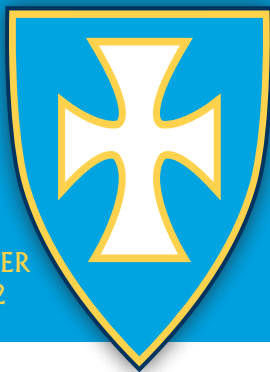


SUMMER
2022



BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

HOUSING HOPES *Planning Our Chapter House Renovations*

The Gallatin Valley/Bozeman area is still a hotbed of development and construction. At this point, we have not found a suitable, qualified general contractor to commit to take on our project, even for a start in the spring of 2023.

Nonetheless, we are progressing with our planning for phase one of the renovation (the dorm side of the house). We recently signed a contract with our architects, Slate Architecture, based in Helena. They are the firm that designed and managed the renovation of the AGR house some seven years ago. The services contracted include, among other items, overall design development, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and fire sprinkler design as well as producing plans and other documentation required for permitting and bidding. Slate will also be assisting us with sourcing a general contractor, managing bidding processes, and overseeing progress inspections. We are hopeful that we can construct phase one in June to August next year, but we are prepared to delay to 2024 to wait for the construction market to cool off in the area, if necessary.

The fall 2021 newsletter provided more information on the design as well as a plan layout. You can access this newsletter at bobcatsigs.org. (Click on "News and Events/Newsletters.")

Flashback to 60 Years Ago

Recently, a newspaper article from 1962 was circulated by Brothers **Fred Turner '63** and **Tom Overturf '64** among Beta Rho alumni brothers. You

can read the article (right) and note that Fred and Tom were present at the opening of the new house.

The key point is that our present house is 60 years old and badly in need of renovation. Those of us who lived in the house in the '60s to mid-'90s had a first-class house to enjoy. Over the last 25 years, it has been a struggle to keep parts of the house running properly and to meet the competitive student housing standards of today.

The active brothers of today and the future need your help to fund the renovation that has been planned and partially funded through contributions of some 400 brothers.

It's not too late to step up and provide funding to keep Beta Rho housing standards at the forefront of fraternities at MSU. **We could really use a couple hundred additional contributions of \$500, \$1,000, or \$2,500. We have established a matching fund which will match dollar for dollar any additional gift made to the renovation project by new or existing donors.**

C'mon brothers... please make your check payable to the "Beta Rho of Sigma Chi House Company" and send it to **Rick Dissly '66** at 6651 Leyland Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95120.

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

New Sigma Chi House to Be Dedicated Today

Many Butte members of Beta Rho Sigma Chi will attend dedication ceremonies for the new Beta Rho House in Bozeman Saturday.

The ceremonies will start at 6:30 p.m. in the new home at 722 Willson. All members of the fraternity and their families are invited. A no-host dinner will be served by the chapter.

Pete Vavich, Bozeman, in a letter of invitation, said the event will also mark the 45th anniversary of the oldest fraternity on the Montana State College campus. "There are," Vavich said, "1,000 alumni members throughout the world. At present the chapter has 80 actives and approximately 80 pledges."

The following alumni will be participants in the Saturday night program: Thomas E. Heald, Fred L. Orton, Albert R. Feldman, Billings; George R. Milburn, Grass Range; Carl Rostad, Lennep; James F. Barfknecht, Helena; Robert F. Pappin and John D. Ross, Great Falls; Thomas C. Ross, Chinook; Eli Milodragovich, Missoula; William A. Allen, Belgrade; Val G. Glynn, Joseph B. Gary, and Vavich, Bozeman.

The college chapter will be represented by Louis Spain, Thomas Overturf and Fred Turner. Special guests will include Robert Long and George Hooper, assistant secretaries of the national chapter; Dr. Norm Schlamer, Spokane, grand praetor of the northwest division; Dr. Fritz Hurd, Great Falls, past praetor, and the Rev. H. R. Anderson Jr., and H. P. Griffin, Bozeman.

The new building has a capacity for 82 boys. The soliciting of funds for the erection of the new building was started Sept. 1, 1960, under the supervision of Vavich, fund drive chairman. The drive is being continued.

Save the Date

Homecoming and Induction of Brother Rick Dissly '66 into Order of Constantine

Homecoming will take place on **October 6-8, 2022.**

This year, we have another special occasion to celebrate. Sigma Chi International Headquarters will formally induct Brother **Rick Dissly '66** into the Order of Constantine on Friday,

October 7, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the GranTree Inn. We hope you can join us for the occasion. You will receive additional details via email. Be sure to attend!

We know that hotel reservations for Homecoming weekend are already in short supply, so we advise you make your reservation in the next week or so.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Bobby Beers '24

bobbeers2020@gmail.com

Vice President

Tom Caron '24

Treasurer

Jackson Thorn '24

New Member Educator

Trevor Carl '25

Recruitment Chair

Jason Kwasny '25

j.kwasny27@gmail.com

Annotator

Will Hyatt '25

Risk Manager

Michael Shannon '24

House Manager

Nolan Copper '24

Kitchen Manager

Austin Wheeler '24

Philanthropy Chairman

Jack Evanko '25

Public Relations Chairman

Tyler Lara '24

Scholarship Chairman

Forrest Christian '25

Tribune and Chapter Editor

Sean Royal '24

Sentinel

Owen Mercer '24

Rick Dissly '66 Joins Paul Boylan '64 as Order of Constantine Award Recipient

In 2004, Beta Rho Chapter was in rapid decline, having only 19 members, including 14 live-ins. Fortunately, two alumni had the passion, initiative, and time to attempt to turn the situation around. **Paul Boylan '64** and **Rick Dissly '66** joined the House Building Corporation at that time. Paul, a Bozeman resident, became president of the HBC, and Rick served as treasurer. Paul agreed to periodically attend executive and chapter meetings of the active chapter, focusing on returning and maintaining the house to a livable condition. Rick, who lived in California, had just retired as a certified public accountant and chief financial officer for several startup companies in Silicon Valley. He agreed to focus on management, communication, financial, and discipline problems of the active chapter as well as alumni fundraising to accomplish the turnaround.

To start, Rick and Paul guaranteed a loan to upgrade the heating system at the house. Next, it was necessary to do an intervention over the next couple of years for certain members who were evicted from the house and asked to leave the chapter for failure to enforce a new set of house rules that were established by the HBC.

From that point, the chapter recovery plans began. Paul encouraged the remaining active chapter members to only initiate quality members in the future and not worry about the total number. Rick made sure that neither the active chapter nor the HBC ran out of money during this period. Leading all fundraising efforts over these years, Rick chaired the 90th and 100th Beta Rho anniversary celebrations. Rick also implemented the accounting and budgeting systems and management and communications tools to restore the discipline necessary to properly run the active chapter and make continuous improvements year over year.

The house renovation project, which Rick chaired starting in 2015, now has the funds available to renovate the chapter house built in 1963.

Presented below is an excerpt from a recommendation letter by **Mike Langohr '69** to the Order of Constantine selection committee, which takes a comprehensive look at Rick's impact on Beta Rho Chapter's turnaround since 2004.

A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM MIKE LANGOHR '69

Today, sixteen years after Rick first engaged in 2004, Beta Rho is a thriving, multiple back-to-back-to-back Peterson Award-winning chapter with 85 solid members. From my perspective as an insider involved in the turnaround sausage making, Beta Rho would not exist today if it were not for the timely intervention and skilled persistence of Brother Rick Dissly. He was brilliantly effective as the mastermind and backbone behind this miraculous turn-around story. He didn't always get it right and the frustrations were many, but time and again Rick proved to be personally unflappable, resilient, purpose-driven, in it for the long haul, and equipped with the right skill sets for this particular type of challenge. He never ceased to amaze me! Over the ten-year turn-around period from 2007-17, he alone controlled the philosophy, the strategy, the timing, and the struggle required for attainment of the goal—a Sigma Chi chapter whose alumni could be proud. One that is attractive to potential members, equipped to modern expectations, funded for sustainability, and positioned for success well into the future. Traveling back and forth from California on his own nickel for time on site, Rick accomplished what many members wrote off as a hopeless cause. He was observably involved in a labor of love and personal duty. Over time, I grew to admire Rick's uncommon grit, irrepressible positive outlook, circumspect understanding of human dynamics, and sophisticated business acumen. I could easily write a 10-page masters-level business case analysis describing Rick's approach to "righting the ship." Rick is now a personal role model. I cannot think of a more deserving candidate for this cherished award.

Fraternally,
Mike Langohr '69

FINDING BROTHERHOOD IN BOZEMAN

Andrew Wharton '06 Became the Man He Is Today Through Beta Rho

Independence on a college campus can be hard to handle without a core group of friends. After going through recruitment for Beta Rho Chapter, **Andrew Wharton '06** found an impressive brotherhood of men that gave him that much-needed network on campus.

"It gives you the opportunity to learn and experience so much—and in a relatively short amount of time," Andrew said about his active years in the chapter. "Some of my favorite memories were road trips to visit other chapters. We usually rolled in and kind of took over for a weekend; it was always a great time!" He also recalls fun times of shooting guns with Beta Rho brothers in the mountains, and simply enjoying each other's company at the house.

While earning a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in entrepreneurship, Andrew served as consul from 2005-06. After college, he managed to find his first job in the software industry thanks to the connections he made through Sigma Chi. Andrew is currently the director of strategic accounts for a Bozeman-based startup called Quiq. Utilizing leadership



"Joining Sigma Chi was just about the most impactful decision I have ever made."

skills he gained as consul, Andrew manages a sales team that works with Quiq's largest clients as well as helps to find new customers. "Beta Rho had a major impact on my career path." Since he has stayed in the Bozeman area, Andrew often finds himself back on campus at Montana State University. "There are a ton of new buildings that have been built, and there seem to be so many more students," he said. Andrew keeps in contact with Beta Rho brothers in the area and regularly hangs out with fellow alumni.

Andrew met his wife, found a professional career, and developed lifelong friendships thanks to his decision to join the brotherhood. "Sigma Chi helped me figure out my purpose in life and gave me the support I needed to not worry about failure but to go ahead and try anyway."

Andrew enjoys spending time with his wife, Amy, and their three daughters. The family enjoys outdoor activities such as skiing, rafting, camping, water kayaking, and hiking. You can connect with Andrew at andrew.wharton1@gmail.com.

A Spring Full of Service

Beta Rho's Community Efforts and Initiate Updates

Beta Rho Chapter accomplished great things during the spring 2022 semester. We held several philanthropy events, including a car wash and a TV raffle. Our chapter gave back to the community in a variety of ways, such as cleaning over 50 pounds of garbage off Montana State's campus after graduation and volunteering at the Cancer Support Community of Montana, cleaning and sanitizing their office for a fundraiser. Beta Rho Chapter also hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive at our house where over 30 blood donations were collected. We have raised \$27,127 for Huntsman Cancer Institute since last May and held a barbecue

for our neighbors and the University Police Department.

We initiated 13 new members: Tyler Arntz, Andrew Berube, Forrest Christian, Ignacio Cifuentes-Sosa, Nick Dobkins, Nathan Hayles, Andrew Hickey, Riley Holmes, Alec Kimball, Parker Robinson, Nate Stibal, Miles Sumner, and Soren Wade. We are proud to welcome these men to the brotherhood and cannot wait to see the impact they make.

Beta Rho Chapter has also won several awards: Montana State University Chapter of the Year, Big Sky Province Chapter of the Year,

Montana State University Fraternity New Member Academic Excellence Award, Big Sky Province Ritual Gold Award, and MSU Greek Week Champions. We also won the intramural soccer championship.

We are incredibly proud of our outgoing executive team and are looking forward to another semester of high achievement.

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



The newest class of initiates on the morning of their initiation.



Our results of looking for trash around campus after graduation.



Consul Grant Davidson '23 celebrating our Province Awards.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Tyler Arntz

Traverse City, Mich.

Andrew Berube

Golden, Colo.

Forrest Christian

Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Ignacio Cifuentes-Sosa

Issaquah, Wash.

Nicklaus Dobkins

Kent, Wash.

Nathan Hayles

Pasco, Wash.

Andrew Hickey

Medina, Wash.

Riley Holmes

Huntington Beach, Calif.

Alec Kimball

Portland, Ore.

Parker Robertson

Edgewood, Wash.

Nathan Stibal

Victoria, Minn.

Miles Sumner

Kennewick, Wash.

Soren Wade

Gallatin Gateway, Mont.



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Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi

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CHAPTER ETERNAL

Harry Hyatt '59 entered Chapter Eternal on January 5, 2022. Harry was raised in Havre, Mont., and graduated from Havre High School in 1955. He was a proud fraternity brother and met his wife, Jane Erva Shope, in Helena during college. They married in 1958 and had two children, Karen and Christopher. Harry was an avid sports fan, and he was often found cheering for his grandchildren, Audrey, William, and Charlie, at their sporting events.

Harry married Suzanne Faubert in 2013, and the two enjoyed traveling across the nation in their RV. Even at 83, Harry attended nearly every MSU home football game and even spent time skiing with his family.

Robert Cebull '66 entered Chapter Eternal on May 24, 2022. He was raised in Roundup, Mont., where he was a unanimous all-state basketball selection his junior and senior years. Robert met his wife, Barbara, while attending MSU, and they married in September 1965. They had two children, Kristin and Mark, and four grandchildren.

Robert worked for Teague as an industrial designer for 32 years. He never met a renovation project he couldn't tackle and will

be remembered for his work ethic and integrity by all who knew him.

Patrick Comstock '67 entered Chapter Eternal on November 13, 2021. Patrick was born in Jeffersonville, Ind., and graduated from Cody High School in 1959 before going on to serve in the Navy. He married Beverly Hould in 1968 and had two children, Ian and Shawna.

Patrick and Beverly enjoyed traveling together, and their family lived in many different locations over the years. The two have 11 grandchildren, and Patrick enjoyed their tradition of Christmas dollar-store shopping. A devout Catholic, Patrick was well-beloved with a kind spirit.

William Davis '68 entered Chapter Eternal on May 5, 2022. William was born in Bozeman, Mont., and graduated at 16 from Belgrade High School. After earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural business, William made his way to California and ran a cattle ranch with his horse named Yeller. He married his wife, Jennifer, in 1983. They had two children, Julie and Justin.

After his mother's passing, William took control of Rollin' Rock Angus in Belgrade, Mont. He ran the company after his father until 2022, which saw the company's 51st production sale. William spent time with friends golfing and participating in team roping.

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