



Beta Theta Colony of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity

University of Kansas / Fall 2020

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WELCOME TO THE BETA THETA GRADUATE COUNCIL!

I want to personally welcome you to the graduate council of Beta Theta Phi Kappa Tau! Some of you may remember that Richard “Burke” Meuten and I started the first graduate council since the ‘89 re-chartering (and maybe ever) back at Homecoming 1990 and when Stephen Martino and Brian Kresin asked me if I wanted to be involved again I didn’t hesitate to agree. We have some very exciting things happening in Lawrence with the new colony and we want all alumni to be involved all the way to re-chartering and our new permanent house.

There are some great guys involved in the colony who are eager to work as hard as they can to get back to chapter status. We have a group of alumni who have been identified as board of governors’ members to help them along the way. We also have some who will be focused on the audacious task of procuring permanent housing. And, of course, we have those like me, Chris Hazlett (your treasurer), and Dave Deady (your secretary) so far who are heading up the graduate council with the goal of finding as many lost alumni and bringing them back into the Phi Tau picture.

I hope you will join us on this adventure. I know we have been here before. What I can tell you is that we will do things a little differently this time to make sure we make careful and thoughtful decisions that will be most beneficial for the active chapter and alumni base both. This inaugural newsletter will describe some of those initiatives. Please read through it all and let us know how you want to help make history at KU – again!

In Phi,

Larry Washburn

Graduate Council President

MESSAGE FROM THE COLONY PRESIDENT



Current members and Alumni of Beta Theta,

As a new school year begins here in Lawrence, it is no surprise it comes with obstacles we must overcome.

Currently we have twenty-two active members. This number has dwindled slightly from the twenty-seven we had at the end of last semester. With this being said, the men still apart of the organization are the true core of the fraternity.

Going forward this semester, our main focus is on recruitment. This is no easy job considering the conditions and restraints KU has mandated. For the time being face-to-face recruitment is prohibited, leaving all of our work to be done online. In addition to this, there has also been negative press about Greek organizations on campus. Despite these facts, we are doing our best to obey the university regulations and become creative in our outreach to potential new members.

To touch on some highlights within the colony, I am sure you have all read about or seen the new Beta Theta website. The website is a key part to establish ourselves at the university once more, and we will be updates and adding on to the website in the future. Other highlights include the full integration of the Board of Governors, which got started last semester. Brian Kresin has been leading the charge within the BOG, which has done so much for the foundational strength of the colony.

Although there are many things standing in our way, I do believe that the fraternity is in a better place today than at any other point in time during the past two years. It will be up to each individual member to do their best to foster a fraternity that dedicates itself to hard work, self-accountability and brotherhood, in order to have a successful year.

In Phi,
James Lang

RECRUITMENT UPDATE

With COVID-19 around, recruitment is different than normal years. Because we are not allowed to meet in person for recruitment, we are going to have to take an online approach to things. More zoom meetings and social media ads will be used to recruit new members.

This semester especially, we are starting to hit online recruitment hard. We are creating social media ads and outreach information for new members. Our plan is to spread information about Phi Tau online to attract potential new members and to recruit by making connections. Beta Theta social media is listed on the last page and includes Beta Theta's new website and Instagram page.

We are looking for more names to contact, so if any alumni know of any potential new members that could fit in our fraternity, we would love to get their contact information!

PHI TAUS ATTEND REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Beta Theta executive officers attended the annual Red River Regional Conference this past February in the Union at KU. This full-day conference addressed chapter management issues such as risk prevention, recruitment, and leadership. This was also a chance to meet Phi Taus from other chapters in the region. Pictured above are the officers who attended at the conference.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT BETA THETA!

I have the honor of being the Treasurer of the reformed Graduate Council for the Beta Theta Colony. As I expressed to Larry Washburn, "We need to set-up contributions and accounting correctly from the beginning." I have investigated many requirements and accounting software systems to achieve that goal. Currently, the Graduate Council has a bank account and is set-up on PayPal. (BetaThetaGC@gmail.com). I am still investigating on-line accounting software that will be cost effective.

There are many fund-raising goals that we want to achieve as a Graduate Council. Due to campus restrictions because of COVID 19 there cannot be any social events so the colony has planned some brotherhood gatherings that we as alumni can sponsor for them and help them in these tough times:

Camping at Clinton Lake (\$150) – 1 alumni sponsor!

Bi-weekly dinners (\$180 each) – 6 alumni sponsors!

Chiefs watch parties (\$50 each) – 5 alumni sponsors!

General Account (any amount)

Please use PayPal to support our undergraduate brothers. The Graduate Council account is BetaThetaGC@gmail.com. If you would prefer a different way contact the Graduate Council at the same email address. Include your Name, Address, and email. I will send out contribution letters in January 2021 for your taxes.

To donate via PayPal, follow these six easy steps:
Step 1: Go to [Beta Theta's Graduate Council PayPal](#)
Step 2: Enter amount
Step 3: Login or create PayPal account
Step 4: Select payment method
Step 5: In the note section, include your name, address, and email, and which event you'd like to sponsor!
Step 6: Submit!

Thank you all for your support!

In Phi,
Chris Hazlett
Beta Theta '88

HOUSING UPDATE

Some Beta Theta alumni are starting to have discussions about long-term housing solutions for the chapter. Given the nature of the Greek community on campus, we believe that a stable housing situation is necessary for the chapter to be successful.

To that end, we are working to organize alumni who are interested in supporting a long-term housing effort either through financial contributions or organization. Pennington and Co. is a Lawrence-based Greek fundraising firm, and there has been an initial conversation about them leading a capital campaign. Because Greek housing opportunities are limited at KU, we want to be in a position to move quickly if something becomes available. It is possible that COVID will lead to the displacement of fraternities or sororities, providing an opportunity for those who can move quickly.

If you are interested in working on, discussing or contributing to a Beta Theta housing effort, please contact Larry Washburn at a1965wash@gmail.com. Thank you to Stephen Martino who initiated this effort for us!

Beta Theta Community Service



Last fall, Beta Theta members volunteered for KU's Trunk or Treat festival. Trunk or Treat is a safe way for trick-or-treaters to collect candy before Halloween. We set up the trunk with Phi Tau decorations and candy. This was a great opportunity for members to be involved in community service in Lawrence.

HOMECOMING 2020!

Make plans to attend our Homecoming this year! Here are the events currently scheduled and are subject to change:

Friday 10/2: Golf! Location: Eagle Bend Golf Course. Tee time: TDB. Cost is \$39 per person for a round. Carts are included. Ryan Talley is heading up the golf event, be sure to contact him at 785-979-3193 if you plan on attending!

Saturday 10/3: For those who will be in Lawrence that weekend, we are having a viewing party for the KU vs Oklahoma State football game. The time of the game is TBD. Stay tuned for updates.

In addition, we will have our annual graduate council meeting via Zoom on Saturday before the game. Please make plans to hear reports on alumni recruitment, events at the colony and fundraising opportunities, plus vote on acceptance of the graduate council by-laws and for the election of officers.

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.

Social Media:

[Beta Theta Colony Website](#)

[Beta Theta Alumni Facebook Page](#)

Instagram: kuphikappatau



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 26 – October 3: Homecoming week

October 3: Homecoming game and alumni graduate council meeting

November 24: Last day of in person classes

November 25 - 29: Thanksgiving break

Board of Governors:

Brian Kresin, Ryan Talley, David Griffin,
Jace Parkhurst, Robert Green, Michael Moore

Graduate Council:

President: Larry Washburn

Treasurer: Chris Hazlett

Secretary: Dave Deady

Newsletter Editor: Alex Ostrem (VPAR)

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION!

We have 24/7 access to the national database so once you make an update here, we will too!

Nationals: [Here](#)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Stephen Martino, Ryan Talley, Larry Washburn, and Brian Kresin for donating to Beta Theta to support our brotherhood events!