

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Founders' Day Dinner

March 24, 2018

### NYC Area Annual Alumni Dinner

Early December 2017  
Date & Location TBD

If interested contact:

**Jeffrey Kaufman '80**

[jkaufman@avantilinens.com](mailto:jkaufman@avantilinens.com)

**Ross Weiner '80**

[ross.weiner.ny@gmail.com](mailto:ross.weiner.ny@gmail.com)

~25 Beta Pi alumni (mainly from the initiation classes of '79, '80, and '81 attended last year's event. Please note that due to space considerations, priority will be given to the initiation classes of 1977-1983.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

### President

Nicolas deLuna

[ndeluna@](mailto:ndeluna@wharton.upenn.edu)

[wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:wharton.upenn.edu)

### Vice President - Internal

Dan Maldonado

### Vice President - External

Santosh Vallabhaneni

### Treasurer

Michael Plumb

### Secretary

Ben Judd

### Council Delegate

Sam Eichenwald

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President – **Ross Weiner '80**

[BetaPiAlumniPenn@gmail.com](mailto:BetaPiAlumniPenn@gmail.com)

Vice President – **Bruce Wolfson '71**

[bawolfson@me.com](mailto:bawolfson@me.com)

Treasurer – **Joel Catania '71**

[jlclii@aol.com](mailto:jlclii@aol.com)

Secretary – **Mort Cohen '65**

[fishfry1201@aol.com](mailto:fishfry1201@aol.com)

October 2017

# Slices of Beta Pi

[www.pika-upenn.org](http://www.pika-upenn.org)

The Alumni Newsletter of the Beta Pi Chapter of  
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Enjoying the Alumni Experience from 2,700+ Miles Away

#### Distance Can't Keep Jon Belmonte '90 from Lifelong Membership in Beta Pi

As a freshman, **Jon Belmonte '90** was seeking out a fraternity that not only displayed diversity in its members and their interests, but also an authentic brotherhood. He found both of those at Pi Kappa Alpha.

"To start, I was particularly impressed with how well-rounded the brothers seemed to be – academically, athletically, and socially," he explained. "But as I got to know more, I realized it was truly a brotherhood. It was the closeness, loyalty, and camaraderie that sold me."

Joining the fraternity and moving into the house during his sophomore and junior years was one of the best decisions that Jon made as a college student.

"Living in the house was priceless!" he exclaimed. "Beyond having a ton of fun, I built some of the strongest relationships of my life."

Some of Jon's most cherished memories are centered around those relationships and how he grew during those developmental years.

"I fondly remember house meetings, being Rush Chairman, pledge pranks, morning after house parties, and just hanging out," he said. "I also knew how much I respected many of the older brothers."

Not only did he develop as a social human being, but he learned valuable lessons from many of those older, wiser brothers.

"You need to make sure you leave time, energy and focus for academics," he advised. "I was not the most academically-minded



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undergrad. When I saw how focused and successful many of my brothers had become, it motivated me to take my graduate business school opportunity very seriously."

Setting a high bar of expectation, the PIKE brothers thrived on the motivation and respect that was displayed. Supporting each other, as well, was a cornerstone for the genuine brotherhood.

"I valued the library time and career advice I received from my brothers," he said.

Today, Jon lives in La Jolla, Calif. with his wife and four children. He is a CEO in the field of

technology. He doesn't, however, let distance dissuade him from staying connected to the fraternity that gave him so much.

"I stay in touch with a lot of brothers. I see them during east coast visits, and stay connected through phone calls, etc. There's a great event each year in New York City during the first week of March that draws a great crowd of guys," he said. He also has returned to campus for each of his five-year reunions, where he enjoys playing a little pong at the house and getting to know some of the new brothers.

Now, as the older, wiser brother, Jon is able to share his wisdom with the newest generation of PIKES.

"Find the right balance of having fun, developing close relationships, and setting yourself up for success in post-Penn life," he advised. "You can do it – if you're focused and efficient."

## UPCOMING MILESTONE

### You are Part of a Brotherhood 280,000 Strong

#### As PiKA Approaches Sesquicentennial, There is Much to Celebrate

##### Beta Pi to Commemorate Milestone Anniversary at 2018 Founders' Day

On March 1, 1868, at the University of Virginia, fellow students Robertson Howard, Julian Edward Wood, James Benjamin Sclater Jr., Frederick Southgate Taylor, Littleton Weller Tazewell Bradford, and William Alexander, gathered on campus to form a fraternity - Pi Kappa Alpha.

One hundred fifty years later, Pi Kappa Alpha, with some 220 chapters and colonies, has approximately 16,000 undergraduate and 280,000 lifetime members. Besides a history of startling growth and influence in the fraternity world, PiKA has undergone many changes through the years.

At first, PiKA was a sectional fraternity, forming chapters only in the South. In 1889 PiKA became a national organization. Eventually a chapter was formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A local fraternity, Alpha Phi Delta, became the Beta Pi Chapter at the University of Pennsylvania, the 64<sup>th</sup> chapter of PiKA.

Beta Pi maintained a chapter house at 3900 Locust Street until 1968 when the property was taken by eminent domain. The school year 1968-69 saw the opening of a new chapter house at 3916 Spruce Street, the home of Beta Pi Chapter to this very day. This house has witnessed many changes through the years.

One of the most significant changes in Pi Kappa Alpha has been the increasing diversity of its membership. When founded in 1868 and for approximately 90 years thereafter,



*"Beta Pi is proud to have led the way in the integration of all races, religions, and nationalities in its membership.*

*By the late 1960s, Beta Pi was one of only two chapters within PiKA, and the only fraternity on Penn's campus, to have significant diversity in its membership. Beta Pi continues to lead the way in diversification as can be seen in its latest new member class."*

membership in PiKA was restricted to "white gentile males." Pi Kappa Alpha now welcomes new members of all races, religions, and nationalities. Beta Pi is proud to have led the way in the integration of all races, religions, and nationalities in its membership. By the

late 1960s, Beta Pi was one of only two chapters within PiKA, and the only fraternity on Penn's campus, to have significant diversity in its membership. Beta Pi continues to lead the way in diversification as can be seen in its latest new member class.

Another significant change in Pi Kappa Alpha has been to change the primary focus of the fraternity away from the social calendar by setting new standards for the integrity, intellect, and achievements of its members. **Bruce Wolfson, Beta Pi '71**, formulated a vision and a plan, the "Return to Values Initiative". It was adopted by the National fraternity and remains the core of Pi Kappa Alpha's vision for the future. It stresses scholarship, personal integrity, achievement in sports and in career, and commitment to Penn and the community.

Pi Kappa Alpha seeks to redirect its members, away from questionable social activities and toward scholastics, leadership, and charity. To assist in this effort, PiKA has established PIKE University. PIKE University events include the International Convention, the Academy, the Chapter Executives Conference, and regional Leadership Summits. The Pi Kappa Alpha Memorial Foundation grants annual scholarships in excess of \$350,000 for educational purposes.

The Beta Pi Alumni Association wants all Pikes to remember and recognize the benefits that they derived from Pi Kappa Alpha and to share in our celebration of Pi Kappa Alpha's Sesquicentennial celebration at our Founders Day dinner 2018 on March 24, 2018.

## FRATERNITY NEWS

### PIKE University Rated Finest Educational Program

#### Fraternity's Leadership Program is the Best in the Country

Pi Kappa Alpha has been recognized by the independent *Town and Country Magazine* as having the Best Leadership Program among Fraternities across the nation!

PIKE University, the Fraternity's leadership program, holds nine annual events across the country that attract over 3,300 attendees. The PIKE Foundation awards more than \$223,000 in scholarships and grants yearly for these events.

Danny Ryan, Education Officer for Pi Kappa Alpha, spoke to the success of PIKE University: "I see first-hand how your dollars are put to work at these events – the involvement and attendance at sessions,

the excitement throughout the event, the number of men earning PIKE University certification. These programs continue to improve and arm our young men with lifelong skills that prepare them for a world outside the classroom. This recognition is an affirmation of the impact of PIKE University...on making these young men – and every Pike – better."

PIKE University courses are designed by leadership experts, administered by professional staff, and are continually evolving to remain relevant to PiKA members. Pike men can pride themselves on "integrity, intellect, and high moral character".

Pi Kappa Alpha Foundation Annual Report Highlights Beta Pi's Generosity

The Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity (PiKA) has issued the Annual Report and Honor Roll of Donors for the calendar year 2016. Once again, Beta Pi Alumni have made major contributions to PiKA's ability to service and educate the individual chapters and undergraduate members, including PIKE University. PIKE University provides an educational experience not available in a college classroom. It educates undergraduate members in management skills, personal accountability, ethics, and leadership.

The generosity of Beta Pi Alumni toward PiKA for the calendar year 2016 was astounding! Beta Pi Alumni contributed \$721,731 to PiKA, far greater than any other chapter. Including closed chapters, there were 301 chapters contributing in 2016. The largest share our chapter's total was a large testamentary gift of almost \$667,000 by our deceased brother **Joseph C. Hess III, Beta Pi '48**.

Beta Pi currently maintains the largest Chapter Endowment Fund (CEF) of all 220 active chapters and colonies. This fund containing \$169,000 is purposed

to pay certain expenses of Beta Pi's active membership when attending PIKE University educational programs. In addition to this fund, we maintain the Gregg G. Ormond Memorial Fund, also directed to Beta Pi, which contains over \$30,000.

There were 24 individual Beta Pi donors to the Educational Foundation in 2016: **Thomas F. Bates '64, J. Conrad Bosley '61, Joel Catania '71, Morton A. Cohen '65, Joseph F. DiMauro '75, Dave Edman '73, Jerome B. Goldberg '74, Jerry Herman '72, Joseph C. Hess III '48, Mitch Karig '76, Jeff Kaufman '80, Harvey Mackler '72, Adam L. Michaels '97, Maurice L. Moskowitz '58, Rich Meyers '69, Mark Perna '68, Bruce C. Robertson '82, Gary Sachs '74, Michael A. Selikoff '75, Rich Sussman '69, Todd Wieseneck '72, Bruce Wolfson '71, Ralph J. Young Jr. '51, and Paul Zaentz '69.**

PiKA presently administers 16 different scholarships, named for individuals, as part of the fraternity's Designated International Funds (DIF). The funds within each scholarship are managed by PiKA, who chooses the winners and distributes the awards.

Two of these scholarships are named for Beta Pi brothers and rank among the highest funded of these scholarships. The self-funded scholarship, the Joseph C. Hess III Fraternity Advancement Fund is ranked first and has a balance of \$222,345. The Scott A. Mackler, MD, PhD, Medical School Memorial Scholarship, funded by a Mackler family philanthropic trust, is ranked fourth of 16 and has a current balance of \$102,606.

Designated Chapter Funds (DCF) are scholarships reserved for a specific chapter. These funds are structured to reward excellence and merit or to address needs based situations. Four scholarships have been created and award only Beta Pi undergraduate members. They are the Dave Herman Memorial Scholarship, the Scott Mackler, MD, PhD, True Grit Scholarship, the Beta Pi SMC Scholarship, and the Gregg G. Ormond Memorial Fund.

Congratulations are extended to three of our brothers who have reached new donor levels for their generous contributions to PiKA Int'l. **Gary Sachs, MD, '74** has been admitted to the Junior Founders for his cumulative lifetime giving of gifts from \$25,000 to \$49,999. **Mitch Karig '76** has joined the Lily of the Valley Society, designated for those with lifetime cumulative giving of \$2,500 to \$4,999. **Bruce Wolfson '71** has joined the 1968 Society for cumulative lifetime gifts of \$100,000 to \$249,999.

Volunteering their time and expertise to the betterment of Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity are **Jerry Herman '72**, Director, for the Endowment Fund and Gift Acceptance Committee and **Bruce Wolfson**, Trustee, serving on the PiKA Foundation Board of Trustees.

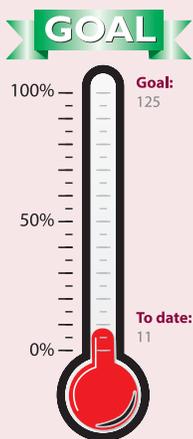
We want to extend our sincere thanks to all Beta Pi brothers who made generous contributions to the various Fraternity funds in 2016 and congratulations to all recipients of Fraternity scholarships and awards.

All undergraduate members are encouraged to attend Pi Kappa Alpha conferences and PIKE University for the finest in fraternity education. PIKE University is nationally acclaimed for its successful education programs, and we encourage our undergraduate members to learn all that Pi Kappa Alpha can do for them. Alumni are encouraged to attend our Founders Day celebration each year to learn how their fraternity has evolved through the years and to renew old fraternal college friendships.

Your Support of Beta Pi Alumni Assn of PKA Matters, Too!

While Beta Pi has impressive participation with the PiKA Foundation, we ask for your annual support at the local level too. Your yearly gift to the Beta Pi Alumni Assn. of PKA helps to fund operations for our chapter alumni association, including publication of *Slices of Beta Pi* and monthly eLetters, maintenance of our database and website, and hosting of regular events.

Thank you to the following alumni who have supported the 2017-18 annual fund since our giving year started July 1:



Patron's Society (\$500 - \$999)

Stephen Leventhal 1967

Garnet & Gold Club (\$250 - \$499)

Joel L. Catania 1971  
Richard Furst 1983

Sponsor's Circle (\$100 - \$249)

Ralph Young Jr. 1951  
David Jones 1960  
Craig Fenton 1962  
Kenneth WidELITZ 1969  
Richard W. Whealton 1972  
Chawner Hurd 1980

Spruce Street Club (\$50 - \$99)

Richard Kopelman 1962  
Daniel Darkes 1968

Add your name to the list as we strive to reach 125 donors this year by making your gift at [www.pika-upenn.org](http://www.pika-upenn.org).



**Pi Kappa Alpha**  
University of Pennsylvania

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**Beta Pi Plays an Important Role  
in PiKA's 150-Year History!**

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## CHAPTER REPORT

### PiKA in Top 10 of Penn Fraternities

We are pleased to announce that PiKA was designated a “Silver” chapter in the university’s annual accreditation process, meaning that the chapter scored above 70% on measures of chapter well being. This puts PiKA in the top 10 chapters out of 27 on campus.

Beta Pi brothers continue to have a strong commitment to charity, contributing 267 total hours and raising \$1,200 for philanthropy projects—including the Mackler 5K and Pie-a-Pike, last year. The ALS Association, Salvation Army, and American Cancer Society benefited from these efforts, and brothers were involved in many other philanthropic events hosted by other Greek chapters.

This year, the chapter has created a Diversity Chair position to encourage internal

discussions between and acceptance of individuals who may have different backgrounds, opinions, and values. Our commitment to a diverse and welcoming brotherhood sets us apart from other chapters on campus. We are happy to welcome new members from across the globe, including Burkina Faso, Canada, Argentina, and Greece.

The chapter is also proud to be one of only five on-campus fraternities to complete a required educational program focusing on sexual assault prevention and sexual health. All brothers should be proud



Beta Pi brothers at last year's Mackler 5K.

of the dedication displayed by Beta Pi’s undergraduate members in recognizing the sexual assault and sexual health problems that exist on college campuses, and that they are taking the lead in addressing these problems.

At the house, new flooring was installed in all rooms, and the stair carpeting was refurbished in front of the house.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Beta Pi Alum’s Son Lobbies for Philly to Be Host City for America’s 2026 Semiquincentennial



Chris Chimicles

An article in the March-April issue of *Philadelphia* magazine announced the City of Philadelphia has begun to prepare for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America in 2026. Chris Chimicles, the son of **Nick Chimicles, Beta Pi '67**, was highlighted as one of the two founders of USA250, an organization dedicated for the express purpose of promoting the city as a tourist destination in 2026 and the center of our country’s 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

In July of 2016, President Obama signed a bill creating the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to organize the national

celebration. USA250 will concentrate on fund-raising, seeking persons to volunteer their time and efforts for this endeavor, and submission of ideas that will feature Philadelphia as home and destination for many of the activities planned for this huge event.

After all, Philadelphia’s connection to the birthplace of our nation is well known. By getting a head start on other cities, Chris hopes to make Philadelphia the place to be in 2026. Our congratulations to Nick on his son’s initiative and accomplishments.