



BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2015

Join Your Brothers at Homecoming 2015

It is our hope that Beta Rho's Alumni Relations Program continues to renew and strengthen your Sigma Chi bonds. Our annual Homecoming weekend provides brothers from all eras with the opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and show their Bobcat pride!

The active chapter and alumni have planned a great Homecoming 2015 weekend, which will begin on Friday, September 25. This year the main event will be a cocktail reception at the chapter house on Friday from 4-7:30 p.m. This will be an informal event, encouraging the interaction of alumni with the active chapter members. Make sure you call or e-mail the brothers you graduated with to let them know you are going to Homecoming this year.

All alumni and their families are welcome. We encourage you to register online by going to the website at www.bobcatsigs.org, under news & events/homecoming/register online. You are also welcome to register at the front door when you arrive. Please make hotel reservations early. Most Sigs are staying at the Comfort Inn, Days Inn, or Holiday Inn.

Most importantly, to purchase your football tickets, call the athletic department ticket office at (406) 994-2287 before September 15 and ask for tickets in the **Sigma Chi Alumni** section. You can pick up the tickets at Will Call on the day of the game. Purchasing your tickets online will not place you in the Sigma Chi Alumni section, so call the ticket office today.

We look forward to visiting with you at Homecoming this fall. If you have any questions, suggestions, or alumni news, please submit them to Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi, P.O. Box 442100, Lawrence, KS 66044-2100, or e-mail us at sigmachi@bobcatsigs.org. We continue to invite alumni to join the house corporation or volunteer as an advisor to the active chapter. Also, please mark your calendars for the 100th Anniversary of the Beta Rho Chapter. We will celebrate this milestone at Homecoming 2017!

Homecoming 2015 Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Golf Outing

2:30-3:30 p.m.: House Building Corporation Meeting and Officer Elections

4:00-7:30 p.m.: Reception and Appetizers at the Chapter House

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

10:30 a.m.-Noon: Parade

Noon-1:35 p.m.: Alumni Tailgate (northwest side of Bobcat Stadium)

1:35-5 p.m.: Football Game — Go Cats Go!

THE BONDS OF A SIGMA CHI

Walter Smith '85 grew up watching his father maintain supportive, lifelong friendships with his fraternity brothers. Walt knew that he would follow in his father's footsteps and cultivate amazing fraternal bonds of his own. Joining Sigma Chi felt like a natural fit for Walt, based upon the brothers he met during recruitment.



Walt and Zach cheer on the
Seahawks at the 2015
Super Bowl.

Walt is most proud of the close bond that he and his brothers shared while he was an active member. Walt's Beta Rho bond grew even stronger when his son, **Zach Smith '13**, joined the chapter. "My most meaningful Sigma Chi memory is definitely watching my son go through initiation in 2009 in the same room that I did over 30 years before him," Walt shared.

After graduating from Montana State with a degree in communications, Walt pursued a career in commercial real estate in Seattle, Wash. Over the past 30 years, Walt and his two partners have started and successfully operated two property management companies and one multi-family investment company. Walt has worked with the same two partners for the duration of his career and explains that their loyalty to one another has greatly contributed to their accomplishments. "Sigma Chi taught me how important close bonds, friendship, trust, loyalty, and honesty are in life. I couldn't have been successful in business without these lessons learned while at Beta Rho."

Walt keeps his Beta Rho bonds strong by spending time with his brothers, who remain his closest friends, through activities like hunting trips, golf trips, and boys' weekends. He also attends Homecoming almost every year so he can catch up with as many brothers and friends as possible and visit the chapter house. Walt shares the importance of maintaining fraternal friendships, "In good times your brothers keep you grounded and in rough times they support you. Nobody knows you and cares about you like your fellow Sigs."

Through visiting his son and through serving on the MSU Foundation Board of Directors, Walt has had the opportunity to spend time on campus and at the chapter house. "Hanging out with Zach and his brothers reminds me of how little things have changed," Walt explained. He looks forward to his younger son, Parker (11), learning about the benefits of being part of a supportive and loyal brotherhood when he gets older. In his spare time, Walt spends time farming with his brother, hunting, playing golf, and attending Seahawks and Mariners games with his sons. E-mail: wsmith@icg-inv.com

BETA RHO CREATES A BETTER BROTHERHOOD

UNDERGRADUATE BONDS GROW DESPITE DIFFICULT TIMES

Brothers, it is with great pleasure that I had the opportunity to serve as our chapter's consul for the 2014-2015 school year. I am proud of the undergraduate brothers this year and their numerous accomplishments. The past year has been one of rebuilding for the chapter. As many of you may be aware, one of our chapter members was accused of a sexual assault in fall 2013 while in the chapter house. This brought a massive amount of negative attention from the media and Bozeman community, leading to a difficult and trying experience for brothers.

I am relieved to share that during a student conduct hearing in spring 2014, a panel of MSU administrators dropped all charges against our brother. Additionally, the Gallatin County attorney dropped all charges in fall 2014. Both groups dropped charges due to the accusations lacking substance and evidence.

This is a challenging topic to address in this newsletter, but I feel it is important for us to be transparent about the incident and what the chapter has done since then. The criticism Beta Rho faced brought us closer together and encouraged us to strive to do better. Over the past year, we have become heavily involved with MSU's VOICE Center, a sexual assault prevention group. Multiple brothers have become VOICE Center advocates, we have cosponsored multiple events with the Center, and every brother now goes through yearly bystander intervention training.

Additionally, we have doubled down on our efforts for public relations and philanthropy. This past fall, the chapter raised over \$5,000 for the Huntsman Cancer Institute, something we have not even come close to in my four years as an undergraduate. Individual chapter members have spent hundreds of hours volunteering with community groups

such as the VOICE Center, the Bozeman Senior Center, Eagle Mount, the Gallatin County Food Bank, local volunteer fire departments, and the Adopt-a-Highway program.

Beta Rho ranked second of all fraternities on campus with a 3.0 chapter GPA during the spring semester. For our future members, we have raised the standard for membership, instituting a strict minimum 3.0 GPA requirement for incoming freshmen, which began in fall 2014. Additionally, we have developed a judicial matrix in order to create a standard system for character development in future chapter members. Active brothers also work tirelessly on improvements within the chapter house to make it more appealing to future members. We are excited about the recent projects to improve the women's bathroom, the basement, and individual rooms.

I am proud of the brothers' resolve in pushing the chapter forward this year in spite of the incident that occurred in fall 2013. Never have I seen the entirety of the brotherhood dedicated to Sigma Chi's success as much as they are today. Brothers pour their time into the community and into our chapter house, always seeking to improve the quality of our home. I'd like to thank our alumni and advisors for their immense support in our endeavors. I am confident that as I graduate and move on to law school, I will be leaving the chapter in the hands of great alumni and undergraduate leaders who will drive Sigma Chi toward even greater success during the next academic year.

In Hoc,
Dillon Haskell '15
 Beta Rho Consul
 dillon.haskell1@gmail.com

Welcome, New Brothers

Tom Brooks
 Woodbury, Minn.

Chad Hertz
 Belgrade, Mont.

Rio Moore
 Boulder, Colo.

Alex Thorson
 Spokane, Wash.



Beta Rho Is Looking for Future Sigs

Alumni, we value your referrals. If you know any quality men who will be attending Montana State in the fall, please contact our recruitment chairman, **Taylor O'Keeffe '16**, at taylorokeeffe@hotmail.com or (509) 481-5974. We look forward to hearing your suggestions for potential new members!

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Colton Coffee '17
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Magister
Kyle Workman '17
kyleworkman58@gmail.com
 (406) 777-3301

Recruitment Chairman
Taylor O'Keeffe '16
taylorokeeffe@hotmail.com
 (509) 481-5974



Brothers honor the memory of Brother Karston Waarvik '15 by cleaning the highway adopted in his name.



Nick Ramberg '17, Chapman Hewett '17, and Colton Coffee '17 begin work on basement renovations, which include repainting the ceiling, replacing light fixtures, and sanding and re-staining the support beams.



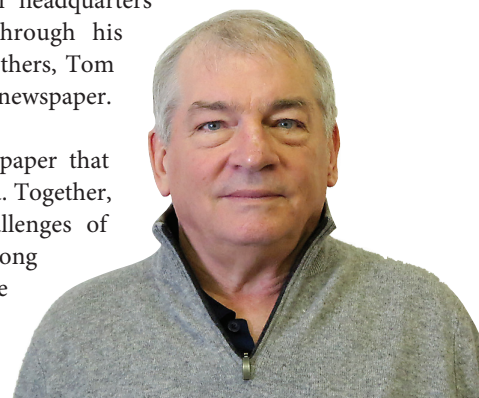
Brothers hike up Frazier Basin past Bridger Bowl for some early season skiing this winter.



Christian Intorcchia '17 and Jay Brooks '16 admire the scenery at the summit of the Grand Teton Mountains.

Tom Eggensperger '73 Shares His Journey from an Undergraduate Leader to a Successful Alumnus

As an undergraduate, **Tom Eggensperger '73** remembers contributing to the leadership team of Beta Rho, along with close friends **Bruce Burkitt '71** and **Mike Langohr '73**. As treasurer, Tom had the privilege of joining other Beta Rho leaders in working with **Michael Ford, Delta Nu '72**, the son of U.S. President Gerald R. Ford, who came from Sigma Chi headquarters to help strengthen the Beta Rho team. Through his experiences of living and working with his brothers, Tom has moved on to successfully lead his own newspaper.



Tom and his wife, Bina, took over the newspaper that Tom's parents ran in Thompson Falls, Montana. Together, Tom and Bina take on the thrills and challenges of sharing breaking news and navigating the long hours that the news industry demands. "We both do everything in the business and it's been a rewarding and great opportunity to raise our kids in a small town and continue our involvement in the community, as we did in college," Tom explained.

Sigma Chi got Tom into the practice of being involved with his community, which guides his career and his civic engagement outside of his job. Tom still remembers alumni **Don Langohr '49** and **Jim Barfknecht '49**, who truly stood out as leaders and role models in the Beta Rho community. Through interactions with alumni like these, in addition to working closely with his brothers to lead Beta Rho, Tom learned how to effectively live and work with others and learned the importance of staying in touch with old friends.

"For me and the many brothers of Beta Rho, Sigma Chi was the pinnacle experience of our college years. We're proud of being members of a great college fraternity and a great college tradition."

Tom keeps in touch with several of his Beta Rho brothers through e-mail and sees them frequently at Bobcat football games, a great tool for getting brothers together. He encourages alumni who want to reconnect to attend Homecoming, since the game and the usual event at the Baxter Hotel draw many Sig alumni together. Tom explains that despite the media's negative and sometimes false portrayal of the Greek community, he would never change his experience. "For me and the many brothers of Beta Rho, Sigma Chi was the pinnacle experience of our college years. We're proud of being members of a great college fraternity and a great college tradition."

Tom and Bina have three children, Kelsie, Scott, and Mark, all graduates of Montana State. In their free time, Tom and Bina like to ski, kayak, and travel. E-mail: ledger@blackfoot.net

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Wayne L. Fleming '58 entered Chapter Eternal in October 2014 at his home in Warrenton, Ore. He is survived by his wife, Lucia, two sons, Brian and Bret, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ALUMNI NEWS

George W. Wallis '42 and his wife, Jean, still live in their own home in Billings, Mont., and keep busy with housekeeping and yardwork. They belong to the Yellowstone Country Club even though he has quit playing golf and skiing. George survived WWII as a B-24 pilot, 8th Air Force in Germany. E-mail: gjwwall@msn.com

James F. Barfknecht '49 served in the U.S. Navy with distinction in the Pacific and became a decorated Naval Aviator. He served until 1947, when he resigned and joined the Montana Army National Guard, becoming a Master Army Aviator and retiring in 1977 as a Colonel after 35 years of service. He was married to his wife, Virginia, for 68 years, and they have three children: Kay, Jim, and Dee. He lives in Helena, Mont. E-mail: jvbarfknecht@bresnan.net

John B. Labrie '57 and his wife, Linda, reside in La Canada Flintridge, Calif., and visit Absarokee, Mont., every summer. They have children and grandchildren living in Wisconsin and California. E-mail: labries@juno.com

Brian H. Loucks '64 stays in touch with MSU through Bobcat football and is on the Bobcat Quarterback Club Board of Directors. He and his wife, Pat, live in Great Falls, Mont. E-mail: bloucks@mtcpas.com

James L. Schwend '66 is self-employed as a furniture maker at Jim's Furniture Specialties. He also makes bicycle mud flaps, which he sells at buddyflaps.com. James lives in Auburn, Wash. E-mail: jschwend@aol.com

Thomas E. Bivins '68 retired in 2010 and is enjoying life. He and his wife, Mary Jean, have volunteered for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service at Seeley Lake, and the Montana Wild Animal Rehab Center in Helena. Thomas also travels, floats on rivers, fly fishes, and plays golf. The couple resides in Virginia City, Mont. E-mail: tebmjb@gmail.com

John M. Green '70 and his wife, Sandra, are partners in Johnson Enterprises, Inc., conceptualizing on improving small and mid-size businesses in America. They have two adult daughters and four grandchildren. John and Sandra live in Gilbert, Ariz. E-mail: jsgreen@wwdb.org

Robert E. Sweck '98 moved back to Rhode Island in 2008 after a 12-year stay in Bozeman. Aging parents and missing his family finally



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Your Gift Helps Tremendously

We would like to thank the alumni who contributed to previous house improvements. We still need funds for alumni communication, house maintenance and renovations, and other important projects at the Beta Rho house. To make your gift, simply fill out the form and mail it and a check to the address below. Also,

please pay your alumni membership dues to continue to fund the *Bobcat Sig* and other alumni activities. You can go to the Beta Rho website at www.bobcatsigs.org/betarho/dues/alumni.php to pay alumni dues. Your support of Beta Rho is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Graduation Year: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

() \$50 () \$100 () \$250 () \$500 () \$1,000 () Other \$ _____

Make check payable to Beta Rho House Building Company (non-tax deductible).

**Mail Your Gift (with form) to: Beta Rho House Building Company • c/o Brother Rick Dissly
6651 Leyland Park Drive • San Jose, CA 95120**

took its toll and he had to move away from big sky country. Robert had the chance to spend three months in 2012 in Shelby, Mont., with his best friend, Brian R. Lee, to attend Brian's wedding, relax, and go hunting. He is single and working in heavy construction, but is proud of completing his college degree at 34 years old

and even prouder of becoming initiated as a Beta Rho at 32. E-mail: rsweck@gmail.com

Andrew J. Wharton '06 and his wife, Amy, have two children, Thea and Della. Andrew recently earned his pilot's license. The couple lives in Bozeman, Mont. E-mail: andrew.wharton1@gmail.com