



Beta Sigma Psi

Alpha Alumni Newsletter

2026 Homecoming

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TBD

Illini vs. TBD

?

Homecoming 2025 - Alpha Centennial Celebration! *(report written by Avery Clark)*



Greetings brothers! As we close out our centennial year, I wanted to begin my article by providing a **BIG** Thank You to everyone who helped with & attended Homecoming this year! Some readers may know, I decided to step back from the board at the conclusion of my term. This year's festivities marked the end of my tenure as Homecoming Director, and I couldn't be happier with the send-off! We saw an amazing turnout with attendees from every decade since the 1950s. I'm grateful to each and every one of you who made the trip back to Champaign-Urbana to commemorate 100 years of Beta Sigma Psi. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome Nick Schwingbeck (Pledge Class Fall 2013) to the role of Homecoming Director. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the Board (our immediate previous Board President and a previous Alumni Advisor to the Active Chapter), and he brings a love for Beta Sigma Psi and our University of Illinois Fighting Illini that will make him a great fit! We'll look forward to seeing you all back at 706 W. Ohio Street next year!





Jungle Pong

We once again kicked off the weekend with our traditional Friday Night mixer at the house, brothers from across the years able to re-connect with one another & meet our Active & Associate members. This year we were able to witness firsthand something which has been YEARS in the making: the rebuild of the Moat Wall, stable for the first time in living memory of many of our members! Another thank-you to our generous brothers who have donated money, time, and talents over the years to allow us to reach this goal! Once again, the Actives

did a phenomenal job of preparing the house, with old photo albums and memorabilia on display for alums to go through and catalogue. A big thank-you to the active members for preparing the house to welcome your brothers home!

Our annual business meeting kicked off the activities Saturday, where we covered ground on status of the Chapter, elections, and outline of the day. We appreciate all the help we've received from brothers over the year and it's nice to see hard work and dedication paying off! Please reach out to any board member to look for ways to get involved! Immediately following the business meeting, we began tailgating. Another thank-you is in order, this time for outgoing Active Chapter President Carter Puraccio & family for extending use of their RV! Though another hot day, it was worth it to see our Fighting Illini prevail over the USC Trojans.



Business Meeting at House



Banquet at CityView

To conclude Saturday, we hosted our banquet at CityView in Downtown Champaign. The hall was packed with Beta Sigs (and dates) from across the ages. The space was a return to format familiar to attendees who haven't attended in a few years and allowed us to implement a few additions to the order of events. First, we had a raffle for Beta Sig merch (we ended up handing out a dozen or so unique items). And second, we expanded programming to include a chance for members across the years to share stories of their time as an active ("Decade Ambassadors", a brother representing every decade from 1950 to present). Our Publications Chairman Nathaniel Stoll documented these stories on video for years to come and are available to watch (link to playlist included at the end of the article)! Following the banquet we were able to enjoy a nightcap at Pour Bros. in downtown Champaign, where the conversations continued long into the night.

Decade Ambassadors (left to right): Nicholas Talley (2020s), Nick Schwingbeck (2010s), Matt Johnson (2000s), Steve Meyer/Kirk Meyer (1990s), Brian Bunte (1980s), Dale Durfey (1970s), Dr. Alan Schramm (1960s), Bill Bunte (1950s).



I again want to thank everyone who attended & helped make this year (and each year prior) happen! As we move into the new year and I pass the baton to Nick, I look forward to returning home for years to come. And as always, if you'd like to get involved or have any ideas about how the weekend should look, please consider filling out the attached survey or joining the Homecoming Subcommittee!

Link to feedback survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciGPHpkzfkn_5fRiulS130oDWGWwIQI8aAgf3DF_VnRw0t1g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Link to recordings from Banquet:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSOSStYhT1FSLX6lLrd1cdCzGqGIyO25_&si=20HpLFQj3y8goUA9



Alumni News

We extend our congratulations to...



Congratulations to brother James Billingham and his wife, Noelle, who were married earlier this year on April 22, 2025!

Congratulations to brother Erik Steinbrenner and past Beta Sig Sweetheart Hannah Steinbrenner on the birth of their first son, Graham Douglas Steinbrenner, on November 11, 2025!

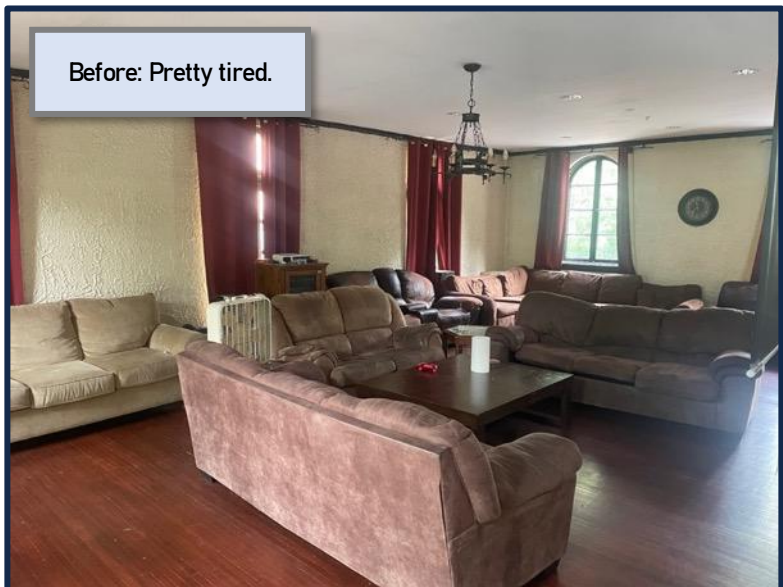


Chapter House Improvements - Summer and Fall 2025 *(report written by Andrew Elders)*

Summer and fall brought more substantial changes to our chapter house, both expected and unexpected. Some long-term punchlist items were addressed, such as having the driveway and parking lot sealed and restriped, and painting the wrought iron railings of the front porch. Those, along with the rebuilt moat, made for a notable improvement to the outward appearance to the house. Many alumni who visited at Homecoming commented that it's the best they've seen the house look in a number of years, so we're very proud of that!

Unexpectedly, I was able to secure the donation of new lounge furniture to replace the worn-out pieces that didn't show the room (or house) to its best advantage. The donation of 10 brand-new, matching sofa-sleepers from manufacturer Charter Furniture prompted the project. A good friend of mine heads up their finance department and arranged the donation to us at no cost other than shipping fees. As they are designed and built for hotel use, they are good and sturdy and

Before: Pretty tired.





Laborers: Max Daichendt, Galvin McQuellon, Dave Wu, Nicholas Talley



After: Fresh!

should last us for a number of years. And being sofa-sleepers, they were put to good use when Alpha hosted two chapter walk-outs this fall. When they arrived in June, alumni Max Daichendt, Nic Talley, Dave Wu, and Galvin McQuellon helped me get them into the house and dispose of the old couches (that fell apart as we moved them!)

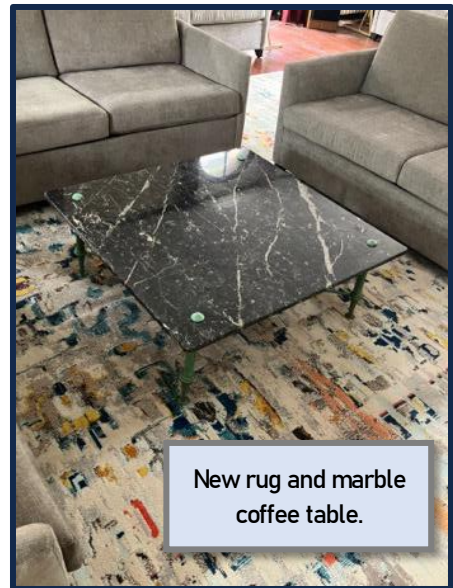
Of course, the addition of nice, new furniture made the old accessories look worse by comparison. New side tables that can double as lap desks were donated, as was a black marble coffee table with iron legs that should stand up to the wear the guys put on it. To replace the heavy, stationary AV cabinet that sat in front of the French doors to the west stoop, I found a new mobile AV station that accommodates the gaming systems and projector the active have come to rely on. It is much smaller and on casters that will allow for easier stoop access when needed in addition to letting more

light into the room. To cover some damaged areas in the floor, a 12x18 rug was procured and its colors serve to tie in the various elements in the room. Finally, I was able to buy and have framed 3 vintage watercolor prints of campus from 1970, corresponding with our first full year in the house.

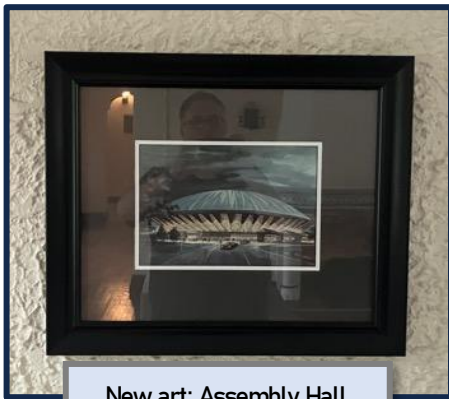
These new furnishings will make the living situation more comfortable for the guys, and serve as a good rush tool because who wants to join a house with crummy furniture? All in all, the public spaces of the house are up to snuff for a number of years to come.



New tables, AV
cart, and couch.



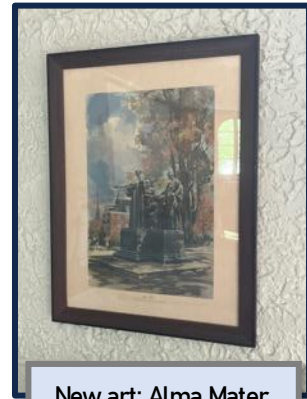
New rug and marble
coffee table.



New art: Assembly Hall.



New art: Main Library.



New art: Alma Mater.

There will be an alumni workday/weekend January 16-18 (Martin Luther King Jr. weekend) to prepare for the spring semester! Help is always welcome!

Illinois vs Alabama at the United Center *(report written by Alex Johnson)*



Left to right: Matt Johnson, Austin Kopplin, Nick Schwingbeck, Alex Johnson, Avery Clark, Max Daichendt, Andrew Elders.

Chicago-area Beta Sigma alums met for dinner and drinks in the West Loop on November 19th before heading over to the United Center to cheer on #8 Illinois as they took on #11 Alabama in a largely orange atmosphere in Chicago. The Illini fought a good fight and were winning in the first half but struggled with rebounds and free throws, ultimately losing to #11 Alabama 86-90. All enjoyed getting together and had a great time despite the loss!

Alpha Alumni Board Elections 2025 *(report written by Joe Baldwin)*

Alumni Board election results from this past Homecoming:

President - Dan Ross *(re-elected)*
 Sec/Treas - Greg Treichler *(re-elected)*
 Building Director - Andrew Elders *(re-elected)*
 Homecoming Director - **Nick Schwingbeck**
 Alumni Advisor - **Nic Talley**



The Alumni would like to thank **Avery Clark** and **Dave Wu** for all of their time and effort serving on the alumni board these last few years, and we look forward to the addition of Nick and Nic!

Upcoming Alumni Events in 2026 *(report written by Nathaniel Stoll)*

Some upcoming events to be aware of in 2026!...

Alpha Chapter All-Alumni 2026 Kick-off Meeting

When: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @ 7:00 PM CST

What: The alumni board will give updates on finances and other fraternity business, as well as open the floor for general alumni discussion.

Where: Zoom Meeting hosted online

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87613341931?pwd=hQGUEl8gIdkVTzwgBXhSAVfGLCX0C1.1&jst=2>

Meeting ID: 876 1334 1931

Passcode: 1925

Call-In Number: +1 (312) 626-6799



Alumni Work Weekend

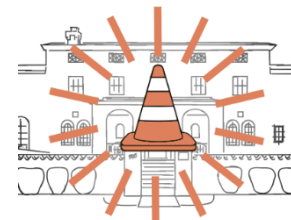
When: Friday night to Sunday, January 16-18, 2026

What: Alumni work weekend at 706 W Ohio. Let's help make the house look great for our PNMs at our upcoming Spring Scholarship!

Where: 706 W Ohio St, Urbana, IL 61801

How to Register: Please reach out to our Building & Facilities Director, Andrew Elders, to let him know you plan to help! 309-373-2538.

aeillini@gmail.com.



Alumni Work Weekend

2025 Christian Leadership Award Scholarship Weekend

When: Saturday, March 28, 2026

What: Join the actives in welcoming incoming freshmen to Beta Sigma Psi for scholarship interviews for the 2026 Christian Leadership Award. This is a great chance to act as a personal example to PNMs and parents (and actives) of how brotherhood at Beta Sigma Psi does not die when one leaves campus, but rather, continues on even after college.

Where: 706 W Ohio St, Urbana, IL 61801

How to Register: Contact our scholarship chair, Josh Baggett, at

uiucscholarship@betasigmapi.org or 618-410-1912.

Scholarship Application: If you know any seniors in high school who are looking to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2026, please share this scholarship form link with them: <https://forms.gle/6Ey69wMutiSX8Y9VA>.



Active President Report *(report written by Carter Puracchio)*

The Fall 2025 semester is coming to a close. We have had an outstanding semester! As many of you already know, we recruited a pledge class of seven associate members. All seven are on track to be activated in January. Many of the new members are eager to continue to develop their membership, and some were elected to be officers on the Spring 2026 Executive Board. Their new member education sessions have been going great, and they are all passing the quizzes.

Spiritually, we are doing better than we have at any point in my time in the house so far. We routinely have a good sized group attending our Bible studies with Pastor Scheurmann. We have also had great attendance during our Beta Sig Sundays at UniLu. This semester one member was baptized in the Lutheran Church, and two have gone through confirmation classes and been confirmed. Being a part of and hearing many spiritual conversations at the house has been great for all of us.

Scholastically, we are ramping up for finals week. Everyone has been completing their required study hours. Most of the time, all of the brothers are completing double or triple the required study hours each week. We set a goal at the beginning of the semester to be in the top five for fraternity GPA on campus. After a lot of hard work, we have a chance to hopefully even make it into the top three.

Socially, the brothers are doing a great job. Everyone has been encouraged to join other clubs and organizations to grow our brand on campus. This seems to be working well with many brothers inviting new friends over to the house to get to know our members. This will hopefully assist in continuing successful rush cycles in the near future. We also hosted Eta Chapter and Epsilon Chapter on the same weekend for their pledge walkouts. We took them with us to a tailgate, hosted a jungle pong tournament between pledge classes, brought them with us to church, and spent time bouncing ideas off of each other. It was a great and extremely memorable weekend. It is encouraging that other Beta Sigs want to come visit Alpha Chapter.

At the start of next semester we will be under new leadership:

Logan Rice Fall '24 - President
 Carter Puracchio Fall '23 - 1st Vice President
 Raiden Daichendt Fall '24 - 2nd Vice President
 Gavin Fack Fall '24 - Treasurer
 Josiah Rutledge Fall '25 - Sr. Recruitment
 Elijah Searles Fall '25 - Social
 Matthew Cole Spring '25 - Philanthropy
 Max Richardson Fall '25 - Jr. Recruitment
 Ben McKenzie Fall '24 - Recording Secretary
 Tyler Sass Fall '25 - Chaplain



Carter Puracchio
 President, Junior
 Agribusiness Markets &
 Management.
 Herscher, IL

Considering I will no longer be serving the fraternity as President, this will be my final active chapter update. As my time as President is winding down, I truly am happy with how far we have

come in such a short amount of time. I can confidently assure all of you that we are in great hands going forward.

To close, I wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas. The active chapter is always open to alumni visits. If that would be of interest to any of you, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself at 815.922.8973 and cvp3@illinois.edu or our President Elect Logan Rice at 618.641.3709 and logantr2@illinois.edu

Thank you,

- Carter Puracchio Fall '23
- Beta Sigma Psi Alpha Chapter
- President

Active Awards, Associates, and Graduates *(report written by Logan Rice and Nicholas Talley)*



Fall 2025 Brotherhood Awards



Logan Rice
1st Vice President
Sophomore, Finance
Belleville, IL

Steven Broquist Outstanding Active Award

Description: Awarded to the active member that best lived out the balance of all of our core values—Spiritual, Scholastic, and Social—for the Semester. It is the highest honor awarded in the Alpha Chapter internally. Named in honor of Steven Broquist, an alumnus of the Alpha Chapter from the Fall 1962 Pledge Class, who served as chapter president, battalion commander of the UIUC NROTC battalion, president of the Lutheran Student Foundation, and a varsity member of both the Illinois Track and Cross Country teams as an active. Lt. Broquist sacrificed his life in the line of duty while serving in the US Marine Corps on May 14th, 1967, in South Vietnam. For his valor and selflessness, he was posthumously decorated with the Silver Star by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Outstanding Associate Award

Description: *Awarded to the associate member that best lived out the balance of all our core values—Spiritual, Scholastic, and Social—for the Semester.*

Sebastian Gasinski
Sophomore
Accounting & Data Science
Oak Lawn, IL



Greg Treichler Unsung Hero Award

Description: *Awarded to the member (associate or active) who has received the least recognition for the most over-achievement in their role and to the success of the Active Chapter with the highest humility during the Semester. Named in honor of Greg Treichler, an alumnus of the Alpha Chapter from the Spring 1991 Pledge Class, who for nearly 30 years has served consecutively as the alumni board treasurer, guiding behind the scenes the success and longevity of both the alumni and active chapters.*



Raiden Daichendt
Social Chairman
Junior, Consumer Economics
Chicago, IL

Pledge Father and Son Award

Description: *Awarded to the most outstanding duo of Pledge father and son, who together have demonstrated the upmost excellence in dedication to the chapter in the Semester. This award was re-established this semester, bringing an old traditional Beta Sig award back to life.*

Raiden Daichendt
Social Chairman
Junior, Consumer Economics
Chicago, IL

Max Richardson
Freshman, Pre-Med Biology
Carterville, IL

Brian Bunte Illini Spirit Award

Description: Awarded to the member (associate or active) who is the most passionate in their school spirit and Illini Pride during the Semester. Named in honor of Brian Bunte, an alumnus of the Alpha Chapter from the Fall 1979 Pledge Class, who has built a memorable reputation over four decades as one of the Alpha Chapter's biggest Illini fans, and for his infectious school spirit.



Carter Puracchio
President, Junior
Agribusiness Markets & Mgmt.
Herscher, IL



David Biruduganti
Chaplain
Sophomore
Computer Engineering
Naperville, IL

Spiritual Excellence Award

Description: Awarded to the member (associate or active) who best lived out the Spiritual values of Beta Sigma Psi during the Semester.

Scholastic Excellence Award

Description: Awarded to the member (associate or active) who best lived out the Scholastic values of Beta Sigma Psi during the Semester.

Samuel Biruduganti
Freshman, Computer Engineering
Naperville, IL





Social Excellence Award

Description: *Awarded to the member (associate or active) who best lived out the Social values of Beta Sigma Psi during the Semester.*

Logan Rice
1st Vice President
Sophomore, Finance
Belleville, IL

Outstanding Alumni Volunteer Award

Description: *Awarded to the Alpha Alumni Chapter member who has contributed the most to the Alpha Active Chapter for the Semester. This award serves as a formal "Thank you" to that alumnus from the active chapter, those who they mentor and lead.*

Andrew Elders
Alumni Housing Director
Pledge Class: Spring 1998
Hometown: Galesburg, IL



Kim Thurman
Beta Sig Son: Drew Thurman
St. Joseph, IL

Outstanding Mother Award

Description: *Awarded to the active chapter mom who has contributed the most to the Alpha Chapter for the year. This award serves as a formal "thank you" to that mom and to give them recognition from not only those they raised, but those who have been impacted by their presence and leadership.*

Outstanding Father Award

Description: *Awarded to the active chapter dad who has contributed the most to the Alpha Chapter for the year. This award serves as a formal "thank you" to that dad and to give them recognition from not only those they raised, but those who have been impacted by their presence and leadership.*



Craig Bisailon
Beta Sig Son: Carter Puracchio
Herscher, IL

Fall 2025 Pledge Class Introduction



Sam Jollenbeck

Position: Pledge Class President
Year and major: Freshman, Pre-Law
Philosophy
Hometown: Edwardsville, IL
Other campus Involvement: Catholic Illini,
We Dignify, Academic Achievement
Program

Max Richardson

Position: Pledge Class Vice President
Year and major: Freshman, Pre-Med
Biology
Hometown: Carterville, IL
Other campus Involvement: Cru, Doctors
Without Borders

Elijah Searles

Position: Pledge Class Social Chair
 Year and major: Sophomore, Financial Planning
 Hometown: Huntley, IL
 Other campus Involvement: Cru, Financial Planning Club

Samuel Biruduganti

Year and major: Freshman, Computer Engineering
 Hometown: Naperville, IL
 Other campus Involvement: Cru, MedLaunch Club, ECE Department AI Research team, Twin City Bible Church College Ministry

Sebastian Gasinski

Year and major: Sophomore, Accounting & Data Science
 Hometown: Oak Lawn, IL
 Other campus Involvement: Cru

Josiah Rutledge

Year and major: Sophomore, Financial Planning
 Hometown: Champaign, IL
 Other campus Involvement: Cru, Financial Planning Club, CU Church College Ministry

Tyler Sass

Year and major: Sophomore, Finance
 Hometown: Dunlap, IL
 Other campus Involvement: Rho Epsilon, Cru

Beta Sigma Psi Alpha Chapter Graduates

Name: Johnny Powell

Pledge Class: Fall 2022

Major: Econometrics

Minors: Business Management, Statistics

Hometown: Westmont, IL

Offices Held: Recruitment Chairman, Treasurer, Scholarship Chairman

Awards: Fall 2022 Outstanding Associate Member, Fall 2024 Treichler Unsung Hero Award

Campus Involvement: Camp Kesem, Department of Economics Tutor

Favorite Fraternity Memory: Rushing Alma Mater on the quad after watching the Illini win the Big Ten Championship at Murphy's on St. Patrick's Day 2024!

Post Graduation Plans: Searching for work in the data analysis or finance industry.



Congratulations,
Johnny Powell!

Other Info

The Active Chapter is looking to update records on awards, but we are missing:

- Names and graduating years of **Bronze Tablet Scholars** from 1984-2020
- Outstanding Active (**Broquist Award**) winners from Fall 1983-Spring 2015
- **Outstanding Associate Award** winners from Fall 1966-Spring 1987, Fall 1996-Spring 2015
- **Pledge Father and Son Scholarship** winners from Fall 1976-Fall 1983, Fall 1985-?

Looking for donors willing to help support:

- New customized tent for tailgates and recruitment events
- New recruitment banners

Looking for Alpha Chapter alumni to honor with their names on the following awards. Please provide suggestions with explanation for:

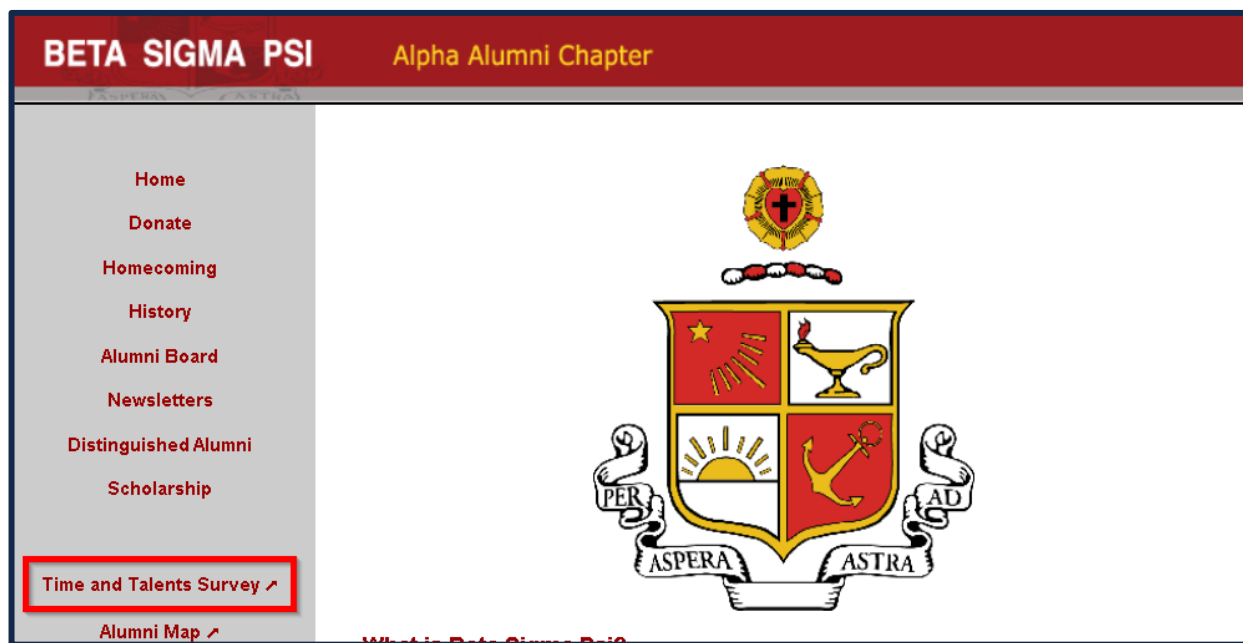
- **Outstanding Associate Award** (An alum who distinguished themselves in some way while an associate member)
- **Outstanding Pledge Father & Son Award** (A pledge father and son combo that distinguished themselves as a duo or both individually)
- **Scholastic Excellence Award** (An alum who has achieved scholastic/ academic excellence in their career)
- **Social Excellence Award** (An alum who has achieved social/ leadership distinction in their life or career)
- **Outstanding Mother Award** (a mother of an alum (or maybe a house mom) who contributed greatly to Beta Sigma Psi during their life)
- **Outstanding Father Award** (a father of an alum who contributed greatly to Beta Sigma Psi during their life- can also be an alum themselves)

Please provide any information or suggestions to Alumni Advisor Nicholas Talley, whose contact information is listed with the alum board contacts.

Time and Talents Survey *(report written by Nathaniel Stoll, Andrew Elders, Joe Baldwin)*

We want to continue to improve and grow Alpha Chapter. Fraternity success generally goes hand-in-hand with alumni involvement, and to that end, we could use your help! **Please take some time to fill out our “Time and Talents” survey!** There is no commitment to sign up for anything. This simply provides us with better visibility of who has what skills and gives us an internal set of contacts to consult prior to having to seek external resources.

Time and Talents Survey: <https://forms.gle/TGrbMnMKsP8ibkc29>



Brothers For All Times... And All Places *(report written by Nicholas Talley)*

Joel Kahling (SP '80) and **Nicholas Talley** (FA '21) connected at Homecoming 2021 over their shared love of the Green Bay Packers, while Nicholas was still a pledge. 4 years later, they attended the December 7th Green Bay v. Chicago football game together in Green Bay Wisconsin, showing that being brothers for all time is more than just a saying.



Nicholas Talley, Joel Kahling

Thank You to Our 2025 Donors!

(report written by Greg Treichler, Andrew Elders, Nathaniel Stoll)

Thank you to all brothers who graciously donated money, food, goods, furniture, and time this year to help keep Alpha Chapter going! Below is a non-exhaustive list of financial donors this year. (There are also some listed here and others not listed here who donated goods and money anonymously, without recognition. Thank you for your contributions brothers!)

2025 DONORS

*Thank
you*
to our
generous
alumni...

FOUNDER'S CLUB

Terry Borrenpohl
John Dodge (Memorial)
Fred Mulch

CONCORDIA

Andrew Elders
Dale Heinkel (Memorial)
Steven "Bud" Schweizer (Memorial)

WITTENBERG

Lloyd Karmeier
David Snavely
Nicholas Talley
Mark Toledano
Gregory Wyss

PATRON

Joe Bateman
Andrew Diefenbacher
Tom Fricke
Mike Geske
Alex Johnson

Founder's = \$5,000+ | Concordia = \$1,000+ | Wittenberg = \$500+ | Patron = \$100+

If you made a donation since the December newsletter last year, and you do not see your name above, please contact Nathaniel Stoll (contact info at end of newsletter) to make sure your name gets added to the list so we can make sure your donation is accounted for. If you have not donated and would like to, please see our donation page on our website: <http://alpha.alumni.betasigmapi.org/donate.php>.

Alumni Spotlight - Michael Woolery

Year Graduated: 1997 (BS)

Undergrad Major: Forestry - Forest Science

Post-Grad: Natural Resources & Environmental Science (MS 2000)

Hometown: This would take a few paragraphs to answer properly...but I graduated from Centralia High School.

Current Location: Winnebago, IL

Current Employment: Self-employed—my company is Greenwood Forestry Consulting. I travel around the northern 1/3 of Illinois, helping landowners manage their forest properties.

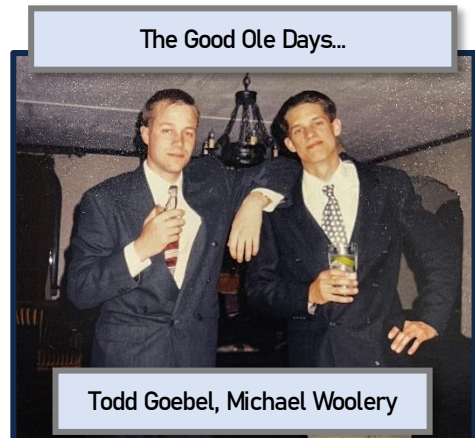
Family: My wife Jennifer is a dentist in Rockford IL, and we have been married for 26 years. We met at University Lutheran in 1997. She almost declined my invitation to the Beta Sig formal, but I somehow changed her mind. Our oldest daughter Kaylee is a Junior at the University of Northern Iowa where she studies interior design. She runs cross country and track as a scholarship athlete there. It is a smaller D1 school, but they do run a few of the same meets as the U of I cross country team, which I do cheer for a little bit sometimes. Don't tell Kaylee. Our middle daughter Emma is a freshman at Iowa State University. I have already told her she has to be on the lookout for the Epsilon chapter Beta Sigs! We actually met a few epsilon guys at the campus church while we were visiting last spring. She is studying Animal Science, possibly leading vet school (large animal concentration) or something in the field of equine breeding. Our youngest, Andrew, is a freshman at Winnebago high school. He is very active in student government and is the class president. He is also involved in band, cross country and track. He already thinks his future is in Civil Engineering, and told me a few days ago that the U of I was the best place for this. Alpha chapter might need to keep an eye out for this kid in 2029!

Church I'm attending: St Paul Lutheran, Rockford IL

Recently I've Been Into: Running marathons, sports photography, and traveling around the country spectating at cross country meets.



Michael Woolery

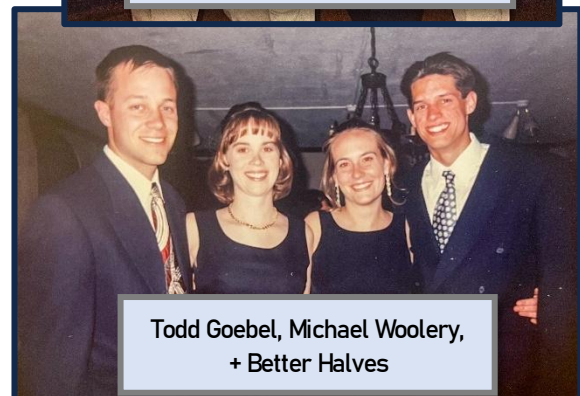


The Good Ole Days...

Todd Goebel, Michael Woolery



Kyle Russell, Michael Woolery,
Tim Goetting, Matt Niermann



Todd Goebel, Michael Woolery,
+ Better Halves

Most fond memory of Beta Sig: I shared so many good times with the guys in the house, and have so many great memories it is hard to narrow it down. I do remember how much fun homecoming weekend was around the house. As a younger undergrad it was always exciting to meet the really old guys who would drop by the house...some of these guys were like 28 years old! There was also the semi-formal dress code enforced "wine and cheese" parties we threw in the lounge. We thought we were pretty classy. I fondly remember the hundreds of free haircuts I gave to those brave souls who were too cheap to go to a professional.

If you can recall, why did you join Beta Sig?: A guy named Kirk Meyer showed up at my house the summer before freshman year and asked me if I wanted to join a Lutheran Fraternity. I had no idea what a fraternity was but whatever he said must have convinced both me and my parents that it would be a great idea to join.

Why should young men join Beta Sig?: The strong bond shared among the brothers is hard to explain, but it is a critical part of any fraternity. The thing that sets Beta Sig apart from all other fraternities is the shared faith that we have.

Who is someone you'd like to reconnect with/who should we spotlight next?: A wellness check on Matt Niermann might be a good idea.

How can people reconnect with you?: Sometimes I read the things on Facebook. I also post tree and running content on Instagram where I am followed by tens of people.

Alumni Spotlight - Ron Haines

Year Graduated: 1967

Undergrad Major: Journalism

Hometown: Kankakee, IL

Current Location: Lantana, FL, and Bloomfield, CT

Current Employment:
Retired. Previously: Photo Director of national tabloids, National Enquirer, Star and Globe. 1976-2011.



Family: Wife, Daughter, Two granddaughters.

Recently I've Been Into: Staying active. At 81 years old it's important. I canoe at least once a week and go to the gym occasionally. To keep the mind going I have continued volunteer work with the Sierra Club on the local, state and national level for 45 years. In Florida I mostly help local Sierra Club Groups function and on the national level I am on the Honors and Awards Committee.

Less recently I was a Peace Corps Volunteer for three years in Ethiopia, 1967-70. I revisited the country with my daughter in 2018.

And also less recently I solo canoed the Mississippi River from Lake Itasca, MN, to New Orleans in 2003, a three and a half month trip. If you ever want to slow your life down and chill out, that's the way to do it. A [diary and photos](#) are on the website below.

Most fond memory of Beta Sig: A feeling of belonging.

If you can recall, why did you join Beta Sig: Did not like living in a dormitory.

Why should young men join Beta Sig: For me it was the beginning of what I have done most of my life and that is volunteer for something, whether it be my community organization, Girl Scouts with my daughter, or the Sierra Club, this country's most effective grass-roots environmental organization. It began with volunteering for various offices within the fraternity and that only happened because of the encouragement of the other members, because I had never volunteered for a thing before in my life.

Who is someone you'd like to reconnect with/who should we spotlight next: Terry Ernst, Chris Jensen, or David Aschbacher

How can people reconnect with you: ronaldhaines@bellsouth.net or <https://ronhaines.org/>



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For past editions of the Alpha Alumni newsletter, please see our alumni website:

<http://alpha.alumni.betasigmapi.org/newsletters.php>

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>):

Dan Ross

1742 Oxford Street

Rockford, IL 61103



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