



# Beta Sigma Psi

## Alpha Alumni Newsletter

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

### Alpha Chapter Update – “It’s Go Time” *(report written by Dan Ross)*

*Many of you* have been following the challenges faced by our Fraternity over the past several months by participating in our zoom meetings, reading the newsletters, and reaching out by email, text, and phone calls. Thank you to all of you for your prayers, financial support, words of encouragement and elbow grease when needed. For those of you that are new to what the chapter has been facing, here is a brief recap...

Going into Covid, the house was experiencing significant success, with robust membership and growing cash reserves. Since the time of Covid, our house as well as many other chapters on campus, have seen a significant decline in membership. The last numbers I heard had the entire fraternity system down by a third since 2020. The reduced membership has had a very material negative impact on the finances of both the active and alumni chapters. It is anticipated that, barring a robust 2024/25 recruitment effort, we could be facing insolvency at the end of the next school year. There have been several efforts underway to stave off this situation, including:



1. **Scholarships for Recruitment** – The active and alumni chapters have been working diligently to plan for the upcoming scholarship efforts. There are several enhancements made for the onsite scholarship weekend, including several moms of active members’ attending to help facilitate discussions with the parents of perspective members and focused presentations on life in the dorms versus life in the house. Thanks to Josh Baggett and the actives for helping to plan this important event for our future. In addition, a group of brothers, led by our Housing Director, Andrew Elders, just returned from a work weekend to help make the house look its best for the visit. A plan is being finalized to increase the number and size of scholarships available to this group of recruits as an additional incentive to get them to join. I am pleased to report that the actives also scheduled a recruit only weekend for the weekend after the scholarship visits, to help give the recruits a better flavor for fraternity life.

2. **Home Improvements** – In addition to the work done to prep the house for scholarship weekend, Andrew Elders has been working with various alums and actives to curate a list of improvements that need to be made to the house, both long term and short term. The house is our asset, and we must do everything we can to care for it.
3. **Charitable Funding** – We have been working with the national chapter on ways to access and collect additional funds for the house. We have a scholarship fund which will be used to augment the items in number 1 above, but we also can use those dollars for repairs and maintenance to the academic components of the chapter house. We will be making some announcements on ways to give in a tax favorable manner.
4. **Communications** – Members of our alumni board, along with a team of alumni, have been working on finding our lost brethren. The more people we can keep in the know, the more good we can do to keep our fraternity alive.

So, this is make or break time for us, and I am asking for your help. There are a number of things you can do, but I will ask you, first and foremost, to pray for our fraternity. If you are like me, I have been woefully uninvolved in something that was such an important part of my life and where I am today. I cannot stand the thought of it not being around for generations to come. Second, please be on the lookout for any potential recruits. If there are young men you know that are already at Illinois or are planning on attending, please reach out to our Recruitment Chair, Mike Schwingbeck, and give him their info. Third, an operating gift would be greatly appreciated. These gifts are not tax deductible, but they are extremely helpful. If you are interested, please contact Greg Treichler.

I remain very optimistic about this fall. There is a tremendous amount of energy around fall recruitment for both the actives and alumni, and I truly believe we are giving it everything we can. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at 815-601-0854.

Fraternally,  
Dan Ross

## Alumni News



Brother ***Eldon T. Ahner***, 89, of New Baden, IL passed away on April 28, 2024. Eldon attended the U of I where he pursued studies in Floriculture and was a member of Beta Sigma Psi. In 1999, Eldon retired as the fourth-generation owner of Ahner Florist in New Baden. He loved growing geraniums in clay pots. He enjoyed watching anything grow. He loved cutting grass and working in his stained glass studio in the greenhouse. He served for many years as a school bus driver for the Mascoutah School District, and was still serving as an aide at the time of this death. He volunteered his time at the Mascoutah Senior Center, serving two days a week. When asked, he would say that his favorite color was plaid. Eldon was one of the twenty-five charter members of Alpha Chapter in 1955.



Brother ***Dean A. Voelker***, 60, passed away on March 11, 2024 in Mishawaka, IN. He graduated in 1982 from Metro-East Lutheran High School before attending the University of Illinois - Champaign, where he earned a degree in Architecture in 1986 and was a member of the Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity. Dean worked a variety of jobs throughout his lifetime: selling books door-to-door in college, managing a Rent-A-Center, becoming a financial advisor for Edwards Jones, and finally a Certified Senior Advisor and independent business owner selling health insurance plans. He was an avid sports fan – especially Illini football and basketball. More than anything, Dean believed in

perseverance and living life to the fullest. "The harder you work, the luckier you get." was the motivational poster that hung above his desk; and embroidered on his black belt was Isaiah 40:31 which reads, "But those who wait on the Lord, shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

## **2024 Scholarship Weekend** *(report written by Josh Baggett)*



***On Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>***, we hosted the annual **College Preparation Seminar and Christian Leadership Scholarship** interviews with **19 incoming UIUC freshmen** and 33 parents in attendance. The full day event included a meet and greet networking opportunity for the incoming students to connect with active chapter members and alumni, tours of the chapter house were given to show all of the amenities of Beta Sig, and each scholarship candidate was interviewed by the alumni scholarship committee. Active chapter members and alumni also lead the incoming students on personalized campus tours showcasing points of interest, study spots, and buildings/classrooms that will be relevant to freshman year and specific major paths - one tour focused on business/LAS majors and one tour focused on Engineering majors. The event concluded back at the chapter house with a short presentation by Pastor Schuermann of University Lutheran on his on-campus ministry and partnership with Alpha Chapter. This year's event established many solid connections between the active chapter members and incoming freshmen who the actives are optimistic will lead to membership bids and housing contract commitments.

The alumni scholarship aims to announce the recipient of the \$3000 Christian Leadership Scholarship on May 16th. The alumni scholarship committee would like to extend thanks to the active chapter for their preparation of the house and their enthusiastic engagement. Also special thanks to the mothers of Johnny Powell and Nic Talley—Karen Powell and Lisa Talley—who provided a parental perspective on Beta Sig and Alpha alumni—Alex Johnson, Nick Schwingbeck, Joe Baldwin, Erik Steinbrenner, Nathaniel Stoll, Avery Clark, Dave Wu, and

Michael Bengston—who shared their experiences in the house with the students and parents. Through everyone’s efforts on scholarship weekend—in addition to an overnight open house hosted by the actives—**5 quality freshmen have been added to the in-house roster for the Fall 2024 semester!** This is a **record year for our scholarship**, and with additional PNMs interested in joining, the active chapter is looking to carry this momentum into Fall Rush 2024.

If you're interested in helping with next year's scholarship committee, please reach out to **Josh Baggett** ([UIUCscholarship@betasigmapi.org](mailto:UIUCscholarship@betasigmapi.org)).

## Alumni Golf Outing 🏌️ *Saturday, June 8th* (report written by Joe Baldwin)

***The 2024 Summer Alumni Event*** is right around the corner! This year's event will once again be a 4-man golf scramble event at **Lake of the Woods Golf Course** in **Mahomet, IL** on **Saturday, June 8th**. Tee times start at 11:30am and will include 18 holes, cart rental, and BBQ dinner courtesy of Project 47 Smokehouse. The cost is \$300/team, or you can register solo for \$75 and be placed on a team. **Please fill out the attached registration form (page 12) with your team members’ information and return to me no later than Monday, May 27th, 2024 (Memorial Day).** Myself and those who played last year all had a great time and enjoyed the day on the greens and catching up with fellow brothers. This is a great chance to reach out to your old roommates, pledge brothers, or any brothers you haven’t seen in a while. Dust off the golf clubs and get your team together now! All ages and experience levels are welcome. We hope to see you there!



## Strength in Numbers – Alumni Database (report written by Nathaniel Stoll)



***The cheapest, fastest, easiest way*** for us to communicate information to the greater Alpha Alumni Chapter is... **via email**. And unfortunately... **our database is missing a lot of email addresses**... Following the Summer 2023 Alpha Alumni newsletter, our alumni database showed ~630 living members on record. Out of those members, only 243 had emails associated with them. **That represents only 38% of our alumni membership.**

At our homecoming meeting last year, we, as a board, were discussing the possibility of having to sell the house. Thinking about the number of men—literally, hundreds and multiple generations of Beta Sigs—who lived at 706 W Ohio St and how many memories are stored in that house, we felt the need to broaden the audience of our conversation to include as many alums as possible. Thus, we recognized a need to improve our alumni database.

So, **starting in November 2023, an effort was kicked off** to start filling the gaps in our database. First, a spreadsheet was sent out to all alumni (for whom we had email addresses) listing all brothers who were missing email address info. From this, 13 emails were added. Then, starting in January 2024, we gained some volunteering horsepower. A number of alumni—including, but not limited to, Bill Weber, Del Karmerier, Lloyd Karmerier, Alex Johnson, and board members Dan Ross, Andrew Elders, Joe Baldwin, and Josh Baggett—reached out to brothers from different decades. In conjunction with this, brothers Joe Bateman and Mark Toledano and board member

Avery Clark attended weekly meetings to assist with tracking progress and coming up with ideas to further optimize our efforts. Invitations to connect were made on social media. Emails were sent out. Text messages were sent out. Phone calls were made. And as an overall result, **113 emails were added and corrections/updates were made to over 180 members' info!** An awesome accomplishment from the team! Fantastic work!

While great progress has been made over the last six months, there are **brothers we have not yet reached**. If you have emails for any of the brothers below, please let us know! You can add their info to this [Google spreadsheet](#). Or send a note to Nathaniel Stoll (me) ([alpha.publications@betasigmapi.org](mailto:alpha.publications@betasigmapi.org); 217-273-3393), and I will get their info entered.

↓ 1954 ↓

KUNSTMAN, Earl

↓ 1955 ↓

COCHRAN, Prof Robert

DECKERT, William

DODGE, John

KARNER, Ernest

LEVERENCE, Bill

MONSELL, Robert

RUST, Dale

SCARBOURGH, Clarence

STEPHAN, Robert A.

STOECKEL, Loren

VON DACH, Richard

↓ 1956 ↓

STRAUSS, Carl

↓ 1957 ↓

BOLLINGER, Ronald

JACKE, Robert

JUNKER, Darrel D.

JUNKER, Ron

LARSON, Orville

METZGER, Donald

SCHEITER, David

↓ 1959 ↓

BITTER, Robert, P.

EHRHARDT, Ron

JENSEN, Lee

TWIETMEYER, Dale Arthur

WELGE, Michael

↓ 1960 ↓

CARLSON, Prof Neil

KERMER, Gary

SOMMERFELD, Evan E.

↓ 1961 ↓

BLANKENBURG, James

BROCKSCHMIDT, William

DOERING, Dave

MANHEIM, Glen

PUNG, James

SCHOENBECK, Donald R.

↓ 1962 ↓

BLISCHKE, Steven A.

DAHL, Robert

HATLAND, Ray

HAUGEN, Robert A.

JAEGER, Albert F.W.

PENROD, Orville R.

REIERSON, Robert

↓ 1963 ↓

ERNST, Terry O.

GOEBEL, Arthur Roger

HAINES, Ron

JENSEN, Chris

↓ 1964 ↓

ASCHBACHER, Dave

BENSON, Robert

COORDES, Duane

JOHNSON, Dr Ronald

MILAM, Larry

MUELLER, Frederick

QUIRSFELD, John

RUSSELL, William

SHEPELTMAN, Keith D.

STAMBURGER, Donald

SWANSON, John

↓ 1965 ↓

ANIBALLI, Douglas

BLEICH, Allan

BORCHERS, Jerald

ELLIOTT, Howard

KEISER, Allen

LEVERENZ, Richard

MONKE, Paul R.

MUELLER, Peter

TREBELHORN, Thomas

↓ 1966 ↓

FOSS, Richard

FOSS, William

JAMESON, Bruce

KRAUSE, Randall

WEEKE, Donald

↓ 1967 ↓

KLOCKAU, Chris

NYSTROM, Paul

QUIRSFELD, Fred

RUNGE, Tedd

TAMMEN, Dale

↓ 1968 ↓

EDEN, Keith

GLADE, David

IJAMS, Carl

JOHNSON, Ned

RETT, Joel

SLUPPY, Franklin

TREBELHORN, Richard

VANDRE, Lawrence

↓ 1969 ↓

EDEN, Craig

KAHLER, Lawrence

KRUEGER, Terry

MADISON, Larry

MARKWORTH, Norm

NESLER, Dave

O'BRIEN, Terry

SANDAGER, Mark

WITHROW, James

↓ 1970 ↓

CHROMEK, James

HEYEN, Larry

LENZ, Robert

WOLFE, David

↓ 1971 ↓

AUL, Jerry

BECK, James

BROWNE, Lynne

CLUVER, Dennis

DAVIS, Prof James

HARTWEG, David

KRESCA, Dr James

PAXSON, William

REDING, Robert A.

SCHRAIDT, James

↓ 1972 ↓

CHRISTIANSEN, John

CRALL, Dale

LILLICH, Ron J.

PETERSON, Brian

SMITH, Dr David

WENDLER, Bruce

↓ 1973 ↓

BECCUE, Dale

BOYCE, Kevin

BROSIUS, Arthur

FISCHER, Carl

GUSTAFSON, Dave

HUGUS, Jeff

KRUSE, Glenn

LARABEE-ZIERATH, David

PEARSON, Gregg

SORENSEN, Craig

↓ 1974 ↓

BERGMAN, John

BORNEMANN, Mark

BUHNER, John

CHAPMAN, Michael

GOLDAMMER, Guy

MEVES, Mark

↓ 1975 ↓

BADE, John

FUNKE, Gary

OLSON, Richard

↓ 1976 ↓

JUSTISON, David

KUHN, Steve

SHOUP, Jeff

↓ 1977 ↓

HOTTON, Bob

↓ 1978 ↓

KAEDING, Konrad

MUELLER, Kevin

SCHUMACHER, Paul

WETZEL, Lyle

↓ 1979 ↓

DANKERT, Dave

DOUBEK, Dave

MEISINGER, Greg

SCHERPELZ, Jim

SHOWERS, Gary A.

ZIERATH, Paul

↓ 1980 ↓

BLACK, Kevin

FOSTER, Jim

HECHT, Warren

HULEN, Ron

METZLER, Don

RESCINO, Paul

↓ 1981 ↓

ANDREW, James P.

CURTIS, William

ELSNER, Steve

ESCH, Thomas L.

HUNT, Andrew K.

JOHNSON, Eric

McMILLAN, Kevin

↓ 1982 ↓

BADDELEY, Matthew

BERG, Otto

OLSON, Barry  
 DURAND, James B.  
 GJERDE, Timothy L.  
 HOMANN, Mark  
 NELSON, Jim  
 NORBY, William P.  
 SHIMEL, Scott A.  
 ↓ 1983 ↓  
 BERGMANN, Curtis  
 BERTELS, Paul J.  
 BEVIS, Doug  
 FRANSEN, Brent  
 HANDLEY, Curt  
 JUNKER, Craig  
 PITMAN, Jim  
 WATT, Jim  
 YODER, Brian  
 ZACHGO, Mark  
 ↓ 1984 ↓  
 BRUHL, Jay  
 FOURNIER, Timothy J.  
 HOMANN, Matthew P.  
 HUWE, Tim  
 JACKY, William A.  
 KOENIG, Kurt  
 KRAUSE, Paul W.  
 LANGHOLZ, Paul  
 MEES, Erich O.  
 MESSMAN, Stephen P.  
 MIESSLER, Bryan  
 SCHNEIDER, Ralf G.  
 ↓ 1985 ↓  
 JONES, John W.  
 KOPPLIN, Douglas  
 LANGE, Randolph  
 MCREYNOLDS, Kevin  
 MYERS, Jeffrey  
 PHARES, Douglas

SHUP, Franklin  
 RESCINO, Mark  
 WARGO, John P.  
 ↓ 1986 ↓  
 BROWN, Josh  
 FLIEGE, Roger  
 FLONES, Randy  
 KLINGBEIL, Jesse A.  
 SCHEWE, Paul  
 SCHUPP, Rick  
 ↓ 1987 ↓  
 FERRO, Tim  
 HADEN, George  
 KLAVON, William  
 MALCHAREK, Paul  
 MAYER, Michael  
 NIERMANN, Andrew  
 PFEIFFER, Dohn  
 SOUFAL, Jeffrey  
 WARGO, Andy  
 ↓ 1988 ↓  
 DAVIS, Brad  
 TYNAN, John  
 WIESE, David  
 ↓ 1989 ↓  
 BERG, Matt  
 STUCKEMEYER, Troy  
 ↓ 1990 ↓  
 BROD, Greg  
 FLUHRER, Jeff  
 HAASE, Ron  
 HARTMAN, Chris  
 KELLER, Dan  
 RADER, Kevin  
 RUWE, Chad  
 ↓ 1991 ↓  
 COLLIS, Gary  
 GRAF, Oliver

TIMM, Gene  
 ↓ 1992 ↓  
 BEELER, Michael  
 BIERE, Matthew  
 BOYD, Jason  
 GESKE, Michael  
 VICKERS, Justin  
 ↓ 1993 ↓  
 DUKEMAN, Jeffrey  
 GOETTING, Tim  
 NIERMANN, Matthew  
 PEUGH, Brett  
 RADER, Kent  
 RUSSELL, Kyle  
 ↓ 1994 ↓  
 HAASE, David  
 MEROD, Robert  
 RUWE, Brad  
 ↓ 1995 ↓  
 CAMPBELL, David  
 WELLS, Benjamin  
 ↓ 1996 ↓  
 OSTERMEIER, Todd  
 ↓ 1997 ↓  
 GAITHER, Jarrod  
 KAMPLAIN, Greg  
 ↓ 1998 ↓  
 MURPHY, Timothy  
 SUTTON, Wayne  
 ↓ 1999 ↓  
 HUNTER, Brandon  
 ↓ 2000 ↓  
 MAGELITZ, John  
 PINKERTON, Ken  
 SHAW, Brian  
 ↓ 2001 ↓  
 WILSON, Mark

DIERKING, Mark A.  
 ↓ 2002 ↓  
 JEPSON, Matthew  
 SLAZNIK, Tim  
 ZOBRIST, Brandon  
 ↓ 2003 ↓  
 PETZOLD, Bryan  
 ↓ 2006 ↓  
 THOMPSON, Thomas  
 ↓ 2007 ↓  
 KNILANDS, Timothy  
 ↓ 2009 ↓  
 RUCKMAN, Brett  
 ↓ 2018 ↓  
 KOTHE, Jonathan  
 ↓ UNKNOWN ↓  
 ALEXANDER, Robert  
 ALLEN, Jake  
 CAMPBELL, David  
 CLUVER, Dennis  
 EHLERS, Verne  
 FITZJARROLD, Justin  
 GEHRKE, Gilbert W.  
 JACKSON, David  
 JANSSEN, Steve  
 KROMJ, Edgar H.  
 LOUSTARI, Hugo  
 MANDEL, Timothy  
 NICKEL, Rev Joel  
 RAKOW, Walter M.  
 RUNGE, Clyde  
 SHECK, Charles  
 STEINBRENNER, Leo  
 WEHRMAN, Erwin  
 WOLTERS, David

Before ending this report, I'd like to give a **special thanks to Bill Weber** for his assistance with this effort. Bill Weber is a member of the Spring 1975 pledge class, just recently retired, and lives in Manchester, MO. At the beginning of the year, Mark Keel forwarded our January virtual all-alumni meeting invitation to him (we did not have Bill's email at that time). Bill asked me to add him to the distribution list, he attended the January meeting, and afterwards, he initiated a conversation with me, asking what he could do to help. The majority of our alumni base is from the 70s and 80s, and to have involvement from those decades is huge. He was extremely helpful to our team, and we could not have had as much success with this effort as we did without him.



I commend Bill for asking the question, "What can I do to help?" If there are any others out there willing to follow his lead, please reach out to one of us on the board (board members' contact info on page 13). I guarantee you, there are opportunities here at Beta Sig for you to make a positive difference, like Bill did here.

## STL Area Alpha Alumni Summer Gathering 2024 *(report written by Josh Baggett)*

***In an effort to organize*** more opportunities for Alpha Alumni to gather throughout the year in addition to Homecoming, we're looking to host alumni events regionally. We're calling for all St. Louis area/Southern Illinois/Cardinals fans to join us for a night at the ballpark! We're encouraging alumni and their families to attend.



**What:** Cardinals vs Nationals  
**When:** Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>; 6:15pm first pitch  
**Where:** Pre-game meet-up at Paddy-O's  
**Estimated cost:** \$35 per ticket  
**Deadline to reserve tickets:** June 27<sup>th</sup>

**Contact Josh Baggett  
to reserve your tickets!**

[joshbaggett35@gmail.com](mailto:joshbaggett35@gmail.com)  
618-410-1912

## Homecoming 2024 *(report written by Avery Clark)*

***Greetings brothers!*** Planning for Homecoming 2024 is underway! The University has announced dates for Homecoming 2024, and we are excited to host everyone on the weekend of **September 13-15**. Our Fighting Illini are slated to take on the Central Michigan Chippewas (time Saturday TBD). Further details regarding itinerary & accommodations to be included in subsequent newsletters and on the Facebook Group. Be sure to keep an eye out!



As we look towards the next school year, we get closer to Founders Day 2025. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1925, nine men filed for incorporation at the State Capitol in Springfield. They would go on to organize brothers in West Lafayette, IN during May of the same year, kicking off expansion efforts that would see the organization grow. Our forebearers had vision, but I think that even they would be impressed with how Beta Sigma Psi has grown over the last 100 years. We've faced challenges, but with hearts firmly united the organization has managed to survive and grow. Over the past century, Beta Sigma Psi has not only endured but thrived amidst challenges, a testament to the unwavering spirit of our founders. Our members continue to embody the values instilled by our forebearers, making significant contributions to government, business, the church, and our fraternity at both national and local levels. Now is a great time to get involved with our Urbana Alumni Chapter! Our board of directors is always looking for volunteers to join our sub-committees. **As we approach year 100, we're looking to increase engagement throughout the year.**

I once again would like to 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.

Thank you all for your unwavering commitment, and I look forward to seeing everyone!

Fraternally,  
Avery

## **Other Recent Alumni Activity** *(report written by Josh Baggett and Nathaniel Stoll)*

**Sports** – Beta Sig alums braved below 0° temperatures in Champaign on January 14<sup>th</sup> to watch the **Illini men's basketball** team take on Maryland at State Farm Center. Pre-game food, drinks, and laughs were shared at Aspen Tap House on Neil Street. Despite a losing effort from Illinois, the group enjoyed the opportunity to gather and catch-up with each other! A fun year to watch Illini basketball, as the team made it all the way to the **Elite Eight** this year!



**Virtual Calls** - Following the **40+ member attendance** at the alumni meeting held on November 14, 2023, another virtual meeting was held on January 16, 2024. Turnout was, once again, great, and ideas were shared on how to address financial issues and improve recruitment and member retention in the house. Feedback was provided that virtual meetings such as these are low commitment (ex: no travel, minimal length), are helpful for communicating and discussing fraternity updates, and are a nice excuse to bring brothers together. **The next call is Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM CDT.**



**New Furniture!**  
 Donated by Andrew Elders on behalf of  
 Ryan Financial Services

**Housing Projects and Renovations** - Our Building & Facilities Director, Andrew Elders, has been making some great contributions to the upkeep of 706 W Ohio St! Andrew coordinated **work weekends** on January 13<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup> which involved **good times and good work**, including but not limited to replacing basement floor tiles and ceiling tiles, replacing lights, patching drywall, painting trim and walls, replacing worn out hardware in the house, and general cleaning of bathrooms and living areas. In addition, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Andrew and Dave Wu loaded and delivered some printing and scanning equipment for the computer room, a new coffee table for the formal lounge, and **22 leather office chairs** which have been distributed to the chapter room and members' individual bedrooms. Thanks to Andrew and all the alums who have volunteered so far this year to maintain and improve the house!



*Some cold ones at Murphy's after working on the house.*



## Active Chapter News *(report written by Nic Talley)*

**Alpha Chapter had their most successful award season in several years** this spring and were recognized for multiple achievements. At the 2024 Beta Sigma Psi MEF, Alpha took home the **Hingst Award for Academic Excellence** and the **Hillard Award for Exceptional Chapter Achievement**. Back on campus, Beta Sigs was honored with the **2023 IFC Most Improved GPA award**, and won **2nd place for Exceptional Commitment to Philanthropy**- narrowly losing out to defending 2022 winners Alpha Sigma Phi. At an individual level, chapter president **Nicholas Talley was honored in 2023 as the May and August UIUC Fraternity Man of the Month, and was the runner up for the 2023 UIUC Fraternity President of the Year award**. The active chapter is committed to continuing the successful spiritual, scholastic, and social programming they've built, and is looking forward to returning next year with more awards!

Sophomore **Christopher Commiso** was honored as the **March 2024 Lyric Theatre Student of the Month by the College of Music**. Christopher's professor said of him, "Christopher is 100% focused on his craft. He explores each space with curiosity and collaboration. You can always count on him to come up with new ideas, encourage his peers, and bring an engaged energy to every task at hand". Christopher is a member of the Fall 2022 pledge class and has previously served as Philanthropy Chairman and 2nd Vice President.

The Alpha chapter continues to keep with their commitment to **philanthropic excellence**, and this Spring has hosted 2 charity house shows. The chapter's **6th and 7th shows were both a great success and raised a collective total of over \$1,500** for the Champaign-Urbana Rape Advocacy and Center for Education Services (C-U RACES). Beta Sigs is proud to play a unique role in advocating both for local non-profits as well as local performing arts.

Brothers of the Alpha chapter cheered on the Fighting Illini Men's basketball team at Murphy's Pub during their St. Patrick's Day **Big Ten championship over Wisconsin**. A great year for Illinois basketball!

Freshman **Carter Puracchio went viral on social media** this spring with this image of him cheering on the Fighting Illini Men's Basketball during their victory over Iowa. Puracchio, the chapter Jr. Recruitment Chairman, is a Krush Captain in the Orange Krush student section and a passionate Illinois sports fan.



## **Alumni Spotlight – Dave Josephitis**

Year Graduated: 1999

Undergrad Major: Biology – Premed

Post-Grad: DO from NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. Fort Lauderdale, FL in 2004

Hometown: South Holland, IL

Current Location: Minneapolis, MN

Current Employment: Hair Transplant Surgeon at Shapiro Medical Group in Bloomington, MN



Family: Married to Rachel Josephitis. We met at a Lutheran college rally during my years at UI. We have 3 amazing kids. Two girls Natalie and Julia and one younger boy, Seth. All of them attend a local Lutheran grade school and are into every sport.

Church I'm attending: King of Grace Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, MN

**Recently I've Been Into:** A couple of years ago my wife told me I needed to get a hobby. Maybe she thought I was getting boring or something. I suppose I had been focusing a lot on work and on the kids at home. I decided to get into classic cars. I have always been a car guy, but I never really knew how or where to start. Last year, after much research I bought myself a restored 1930 Model A Ford. It has been a blast ever since. I have taught myself how to take care of all the basics of auto repair. Thankfully, the car has been very reliable, but anything nearly a hundred years old has things that need to be worked on. My family has gotten a kick out of it too with weekend drives everywhere. The amazing thing is that it has allowed me to make new friends and connections in the neighborhood and at church. That was something that was quite unexpected.



**Most fond memory of Beta Sig:** I have many great memories of living in the house. I remember my roommate Paul Bishop and I were the first to put in a loft with beds in our rooms. I couldn't sleep in the attic / dorm with all the snoring from the other guys! I remember getting reprimanded for practically destroying our old closet to make the beds fit. "Sing Thing" was always an amazing time to sing as Christian brothers to the Lord. I had five sisters growing up and was the only boy. It was amazing to finally be able to goof off and joke around on a daily basis with a bunch of my new "brothers!"

**If you can recall, why did you join Beta Sig?:** I didn't know anyone when I first arrived at UI. I thought a Lutheran fraternity would be a great way to connect with like-minded guys.

**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?:** Paul Bishop would be a great guy to check in on. He is still a great friend and as a former president of the house would be interesting to hear from.

**How can people reconnect with you?:** They can find me on LinkedIn somewhere, or easier still, email me at: [josephitis@hotmail.com](mailto:josephitis@hotmail.com).

## **2025 Centennial Celebration, Hosted by Nationals** *(report written by Rod Thompson)*

***Beta Sigma Psi's National Centennial Celebration*** will be held in **St. Louis on Presidents' Day weekend from 14 to 16 February 2025!** The Centennial Planning Committee is still preparing for this once-in-a-lifetime event. Mostly time to connect with other Beta Sigs from other chapters from your era, our leadership teams from the National Board, Educational Foundation and Housing Foundation, those who have volunteered to serve in various capacities over the years – just a fun and family friendly weekend! We are developing the “swag” for the event and plans are to scan the entire Gold Rose collection and have that available for attendees among other memorabilia so you can enjoy our rich history as a Lutheran and Christian Fraternity! There is still time to help out on the Centennial Committee – just contact **Scott Gesell** at [Scott.Gesell@gatewayfirst.com](mailto:Scott.Gesell@gatewayfirst.com) or **303-881-7332** or **Tom McKnight** at [tmcknight@gmail.com](mailto:tmcknight@gmail.com) or **317-509-3781**. The “\$100,000 for 100 years” campaign is already underway, and we have raised \$16,815 toward this goal which will be a “restricted” Educational Foundation sub-fund to support the National Board of Directors programming, recruitment, and other initiatives they need.

## **Newsletter Mailing List Request** *(report written by Nathaniel Stoll)*

***In conjunction with*** the efforts going on to update our alumni database, given our current financial situation, we are looking for ways to reduce operating costs as an alumni chapter to maximize the money we have available for spending. One such line item we incur each year is... this newsletter. The average cost to print and send out the Alpha Alumni Newsletter is around \$650 per edition. With four editions of the Alpha Alumni Newsletter, in 2023, the overall expense of the newsletter was in excess of \$2,500.



With this being said, until our financial situation improves, we will be limiting the number of newsletters we send out via mail. Our plan is to only send out physical copies to those who request it. Therefore, **to continue receiving physical copies of this newsletter in the mail, please contact Nathaniel Stoll (me) ([alpha.publications@betasigmapsi.org](mailto:alpha.publications@betasigmapsi.org); 217-273-3393)**, so I can make note of your request.

There are some brothers I am already aware of who prefer to receive physical newsletters. For them, I will plan to personally send them copies of this edition of the newsletter. For others, though, email and Facebook will be the main form of transmitting the newsletter in the immediate future. If anyone does not have email and does not receive a physical copy, but they still want to see the newsletter, it can be viewed by going to [www.alpha.betasigmapsi.org/newsletter](http://www.alpha.betasigmapsi.org/newsletter). (This edition is titled, “2024-05 - BSP Newsletter May 2024.”)



## **2024 SUMMER ALUMNI EVENT - GOLF SCRAMBLE**

**SAT. JUNE 8TH, 2024**

**Lake of the Woods Golf Course  
405 N. Lake of the Woods Rd.  
Mahomet, IL 61853  
-BBQ Dinner included after  
-Register by Memorial Day (5/27)**

**Tee-Off: 11:30am**

**\$300 per team, 4 Man Scramble  
\$75/person (register solo to be  
placed on a team)  
-Carts provided**

**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, Missouri 63461.**
- 2. Email registration to [joebaldwin2014@gmail.com](mailto:joebaldwin2014@gmail.com) and Venmo payment to @Beta-Sigs-Illinois-Alumni**
  - Make checks payable to Beta Sigma Psi and label Venmo as "2024 Golf"**

**\*\*\*Registration must be completed by Memorial Day (May 27, 2024)\*\*\***

**NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL OR COOLERS PERMITTED**

# 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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## **Vice President**

Joe Baldwin  
3500 County Road 329  
Palmyra, MO 63461  
618-406-0284  
[vp.alphaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:vp.alphaalumni@gmail.com)

## **Scholarship Chairman**

Josh Baggett  
1144 Pinrun Dr.  
Ballwin, MO 63011  
618-410-1912  
[uiucscholarship@betasigmapi.org](mailto:uiucscholarship@betasigmapi.org)

## **Treasurer-Secretary**

Greg Treichler  
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St. Charles, IL 60175  
630-220-9831  
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## **Homecoming Director**

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## **Publications Chairman**

Nathaniel Stoll  
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## **Building & Facilities Director**

Andrew Elders  
1037 Pleasant St. #1C  
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309-373-2538  
[aeillini@gmail.com](mailto:aeillini@gmail.com)

## **Immediate Past President**

Nick Schwingbeck  
3704 N. Janssen Ave Apt #2  
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224-622-0328  
[n.schwingbeck@gmail.com](mailto:n.schwingbeck@gmail.com)

## **Alumni Advisor**

Dave Wu  
3946 N Kolmar Ave  
Chicago, IL 60641  
708-557-2511  
[davidwu772@yahoo.com](mailto:davidwu772@yahoo.com)

# 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



