



FALL
2024

BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

UPDATES FROM BETA RHO

FUNDRAISING STATUS

After great early successes, round two of fundraising for the chapter house renovation has slowed down considerably. While some existing donors and additional brothers stepped up with major donations, the fact is that more than 1,000 brothers still have not donated anything. To date, donor contributions stand at \$1.8 million. We estimate that even with a \$1 million mortgage, we will be short by \$300,000 to begin negotiations with contractors for a complete renovation. We will focus on these 1,000 brothers over the next couple months but will need a contribution of \$500 or \$1,000 from a substantial number of alumni to make a complete renovation a reality.

Many of us lived in the house. Looking back, we had a blast, created lifelong memories and relationships, and loved the house as our home away from home. We learned and revered the names of the alumni who built the current house in the 1960s. But even then, we knew that one day, we would be asked to return the favor to help secure Beta Rho's future for the next century of Sigs. NOW is the time to step up and donate to make this renovation happen and support the active chapter, which continues to be the top fraternity on campus with more than 90 members.

As you will see below, there are several tax advantage opportunities for brothers to make a material difference in fundraising.

CONSTRUCTION PLANNING COMPLETE

By the time you read this, our architects will have completed the bidding package of detailed plans and specifications, and we will be in the process of discussing and receiving bids from local contractors. The plans included revisions to the entire house, but the most significant change will be completely renovating the dormitory side. The dormitory plans include 13 double bedrooms, 8 single bedrooms, and 2 study rooms.

The planning has involved undergraduate members as well as alumni who are professionals in the housing sector. The construction market in the Gallatin Valley is still tight with many housing and industrial projects in planning or underway, so construction resources are still at a premium. We hope to start construction in May 2026, or even 2025, depending on fundraising efforts. We are told that because of the limited number of subcontractors available, construction could take up to 9-12 months, so undergraduates will have to make plans for alternative housing during this period.

ALUMNI AND HOUSE COMPANY UPDATE

The undergraduate chapter held their annual Homecoming reception at the chapter house on October 4. There were about 100 Sigs from various generations in attendance, including a considerable number from the 1980s and 1990s and some from as far

back as the 1950s. The House Company held its annual meeting prior to the reception, and **Dillon Haskell '15** was elected as a director for a five-year term. He joins **John Hertz '89**, who was elected to the board last year, as assistant treasurer.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DONORS

1. If your donation is \$2,500 or above, you are eligible to make a tax-deductible donation to the Sigma Chi Foundation. There are opportunities for tax-advantage donations for appreciated securities, farm crops, or donations from charitable trust or donor advisor fund accounts. Most importantly, if you are 70, you can make a tax-free donation directly from your IRA. Note that at 73, you are required to make a minimum distribution from your IRA account, which will be taxed at your ordinary income rate. Contact **Rick Dissly '66** at rdissly@comcast.net or (408) 348-4337 for details.

2. For donations to Beta Rho of Sigma Chi House Company, visit bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025/donate, where you can also make monthly and yearly donations. Please add 3% to your contribution to cover the credit card fee. If you wish to avoid the fee, send a check instead. Make checks payable to Beta Rho of Sigma Chi House Company and mail them to: Rick Dissly, 6651 Leyland Park Dr., San Jose, CA 95120.



The house renovation NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL HELP NOW! Even small donations or donations over a period of time will make a difference. DIG DEEP and make your donation TODAY.

Brothers Now and Forever

Jeff Hardegger '91 Blessed by Sigma Chi

Jeff Hardegger '91 went through recruitment twice—the first time ending when he was accepted as a walk-on player on the Bobcat football team. He tried again as a sophomore, and upon meeting the Beta Rho Consul, he decided Sigma Chi was the real deal: “Thoughtful, discerning, personable guys who valued academics as well as good times while exhibiting faiths and beliefs that meshed with my own.” Jeff’s father (a Beta Rho alumnus like his own father) encouraged him to try balancing football with the fraternity, which became one of the best decisions of Jeff’s life.

To live under one roof, the brothers quickly learned to love and respect one another’s temperaments, talents, and convictions. “From developing patience and becoming a better public speaker to my first experience with leading others, Sigma Chi’s foundational impact on my character and confidence was immense,” Jeff said.

Most of Jeff’s favorite Beta Rho memories come from simply gathering in the dining room and enjoying close friends’ company. His time as House Manager and Magister, meanwhile, gave him the confidence to succeed in other leadership roles, including IFC President and Student Body Senator. All of this propelled him to complete his MBA at the University of Colorado and spend 25 great years at Qwest



Jeff and his daughter, Taylor, hiking up Hyalite Canyon near MSU.

Communications (and its successors); he is now in semi-retirement as he plans his next chapter. “I have always kept in touch with many of my Beta Rho brothers, and seeing so many of their great business successes has motivated me throughout my career.”

Every week, Jeff is in touch with a small group text of brothers who meet up once a year for a football game somewhere in the nation. Jeff’s daughter came to MSU in 2023, and as he made Homecoming plans with his wife (also an MSU graduate), he tracked down about 30 era brothers to invite as well. (“Turnout was **very good!**”) He has also been active in urging brothers to donate to Beta Rho’s renovation efforts.

“Sigma Chi and Beta Rho were such an impactful part of my life that I cannot imagine not giving back,” Jeff said. “I remind brothers how that house allowed us to gain such deep, personal, and everlasting friendships—and that we can help future generations gain that same, lifelong love.”

Jeff and his family live in Golden, Colorado, and he is active in his church as well as on the board of a local charity helping to weatherproof homes. He still loves to ski, mountain bike, and dirt bike when time allows!

“My college days were certainly a highlight of my life, and Beta Rho was a highlight of college, so Sigma Chi ranks really, really high. I am so blessed to have been a part of it, then and now.”

You can reach Jeff at jeffhardegger123@gmail.com.

“Sigma Chi and Beta Rho were such an impactful part of my life that I cannot imagine not giving back.”



Montana State Honors a Beta Rho Sig

At this year’s December 13 commencement ceremony, Montana State University will be recognizing General **Paul E. Funk II '84** with an honorary doctorate to commemorate his decorated career in the United States Army. Paul developed a reputation as an honorable leader during his service that saw him reach the rank of four-star general, and his Sigma Chi membership played a large role in his personal and professional development.

Paul continued a family legacy of Montana State graduates, and he remains grounded in his Montana roots as a proud Bobcat. Read more on Paul from MSU at tinyurl.com/general-funk-MSU.



MAINTAINING OUR MOMENTUM



Brother Brendan Faulkner '26 DJs with EDM artist Trek for our fundraiser concert to finish Derby Days.



Brothers and Alpha Omicron Pi members gather on the float at the house before going to the parade on Main Street.



Alumni and their family members review logbooks and catch up at our alumni dinner.

This fall, Beta Rho Chapter carried out a highly successful recruitment. The chapter began recruiting in late August, hosting a variety of events for potential new members. Recruitment Chairman **Jackson Schingeck '26** conducted 135 interviews, and of those, 22 received bids.

With pledgship being shortened to four weeks, education was condensed and incredibly meaningful to these men. Magister **Brandon Campbell '27** did an excellent job teaching this class what it means to be a Sigma Chi. On September 28, 16 men were initiated. This class, with their variety of different temperaments, talents, and convictions, has been doing remarkable things for this house already. They have brought new life and growth by being actively involved with public relations and philanthropy events right away.

ACADEMICS

Beta Rho has been hitting the books seriously this semester. Rarely are the campus and chapter house libraries not full. With most of the house involved with business and engineering majors, we have been maintaining a solid GPA of 3.11. This is helping us roll into the next semester with plenty of momentum to continue academic success.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Between our semesterly highway cleanup in the Gallatin Canyon, our trips to Fork and Spoon (a soup kitchen), and hosting a blood drive through the Red Cross in the house, we have been actively making the community a better place.

LOOKING FORWARD

We have big plans for another successful recruitment cycle, keeping academics as our priority, and continuing to volunteer throughout the community. We are full of energy and enthusiasm as we seek continued success.

We are looking to make a minimum of \$15,000 in the spring through efforts to join the Huntsman \$50,000 club and show our dedication to helping the cause. The chapter also looks to accomplish a Gold Peterson at the end of the academic year. We are motivated and moving forward with this newfound momentum!

HOMECOMING AND THE "JUST CALL PAUL" AWARD

Homecoming at the house was one to remember this year. It was great meeting many alumni, learning about their experiences and life paths

as well as how our fraternity has impacted them. During our dinner, **Noah Allee '27** was presented with the "Just Call Paul" award, a \$1,000 scholarship. Brother Allee has been a very active member and taken initiative on many aspects of living in. He goes beyond what is asked of him, and he was an excellent choice for the scholarship.

Our float was a rousing success. The pirate ship design, a longstanding tradition, lived on as **Will Caron '26**, **Bridget Hardgrove '26**, **Elliot Hayhurst '26**, and **Soren Wade '25** spent hours working to make sure it was completed. The parade went great, cruising down Bozeman with sorority Alpha Omicron Pi. Beta Rho then hosted a tailgate for the football game. The Bobcats put on an offensive masterclass against Northern Colorado, beating them 55-17 with several alumni in attendance. We were thrilled with Homecoming weekend and being able to show alumni a great time while making new connections.

PHILANTHROPY EVENTS

This year's philanthropy efforts have been incredibly successful. Beta Rho was able to make an astounding \$35,000 toward Huntsman Cancer Institute in the fall semester, matching the yearly record. Philanthropy Chairman **Ryan Grubb '27** set a goal of \$50,000 by the end of the year to be donated. We have been putting in work and doing everything we can to support the research to end cancer.

Ryan and Derby Days Chairman **Thomas Kopchains '25** worked tirelessly in preparation for Derby Days, even organizing a concert at the chapter house. This blew expectations out of the water, and we are currently in the top 5 schools in donations to Huntsman. We are at \$22,000 with website donations, but with more than \$9,000 raised for the concert and \$4,000 through the brother auction and various contributions, we certainly put in the work to further our impact.

We also raised funds through our call-a-thon, which raised \$19,000 in about two hours. This, of course, was due to plenty of help from chapter alumni, local Sigs, local businesses, and parents, grandparents, and other family of Bobcat Sigs. Our philanthropy events have been booming as we do everything we can to raise money for a solution to cancer.

In Hoc,
Nick Purswell '27
Tribune

Save the Date Commencement Ceremony

December 13

Mark your calendars for Montana State University's commencement ceremony on **December 13, 2024**. The university will be awarding an honorary doctorate to retired four-star general and Beta Rho Significant Sig **Paul E. Funk II '84**.

Stay tuned for more information.

Alumni Updates

Chapter Eternal

Bruce Moog '80 – April 9, 2024

Alumni News

Dana Cooper '77 resides in Tucson, Ariz. He creates, sells, and manages corporate sponsorship programs for the University of Arizona Athletics. Dana is also the sideline reporter for the Arizona football radio network. Email: cooperstown5@gmail.com

Ed Chauner '82 lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has been teaching skiing and patrolling at Snowbird Resort for 42 years. Ed spends summers working with Wasatch Adaptive Sports and guiding for World Wide Trekking. Email: ed.chauner@gmail.com

Jeremy DeVries '95 lives in Billings, Mont. He runs a group health insurance agency specializing in companies with more than 100 employees. Jeremy is also a partner for a duck hunting and fishing lodge on the Bighorn River called River Rock Outfitters. Email: jdevries12@gmail.com

What words come to mind when you think about Sigma Chi?

“Brotherhood, intramurals, socialization, integration into MSU.” –**Tom Vaughn '69**

“Brotherhood, lifelong friends, great memories.” –**Gary Simonich '74**

“Fellowship, high moral standards, integrity.” –**Scott Aldrich '76**

“Friends, fun, integrity.” –**Ed Chauner '82**

“Friendship, leadership, lifelong.” –**Jeremy DeVries '95**

What are your favorite memories from Sigma Chi at Montana State University?

“Vibrant activities, interesting characters.” –**Tom Vaughn '69**

“Athletic competitions.” –**Scott Aldrich '76**



BOBCAT SIG

Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi

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Search: Sigma Chi, Beta Rho at Montana State University

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Ryne Becker | Windsor, Colo.
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Skyler Chalmers | Missoula, Mont.
Brody Dwyer | Bozeman, Mont.
Tristan Hansch | Sandpoint, Idaho
Chet Hanna | Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Brady Kolendich | Bozeman, Mont.
Judson Linnabery | Gig Harbor, Wash.

Patrick Lynch | Southlake, Texas
Jackson Nickel | Hayden, Idaho
AJ Perea | Windsor, Colo.
Blake Taft | Missoula, Mont.
Cutter Thompson | Sammamish, Wash.
Jacob Thompson | Somers, Mont.
Blake Tyler | Grapevine, Texas
Colby Wall | Gig Harbor, Wash.

Chapter Officers

Consul
Calvin Dinh '26

Pro Consul
Will Caron '26

Quaestor
Evan Schuna '27

Magister
Brandon Campbell '27

Annotator
Ryan Karlsgodt '27

Recruitment Chairman
Jackson Schingeck '26
jackson.schingeck@gmail.com
(720) 252-9598

House Manager
Jack Poskey '26

Kitchen Managers
Mark Lebrini '27
Taggart Crouse '27

Risk Manager
Noah Allee '27

Tribune and Chapter Editor
Nick Purswell '27

Scholarship Chairman
Zac Smith '27

Public Relations Chairman
Jack Clifford '25

Philanthropy Chairman
Ryan Grubb '27

Sentinel
(Mental Wellness Chairman)
Luke Sullivan '26