



Beta Theta Associate Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity

University of Kansas / Spring 2022

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BETA THETA CELEBRATES 2021 HOMECOMING!

We had a very successful and well-attended Homecoming last Fall! From golfing and activities on the Hill, to dinner at Johnny's, alumni from all over gathered to share in the festivities and brotherhood and reminisce about the good times when they were at KU. Here is a recap of the 2021 Beta Theta Homecoming!

Friday

Once again, the weekend kicked off with the Damon Miller Memorial Golf Tournament. Cold and rainy weather turned to sunny skies by the end of the day! The outing was held at Eagle Bend Golf Course again **BUT**, because we had such a huge interest in playing, we had four brothers head to The Orchards golf course to play! 18 alums and actives participated! In the end the guys had a great time! Thanks again to Ryan Talley for organizing the event! Below, active members Ben Parker, Alex Falk and Andy Denekas hold the Phi Tau flag proudly!



The champions! Thomas Graves/Michael Anthony!



Saturday

We rented a tent on the hill! Although we could not see the game, it was a fun place to hang out and enjoy the beautiful day! It was right in the middle of the activities! Some of us enjoyed a box lunch and other refreshments – there was cornhole, good music and some even went to the game.



Ben Parker and Jeremy Eaton get acquainted

Above: Jason Myers, John Gilliford, Matt Mattes and Dave Deady about to hit it! Below: Tom Gooden, Scott Gates, Clint Carrier, Brandon Demo and Jason Doll enjoying refreshments at Jeffersons afterwards.



Above: Tom, Larry Washburn, Dave and Pat Martin try to see the game. Below: Bryan Harbison, George Werth and Chris Hazlett root on the Jayhawks!





Alumni and undergraduates gather at Johnny's for dinner and conversation to wrap up a great Homecoming!

Thank you to Ryan Talley, Chris Hazlett, Dave Deady, Tom Gooden, Brian Kresin, Alex Falk and Ben Parker for all of their help in planning the events!

SAVE THE DATE!

Homecoming 2022 is set for October 1st against Iowa State! More information to come shortly! You may want to make lodging plans now as hotels and VRBO's book quickly.

If you would like to help with this year's committee and even maybe chair it [contact Larry Washburn](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) to make a \$25 contribution to help offset the costs of the tent and Saturday food/drink for the 2022 Homecoming. Thank you!

MESSAGE FROM THE R.C. PRESIDENT

With the semester half over and as spring rolls around, the Beta Theta colony looks at our plan and goals for the remainder of the school year. There is still much progress to be made and obstacles to overcome.



A major requirement and top priority of the colony this year is recruitment. We currently have six active members, one of which has just recently been associated. Although our numbers are small, we are the heart of the fraternity and have been for the past few years. We all 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 completely focused on recruitment to grow our numbers before the semester ends and before school starts in the fall. We are involved in many different recruitment methods including brotherhood dinners, watch parties, social events, contacting current KU students and incoming high school seniors, and simply reaching out to people we know. We have had good turn out with these methods but have not bid the amount of people we would have wished. I want to give a big shoutout to Andy Denekas, who has been going above and beyond with contacting and staying in touch with PNMs throughout the semester.

Earlier this year, Drake Berlin and Hunter Pemberton from Nationals visited the colony to discuss our goals and help us with recruitment. We all learned a lot from them from recruitment tips and methods to goal setting and organization. They both they really helped us out and want us to succeed. That being said, we will continue with our recruitment process and use more out of the box methods to achieve our goal.

I would like to thank all our Alumni, the Board of Governors, and the Graduate Council for their

unceasing dedication and support for the colony. Members of the BOG Tom Gooden, Larry Washburn, Brian Kresin, and Drew Marting have been going above and beyond in helping us out this year in all matters.

To highlight some things within the colony this semester, we are participating in several social events in KU Greek Life. Our goal is to get our name out there and to be recognized by other fraternity and sorority chapters on campus. Currently, we are participating in Chapters for Charity. This is a philanthropy event in which all IFC chapters 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, in April, we are participating in a paintball social event with Triangle fraternity. We want to spread the Phi Tau name around campus and in Lawrence.

With all this being said, the colony is stopping for nothing to find new members and to be as active as possible on campus. With the things standing in our way and challenges we face; we are all dedicated to achieving success and to allow the colony to grow in numbers. It is up to all members to work together and do their utmost best to grow the colony. We are looking forward to what we can achieve and the future of the colony.

In Phi,

Alex Ostrem
Gamma Class, 2019

Social Media:

[Beta Theta Colony Website](#)

[Beta Theta Alumni Facebook Page](#)

Instagram: kuphikappatau

Check us out on these social media channels!

KU JAYHAWKS ARE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!!

WHAT A GREAT YEAR! The Jayhawks are **NUMBER ONE!** As part of March Madness, the fraternity held a March Madness Bracket contest. Winners would receive cash prizes with a majority of the money raised going to the Serious Fun Charity, created by actor and Phi Tau alumnus Paul Newman. The organization empowers children with serious illnesses and their families to reimagine what is possible by creating inclusive camp and recreational experiences, inspiring confidence and joy, and building community and connection.

We had 22 brackets entered and raised \$220! \$150 will go to Serious Fun! The winners were:

First Place (\$35): Ben Parker

Second Place (\$25): Rex Johnson

Third Place (\$10): Brandon Brill

Congrats to the winners/thank you to all participants!



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT BETA THETA!

As mentioned by the current president, the undergraduates have many goals they wish to accomplish. The main goal is recruitment. Their goals are very doable; however, they need your support! Below are ways that you can get involved and help Beta Theta have a successful recruitment effort!

Taus Take on Camping (\$400) – 2-4 alumni sponsor!
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.

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

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

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 to sponsor!
- Step 6: Submit!

GRADUATING SENIORS!

We say goodbye to one undergraduate senior and we also say goodbye **again** to one who is graduating with his masters! Congratulations and we wish you the best in future endeavors! Thank you for everything you have done for Phi Kappa Tau!

Ben Parker



Ben Parker will be graduating this spring with degrees in finance and accounting. He is a former president, treasurer and scholarship chair. Ben joined Beta Theta in the fall of 2018 during the initial

recolonization effort. “I joined a great group of guys that I loved hanging out with”, said Ben. His favorite memories are the camping trip they took in the Spring of 2021, the KU vs Missouri hockey games, and Homecoming 2021. After graduation, Ben will be heading to Kansas City to work for Ernest & Young. In his free time, Ben enjoys watching and playing sports.

Contact: benpiowa5@gmail.com (319)-359-0010

Alex Falk



Alex Falk is a Master’s in Accounting student 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 a former Vice President of Alumni Relations. His favorite memory with the fraternity was watching KU win the national championship with brothers. After graduation, Alex plans to return to KU and attend law school in hopes of becoming a corporate lawyer.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE BOG PRESIDENT

Headwinds continued for the chapter emerging from the Covid restrictions of the 2020-2021 school year. During the 2021-2022 school year the chapter dealt with resurging Covid restrictions affecting how the chapter recruited, worked on philanthropic activities and attending leadership events; including the last-minute cancellation of Presidents Academy in January. The chapter also saw several associate members quit the chapter over the summer, in part, due to our not being able to secure a chapter house that we had been pursuing. A great deal of momentum from last spring was lost.

As a side note, I refer to it as “the chapter” however Beta Theta is still considered an “associate chapter” (a term that recently replaced colony). None of the members of Beta Theta since 2018, having attended all 4+ years and even graduated, have been initiated. I explain this because I think those of us from earlier years, having been initiated and instructed in the ritual, may find it difficult to relate to the perspective of these uninitiated undergrads who lack ritual understanding.

Despite all this, the associate members returning the fall of 2022 pressed on and made the best of it. I continue to be impressed by their dedication and desire to realize the ideals of Phi Kappa Tau. The BOG has continued to work with the undergrads providing mentorship, financial support, challenging them to reach goals and coordinating with our success leader at HQ and Greek Life at KU. I’m sure you can appreciate the difficulty in growing the organization starting the semester with five members.

So what is this all for anyway? As an undergrad myself, I personally appreciated the leadership opportunities that Phi Tau provided me and continues to offer to these young men. They are after all our future leaders. Any graduate council member (that’s you alumni) can volunteer to mentor an undergraduate officer in their role over the course of the school year. To find out more about how to get involved, please reach out to me at thomasSgooden@gmail.com or read more at www.phikappatau.org/alumni/volunteer. While Beta Theta certainly provides opportunities to get involved,

our national organization also sponsors leadership programs throughout the year. Unfortunately, travel expenses can deter officers from attending these events. Alumni may help offset travel costs associated with these programs by donating to the Phi Kappa Tau Foundation - Chapter Giving fund. The Chapter Giving Fund is 100% allocated to Beta Theta and makes a big difference in officers ability to attend these events. You may donate through www.phikappatau.org/give.

My thanks to the current BOG members for their help working with the undergrads including: Brian Kresin, Larry Washburn, Drew Marting and Tom Wilson. I hope the associate chapter is able to persevere through these tough times and emerge a stronger organization on the other side.

In Phi,

Thomas Gooden

2021 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 12/4/2021. 12:04pm Location: Virtual/Zoom

Attendees:

Larry Washburn, David Deady, Alexander Falk, Chris Hazlett, Alex Ostrem, Tom Wilson, Bernhard Bruno Zinkraf, Tom Gooden, Dale Coy, Brian Kresin, Jack McNeely, Doug Deady, Andrew Pickens and Ryan Talley

Reports:

David Deady/GC Secretary

Read last year’s BOG Minutes from 10/3/2020. - David to update “BOG” terminology to “Grad Council” in those minutes since it was incorrectly written last year.

Larry Washburn/Grad Council Pres

Larry presented. Big leaps this last year. Cleaned up and consolidated the Alumni Database. 400 Alumni now. 220 working emails. 110 phone numbers. Mailed Holiday cards and Homecoming Cards. Updated over 200 contacts. 156 Alumni invited to join Member Planet. Sent Newsletters. Over \$8k raised.

Chad King hosted Zoom calls for Alums. We delivered text and email reminders.
Organized Generation Captains to get people involved on Zooms.
Used social media. Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.
Developed website. Ramped up donations, marketing, communications, parents, PNMs.
Homecoming was successful. Golf on Friday. Saturday on the Hill.
Local get togethers kept people in touch.
Larry reviewed the PKT creed with all.

Chris Hazlet/Treasurer

Financial Report: \$8,643 in donations. \$6,793 unrestricted; \$1,850 restricted (dinners, or chiefs parties). Expenses \$4,822 for the following: recruitment, camping, Brotherhood Dinners, Operating Expenses: Paypal Fees
Homecoming Expenses 2021
Tent \$382
Shirt subsidy + shipping \$318 (2 extra for sale for \$20)
Beverages \$96
Food – Net Zero
Golf – Net Zero
Total \$796 (Budget was \$1000)
No PKT logos on stemware per Nationals
How to Donate. Paypal.com web or app (BetaThetaGC@gmail.com)
Email any questions to BetaThetaGC@gmail.com

Tom Gooden/BOG Chairman

Purpose of BOG Chairman: Act as the liaison between chapter, nationals, university. Ensure expectations are clear from Exec offices. Manage membership development, recruitment, and retention. Deal with disciplinary issues. Monthly meetings w Drake. Brian was chairman last year.

Reached out to PKT Nationals. Fiji is recolonizing and has help from their Nationals. Our members are not professional recruiters and have no formal training. PKT Nationals did not have resources. Drake came down for a week to help train a bit. We still need more support from Nationals. Asked for dues relief. Dues dropped temporarily.

Greek Life Chair at KU oversees IFC. Her name is Alli. They have monthly meeting with Chapters. She helps and has made herself available to help w campus resources. Reserving rooms, tabling events, putting chapter info on KU website.

Last Spring/Summer PKT started w 20 guys, but dropped to 17. 11/18 earned scholarship based on grades.

We had a chance to move into large house to rent. Needed funds for utilities and a house mom. We thought we could do it w 20 guys. Min 15. Physical House would have been nice. 11 committed then backed out. We had to pull the plug on renting the house.

Fall 2021 starting w 6 members. Recruiting now, but no one has joined. Drake working with them. Tom working w them. 5/6 earned a scholarship.

Winter/Spring 2022:

Alex is incoming president. May attend PKT Pres Academy training.

Chapter will participate in Formal Spring recruitment in Jan 19th.

They will lose 2 or 3 members to graduation end of Spring.

BOGs Status: BOG meets monthly on the first Sun of the month.

•Chairman -Tom

•Alumni Advisor – Larry

•Financial advisor – Drew Marting

•Wellness Advisor – Tom Wilson

Open Positions:

•Chapter Advisor

•Faculty Advisor

•Recruitment Advisor

•Scholarship Advisor

Do we have a domain director? That's a volunteer position that is no longer active. The PKT Domain Dir manager may help a bit, but we don't have a dedicated resource.

A Faculty advisor and Grad School advisor would be nice.

You can donate to Chapter Giving via Nationals (Scholarships, Leadership Academy) and is tax deductible.

Doug Deady/Recruitment Advisor.

Spoke w Kaleb a few times. Environment for recruiting is very different. First years don't live in house anymore.

We need a Grad Council Recruitment Chair. Maybe do Royals events, etc.

We need to use social media better to reach High schoolers.

Per Tom G: Recruitment policies will be harsh going forward since position change in university management overseeing fraternities.

Alex Ostrem

Alex is new president. We have 6 guys in house. Very active. Want to grow the house.

Top priority is recruitment.

Academics 3.44 average GPA last semester. Best ever.

Study sessions at Library for 2 hours every Wed for study groups. Kresin scholarship (5/6 received \$)

Finances. Dues \$400/semester. Nationals got it lowered. Alumni donations package \$3k for weekly brotherhood dinners, watch parties, date parties. Savings acct is \$4016.

Recruitment is top priority. Fall Rush: good turnout to our room/booth (30-50 names). No one signed. We have list of not joins. Potential New Members (PNM). We had a few guys come to a dinner. Phi Tau website. Instagram ads. Calling/Texting, DMing PNMs. Dorm Storming.

Asana pipeline is being used.

Flyers posted sometimes. Good way to get freshmen to join.

Thanks to Alumni (donations, support, motivation)

Per Alex Falk, sophomores were successful because we didn't need them to break a lease.

Alex Falk:

Part of original class. Studying Accounting. Outgoing VPAR. Current State of the Colony.

Holding weekly brotherhood dinners. Weekly study hours. Weekly chapter meeting.

Events (Friendsgiving, Chiefs parties, etc.). Recruitment: List of names. Ads in dorms. Ads for Insta.

Recruitment Events. Reaching out to friends w brothers that are Freshmen at KU.

Small but strong.

GPA is 3.44 highest in history. 3rd highest in campus.

Planning on recruiting events. We will participate in normal recruitment if IFC holds it. Will use dinners and events as well.

Plan to raise/maintain GPA.

How can Alumni help. Nationals not helping much.

They need to send a recruitment guy down once or twice a year. Need to pressure them.

Forward potential recruits. Donations help. Dinners are nice.

- Tom Wilson. Was a Beta Theta Chapter Consultant in his day. Then they visited 2x a year. Drake from Nationals came down. Only once since 2018. Brian and Tom had a lot of discussions w Nationals. Martino put original pressure on them.

- Per Brian Kresin - Nationals is shorthanded right now. They are canceling remote meetings even now. We need to keep them focused. Of our \$8k budget \$5k goes to Nationals. Nationals takes up a significant portion of the budget.

-Tom Wilson represented Beta Theta at the PKT National convention.

- Recruitment is hard when we don't have a house. No pandemic issues in the past. Greek system was weak last year.

- Beta Theta can be a colony indefinitely. Small does not equate to death from IFC or Nationals.

- Larry – make sure calendars are updated online so alumni can attend if possible.

- Per Alex: house members meet every Tues at 5:30 for dinner.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Tom is BOG Chair replacing Brian.

- Brian Kresin was awarded the Phi Award from Nationals. We won 2 or 3 awards. James Lang for colony president. The colony won one. Tom Wilson represented BT this year at the convention.

Tom Gooden: Amendments to By-Laws.

- Amendments to by laws. Tom/Larry discussed.

- Drake had input. Tom reviewed other chapters By Laws as well.

- General corrections (Legal name vs non-Legal name)
- Tweaks from terminology (i.e. "colony" to "associate chapter")

- Changing wording of BOG being responsible to Grad Council. BOG is actually responsible to Nationals, not Grad Council.

- Who is on BOG.

- Additions. No mentions of Housing Corp. That is staffed by Grad Council.

- Language about committees. 4 standing committees on Grad Council: Recruitment, Career Development, Finance, Alumni Affairs (Mtgs, Newsletters, Dues, Liaison to Alumni Associations, reunions.)

- BOG can be anyone. At least 3 should come from Grad Council. Can be parents, etc.
- President, Treasurer, Secretary are voted in.
- BOG chair appointed by grad council.
- BOG reports to Nationals. Grad Council appoints BOG.
- Per Drake. BOG just decided on their own positions. Usually don't have large Grad Council.
- Appointment said Chapter President needs to approve. Nationals doesn't do that.
- Voted on changes to By Laws: All in attendance approves. No down votes.
- Greg Holland is friends w Tom Wilson. Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Alumni advisor group. This might be a good position for us to consider. It's separate from BOG and Grad Council. Calls on others with Chapter experience. It's not a council or board. More of a team like grad council. It's an advisory team of Alums.

2022 Look Ahead

Founders Day events in March
Homecoming 2022.
75th anniversary (diamond jubilee in '23) planning
Mtg adjourned 1:39pm

FOUNDERS DAY EVENT HELD IN KC

Beta Theta held a Founders Day event on Friday, March 18th and not Thursday, March 17th, as the restaurants and pubs would be very crowded for St. Patrick's Day. The luncheon was held at Twin Peaks in Olathe.

The event was organized by Dave and Doug Deady and Chris Hazlett. Six brothers attended. Looks like they enjoyed the food, drink and brotherhood!



THOUGHTS FROM THE GRAD. COUNCIL. PRES.

You've heard from the Resident Council and Board of Governors presidents so I thought I would share some thoughts in my head as well. Since I agreed to become graduate council president in February '20 we have seen a lot.



One month later, of course, was Covid. Then there was the possibility of not one but two potential fraternity houses! There were so many of you who got involved. And we had a very generous alumni donation of \$5,000, which allowed us to invest in recruitment and homecoming expenses. It was all very exciting.

Things have not worked out as we had hoped but I think that is nothing to be discouraged about. In fact, we have a lot to build on. We have an organized graduate council, board of governors and the beginning of a strong alumni base. We have generations captains who can help us find lost alumni. We have representation at Nationals with brother Stephen Martino. We have more going for us than some other Phi Tau associate chapters, or for that matter, regular chapters have. We have really dedicated alumni who want to do that they can to rebuild Beta Theta.

So, the question I ask myself is what can I do to help others get involved in this journey? That's why you see me post on Facebook a lot; that's why I send out personal messages to many of you asking your help. Like anything, the current graduate council officers and board of governor's members cannot do this ourselves. We need you. But you have to tell me what it is you want to do. I bet there is something that you have a passion for and would greatly benefit our efforts. If I have not found you and that passion yet, please reach out to me and tell me what it is. Brotherhood is forever. We can do this! Please join us!

In Phi,

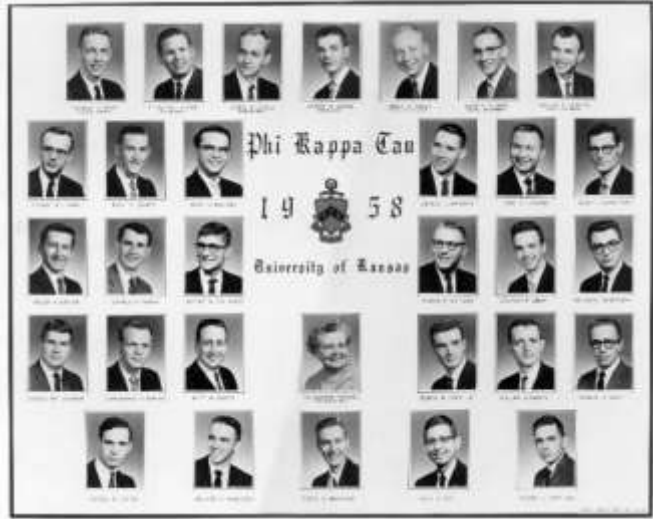
Larry Washburn

MEMORIES

After all of that reading how about some pictures from the past?



K. U. Phi Kappa Tau 1958



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 13: Last Day of Spring Semester

May 15: Graduation

May 16: First Day of Summer Break

July 9: Alumni event: Royals game

August 22: First Day of Fall Semester

September 30 – October 1: Homecoming weekend

Board of Governors:

Tom Gooden, Brian Kresin, Larry Washburn,
Drew Marting and Tom Wilson

Graduate Council:

President: Larry Washburn
Treasurer: Chris Hazlett
Secretary: Dave Deady

Newsletter Editor: Larry Washburn

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 FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

75th BETA THETA JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN 2023!

Believe it or not Beta Theta will be 75 years old in 2023! That's right, the first charter was in 1948! We want to celebrate this continued tradition of Phi Kappa Tau at the University of Kansas with a huge event next year! As we have some time, we want to build a planning committee for this special occasion. We could have it at the Eldridge Hotel as an example. We would have representation from Nationals attend, as well as alumni from all generations. It all shapes up to be a memorable moment on our history.

If you would like to be a part of the planning for this event, please [contact Larry Washburn](#).

CONGRATS TO JAMES LANG AND ABIGAIL!!

Congratulations to brother James and his fiancé Abigail Veneziano on getting married! We wish you a long life full of happiness!



ΦΚΤ