



BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2018



IS YOUR NAME ON THE CHAPTER HOUSE RENOVATION DONOR LIST?

If Not, We Need You to Make a Pledge Today!

This year, MSU Homecoming was held later than usual in mid-October. And of course, it snowed! Despite the weather, the alumni had a great time at the open house reception hosted by the actives. They built a very large and sturdy pirate ship float co-sponsored by Chi Omega sorority for the Saturday morning parade, and MSU beat Idaho in the final seconds Saturday afternoon 24 to 23. We continue to have a dynamic and strong active chapter. Seventeen new members were initiated this semester; there are now 84 active Beta Rho brothers and the chapter won another Peterson Award this summer. MSU and Greek enrollment is up sharply...all is well in Bozeman!

We need brothers to make a pledge at some level to ensure that we can begin the detailed planning for the renovation. The chapter house, which has been a foundation for success,

friendships and the common bond of Beta Rho brotherhood, is nearly 60 years old and structurally and technologically out of date. Over 1,500 brothers have lived there; it is seriously "tired" and needs an upgrade to bring it to today's living and safety standards. **Now is the time to band together to positively impact the future of our chapter** and ensure the next generation of brothers is able to develop into leaders and make lifelong friendships, just as we did.

We now have pledges over \$1,570,000 from more than 200 brothers from 77 graduation classes. However, at this point in our campaign, more than 1,000 Beta Rho brothers have not made a pledge to the future of Beta Rho Chapter. Maybe many brothers have assumed that the fundraising was done. Certainly we have done well, but construction costs are rapidly rising in the prosperous Bozeman/Gallatin Valley area.

We expect the final cost will be more than \$2,000,000 when we begin renovations in 2021.

We need to raise at least an additional \$500,000 or we will have to cut back on some of the critical renovations needed to bring the chapter house entirely up to 21st century living and study requirements. If 200 brothers give \$2,500 (only \$500 a year) we will reach our goal. **We are so close but need your support.**

Here's how you can help secure the future of Beta Rho and say thanks for your experiences, memories and friendships. On behalf of our future Beta Rho brothers, we ask that you put down this newsletter and **sign up now.**

- Use the pledge form enclosed with this newsletter and mail a donation.
 - Make an online donation by visiting www.bobcatsigs.org.
- (Continued on page 3)

\$1,577,515 RAISED FOR HONORING OUR PAST 100 YEARS

Your Donation Will Make the Difference

We are deeply grateful to the 204 donors listed below for committing \$1,577,515 to the *Honoring Our Past 100 Years: Beta Rho's Vision for 2025* capital campaign. These brothers recognize the importance of ensuring the future of Beta Rho and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. Commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni to achieve our goal and complete this critical project.

Contributors of \$1,000 or more will be recognized in campaign publications and contributors who give \$5,000 or more will be displayed at the appropriate giving level on prominently displayed signage in the chapter house, unless otherwise requested. A 75% tax deduction is still available for contributions of \$25,000 and above. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please advise our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 or mlisher@penningtonco.com.

Beta Rho Circle*(\$100,000 and above)*

Beta Rho
Undergraduate Chapter
David O. Kem '67

White Cross Circle*(\$50,000 to \$99,999)*

Brian H. Loucks '64
Richard L. Dissly '66
Bruce W. Burkitt '72
Michael A. DiFronzo '91

Jordan Standard Circle*(\$25,000 to \$49,999)*

Edward T. Gossack '59
Conrad C. Smith '61
C. Larry Walker '61
Alan D. Nicholson '62
Norman C. Achen '65
Douglas B. Allan '65
Duane A. Denton '65
Larry W. Ferguson '65
John Waggoner '65
In memory of
Duane M. Douglas '65
In honor of
Robert J. Waggoner '01
William A. Johnstone Jr. '66
Michael D. Langohr '73
Barfknecht Family Gift
Col. James F. Barfknecht '49
James H. Barfknecht '74
In memory of
Jerry Uhlrich '71
James H. Darfler '76
Stephen J. Spencer '79
Walter H. Smith '85
Ronald J. Lewis '88
John D. Hertz '89
Russell W. Wilcox '91
Shane P. Coleman '95
Ryan W. Roseleip '97

Life Loyal Sig Circle*(\$10,000 to \$24,999)*

Anonymous
Bill Poppie '61
Paul F. Boylan Jr. '64
Bill Gum '66

William H. Yunk '66
Don E. Watson '67
Ritchie W. Secor '71
Webb C. Mandeville '72
Lee R. Taylor '74
John L. Hansen Jr. '75
Robert M. Fitzsimmons '77
Ted L. Rowland '77
Lon R. Taylor '77
Dahl Family Gift
Todd Z. Dahl '79
Spencer Z. Dahl '15
Dean A. Stensland '80
Gerald W. Steinbrenner '81
Larry V. Larsen '82
Robert B. Morton '82
Dean A. McSweeney '87
Logan Good '88
Steven R. Ramberg '88
Marla and Bret Schroeder '90
Gerrit B. VanOmmen '90
Erik A. Bostrom '01

Bobcat Circle*(\$5,000 to \$9,999)*

Trisha Gum
In memory of
Bob Gum '63
Norman "Barry" Kamhoot '56
Gary L. Dusenberry '62
Dennis M. Osgard '62
Curtis O. Zook '62
Kenneth M. Bodner '63
Col. Darrel T. Charlton '64
Robert F. Hardgrove '64
David L. Seibel '64
In memory of
Dennis Seibel '69
Charles R. Klimas Jr. '65
Robert J. Cebul '66
Craig N. Hudson '71
Steven T. Dodds '75
Bruce L. Shively '76
In memory of
David W. Shively
James R. Granger '77
Chris King '77
In memory of
Mike Neilsen '76
and Tim Kelly '77

Daniel P. Shue '78
Jerry A. DeMars '79
Kelly Harrington '79
Tristan P. Renz '79
Brian B. Johnson '80
In memory of
B. Kenneth Johnson '49,
W. Harvey Crist '81,
and Steve Clair '81
Bruce T. Moog '80
John S. Rennie '80
Mark L. Macek '81
Roy A. Ewen '82
Daniel E. Stovall '82
D. Craig Peterson '83
David J. Waldenberg '83
John J. Earll '85
Curtis R. Biller '87
Kevin L. Greteman '87
William R. Brace '89
Ronald W. Yates '90
Kevin L. Good '91
Bruce J. LaMeres '91
Brian G. Olsen '94
Benjamin W. Johnson '97
Dillon Haskell '15

Centennial Circle*(\$2,500 to \$4,999)*

Anonymous
In honor of
Mike Langohr's work
Miles L. Swan '50
In memory of
LR Swan
In honor of
Lee R. Swan
Charles K. Hanson '58
Wallace D. McRae '58
Marshall B. Bennett '60
Jon R. Carlson '62
In honor of
Barney and Ross Carlson '06
Ronald E. Fatzinger '62
Steven G. Hamilton '62
Robert T. Dolan '64
Gary A. Secor '68
Peter B. Nelson '70
Richard D. Morris '73
Michael J. Madison '75

John T. Lepley '76
Dwight T. Holman '79
Scott K. Urquhart '79
Kirby G. Granger '81
Rick D. Jackson '82
Paul L. Kirkpatrick '82
Daniel B. McClure '82
Morley D. Malek '83
Richard "Sam" Phillips '83
Bryan K. Henson '84
David R. Weller '85
Gary C. Erickson '88
Bradley R. Johnson '92
Scott E. Swenson '92
Brian A. Brown '95
John E. Wishman '04
Pierson Family Gift
Bradley D. Pierson '07
Kathlene B. Pierson '07
(Beta Rho Sweetheart 2005)
D. Forrest Granger '08
David E. Cavanaugh '10
Justin H. Mito '10
Alexander J. Kaul '13

Supporters Circle*(\$1,000 to \$2,499)*

Anonymous
In memory of
Bob Schuyler '72,
Dave Goldsworthy '75,
Cary Old Coyote '76,
and Dick Kildahl '79
George W. Wallis '42
In memory of
Sigs killed in action
Martin W. Crennen '57
Vernon H. Robertson '57
Jerome D. Siderius '57
Robert L. McIlhatten '58
Dan P. Eacret '60
Robert "Skip" Ritner '61
William H. Erwin Jr. '64
Thomas A. Overturf '64
Duane L. Robertson '64
William P. Breeden '65
David C. Moulton '65
Thomas G. Albrecht '66
In memory of
Charley Wood
Frederick C. Buckingham '66
Manny K. Hoag '66
Henry C. Hofeldt '66
Michael S. Steele '66
In memory of
Rick Buckingham '66
Joseph B. Zeiler '66
Dr. Gary L. Cook '67
Michael F. Evans '69
David E. Kalberg '69
Walter C. Backer '72
Jack P. Cowlshaw '74
Robert C. Matthews '75
In memory of
Curt J. Simmons '77
Calvin J. Gilgorea '78
Robert L. Byrtus '80
Mark E. Bahnmler '79
Tyler W. Corder '79
Mike Kirkpatrick '79
Duane A. Walker '79
In memory of
Mark E. Bahnmler '79
Thomas F. Heck '80
Bruce H. Dunkle '81
Allan M. Schneider '81
J. Kern Stevenson '81
Robert C. West, D.D.S. '81
David J. Marshall '84
David M. Stensland '85
Mark E. Lovely '88
William H. Rambo Jr. '89
Jeffrey D. Hardegger '91
Jeremy N. DeVries '95
Rock W. Hardgrove '95
Kevin S. Leland '97
Joshua T. DeVries '99
Eric J. Granrud '99
RJ Waggoner '01
Nick A. Newgaard '03
Andrew J. Wharton '06

**Campaign
Status****At-a-Glance***As of November 9, 2018*

Total Raised
\$1,577,515

Goal
\$2 Million

Number of
Contributors
204

Number of
Active Alumni
1,271

Steve Spencer '79 Fulfills Promise to Give Back to Beta Rho

During recruitment, **Steve Spencer '79** visited a lot of fraternities on campus. And as many Sigma Chis know, there was something special when he stepped inside the Beta Rho chapter house. One alumnus who played a big role in Steve's decision to join Sigma Chi was **Jim Brown '53**. "He let it be known that there was really only one fraternity that I should consider," says Steve. "Jim was good friends with my father and Jim had everything to say about what it meant to him and what it would mean to me to belong to his fraternity. Jim made it clear from a young age the Sigma Chi Fraternity was something special. Joining Sigma Chi may have been the single best decision of my college education."

“

*This campaign will
be a legacy that all of
us will be proud of.*

Being a Sigma Chi has impacted Steve's life long after college days. "The entire experience was foundational for me as a young man. Little did I know that the most valuable part of my

education was taking place day by day as a member of this wonderful organization. The values that this fraternity is built on became my own. My professional education taught me how to think but my education as a Sigma Chi taught me how to work with people. I am forever grateful for this part of my education."

Finding a way to give back to Sigma Chi was always a goal of Steve's, it was just a matter of the perfect project coming up. "Several years ago Brother **Tristan Renz '79** came back to the house and voluntarily made a significant contribution to the chapter. No one asked him to do this. He did so because that was his way of giving back to something that was a significant part of his education. I made a promise to myself that I would someday do the same. This fundraiser pushed me to fulfill that promise."

His love for Sigma Chi is shared by alumni from every generation. Steve said, "I have never spoken with any one that has not wanted to give back in some capacity. The sense of purpose that the chapter has given to their lives and the values instilled are largely a part of being a Sigma Chi. This campaign will be a legacy that all of us will be proud of. Giving monetarily in whatever capacity possible is what will make this project happen. Big or small, it is the collective efforts of all of us that



Steve and his wife, Lois.

have brought us to where we are today. For me it was an acknowledgment of my appreciation that the education I received as a Sigma Chi was second to none. It is a great feeling to know I have helped in some small way."

Steve lives in Great Falls, Montana, with his wife, Lois. She was an Alpha Gamma Delta at Montana State and they have many friends from MSU. They have a son, **Brian Spencer '15**, and a daughter, Lise, who also graduated from MSU. Steve enjoys being back in Montana where he is a dentist. He is able to see many brothers that he went to school with and looks forward to running into more of them at football games and various outdoor activities.

Connect with Steve at fstevegill@gmail.com.

IS YOUR NAME ON THE CHAPTER HOUSE RENOVATION DONOR LIST?

(Continued from page 1)



Keeping up the energy at the Homecoming parade, even in a random snow storm!

Typically, pledges are made annually over a five-year period. An online pledge may be arranged to be paid yearly, quarterly or monthly. Please note the following:

- Pledges over \$25,000 are tax deductible.
- Donors of at least \$5,000 (\$1,000 per year) will be recognized on a permanent plaque at the entrance of the Chapter House.
- Donors of at least \$2,500 (\$500 per year) will receive a Beta Rho commemorative centennial coin and lapel pin.
- Donors of between \$1,500 (\$300 per year) and \$2,499 will receive a Beta Rho commemorative lapel pin.
 - Both centennial medals were designed by Brother **Duane Walker '79** in memory of Brother **Mark "Bomber" Bahnmler '79**, who entered Chapter Eternal in 2016.
- Donors of at least \$1,000 will be recognized in all campaign publications.

All the campaign details can be found on the Beta Rho website at www.bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025 or by contacting Rick Dissly at (408) 348-4337 or rdissly@comcast.net with any questions you have.

We are at a crossroads for Beta Rho. With your support, we can reach the next level and ensure that Sigma Chi is the premier fraternity at MSU. We have the best men on campus and it is time that our chapter house reflects the men who live there. **Please join your 204 brothers who have contributed and make your pledges now.**

In Hoc,
Campaign Co-chairmen
Norm Achen '66
norm@normanachen.com

Richard Dissly '66
rdissly@comcast.net



Donating blood at the Sigma Chi house.



Brothers collected 48 bins of vegetables at God's Garden that were donated to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank to help feed hungry families in the community.

BETA RHO SETS THE BAR

Chapter Leads the Way in Philanthropy and Involvement

The Beta Rho Chapter has been working diligently to increase operations on all fronts, pursuing every opportunity to increase our presence within our surrounding community while strengthening the unity of our brotherhood. Last year's executive team generated an immense amount of momentum during our 100th year anniversary, which our current team has capitalized on to increase involvement in public relations and philanthropy. Our relationship with the Montana State campus is at an all-time high,

and Sigma Chi international has recognized us as a significant chapter by awarding us the Peterson Award at our Balfour Leadership Training Week. This year has already proven to be a successful one, and what is even more exciting is we still have the time and drive to accomplish more.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

One of the biggest advancements has been the dramatic increase in public relations and philanthropic events. We partnered with the American Red Cross to host biannual blood drives at our house, and during our first one we provided enough blood to help 682 patients. Other events have included highway cleanups, car washes, campus fundraisers, and helping a local farm harvest over 3,500 pounds of crops that were donated to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank to feed hungry families. On the side of philanthropy, we have already raised over \$9,000 through our various events and are working hard to reach our goal of \$20,000 by the end of the academic school year. We are planning our next project, which will be a blanket drive, in which we will accumulate and donate blankets to homeless families before the harsh winter starts.

INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

Our brothers put a lot of work into helping our fraternity, but what's more important is that most of them are also involved in campus organizations or hold jobs. Our chapter is well represented

within Montana State's Interfraternity Council, and brothers have several seats on the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Senate, both of which we use to make a positive difference on our campus. Other brothers are part of clubs such as Engineers Without Borders, Earth Science Student Colloquium or are on a club sports team. We even have a few brothers who have started their own club, or own businesses. In all, 84 percent of our members are associated with other organizations, ensuring that Sigma Chi's values are well integrated into our community.

A UNITED BROTHERHOOD

Even with the advance in chapter activity, our brothers maintain a 2.97 GPA, which is up from last year's 2.84 and still on the rise. This is due to the immense support that our brothers provide for each other and the strict adherence to Sigma Chi's core values that our chapter practices. Our chapter now sees more brotherhood events than large social events, which strengthens our bond and keeps us focused on what we want to accomplish. In a time where Greek organizations are facing increased scrutiny, the Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi remains strong and rooted in our high ideals of friendship, justice and learning.

In Hoc,

Brent Eaton '18

Consul

brenteaton.l@gmail.com



Brothers at our "Give a Hand in the Fight Against Cancer" event where students and faculty donated \$1 to trace their hand on our banner in support of cancer research.



We are excited to maintain the success of Beta Rho into the next semester.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Nicholas James Barnard
Incline Village, Nev.

David Micheal Beck
Bozeman, Mont.

Dylan Stewart Cardon
Whitefish, Mont.

Cody Micheal Coffin
Billings, Mont.

Weston Parker Danley
Polson, Mont.

Jeremy Cole Devries
Billings, Mont.

Myles Matthew Ekstrom
Bozeman, Mont.

Alec Good
Great Falls, Mont.

Coleman Good
Great Falls, Mont.

Shane Russel Higgins
Bozeman, Mont.

Cameron Huntley
Bozeman, Mont.

Tyler Davis Kitch
Kalispell, Mont.

Caden Scott McCullough
Bozeman, Mont.

Bryce William Neumann
Bozeman, Mont.

Jason Pichette
Snohomish, Wash.

Caleb Alexander Rohn
Bozeman, Mont.

Matt Start
Mukilto, Wash.

Chapter Officers

Consul
Brent Eaton '20
brent Eaton.l@gmail.com
(406) 577-6600

Pro Consul
Colton Schlag '20

Quaestor
August Thompson '19

Magister
Joey Kane '20

Annotator
Max Fleming '21

Recruitment Chairman
Max Fleming '21
flemingmax17@gmail.com
(907) 650-7053

House Manager
Nathan Vanderbeek '20

Tribune/Chapter Editor
Jack Murphy '21

Scholarship Chairman
Max Fleming '21

Risk Manager
Logan Moore '20

HIGHWAY HONOR

In August of 2012, Beta Rho lost Brother **Karston Waarvik '14** in a motor vehicle accident. He served as the magister. This fall brothers helped clean a two-mile stretch of the highway that has been dedicated in his memory. Brent Eaton received the \$2,000 Karston Waarvik Memorial Scholarship award this year.



One of our favorite new traditions, volunteering to clean up the highway that we adopted.

Find Us Online



bobcatsigs.org



Search: Sigma Chi,
Beta Rho at Montana
State University

BETA RHO FAST FACTS



17
New Members



682 patients
helped with our
blood donations



2.97
Chapter GPA



BOBCAT SIG

Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi

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Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Henry Gay '46 entered Chapter Eternal on May 20, 2017, at the age of 92. A native of North Dakota, he completed high school in Bozeman, Mont., where he also attended college for industrial engineering. Henry served in the U.S. military and eventually began a career with IBM.

Robert G. Hatfield '51 entered Chapter Eternal on October 24, 2017. Bob was born in Thermopolis, Wyo., and served in the Army in World War II before attending Montana State to study agronomy and play NCAA basketball and billiards. He taught in elementary schools for 30 years and had a passion for serving others through Meals on Wheels. Bob was recognized as Senior Citizen of the Year in 2002. He had an uplifting personality and seemed to know everyone, or he would make a friend quickly.

Lynn T. Christian Jr. '53, of Bozeman, Montana, passed away September 28, 2018. He was born March 11, 1928, in Billings, Montana, to Lynn T. Christian Sr. and Georgia Snow Christian. Lynn was on the Board of

Directors for the MSU Alumni Association, a past board director for United Way, past president of the Bobcat Booster Club, and past director of the Bozeman Downtown Business Association. Lynn and his wife walked down to the house often. He was truly an inspirational member of the "greatest generation" and will be missed. Lynn is survived by his wife, Eleanor, of 63 years; two sons, Stephen of Palm Desert, California, and Peter of Bellevue, Washington; and three grandchildren, Fallon, Hannah, and Dane.

Frederick Buckingham '66 entered the Chapter Eternal on April 7, 2018. He was 74. Buckingham was born on June 17, 1943, in Townsend, Montana, where he grew up on his family's ranch. After graduating from Montana State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He then moved to White Sulphur Springs, Montana, where he also worked as a rancher tending to his cattle and land.

ALUMNI NEWS

Walter Backer '72 joined the Marines as

an officer in charge of a platoon of motor transport and heavy equipment. In 1974, he went to work for Montana Power, transferred to Billings in 1984 to work as a division engineer, and retired in 2015. He and his wife, Nancy, have been married for 33 years and have three sons, Keil, Kason, and Konnor. E-mail: walt.backer5@gmail.com

Jeffrey L. Summers '80 and his wife, Cindy, are enjoying life in the foothills overlooking Denver. They have three grown children and four grandchildren. E-mail: carsummers18@gmail.com

Jeffrey G. Haviland '86 lives in Seattle, Wash., with his wife of almost 20 years, Vivian, and their two children. The couple's son, Jack, is a senior at Kennedy Catholic in Burien, Wash., where their daughter, Anne Marie, is a junior. The family's life revolves around school activities and work. Jeff is a manager at Boeing Everett, and Vivian is a technology designer for JH Kelly. "I do get back to Bozeman from time to time, generally supporting the October career fair," Jeff shares.