



BOBCAT SIG

SPRING
2020

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

JOIN THE VISION

Beta Rho of Sigma Chi House Company Establishes \$125,000 Matching Fund

We are approaching an end of the fundraising period for the renovation of our 722 South Willson chapter house. So far, we have raised approximately \$1.6 million from over 216 generous alumni. We are so fortunate to have alumni who support our effort to keep Beta Rho on top at Montana State. However, we still need those who have not donated to join the *Honoring Our Past 100 Years: Beta Rho's Vision for 2025* capital campaign to reach our \$2 million goal.

To help accomplish this, we have established a matching fund of \$125,000 from several alumni who are committed to seeing the project funded at the level necessary to achieve our original design vision. The matching fund will be used to match dollar for dollar any additional pledge or gift made to the house renovation project by new or existing donors.

If you have wanted to donate to our campaign but thought you couldn't make an impact, think again! We allow alumni to make a pledge to pay off donations over a period of time. So, if you wanted to give \$2,000 but can't do it all at once, you can spread it over several years. For example: A donation of \$1,000 payable over a two-year period (\$500 per year) would result in a matching gift of another \$1,000.

During this final fundraising phase, we have organized a building committee to finalize the design and operational principles before we hire an architect to begin detailed construction planning. Our goal is to have our plans ready so we can begin phased construction in the summer of 2021. Members of the committee are **Jake Range '11**, **Norm Achen '66**, **Paul Boylan '64**, **Rick Dissly '66**, and **Brandon Olsen '21**. The committee has been meeting since December via teleconference. No



We welcomed Grand Quaestor Ryan Temby, Rutgers, and Significant Sig Phillip Olsen '70 to Bozeman for the annual Big Sky Province Conference.

doubt the coronavirus situation will impact the speed of our planning to some extent, but we are hopeful we can maintain our momentum and macro timeline.

We could use two additional brothers who are prepared to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the planning process. Please email Jake Range at jjrange3@gmail.com if you are interested in joining and contributing to the planning of the new chapter house.

In Hoc,
Beta Rho of Sigma Chi House Company

How to Donate

If you are interested in giving, you can donate online at www.bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025/donate.

If you are over or will be over the age of 72 in the next few years, contact Rick Dissly at rdissly@comcast.net for how to donate to the Sigma Chi Foundation - Beta Rho Education Fund directly from your retirement account and receive a federal tax deduction from your adjusted gross income.

All the campaign details can be found on the Beta Rho website at www.bobcatsigs.org/vision-2025.



Regional Chapter Support Coordinator Michael Berger joined us in Bozeman to present the Sigma Chi True Brotherhood Curriculum.



Active members took part in the Bozeman Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics Montana by taking an icy dip into Glen Lake.

SOARING SUCCESS

Beta Rho Chapter Wins 2020 Chapter of the Year at the Big Sky Province Conference

Beta Rho Chapter holds ourselves to the same high standard that we set for ourselves 103 years ago. This chapter has continued to raise the bar by setting ambitious goals, seeing chapter highs through measurable aspects like philanthropic donations and community service, as well as on non-quantitative fronts like the strength of our Brotherhood and morale. We were privileged to host this year's Big Sky Province Conference in Bozeman. At the conference, Beta Rho Chapter was recognized as the 2020 Chapter of the Year and saw Brother **Colton Schlag '20** win the Province Balfour Award.

Engaging the Community and University

One of our main goals this year was to involve the community and campus with our endeavors as a Fraternity. Our chapter is responsible for hosting the second largest American Red Cross blood drive in the region, behind the MSU hosted drive. We now put these blood drives on semi-annually in our chapter house. Attendees were so expressively thankful for the effort that we give our blood drive.

For the first time in chapter history, we had a representative from the Huntsman Cancer Institute come to the Montana State University campus. The purpose was to introduce the HCI and discuss what they have been doing to help find a cure for cancer. Our chapter made HCI a priority last year, donating over \$20,000 to this worthwhile cause. This presentation was put on directly before our weeklong philanthropy event, Derby Days.

During Derby Days, we raised nearly \$10,000, spread awareness for cancer treatment, created chemotherapy care baskets for patients, and had a lot of fun doing so. By putting on this presentation, our chapter was also recognized in the Huntsman Cancer Institute Headlines for Hope newsletter that is sent to their donors and supporters.

While getting the community and University involved with our activities, we must also display that we are not living up to the toxic stigma that many believe Greek Life to be. Therefore, we were one of the first chapters to team up with Alpha Sigma Phi to bring the Gruver family to campus to share their story of their son and how hazing affected him.

We stand with Greek Life at MSU to prevent and raise awareness on hazing. We designed and created an email program sent out the first Wednesday of every month updating our peers on the past month, look-

ing forward to the next month, and featuring a brother on their accomplishments outside of Sigma Chi. Recipients of this email are parents, alumni, friends, and other subscribers. For those that prefer not to receive emails, we also publish each one on our chapter website.

Member Development

Beta Rho has dedicated ourselves to the development of our members through sacrifice and service. This past year, we have requested a Sigma Chi International staff member to come to MSU to deliver a workshop each semester. Aligning each of our decisions through college and our lifetime with the Sigma Chi values and ideals will strengthen us on a personal and fraternal level.

Sigma Chi has done a tremendous job at providing us with these workshops at our request. These workshops are supplemental to our annual Sigma Chi Transformational Leadership Workshop each summer. Since we are a Bell Chapter, we are fortunate enough to take 10 members to this workshop each summer. This has proven to be a large contributor in our future leadership within our chapter by bringing a few young, newly initiated members to receive firsthand experience with leaders from around the nation.

Operations under COVID-19 Pandemic

In light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, we have adjusted chapter operations for the safety of our members. The first step to creating a healthy and safe environment was to have the chapter house completely sanitized by a professional janitorial company, which will be repeated as needed. We also equipped ourselves with a plethora of cleaning and disinfecting supplies to go along with the appropriate cleaning procedures.

Live-in members are practicing social distancing by keeping a minimum of six feet between one another and not welcoming any guests or non-residents in the chapter house. To maintain these precautions and other possible operations, we have continued to have executive team meetings remotely and maintained communication with the entire chapter through the internet. Please stay safe and healthy!

In Hoc,
Brandon Olsen '21
Consul
brandonholsen@gmail.com

Recruitment Standards

As recruitment chairman, I have worked closely with the rest of our executive team to formulate a strategy for recruiting top-quality young men here at Montana State University. As Sigma Chis, our plan for recruitment must first coincide with our fraternity's Jordan Standard for admittance of new members. We have also done our best to not limit our efforts throughout the year by remaining conscious of the general fraternity's strategy for recruiting year-round with its Mission 365 program.

Although we were successful this year with regard to the fraternity-wide expectations for recruitment, we also worked hard to be successful at recruiting with what we as a chapter believe is best for the long-term for Beta Rho. Our goal is to recruit outstanding men who not only fit the standard, but also stand out as the absolute best of the pack. A few of the most important areas we look at when scouting potential new members include high school involvement in sports and extracurricular activities, academic success, and a sense of direction or a plan for their future.

We want young men who are serious about what they want to do in life and who have put thought into how they want to achieve what is meaningful to them. We look for those who have a desire or are seemingly on the right track to go above and beyond to improve the communities they are involved in, as well as better their individual selves. With these goals for recruitment, we hope to recruit young men who will not only become great Sigma Chis, but also outstanding Beta Rhos.

In Hoc,
Weston Danley '22
Recruitment Chairman

ALUMNI NEWS

Chuck Fulton '63 shares, "My wife, Judy, and I have four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. I am still actively flying a Jetprop, skiing, fishing and golfing." Email: cjfulton@cablone.net

Bud Albin '65 enjoys spending half of his year in Las Vegas and the other half in Idaho Falls.

William Johnstone '66 recently retired as chairman and CEO of D.A. Davidson Companies. Prior, he was managing partner at an international law firm based in Minneapolis. William also served in leadership positions at various investment firms. His long history of board service includes the Montana Board of Regents and the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association board of directors.

Craig Feldman '74 shares, "I am retired but working as a security guard for BioWorld in Irving, Texas. Still married to Irina for over 20 years. Our daughter, Lada, is in medical school in Edmond, Okla. We miss Montana more and more." Email: cfeldman@gmail.com

Mark Anderson '94 recently moved from Texas to Deer Lodge, Mont., where he is freezing with his wife and two dogs. Email: markandersonattorneyatlawpllc@gmail.com.

Kevin Bromenshenk '94 married Sally, whom he gave his pin to back in 1992. He worked 14 years in architecture, four years

as an owner's rep. for Whole Foods market construction Department, and has been a SW regional virtual design construction manager for Flintco Construction for the past 10 years. Kevin and Sally adopted their son, Cash, from South Korea in November 2008 and he is 10 years old. The family enjoys motorcycle prohill climbing, coaching and watching Legion baseball, and remodeling their house. Kevin lives in Billings, Mont. Email: kbromenshenk@icloud.com

Robert Sweck '98 reports that at 55 he is about to retire from the trade he pursued before his college education, commercial carpentry. He still keeps in touch with his little brother, **Brian Lee '02**, and visits Montana every few years or so while living in Rhode Island. "I hope all brothers scattered throughout the country are doing well!" Email: rsweck@gmail.com

Chapter Eternal

The following alumni brothers passed on to Chapter Eternal in 2019. They will be missed by their friends, family, and Sigma Chi brothers.

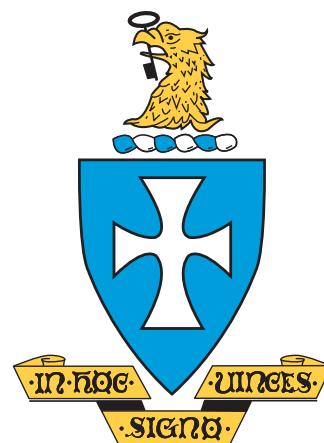
Miles Swan '50 of Great Falls, Mont.
Richard Caruso '52 of Livingston, Mont.
Arthur Allison '57 of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
David Street, M.D. '57 of Steamboat Springs, Colo.
William Yunk '66 of Whitefish, Mont.
Don Breedon '69 of Bozeman, Mont.
John Truscott III '76 of Billings, Mont.

To update your profile and news online go to
bobcatsigs.org/alumni/update-news-profile.

To reconnect with brothers and view the alumni directory, sorted by graduation year, go to bobcatsigs.org/alumni/alumni-directory.
The generic password is betarho1917.



Brothers working hard at the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Belgrade.





BOBCAT SIG

Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi

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Save the Date

September 28-October 3, 2020

Homecoming

The football game takes place on October 3. Montana State will face off against Northern Colorado. Additional information will be announced this summer.



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bobcatsigs.org



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