

ALUMNI BOARD



Beta Rho Property Company

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Risk Management Chair**
Adam Sussman '02

Facilities Management
Sam Verdugo '13

Nationals Relations
Joshua Chilcote '15

Chapter Advisor
Chris Dailey '17

SAVE THE DATE

Make plans to visit Penn
and Sigma Nu
on
**Alumni Weekend,
May 15-18, 2020.**

More details to follow!



February 2020
SIGMA Nu's
www.BetaRhoAlumni.com

Beta Rho of Sigma Nu at the University of Pennsylvania • Philadelphia, Pa.

BETA RHO PROPERTY COMPANY UPDATE

Looking Back on 2019

It was an eventful, challenging and ultimately rewarding year for Beta Rho. Brothers began the year recruiting/initiating 13 new members and continued that success into the fall of 2019 with a five person upper-classman initiate class. The Property Company's board was formally reconstituted in April 2019 and is now structured and managed with expanded functional roles, including the addition of **Adam Sussman '02** as Legal Affairs and Risk Management

Chair (read more about Adam in the Alumni Update section). In early fall, a nominating committee of active brothers and board members made two inaugural awards from a perpetuating scholarship fund provided by alumni contributions. Additionally, over the bulk of the year, the Board also managed the remediation of substantial structural damage to the first-floor kitchen annex and to the north west corner of the main house's first floor. While an arduous and critical first step, this initial work (detailed below) has informed our view that substantial further remediation, repair and renovation work remains necessary in the near term. Finally, as the year began to wind down, we had one of the largest crowds in recent memory attend our 125th Homecoming celebration. It was fantastic to connect with old and new friends alike. It is also with deep appreciation that we recognized **Roger Ballou '73** as our



2019 Ralph "Rox" Reynolds Alumnus of the Year. Roger's generosity has allowed us to begin needed extensive roof repair/replacement work this past fall.

As noted above, initial structural renovation work was begun last spring after the structural failure of multiple joists in the kitchen floor near the dining room. While initially believed to be isolated, demolition revealed extensive structural damage to various floor and ceiling members in the

kitchen and laundry rooms. This damage was caused by leaking roof and plumbing systems years beyond their useful lives, that were improperly repaired and maintained. Full structural remediation was necessary, resulting in the replacement of more than half the first floor annex's floor joists and the completion of numerous structural members. The additional damage and repairs resulted in project costs nearly doubling initial estimates, substantially depleting hard gained capital reserves. This initial renovation work, including professional inspections, provide clarity that the primary house systems (roofing, plumbing, electrical, windows, etc.) are in many cases substantially past their useful lives, resulting in continuing structural degradation of the house. Many conditions that resulted in the condemnation and

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BETA RHO UPDATE

New Year's Update (continued from page 1)

demolition of the backhouse in 2010 and near collapse of the front portico in 2009 persist in the main house today to varying degrees. We have a beautiful house, one of only three fraternally owned on campus, but if certain structural conditions/defects persist without thorough remediation and renovation there will be major long-term consequences to the viability of the Chapter.

As we enter 2020, active brothers, alumni and the Board are energized to



continue our work. With your assistance, we can ensure Sigma Nu Beta Rho has a strong and vibrant future at the University



of Pennsylvania. We look forward to a fun and successful 2020.

A RECAP OF OUR 2019 HOMECOMING

Our 2019 homecoming was the biggest turnout we've had in a decades!

It was great to see such a large turnout from the classes of '76 – '82. A special thanks to **Mason Haput '76** and **Ofer Nemirovsky '79** for organizing this reunion, including a wonderful after party at the House that was generously extended to the active Brotherhood and all Alumni.



LOST

Some Beta Rho Alumni Have Lost Touch! Help Get These Brothers Reconnected

How would you feel if you were left out of the loop when it comes to Beta Rho? Of our 757 active alumni members, we have just 560 email addresses. That means 197 of our alumni aren't receiving our emails - and therefore are left completely out of the loop. With one simple action, you can make sure your brothers are receiving news about events (like homecoming) and where other alumni are today.

Please take a few minutes to review our lost email list



and our lost mailing list at the bottom of our homepage www.betarhoalumni.com. If you have a valid email address or mailing address for any of these missing brothers, simply click on their name. An email will pop up for you to type in the email address or mailing address. Then click send! We'll then add them to our email list.*

** Rest assured that your information is stored in a secure database and is never sold or traded.*

RALPH "ROX" REYNOLDS 2019 AWARD WINNER

Thank you, Roger Ballou '73, Alumnus of the Year

Congratulations to **Roger Ballou '73**, for receiving the 2019 Ralph "Rox" Reynolds Alumnus of the Year Award, and for your generous donation that has helped us begin the urgent roof repairs to the Chapter House. Roger was able to come to Homecoming to accept the award. We asked Roger if he could share a few thoughts around what Sigma Nu means to him.

Many years ago, you decided to join Sigma Nu.

What drove you to make that decision? What made Sigma Nu different than other fraternities on campus?

I joined Sigma Nu for three primary reasons - the living opportunities in the House, the social environment created by the Brotherhood, and the friends I had who were members. These three things were exactly what distinguished Sigma Nu from the other fraternities on campus.

What is your favorite memory of the Fraternity?



While I realize times have changed I still remember pledge night (both my own and others) as an incredible social bonding exercise, a lot of fun, and some hilarious and harmless fun for all involved. I still make cocktail conversation about it.

We would love to know about your life and career after your undergraduate years and how your experiences in Sigma Nu helped shape it.

After Penn, I went to Amos Tuck and then

into a long career in finance and management and now I do board work for a public company. At all levels of my career, the social skills and group dynamic experiences that I learned and developed at Sigma Nu served me well.

Congratulations again on receiving the alumnus of the year award. Do you have any additional words to share with the rest of our alumni?

Being back at the House for Homecoming and

seeing Brothers from so many different eras reinforced just how much Sigma Nu meant to me and how important it is for all of us to ensure the traditions and experiences we had as undergraduates carry on. I'm pleased to be in a position to give back to help upgrade the House and ensure its future. I'd encourage all Brothers to do what they can to support the Fraternity. I'll certainly be doing more each year.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Adam Sussman '02 Gets Married, Then Gets the Chair



I recently joined the Beta Rho Property Company as the Legal and Risk Reduction Chair. In June 2019, I married my fiancé, Karen Stone, and as newlyweds, we had a lot of fun attending Homecoming at the House in November. By profession I am a patent attorney in Chicago, where I have recently joined the prominent firm Brinks, Gilson & Lione, where we help inventors and companies protect and monetize their inventions, as well as litigate on behalf of clients in patent infringement disputes. Before attending law school, I completed a Ph.D. in chemistry. My email is asussman0206@mac.com and phone is (630) 207-7440. Please reach out should I ever be able to help you or your friends/clients.

We're always on the lookout for great alumni news, stories, memories and photos! To let us know what's new with you, visit www.betarhoalumni.com and "Submit an Update" under the "Alumni Updates" tab.

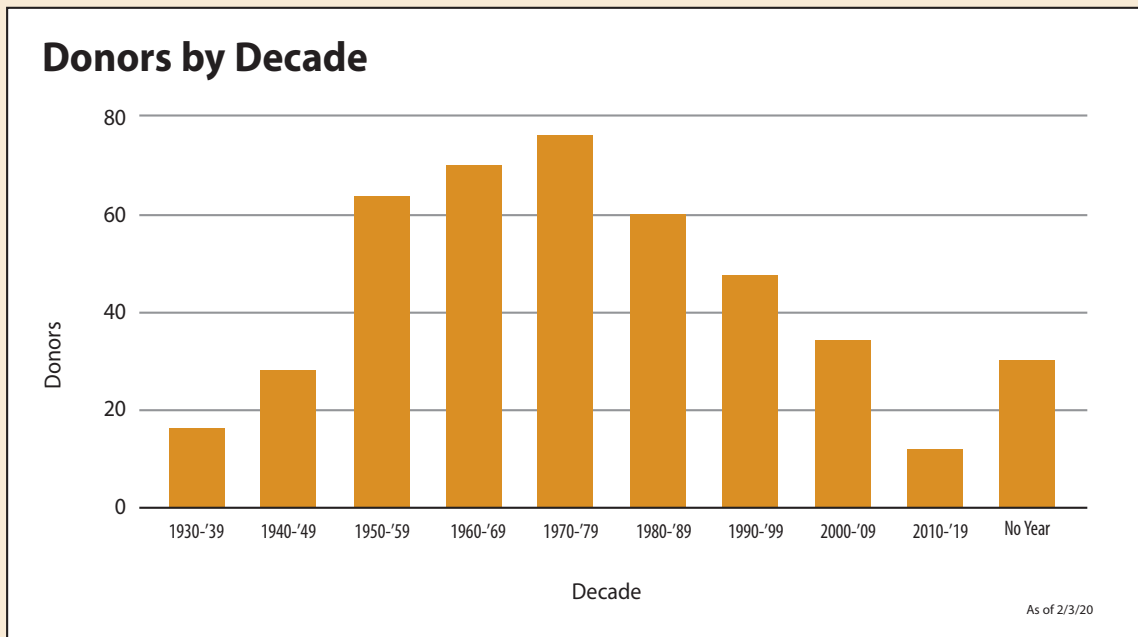
Are You Missing Out?

The Beta Rho Property Company sends out a monthly eLetter with the latest news, event details, and other information from the alumni and active chapters. If you haven't been getting these messages, send us your email address by submitting an alumni update at www.betarhoalumni.com.

ANNUAL FUND

By The Numbers

For those of you interested in how your decade is performing in all time giving, here is a breakdown. Congrats to the '70s decade - you're currently leading the pack!



Cumulative Gift Range	Number of Donors	Number of Gifts	Total Income	Percent Donors	Percent Income	Average of Amount
\$1,000+	2	2	\$4,000	7%	39%	\$2,000
\$750-\$999	2	2	\$1,500	7%	15%	\$750
\$500-\$749	4	4	\$2,000	13%	20%	\$500
\$350-\$499	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
\$250-\$349	3	3	\$800	10%	8%	\$267
\$100-\$249	16	16	\$1,750	53%	17%	\$109
Up to \$99	3	3	\$85	10%	1%	\$28
Grand Total	30	30	\$10,135	100.00%	100.00%	\$338

Reflects data since 9/01/19, the start of the 2019-2020 Giving Year.

More Than 65% of us Have Never Contributed!

Our annual fund for the 2019-2020 giving year began on September 1st and, so far, we have received we have received \$10,135 from 30 donors, toward our goal of \$26,000. We greatly appreciate all donations we have already received, however we have a ways to go during the next seven months. Did you know that over 65% of all alumni have never

made a donation back to Beta Rho?

NOW is the perfect time to make your contribution to Beta Rho! It's easy to do, just visit our website at www.betarhoalumni.com click "Donate" in the top right hand corner. You can then choose to mail in a check, call our donation hotline or make a donation online. Alumni communications, events, and House

updates are just a few of the things that donations to our annual fund help us to provide. Our Chapter relies 100% on alumni donations to ensure the bright future of the Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Nu at Penn. We would like to thank the 30 men who contributed so far this giving year.