70
Michael A. Tucker '70
Thomas Work '70
Kevin Comer '71
Stephen Dexter '71
Geoffrey J. Hibner '71
William P. Johnson '71
Richard A. Roski '71
Michael S. Kady '72

William M. Irish '74
Paul S. Petticrew '76
Bruce Parkinson '78
Richard J. Bond '79
Thomas H. Lupfer '79
Thomas P. Heed '80
Robert Toth '81
Thomas Hoover '82
John Miller '82
Kevin Raywood '82
David P. Todd '82

William S. Tippet '83
John C. Kestler '85
Thomas Brazina '86
James E. Dora Jr. '86
Raymond Benton '94
Dan Breier '94
Gregory Ogle '94
John C. Tyripin '94
Andrew C. Bauer '95
Ryan Kratz '95
David Nagel '95

Jeff Steurer '02
Sean M. Klinger '17
Griffin W. Hoover '18

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TODAY!**
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btppucapital](http://tinyurl.com/btppucapital)



BETA MU LINK



The Beta Mu basketball team won the Intramural "A" league championship on March 11. They defeated Pi Kappa Theta 49-38 to claim the victory. The game was held at Mackey Arena, attended by all the brothers.

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

Address Service Requested



Website - www.purduebeta.com **Facebook** - Beta Theta Pi – Purdue University **Twitter** - @Purdue_Beta

Memory and Our Mystic Shrine

Carl Plochman '46 passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on November 30, 2019. Carl was with his family company, Plochman's Mustard, where he rose to CEO and had a hand in developing the brand's distinctive yellow plastic barrel packaging—said to be one of the earliest successful squeeze containers for condiments. Carl's studies at Purdue were interrupted by flight training with the Navy. He remained stateside through the end of the war, but his flight training sparked a love of flying. He owned several airplanes and continued to fly for pleasure, including to and from his family's Wisconsin cottage, until the 1980s. Carl retired in 1989 and turned to civic work, including the C.G. Jung Center in Evanston, Ill. He was a serious amateur photographer, with a home darkroom and a lab for developing his film. He often took photos for the Winnetka Presbyterian Church.

Paul Baumgartner '49 passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on January 17, 2019, after living a fulfilling life. He lived one month short of age 95. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family and Beta brothers.

Charles L. "Chuck" Bavis '70, of Auburn, Indiana, passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine September 14, 2019. Chuck graduated from Garrett High School in 1966, where he helped the Railroaders' basketball team win three sectional titles and was named to the Indiana All-Star Team. He continued his basketball career at Purdue. As a junior, he and the Boilermakers finished runners-up in the NCAA Tournament Championship. In 2010, Chuck was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Chuck worked for more than 40 years in the awards industry, both as a successful entrepreneur and sales representative. He is survived by his wife, Carol Lee, two sons and daughters-in-law, and a granddaughter.

Shervin Sadighian '92 passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on January 22, 2020. Shervin was a hardworking and determined man and even more so a loving and caring husband and father. As a member of Beta Theta Pi, he made many fond friends and formed even more fond memories. He found success in a career with AT&T where he served as an assistant vice president under supply chain management. He found even more success in a dedicated relationship with childhood friend, high school prom date, and later wife Cindy. Together they had two sons, Jack (21) and Ryan (20), who now both study at the University of Georgia. He loved his family more than anything in the world and worked hard to guarantee they never wanted or struggled.

Cory Sanderson '94 passed on to Memory and Our Mystic Shrine on December 10, 2019, in his home surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his loving wife, Dawn; their sons, Ethan and Wyatt; his parents, Ken and Jackie; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews. Cory graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering and worked for Koepfer America as a sales rep. He loved traveling, meeting new people, eating and cooking, and he especially enjoyed other cultures and food while traveling. Later in life, he found a passion for martial arts and earned his black belt in November 2014, just months before his diagnosis of ALS. Over the course of the last five years of his life with ALS, he reconnected his bonds of brotherhood with his Beta Theta Pi brothers. Even though Cory had ALS and no longer had a voice, he stayed virtually connected, all while watching his favorite sports teams, especially his alma mater. Cory's fraternity brothers have been a great source of joy and happiness amidst the suffering he had with this disease. Cory was most importantly a loving and ever so patient father and husband, and he will be deeply missed.