



Beta Theta Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau

The University of Kansas
Spring/Summer 2023

WELCOME TO THE BETA THETA GRADUATE COUNCIL!

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75 years, 50 years, 25 years, 4 months. Beta Theta was installed at the University of Kansas on November 19th, 1948 becoming the 56th chapter of Phi Kappa Tau. Some simple math, 2023-1948, reveals this year Beta Theta will celebrate 75th (Diamond) years at KU. Just 4 months from now at Homecoming (October 28th) we will mark this occasion by presenting 25 & 50 year membership pins to alumni in attendance who were initiated at least 25 & 50 years ago. I hope many will attend homecoming 2023 to both receive and/or bear witness to this honor.

This pin deserves to be presented at an official Beta Theta event, not mailed like a common utility bill. To receive your pin, email thomassgooden@gmail.com confirming you will attend homecoming this year and we will start the process to obtain your pin. I hope we're finding everyone who qualifies. Next time you're chatting with one of our 25+ or 50+ year alums, mention this newsletter and the pin. If they are unaware of either, tell them to update their contact information on [HQ's website](#) so we can include them in the details.

If you would like to network with other alumni, rekindle past friendships, please join us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), Zoom calls, regional lunches hosted by area alumni and perhaps even tailgating at games this fall. Details are on our [Alumni page](#).

Join the "hundy club". Earlier this year, Larry Washburn donated \$100 to the GC so I decided to follow suit. Next thing we know several other alumni contributed and the hundy club was established. Dues are \$100/semester and help the chapter fund recruitment, leadership, conferences and scholarships. Details are on our [Giving page](#).

Housing. We're encouraging the undergrads to seek common rental housing to further build the sense of brotherhood. When membership numbers support it we'll explore securing a chapter house. Email Steven Martino (pkteagle@yahoo.com) to find out how you can help with the chapter house search.

I look forward to hearing from you, how we can better serve our fellow alumni.

In Phi,

Thomas Gooden, '85

MESSAGE FROM THE RC PRESIDENT



With the spring semester over and summer break here, the Beta Theta chapter looks at our plans and goals for the summer and next semester. There have been many leaps and strides made this year, but there is still much progress to be made and obstacles to overcome.

Of course, a major requirement and top priority of the chapter this year is recruitment. We currently have 13 members, with only one of those awaiting association. Although our numbers may not be huge, we have made great advancements following our revitalization this past fall. All members have great dedication to the growth of the fraternity, and never give up seeing what we can become in the future.

Throughout the semester and going forward, we are putting a large emphasis on recruitment in order to grow our numbers even more before the semester ends and before school starts back up in the fall. We are involved in a couple different recruitment methods such as dinner/trivia nights, brotherhood events, contacting current KU students and incoming high school seniors, and simply getting in touch with people that we know. We have had some success with these methods, with a total of 6 of our new members being introduced due to them. In order to achieve the greatest amount of outreach, every single one of us have been participating in reaching out to those that may be interested in joining a fraternity. I would like to give a huge shoutout to Jordan Outler, who has done an amazing job with retaining interest with current KU students, while also shifting some of his focus to contacting high school seniors and keeping in touch with them throughout this semester.

Last semester, Ryan Callahan and Dominic Mularo from Nationals visited the chapter to initiate a revitalization process. During this time 5 of us were associated, and all of us learned a lot from them about recruitment tips and methods to advancing this fraternity. They both helped us out immensely and have proven that they are always in our corner and wish for our success. Of course with that being said, we will continue with our recruitment process and experiment with different methods in order to achieve our goal.

I would also like to thank all of our alumni, the Board of Governors, and the Graduate council for their unceasing dedication and support for the chapter. They have all made each and every one of our transitions into the fraternity seamless, and have provided countless tools and support to help us succeed. In addition, members of the BOG have been going above and beyond in helping us out this year in all matters that will help us improve this fraternity even more. So for that, we will be forever grateful.

This semester, we have participated in a number of social events, interacting a lot with other chapters in KU Greek Life. We have worked hard in creating lasting connections and friendships with other fraternities and sororities, and have also gained a lot of guidance and help from them during these times. Our goal is to get our name out there, and to be recognized as a prominent fraternity on campus. Currently, we are participating in Chapters for Charity. This is a philanthropy event in which all IFC chapters compete in different competitions in order to raise money, donations, and awareness for the Ballard Center. The Ballard Center partners with families to achieve stability through early childhood education and needs based activities. Also, recently we had our Mom's Weekend, where we did many different things that helped us not only better connect with our mothers, but also helped us build stronger relationships with each other. Although, this is only the start. In the future, we plan on hosting many more events to better connect with parents, alumni, and the rest of KU Greek Life, as those events will help us grow and spread our name around the KU campus and Lawrence as a whole.

With all this being said, we are still not complacent with where we are at now. The chapter is stopping at nothing to find new members and be as active as possible on campus. With the many challenges that we are faced with, we are all still dedicated to achieving success and growing the numbers of the chapter. It is up to our members to put forth their best effort to growing the chapter. We are looking forward to what the future has in store for the chapter, and for what we can achieve.

In Phi,

Lukas Stone

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOG



A much brighter future for Beta Theta emerged the end of Fall 2022 with the chapter piloting a new recruitment effort by our National HQ. "Revitalize" is the term given to an abbreviated Expansion process where a

chapter in need of some intensive care is provided several weeks of on-site recruitment support by HQ recruiters. Ryan Callahan & Domenic Mularo paid KU a visit during the months of October-December quickly recruiting 7 new members for the chapter, generating hundreds of names of potential new members (PNMs) for the chapter to follow up on and training members in recruitment techniques. Six additional members were added early spring semester. The BOG continues to advise the chapter's recruitment chairman and recruitment committee through Zoom calls, text and Slack communications and believe they are executing a good process to grow the chapter.

Certainly we all want Beta Theta to earn back full chapter status through rechartering. Goals in several areas must first be met including: membership, scholarship, philanthropy & service, alumni relations and more. Email thomassgooden@gmail.com to find out how you can help advise the chapter toward meeting these goals. We're particularly interested in alumni experienced in sales or recruiting, education or coaching, and philanthropies.

In Phi,

Thomas Gooden, '85

CHAPTER HOUSING UPDATE

The long-term success of Beta Theta rests on identifying sustainable housing. Owning a fraternity house at the University of Kansas gives the chapter more control over its future, its growth and its stability. But, no doubt, it comes with some risk. Many of us spent time and lived in either 1232 Ohio and 1100 Indiana or both. We are grateful to the Beta Theta House Corporation -- including Duane Fager, Phil Harrison, Jim Kapp, Sue Park, Kent Saylor, Courtney Sloan and Perry Toll -- for providing housing opportunities for the chapter. It made a difference for Beta Theta.

Now, we have an opportunity to make another difference. We are looking to provide our Beta Theta chapter (soon to be chapter) with a house worthy of its members. There are several challenges to making this happen including identifying a suitable house within the area zoned for Greek housing. There are limited options. And, second, is raising the funds necessary to provide a down payment and more so the chapter can thrive and recruit members worthy of being Phi Taus.

We need help. If you are interested in serving on the house corporation or donating funds to support the purchase of a home or the furnishings needed to make it successful, please let us know. Some donations could be made through the national fraternity's not-for-profit foundation, making them tax deductible. There is plenty to do, and all contributions are welcome. Reach out to Stephen Martino at pkteagle@yahoo.com to discuss in more detail.

And, if you know if a good fraternity house for sale in Lawrence, please let us know.

Thank you,

Stephen Martino

GRADUATING SENIORS



Alex Ostrem is the former president of Beta Theta and has been a part of the chapter for his entire college career. He is graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, he will be moving to St. Louis to begin his career as a mechanical engineer at Jacobs

Engineering. Alex joined Phi Tau to make new friends from being an out of state student, to build professional relationships, and to attain lifelong friends. His favorite memories from his time in Phi Tau were the brotherhood camping trips and brotherhood poker nights. When talking about his time in Phi Tau, Alex stated, "It feels like just yesterday I accepted my bid. College flies by when you're spending time with a great group of guys. I am proud to have been a part of the chapter for 4 years and to have watched it grow to what it is today and will continue to watch it grow as an alum". He is looking forward to serving as a member of the BOG for the Beta Theta chapter.

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Andy Denekas has been a part of the Phi Tau since 2021 and helps VPAR and social media Chairs. He is studying Philosophy with a minor in business and German. He is currently in Germany doing a study abroad. When he returns to Lawrence, he will be studying for the LSAT to attend

Law School in 2024. Andy will be in Lawrence working and looking forward to his Alumni status and all the entails.

Contact Information

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BETA THETA COMMUNITY SERVICE



In May, Beta Theta members adopted a Lawrence city park, "Quarry Park", and will regularly volunteer to ensure the park is clean for the Lawrence community. Shown is the first event of cleaning up the park. This is a great opportunity for members to be involved in community service in Lawrence and to get our name out there.

PHI TAU BROTHERHOOD EVENT



The brothers of Beta Theta attended an end-of-semester TopGolf event as a last celebration in Lawrence before summer break. This was one of many brotherhood events throughout the semester. Weekly events included Dempsey's trivia and poker night.

BETA THETA SPRING 2023 RETREAT

On April 22, alumni and the chapter got together to hold our spring retreat and workshop.

The day started with a "meet & greet" lunch followed by presentations, breakout discussion groups and some Phi Tau knowledge then ended with dinner and social time. This was a great way to have the alumni and members of the chapter engage with each other to further advance the chapter. This allowed the chapter to put several ideas, from the alumni as well as new ideas, into action. This well-organized event was proven vital to the chapter's success in the present and future as we have bounced back with our numbers since the revitalization process.

A big thank you to Tom Gooden for planning and organizing the event!



UPCOMING EVENTS!

July 9-11: Phi Kappa Tau National Convention

Aerospace engineering sophomore Ryan Hillis & anthropology & history sophomore Jacob Eich will represent Beta Theta as our two delegates at Convention this summer in Vegas. A big thank you to [Drew Marting] for helping make this happen. Also, thank you to all alumni who donated to the chapter's CEG fund through the Foundation. This is how some of that money is spent and is an easy way for you to support the chapter. Donate to the CEG fund today (aka Chapter Giving) so we can continue supporting these efforts (see National's or our Chapter's website).

7/28: POTENTIAL Royals vs. Twins Game

Still in discussion with the chapter and KC alumni. Would include tailgate and going in and watching the game, will likely be open to recruits if necessary. Watch Facebook, the chapter website, and email for more information regarding this possible event.

10/27 - 10/28: Homecoming Weekend

Friday 10/27: Annual golf tournament
Saturday 10/28: Graduate council meeting, homecoming game, and tailgate

The meeting link will be posted to the Beta Theta Chapter Alumni KU Facebook page before that weekend. The Facebook page group is linked below. Please check the link before homecoming weekend to join the page and to ensure access for the zoom meeting.

Websites and Social Media

[HQ Website](#)

[Beta Theta Chapter Website](#)

- [Alumni Page](#)
- [Giving Page](#)

[Beta Theta Alumni Facebook Page](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#): kuphikappatau

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9-11: Phi Kappa Tau National Convention

August 21: First day of classes

August 28 – September 1: Formal Recruitment

October 27 – 28: Homecoming weekend

Board of Governors:

Tom Gooden, Brian Kresin, Drew Marting, and Alex Ostrem

Graduate Council:

President: Tom Gooden

Treasurer: Chris Hazlett

Secretary: Dave Deady

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you to all who help with volunteering and/or donating to the chapter! We can't do it without you!

