



BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Steve Nash, *Beta Delta '99*, to Serve as New Chapter Advisor

While Steve Nash, *Beta Delta '99*, was an undergraduate member of Sigma Chi, he got the chance to learn that being a member of the fraternity is a lifelong commitment. Now as an alumnus, he has expanded his involvement to include the Beta Rho Chapter as well, and he is currently serving as the interim chapter advisor.

Steve started working with Beta Rho in 2012 as a journey facilitator, meaning that he led the undergraduates through various leadership topics, including organizational vision, mission statement creation, and strategic planning.

Recently, Chapter Advisor **Ryan Donahue** moved to Portland, so Steve started his role as interim chapter advisor and his position will be official in the fall. As chapter advisor, he gives advice to the undergraduate chapter on various issues and is available as a resource for both undergraduates and alumni.

"I have been involved with Beta Rho in these various capacities because of the amazing people," Steve says. "The undergraduates and alumni truly care about each other and have great ambitions for themselves and for the chapter's long-term success in being in a place where lifelong friendships are built and value-based leadership is learned."

Steve is a teacher for Bozeman Public Schools and an adjunct professor at Montana State University. Sigma Chi directly impacted his career path, as he got his first job with Bozeman

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Spring 2016

Beta Rho and Alpha Omicron Pi enjoyed the nice spring weather on the top of Drinking Horse Mountain.

JOIN YOUR BROTHERS AT HOMECOMING 2016

We hope that Beta Rho's alumni relations program continues to renew and strengthen your Sigma Chi connections. Our annual Homecoming weekend provides brothers from all eras with the opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and show their Bobcat pride!

We look forward to visiting with you at Homecoming this fall. If you are interested in helping to coordinate events, contact Homecoming chairman **Chase Wheeler '18** at chaseaustinwheeler@gmail.com or (719) 440-1575. All the help we can get is essential to making each and every Homecoming event a success. 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. Also, please mark your calendars for the 100th anniversary of the Beta Rho Chapter in 2017. See details on page 4.

HOMECOMING 2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 23

2:30-3:30 p.m.

House Building Corporation Meeting and Officer Elections

4:00-7:30 p.m.

Open House with Cocktails and Appetizers

Saturday, September 24

10:30 a.m.-Noon

Parade

Noon-1:35 p.m.

Alumni Tailgate (northwest side of Bobcat Stadium)

1:35-4:30 p.m.

Football Game — Go Cats Go!

**Homecoming
2016
September
23-24**

SIGMA CHI PROUD OF INVOLVEMENT ON CAMPUS AND IN BOZEMAN COMMUNITY

Undergraduates Meet Academic Standards and Service Goals

Capitalizing on the great start to this academic year that last semester provided, we were able to continue our momentum into the spring. Thanks to our more structured pledge education program and more thorough post-initiation training, our fall class of 20 men came into this semester more prepared for the positions they took. This confidence kept morale at an all-time high and helped us initiate seven more men this spring.

The ongoing success we've seen only pushes us to be better and better. Keeping our focus on increasing involvement in the Greek, MSU, and Bozeman communities, we've been able to continue doing more than the average student. Our ever-improving relationships with the sororities gave Derby Days the funds to provide a wish, through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, for a child in the Bozeman area. We have devoted more than 200 community service hours to God's Garden, a local farm that supplies Bozeman's food bank, which has become one of our favorite ways to give

back. With this level of involvement, on top of the volunteer positions that we hold in the student body government, Interfraternity Council, and orientation leader programs, I'm proud to say that we've been able to continue being dedicated students by keeping our GPA at 3.0.

With the end of the academic year quickly approaching, it's wonderful to see the growth we've had as individuals, as well as a chapter. Knowing that Beta Rho will be in good hands for the next year, I have no doubt that we will continue to exceed expectations up to and beyond our 100th year anniversary in 2017. We thank you for your endless support and hope that we will continue to make you proud to be a Sigma Chi.



In Hoc,
Colton Coffee '17
 Consul
 coltoncoffee@gmail.com
 (406) 855-6028



Steve Nash, *Beta Delta '99*

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The Nash family at Banff.

Public Schools through his connection with **Jon Johnson '69**. Steve advises current undergraduates to make friendships through Sigma Chi that will help them later in life.

"I have enjoyed my connections that I have made throughout my lifetime with Sigma Chi," Steve says. "Being a Sigma Chi truly is a lifelong reciprocal commitment. Sigma Chi helped me to become who I am today by inspiring me to never quit."

Traditionally, Beta Rho has a history of success, and Steve is grateful for the chance to get involved with the chapter and alumni

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Magister
Kyle Workman '17
 Missoula, Mont.

Quaester
Shane Connors '17
 Hawley, Pa.

Annotator/Risk Manager
Jachike Madubuko '17
 Fort Richardson, Alaska

House Manager
Rio Moore '18
 Boulder, Colo.

Steward/Scholarship Chairman
Tanner Stockwell '18
 Gig Harbor, Wash.

Kustos/Chapter Editor
Chad Hertz '17
 Bozeman, Mont.

Public Relations Chairman
Regan Herrick '17
 Bozeman, Mont.

community, and he hopes to help them continue to succeed to the best of his ability.

"Beta Rho has been a source of brotherhood, inspiration, leadership, housing, and learning for Montana State University students for nearly 100 years. In collaboration with the alumni, the Beta Rho active chapter is ready to embrace a developing vision for the future that will sustain the chapter for the next 100 years as well."

Steve and his wife, Belinda, have four children: William, Ben, Hazel, and Toby. They live in Bozeman, Montana. Steve's e-mail is steve_nash@bresnan.net.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Sam Brady '19
Electrical Engineering
Lincoln, Mont.

Henry Kuntzleman '19
Business Marketing
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Jacob Linell '19
Mechanical Engineering
Billings, Mont.

William Maidens '19
Liberal Studies
Portland, Ore.



Nicholas Vanderbeek '19
Statistics
KalisPELL, Mont.

Jacob Voller '19
Political Science
Bellevue, Wash.

Jakob Wegenast '19
Mechanical Engineering
Monroe, Wash.

Alumni Update

CHAPTER ETERNAL



James F. Barfknecht '49, retired Army colonel and decorated WWII veteran, entered Chapter Eternal on March 24, 2016, surrounded by his family. Jim was born on August 21, 1920, to Otto and Millie (Hinds) Barfknecht. After high school graduation, he worked for two years to afford college during the Great Depression. He attended Montana State College, Bozeman, for two years when he was selected to enter the Navy's V-5 program.

Jim entered the U.S. Navy as an Aviation Cadet on June 4, 1942. He qualified as a Naval Aviator in June 1943, when he was awarded his Gold Wings and commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy. After advanced pilot training, he completed Aircraft Carrier Qualifications on the USS Wolverine, Lake Michigan. He was then assigned to fleet duty aboard the USS Yorktown Aircraft Carrier, (CV10), also known as the "Fighting Lady" in the Pacific Theater. He was involved in intense combat of launched air strikes and raids and participated in several Naval battles including the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the landing on Iwo Jima, and the first aerial flight of carrier-based torpedo bombers over the Tokyo area in early 1945. Jim served with distinction and became a decorated aviator, receiving the Air Medal with Gold Star Asiatic for an attack on a Japanese

freighter in the Philippines. He also received the Distinguished Flying Cross with Gold Star, Pacific and Philippine Liberation Ribbons, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Jim returned to Bozeman and married his high school sweetheart, Virginia Howell, on April 4, 1945. After a month of leave, he returned to the Navy while Virginia stayed in Bozeman to graduate from MSC. Once released from Naval active duty, Jim returned to MSC to complete his mechanical engineering degree in 1949, while remaining in the Naval Reserves. Jim and Virginia started their family, which includes two daughters, Kay and Dee, and son, Jim.

In April 1947, Jim traded services, resigning from the Naval Reserves and joining the Montana Army National Guard. He was the first aviator in the Montana Army National Guard and had the honor of flying the first helicopter in the state. Col. Barfknecht, nicknamed by colleagues "The Father of the Montana Army National Guard Aviation," served his last drill and retired in 1977 after 35 years of combined military service.

After his retirement, Jim was an active volunteer in the community and a member of several service organizations. He was a member of the State Seniors Golf Association, loved to fish, and could figure out any

(Continued on page 4)

BILL POUND '60 REFLECTS ON HIS TIME WITH BETA RHO

When Bill Pound '60 came to Montana State University as a freshman more than 50 years ago, he decided to become a member of Sigma Chi along with several of his friends. Now as an alumnus, he looks back on his days in Beta Rho fondly and with pride and still has strong connections with his brothers.

"We had the largest and best fraternity at Montana State," Bill says. "Membership has led to lifelong friendships."

During college, Bill served as scholarship chairman and song leader for Sigma Chi and earned a degree in engineering physics. Bill lived in the chapter house during his last two years at Montana State, and some of his favorite memories came from that time.

"I remember freezing in the top-floor sleeping quarters as a junior, playing frisbee, being fined for bad table manners, making friends, and going to parties with Pi Phis, one of whom I married—Deanna Cada Pound. She is my wife and best friend to this day," Bill says.

After graduation, Bill earned an MBA in operations research from UC Berkeley and a Ph.D. in industrial engineering from Northwestern

University. He started his more than 40-year career in manufacturing work at Georgia Pacific and ended with a job at Nike before retiring. Although Sigma Chi did not directly impact Bill's career path, he believes the social skills he developed from being a member of the fraternity allowed him to be successful in life after college.

Although careers have taken them away from Beta Rho, Bill and his alumni brothers have managed to stay connected. On the first Tuesday of each month, they have lunch at the Riverside Country Club to catch up and reconnect. In addition, Bill has attended receptions at the chapter house where he was able to meet undergraduate members.

"The current Sigma Chi chapter has been greatly helped by local alumni and seems to be doing well. Sigma Chi was and is a great experience."

Bill lives with his wife, Deanna, in Bozeman, Montana. They have two sons, Alex and Matt, and one grandson. In his spare time, Bill enjoys gardening, hunting, making homemade jerky and bacon, and playing bridge with Deanna. His e-mail is bpound@msn.com.

SAVE THE DATE

FOR BETA RHO'S 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN 2017

Mark your calendars for Beta Rho's 100th anniversary the weekend of September 8-10, 2017. Please note that this is not Homecoming weekend. See below for a schedule of events.

Friday, September 8: Golf tournament, floating activities, dinner banquet

Saturday, September 9: Alumni tailgate, football game, open house

Sunday, September 10: Ritual

Alumni Update

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given puzzle. He and Virginia traveled extensively in their retirement, including attending his Yorktown VT-3 Torpedo Bomber Squadron reunions annually for 25 years. He loved his country and family, and he taught his family many valuable life lessons with discipline, love, and generosity.

Harold L. Aure '60 entered Chapter Eternal on February 5, 2015, of lymphoma complications. He enjoyed the outdoors where he golfed, skied, fished, and hiked. He was a sports enthusiast, especially for University of Utah football and Utah Jazz.

John M. Shanholtzer '76 entered Chapter Eternal on September 30, 2015. A veteran of the Vietnam War, John was stationed in Korea, Japan, Hawaii, and Ft. Sill, Okla., during his 20-year military career. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1984 and worked in Huntsville, Ala., for Whittaker Corporation, Nichols Research, Inc., and Tec Masters, Inc.

ALUMNI NEWS

Jack J. Cassidy '52 retired from Bechtel Corporation as the manager of geotechnical and hydraulic engineering in 1994. He was named a Bechtel Fellow of 1985 and worked on Bechtel projects worldwide for 22 years. He now works as a private consultant on water resources and lives in Walnut Creek, Calif. E-mail: jjcassidyhydro@comcast.net

James O. Schagunn '59 and his wife, Kay, enjoy good health and volunteering. He is in his fourth year at Catholic Charities and his second three-year term on the board of directors for the Good Shepherd Clinic. James also delivers Meals on Wheels and encourages other retirees to do volunteer work. He lives in Muskogee, Okla. E-mail: jkschagunn@yahoo.com



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Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi

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Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your Sigma Chi son is still attending Montana State University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

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 non-tax deductible gift, mail a check made out to Beta Rho Sigma Chi House Company, c/o Brother Rick Dissly, 6651 Leyland Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95120. 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!

Dan P. Eacret '60 has been retired for 21 years and still enjoys downhill skiing. He will be spending a few weeks in the South this year. Dan and his wife, Wendy, live in Spokane, Wash. E-mail: wendydanec@msn.com

Tom A. Overturf '64 is still doing real estate development in Las Vegas. He shares that he is part of a Saturday Bobcat football watch group at Buffalo Wild Wings. He is proud of the active Beta Rho members and enjoys seeing what they're doing each year. Tom is looking forward to seeing his brothers at Homecoming 2016. E-mail: tomoverturf@gmail.com

Erik A. Bostrom '01 continues to grow his business throughout Colorado with a dozen

locations and new locations in development for 2016. He and his wife, Lauren, welcomed their first child, Claire, last April. E-mail: erik.bostrom@sigmachi.com

R.J. Waggoner '01 left his job in the golf industry four years ago to pursue an opportunity to work with his father-in-law in crop insurance. The goal was to purchase the agency from him, allowing him to retire as soon as it was official on September 1, 2015. His daughter started kindergarten and his son recently turned 3 years old. Robert enjoys staying in contact with other alumni and seeing their successes. E-mail: rjwaggoner33@hotmail.com