



Beta Theta Colony of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity

University of Kansas / Spring 2021

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Beta Theta Celebrates 2020 Hybrid Homecoming

COVID brought a lot of changes to everyone in 2020 and still does in 2021. One way Beta Theta adapted last year was to celebrate Homecoming both in person (very carefully) and virtually. All things considered it seemed to go pretty well! Here is a recap of the 2020 Beta Theta Homecoming.

Friday Golf tournament

Keeping in tradition we had our Damon Miller Memorial Golf tournament the Friday before Homecoming and it was a gorgeous and sunny day! The outing was held at Eagle Bend Golf Course in Lawrence and was coordinated by Ryan Talley. 8 actives and 4 alumni attended. In the end the guys had a great time (despite Ryan losing every golf ball he had)! The 2020 champions were Brandon Demo and Matt Foster. Afterwards good food, drinks and fellowship were had at Jefferson's in Lawrence.



Virtual Homecoming

COVID prevented a traditional Homecoming gathering last year so we did our best to meet on Zoom. We had around 20 alumni and undergraduates attend for an on-line meeting, ran by Graduate Council President Larry Washburn.

The annual meeting was called to order: there was discussion of a potential early 2021 re-chartering. House dues were lowered to help everyone impacted by COVID. Chad King's entertaining Zoom calls have been a highlight in 2020. Larry and Chris Hazlett (Graduate Council treasurer) gave reports on alumni council and financial status:

Alumni: 170 members on Facebook; 560 members per Member Planet database; 158 followers of Instagram.
Finances: \$1155.00 in the Graduate Council account earmarked for Chiefs watch parties and brotherhood dinners for the colony.

Brian Kresin updated all on the Board of Governors work. Congratulations to Vice President of Alumni Relations Alex Ostrem for publishing an excellent fall newsletter! There was a mention of finding permanent housing for the colony in order to grow – the vacant SDT house was considered but financial terms make this unavailable right now. A feasibility study is being considered.

Recruitment has also been challenging with COVID restrictions: no in person or rush parties allowed so the undergraduates have been clever in their rush efforts. Current membership was mentioned to be 22. The colony members were recognized for their excellent academics!

The GPA of 3.3 was the highest since colonizing in 2018!

Colton Jahr was recognized for the website he created.

The graduate council by-laws were officially approved and Larry, Chris and Dave Deady were voted in as president, treasurer and secretary. The meeting was adjourned at 12:27pm.

Thank you to Ryan Talley, Chris Hazlett, Dave Deady, Brian Kresin, Alex Ostrem, James Lang and Connor Cross for their help in planning the 2020 Virtual Homecoming!

SAVE THE DATE!

Homecoming 2021 is set for October 16th! We plan on playing golf, tailgating, and having a good time with brothers. More information to come shortly!

MESSAGE FROM THE COLONY PRESIDENT

As Spring and warmer weather are right around the corner, the Beta Theta colony is looking forward to reinvigoration. With rising temperatures come rising hopes as the colony continues its progress toward rechartering.



One requirement of rechartering is colony size, and so Beta Theta has made recruitment the top priority for this semester. On the night of Sunday, February 28th, four pledges became associated members, bringing our member count to 18. Although the quantity of brothers has dwindled, the quality has not. Keeping this in mind, current Recruitment Chairs Connor Cross and AJ Powell have set forth an ambitious plan for informal recruitment. As the IFC moves to allow certain in-person Greek Life events, the colony looks to its brothers, both past and present, for a continuous stream of strong support.

Internally, a high-priority goal for the current Executive Board and Board of Governors is an increase in organization. With specific help from Tom Gooden, Rex Johnson, Brian Kresin, and Larry Washburn, the colony has made good progress toward its goal. So far, advancements have taken place with the Beta Theta website as well as social media accounts; additionally, organizational software (Asana, ChapterSpot, and Slack) has become the main workspace. These movements are vital to the survival of the colony when one considers the leaps and bounds it aims to take.

It has been said that obstacles are only what you see when you take your eyes off your goals. Though there are challenges that lay ahead, we must trust in each other. In the end, success and achievement are the only measures of our virtues.

In Phi,

Henry Tomasic
Gamma, 2019

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT BETA THETA!

As discussed by our current Colony President, we have many lofty goals that we wish to accomplish. The main goal that we have is **recruitment**. Our goals are very doable; however, we need your support! Below is a list of ways we will be recruiting now and this summer and opportunities you can get involved with to help Beta Theta have a successful recruiting season:

Taus Take on Camping (\$400) – 2-4 alumni sponsors!
This donation covers a camping spot at Clinton Lake, food and drink and games for recruits and members.

Taus Play “Water” Pong (\$900) – 4-8 alumni sponsors!
This donation covers food and drink for all to try their luck at this safe activity.

Taus Top Golf (\$600) – 2-4 alumni sponsors!
This donation covers entry fees, food and drink for all to enjoy a great time driving range balls.

Phi Tau Instagram Ads (\$50 Each) – 2 alumni sponsors!
This donation covers marketing ads on Instagram.

Taus Tabling (\$200) – 2-4 alumni sponsors!
This donation covers marketing materials as actives promote the colony on campus.

General Account (any amount)
This donation can be used for whatever is needed.

To donate please visit the Donate button under the alumni page on the colony [website](#).

THANK YOU!!!!!!!

In Phi,

AJ Powell
Connor Cross
Co-Recruitment chairmen

FALL 2021 HOUSING UPDATE

It is still the Colony’s goal to be living in a proper house next academic year. On April 15th, the BOG and the Colony Officers met to reassess if our membership level warrants seeing out housing. We are happy to report that alumni are actively pursuing renting a house this fall! Currently, the nice house on Sigma Nu Place (Roger’s house) is still available for Fall 2021. Updates will be posted on our Facebook alumni group page.



PHI TAUS MEET WITH THE PROXI APARTMENTS



Beta Theta followed all of the COVID protocols made by the IFC and KU and was able to hold chapter in-person in February. During this meeting, several things were discussed, such as goals for the semester along with recruitment. During this meeting Beta Theta was visited by the Proxi Apartment where they learned about exclusive leasing deals and were provided with free pizza from Toppers Pizza!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – A.J. POWELL



Adam (A.J.) Powell is an active member of Phi Kappa Tau's Beta Theta colony. He is a sophomore at the University of Kansas studying architectural design. He currently holds the position of recruitment chair within the fraternity. Other than school he participates in intramural sports like flag football and basketball with Covid permitting. We asked him a couple things about the

fraternity like why he joined. His response was "I joined Phi Kappa Tau for the brotherhood and my friends within the fraternity. I couldn't pass up the offer to hang out with these guys all the time". Then we asked him what one of his favorite memories within the fraternity is. He responded with "One of my favorite memories with the fraternity was the Christmas date party of 2019. I just remember going out and having a great time with all the brothers at the cave." He is currently busy working on Phi Kappa Tau rush events to help with recruiting and to meet new guys and help grow the fraternity. Thanks AJ!

GRADUATING SENIORS

This upcoming May, we will be celebrating the graduation of six brothers: James Lang, Connor Cross, Nic Redford, Vitaliy Polovin, Nick Leahy, and Alex Falk. Throughout their time in the fraternity, they have brought fond memories and made several contributions to the growth and culture of Beta Theta. James, Connor, Nic, Vitaliy, Nick, and Alex: you will be missed. We hope to see you at future alumni events and wish nothing but the best for you in life. Just know, you will always have a home at Beta Theta. Congratulations on all your accomplishments!

James Lang



James Lang is the former president of Beta Theta and is graduating with degrees in Business Analytics and Finance. After graduation he plans to move to Austin, Texas in hopes to become a business analyst. He joined Phi Tau to make new friends during his time at KU to and build

lasting professional relationships after graduation. James' favorite event as an active member was when the fraternity went on a brotherhood campout during the Fall of 2020. Outside of fraternity activities he loves being outdoors whether it be hunting, fishing, hiking, camping or grilling out with the boys.

Contact: jameslang0598@gmail.com (913)-226-1231

Connor Cross



Connor Cross will be graduating with a marketing degree from the school of business. Connor has been with Phi Tau at KU since his sophomore year, when the fraternity started back up. During

his time at KU, Connor was a VPAR, Vice President, and Recruitment Chair. Connor's favorite memory from Phi Tau was "Dad's Day" at the senior house in 2020. Currently, Connor is in the job seeking process and would love to connect on LinkedIn. Connor hopes that he is leaving Phi Tau better than when he first joined. When discussing his time with Phi Tau, Connor said, "It seems like just yesterday I was accepting my bid, time really does fly when you're having fun!"

Contact: connorcross1@gmail.com (913)-609-3386

Nic Redford



Nic Redford is a history and anthropology major with a minor in Latin American Indigenous studies. Nic joined Phi Tau his sophomore year when things were just forming up. Nic liked the whole startup fraternity

atmosphere and saw the opportunity to create the culture he wanted to see. Soon after joining, Nic was appointed to be the first Vice President of the newly formed chapter. After graduation Nic will be continue to learn the Yucatec Mayan language under the FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) fellowship and will hopefully will be pursuing a Doctoral degree in Archaeology.

Contact: ncredford1@gmail.com (913)-617-8407

Vitaliy Polovin



Vitaliy Polovin joined Phi Tau due to a friend (Tyler Rand) he met in his COMS class he took as a freshman at KU that persuaded him to join the group. He grew and built relationships with his brothers and memories started to develop. His

favorite memory was being able to spend a Super Bowl together and actually seeing the Chiefs win. Vitaliy's degree is in Exercise Science, but he will be continuing his education in Chiropractic. In his spare time, he loves to exercise, playing videos games and exploring nature. Vitaliy said, "he will dearly miss the brothers and all the memories that they have created throughout the years at KU."

Contact: polovinvitaliy@yahoo.com (785)-506-1684

Alex Falk



Alex Falk is an accounting major from Kansas City, Kansas. He joined Phi Tau his freshman year when he met two recruiters from nationals at Union Fest playing Rock Paper Scissors with random people. Due to losing this game, Alex gave them his contact information and

the rest is history. During his time with the fraternity, he was Treasurer for two years and is the current Vice President of Alumni Relations. His favorite memory with the fraternity was the fraternity campout last fall. After graduation, Alex plans on returning to KU to get his Masters in Accounting and CPA. After that, he plans on moving to Boston and attending law school, where he hopes to become a Corporate Lawyer.

Contact: alexander.falk99@gmail.com (913)-522-2910

ALUMNI: please reach out to the seniors if you can help them with their goals. Thank you!

Social Media:

[Beta Theta Colony Website](#)

[Beta Theta Alumni Facebook Page](#)

Instagram: [kuphikappatau](#)

BETA THETA ETERNAL

Since the last newsletter we lost one of our own – Roger Dade, Alpha Beta, '90. In case you had not heard Roger passed away unexpectedly Christmas Eve in Chicago at the age of 49. He will be greatly missed.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

The year was 1988 and KU had just beaten K-STATE to go to the Final Four. After the win students rushed the campus and high-fived each other. This picture appeared on the front page of the Wall Street Journal! In front are Doug Deady (left wearing Phi Tau letters) and Clint Burnette. Matt Oller is behind Doug.



CLOSING THOUGHTS FROM THE BOG CHAIRMAN

As you can imagine, it has been an incredible challenge for our fraternity to function during the crippling COVID restrictions. I'm pleased to report that our members have hung in there and did a good job of keeping their brotherhood alive despite the endless number of challenges that they have faced over the past year. The undergraduates remain focused on several major goals including recruiting more quality members and satisfying the requirements for rechartering Beta Theta.

One important development is that over the past year an amazing number of alumni have become actively involved in supporting the fraternity in various ways/roles. Currently we have the highest level of alumni support and involvement since recolonizing in 1984. We've reestablished the Graduate Council, launched a Housing Expository group, successfully fund-raised to support recruitment efforts, brotherhood events, and student scholarships, and reconnected with our old buddies. I'm sure I'll forget to name every alumnus who has pitched-in, but I will give a shout out to some the guys who have really stepped-up to help Beta Theta. First, **Larry Washburn** deserves a huge thank you for all the great work he has done over the past two years to get the Graduate Council reestablished and flourishing. **Tom Gooden** has been and remains an incredible driving force on the Board of Governors. **David Griffin, Ryan Talley, Jeremy Eaton, Kevin Boatright, and Jace Parkhurst** are among the alumni who have served roles on the Board of Governors. **Stephen Martino** has been a guiding force in our efforts to secure a Chapter house. **Dave Deady, Doug Deady, Rex Johnson, Jeff Swearingen, Andrew Pickens, Chris Harvey, and Chris Hazlett** have all given many hours of their valuable time to help in various ways. **Chad King** deserves a huge thank you for hosting our alumni Zoom hang-outs. Personally, I've really enjoyed reconnecting with some of my old favorites like **Clinton Burnett, Craig Bruner, Jason Lohmeyer, and Andy Paterson**. It's also been great to see some brothers from the pre-1973 era show up for our alumni Zoom hang-outs.

On a personal note, I've really enjoyed getting to know our current undergraduate members. We have some truly bright, charismatic, and motivated young brothers working hard to rebuild our fraternity. If you ever make it to Lawrence, contact our VPAR Alex Falk to arrange for an opportunity to meet the men who are rebuilding Beta Theta. If you have any questions or would like to help support the fraternity in any way, please reach out to me via (805) 680-5657 or Brian@SLBrown.com.

In Phi,

"Big Bri" Brian Kresin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 14: Last Day of Spring Semester

May 16: Graduation

May 17: First Day of Summer Break

August 23: First Day of Fall Semester

October 15-17: Homecoming weekend

Board of Governors:

Brian Kresin, Ryan Talley, David Griffin,
Tom Gooden, Rex Johnson, Chris Hazlett, Larry
Washburn

Graduate Council:

Larry Washburn, Chris Hazlett, Dave Deady

Newsletter Editor: Alex Falk (VPAR)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to **Chris Hazlett, Tom Gooden, Patrick Martin, Ryan Talley, Tim Phenicie and Brian Kresin** for financially donating to support our brotherhood events!