

# BETA THETA PI

BETA OMEGA CHAPTER



# TRIDENT

*Fall 2009*

## PRESIDENT

**Dear Brothers-**

As the nights begin to get longer and the days begin to shorten we realize that fall is upon us once again. Although this signals the end of our summer vacation, there is much excitement and anxiousness abounding from the Beta House.



I am excited for the kickoff of this school year and all it entails: Husky football Saturdays, intramural sports, a new class of pledges and most importantly, all of the brothers of Beta Omega once again living under the same roof.

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am the new chapter president and first and foremost am looking forward to this opportunity to help continue the excellence of Beta Omega. I was born and raised in Bellevue and am currently a junior in the Foster School of Business with an accounting emphasis. I played both varsity basketball and golf at Sammamish High.

My presidency comes on the coattails of my first executive position – that of recruitment chair this past summer. Though admittance requirements continue to climb and the registered freshmen class the smallest it's been in years, Betas rush was once again highly successful! We recruited a full class of 30 pledges, all of which have moved in at this point. All of these young men are not only dedicated to their studies but pride themselves in community involvement, a high level of conduct and commitment to our brotherhood. I look forward to their pledge quarter and growing Participation in this great community. On a separate note, I extend a sincere thank you to all alumni who assisted rush this year; be it gifts, contact information or support, this house continues to function because of you. The entire rush team wishes to express our gratitude for your constant contributions to Beta Omega.

This past summer was a very exciting and successful time for our chapter. In addition to the successful

recruiting process we also received some national recognition for the strength of our chapter. Our last Trident issue explained we applied for over a half dozen awards through our national organization. On SeaFair weekend, 12 brothers and I traveled to Phoenix, Arizona for the 170th General Convention to see the fruits of our labor. And how fruitful it was – for those of you who have not heard, Beta Omega received its first ever Knox Award! “The Knox” is Beta’s highest honor, having been awarded to less than a fifth of Betas 135+ chapters around the nation. It recognizes a few outstanding chapters each year that demonstrate excellence in all areas of fraternal life. Beta Omega was one of thirteen chapters to receive this prestigious honor. Please see the panel inside the newsletter for additional accolades won in Phoenix.

While the active chapter could not be prouder for watching all its hard work come to fruition, it is appropriate that we recognize a few key individuals that led to our success. Namely, our alumni brothers and specifically, those that have guided Beta Omega to allow it to sit on such a high pedestal today. All members of the Housing Corporation the past few years (Jim Clack, Carl Kester, Ben Hoover, Greg Cox, Whitney Smith, James Miller, Yannis Koumanatros, Ward Clarke, Dan Dubie, and Robert King) are the key individuals that have guided us to where we stand. On behalf of the active chapter and Betas for years to come, thank you. Also, much recognition is due to Steve Ritchey for organizing our Broadmoor Luncheon, Eric Beckman for chairing the Beta Omega Foundation and Matt Teagarden for organizing the summer Basketball tournament. Each of you serves as a strong model of what it means to be brothers for life.

The school year has all the components to be an exciting one. As any of you know that have been by lately, our recognizable performance as Beta Omega is paralleled by our steadily improving chapter house. This summer saw the remodel of the library and it looks magnificent – adorned with black granite counters, a private study room, increased seating capacity and overall functionality, this was the perfect compliment to a great year as first in grades. Given our recent success, we have a lot to celebrate. I look forward to a successful quarter and working to improve Beta Omega’s already strong reputation on campus and around the nation. Go DAWGS!

Yours in kai,  
Ben Werth



## HOUSE MANAGER

I would like to once again thank all the alumni whose generous donations make our house projects possible. The spring quarter and summer went extremely well with no issues happening within the house.



Our biggest project that occurred over the course of summer was the complete remodel of our library.

Once again, Big Red Construction did magnificent work on the house. Our new library now consists of space for up to 26 people. We resurfaced the entire countertop area with new black granite countertops. Additionally, we repainted all the walls and brought up the ceilings in some areas to enhance the lighting. We replaced all the carpet and put in new baseboards and wood doors with a nice looking stain. Every part of it looks great. Feel free to stop by whenever you want to take a look at it.

We have had all the house maintenance taken care of and the house is operating at full strength. Additionally, we have had bars put in the windows that pose a risk throughout the house. These include windows on the second and third floor that have easy access to them. Therefore, we can insure the safety for the future of the house, and not have to worry about risk of anyone when sitting around the windows.

We are all looking forward to fall and the school year. Our next project that we are considering is a remodel of the third floor bathrooms. The remodel of the second floor bathroom which was completed a year and a half ago has improved our recruitment and parents' first impressions of the house. We know there would be an equivalent effect with the third floor bathroom. Depending on our financial situation, we will decide if we will move forward with the project.

We are still committed to having the best physical fraternity house on campus. We appreciate all the help we receive from alumni and parents, and we would love to connect with more alumni. If you want to be involved you can give me a call at (714-319-2348) or contact me by email at (Madril@u.washington.edu). Feel free to stop by and get a tour of the house and have dinner with the guys. I would be happy to show you our recent projects and our goals.

Kai,  
Grant Madril '11

## VICE PRESIDENT

Starting this Fall Quarter of 2009 we are very happy to present another class of thirty pledges hoping to become members of Beta Omega. We have many brotherhood events planned for the quarter in order to provide opportunities for these new members to get to know older brothers in the house as well as getting used to the University of Washington. These events range from a house trip to a Mariners game to house activities aimed at fostering the bonds between the pledges and active members.



We are excited and grateful for the remodel of our house library that should be done and ready within the first couple weeks of class. We hope that through the generosity of our alumni we are able to utilize this library to remain the top fraternity house in grades on campus as well as successfully trying to repeat winning the Knox Award this year.

As this quarter progresses I hope that we can help these new pledges understand what it means to be a Beta. We have opportunities for them to learn the traits of brotherhood, commitment to community, and cultivation of the intellect. We look forward to another positive and fun year at Beta Omega.

\_kai\_  
Robbie Suelzle '11

## TREASURER

This summer, Robert King and I spent a great deal of time putting together a new budget for Beta Omega for the upcoming year. I am confident that this budget will prove to be highly accurate in terms of forecasting costs, and I believe it allocates the chapter's funds effectively and appropriately. One important change we have made was to increase our rush budget by \$2000, which will help keep us ahead of our competitors. With another full class of 30 new pledges, Beta Omega is sure to continue its financial stability.



\_Kai\_  
Alex Whitney '10



## SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS CHAIR

Beta Omega has reached an illustrious status as one of the top fraternities regarding academics and awards on campus, as well as among Beta chapters nationwide. As previously noted, we finished first among all 30 fraternities on the UW campus with a 3.42 GPA for spring quarter. We look forward to continuing our academic success, and I firmly believe that we can improve as an entire house. A big thanks needs to be addressed to all the actives and alumni that helped plan and execute the plans for our new library. This includes an expanded and renovated study space with new chairs and countertops. Moreover, our new pledges are coming in with impressive high school resumes that imply that they will have a great transition to the collegiate scholastic environment.



As many of you may have heard, Beta Omega cleaned up at the awards portion of the General Convention in Phoenix this past summer. Jim Clack, Dick Phenneger and a few other Beta Omega alumni accompanied former president Kevin Durkin, myself, and 13 other actives as we accepted the numerous awards. This included the Knox Award, Beta Omega's first ever Knox. We were one of only 13 Beta chapters to receive the Knox. A big thanks goes out to all our advisory team, all of whom helped us receive these awards.

I look forward to Beta Omega's continued success in our scholastic and awards endeavors. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding our plans for the upcoming school year. Go Dawgs!

~kai~  
Sean Burnstead '12

## RISK MANAGER

Beta Omega has successfully ushered in yet another school year incident free. Finishing up the summer with a national award recognizing excellence in risk management, we are prepared to face another year staying safe and out of trouble. With a new pledge class of thirty young men, my main focus has been education in the rules and regulations of Beta Theta Pi, Beta Omega, & the University of Washington. As an executive team, we have taken a very strict stance on tolerance for any incident that violates these standards and have made it clear that Beta Omega intends to continue being in good standing with both the University and IFC. I would like to thank Greg Hodder for the time and effort he put in during my term as a trusted advisor, helping us set the curve in risk management for all Beta chapters. I'm excited to finish my term strong, leaving the freshmen with an excellent sense of the importance of risk management, as well as leaving my successor a sturdy foundation to continue the success of our chapter. Go Dawgs.

~kai~  
Ben Pitasky '11



## PLEDGE EDUCATOR

I am looking forward to another successful Fall Quarter with the new freshmen pledges. The Rush Team did an excellent job selecting a diverse group of intelligent and talented men that have vast potential to become great Betas. The new pledges have been rapidly adjusting to life in Beta Omega, and have already performed community service, cheered for the Dawgs as they beat USC, serenaded sororities, and started to build friendships with each other as well as the upperclassmen. Last year's pledge class set a very high academic standard with a record setting 3.5 Fall Quarter GPA, and I believe that the new freshmen are excited to rise to the occasion to help maintain our house as the premier academic fraternity on campus. Through commitment to community, cultivation of the intellect, and mutual aid and assistance, the freshmen will learn how to be gentlemen, scholars, and Betas.

\_Kai\_  
Wes Thomas '11



Recruitment has finally come to an end, with a class of thirty great pledges. The Rush team has been working hard, with the help of the active members, since late January to attract the best and brightest to Beta Omega. We have signed a geographically diverse class this year, with three pledges from California, one from Yakima, one from Spokane, two from Vancouver, Washington, with the rest being spread throughout western Washington. All of the pledges moved in on September 13 and have already begun the process of being a Beta pledge. As a rush team, we would like to thank all of you who recommended potential Betas to us. We also thank all of you who participated with the alumni basketball tournament as well as those who donated tickets and venues for rush events. Overall our rush year was exactly what we hoped it would be. We reached our goal of signing thirty pledges who will continue to keep Beta Omega going in the right direction. After winning the Knox Award for the first time this past year, and maintaining the top G.P.A. of all UW fraternities, we needed to keep the level of performance of the Beta Omega chapter at that high level, and this newest class of freshmen can do that.

KAI

The Rush Chairs



Nick Miller '12



Ben Werth '11



Reid Weber '12

*This 2009 summer has been an exciting one for the Beta Omega chapter and the University of Washington. As the school year is upon us, we would like to take some time to reflect on some of our most significant accomplishments in these past few months.*

**BETAS RETURN FROM PHOENIX WITH MOST PRIZED AWARD**

This past August, 14 members of the Beta Omega chapter attended Beta Theta Pi's 170th General Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Each year at this event, Beta Theta Pi's highest award is given out along with many others. The Knox Award, the highest award, recognizes the chapters which excel the most in all areas of fraternal life. For the past two years, the Beta Omega chapter has applied for the Knox Award as well as the Sisson Award. Last year we came back with the Sisson Award, but this year we were awarded the Knox. Receiving this award was an amazing moment in our chapter's history. It took hours upon hours of dedication from our entire executive team to put together a 250 page application. We would like to individually recognize Sean Burnstead for all the time and effort he put forth in order for this to happen. Congratulations to all members of the Beta Omega chapter on receiving this highly sought after award. On top of the Knox, Beta Omega also received the Sisson, Risk Management, Website Excellence, Charles Henry Hardin Leadership Development, and Virginia Tech awards. It was certainly one of the most successful General Conventions that Beta Omega has ever experienced.



*Robbie Suelzle, Kyle Thomas, and Kevin Durkin accepting awards in Phoenix.*

**ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES: BRUCE NORDSTROM SPEAKS AT CHAPTER:**

On Monday October 19th, Alumni Bruce Nordstrom came to chapter and gave a life talk to the actives as well as the pledges. Mr. Nordstrom spoke of his past and how he went from mopping the floors of a shoe store when he was nine to being one of the most prominent figures in a company that employs 70,000 people. He gave the advice that having exceptional service is essential to running a business. He also spoke of some of his favorite memories while living in the Beta house and other various encounters which he felt have shaped his life. Then he opened up to any questions we had for him. Topics ranged from running a family business to picking which shoes to sell to customers to what his vision for Nordstrom's was 50 years ago. Overall, the talk gave much insight to how Mr. Nordstrom became such a success and tips on how we, as young businessmen, should act in order to be successful. We would like to thank Mr. Nordstrom once again for coming in and giving this wonderful speech.



*Bruce Nordstrom speaks at chapter and gives some words of wisdom.*

*The Alumni Speaker Series was started roughly 4 years ago and aims to engage the active chapter with one speaker each quarter. Past speakers have included lawyers, CEO's, doctors, construction managers, financial advisors and marketing strategists. If you are interested in speaking or would like to recommend a pledge brother, please contact Ben Werth ([bwert23@u.washington.edu](mailto:bwert23@u.washington.edu)) to line up a date for the '09-'10 school year.*

## JUNIOR ALEC MAGHAMI VOTED HOMECOMING ROYALTY

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A longstanding tradition at the UW is the selection of Homecoming royalty. This year, from an applicant pool of over 70, Beta Omega's own Alec Maghami was selected as one of the six member court. Alec was chosen based on his campus involvement, a UW themed essay, and two interviews with a selection committee. As homecoming royalty, Alec was presented at the Friday night rally and during Saturday's game. He also spent Homecoming day attending events with the likes of President Emmert, Governor Gregoire, Senator Cantwell, and a number of others. "It was pretty bizarre," Alec said of his gameday experience, "standing there next to Dr. Emmert watching the game, then having the Governor tap me on the shoulder telling me to sit down. I guess old habits die hard."



*Alec (second from left) receiving flowers and a sash during halftime of the Homecoming game.*

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## BROADMOOR LUNCHEON

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The annual Beta Omega Homecoming Luncheon was once again a success. With 90+ in attendance, it was great to see brothers of all ages reunited at the beautiful Broadmoor Country Club. Fantastic alumni speeches were given by Greg Cox and Carl Kester, along with some well-appreciated humor provided by Randy Cantrell. Current Chapter President Ben Werth spoke about the state of the house, the winning of the Knox, and expressed much thanks to all of the recent alumni contributions, specifically the newly renovated kitchen and library. Pledge Class President David Dever followed up with some great words on what it means to be a Beta Pledge, showing much promise for the freshman class as a whole. Thanks again to Ben Hoover, Carl Kester, Ned

Sander, Steve Ritchey, Rich Martinez, Randy Cantrell, and Chris LeCuyer for putting together such an tremendous event, we hope to see everyone back again next year.



*David Dever speaks about what it means to be a Beta pledge.*

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## ACADEMIC UPDATE

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After a long summer of fun and work, it is time to get back in to the swing of things as the University of Washington classes start back up. After being first in grades all three quarters last year, we are all striving to keep the streak alive. The pledges will be attending study tables once again this fall in hopes that they will make a smooth transition into the college academic lifestyle. The remodel of our library at Beta Omega will provide an enhanced space for studying and doing homework. With space for 26 people, there will always be a spacious and comfortable place to work. We will use this new space as an aid to cultivating our intellect and becoming better scholars.



## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

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Recently, our entire internet infrastructure has been updated with brand new equipment. Comcast came to the house and installed their top of the line business-class speed internet. Thanks to the parents club funding, we were successfully able to replace all the access points and install a brand new router which optimizes our setup. Our website ([www.uwbetas.com](http://www.uwbetas.com)) has also gone through some improvements including an easier to navigate homepage and more up to date news and information.

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## BETA HOOPS TOURNAMENT

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This year four active teams, three pledge teams, and six alumni teams participated in the weekend basketball tournament. Congratulations to the team consisting of Scott Barber, Aaron Moore and Scott Skjei for winning the tournament. After the tournament, there was a barbeque on the basketball court with hot dogs and burgers. It was a great opportunity for our members to meet alumni who have graduated from Beta Omega recently.

## RAFT TRIP

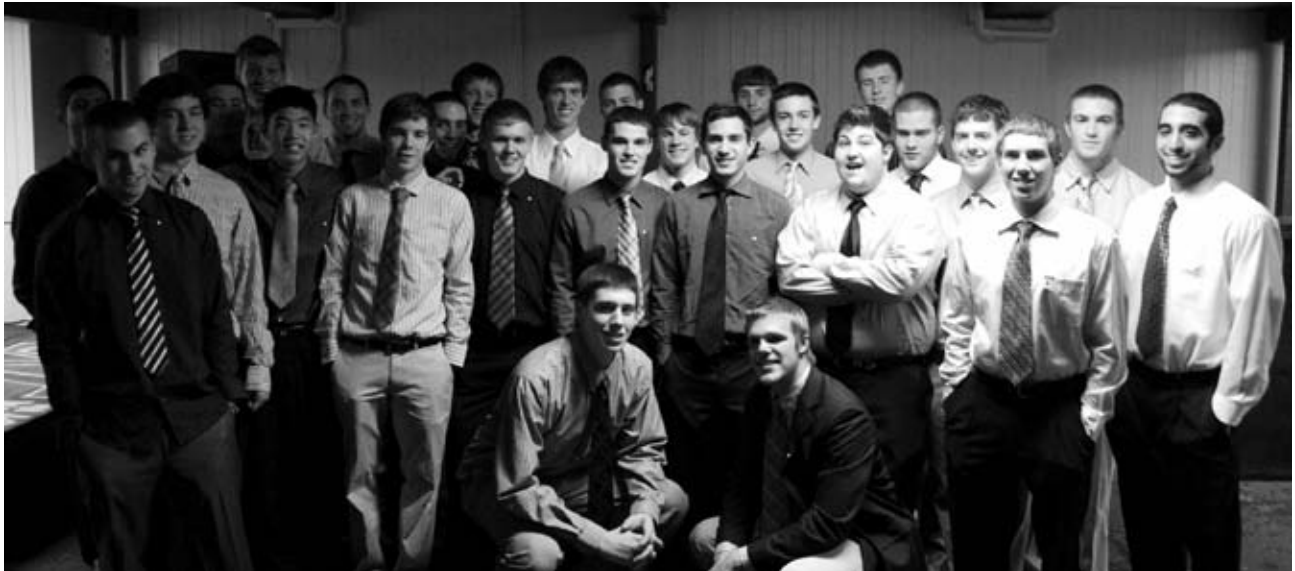
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Once again the Beta Rush Chairs put on a raft trip as a Rush event. We traveled to Yakima with 86 people and stayed at the home of Andy Brassington, a Beta Omega Alumni, for a night. They next day we rafted down the Yakima River. It was a great experience for the rushees because they got to meet members of the house from each grade. Overall, the trip was once again a great success and we plan to do it again next year.



*Betas enjoying the sun while rafting along the Yakima River.*





## MEET THE 2009 PLEDGE CLASS:

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### Alex Heijer

- Business Administration - Freshmen Direct into Foster School of Business
- Bellevue High School
- Student Senator at Bellevue High School
- Varsity wrestling

### Jordan Donahue

- Structural Engineering
- Central Catholic High School
- Varsity football
- Student Senator and Ambassador

### Nolan Thomas

- Environmental Science
- Redmond High School
- 3 sport letterman: wrestling, baseball, cross-country
- 9th place state finish in wrestling

### Ryan Williams

- Business Administration
- Inglemoor High School
- Baseball and basketball

### Emil Sayah

- Business Administration
- Bishop Blanchet High School
- Football

### Ben Slagle

- Business Administration
- Lake Washington High School
- Varsity tennis and track
- DECA state champion in Business Law Test

### Robbie Taylor

- Business Administration
- Mercer Island High School
- Varsity basketball captain

### Pat Smith

- Business Administration
- Eastside Catholic School
- Soccer
- ASB

### Kyle Siekawitch

- Engineering/Pre Dental
- West Valley High School
- 3 year varsity football
- 3 year varsity baseball

### Matt Raine

- Business Administration
- Lakeside High School
- 3 year varsity football (4 time academic state champ)
- 4 year varsity wrestling (senior captain)
- 4 year varsity lacrosse (senior captain)

### Josh Aguilar

- Business Administration
- Inglemoor High School
- Varsity football

### Bo Komen

- Business Administration
- Eastside Catholic School
- 2 year varsity football (All metro)
- Guitar/Singing

Greggor Holland

- Business Administration
- Seattle Prep
- 3 year varsity football, senior captain
- 4 year varsity track, senior captain
- Eagle Scout

Brain Kim

- Business Administration
- Liberty High School
- 2 year varsity baseball
- Guitar

Isaac Cameron

- Bio Chemistry
- Columbia River High School
- 4 year varsity soccer, senior captain

Clay Bradley

- Business Administration
- Inglemoor High School
- Varsity soccer, captain

Chris Harrington

- Business Administration or Dental
- Redmond High School
- 3 year varsity basketball, all league, 2nd team all state senior year

Casey Low

- Business Administration
- Auburn Riverside High School
- Tennis

Pasha Zolfaghari

- History/Pre-Med
- Jsera Catholic High School (California)
- 3 year basketball

Kevin McBride

- Business Administration
- Bishop Blanchet High School
- Varsity football and basketball

Max Kolden

- Business Administration
- Issaquah High School
- Basketball

Michael Brennan

- Business Administration
- Bellevue High School
- 4 year varsity lacrosse

Peter Zajac

- Bioengineering
- Mercer Island High School
- 2 year varsity basketball
- 4 year water polo, captain, state champions all 4 years

Christian Conway

- Mater Dei High School (California)
- ASB
- 2 years water polo and swim team
- Sailing team

Ashkon Namini

- Science/Pre-Med
- Lake Washington High School
- 2 year varsity basketball
- Treasurer of honor society

David Dever

- Bioengineering
- Gonzaga Prep High School
- ASB President
- 3 year varsity football

Ryan Tiernan

- Business Administration
- Issaquah High School
- 3 year varsity football and track

Nick Pizzitola

- Business Administration
- Eastside Catholic School
- 4 year lacrosse, captain
- Football

Josh Oi

- Saint Francis High School (California)
- Soccer

Hardy Mowe

- Undecided
- Bellevue High School
- 4 year basketball letterman



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

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Here is a list of some upcoming events you don't want to miss.

- Pledge Initiation Ceremony 1/10/10
  - Alumni Golf Tournament 6/19/10
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~ Check out our new and improved website at [www.uwbetas.com](http://www.uwbetas.com). ~

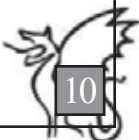
~ Do we have your current email address and other contact info?? Click on the STAY CONNECTED link on the [uwbetas.com](http://uwbetas.com) homepage. In addition to emailing the Trident, Beta Omega Alumni Association sends periodic emails about important Alumni and house activities. Please make sure we have your current email address so we can keep you in the loop! ~

~ Active Betas are always looking for internships and job opportunities. Think you can help? Contact Michael Buckley via email at [mbuckley@u.washington.edu](mailto:mbuckley@u.washington.edu) ~

# BETA THETA PI

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## BETA OMEGA CHAPTER



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# BETA OMEGA CHAPTER

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