



BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2018

POST-CENTENNIAL FOCUS ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Beta Rho Nearing \$2 Million Goal

Much of the past year was spent by the Honoring Our Past 100 Years: Beta Rho's Vision for 2025 capital campaign co-chairmen and other helpful alumni organizing the Beta Rho centennial celebration. The September event was extremely successful by all accounts, and included great weather, over 425 brothers and guests, attendance by our Grand Consul and Grand Pro Consul, Significant Sig and Order of Constantine recipients, Montana State University's president, and other top dignitaries.



We celebrated the induction of Brothers **Dave Kem '67** and **Ron Lewis '88** into the brotherhood of Significant Sigs, enjoyed various activities and events, and reconnected with one another. If you missed any of the celebratory details, check out last fall's campaign update, available at bobcatsigs.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/sx-mt-st-f17-cu-final.pdf.

In the midst of all the centennial activity, *Beta Rho's Vision for 2025* campaign continued making stellar progress, receiving additional pledges to fund the modernization of our chapter house. Last year, we raised nearly \$700,000 from over 150 brothers and friends, bringing the total campaign amount to \$1,541,620 from 192 contributors!

If you visited Bozeman recently, you likely observed the tremendous amount of construction and economic growth in the Gallatin Valley area. As a result, construction costs have grown rapidly. Since we will not begin chapter house renovations until 2021, expenses for the project are expected to increase to as much as \$2.2 million. It is our goal to mitigate any potential financial risks and reduce the mortgage to fund the project. To ensure we are able to accomplish this, we need all Beta Rho brothers who are standing on the sidelines to strongly consider contributing to the campaign now.

Some alumni have expressed concerns about the overall sustainability and future health of Beta Rho. We are pleased to report that the chapter is in great financial shape, has a strong active membership, and well-trained, motivated leadership. Beta Rho is supported by a dedicated chapter advisor, as well as Sigma Chi International Headquarters, whose supportive resources include world-renowned undergraduate training programs.

Last month, you may have received an e-mail from Grand Consul **Tommy Geddings Jr., South Carolina '85**, regarding the strong leadership position Sigma Chi has taken in the Greek world by promulgating policies to better ensure the health and safety of active members. These policies address

alcohol and hazing-related concerns from colleges across the country; some of which are already in effect whilst others are expected to become implemented in the next months. If you would like to review these policy changes, they are available at sigmachi.org/press-release/sigma-chi-international-fraternity-creates-new-policies-to-enhance-health-and-safety. Beta Rho of Sigma Chi House Company will ensure these changes are reflected in the lease with the Beta Rho Chapter and provide additional support to the active chapter as required.

Our biggest goal this year is to focus on completing *Beta Rho's Vision for 2025* campaign so that we can begin detailed planning for construction. There is still lots of room among the brotherhood for additional fundraising, and we ask all alumni to pitch in to ensure we reach our \$2 million goal. Pledges exceeding \$5,000 will be recognized on the permanent plaque that will hang in the chapter house. Donors who give \$2,500 and above will receive a Beta Rho-specific commemorative centennial coin and a Beta Rho-specific commemorative centennial lapel pin. Donors who give \$1,500 to \$2,500 will receive the lapel pin. Both commemorative medals were designed by Brother **Duane "D" Walker '79**.

All of *Beta Rho's Vision for 2025* campaign details, as well as secure online giving, can be found on the Beta Rho website at bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025. A pledge form and return envelope is also inserted in this newsletter. Please fill out and return it today to make your gift. Join us in bringing our vision to fruition.

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

Richard Dally '66
rdally@comcast.net

Supporting the Vision

Ritchie Secor '71 on
the Importance of
Giving to Beta Rho



Ritchie Secor '71 was a legacy of Sigma Chi fraternity when he came to Montana State University. As the younger brother of **Gary Secor '68**, Ritchie knew the benefits of the brotherhood and how supportive it could be for incoming students. "Gary joined Beta Rho while I was in high school and I met a lot of his friends," Ritchie recalled. "I saw how much he loved the fraternity." With his older brother's encouragement, Ritchie decided to pledge Sigma Chi.

The comfort of the chapter house was incomparable for Ritchie, who saw his membership as a unique opportunity to meet great friends. He learned values and ideals that he continues to live by today. He enjoyed attending chapter events and school-wide functions such as Homecoming, though the rock and roll band he played in with some of his Beta Rho brothers was the most fun. "Steve White '71, Duncan Kippen '71, Greg Rowe '72, and I played together, even performed during Derby Days one year," Ritchie stated. "I played the keyboards and harmonica mainly, but was also a vocalist."

(Continued on page 3)

\$1,541,620 RAISED FOR HONORING OUR PAST 100 YEARS

Contributions Still Needed to Fund Chapter House Renovation

We are deeply grateful to the 192 donors listed below for committing \$1,541,620 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.

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
Douglas B. Allan '65
Norman C. Achen '65
Duane A. Denton '65
Larry W. Ferguson '65
John Waggoner '65

In memory of
Duane M. Douglas '65 and
Rick Roskie '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
and 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

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 and

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)

Norman "Barry" Kamhout '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. Cebull '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

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

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.

Centennial Circle

(\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Anonymous

In honor of

Mike Langohr's work

Pierson Family Gift

Bradley D. Pierson '07 and
Kathlene B. Pierson '07,
Beta Rho Sweetheart 2005

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

Paul L. Kirkpatrick '82

Daniel B. McClure '82

Morley D. Malek '83

D. Craig Peterson '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

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

Miles L. Swan '50

In honor of

Lee R. Swan

Martin W. Crennen '57

Vernon H. Robertson '57

Robert L. McIlhattan '58

Dan P. Eacret '60

Robert "Skip" Ritner '61

William H. Erwin Jr. '63

Campaign Status

At-a-Glance

As of March 20, 2018

Total Raised
\$1,541,620

Goal \$2.0 Million

Number of Contributors
192

Number of Active Alumni
1,257

Duane L. Robertson '63

William P. Breedon '65

David C. Moulton '65

Thomas G. Albrecht '66

In memory of
Charley Wood

Frederick C. Buckingham '66

Manny K. Hoag '66

Joseph B. Zeiler '66

Michael F. Evans '69

David E. Kalberg '69

Walter C. Backer '72

Jack P. Cowlishaw '74

Robert C. Matthews '75

Mark E. Bahnmiller '79

Tyler W. Corder '79

Mike Kirkpatrick '79

Duane A. Walker '79

In memory of
Mark E. Bahnmiller '79

Robert L. Byrtus '80

In memory of

Curt J. Simmons '77

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

Joshua T. DeVries '99

Eric J. Granrud '99

RJ Waggoner '01

Nick A. Newgaard '03

Andrew J. Wharton '06

AN IMPRESSIVE YEAR FOR BETA RHO

Chapter Exceeds 2017 Fundraising Goal, Increases GPA



Brothers have a blast on our float for last year's Homecoming parade, along with members from *AOΠ*, also celebrating 100 years.

Beta Rho Chapter had quite an impressive run last fall. We had the honor of putting on the centennial celebration, along with the help of some extraordinary alumni. The active members met the current Grand Consul and Grand Pro Consul, and enjoyed coming together in support of our brotherhood. Since then, we have been involved in philanthropic events, focused on our studies, and continued leading the Greek community as a top chapter on campus.

GPA ON THE RISE

We raised our chapter GPA from 2.84 to a 2.90 last fall—a promising improvement for Beta Rho. We anticipate that we will meet our 3.0 GPA goal in the next two semesters, which will increase our academic ranking amongst the other chapters at MSU.

FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR THE HUNTSMAN CANCER INSTITUTE EXCEEDED

Last fall was the most impressive semester for us in recent years, in terms of dollars raised for philanthropy. Our 2017 goal of raising \$7,500 for the John Huntsman Cancer Institute was not only met, but exceeded over the course of a single semester! We came up with some great ideas for our annual Derby Days week, raising over \$4,000 in one day and about \$8,200 total in the fall alone.

STICKING TO P4B PROGRAMMING

Beta Rho has been successful in sticking to the new P4B program that



Colton Schlag '20, Brian Kirby '20, and August Thompson '20 enjoyed getting to know alumni during the 100th celebration.

was announced by International Headquarters last year. We have seen too many chapters lose their charter by bending the rules too far, and have no intention of losing ours. We have been shaping the program to fit our needs, making sure new members get the most out of it.

FALL EVENT RECAP

With the centennial celebration, Homecoming, Parents Weekend, and Cat/Griz football in Bozeman, the active chapter has had no shortage of Sigma Chi functions to attend. Our annual fall formal at Fairmont Hot Springs was a blast, as were the sorority formals our men attended. Active members also participated in neighborhood cleanup events, which brought us together with other Greek chapters.

It was incredible to see our members partake in all of the events of the past year, especially those which united us with alumni. As always, our success and opportunities are made possible through your support. We hope to see all of you again soon.



In Hoc,
Jake Linnell '19
Consul
jake.linnell@yahoo.com

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jake.linnell@yahoo.com

Pro Consul
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Quaestor
Jack Conklin '19

Magister
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k.riv208@gmail.com

Tribune/Chapter Editor
Jack Murphy '21

Supporting the Vision

(Continued from page 1)

Memories and opportunities for current and future members is something Ritchie places in high regard, and having a suitable chapter house for which to create them is equally important. "Beta Rho's house is over 50 years old and in dire need of renovation," he shared. "The necessary upgrades are only going to come from alumni support." Because he realizes the critical nature of alumni support, Ritchie was eager to contribute to the *Honoring Our Past 100 Years: Beta Rho's Vision for 2025* capital campaign.

"Anyone who attended Beta Rho's centennial celebration last year would likely agree, today's active chapter consists of outstanding brothers," Ritchie explained. "We've received the Peterson four out of the past five years—the highest honor bestowed upon a chapter by the fraternity. The undergraduates are gearing up to try and win it again this year!"

Enthusiasm and pride for Beta Rho is something Ritchie hopes his fellow alumni will reference and use as a motivating factor to give to *Beta Rho's Vision for 2025*.

Now a retired bond trader, Ritchie spent years working for a regional brokerage firm in Montana, D.A. Davidson and Company. "It was a phone job, which allowed me to work with other bond traders from around the country," he said. "I loved it, and really got to know people because I spoke with many of them daily." Today, Ritchie enjoys playing golf and darts, learning bridge from his wife of 40 years and Beta Rho's Sweetheart of '77, Marilyn, and playing music. You can connect with him at rwsccor@outlook.com.

Welcome, New Members

Justin Backer '21
Bellevue, Wash.

Brandon Baier '21
Bellevue, Wash.

Keaton Buckingham '20*
Portland, Ore.
(Great-grandfather **George Henselman**,
University of California-Berkeley 1920)

Ian Flemming '20
Petersburg, Ala.

Max Flemming '21
Milton, Ga.

Benjamin Haugo '21
Litchfield, Mich.

Paul Korotish '21
Spokane, Wash.

Bobby McGinty '21
Rumson, N.J.

Logan Moore '21
Auburn, Calif.

Ian Muir '21
Boise, Idaho

Jack Murphy '21
Denver, Colo.

Chase Nelson '21
Boise, Idaho

Christian "CJ" Rogers '21
Seattle, Wash.

Thomas Sellman '21*
Missoula, Mont.

(Father **Richard Sellman**,
University of Southern California '86,
Brother **Stephen Sellman**,
University of Southern California '19)

Skylar Smoker '21
Colo. Springs, Colo.

Mario Soria '21
Hollister, Calif.

Jack Trefzger '21
Helena, Mont.

Nathan Vanderbeek '21*
Kalispell, Mont.
(Brother **Nicholas Vanderbeek '19**)

Nathan Whitney '21*
Rockledge, Fla.
(Brother **Wesley Ranew**,
Samford University '11)

*Legacy; relation in parentheses



BOBCAT SIG

Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi

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Alumni Update

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Daniel A. Hames '58 entered Chapter Eternal on July 20, 2017. He graduated from MSU with a degree in industrial arts before moving to California to teach and coach at various high schools. Dan also worked as a high school counselor and athletic director during his career. He and his wife, Pauline, had two daughters, Denise and Cynthia, and five grandchildren.

James Rawlings '60 entered Chapter Eternal on December 28. James was a USMC veteran, earned his civil engineering degree from MSU, and worked for the Bureau of Reclamation of 40 years. He leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Patricia; children, Stacy, Susan, and Stephanie; and seven grandchildren.

Robert "Skip" Ritner '61 entered Chapter Eternal on November 19, at the age of 77, following an extensive battle and valiant fight with Parkinson's disease. Skip served on the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, was an oil company executive, and had a hobby of restoring vintage Packards. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Janette; his sons, Bob, Wesley and Bradley; and four grandchildren.

ALUMNI NEWS

John Van Camp '47 has been happily retired for the last 34 years. He enjoys traveling, playing golf, and trout fishing. John has three grandchildren and five grandchildren.

Gerald Pitzer '70 and his wife, Mary Jane, moved into a duplex they built in November 2017. "I retired from River Metals Recycling in Newport, Ky., in June of 2014," Gerald shares. "I was a baler operator."

Webb Mandeville '72 truly enjoyed the 100th anniversary celebration of Beta Rho. E-mail: webb@mandeville-insurance.com

Ted L. Rowland '77 enjoyed seeing his brothers at the centennial celebration and looks forward to seeing the house remodeled. E-mail: ted@silver-gate-inc.com

Allan M. Schneider '81 retired in December 2017 and has stayed involved in the Special Olympics, coaching basketball, softball, and power lifting. Having married into a strong Aggie family, Allan's allegiance is split between MSU and TAMU. E-mail: schneidallan@gmail.com

William R. Brace '89 attended the centennial celebration and shares, "It was good to reunite with all the brothers and have a reminder of why we became Sigma Chis and good friends so many years ago." Bill is grateful to everyone who made the event happen. E-mail: wrbrace@hotmail.com

Ryan Roseleip '97 shares, "A highlight of 2017 was the opportunity to attend and celebrate Beta Rho's 100th anniversary. It was a great reminder of why I joined the chapter." Ryan works as division manager for Johnson and Johnson.

Nicholas McKinney '15 will graduate from the McGeorge School of Law in May, and plans to take the California bar exam to practice law in the state. He and his wife, MacKenzie, enjoy traveling during their down time and spent two weeks in France last summer. The couple plans to travel to Austria and Hungary after Nick takes the bar exam.