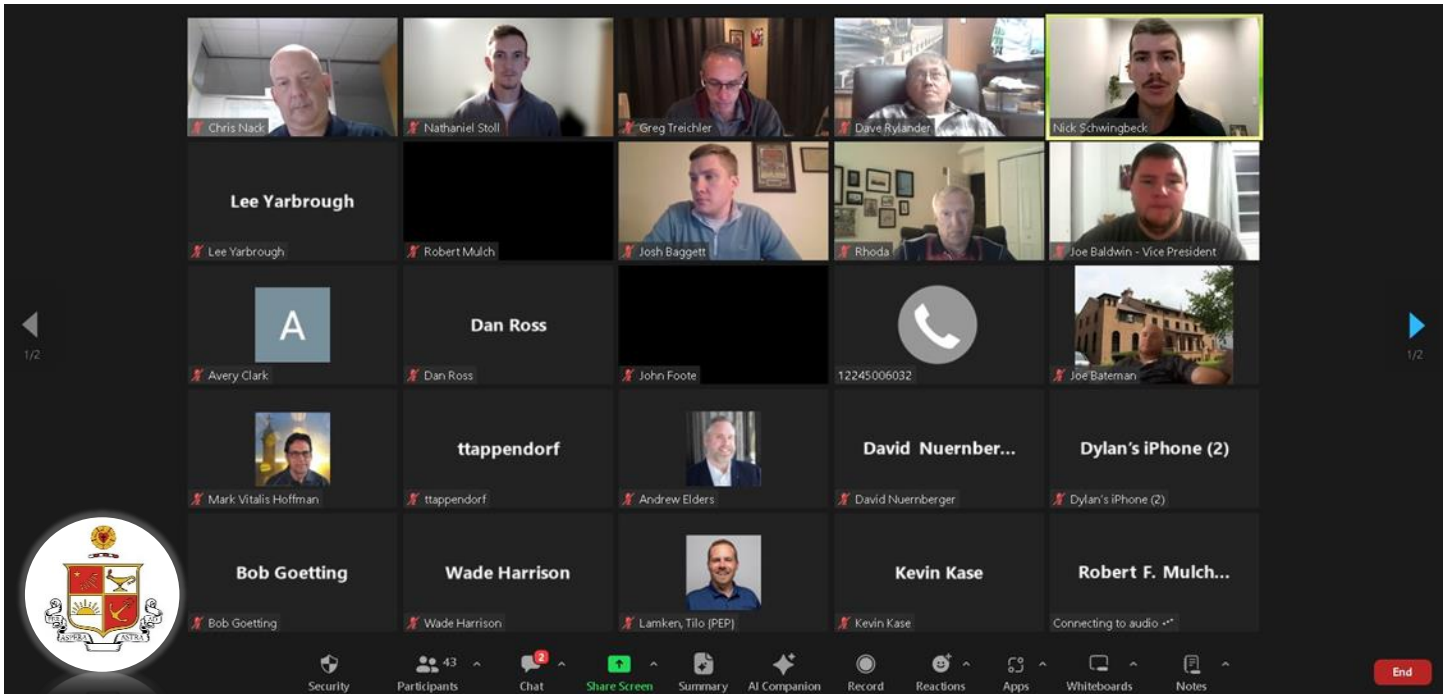




# Beta Sigma Psi Alpha Alumni Newsletter

2024 Homecoming  
September 13-15, 2024  
Illini vs. Central Michigan

## Fraternity Status, Financial Update *(report written by Greg Treichler and Nathaniel Stoll)*



Over the last three years, the Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Psi has survived the COVID pandemic, welcomed new brothers to the fraternity, established new connections on campus, made positive impacts in the community, and provided a place for young men to live and grow spiritually, scholastically, and socially. With this being said, the last three years have also not been easy and have brought challenges to our chapter—some of which, we are still battling today.

On Tuesday, November 14, 2023, the alumni board called an open meeting to discuss the current state of the fraternity. Active membership is low and financial numbers look concerning. On the financial side of things, missing rent payments from the active chapter coupled with substantial property tax increases has led to a significant drop in chapter funds over the last few years. As it stands today, we are **\$11,670** in the red for our chapter's general fund. In 2022, the Beta Sigma Psi Foundation granted Alpha Chapter a \$53,750 loan to cover operating expenses, but repayment of the loan starts with **\$14,000 due by January 28, 2025 followed by \$14,000 due by July 28, 2025**.

### Financial Status December 2023

Assets	<i>(individual)</i>	<i>(total)</i>
General Fund	(\$11,670.01)	
Renovation Donation Fund	\$29,115.00	
Memorial Plaque Fund	\$7,256.79	
Tie Fund	(\$986.00)	
		<b>\$23,715.78</b>
Liabilities	<i>(individual)</i>	<i>(total)</i>
Housing Foundation Loan	(\$53,750.00)	
		<b>(\$53,750.00)</b>
Net Equity		<i>(total)</i>
		<b>(\$30,034.22)</b>

With this being said, 2024 will be a pivotal year for our fraternity. If we do not make a positive step in the right direction within the next year, we may be facing the tough conversation of selling our house. But things can also take a turn for the better. In one semester, with one pledge class, the fraternity's forecast for the future can drastically change. Just as quickly as fraternities can crumble, so too can they quickly go from seemingly nothing to something remarkable.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, we had a great turnout with 40+ alumni who joined the call, and since then, we've had additional brothers reach out. We've heard stories of brothers checking in with each other, finding ways to reconnect and meet up, and talk fraternity "shop" again. We've had brothers step up and take vacant board positions. We've had brothers volunteer for much-needed committees. We've had brothers take on action items in areas we, as board members, lack expertise. And we've had brothers generously provide immediate financial relief. We still have a long way to go. But the wheels of progress are starting to turn. And it's great to see.

January is where our 2024 journey officially begins. We are hosting a call on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024 @ 7:00 PM CST**, and we hope you can join. We want you to be there. Quite frankly, we need you there. We have updates to provide since the last meeting. We want your input on fraternity affairs. And we want to start converting ideas into tangible actions—starting first quarter of 2024. Please attend if you can.

**Title:** 2024 Kick-Off Alumni Meeting – Alpha Chapter – Beta Sigma Psi

**Time:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 @ 7:00 PM CST

**Meeting ID:** 833 5901 1716

**Passcode:** 1925

**Dial-In Option:** +1 309-205-3325

**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83359011716?pwd=Zjc2MjdRaFZMSk1nWVpYeEpPVVVJZz09>



## 2023 Donors and Donations (report written by Greg Treichler and Nathaniel Stoll)

We want to thank the following brothers who generously donated in 2023:

*----- Founders' Society Level -----*

**Timothy Brown  
Kevin Donoho  
Andrew Elders**

*----- Concordia Club Level -----*

**Don Bienfang  
Robert Bloechle  
Joel Kahling  
Chris Nack**

*----- Wittenberg Club Level -----*

**John Bernhardt  
Joseph Doninger  
Del Karmeier  
Michael Kesselmayr  
Ardell Nease  
Nathaniel Stoll  
Mark Toledano  
Gregory Wyss**

*----- Patron Level -----*

**Lloyd Karmeier**

*----- Member Level -----*

**Josh Baggett  
Kery Wienke**

Member = \$30+ / Patron = \$50+ / Wittenberg = \$100+ / Concordia = \$500+ | Founders' Society = \$1000+

### Donation Methods

There are two ways to donate to Alpha Alumni Chapter. One method is for those who want to make a donation that may be tax-deductible (see your tax advisor) through a pledge and payment to the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the Urbana-Champaign community. The other method is a direct payment to The Alpha Alumni Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi. The option of making payments in installments is available for both methods.

### Directly to Beta Sigma Psi

Donations sent directly to the fraternity allow us to receive the full donation that you make. If the possibility of a tax deduction is not a priority or necessary for you, donating directly to the fraternity offers the biggest reward because no fees are assessed. You may send payments to the fraternity in two ways:

1. Send a check payable to “The Alpha Alumni Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi” to:
  - a. Greg Treichler, 118 Birch Lane, St. Charles, IL 60175
2. Venmo your donation to @Beta-Sigs-Illinois-Alumni
  - a. <https://venmo.com/u/Beta-Sigs-Illinois-Alumni>

#### Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing (“SPGH”)

Your donation may be tax deductible through the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing. The alumni chapter has received major gifts from alumni through SPGH for previous improvements on the house. All donations made to SPGH will be subject to a service fee before being transmitted to the fraternity.

1. Send a check payable to the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing (SPGH) to:
  - a. P.O. Box 2765, Champaign, IL 61825-2765
  - b. Specify “Beta Sigma Psi” on the memo line of your check

The Society was formed to aid in the preservation of historically and architecturally significant Greek houses, to work to have additional houses listed on the National Register of Historic Places, to fund historical research/writing projects, and to conduct educational open houses and seminars to educate the public about these Greek-affiliated structures.

To aid in preservation and rehabilitation of the chapter houses, the Society will provide grants for:

- Health and safety code requirements that do not result in the loss of character
- Major structural rehabilitation or restoration
- Exterior rehabilitation or restoration
- Interior rehabilitation or restoration

All donations made to the Society may be deducted as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Direct gifts of appreciated securities, beneficiary designations under wills and/or living trusts, and other similar gifts are welcome. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to the Society are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

#### Company Matching

Always check with your company to see if they will match a charitable donation to a 501(c)(3) organization. It’s an easy way to double what you plan on donating. Most companies have a maximum per year, so we encourage you to donate in both 2023 and 2024 to maximize the benefit.

#### **Beta Sig Memorial Plaque & Fund** *(report written by Greg Treichler)*

The Memorial Fund, which is funded from donations for the Memorial Plaque which is displayed at the Chapter House, has had over \$9,000 donated to it, and will be used for scholarships for the Active members of the fraternity. As a reminder, a brother’s name can be added to the Plaque with a minimum donation of \$50.

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

I want to start this letter by thanking everyone who attended Homecoming 2023! Despite the outcome of the game, this year proved to be another great weekend of brotherhood and fellowship. As always, it was great to catch up with everyone!

The Friday night social once again proved to be a great way to get the weekend started. Brothers converged upon 706 W. Ohio throughout the course of the night. Alum and actives played several rounds of Jungle Pong, old friends connected, and new connections were forged!

During the morning meeting, the regular coffee and pastries were served as we continued to discuss the ongoing chapter business and issues our organization faces (follow-up meeting was held in November, please reach out to myself or any other board member, we'd love to get you involved!).

For our pre-game tailgate, we enjoyed bratwurst, snacks, Papa Del's pizza, and a wide selection of beverages. This year, our game attendance was through the roof! Over 30 Beta Sigs (and family) packed into the Horseshoe, surrounded by fellow Illini fans.

For the banquet this year, we decided to try something a bit different. Dinner was hosted at Biaggi's Ristorante. While we had to make a couple changes to the program, the changes to the program were generally well received. After dinner, we re-convened at Collective Pour in downtown Champaign where libations continued well into the night.

I want to thank everyone who attended and helped me with getting this event off the ground! With two Homecomings under my belt, I'm looking forward to the future. Planning for 2024 will begin shortly, anyone wanting to participate is welcome to join my subcommittee. To help with efforts, I've thrown together a quick survey to gauge interest in different activities we do over the weekend. I'd greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time! We would also welcome any additional feedback to the evening.

### Link to feedback survey:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciGPHpkzfnk\\_5fRiulS130oDWGWwIQI8aAgf3DF\\_VnRw0t1g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciGPHpkzfnk_5fRiulS130oDWGWwIQI8aAgf3DF_VnRw0t1g/viewform?usp=sf_link)



For [more photos](#):

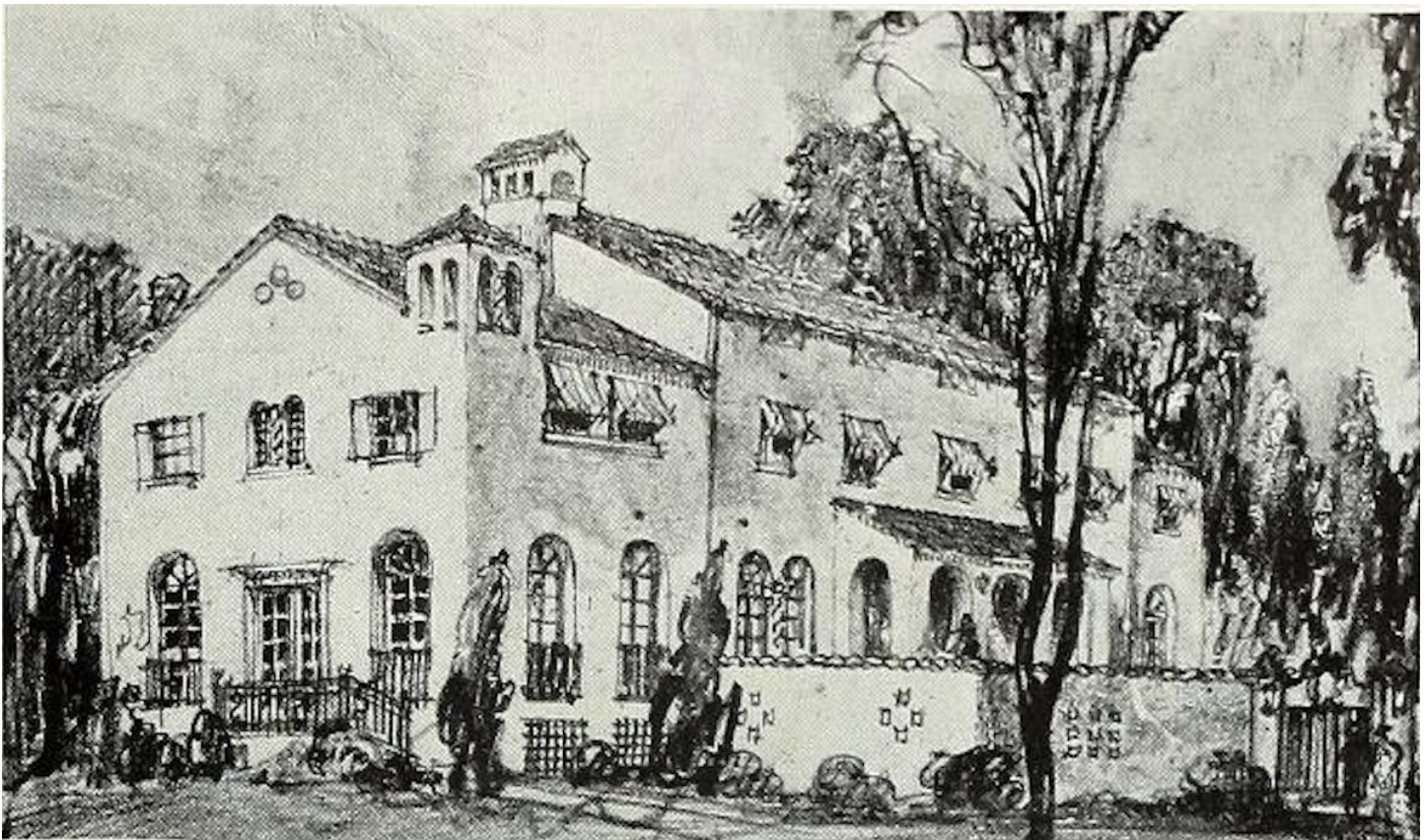


**2024 Homecoming weekend starts Friday, SEPTEMBER 13th (much earlier than normal, check back for updates).** Mark your calendars!

## **706 W. Ohio – A Brief History** *(report written by Andrew Elders)*

Did you know that our chapter house will be a century old in a few years? And while the place (which I once heard described as “the Taco Bell next to DZs”) wasn’t built for the Beta Sigs, our Alpha Chapter has called it home since 1970 – more than half of the house’s life. Looking forward to another century of the old homeplace on Ohio Street and Beta Sig’s occupancy of it, I’d like to share the house’s early history with you.

On November 29, 1927, *The Daily Illini* reported that two building permits totaling \$100,000 were issued for the 700 block of Ohio Street: one for Theta Upsilon sorority (actually 606 W. Ohio), and another for Phi Mu sorority at 706 W. Ohio. While Theta Upsilon was to be in the “English style” and built of stone, the Phi Mu house would be “Spanish style” and built of brick. Ground was broken on November 12 and the house was expected to be completed by September 1928.

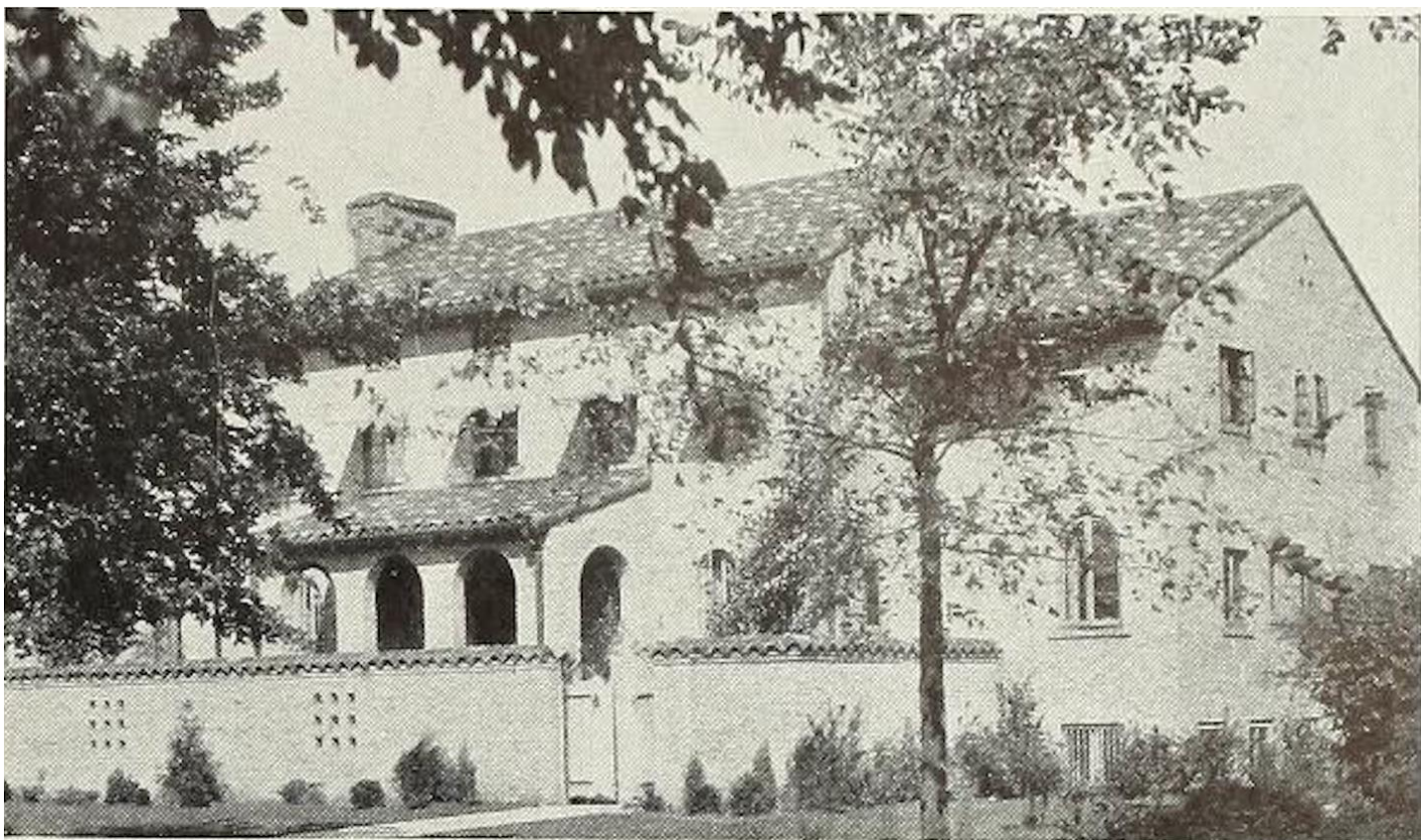


*Image taken from the 1929 Illio*

When ready for occupancy for the 1928-1929 school year, the new Phi Mu house made a bold statement on campus thanks to its unusual Spanish Eclectic architectural style. The house was one of seven newly built sorority houses on campus that year, and the only one not in a French- or English-derived style. In honor of the house’s unique architecture, the Phi Mus christened their new home “Villa Cordova”. At the close of the house’s first school year of occupancy, *The Daily Illini* published an article entitled “Phi Mu Sorority Nears First Year In New Dwelling,” in which the house was deemed “attractively different.” What we now know as The Moat was described as being a “typical Spanish patio” enclosed by a wall and an iron grilled gate. The configuration of The Moat as originally built was different from what we know today; the entrance was originally located at the

southeast corner of the wall where the planter is, and the stairs ran against the house to the east side of the porch. The Chapter Room was noted as a “small drawing room” and the first floor bedroom at the house’s southeast corner with en-suite bath was originally the house mother’s room. The heavily-textured plaster walls were finished in two tones, and an iron grilled gate ran across the foyer, separating the first floor bedroom hall and stairs from the entrance, presumably to protect the ladies’ virtue. The basement was occupied by a chapter room, the dining room, boiler room, and a servants’ room. The whole house was furnished by Marshall Field & Company of Chicago, the finest department store in the Midwest.

The house was built by Crowl Construction of Madison, WI, and the work was locally supervised by UIUC architecture professor William Arthur Foster. Crowl Construction was responsible for most of the Greek housing development on campus in the 1920s; the firm provided design services, construction, and even financing for Greek organizations building chapter houses at the time. In fact, the other two chapter houses in our block (long known as Alpha Chi Sigma and Delts) were also Crowl projects.



*Image taken from the 1936 Illio*

The Phi Mus occupied the house until 1941, when the local chapter went inactive. Through the war years and after, the house served as independent housing for young women, going by the names of La Treinta and Lowell Hall. The construction of the Lincoln Avenue Residences at the western end of Ohio Street ended the need for small residential housing accommodation for coeds, and the house was sold to a newly-chartered fraternity chapter known as Phi Sigma Delta in 1948.

The Phi Sigma Deltas were 28 newly-initiated members when they purchased 706. Founded at Columbia University in 1909 as a fellowship of Jewish men, the University of Illinois (Alpha Gamma) was the fraternity's 27<sup>th</sup> chapter. The Phi Sig Delts can claim the most interesting resident of 706 W. Ohio as one of their own: in November 1951, the chapter purchased a three-month-old lioness cub named Winnie from the Cleveland Municipal Zoo. The chapter arranged for a diet of horsemeat and milk for little Winnie, and a permanent cage was built for her. Plans were made to have her out of her cage for daily strolls around the house (her claws were clipped to prevent damage), with a goal to be able to walk her around campus in time. Winnie was soon taken to a grammar school in Urbana for a lecture by chapter member and lion-trainer Mike Posen and she was taken on weekly strolls through the Library and surrounding area, making the national news in the process. How this arrangement worked as Winnie grew to full size isn't clear, but it appears that she had moved on to another home by 1956. At one point, the Phi Sig Delts had a skunk named Suzie Natasha for their mascot; unfortunately, Suzie Natasha was eventually lost on campus. The Phi Sig Delts remained at 706 W. Ohio until 1969, when the national fraternity merged into Zeta Beta Tau.



**PHI SIGMA DELTA'S** new pet lioness cub gazes happily at her surroundings while members Maynard "Dietch" Seidmon, Art Hoit and Burt Katz make sure that their new friend is happy. The Phi Sig Delts purchased the cub from the Cleveland Municipal Zoo, and have high hopes for training the animal so that it will be able to walk on campus. The question of the moment is who is more frightened of who, the lion or the members. (Daily Illini photo by Jules Altenberg.)

Image taken from *The Daily Illini*, November 10, 1951



Alpha Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi purchased our house from Phi Sigma Delta for the 1969-1970 school year. It was at that time that The Moat was remodeled to its current form, lowering the front wall by about a foot and shifting the entrance to the center, and adding the current central porch steps. Other changes to the exterior of the house have been the addition of the fire escape on the east end of the second-floor hall (taking the place of a pair of arched windows like those at the west end of the hall) and raising the rear wall of the dorm for greater headroom. Interior changes, as we know, have been piecemeal and of various levels of quality.

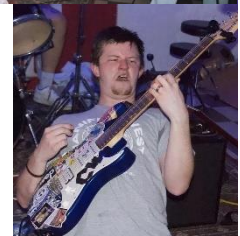
As the new Building Director, I am excited by the opportunity to apply my expertise to our old college home. Professionally, I work in the historic preservation field, specializing in the preservation of old buildings. I plan to visit the chapter house in January 2024 to assess maintenance and upkeep needs and to kick off a spring cleaning. If you'd like to assist, please feel free to email me at [aeillini@gmail.com](mailto:aeillini@gmail.com). I will provide an update of the physical state of the house in a future newsletter.

## **Alumni News**

Congratulations to brother Phil Hietter on becoming a licensed Architect in the state of Illinois!

## **Active Chapter News**

Since April of 2023, Alpha Chapter has hosted a series of philanthropy house show events at the chapter house at 706 West Ohio. House shows, appropriately named, involve a series of local bands typically playing in a living room of a residential house, and the practice is a cultural staple in Historic Urbana. Beta Sigs became the first fraternity to break into the field—and have since established themselves as one of the leading "DIY venues" for local music on campus—while also providing all the benefits to local charity. Since April 13th, Alpha chapter has hosted a total of 5 house shows for philanthropy and raised nearly \$5,000. Proceeds have benefited Habitat for Humanity as well as the Champaign-Urbana Rape Advocacy and Center for Education Services (RACES). The success of the house shows will continue into Spring, with the recent Executive Board approval for 3 more shows in the upcoming semester.



Sophomore Christopher Commiso, a Sophomore majoring in Lyric Theatre from Chicago, Illinois, recently distinguished himself in a lead role in the recent Krannert production of "Wild Party". Christopher was the only underclassman represented out of 8 lead roles in the production, an achievement rarely seen. While working full time as an engaged vocal and performing arts student, Christopher has additionally served during the Fall 2023 semester as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the active chapter. Following his production over the week of November 6th, he was honored as Brother of the Week—his 2<sup>nd</sup> time earning the distinction in this semester. It was recently announced that he will once again be performing a lead role in the Lyric Theatre Department's upcoming April performance.

Junior Nicholas Talley, a Social Psychology major from Auburn, Illinois, recently distinguished himself and the fraternity during the Fall 2023 Army ROTC Field Training Exercise. The 5-day training event occurred in Sparta, Illinois, and the Junior class was tested and drilled rigorously in tactics, fieldcraft, marksmanship, and leadership in preparation for commissioning. Out of the 23 strong Army ROTC junior class, Cadet Nicholas Talley was the only one to earn an "E" for Excellent- the highest grade attainable by US Army Cadet Command standards. Nicholas was honored as Brother of the Week for his distinction- 1 of 3 times he has been so honored this semester. Nicholas has previously served as Recruitment Chairman and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and is currently serving as President of the active chapter.



Over the weekend of November 3rd-5th, Alpha Chapter was pleased to welcome the Fall 2023 Eta Chapter (Missouri S&T) Pledge Class to Urbana for their pledge class walkout. Eta Chapter pledges were able to participate and enjoy a Friday night social with Phi Sigma Rho Sorority, and a Saturday night Philanthropy House Show with the active chapter. On Sunday morning, the Alpha Chapter along with a contingent of the Eta Chapter Pledges enjoyed a Sunday service at University Lutheran Church, before their return back to Rolla, Missouri.

## **Alumni Spotlight – \*New Board Member\* – Dan Ross**

**Dan Ross – Alpha Alumni President**

Year Graduated: 1994

Undergrad Major: Finance

Post-grad: MBA from DePaul University in 2000

Hometown: Rockford, IL

Current Location: Rockton, IL

Current Employment: President of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois

Family: Married Stacy Ross, a former Phi Beta Chi at Illinois, 25 years ago. I have two kids, Lee, who is a senior in Music Education at Valparaiso University and Sam who is a pre-law sophomore at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

Church I'm attending: Christ Lutheran, Rockford



**Recently I've Been Into:** Since covid, I have been spending as much time outside as possible. We have a cabin where we spend a lot of time fishing, boating and off-roading. I have also taken up competitive shooting and try and get out as often as possible to shoot trap, skeet, and sporting clays. I also travel as often as I can to both kids' schools to attend the activities they are doing.

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:** That is a tough one as I loved every minute of my time there. The things I enjoyed the most were some of the smaller moments like sing thing on a Tuesday night, half glasses during meals, dorm warfare, and the occasional hot tub in the back parking lot. Hearing Bungle in the Jungle on the radio earlier this week, it reminded me of some pretty fond memories of filling the moat with water, parking the tour bus on the lawn and covering the house with a camo net. If I was forced to pick one memory though, it would be the week after I graduated. We had a large group of seniors that year, and most of us stuck around after the campus cleared out because we didn't want to go. We did things like pile in the back of Sowers' pickup truck to take pictures all over campus in our caps and gowns, including a few photos that were not meant to be seen publicly, watched Dazed and Confused on the lawn with the lounge couches, and slowly said goodbye as one-by-one each of us headed off to the real world. I would have to say, more than anything, that I always felt accepted at the house.

**If you can recall, why did you join Beta Sig:** I came from a very small private high school, with a graduating class of under 50. Truthfully, I struggled quite a bit my freshman year with the size of the campus and feeling like I could not find my niche. I tried formal rush and found it to not be the right thing for me, and then I received a call from the person who ultimately became my pledge dad. I went over for dinner on a Sunday night, and it immediately felt right. I can honestly say that I am not sure I would have completed my time at Illinois had it not been for Beta Sigs.

**Why should young men join Beta Sig:** Hopefully what I said in the last two sections above explains it. I feel that being a part of the house gives someone the tools they need to be successful in school, and more importantly, successful in life. While I do not see many of my brothers regularly, I have had a number of reminders over the past 30 years that we will always be there for each other. I would wish that for everyone.

**Who is someone you'd like to reconnect with/who should we spotlight next?:** I have lost complete contact with my two pledge sons, Justin Vickers and Mike Geske. Not sure if we know how to get a hold of either of them, but it would be great to see what they are up to.

**How can people reconnect with you?:** Dan Ross on Facebook, email is [dross@cfnil.org](mailto:dross@cfnil.org) and cell is 815-601-0854.

## **Alumni Spotlight – \*New Board Member\* – Dave Wu**

**Dave Wu – Alpha Alumni Advisor**

Year Graduated: 2023

Undergrad Major: English Literature

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Current Location: Irving Park, Chicago

Family: Just me, my mom, and my two brothers.

Church I'm attending: Irving Park Lutheran



**Recently I've Been Into:** I moved back to the city this August after graduation and have been job hunting since. With all that free time, I've mostly been cooking new dishes and exploring the city. Most days I'll apply for jobs, respond to emails, and then take the train to a random spot and explore the area. Additionally, my younger brother started high school so I've been his "high school guidance counselor" in a way. Been helping him with his volleyball skills and essay writing mostly (and slowly persuading him to come join the Illini Family). Lastly, I've also been catching up on all the movies and shows that I've been wanting to watch for a while, a recent favorite is "They Cloned Tyrone," a science fiction thriller that's on Netflix.

**Most fond memory of Beta Sig:** Definitely the night that all the actives found themselves in the lounge of the house doing nothing, and through the boredom we got the idea to watch this YouTube channel called "Marble Race." For the next five hours or so, we proceeded to watch marble races with each of us choosing a marble to cheer for. The magic of turning an uneventful Saturday night into an emotional rollercoaster with such a simple idea is something unique to the Beta Sigs and only achievable with a close brotherly bond.

**If you can recall, why did you join Beta Sig:** I was a junior at the time and most of my friends had graduated. I was looking for a new community to join outside of academics, and after a couple months I got close with some of the other juniors in the fraternity. I never really entertained the idea of joining Greek life, but after spending time with the guys I found myself really drawn to the organization. Despite getting a late bid, everyone helped me catch up on the lessons; it never felt as if I was just a 'part of the system' but a welcomed addition to the diverse Beta Sig family.

**Why should young men join Beta Sig:** College can be some of the most volatile yet important years of one's developing life; having a community that values academics, social life, and tradition gives structure to the madness that can come out of university. Furthermore, the active chapter is tight-knit, diverse, and always on the move in terms of getting involved on campus, it's the perfect balance of college experiences for young men to blossom in every aspect of life.

**Who is someone you'd like to reconnect with/who should we spotlight next:** The dynamic duo, Ben Dirst and Donovan Powell, they graduated this year as well.

**How can people reconnect with you?:** Facebook, Instagram, email, phone, I got it all. Dave Wu, 708-557-2511, [davidwu772@yahoo.com](mailto:davidwu772@yahoo.com), @davewu772.

## **Alumni Spotlight – \*New Board Member\* – Andrew Elders**

**Andrew Elders – Alpha Alumni Building & Facilities Director**

Year Graduated: 2001

Undergrad Major: Business Administration

Hometown: Galesburg, IL

Current Location: Oak Park, IL

Current Employment: Director of Historic Tax Credits at Ryan LLC



**Recently I've Been Into:** Trying to find a hobby that somehow isn't architecture-related or architecture-adjacent. Since attending graduate school in 2016 and pivoting my career from finance to my previous avocation of architectural history and historic preservation, I've begun to feel a bit one-dimensional! My work, my volunteer activities, and now my involvement with the Alumni Board are all related to historic architecture in some way or another...maybe it's time to take up badminton or something...

**Most fond memory of Beta Sig:** Boy, that's a toughy – a lot of the individual stories are pretty tacky to share, but honestly some of my favorite memories are of non-events, like watching Space Ghost Coast to Coast in the tube room with Nate Woolery and Eric Peterson, playing Mario Kart and listening to stupid music, periodically convincing guys to bail on Friday afternoon classes to go to Marketplace Mall and then Fazoli's and a movie, that kind of stuff.

**If you can recall, why did you join Beta Sig:** I was recruited into the house by a high school friend, Ben Wells. I wanted to be involved in Greek life but not in a party-animal type way, and the Beta Sigs were just normal, relaxed guys. The neighborhood was quiet, the house was interesting, and I didn't feel like I had to be "cooler" than I felt to try to fit in.

**Why should young men join Beta Sig:** Greek life is so much more than partying and questionable activities – it's a great system in which to gain leadership skills, form friendships, and experience a way of life that only exists in the collegiate context. I found Beta Sig to be a perfect vehicle for that – a group of well-meaning, accepting, and supportive guys to experience life with.

**Who is someone you'd like to reconnect with/who should we spotlight next:** Well, I'm still connected with Dave Josephitis, and he's certainly made an interesting career and life for himself, so I think he'd be a fascinating spotlight.

**How can people reconnect with you?** Feel free to email me at [aeillini@gmail.com](mailto:aeillini@gmail.com).

## **Outgoing President Report** *(report written by Nick Schwingbeck)*

For those who were unable to attend Homecoming a few months ago, you may not know I recently transitioned the role of Alumni Board President to Dan Ross and am moving into an advisory role on the board. With that, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect on my time serving Beta Sigma Psi on the board, specifically as President.



It only seems like yesterday that I took over as President in the Fall of 2019 and along the way, Beta Sigma Psi has given me even more than I thought was possible. Though we are going through a difficult time as many know, I truly believe there is still so much passion for this fraternity amongst both Alumni and Active members which I've been lucky enough to witness daily for the last four years. The Board has worked tirelessly and put in countless hours to dig our way out of this financial and recruitment hole we've found ourselves in. Without them, I don't know what I would have done and I've truly had the pleasure of working alongside some amazing men. On the Active side, I've witnessed growth amongst a generation of Beta Sigs who care about the values of the fraternity and are working each day to ensure that we continue as the founding chapter of this fraternity into the future. Though it has not been easy, this group of Alumni and Actives have not wavered, and I can tell they are doing everything they can to keep the traditions of the fraternity alive.

It's because of this that it was such a difficult decision for me to take a step back in terms of my leadership this year; I care deeply about this fraternity and don't want to see it disappear from the U of I campus. As a college student, I joined Beta Sigma Psi with the hopes of building lifelong friendships and having the opportunity to grow as a man; I never could have imagined how this fraternity would impact me along the way. The guys I've met over the past 10 years have become my closest friends, and I think I've become a better person because of the leadership roles I've held as an Active and Alumnus.

Looking to the future, I know there are Alumni and Actives alike who are doing everything in their power to keep this fraternity alive, and I know that this chapter will be in good hands under Dan's leadership. In the short time I've known him, his passion, knowledge, and life experience don't go unnoticed; I know he will make a great impact in his time as President.

As for me, I won't be going far as I will continue to serve the board as past president, attend future social events, and as always, cheer on the Illini each year (passionately to say the least haha) at football and basketball games. I'll close by emphasizing my passion and love for this fraternity, and I look forward to assisting with the perpetuation of Beta Sigma Psi long into the future.

Per Aspera Ad Astra  
*Nick Schwingbeck*  
*PC Fall '13*

# Contact Us: Alumni Board

## **President**

Dan Ross  
81 Freedlund Drive  
Rockton, IL 61072  
815-601-0854  
[dross@cfnil.org](mailto:dross@cfnil.org)

## **Recruitment Chairman**

Mike Schwingbeck  
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# 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)

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Return Form To (or fill out via Google Form; see link: <https://forms.gle/SaywS3J3yvc6Qwx48>):  
Dan Ross  
81 Freedlund Drive  
Rockton, IL 61072





