



BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2015

House Building Corporation Assesses the Future of Beta Rho Volunteer Support Needed to Ensure Sigma Chi's Legacy at Montana State University

WHERE WE ARE

Over the last eight years, a basic financial infrastructure has been in place that includes: a lease agreement between the House Building Corporation (HBC) and the chapter; live-in agreements, which are required for all Brothers living in the chapter house; a financial fact sheet posted each semester clearly explaining chapter house bill charges and when they are due; and detailed house bills, sent via e-mail at the beginning of each semester to every Brother. As a result, both the chapter and HBC have consistently operated in the black.

During this period of time, to keep the house in a livable condition, the HBC hired a handyman and funded several repair and improvement projects, which averaged \$20,000 per year. Some of the more notable improvement projects have been: new closet drapes, new drapes on the south side of the house, new carpet in the living room and hallways, remodel of the girls bathroom, a security system with cameras, addition of water heaters so the boiler can be turned-off during the summer months, new

toilets, and a new fence, patio, basketball court, and sod on the north side of the house.

The active chapter achieved remarkable success over the last eight years, winning the Peterson Significant Chapter award twice in the last four years, the fraternity campus involvement award in 2013 and 2014, most improved GPA for 2012-13, and intramural champions 2011-12. In addition, individual members have been crowned Homecoming King, ASMSU Senators, and Interfraternity Council President throughout the past three years.

We currently have 75 undergraduate actives at MSU including the 20 members who just went through this fall. Our top priority is to focus on quality, keeping the chapter house full, and membership below 85. We believe that being a Bell Chapter is one of the reasons of the significant improvement in the quality and leadership of the chapter. We certainly want to continue this national program in the future. An alumnus established the chapter as a Bell Chapter in 2007, and a small fundraising effort

during our 90th anniversary helped continue this tradition to date.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

The 100-year anniversary of Beta Rho at Montana State University will arrive in 2017. While we will touch on details on the anniversary activities in future newsletters, you won't want to miss Homecoming in 2017. This centennial event is not only a time for celebration, but time to plan how we can provide for the next century for our chapter. Over the next two years, we will continue to work on providing for the next generation of our fraternity. We invite you back, not only to Homecoming in 2017, but to stop by the house whenever you are back in Bozeman. Volunteer support is always needed, and if you want to get involved with the chapter or House Building Corporation, please let us know.

In Hoc,

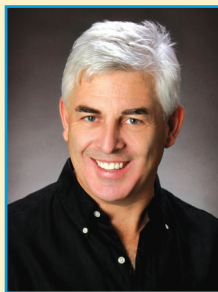
Paul Boylan '63, President / pb8348@gmail.com

Rick Dissly '66, Treasurer / rdissly@comcast.net

Larry Larsen '82 Gained Confidence, Built Character through Beta Rho Brotherhood

Larry Larsen '82 didn't have any brothers of his own, so when his dad's close friend talked him into going through recruitment, he was easily convinced. During recruitment, Larry met some great friends that made the transition smoother. "Once I understood these men would be friends for life, I was in," Larry said. Larry recalls that there were a couple of little sisters who may have influenced his decision to join Sigma Chi.

From the time Larry pledged to when he became an active member of Beta Rho, he had gained Brothers for life. The relationships formed with Brothers helped him find the man in himself and helped him learn to be a Brother. "I learned to respect others' opinions and build character," Larry shared. The time spent living in the Beta Rho chapter house was Larry's first taste of true diversity and gave him the confidence to take impossible situations and turn them into reality.



That confidence instilled in Larry through Beta Rho Brotherhood greatly assisted his transition into the real world. Larry received his B.S. in business in 1982 and has since crossed paths with many Sigma Chis in his professional endeavors. "I always had close Brothers as support," he boasts. Larry encourages recent graduates to make time to stay connected with those Brothers and to make them a part of your life. "Enjoy that brotherhood while in school and develop those long-lasting friendships."

Larry's professional path after graduating has led him to his current position as owner and president of Larry Larsen Real Estate Investment Group, LLC. While Larry has always been involved in real estate, his career started in Seattle, Washington, with Campbell Soup Restaurant Division, before he returned to Montana and purchased IGA Grocery in Ennis. Larry concentrates on real estate

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Larry Larsen '82 Gained Confidence, Built Character through Beta Rho Brotherhood

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investments and is working toward an advanced degree as a CCIM in commercial real estate.

Looking back, some of Larry's fondest memories were the chapter functions, the spring party, intramural sports, great summer weddings, and the best Little Sister program on campus. Larry visits the Beta Rho chapter house often, as he attends all Montana State home football games and tailgates with a number of Brothers. "I have seen the chapter grow and fall," Larry said. "When on its slide, I saw those Brothers I graduated with step in and give a little breath of life to get them back on their feet." Larry gives a special thanks to **Walter Smith '85**, who took matters into his own hands and found a cook for the chapter house when Beta Rho lost their cook due to finances. "That nightly meal was so important in holding that brotherly bond together."

Staying in touch with Brothers is an important part of Larry's life and has been easier in recent years thanks to technology. "We have a very active group text, and we all meet yearly to tell the same old stories," he shared. Larry recently visited **Russell Newberry '84** in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, to celebrate his retirement from the Discovery channel show, *Deadliest Catch*. Other Brothers who made the trip were **Walter Smith '85**, **Terry Bruckbauer '82**, **Robert Morton '82**, and **Bryan Henson '84**. Larry urges Beta Rho graduates to reach out to their Brothers now. "There is no time like today to give them a call. It will feel like yesterday," Larry said. "It's not a four-year commitment; it's a lifelong friendship."

Larry has two children with his former wife, Sheila Larsen: a daughter, Lauren, and a son, Austin, who is a 2014 member of Sigma Chi. Larry resides in Billings, Montana, and enjoys traveling, hunting, skiing, and playing golf in his spare time. E-mail: larry@floborg.com



Congratulations, Chris Eddlemon '16, for being crowned Homecoming King.



Blake Bowman '17, with Karen Waarvik and Sam McCue '16, received the Karston Waarvik Memorial Scholarship for his dedication to the chapter and the Montana State University campus.



Reilly Parisot '17 and Matt Moriarty '16 represent Beta Rho on the Sigma Chi pirate ship float during the Homecoming parade, which we received the award for "best float".

ONWARD AND UPWARD Undergraduates Clock More Than 270 Service Hours, Maintain 3.0 GPA, Recruit 20

This semester has been one of the finest that Beta Rho has had the fortune of experiencing. We implemented new programs to help keep our 20 new members involved and to prepare them for the obligations and privileges of Brotherhood. The new attitudes of the Brothers and the incoming class are truly making a difference in our everyday lives. These changes and improvements that the chapter is seeing will guarantee success long into the future.

One substantial change that the chapter made was its involvement on campus and in the community. More than ever, Brothers are taking advantage of opportunities to make a difference through the student body government, Interfraternity Council, and summer orientation leader programs, as well as devoting more than 173 community service hours to God's Garden, a local farm that supplies Bozeman's food bank. Even with all of this involvement,

the undergraduate Brothers have been able to maintain their 3.0 GPA from the spring semester, while still enjoying the social side of college. With all of this success, there is inevitable improvement of our public reputation. This semester, we have been diligently improving our relationship with the police, university officials, and especially the sororities, which have all paid off greatly.

It is with great pleasure that I can say, Sigma Chi is the leader on campus. We are what the other chapters aspire to be, and we will continue to prosper for years to come. We thank you for your endless support and hope that we will continue to make you proud to be a Sigma Chi.



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Annotator/Risk Manager
Jachike Madubuko '17
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House Manager
Trevor Nesbitt '18
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Steward
Tanner Stockwell '18
Gig Harbor, Wash.

Scholarship Chairman
Tanner Stockwell '18
Gig Harbor, Wash.

Historian/Tribune/
Chapter Editor
Rio Moore '18
Boulder, Colo.

Kustos
Danton Evilsizer '16
Eagle River, Alaska

Public Relations Chairman
Blake Bowman '17
Missoula, Mont.

ALUMNI NEWS

Robert C. Lund '65 spends his free time skiing and mountain biking. He lives in Whitefish, Mont., and is always looking for Sigma Chis to hit the mountains with. E-mail: boblund@ngtech.com

Rick L. Dissly '66 has worked hard toward a highly successful career, taking on the role of chief financial officer for several major companies in northern California. He and his wife, Judi, have two children, Todd and Erin, and live in San Jose, Calif. E-mail: dissly@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 lives in Virginia City, Mont. E-mail: tebmjb@gmail.com

Roger L. Schelin '69 and his wife, Sandy, have enjoyed traveling since their retirement. They have visited Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, England, Europe, and the Caribbean. Roger and Sandy spend their winters in Las Vegas, but return to their cabin in Roscoe, Mont., during the summer. E-mail: granmasam@yahoo.com

Walter C. Backer '72 is pleased to be retiring after more than 40 years with Northwestern Energy. He lives in Billings, Mont. E-mail: walt.backer5@gmail.com

Steven F. Bell '74 and his wife, Susan, are both retired and enjoy figuring out just how retirement works. "We divide our time between Houston, Santa Fe, and Montana." E-mail: sfbell@flash.net

Alumni Communication Vital to Active Chapter Success



Nick Selden '18, Luke Laketa '19, and Chase Wheeler '18 work at harvesting a variety of food at God's Garden, Bozeman, all of which is donated to the Montana food bank. Sigma Chi helped in harvesting over 2,531 pounds of food.

This fall, the active chapter has made it their goal to increase the accuracy of their alumni contact information database by 20%. We currently have e-mail addresses for 750 alumni out of a total of 1,350 alumni. I am assisting Beta Rho in updating their database to effectively enhance communication between the active members and alumni. Please send in your preferred e-mail address and phone number to me at norm@normanachen.com, so we can add you onto our mailing list. Also, if you have the e-mail address and phone number for other Beta Rho Brothers, please send them our way as well. We would love to have all 1,350 Brothers on our mailing list! Our e-mails are sent from sigmachibetarhoalumni@gmail.com. Please add this to your contacts to prevent our e-mail going to junk mail.

This is vital because the active chapter utilizes e-mail to keep alumni in the loop of upcoming events each semester. For example, active members send out an e-mail prior to Homecoming each year, which includes the time of the house cocktail party and the location of the alumni tailgate. E-mail is the main form of communication active members use to keep Beta Rho Brothers included in chapter events, such as initiation, Derby Days, and various happenings throughout the year, which alumni are encouraged to join. The 100th anniversary of Beta Rho is coming up in November 2017, so we want to make sure all alumni receive the latest information.

In Hoc,
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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 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: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I would like to give the following amount to Beta Rho Chapter:

☐ \$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

