

Highlights of Beta Sigma Phi

- 1931 Walter W. Ross, a young man with great plans for the future, founds Beta Sigma Phi with the first chapter in Abilene, Kansas.
- 1932 The first issue of The Torch of Beta Sigma Phi comes off the press.
- 1933 Pennsylvania Beta, Harrisburg becomes the first chapter to take the Ritual of Jewels degree.
- 1934 Members gather in Waterloo, Iowa to enjoy the first Beta Sigma Phi convention.
- 1935 Beta Sigma Phi becomes International when a member from California moves to Canada to establish a chapter there.
- 1937 Twenty-eight members make history when they sail to Hawaii on the first Beta Sigma Phi Ramble.
- 1938 The Valentine Contest is introduced.
- 1939 The number of chapters reaches a milestone with 1,000 on Beta Sigma Phi's ninth anniversary.
- 1940 The Exemplar degree is conferred on 12 members in Danville, Illinois.
- 1942 Beta Sigma Phi members accept a challenge from the U.S. government to sell \$14 million worth of war bonds and exceed that figure by an additional \$8 million.
- 1943 Alaska Alpha chapter is installed at Anchorage. The first International City Council for Beta Sigma Phi is established in the Niagara Falls/Ontario, Niagara Falls/New York area.
- 1944 More than 1,000 Beta Sigma Phis are members of the Armed Services serving in Canada, United States and overseas. Beta Sigma Phis invest nearly \$3 million in War Bonds and stamps. Twenty- six Army Nurses organize Alpha chapter in North Africa. Eleanor Roosevelt speaks at Founder's Day in Washington D.C.
- 1945 Less than a year after the war ends in Europe, the first overseas chapter is installed in Great Britain.
- 1946 Barbara Ann Scott, Olympic Ice Queen, is installed as Honorary Member of Nu Phi Mu by Ontario Delta, Ottawa. Kansas City chapters hold nine in-state area meetings.
- 1949 Alpha chapter is established in Cuba. Alpha chapter is established in Frankfurt, Germany. Canada's First Lady Madame St. Laurent becomes International Honorary member. Japan Alpha, Tokyo is installed by a former Washington Tau, District of Columbia.
- 1950 Beta Sigma Phi Ramble to England, Scotland and France.
- 1951 The financial need of a member after a tragic automobile accident is responsible for the establishment of the International Loan Fund, began with contributions from individual members.
- 1955 The Order of the Rose degree is established to honor members of 15 or more years who have distinguished themselves within the organization.
- 1956 The Silver Anniversary of Beta Sigma Phi sees the creation of the Achievement Band through which members can acquire paid-up annual fee status. Nu Phi Mu is brought into Beta Sigma Phi as a degree of membership. Fellowship program welcomes new pledges to higher degree chapters.

- 1957 The Daughter Enrollment Plan (Legacy Program) is announced with the enrollment of Walter W. Ross' three granddaughters, Linda, Judy and Laura.
- 1958 Alpha chapter in Sydney becomes the first Australian chapter. The Envoy program was established.
- 1959 The International Office announces the Preceptor Degree.
- 1960 Beta Sigma Phi reaches a total 150,000 members in 7,000 chapters in 14 countries.
- 1961 The program Presentation Contest is announced.
- 1962 Beta Sigma Phi World headquarters building becomes a reality at 1800 W. 91st Place Kansas City, Missouri.
- 1963 The Librarian Service Award is announced.
- 1964 The first International Award of Distinction is presented.
- 1965 Employers write "Why I Like My Employee to be a Beta Sigma Phi." Winner receives a paid trip to International.
- 1966 The International Office announces conversion to computer system. Enabling more efficient communication with members.
- 1967 Girl of the Year Pin is announced.
- 1968 16,500 members honored with the Order of the Rose to date.
- 1969 Founder Walter W, Ross dies (April 9, 1900 to June 14, 1969). The Walter W. Ross Memorial Scholarship is established.
- 1970 The Founder's Award Contest is announced. 114 Founder's Memory chapters are organized.
- 1971 Our 40th Anniversary is celebrated. A new tradition begins with the convention lamp from city to city. Founder's Fund Insurance Plan is announced.
- 1972 Girlstown, USA, longest continuing Beta Sigma Phi project for Endowment Fund, receives \$267,000 since 1953.
- 1973 Pearl Buck awarded International Honorary Membership posthumously.
- 1974 A new degree, Preceptor Laureate (now Laureate) is introduced for members with at least eight years of membership in a Preceptor chapter. Friendly Venture chapter is installed in Karamursel, Turkey.
- 1975 *Encyclopedia Americana* recognizes Beta Sigma Phi in latest reference books. International Women's Year-members all over the world show support in various projects. International Flag Design contest is announced.
- 1976 Endowment Fund giving goes over the \$1 million mark! Rosebud Alpha, first active legacy group is formed in Denton, Texas. The Silver Circle Ritual for 25-year members is introduced.
- 1977 New computer terminals are installed for even faster and more convenient service than ever to members. Founder's Day finds us now in 24 countries around the world. International Theme Contest is announced.
- 1978 Life Insurance program starts. Alpha chapters begin in six new countries: Hong Kong, Cuba, Ecuador, New Zealand, Iceland and Netherlands. We are now in 31 countries.

- 1979 This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Walter W. Ross Memorial Scholarship Fund. We have awarded 89 \$1,000 scholarships to students. That's \$89,000 in 10 years!
- 1980 Golden Anniversary activities are launched. A history book of Beta Sigma Phi is written. Members can earn gold stars for their achievement bands by recommending friends who pledge Beta Sigma Phi. "People Helping People" awards are created so chapters and city councils can honor outstanding citizens in their communities. Dorothy Ross, wife of our founder, dies December 1, 1980. The Walter W. Ross Memorial Scholarship becomes the Dorothy and Walter Ross Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- 1981 "Idea Fair" contest brings best ideas for chapter service projects, socials, ways and means projects and programs. Members begin forming "Golden Anniversary" chapters worldwide. U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau recognize Beta Sigma Phi's Golden Anniversary.
- 1982 Beta Sigma Phi launches contest to find the "Ideal New Beta Sigma Phi."
- 1983 The "Golden Circle" Ritual for 50 year members is introduced at Founder's Day. New "Programs A La Carte" offers members well over 100 program topics to choose from. City Councils introduce annual "Guest Day" programs in their communities to welcome new members and build chapters in their cities. The new Bed and Breakfast program allows members to meet sisters during their travels.
- 1984 Beta Sigma Phi Ambassador program introduces city mayors and chambers of commerce to our sorority. A special service effort, to raise money for the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island is announced. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 for this worthy project before Lady Liberty's 100th birthday, July 4, 1986. Our Envoy membership program for men is offered as a way to honor men for their support of Beta Sigma Phi efforts.
- 1985 International Endowment Fund giving is at more than \$2 million. A new, flexible approach to a sorority called "Career Chapters" is introduced. Members from "Lady Liberty" chapters; for each new member, International donates fifty cents to the Statue of Liberty service efforts.
- 1986 Beta Sigma Phis raise \$130,000 for the Statue of Liberty Restoration Project – 30 percent beyond our goal.
- 1987 A "Chapter Pen Pal Program" allows chapters to correspond and share good ideas for projects, programs and parties. Bed & Breakfast hostesses now number more than 1,000 worldwide!
- 1988 The Master Degree is introduced for members who have been Laureates for 10 years or more. The first Master chapter is formed in Kansas City, Missouri.
- 1989 Saudi Arabia chapters enjoy a country wide Founder's Day celebration hosted by Xi Alpha of Dhahran. Five Alpha charters are reactivated by existing members, chapters and councils. Exemplar Fund becomes dedicated to scholarships for sorority sisters continuing their education – 11 awarded in their first year. U.S. first lady Barbara Bush becomes an International Honorary Member.

- 1990 Beta Sigma Phi sisters help recover from devastating Hurricane Hugo by donating \$16,500 from 257 chapters across the United States. Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder is named a Beta Sigma Phi Envoy. Our 60th Anniversary celebration kicks off with birthday cards from members committing to introduce friends to sorority, create Celebration Chapters and earn plaques at International.
- 1991 Members go into high gear in support of the troops in the Middle East. New International Beta Sigma Phi "Legacy Day" is created, to be celebrated the Saturday before Mother's Day each year. Russia Alpha, St. Petersburg formed in September.
- 1992 International Legacy Day, the Saturday before Mother's Day is announced to salute the 30,000 plus legacies of Beta Sigma Phi. Beta Sigma Phi Disaster Fund is created to help sisters who were victims of Hurricane Andrew and Iniki. More than \$180,000 is raised and distributed within a few months.
- 1993 Honorary member Hillary Clinton of Little Rock, Arkansas becomes U.S. first lady. New transplantation immunology center at Stanford University Medical Center named for Beta Sigma Phi in recognition of our many years of generous support.
- 1994 Breast Cancer Research Endowment Fund begins. Chapters and councils donate their rushing allowances to fund a high risk clinic and breast cancer vaccination research at Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Beta Sigma Phi also promotes "Random Acts of Kindness" worldwide.
- 1995 Members of Beta Sigma Phi International and chapters enjoy a seminar and cruise in the Caribbean. Beta Sigma Phi "Best Friends of Your Life" program gives sisters opportunity to honor their own with recognition and awards.
- 1996 Beta Sigma Phi hits the information super highway. The Internet gives sisters a way to chat internationally, instantly through newsgroups and email and an opportunity to visit the International Home Page on the World Wide Web. "Catch a Dream" contest sends a lucky "Martha Stewart" to an East Coast cooking school.
- 1997 Vision 2000 Cruise to Alaska with International's Bill Ross attracts 106 sisters and husbands for a seminar on the future of Beta Sigma Phi. New chapter, Gamma, is formed in Belgium.
- 1998 Beta Sigma Phi soars into space as Idaho Honorary Member Barbara Morgan is tapped for a space shuttle adventure!
- 1999 Laura Ross Wingfield is named president of the Beta Sigma Phi International Executive Council. Beta Sigma Phi reaches for 200,000 members in the year 2000. Membership drive is launched.
- 2000 The new century begins with the "Beta Sigma Phi Millennium Baby" contest. The winner is David Claiborne, grandson of a delighted member. The Beta Sigma Phi Pen Pal Program is highlighted in the Torch and garners many new participants.
- 2001 Following the terrorist attack on Washington D.C. and New York City on September 11, Beta Sigma Phis around the world reach out with donations and other types of support. To date, Beta Sigma Phi has donated nearly half a million dollars to breast cancer research, with break through news coming from recipient Dana Farber. An oncologist at the institute, Donald

- Kufe, M.D., works on a vaccine that will benefit women with recurrent breast cancer.
- 2002 Members gather in Pt. Canaveral, Florida to celebrate the first Beta Sigma Phi online convention. Congresswoman Joann Davis is installed as an Honorary Member.
- 2003 The first full color issue of the *Torch* is released. The P.A.C.E. (Participation, Attitude, Commitment, Enthusiasm) Award is announced at Founder's Day by Bill Ross.
- 2004 One of the largest natural disasters in history, a massive tsunami that ravaged southern Asia, brings the world together to try and help. Beta Sigma Phi members around the world along with millions of others donate money to try and help. Every Beta Sigma Phi member is encouraged to do her part.
- 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit, leaving people homeless, many victims are our members. East Texas is also devastated by wild fires. To date, the Beta Sigma Phi Disaster Relief Fund has given more than \$240,000 to victims and their families to help rebuild their lives. Online chapters are recognized as official chapters. The Diamond Circle Ritual is introduced at Founder's Day.
- 2009 Beta Sigma Phi website was brought in house on July 3rd.