



FALL
2021

BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BETA RHO HOUSE RENOVATION UPDATE

We announced in the spring edition of *Bobcat Sig* that we decided to delay the start of our renovation on the dorm side of the house (Phase 1) by a year. We have now determined that contractors in the Gallatin Valley are maxed out because of the booming property development taking place in the area. Consequently, we will be forced to delay the start of Phase 1 until the summer of 2023.

In the meantime, planning will continue. We have finished preliminary discussions with the Sigma Chi Foundation regarding the amount of educational space the renovated premises will have. Our architects have drafted detailed plans that will enable us to have discussions with mechanical and electrical engineers and, most importantly, general contractors. Each dorm floor will be identical in design with four double rooms, three single rooms, and one double-room-sized group study. Each brother occupying a room will have a built-in bed and desk.

At this point, the plan is to begin demolishing the dorm-side interior in May 2023 and have it rebuilt for the opening of classes in mid-August. The renovation to the rest of the house and the exterior (Phase 2) will take place in the summer of either 2024 or 2025.

The total cost of these renovations is largely an educated guess at this point. We know that costs of material and labor have increased dramatically over the past two years, especially in the Gallatin Valley. We have approximately \$1.2 million of donations that have been collected and are at our disposal. Once we have obtained cost estimates from general contractors, we will know more precisely where we stand financially.

In Hoc,
Norman C. Achen '65
norm@normanachen.com



Our renderings for the third-floor renovation, which includes upper living spaces and dorm rooms!

Congrats, Paul Boylan '64, on the Order of Constantine Award!

Induction into the Order of Constantine is the highest honor that Sigma Chi bestows upon one of its members for years of outstanding and faithful service to the fraternity. **Paul Boylan '64** received this award based in part on the endorsement by several Beta Rho alumni. Presented below is the endorsement letter from **Brother Bill Gum '63**, which takes a comprehensive look at Paul's impact on Beta Rho over the span of nearly eight decades.

"It is a great pleasure to submit this letter of recommendation. I have enjoyed a unique, 76-year relationship with Paul Boylan and truly believe he is worthy of the distinction of the Order of Constantine. From playgrounds to conference rooms, he has been a friend, mentor, role model, advisor, and on many occasions, a co-worker.

As a college freshman, I was educated by Paul on the attributes of becoming a Sigma Chi. I became an inspired pledge whose proudest moment was being initiated into Beta Rho under Paul's leadership as consul. A much deeper meaning was instilled into our friendship.

Paul's task as consul was not easy with 62 active chapter brothers living in the house and another 78 actives and pledges living in apartments and dorms. But his leadership was fair, clear, and consistent.

(Continued on page 2)

Congrats, Paul Boylan '64

(Continued from page 1)

I do not recall a moment of dissent or major disagreement. On campus, the chapter reigned supreme in athletics, academics, student leadership, social, and community involvement.

Several years after departing into the real world, Paul returned to Bozeman full-time and became a magnet for attracting brothers back to Homecoming. With his planning, direction and hard work, the house gatherings have become an annual ritual to this day. It is a time for reflection on the past and a demonstration to young brothers of the benefits and true meaning of a lifelong bond.

The active chapter was quick to recognize Paul as a credible and trustworthy mentor. They established a permanent slot for him at executive meetings to garner his advice. His knowledge of maintaining and preserving the house was so respected and appreciated by both the chapter and alumni, he was overwhelmingly elected to his still current position of House Building Corporation President. Acknowledging Paul's integrity for improving the lifestyle for all Greek undergraduates at MSU, the dean of students solicited his help to review and recommend changes to the MSU Greek Housing Regulations. His inquisitive nature for improving living conditions led to discussions regarding Greek organizations purchasing land from the University to build new, contemporary-style homes. The President of MSU has since formed a committee of Greek alumni and school administrators to provide recommendations for accommodating the future growth of the Greek community. Most recent, Paul has been tasked with the responsibility for being certain Beta Rho's living environment meets all COVID health and safety standards and that the active chapter is attentive and responding to all requirements.

While Paul demonstrates a never-ending dedication to hands-on maintenance and face-to-face leadership, he still attends the monthly Beta Rho Alumni Luncheons—sometimes referred to as The Old Guys Lunch. The core of this enthusiastic group of brothers is 75 to 82 years old. When the stories of the old days conclude for the day, the focus usually shifts to Paul for a welcome response to the question, 'What's happening at the house?'

In Bozeman, if a question or concern regarding Sigma Chi is raised by a student, parent, alumnus, administrator, local business, or community leader, the response will be—Better Call Paul.

In short, Paul has committed his life to making a difference. He has made a difference for Sigma Chi, Beta Rho, Montana—and his beloved Bozeman. I highly recommend Paul Boylan for the honor of being admitted to the Order of Constantine."

Announcing the Better Call Paul Award

To honor the dedication of **Paul Boylan '64**, a \$1,000 scholarship—aptnly named the Better Call Paul Award—has been established and will be presented annually to an outstanding member of the active chapter. The recipient of the first award is **Noah Scherbak '24**.

BETTER CALL PAUL RECIPIENT, NOAH SCHERBAK '24, THANKS MANY



Recently, I was fortunate enough to receive the inaugural Better Call Paul Award, a housing grant created in the honor of **Paul Boylan '64**. Paul is a Beta Rho alumnus, president of our Housing Board Corporation, and a recent Order of Constantine inductee, the highest honor a Sigma Chi can receive. The award honors his long-term dedication and commitment to the fraternity and Beta Rho Chapter. I was selected by our chapter's executive committee and chapter advisor to receive this award for my positivity, helpfulness, and general commitment to our chapter.

I'd like to thank Paul Boylan for his exceptional devotion and contribution to our chapter, and for leading many future generations of Beta Rhos. I'd also like to thank **Steve Nash '99**, **Rick Dissly '66**, **Ryan Roseleip '97**, **Bill Gum '66**, and the Boylan family for donating to the grant and making this award possible. Lastly, I'd like to thank **Grant Davidson '23**, **Owen Hunter '23**, **Wylie Phillips '23**, **Jimmy Hascup '23**, **Leo Cunningham '24**, and **Matt Sonnichsen '04** for selecting me to receive this award. It is truly an honor, and I am extremely grateful.

In Hoc,
Noah Scherbak '24
noahscherbak01@gmail.com

Celebrating Our Newest Significant Sig: Bill Brace '89

Beta Rho recognized their 11th Significant Sig recipient, Brother **Bill Brace '89**, at an awards presentation on October 8 during MSU's Homecoming weekend. "Sigma Chi has certainly been one of the most significant and cherished experiences of my life," Bill said.

During Bill's time in college, he held numerous leadership positions. "I consider myself so lucky to have been a part of Beta Rho at a time when we had such a special group of brothers," Bill said. "I have remained close, lifelong friends with several brothers who have enriched my life at every stage."

Bill graduated from Montana State University in electrical engineering with highest honors and earned an MBA from the University of Iowa.

As a Life Loyal Sigma Chi, Bill has served Sigma Chi well as a faculty member of leadership training workshops and chapter advisor for the University of Iowa undergraduate chapter.

"Sigma Chi built the foundation of the leadership skills that have served me well throughout my professional career," Bill said. He enjoyed a very rewarding career with The Procter & Gamble Company (P&G) that spanned over 29 years. During Bill's tenure at P&G, he held numerous leadership positions in both the U.S. and Europe and was responsible for overseeing divisions that generated over \$2 billion in annual net profits by implementing innovative values-based leadership initiatives.



Bill currently serves Signet Jewelers (Kay, Jared, Zale's) as president of Jared and Jewelry Services as well as the chief marketing officer. Signet is the world's largest retail jewelry store with over \$6 billion in annual sales. Bill collaborates with the board of directors and executive management team at Signet to strategically transform this business by introducing new initiatives focused on customer first, omni-channel delivery and a culture of agility and efficiency strategies. Since joining Signet, the company has enjoyed record sales growth and profitability and has enjoyed double digit growth in stock price appreciation.

Bill is married to Karen, an MSU Chi Omega, and is the father of three boys. He has volunteered with his children's school activities and has served on the board of directors for several

community and charitable organizations. Bill makes his home in Cleveland, Ohio, but returns to Montana frequently to enjoy their home in Big Sky, as his family members are avid outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy skiing, biking, fishing, and golfing.

"The values of Sigma Chi combined with the experiences we shared at Beta Rho have certainly shaped who we are and carried us across the years," Bill said. "I am grateful for the wonderful brothers who have been such a meaningful part of my life."

To read more about Bill's career, visit [linkedin.com/in/william-bill-brace-720912](https://www.linkedin.com/in/william-bill-brace-720912).

ALUMNI UPDATES

Chapter Eternal

Flint Taylor '62 – February 27, 2021

Michael B. Strobe '63 – December 7, 2020

Robert Hardgrove '64 – August 27, 2020

David C. Moulton '65 – May 5, 2021

Dennis P. McSweeney '83 – April 11, 2021

Jared Bratsky '00 – December 30, 2020

Alumni News

Tom Overturf '64 enjoyed attending a Sigma Chi reunion in September 2018 at the home of **Paul "Butch" Funk '61** near Ft. Hood, Texas.

They had a full house for dinner and presented Paul's Significant Sig award. Tom lives in Las Vegas, Nev. Email: tomoveturf@gmail.com

Dr. Vincent D. Eusterman '73 and his wife, Jane, went to the 50-year Great Falls High School reunion in July 2019 and saw a lot of "old timers" there. "What a joy it was to see so many great friends, including a number of Beta Rho Sigma Chi brothers. Sigma Chi has been a lifelong blessing." They live in Centennial, Colo. Email: veusterman@gmail.com

Mark Killion '79 is retired and drives for Lyft part time. He lives in Omaha, Neb., and enjoys fishing, camping, riding his bicycle, and spending time with his three grandchildren.

Reilly Parisot '17 lives in Helena, Mont., and worked in the governor's office for 1 1/2 years before becoming a staffer to the lieutenant governor. He has enjoyed the experience and hopes to serve in his next administration as the state's next governor. Email: reilly.parisot@gmail.com

Brothers Excel on Campus

*Beta Rho Remains the
Chapter of Preeminent
Leadership and Development*

Chapter Growth

This fall, Beta Rho Chapter executed a very successful recruitment cycle. Throughout the season, our recruitment chairman conducted 72 interviews. Due to the large class of potential new members, the chapter was able to increase our standards of GPA and other credentials to extend an invitation. The men who received one took their new responsibilities very seriously and all displayed great potential to benefit our chapter. The 18 men who remained with us throughout pledgship were initiated on October 16. We are proud to say the new brothers have been active members of our chapter, participating in all varieties of events.

Academics

Beta Rho has had a steady increase in grades the past several semesters. Last year, we set a new benchmark for an average individual GPA of 3.13. To keep up this momentum, brothers have spent lots of time in the chapter house library as well as the campus library. We look forward to the expanded chapter house library following the upcoming renovations.

Philanthropy

The active brothers are very proud to report on our philanthropy accomplishments this fall. We have hosted numerous events, including a car wash, a Parents Weekend auction, Derby Days, and pumpkin carving. We also partnered with Delta Gamma on a haunted house charity event.

Thanks to our philanthropy chairman's efforts, this year's car wash was the most successful yet. The brothers washed roughly 70 cars and raised over \$1,600 in just four hours. It was exciting to resume in-person Derby Days after a year away due to COVID-19. We owe many thanks to all the sorority women who matched our excitement and participated in our events. This year, Derby Days raised \$15,000 for the Huntsman Cancer Institute, putting us well on our way toward achieving our yearlong goal of joining the Huntsman 30K club.

Public Relations

Every semester, we conduct our highway clean-up on our adopted stretch of highway up Gallatin Gateway; we had a phenomenal chapter participation and impact on the road's cleanliness this year! In November, we hosted



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our biannual blood drive through the Red Cross. Toward the end of the semester, we held a public relations event hosting our neighbors at the University Police Department and the Dean of Students Office at the chapter house.

Homecoming

This year's Homecoming weekend was one to remember! Our festivities began with an alumni banquet here in Bozeman. The banquet was centered around the presentation/celebration of **Bill Brace '89** and his Significant Sig award and of **Paul Boylan '64** and his Order of Constantine award. It was wonderful to have so many alumni back in town. This banquet provided a great opportunity to meet many of our wonderful Beta Rho alumni and draw inspiration from their accomplishments. The following morning, the active chapter participated in the annual MSU Homecoming parade. We partnered with Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority and took first place in the float competition. We always enjoy participating in our community, and we wear our letters proudly during the Homecoming parade. Looking forward to next year!

Looking Ahead

Moving forward, we have many exciting plans for the spring semester! We are looking forward to beginning another recruitment cycle with the same energy and enthusiasm as this fall. We have lots of great philanthropy ideas in the works and plan to build out a busy philanthropy schedule in order to reach our goal of joining the Huntsman 30K club. Academics will remain our top priority throughout the entirety of the school year as we reach to improve our chapter-wide GPA. Next semester, we are looking into volunteering opportunities for the Bozeman Cancer Support Community. It is important to us to show that we are committed to becoming the generation to end cancer through raising money for the Huntsman Cancer Institute as well as helping local cancer patients through the Bozeman Cancer Support Community. The entire chapter is motivated and dedicated to participating in accomplishing our goal of the Gold Peterson at the conclusion of this academic school year.

In Hoc,
Grant Davidson '23, Consul
grantdd2121@gmail.com

Fall 2021 Executive Team

Consul **Grant Davidson '23**
Pro Consul **Owen Hunter '23**
Quaestor **Wylie Phillips '23**
Magister **Jimmy Hascup '23**
Recruitment Chairman **Leo Cunningham '24**

Annotator **Connor Lennehan '23**
House Manager **Jared Mizner '23**
Kitchen Manager **Michael Shannen '24**
Scholarship Chairman **Anthony Meader '24**
Philanthropy Chairman **Robert Beers '24**
Public Relations Chairman **Dustin Olsen '24**

Tribune **Weston Danley '22**
Chapter Editor **Weston Danley '22**
Kustos **Matt Stark '22**
Social Chairman **Andre Orenge '23**
Sorority Relations Chairman **Jesse Denk '24**