



SPRING  
2023

# BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

## NO SUCCESS COMES WITHOUT CHALLENGES

### RENOVATION PROJECT NEWS

#### UPDATE ON PROJECT PLANS

In the fall 2022 issue of *Bobcat Sig*, we reported that the construction committee had agreed on the design concepts for phase one (principally, the dorm side of the house) and our architects had produced a “contractor package” of drawings and specifications to present to contractors in the area. We noted that selecting a contractor would not be without its challenges given the hot new construction and renovation market in the Gallatin Valley.

Our worries had a solid foundation. After talking with numerous contractors in the area that have the resources to take on this tight (three months) and complex timeline project, we have been unable to find a contractor who would commit the resources to this project in 2023.

We are constructing a revised timeline and hope to report by the end of this year that we have a contractor to take on the whole project and what the approximate price might be.

In the meantime, there are three independent projects in the construction package that we believe we might be able to complete this summer. We will know whether this is possible within the next 45 days or so.

#### RENOVATION FUNDRAISING

It is NOT too late to send an additional contribution to help in the renovation of this historic property.

**The final stages of fundraising carry on, but few brothers have taken advantage of the \$125,000 matching fund.**

## Donate

**YOU CAN MAKE A  
PLEDGE OR  
DONATE YOUR  
ADDITIONAL GIFT:**

online at  
[bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025/donate](http://bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025/donate)

or mail your check  
(made payable to “Beta Rho of  
Sigma Chi House Company”) to  
Rick Dissly  
6651 Leyland Park Dr.  
San Jose, CA 95120

We urge you to access this tremendous opportunity to leverage your donation and support the renovation of your chapter house. This fund will match, dollar for dollar, any additional pledge or gift made to the renovation project by either new or existing donors. It is not too late to support your brothers and honor your commitment to Sigma Chi!

The active brothers thank you for your support.

In Hoc,  
**Norman C. Achen '65**  
[norm@normanachen.com](mailto:norm@normanachen.com)

## House Company Staffing

*Do Your Part for Beta Rho*

**B**eta Rho’s house corporation, Beta Rho of Sigma Chi House Company, was incorporated almost 103 years ago to “purchase, own, refit, and improve” the actives’ living and meeting quarters.

Through the dedication of alumni brothers over the last century, the House Company has operated continuously and overseen the operation of the chapter house, including the “tear down” and reconstruction at 722 S. Willson in the late 1950s.

**Currently, the House Company is staffed as follows:**

- **Paul Boylan '64** as President
- **Rick Dissly '66** as Treasurer
- **Norm Achen '66** as Secretary
- **Jake Range '05** as Director and Chairman of the Conceptual Building Committee

**It is time to start recruiting the next generation of alumni to staff the House Company, as three members are over 80 and have done more than their part for our brotherhood!**

While Paul, Rick, and Norm will be onboard through the completion of the house renovation, it is important to start training the next generation of alumni to ensure the house is properly maintained and managed for future active members.

We only require one officer to be located around the Bozeman area, as one of our responsibilities is to periodically attend the active chapter executive meeting on Sunday evenings and respond to house facility emergencies. Currently, other members are from as far as Toronto and San Jose, and most meetings and communications are managed via Zoom, phone calls, emails, or texting.

*Continued on page 2*



# WORK HARD, PLAY HARD

## Elijah Inabnit '12 on Responsibilities, Leadership, and Law

Joining a fraternity was never the immediate plan for **Elijah Inabnit '12**, but that quickly changed when he met Sigma Chi brothers and learned more about Beta Rho Chapter. Shattering stereotypes with a bottom line of friendship and fraternal support, Eli was proud to join a brotherhood that cared for one another.

### EARLY RESPONSIBILITIES

"I suppose any added responsibility is professional development," Eli said, thinking back on his roles within Beta Rho. From serving as Social Chairman to his time as Consul, Eli learned how to communicate with brothers and organize toward common goals. It was important for him to make sure members enjoyed their time while achieving any task at hand, developing a mentality that Eli would carry into his law career.

"A person who is active in trying to engage others in and out of the workplace and bring people together is helpful in any workplace. Developing the 'work hard, play hard' mindset

early helped me try to keep a good work/life balance in my career."

### LAW WORK

Following law school, Eli clerked for the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Montana. He later became an associate at Garlington, Lohn, and Robinson PLLP, currently focusing his work on medical malpractice defense while maintaining a federal tort litigation practice.

### PERSONAL LIFE

Eli is proud to have stayed connected with Beta Rho brothers for over a decade after graduation. He enjoys trips with alumni brothers whenever possible, including skiing, climbing, and mountain biking.

Eli is married, and he and his wife enjoy outdoor activities like fishing in the rivers of Montana.

You can connect with Eli at [elijah.inabnit@gmail.com](mailto:elijah.inabnit@gmail.com).

*"My best memories of the fraternity are not a particular event—it was living in a house with your best friends, waking up each day with a group of people who are all getting through college and holding down odd jobs around town while also trying to capitalize on the recreational opportunities of Bozeman."*

### Eli's advice for anyone considering a career as a lawyer?

"I would advise them to focus on improving their writing skills, as it is one of the most important skills used by an attorney." He also stresses the importance of enjoying reading, since a career in law requires plenty of reading, writing, and interpreting text.

## House Company Staffing

### Do Your Part for Beta Rho

*Continued from page 1*

The only office that requires some computer skills is Treasurer since the active chapter uses QuickBooks, although the monthly close is outsourced to an independent bookkeeper. The Treasurer does need to make sure the Quaester is properly trained and monitored to ensure the chapter finances are handled in a timely manner. (All QuickBooks procedures are clearly defined in the Quaester's manual, and the detail is managed by the Quaester.)

As for the time commitment, it should not take more than two to four hours per month. We will be outsourcing the periodic inspection of the house to a building

management firm once phase one of the renovation is complete.

It's also important to note that the active chapter is in great operational and financial shape, having received eight Peterson awards in the last 10 years. Thus, the main involvement of the House Company is high-level advice and support.

**Please contact Rick at [rdissly@comcast.net](mailto:rdissly@comcast.net) if you are interested in working with the House Company.** He will give you a call to discuss any questions you have and how you would like to be involved.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

Consul (President)  
**Bobby Beers '24**

Kitchen Manager  
**Wyatt Berg '24**  
**Luke Stockton '24**

Pro Consul (Vice President)  
**Tom Caron '24**

Risk Manager  
**Soren Wade '25**

Quaester (Treasurer)  
**Jackson Thorn '24**

Tribune and Chapter Editor  
**Parker Robertson '25**

Magister  
(New Member Educator)  
**Trevor Carl '24**

Scholarship Chairman  
**Brandon Cabaniss '26**

Recruitment Chairman  
**Jason Kwasny '25**  
[j.kwasny27@gmail.com](mailto:j.kwasny27@gmail.com)

Public Relations Chairman  
**Jack Evanko '25**

Annotator  
**Will Hyatt '25**

Philanthropy Chairman  
**Forrest Christian '25**

House Manager  
**Nolan Copper '24**

Sentinel  
**Paul Ryan '24**



# Brotherhood Propels Us Forward

## Recent Events and Accomplishments



*Beta Rho brothers celebrate another successful initiation.*

This past fall semester was very successful for us, as exemplified through our community service projects and philanthropic efforts. We not only succeeded, but also excelled at our goals of improving our chapter, campus, and community and look to carry that momentum through the spring and the remainder of 2023!

### BETA RHO IN THE COMMUNITY

Over the semester, our brothers participated in various community service events that helped strengthen our relationship with organizations throughout MSU and Bozeman. One thing we are proud to do every semester is highway litter cleanup over the stretch of Highway 191 that is dedicated to fallen Brother **Karston Waarvik '14**. We were also given the opportunity to partner with an MSU club, Roundnet, in which we hosted a Spikeball tournament for Huntsman. An event we participated in with the rest of our fellow MSU students was the campus cleanup, where brothers walked around campus picking up trash.

We are proud to host the Red Cross at our chapter house each semester for a community blood drive. This semester, we were able to donate an outstanding 25 units of blood, which were used to create 75 life-saving products. The brothers of Beta Rho are always glad to help, and we look forward to hosting and participating in future events that benefit our campus and community.

There are several other areas that our chapter has succeeded in throughout the fall. For starters, we were able to raise an astounding \$24,000 for the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Thank you to everyone who continues to support us in our

philanthropic efforts as we raise our goal every year. We look forward to moving closer to our goal of \$50,000 as the spring comes to a close.

### EXCELLING IN MEMBERSHIP AND ACADEMICS

Our chapter is very proud of the fall recruitment efforts that led to the successful initiation of 18 brothers. The future is looking bright!

An additional accomplishment we are particularly proud of is our brothers' academic performances. This semester, our GPA was up from a 3.04 to a 3.14, and we had 24 members make the Dean's List (3.5 GPA or higher) while five made the President's List (4.0 GPA). Our chapter's ability to accomplish this while simultaneously ranking 14th internationally for Huntsman Cancer donations is a testament to the quality and ambition of our brothers.

Overall, the brothers of Beta Rho are incredibly proud of our efforts. We are excited to carry this momentum through the rest of 2023!

### TAKING ON EVERY OPPORTUNITY

With all the excitement from the first semester, our brothers are looking forward to finishing the year stronger than we started in all areas. We look forward to telling you about our philanthropy events, such as Shave It or Save It (our first ever), a raffle, a March Madness bracket fundraiser, a concert, and a car wash, in the fall. These events will be pushing us closer to our goal of \$50,000 for the year.

We also look to take on any opportunity to improve our community and brotherhood by



*From left: Brothers Alec Kimball '25, Bridger Hardgrove '26, Paul Ryan '25, and Jason Kwasny '25 enjoying a fun ride down Pete's Hill on a couch during our spring recruitment sledding event.*



*Tyler Lara '25 (left) and Drake Dagli '25 after another successful blood drive at the house.*

hosting another community blood drive as well as various volunteering opportunities around Bozeman and attending leadership training and workshops on mental health from our campus Voice Center.

Beta Rho is grateful to everyone who supports us and makes our achievements possible. We are looking forward to delivering more exciting updates as the year continues!

In Hoc,  
**Parker Robertson '25**  
Tribune and Chapter Editor  
parkerrob117@gmail.com

# Alumni Updates

CHAPTER ETERNAL

George Wallis '42 December 27, 2022

Marshall Mjork '59 January 8, 2023

## ALUMNI NEWS

Larry "Fergie" Ferguson '65 resides in Billings, Mont. He still operates his ranch, running 60 head of cattle and 10 horses. Email: lwfergie@aol.com

## Welcome, New Members

Adam Giles | Littleton, Colo.

Elliott Hayhurst | Missoula, Mont.

Jimmy Mendoza | Oakland, Calif.

Eddy Plemmons | Lolo, Mont.

Jon Schultz | Washougal, Wash.

Luke Sullivan | Helena, Mont.

Trace Taft | Missoula, Mont.

Parker Wehrman | Centennial, Colo.

Kellen Young | Eugene, Ore.



# BOBCAT SIG

## Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi

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## Homecoming 2023

Be a part of Beta Rho's most memorable alumni weekend, Homecoming!

As usual, many Beta Rho Sigs will return home to honor longstanding traditions and meet brothers and friends.

This year, following COVID restriction years and the Order of Constantine inductions the last two years, our celebration will return to the chapter house on the evening of **Friday, September 29, 2023.**

More details to follow.

## Scholarly Honors

### Congratulations to Porter Windell '24

For the second consecutive year, Beta Rho's **Porter Windell '24** has been awarded one of the seven Sigma Chi Founders' Scholarships. The \$10,000 award is the most prestigious scholarship given by the Sigma Chi organization, with only seven annual recipients.

This year, Windell is the recipient of the Isaac M. Jordan Academic Scholarship in memory of **John Thumel, Northwestern '15**. He was chosen by the Thumel family, who raised the money in honor of their son.

Windell was chosen for the scholarship based on academic performance, demonstrated leadership, and chapter involvement. As an architecture major with a minor in environmental design, Windell has been working with a nonprofit to design a hospital in rural Nepal, where the leading cause of death is childbirth. His passion for helping people in need, as well as his high ambitions for the future, is what caught the eye of the Thumel family.



Sigma Chi  
FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIPS

*Isaac M. Jordan Academic Scholarship*



## Congratulations, Brother Windell!