



Beta Sigma Psi

Alpha Alumni Newsletter

2023 Homecoming
October 20-22, 2023
Illini vs Wisconsin

Alumni News



Ralph Folkerts, Alpha Chapter, National President from 1980 to 1982.



Ralph C. Folkerts, 82, of Cumming, GA, passed away on February 28, 2023. He was a member of the fall pledge class of 1959. Fraternity brother, Jim Blankenburg, introduced Ralph to Jim's sister, Shirley; they married on October 31, 1964. Ralph graduated from the University of Illinois with studies in Mathematics and Finance. He spent the majority of his career working for State Farm in Springfield, IL where he excelled as an insurance agent, carrying an ever-present smile and a positive attitude everywhere he went. Ralph was always active in the Lutheran community, serving in key roles of congregations he worshiped in and holding many offices in Beta Sigma Psi National Lutheran Fraternity, including President of the fraternity. Ralph was instrumental in helping to create the Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation. He was also the director of the Beta

Sigma Psi (Housing) Foundation and served as the Vice-Chairman of the foundation for many years. He received the Lienemann Award—the fraternity’s highest honor—for his many years of service and lifelong dedication to the fraternity.

Noel K. Manhart, 68, of Strasburg, IL, passed away on February 17, 2023. He was a member of the spring pledge class of 1973. Noel began working at the Manhart Dairy Farm and retired as the Manager of Mail List Services at World Color Press in Effingham, IL. Noel was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Strasburg, IL, and served as the caretaker for St. Paul Cemetery for many years. He enjoyed singing in the Coles County Barbershop Chorus, bird watching, mushroom hunting, storytelling, listening to all types of music and watching the Chicago Cubs and Fighting Illini.

Richard L Hochleutner, 79, passed away on December 1, 2022. He was a member of the spring pledge class of 1963. Richard played football at the University of Illinois and, in his senior year, played in the 1964 Rose Bowl in which the Illini defeated the University of Washington. Richard spent his career working in the automotive parts industry; he was National Sales Manager for Schumacher Electric Corporation and Carrand International and later established his own agency, RH Marketing, in 1994, which served Southern California and Baja California (Mexico). Richard was, above all, a family man, a loving husband and wonderful father, and served as a cubmaster and little league coach.

Peter W. Sauer PhD, 76, of Urbana, IL, passed away on December 27, 2022. He was a member of Eta Chapter, graduating from the University of Missouri at Rolla in 1969 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. From 1969 to 1973, he was an electrical engineer for the United States Air Force (he eventually reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel). He then obtained his master’s and doctoral degrees in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University in 1974 and 1977 respectively. After graduation, Pete joined the faculty at the University of Illinois to teach courses and direct research on power systems and electric machines. He served as Academic Advisor for Alpha chapter in the late 70s and 80s. He retired in January of 2020 after over forty years of service to the university. At the time of his passing, Pete was the Grainger Chair Emeritus in Electrical Engineering at the University of Illinois, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and a holder of the IEEE Lifetime Achievement Award. He also held various offices at Trinity Lutheran Church in Urbana.

Congratulations are in order for...

Tom and Lorelee Holzhauser for getting married on April 29th!

Jacob and Sarah Hanselman for getting married on May 6th!

Phil and Meghan Hietter for the birth of their daughter, Gracie Hietter!

Gabe and Megan Wascher for the birth of their son, Albert Wascher!

Kevin and Jenna Bunte for the birth of their son, Olen Bunte!

Travis and August Schiess for the birth of their daughter, Scout Schiess!

Nick Schwingbeck and Kaelin Walsh for getting engaged!

Please pass on any additional fraternity news (obituaries, weddings, etc.) to Nathaniel Stoll at alpha.publications@betasigmapi.org.

Homecoming 2023 Alumni Director Report *(report written by Avery Clark)*

I'm happy to say that planning for Homecoming 2023 is underway! The University has announced dates for Homecoming 2023, and we are excited to host everyone on the **weekend of October 20-22**. Our Fighting Illini are slated to take on the Wisconsin Badgers (time Saturday TBD). Further details regarding itinerary & accommodations to be included with our next newsletter.



Oct 21 (Sat)

VS Wisconsin

Homecoming

At the time of writing, we are a week removed from Founders Day. Almost 100 years ago, a group of intrepid young men at the University of Illinois set into motion something that would grow into an organization few, if any, could begin to imagine! Over the years, our house has served as the launch pad for many likeminded young men to go into the world and achieve their goals. A century of anything is no small feat! As we approach our centennial, I encourage us to reflect on our own experiences in the house. Through hardship to the stars, our hearts firmly united have carried us forward. With Homecoming 2023 approaching, I look forward to celebrating 100 years of Beta Sigma Psi on the campus where it all began!

I close this report by asking a favor of everyone reading this. I invite you to reach out to one of your brothers. It could be someone that you see on a regular basis, or someone that you've fallen out of touch with. At school, it was our brothers who helped us through our endeavors, challenged us to improve, and celebrated our triumphs. Though we charted our own courses after graduation, let us remember that we are brothers for all time.

Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing everyone this fall!

2023 College Preparation Seminar *(report written by Josh Baggett)*

On Saturday, March 25th, we hosted our annual College Preparation Seminar for 19 incoming UIUC students who were selected as finalists for the Alumni Lutheran Leadership Scholarship. The full day of events included tours of the chapter house led by active chapter members, final scholarship interviews with Alumni VP Joe Baldwin, personalized campus tours specific to major fields of study led by actives and alumni, and a speaker symposium led by Pastor Schuermann of University Lutheran, Fraternity Affairs advisor Andrew Hohn, and the UIUC Counseling Center – each speaking on ways for incoming students to prepare for the beginning of their college careers.

Overall, the event was a great success and an amazing opportunity to begin the recruitment efforts for Fall 2023 by connecting the active chapter with 19 men of character who will be coming to campus this fall. I want to specially thank the alumni who graciously volunteered their time and knowledge to assist with the event: Alex Johnson, Joe Baldwin, Nathaniel Stoll, Avery Clark, Tilo Lamken, Clayton Vought, Jeff Roesler, and Dan Block. I also want to commend the active members for their enthusiastic efforts and engagements as hosts of the 19 scholarship finalists and their families. I'm hopeful that our event will bolster and strengthen their recruitment efforts.

If you have interest in assisting with the 2024 College Preparation Seminar or the Alumni Lutheran Leadership Scholarship, please email me (UIUCscholarship@betasigmepsi.org).



Open Alumni Board Positions *(report written by Nick Schwingbeck)*

These are the current open alumni board positions that have been vacant since the last elections that took place over Homecoming Weekend 2022. These alumni board positions are critical to fill so that we can have a full board and ensure that not only our own Alumni Board roles and responsibilities are being executed to our highest potential but also that our relationship with the Active chapter is as strong as possible. Please see below for the basic responsibilities and if you have questions about them/are interested in pursuing them, please reach out to Nick Schwingbeck via email/phone at nschwingbeck@gmail.com, 224-622-0328.

Alumni Advisor Position

- He shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Active Chapter
- He shall meet with officers and membership of the Active Chapter to coordinate the programs and activities of both the Alumni and Active Chapters
- Alumni Advisor shall attend all alumni executive board meetings and one active chapter meeting per month
 - If unable to attend active chapter meetings, he should schedule meetings with the active president and obtain chapter minutes from the recording secretary
- He shall inform the Alumni Internal Affairs committee of all graduating members of the active chapter each chapter and review
- He shall review duties, roles and responsibilities will all newly elected active chapter officers each semester after elections.

Active Spotlight *(report written by Avery Clark)*

The alumni chapter would like to give a shoutout to active member, Nicholas Talley, on being named the “Illinois IFC Fraternity Man of the Month!” Nic is currently a sophomore majoring in Social Psychology. He has been serving this semester as the Brotherhood chairman for the chapter and recently was elected as the chapter president.

Nice job, Nic! Keep up the good work!



Fraternity
Man of the Month



MAY

NICHOLAS TALLEY

2023 Summer Alumni Event *(report written by Joe Baldwin)*

Mark your calendars! **This year’s Alpha Chapter “Summer Alumni Event” will be a golf outing at Lake of the Woods Golf Course in Mahomet, Illinois on Saturday, June 24th, 2023.** The event will be a scramble-style event with 4-man teams. The cost of the event is \$300 per team or \$75/person which includes 18 holes of golf, cart rental and a catered dinner after the event in the course clubhouse. **The deadline to register for the event is June 8th, 2023.**

(If you would like to play in the event and do not have a team—please don’t hesitate to sign up anyway and we will place you on a team the day of the event.) We plan on getting started at 12pm with the first tee time, with registration starting at 11am. No outside alcohol allowed. Attached in the newsletter is a flyer containing all the details of the event and can be used as a registration form. Please make checks payable to “Beta Sigma Psi” or you can send digital payment to @Beta-Sigs-Illinois-Alumni through Venmo. Registration forms or sign-ups can be sent to me or any Board member, and my contact information is found below and also on the registration form. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Talk to your alumni buddies and dust off your golf clubs—we hope to see you there!



Joe Baldwin

Alumni Vice President

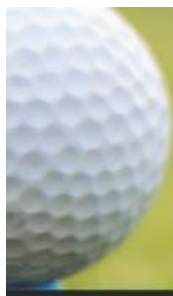
Email: Jobaldwin2014@gmail.com

Phone: 618-406-0284

Address:

3500 County Road 329

Palmyra, MO 63461



BΣΨ

ALPHA ALUMNI CHAPTER

- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Drive
- Post-Round Dinner Buffet
- No Outside Alcohol Allowed

June 24, 2023

Registration: 11:00 AM

Tee-Off: 12:00 PM

\$300 per Team: 4-Man Scramble

\$75 per Person - Register Solo to be Placed on a Team

Register by June 8

Alpha Alumni Chapter Golf Scramble

Lake of the Woods Golf Course
405 N Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, IL

Team Captain: _____

Email: _____

List All Team Members:

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

To Complete Registration:

1. Mail Registration form and payment to Joe Baldwin at 3500 County Road 329, Palmyra, MO 63461
 2. Email Registration form to joebaldwin2014@gmail.com and Venmo payment to @Beta-Sigs-Illinois-Alumni
- Make checks to Beta Sigma Psi and Label Venmos as "2023 Golf"
- No outside alcohol or coolers permitted

Graduating Seniors – Alpha Chapter *(report written by Nick Schwingbeck)*

Congratulations to the following members of the active chapter who are graduating this spring. An amazing accomplishment for all these gentlemen; good luck to all of them in their future endeavors, and we can't wait to welcome them into the alumni chapter this upcoming Homecoming in the fall:



Andrew An *(Information Systems)*



Jack Brennan *(ETMAS)*



Ben Dirst *(Architecture)*



Aaron Koller *(Eng. Physics)*



Mitch McCullar *(English)*



Don Powell *(English)*



David Wu *(English)*



Alumni Spotlight *(report written by Nick Schwingbeck)*

Matt Johnson

Year Graduated: 2010

Undergrad Major: Music Education

Post-grad (in-progress): MA in Music Education from THE Ohio State University, 2015

Hometown: Champaign, IL

Current Location: Elmhurst, IL

Current Employment: Director of Bands, James Hart Junior High School, Homewood, IL

Family: Kate Johnson (m. 2012) – one-time Gold Rose Sweetheart

Church I'm attending: Grace Lutheran in La Grange

Recently I've Been Into: I've been an avid runner since high school, and just ran in the 127th Boston Marathon. It was my 2nd time running Boston and 12th marathon overall. What makes Boston special is that it's the one marathon where nearly all of the 30k participants have to qualify (which took me 6 years to do!), and usually around 500k fans show up to line the whole 26.2 mile course and cheer you on along the way. It's held on a holiday weekend in Massachusetts and truly is the main event going on in town that weekend; in addition, it owns the top spot in the running world as the oldest and most prestigious marathon. I was thrilled to get to do it again, and made some adjustments in my training this year to shave 3.5 minutes off of my 2022 finishing time (clocking in at 3:01:19). I ran a new personal best of 2:57:42 in Columbus, Ohio last year, and am signed up to run the Chicago Marathon in October.



My wife (who also has 2 music degrees) and I still try to play saxophone together & with friends when we can, and during the pandemic (when everyone was looking for a new hobby!) I worked on refreshing my German language skills that had deteriorated after high school. This culminated in an amazing trip to Germany last summer where we got to visit a lot of cool places and immerse in the culture (and of course, speak a lot of German).

Most fond memory of Beta Sig: It's tough to pick just one, so some of the top memories were our summer trips to Kane County Cougars games (including a kingly BBQ feast at Alex Johnson's house), playing pong and/or video games in the basement, Super Bowl parties and barbecues at the house, and our brief but glorious foray into intramural broomball.

If you can recall, why did you join Beta Sig: I'm a legacy and as a kid enjoyed meeting some of my dad's fraternity brothers (my godfather is a Beta Sig too!), so when it was finally time to rush I was already leaning toward joining. I don't remember exactly what Jason Braun's final recruiting sales pitch was, but it was compelling enough to seal the deal!

Why should young men join Beta Sig: Beta Sig provides a home away from home and a great base to center yourself during your years on campus. Especially at a huge institution like those in the Big Ten, having a smaller, more tightly-knit community of peers that share in your college experiences is vitally important, and one made up of brothers who share a similar religious conviction is a great place to start.

Who is someone you'd like to reconnect with/who should we spotlight next?: Alex Johnson, Wade Holcomb and Jason Braun

How can people reconnect with you?: Facebook or e-mail are great!
matt.d.johnson.05@gmail.com

Thank you, Dale Durfey! *(report written by Nathaniel Stoll)*

You can tell someone has been doing something for a long time when you ask him, "So tell me, Dale... how long have you been the Publications Director?" and his response is, "Well... to be honest... I don't know. I lost track." Here's Dale's story.

"I was, what you would call, a late bloomer. In the house, I had only one office, Financial Secretary. After graduation, I would always come back for the Homecoming weekend. After a while, I was Homecoming Director for a term or two. And then after another while, I was Publications Director for the recent long period."

When asked about his experience as the man behind the Alpha Newsletter, Dale said, "It was fun keeping up with so many Beta Sigs throughout the years and getting occasional calls from older Alums with bits of information or to ask a question. For each edition, I enjoyed receiving the various articles and shaping them so that the Newsletter would look as professional as possible."

While it's unknown to Dale how long he served as the publications director, he does happen to know how many years he served as the Village Engineer of Oak Brook, IL: 35 ½.

"After graduation I worked for a small consulting civil engineering firm for 2 years. Then I changed jobs and became a civil engineer for the Village of Oak Brook," Dale said. "Coincidentally, I was interviewed and hired for both positions by the same person, Chuck Littleton. In 1972, he was the VP of the consulting firm and came to Champaign for interviews. In



1974, he changed jobs and became the Village Engineer at Oak Brook. He then left Oak Brook in 1978 and I became the Village Engineer, which I held until retirement in 2009.”

Given his involvement in the fraternity and his accomplishments in his career—among many other things—Dale was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013.

Just as he retired from his professional career in 2009, though, last fall, Dale decided to retire from his Beta Sig career as the Publications Director and pass the torch—or should we say, the stacks and stacks of newsletters he’s written—onto the next guy.

“As with all things, time passes and technology got way beyond me. It was time for someone younger to take over.”

Now, Dale spends time walking, reading, going to the family cabin in Wisconsin, boating, woodworking, and visiting kids and grandkids. He also attends the “Old Farts Lunch” which he helped spearhead with other Beta Sigs in the western suburbs of Chicago which, “by the way, we meet the first Thursday of each month at various restaurants in Schaumburg, IL if anyone is interested.”

But when asked what his favorite part of retirement was, Dale had no hesitation: “Naps after lunch!” I’d say you’ve earned a few of those, Dale!

Please join me in thanking Dale for his many years of service as the publications director and wishing him the best in his second phase of retirement!

Contact Us: Alumni Board

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Alumni Advisor

[Help needed!]

Please contact Nick Schwingbeck
if interested in volunteering.

Distinguished Alumnus Award

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is chosen each year at the Spring Business Meeting. The Executive Board is always interested in obtaining names of alumni worthy of the title of "Distinguished Alumnus." Please read through the criteria below and think of someone who falls into one or more of the categories listed. Nominees may have done something recently or in the past that sets them apart from their peers.

Distinguished Alumnus Judging Criteria:

- 1. Activity in Beta Sigma Psi as an active or alumnus
- 2. Activity in the Community (school, clubs, volunteer, etc.)
- 3. Activity in Church (offices, committee, etc.)
- 4. Awards (professional, civic, etc.)
- 5. Outstanding personal achievement
- 6. Any other characteristic qualifying nominee as a Distinguished Alumnus

Distinguished Alumnus Nomination Form

Name of Nominee _____

Person Nominating _____

Address _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

Describe why the person you are nominating deserves this award.
(Attach additional sheet if necessary)

Return Form To (or fill out via Google Form; see link: <https://forms.gle/SaywS3J3yvc6Qwx48>):

Nick Schwingbeck
3704 N. Janssen Ave Apt #2
Chicago, IL 60613

