

PI KAPPA ALPHA

BETA BETA CHAPTER - AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Winter 1999 - Issue #11

A New Chapter House for Pi Kappa Alpha

We are property owners once more!! As reported in the Fall 1998 Alumni Newsletter, Beta Beta was looking to purchase the Phi Kappa Tau chapter house, and on February 26 of this year, the deal was completed.

The local House Corporation, along with assistance from the International Fraternity, has purchased the property and structure, which sit on the west side of 21st Ave NE, flanked by Delta Gamma to the south and Tri-Delts to the north. Brothers Oscar Sandberg, Bruce Bille, Tom Rasmussen, Brian Myers, Nigel LeGresley, Al Ross and Irv Matson were all instrumental in the negotiations.

These and many other alumni are now heavily involved in the fundraising and renovation efforts. Though contractors are still submitting bids, it is estimated that we will need to raise \$250,000 -

\$400,000 to remodel the structure and make it suitable for housing an ever-growing chapter. New heating, electric, telephone, and fire systems must be installed, and many of the windows, walls and carpets will need to be replaced. In addition, new furniture for the bedrooms is a top priority.

A Fundraising Committee has been appointed and will be working quickly to gather financial

support from the brothers of Beta Beta and other chapters and alumni across the nation. The undergraduate chapter is already underway with its fundraising efforts, which have already earned them more than \$6,500.

More information on the New House Renovation Fund will be mailed out shortly. We are also seeking alumni with experience in renovation and remodeling.



Founders' Day - our best yet!
(see pages 4 & 5)

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The Chapter Houses of Beta Beta

How many of these photos do you recognize?

IF YOU AREN'T FAMILIAR with all of the pictures on this page, don't be surprised. During our eighty-five years on the University of Washington campus, Pi Kappa Alpha has moved more than a few times. Exactly how many? Well, as we take control of our newly purchased property at 4513 21st Avenue NE, we will be moving into **our seventh chapter house** at the UW. And unless you've been watching the chapter grow since shortly after the last turn of the century, odds are slim that you have seen all of them.

It all began on May 12, 1914, when local UW fraternity Theta Sigma was given a charter as the fiftieth chapter of the national Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. They

bought what previously been the Delta Gamma sorority house at 4550 18th Avenue NE, hung the letters on the porch, and Pikes was born...

By 1919, after just five years on campus, Pi Kappa Alpha already had nearly fifty active members and the fraternity searched for new housing to accommodate them. To get the additional space, they moved to a new building farther from campus at 1804 Northeast 50th Street. This first move came early but left the chapter with room to grow and that space allowed the fraternity to succeed for over twenty years. If you have listened to Bob Keene's stories about the "Bygone Days of Pi K A" at Founders' Day, then you already know something



The second Pike chapter house (1920-1940)

about our golden years in the chapter house on 50th.

The first interruption in Pi Kappa Alpha's history at the UW came in the early 1940s as the campus was transformed by the outbreak of World War II. Every day more young men left campus to enlist in the military, and soon all fraternities had shut down or been converted to housing for ROTC units.

Fundraising at the Original Pike Chapter House



Fundraising was especially challenging for the first Pikes on campus. They worked hard to pay off Beta Beta's first chapter house (1914-1919) and even joked about selling the house mascot in the 1915 Tye yearbook:

"Mike Hardy's gang didn't amount to much until they got the sign on the front of their house and this dog... but now they are so well on their way to success that they are willing to dispose of the bound to pay their bills... any bunch wanting to get a reputation as a fraternity can buy him and save us from our creditors."



Pikes returned to campus after the war (1947-53, above) and soon moved to more spacious accommodations (1953-1970, right)



Through the efforts of Bob Woock ('38) and other previous members, Pi Kappa Alpha returned to the campus shortly after the war, and this time took up residence at 4510 21st Avenue NE. This housing situation was only temporary, however, because the fraternity was strong once again and need additional room. As Pikes wrote in the 1950 Tyee yearbook, "plans for the new house have been completed and work will begin soon on a house that is out of this world."

Our fourth chapter house, at 4502 20th Avenue Northeast, is the one that many of our alumni remember because it is where nearly

two hundred and fifty of our members were initiated. The building still stands today, as the Catholic Newman Center, but demolition is planned for the structure within the next two years.

The second recolonization of the UW campus began in 1979, and soon Pikes took new housing at on 18th Avenue NE. The three houses on 18th were the generous gift of Oscar Sandberg ('49), and were home to Pikes until 1994. At that point in time, we realized the value of owning our property but also wanted to create room for chapter growth and put all of our members under one roof. A deal

was struck to rent the Zeta Beta Tau property at 4626 21st Avenue NE, as the first step to ownership of a single, larger chapter house.

Today, after five years in our temporary rental arrangement, we have achieved our goal and own property once again. Truly, we have been working towards this move since 1994. Changing chapter houses is never an easy decision, because it can also mean changing the identity of the chapter. But by purchasing property we are again establishing ourselves as a fixture on the UW campus - and sending a clear message that Pikes are here to stay.



Pikes lived in the three houses on 18th Avenue NE for fifteen years (1979-94, above left) but then chose to rent property on 21st (1994-99, above right) while working to buy a new structure.

Our largest Founders' Day celebration ever!

OUR 1999 FOUNDERS' DAY banquet was an all-around success, bringing together over a hundred alumni and active members of our chapter - the largest turnout ever for Beta Beta. The event was held on February 27 at the Anthony's Homeport at Shilshole in Seattle. The social hour began at 6 p.m. with dinner and a short program following.

Our focus at the dinner was on the past year at Beta Beta and the many successes that the chapter has recently achieved. Though most of their humor seemed unintentional, emcees **Keith Jones** ('99) and **Don Isaak** ('95) kept everyone entertained. Chapter president **Matt Pyka** ('96) emphasized the strength of the current membership and the importance of our new chapter house in his "State of the Chapter" address. Scholarship chairman **Les Coughran** ('97) noted that five of

the active members were receiving tuition discounts for outstanding academic performance and that the chapter recently won it's nine-



Gary Ausman ('57), **Pete Darling** ('55), and **Bob Christenson** ('57) during the social hour

teenth consecutive Scholarship Award for the highest house G.P.A. in the Northwest Region. Rush chairman **Zach Cole** ('98) proved that none of the other accomplishments have equaled Beta Beta's success in rush. He reported that in the current 1998-99 school year a total of seven-

teen new members have either been initiated or are awaiting initiation, and that an additional five pledges have already been signed for Fall Quarter of '99. Finally, new initiates **Travis Warren** ('99) and **Josh Sampson** ('99) introduced their pledge brothers in the Alpha Sigma class and also the winter pledges of the Alpha Tau class.

The awards portion of the program began when chapter advisor **Brian Mann** ('91) recognized the accomplishments of chapter treasurer Les Cougran.

Les was recently chosen as the "Undergraduate Member of the Year" for the Northwest Region. The "Furthest Traveled Award" was given to pledge brothers **Craig Cameron** ('79) and **Ken Jones** ('79) who arrived from Canyon Country, CA and Anchorage, AK respectively. Ken and Craig shared



Front row:
Charlie Manger ('79),
Kris Keski ('80),
Mike Ward ('82)

Back row:
Dave Nostrand ('80),
Jim McCausland ('80),
Jerry Gabrio ('79),
Rod Birdsell ('79)

a few words about their experiences in refounding the chapter in 1979, and recognized the other six members of the refounding Alpha class who had come to Founders' Day.

Appropriately enough, **Bob Keene** ('28) received the "Bob Keene Award" for attending the most consecutive Founders' Day celebrations - this was his 71st.

Like Ken and Craig, Bob mentioned the strong bonds of brotherhood that he formed in the fraternity, and shared a story about his lifelong friend and former UW varsity football player, **Gene Cook**



Gene Cook ('25) played U.W. varsity football

(25). Bob is well known for speaking about the "Bygone Days of Pi K A," but was quick to point out that this year's Founders' Day was our biggest ever.

Thanks to everyone who made this the best celebration that even Bob Keene could remember!



Sandy Rice ('52), Jim Lough ('49), Donn Shankland, Steve McNair ('51), and Irv Matson ('48)

Thanks to all 73 alumni who joined us for Founders' Day:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gary Armour | John Davis | Kris Keski | Jason Sampson |
| Gary Ausman | Jack Dempsey | Jim Lough | Oscar Sandberg |
| Dick Ashby | Rick Dos Remedios | Aaron MacDonald | Marc Saunders |
| Bruce Bille | Sid Eggleston | Charlie Manger | Ralph Seamens |
| Rod Birdsell | Chris Forster | Brian Mann | Mark Secrest |
| Bryan Bouwman | Craig Frary | Mike Mathy | Forest Segerson |
| Adrian Brown | Jerry Gabrio | Irv Matson | Donn Shankland |
| Shawn Burke | Paul George | Jim McCausland | Jim Skar |
| Ralph Byron | Steve Gibbs | Bob McKaig | John Smith |
| Stephen Cabrales | Ben Heeb | Steve McNair | Brad Stern |
| Craig Cameron | Steve Heeb | Don Moreland | Mike Ward |
| Scott Cameron | Neil Heeney | Brian Myers | Greg Weeks |
| Jim Caruso | Nate Hellem | Dave Nostrand | Kurt Westman |
| Bob Christenson | Don Isaak | Mike O'Neill | Bert Wilkins |
| Jim Cloore | Dennis Isham | Tom Rasmussen | Andy Wineke |
| Chris Cowgill | Ken Jones | Sandy Rice | Kevin Wolfe |
| Ray Cox | Aaron Karls | Greg Rivers | |
| Peter Darling | Bob Keene | Al Ross | |
| Jeff Davis | Jim Kelly | Brad Ross | |



Aaron Karls ('86), Jim Kelly ('86), Rick Dos Remedios ('86), Kurt Westman ('86), and Mike O'Neill ('83).



Oscar Sandberg ('49) and Bob Keene ('28)

Alumni Notes

Vic Balasi ('75)

One of the two national Pi K A representatives who led the recolonization effort in 1979, Vic has been out of touch for quite some time. A quick review of the last twenty years: after reviving Beta Beta, Vic spent time as a chapter consultant and then went on to become Director of Development for Pi K A nationals. He worked for U.S. Senator James Sasser for a year, and then went to Officer Candidate School in 1983. In that year he was married to Chris, and since then he and his wife have moved from Georgia to California, Japan, North Carolina, Washington D.C., and Virginia. He also went back to school on the weekends, and received his MBA from Boston University in 1989. Currently he is stationed in South Carolina, and as a Major he is the executive officer of a 750-marine Aviation Logistics squadron in support of the F-18 Hornet. He can be reached at home at (843)982-0280 or by email at: vbalasi@islc.net

Bruce Bille ('61)

Bruce is proud to announce the engagement of his daughter, Tracy, to Jim Newkirk. The wedding will be on July 10, at the Bille residence in Kent. Give Bruce a call at (425)630-1721.

John Feneis ('90)

John and his wife Karah were married on August 8, 1998. They are currently living in Bremerton, but the couple will be moving to Ellensburg soon, where they both will be returning to school at Central Washington University. For the time being they can be reached at (360)478-0507 or by email at feneisland@email.msn.com

Greg Ganz ('84)

Greg has moved to Savannah, Georgia, where he is stationed at Fort Stewart. To everyone who has heard the tales, he is still flying Apache helicopters for the Army. He can be reached at (912) 884-4448 or by email at: gganz@hotmail.com

Brian Lagerberg ('81)

Brian is working for the Washington State Department of Transportation in Olympia, where he is specifically focusing on Commuter Trip Reduction. Brian also reports that his brother, **Eric Lagerberg ('81)** is still working in the architectural field and has taken a position as Head of Design for Starbucks International operations in Europe. You can reach Brian in Olympia at (360)705-7878, while Eric is most easily contacted by email at: elagerbe@starbucks.com

Jay Larson ('63)

Jay and Karen are living in Shanghai, China, and enjoying life among a large international community in a city

of 15 million. He can be reached overseas via email at: jmlarson@online.sh.cn

Mike Laucius ('84)

Alexander Kenneth Laucius was born to Mike and Diane on February 24th (possibly explaining his father's absence from our Founders' Day celebration). Dispelling rumors to the contrary, Diane confirmed that Mike is the father and that the whole family is "doing great." You can congratulate them during daylight hours at (425)557-8938.

Charlie Manger ('79)

Besides working long hours with fellow Pike alumnus **Mike Ward ('82)** at their company, Acme Holdings, Charlie and his wife are expecting their first child in September. Charlie can be reached at the office at (206) 547-9714.

Nat Mucha ('94)

Nat just relocated to Florida in February, where he has taken a job with EXPO Design Center. He spends his days working and his nights cruising the beaches in his new Mitsubishi Eclipse. To reach him down there, call him at (561)753-4384 or e-mail him at: nmucha@sportsmail.com

Christian Seavoy ('94)

In March, Christian and his fiancée were joined in the vows of holy matrimony in Kennewick, WA. He will also be graduating from WSU (sshh!) in May, with a double major in Zoology and Environmental Science. If you want to congratulate the newlyweds they can be reached through May 10th at (509)334-2861 or by email at: cseavoy@wsu.edu

Stephen T. Smith ('62)

Stephen recently reconnected with the chapter and filled us in on his life since graduation in 1965. He spent two years in the Peace Corps and four years in the Navy, and then returned to school and received his Masters in Public Affairs from the University of Oklahoma in 1975. He met Monica McKnight in Oklahoma and they were married in 1977. He joined the State Department in the same year, and has taken assignments to Tehran, Bahrain, Sri Lanka, Tunis, and Amman. He is currently working in Cairo, Egypt as an Administrative Counselor but his home is in Vienna, VA (a suburb of Washington D.C.). He can be reached via email at: mcksmith4@hotmail.com

Steve Swearngen ('85)

Steve is getting back into touch with the chapter and would love to hear from some of you guys! He is now living in Oakland, CA with his wife Jeanette, and is

(continued on next page)

Anything you want to tell us? What do you think of our newsletter?

Have you moved recently? Want to tell us about a new addition to the family, a new job, or your plans for retirement? Or would you like to give us some feedback on our newsletter? Please tell us how we're doing, or else how you are doing! And if you have some personal news, we would love to pass it on to the rest of the Pikes.

Mail the form on the right to:

Keith Jones, c/o Pi K A
4626 21st Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98105

Winter '99 Newsletter Response

Name: _____ Year: _____

I'm writing to give you (please circle):

new address alumni note feedback donation

Alumni Notes (continued)

working for Ratcliff Architects. Steve and Jeanette were married three years ago, and had their ceremony at the top of Halfdome in Yosemite National Park. He is planning a trip to Seattle in the near future, and would like to see some of his fraternity brothers during the trip. Also, a round of congratulations is in order as Steve and Jeanette are expecting their first child in October. You can reach Steve at home at (510)482-1510 or by email at: sswearengen@ratcliffarch.com

Chris Tutmark ('86)

Chris has been in Auckland, New Zealand off and on

for the past eighteen months, training for the next America's Cup race. He is currently training as a crew member of America True. The race will be held in the winter of 2000. You can cheer Chris on with email sent to: tutmark@aol.com

Leif Vieweg ('91)

Early this year, Leif Vieweg and Jennifer Everson announced their engagement. A private wedding service was held on April 10 at the Glen Acres Country Club. You can call him at (206) 419-6587 or send him congratulations at: leif@risetech.com.

IN MEMORIAM - BETA BETA CHAPTER ETERNAL

Dean Bigby ('40) September 3, 1920-August 21, 1998.

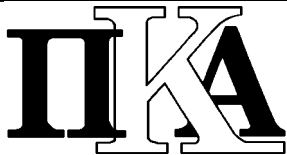
Dean grew up in Vancouver, Washington, graduated from Goldendale High School in 1938, and then joined Pi Kappa Alpha as a sophomore at the UW. His time in the house was brief because he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and rose to the rank of Captain while serving his country from 1942 to 1946. He later returned to school, received a degree in mechanical engineering in 1951, and went on to pursue a career with the Boeing Company. He retired in 1992, and his wife, Elsie L. Seibold, passed away in 1995.

Wesley Louis Hunner ('27) April 30, 1907-December 19, 1998.

Wesley grew up in Republic, WA and graduated from Jefferson High School in Portland. He was initiated into the bonds of Pi Kappa Alpha while an undergraduate, but returned to the UW to earn both his master's degree and Ph.D. in English. For many years he was a professor of Humanistic Social Studies in the school of engineering in Washington State University's Seattle program.

Tom Taylor ('80) September 1, 1960-December 24, 1998.

Much loved brother Tom Taylor of Gamma class passed away on December 24th, 1998 in Anchorage, Alaska. Tom pursued a career in the construction industry during the past fifteen years, and was a lover of snow sports, fishing, "tinkering," and most of all, people. Memorials in Tom's name may be sent to Providence Alaska Foundation, P.O. Box 196604, Anchorage, AK 99519-6604.



Beta Beta Chapter

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Pi Kappa Alpha

Winter '99 Alumni Newsletter

Alumni Events Calendar

(call Keith Jones at (206) 528-7638 for details)

Sunday, May 16: **Alumni Softball Challenge**

The actives challenge alumni at Ravenna Park, with a BBQ at 1 p.m. and the game from 2 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 24: **Alumni Reunion**

Brother Oscar Sandberg ('49) will be hosting an alumni reunion for Pikes from the '40s and '50s at his summer home. More details will be coming.

September: **Pikes Night at the Mariners**

We're looking forward to bringing this annual event to the new SAFECO FIELD! Dates and times will be forthcoming.

Chapter Announcements

Beta Beta had another successful showing at this year's Northwest Regional Conference, where they received the

Scholarship Award, the Philanthropy Award, Les Coughran ('97) was recognized as Undergraduate Member of the Year, and the chapter also received a newly created award for Best Website. If you haven't seen our website, take a look at:

<http://students.washington.edu/pikes/>

Do you have a rush recommendation you would like to pass on to the summer '99 rush chairmen? If you want to let us know about anyone coming into the UW in the near future, or set up a visit for them, call:

Zach Cole, '98 (206)729-1784



In February, Pikes raised over \$5,000 towards the remodeling of our new chapter house by working for the Grasscycling program in the Seattle area. Current members and young alumni donated hundreds of hours of their time to help deliver new electric lawn mowers to their owners and recycle old gas-powered machines.