

FALL  
2023

# BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Beta Rho's Upcoming Renovations

### Can You Help Support the Future of the House?

I am writing this article immediately after attending Homecoming 2023 celebrations at the chapter house. This is the first Homecoming alumni event at the house since COVID. We had more than 100 attendees last night, with a large contingent of alumni from the '80s and '90s. Alumni as far back as 1959 were also in attendance alongside actives who joined Sigma Chi within the last year.

#### John Joins the Board

The House Company held their annual meeting earlier in the afternoon, and we can announce **John Hertz '89** has joined the board as assistant treasurer. John is well-known by those alumni from the late '80s and early '90s; his CPA skills and CFO experience will add much to the board's future functioning. You can read more about John inside this issue.

#### Phase 1 Plans

We have a commitment from a local contractor who completed the renovation of the AGR house some seven years ago to start our Phase 1 renovation construction (principally the dorm side of the house) in May 2024. We are working with him on firming up details, but we expect to have signed contracts in place by January. All three dorm floors will have similar layouts.

One of the big unknowns is the full price for Phase 1. We do not have many details yet from the contractor, but we know prices have escalated substantially for Gallatin projects over the past three years. We'll have to see how that works out, but there will certainly still be a need for additional funding for Phase 2.

#### How You Can Help

We call on all Beta Rho alumni who have not yet stepped up to contribute (totaling more than 1,200 brothers) to unleash their checkbooks and send a contribution to **Rick Dissly '66**.

**Not enough brothers have taken advantage of the \$125,000 matching fund.** We urge you to take this tremendous opportunity to leverage your donation and support the renovation of your chapter house. The matching fund will match, dollar-for-dollar, any additional pledge or gift made to the renovation project by new or existing donors. It is not too late to support your brothers!

You can make a pledge or donate your additional gift online at [bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025/donate](https://bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025/donate). You can also make a check payable to "Beta Rho of Sigma Chi House Company" and mail it to Rick Dissly, 6651 Leyland Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95120. We suggest amounts of \$500, \$1,000, or \$2,500.

The active brothers thank you for your support, and we can't wait to keep you updated on this project as details emerge.

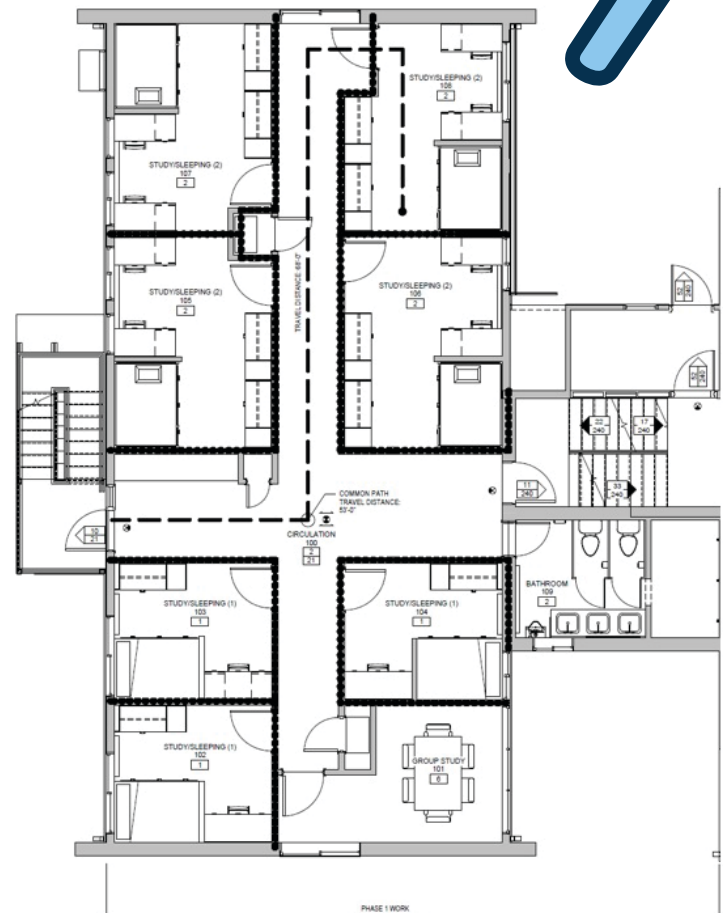
In Hoc,  
**Norman C. Achen '65**



**Sigma Chi**  
EXPECT MORE.

## PHASE 1 DORM PLANS TAKE SHAPE

Take a look at our  
floor plan for the  
second-floor dorm layout!



# Success Starts at Sigma Chi

## John Hertz '89 Values His Lifelong Fraternity Bonds

The Sigma Chi experience is a bit different for every brother, but all alumni can attest to growth through fraternity life. John was interested in joining a fraternity as an incoming freshman, and to this day, he is proud to have lifelong connections through Beta Rho Chapter.

### Fraternal Reflections

John's Beta Rho membership associated him with individuals that stood out on campus, and he was proud to be amongst members with such unique backgrounds. From being snowed-in during a historic arctic blast to launching water balloons across the road at SAE, John and his brothers were always balancing work with fun.

On a professional level, John's Beta Rho membership taught him organizational skills during his time as Social Chairman. The role required understanding what it takes for an organization to succeed as well as what individuals contribute to an overall operation.

"There is a lot of planning, working with and influencing others, selling of ideas and nuts-and-bolts execution that goes with pulling off a successful function... Being good at those things

*"It was one of the best experiences of my life and continues to be important to me to this day through the lifelong friendships I developed in those four years."*

was critical to my professional success and didn't necessarily come naturally to me."

### Organized for Success

After graduation, John began his accounting career at KPMG. Progressing up the ladder, John worked in Texas, Oregon, and New York offices before being offered a fellowship at the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

"After rising to the upper reaches of the accounting ivory tower, I decided that a lifetime career as a partner in public accounting was not what I wanted," John said, setting his sights for a CFO role for a publicly traded company. This started John's path at Novellus, later finishing his career at Clearwater Paper.



John Hertz '89 and his daughter, Hannah, enjoy brunch in West Village, NYC.

### Sigma Chi Support

As an alumnus, John has seen Sigma Chi bonds impact both his personal and professional life. He worked with **Matt Spain '86**, he and **Jeff Mikkelson '89** served as best man for one another, and **Bill Brace '89** and **Bobby Fried '91** were in John's wedding party.

The invaluable Sigma Chi experience compelled John to donate to Beta Rho's most recent campaign. He is extremely fortunate for what Beta Rho provided him, and he hopes to see continued success in the chapter.

John has been married to his wife, Corey, for nearly three decades. They have two daughters who are sorority members, and the Hertz family enjoys time at the family cabin on Coeur d'Alene Lake. John also currently serves on the advisory board of the College of Business at Montana State University. You can connect with John at [manitocda@gmail.com](mailto:manitocda@gmail.com).

## JOHN'S ADVICE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

*"Be clear about your ultimate career objective and make sure your decisions align with that. That is not to say you need to make that decision the day you graduate and stick to it, but at any point when making a career decision, make sure you are very clear about your ultimate objective. Also, don't be afraid to take opportunities where you question your ability to succeed."*

## An Outstanding Honor

### Will Caron '26 Receives Better Call Paul Award

I am extremely honored to be the third annual recipient of the Better Call Paul Award, a housing grant that is near and dear to our brotherhood.

The award was created to honor the outstanding and ardent efforts from House Company President and Order of Constantine Sig **Paul Boylan '64**. It also serves to honor all the selfless alumni of Beta Rho Chapter.

I am overwhelmingly grateful for this award, as it represents my passion and devotion to my brothers and any duty required to fulfill Beta Rho's outstanding reputation. This chapter has provided me with so much already, and I am forever thankful.

I would like to thank Paul Boylan for his unwavering commitment to our chapter for years, and many more years in the future. I would also like to extend gratitude to **Rick Dissly '66**, **Bill Gum '66**, **Ryan Roseleip '97**, **Steve Nash '99**, and the Boylan family for their generous donations toward this great award.

Finally, I would like to thank **Forrest Christian '25**, **Andrew Harness '25**, **Jonny Hoefig '25**, **Will Hyatt '25**, **Tyler Lara '25**, and our amazing chapter advisor, **Matt Sonnichsen '04**, for selecting me as this year's recipient. I am extremely grateful to receive this award and will keep striving for the betterment of Beta Rho and Sigma Chi fraternity.

In Hoc,  
**William Caron '26**



Paul Boylan '64 (left) with Better Call Paul Award winner Will Caron '26.

## Bozeman Alumni Expand Local Social Activities

**Spencer Dahl '15** and **Derek Nickelson '13**, both Bozeman residents, are busy creating a communications platform to increase participation at regular lunches and promote upcoming social events...and they could use **your help!** Here's your chance to lend a hand to expand and improve the Bozeman Sig network.

### Leading the Way

Spencer and Derek are searching for several local Sigs to take on the role of "decade leader" to assist in promoting events among brothers in the community.

With the aid of our current Sigma Chi database, decade leaders will discover which Sigs are living and working in the Gallatin Valley and how to contact them. Leaders are needed to focus on

alumni from the '70s, '80s, '90s, 2000-05, and 2015-20.

**With your help, the Sigma Chi network can continue expanding.** We hope for more opportunities to socialize today while renewing friendships from the past and building new connections within the brotherhood.

### Please Step Up and Make It Happen!

To make a connection and/or to become a decade leader, contact Spencer at (406) 231-6770 or [spencerzdahl@gmail.com](mailto:spencerzdahl@gmail.com). You can also reach Derek at (406) 640-0971 or [derekrnickelson@gmail.com](mailto:derekrnickelson@gmail.com).

They will answer any questions and provide the updated Sigma Chi database with current local contact information.

Help Us  
Connect  
Brothers

## Chapter Eternal

**Jack Cassidy, Ph.D. '52** – July 31, 2022

**Don Glynn '55** – July 7, 2023

**Bebo Brown '62** – September 2, 2023

**Robert Fisher '64** – January 6, 2022

**Don Watson '67** – July 7, 2023

**Dean Stensland '80** – February 28, 2023

**Kevin Mulder '97** – October 22, 2022

## Chapter Officers

Consul  
**Will Hyatt '25**

Magister  
**Andrew Harness '25**

Pro Consul  
**Forrest Christian '25**

Recruitment  
Chairman  
**Tyler Lara '25**

Quaestor  
**Jonny Hoefig '25**

# Support House Projects Today



# BOBCAT SIG

This issue of *Bobcat Sig* details Phase 1 renovation plans for our beloved chapter house. While total costs for upcoming projects are currently unknown, Beta Rho needs your help to financially prepare for the future of our home.

Check page 1 of this issue for more information about Phase 1 and our matching fund, and scan the QR code below to visit [bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025/donate](https://bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025/donate) to donate today.

MAKE YOUR GIFT



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## Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi

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# Strengthening Beta Rho Bonds

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND FRATERNAL CONNECTIONS



The members on campus at Montana State University are excited for the 2023-24 academic year! We have put on a car wash, done highway cleanup, and hosted a blood drive so far—and we are just getting started.

### Philanthropy Success

The past year, we raised over \$31,000 for Huntsman Cancer Institute. Our end-of-year goal is now to raise \$35,000. Over the summer, Beta Rho Chapter was awarded the J. Dwight Peterson Significant Chapter Blue Award for our outstanding efforts in philanthropy, community service, campus involvement, and more. Only 55 of the 235 active chapters have achieved this award, a feat we have continuously achieved for the past seven years.

### Homecoming at the House

Alumni and undergraduate brothers came together on September 29 as we hosted a Homecoming dinner to share experiences on this splendid night.

At the dinner, Brother **Will Caron '26** was awarded the Better Call Paul Award, which you can read more about on page 3 inside.

I am proud of our executive team for making all the events for undergraduates and esteemed alumni possible. We are looking forward to another exceptional semester!

In Hoc,  
**Will Hyatt '25**  
Consul  
[william.hyatt.mt@gmail.com](mailto:william.hyatt.mt@gmail.com)



Above: Undergraduate members come together for highway cleanup. Below: This year's Homecoming float, done in partnership with Pi Beta Phi.



In the spring, we plan to have another alumni event to strengthen the bonds of our brotherhood. **Be on the lookout for more updates!**