

## ALUMNI BOARD

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## ON THE WEB



Are you following us on Facebook? Go to [facebook.com/betarhoalumni](https://www.facebook.com/betarhoalumni) and like our page to reconnect with brothers online, see pictures and read the latest news.

To find even more news, share memories, see the honor roll and donate, visit our alumni website, [www.betarhoalumni.com](http://www.betarhoalumni.com)!

### ARE YOU GETTING OUR EMAILS?

Are you getting our Beta Rho alumni emails? If not, you're missing out! To sign up, just send a quick note to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com) and let us know to add you to the Sigma Nu at Penn alumni email list!



October 2020  
**SIGMA** Nu's  
[www.BetaRhoAlumni.com](http://www.BetaRhoAlumni.com)

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

## CHAPTER UPDATE

### Beta Rho Brotherhood Remains Strong Through COVID

The coronavirus pandemic has changed the way we conduct our daily lives, and the same is true for our undergraduates. Many of our alumni brothers have asked how life at Beta Rho has been impacted, so we reached out to Chapter Eminent Commander **Nicholas Rivera '21** for the answers!

**How is day-to-day life in the house different this year from previous years? What safety precautions are the brothers taking?**

"The largest change has been reducing the use of common spaces. While brothers usually like to congregate in the chapter room to watch a game or the dining room to eat, it's not safe to do this at this time. Brothers have been extra careful to wash their hands, reduce visits from people not living in the house, and monitor their symptoms. Even with these changes in place, brothers are still taking the time to try to be social with each other while remaining socially distant."

**How did this fall's rush process differ from past years?**

"Even more than previous years, this process involved leveraging already established networks to determine a potential market. In the name of safety, we focused on smaller and more personal conversations and events with students to try to get to know them best."

**How are your extracurriculars changing this year, due to COVID-19?**



Chapter Eminent Commander  
Nicolas Rivera '21

"One of my largest commitments outside of Greek life is Kite and Key, Penn's student tour guide organization. We have had to overhaul the process and are now going virtual, changing regular on-campus tours to Zoom informational sessions. Most activities and clubs have gone this way, and it has required a huge effort by leaders and members alike. There are plenty of activities on campus that continue to thrive despite the pandemic."

**Why did you decide to pledge at Beta Rho? What drew you to the brotherhood?**

"I am originally from Grosse Pointe, Michigan. As a senior in high school,

I knew I wanted to do something related to business and sought out the place that would best allow me to do that. Coming to Penn I didn't think of joining Greek life. After meeting the brothers at the time, I found a group of interesting and engaging people who I genuinely wanted to spend time with. I also saw the benefits of having a place with a strong structure in place to facilitate friendships and encourage growth. In short, it allowed me to have experiences and make friendships that I really value."

**What have you gained from your involvement with Beta Rho?**

"Besides great leadership experience, I was also able to gain insight and learn from a group of very interesting people that I wouldn't have otherwise met."

## Brothers Share Favorite Memories and Value of Sigma Nu

The memories made and the bonds formed through Sigma Nu are meant to last a lifetime and to withstand whatever life may throw at us – even global pandemics and civil unrest.

With that in mind, we asked brothers to share a few favorite memories of their undergraduate years with Beta Rho and what they still consider to be the most valuable part of their Sigma Nu experience today.



### Where was your favorite place to go in Philadelphia, why was this place so special to you?

“Smokey Joe’s! I could always find friends there, old and new.” – **Vance Duncan ’85**

“Once I took up residence at 3819 I rarely did go elsewhere.” – **Daniel Cowell ’56**



“On an everyday basis, going out the back of the house and up the Sansom Street alley to 39th Street to Sansom’s Deli for a Philly Cheesesteak. Gosh, I wish I could have one now! We’d go over between, say, 10 p.m. and midnight in the middle of ‘serious study’ at the house. Actually, I cannot imagine myself eating like that in the middle of the night now, but then...” – **Hartwell Davis ’59**

### What was your favorite event, tradition or activity to partake in during your college years?

“I enjoyed helping redo the basement tile floor, our pilgrimage to Lexington and our pledge prank.” – **Michael Cantelmo ’67**

“Homecoming. We had some great times hanging out with legacy brothers and building lasting memories. One of my favorites memories was my junior year when we roasted a pig!” – **Vance Duncan ’85**

“I loved and participated in Skimmer Day – and the parties associated with it.” – **Daniel Cowell ’56**

“Skimmer Day on the Schuylkill in Fairmont Park. Spring had just really warmed up; there was lots of beer, our dates – and the boat races were just incidental.” – **Hartwell Davis ’59**

### As an alum, what do you see as the most valuable part of your Sigma Nu experience?

“The opportunity to grow and develop as a leader. Being selected as commander in my junior year was a wonderful experience. As a sophomore the brothers encouraged me to heel for the baseball manager program which resulted in my being selected as head manager as a senior – another developmental experience.” – **Arthur Ricker ’60**

“The lifelong friendships created there.” – **Ernie Barsamian ’81**

“Friendship and encouragement of brothers. Being a long way from home, it was great to feel like you had family there.” – **Vance Duncan ’85**

“Making a few good friends for life and



Spring Break 1968

understanding the value of the creed.” – **Jeffrey Whitehead ’82**

“The connection with the brothers was the best part of college experience.” – **Hartwell Davis ’59**

“All of it from the good and bad times living in the house to the reunions and place to go back to. I realized at homecoming that I knew alums from the early 1920s (including Rox Reynolds) and was talking to brothers who would graduate in the early 2020s. One hundred years of Beta Rho at the 125th reunion.” – **Mitch Zimmer ’76**

“The social events were great as were the friendships I made, with commuters as well as those who lived in the house like myself – in the Moosehead room if it’s still there.” – **Daniel Cowell ’56**

“Leaving aside friendships developed, etc., it was witnessing how a group made or avoided making significant decisions.” – **Robert Harrison ’68**

## HONOR ROLL

### Thank you for supporting Beta Rho!

Thank you to those brothers who have already contributed to our 2020-2021 annual fund!

#### Ralph "Rox" Reynolds Founder's Circle (\$1,000+)

Mason Haupt 1976

#### Beta Rho Legacy Society (\$750-\$999.99)

Richard Study 1960

#### Love, Truth, & Honor Circle (\$500-\$749.99)

Paul Moore 1951  
Tyler Mahy 1963

#### Zane Grey Society (\$350-\$499.99)

Christian Cunningham 1985

#### Serpent Society (\$250-\$349.99)

Samuel Heffner 1965  
Mitchell Zimmer 1976  
Mark DeMuro 1983

#### White Rose Club (\$100-\$249.99)

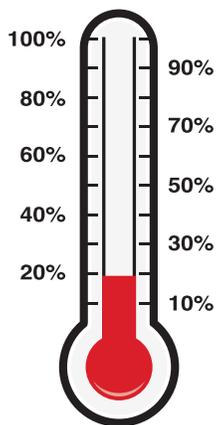
Bloor Redding 1952  
William Hamilton 1958  
Stephen Emery 1962  
Anthony Adams 1962  
David Harshbarger 1966  
Martin Aydelott 1967  
Donald Evans 1969  
Thomas McFadden 1972

Andrew DeNatale 1972  
Robert Thomas 1972  
John Byko 1973  
Richard Coons 1976  
Gary Belt 1977  
Ronald Spoehel 1979  
Thomas Sweeney 1979  
Ralph Rosato 1981  
Ithan Zimmer 1986  
Simone Dagnino 1989  
John Caby 1989  
**Beta Rho Supporter (Up to \$99.99)**  
William Thomas 1979

## ANNUAL FUND – A CALL TO ACTION!

### Help Us Make the 2020-21 Giving Year Strong!

**Goal: \$26,000**



Alumni contributions are at the heart of everything we do. Our communications, events and support for the active chapter all rely on gifts to our annual fund. And, as alumni, we play a critical role in making sure Beta Rho lives on!

We would like to thank those 64 brothers who together contributed \$23,640 during our last giving year! You can find their names listed in the Honor Roll archives at [www.BetaRhoAlumni.com](http://www.BetaRhoAlumni.com).

The new giving year began on September 1, 2020, and now you can help us make this giving year the strongest one yet for

Sigma Nu at Penn! As an alumnus, you hold the key to preserving our fraternity for its next 100 years.

To give to the 2020-21 annual fund today, use any of these methods:

- Visit our website to donate online at [www.BetaRhoAlumni.com](http://www.BetaRhoAlumni.com);
- Call our toll-free Donation Hotline at 1-800-975-6699;
- Mail a check to our donation processing center listed below.

Sigma Nu  
University of Pennsylvania  
Alumni Relations Processing Center  
P.O. Box 7007  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

Together, we can keep Sigma Nu at Penn going strong!

## NEW ALUMNI



### Congratulations to the Spring 2020 Graduating Class!

Congratulations to our 123<sup>rd</sup> graduating class of Sigma Nu Beta Rho brothers!



### ATTENTION ALUMNI!

*We need your photos! We're requesting that brothers from all eras scan and email your pictures from your days at the house to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com) to be posted on our website. Whether they were taken on an iPhone, a Polaroid, or even roll film, we want to see them.*



**Sigma Nu**  
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**BETA RHO CHAPTER**  
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*In this Beta Rho Newsletter...*  
 –Chapter Update: COVID-19 Edition  
 –Alumni Reflections  
 –Honor Roll of Donors

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## ALUMNI UPDATES

Share Your Alumni Update Today!

Thank you to these brothers for sharing your updates! If you'd like to submit an update of your own for publication in an upcoming eletter or a future edition of Sigma Nu's, email your updates and photos to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com).

"I'm a retired physician and I am enjoying beach living year-round with my wife. I retired in 2009, having been a professor and chairman of the psychiatry department at the Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington, West Virginia." – **Daniel Cowell '56**

"I am 61 years out of college, still working the same job for the last 50+ years. I love what I do and the people I work with." – **Hartwell Davis '59**

"After two years in the Army in Germany, I worked for PPG Industries as an accountant and then plant controller for 30 years. I retired in 1992 and have now been retired longer than I worked. I have three children and eight grandchildren." – **Arthur Ricker '60**

"I'm retired, and I do a little gardening and a little trip every now



Watercolor painting by brother Michael Cantelmo '67

and then. I have nine grandkids and two great granddaughters. I also enjoy painting watercolors, and I had two accepted by the Ohio Watercolor Society for their annual show. Check out [mvariantists.org](http://mvariantists.org) and look for my name under 'our artists and their work.' Most of my work is shown there. I've sold a few originals and a few prints and cards. It's challenging and gives me a reason to travel a bit." – **Michael Cantelmo '67**

"I'm retired, living in Georgia and spending as much time outside as I can." – **Robert Harrison '68**

"I turned 60 last year and have maintained my 300+

pound bench press." – **Ernie Barsamian '81**

"I retired from tech ventures in Silicon Valley and moved to the Charleston, SC area. Now, I make custom guitars under the brand, Charleston Guitars, and I have been working with guitar to computer interoperability." – **Jeffrey Whitehead '82**

For more updates go to [www.BetaRhoAlumni.com](http://www.BetaRhoAlumni.com)!