



The Bobcat Sig



Published by the Beta Rho Chapter of the
Sigma Chi Fraternity at Montana State University

I hope this newsletter finds you celebrating the holidays with those you love! My apologies for sending this newsletter a bit late this year, but as you will see in the following articles both MSU and Beta Rho are alive and well. Through many phone calls and e-mails the alumni support for Beta Rho is forever evolving and the alumni leadership is constantly striving to better keep our alumni informed. The *Bobcat Sig* remains the best generic form of communication to our alumni and the

goal of the publication is to provide an honest perspective of events surrounding the undergraduate chapter, alumni chapter, house corporation, and MSU Greek life. Some of the articles will make us proud as Beta Rho brothers while others may leave a bitter taste in our mouth. Each of us has taken a life-long commitment that encompasses more than just four to five years as an undergraduate brother. If you are concerned with any aspect of MSU Greek life or Beta Rho we encourage you to

share your thoughts, but more importantly contact us on how you can assist us to improve our beloved chapter and campus. Finally, if you have an update that you want printed or a great Sig picture please be sure to pass it along!

Ryan Roseleip
Bobcat Sig Editor
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Honoring a Beta Rho Founding Member

Last Thursday night, Rolf (Groseth) and I (Jaynee Drange Groseth), attended an Honor's Dinner at the Sigma Chi house. We had received a formal written invitation, requesting our attendance. We were met at the door by several young men dressed in suits and ties. We were greeted and welcomed to the house. We met others (also in dress attire) as they appeared. Soon, we were invited into the dining room where the tables were set and several young men were putting the finishing touches on the meal.

Jane and Dick Klockman were the honored guests that evening. Jane's father was Paul Davidson, a founding member of the Beta Rho Chapter. The meal began with potato soup, followed by pork tenderloin. Grace was spoken before the meal. The pledges and members were handsome and polite.

The members were very gracious with Jane and Dick. It was nice to see what a nice relationship they had together. Not only was Jane familiar with Sigma Chi

due to her father, she and Dick are across the street neighbors. The Klockman's thanked the chapter for their active participation in the neighborhood association so there is evidentially a continuous conversation and a positive one.

After dinner, everyone went upstairs where Jane made a presentation to the chapter members and showed some pictures on a projector. She presented several things of her father's for the library including several plaques that consisted of her dad being an honorary citizen of New Orleans, Order of Constantine, the Semi-Century Sig Award, and a plaque dealing with his help in the creation of Beta Rho. Jane also presented several badges that she is going to put in a shadow box for the chapter.

Everyone was most interested and attentive to the history that she told of her father and the early chapter. I was asked to speak a bit, as was Rolf. I quietly suggested to the President of the chapter

that they sing the sweetheart song to Jane. At the conclusion of the evening, Jane was surrounded by the young men, on bended knee, as they sang her "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi". She was absolutely delighted.

Rolf and I left with a smile on our face. We arrived at 6:30 p.m.; we left about 9:30 p.m. We had had a wonderful time, met wonderful students and commented on the fact that we wished each of you could have been with us. You would have been proud. I certainly was.

Conversations continue at Montana State University about the Greek system. I was encouraged and invigorated that evening by spending it with members of your chapter. I thought you would like a little update.

Jayne Drange Groseth
Executive Director
MSU Alumni Association

Plan to join us and celebrate Beta Rho's 90th Anniversary at the 2007 MSU Homecoming. Details to Follow!

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Consuls Perspective



Top Row Left to Right: Pro Consul Cory Dailey, Consul J Greg Halbert, Magister Jackson Demler, Recruitment Chairman Yicheol Ha, Quaestor Matt Barnes

We're doing great here at Beta Rho, we are all well into our school work and we're definitely making time to enjoy ourselves in true Sigma Chi fashion. Recruitment went great and we came away with 14 excellent pledges, by far the most on campus, who have already shown an impressive dedication to

becoming part of our brotherhood in the short time they have been around. We all stand behind Magister Jackson Demler in his efforts to prepare each of these 14 young men for their lives with Beta Rho and Sigma Chi.

The house is in great shape. We've all pitched in and used our various, albeit limited, talents to work the house into the best condition possible. Many brothers have put in many hours and much of their own funds to renovate the first floor of the house, not just their rooms. We are continuing to raise funds to build a new deck, we have a goal to have enough funds to have a new deck built by the beginning of next school year.

Fundraisers currently have included a sponsorship by Monster Energy Drink, a student film being shot in the chapter room, and we are trying to brainstorm other ideas currently to guarantee this new deck is a reality.

Consul J. Greg Halbert has dedicated himself to creating strong ties, especially with the Montana State University Staff and the Neighborhood Association. Through his and the chapter's work we have enjoyed much support from the community and we've been able to further ourselves in everything we do.

We've all worked hard to keep the chapter faithful to its traditions and heritage. Our future is in our history and we hope to contribute as much to Beta Rho as the brothers before who have entrusted us with the care of their chapter.

Greg Halbert, Consul
Greg_Halbert@hotmail.com

Perspectives from the Chapter Advisor

Greetings from Bozeman! We are near the end of the semester and already we have some good and bad things to report.

On the positive side: Our leadership is the best that I have seen in years. We had 5 Active Brothers plus Grand Praetor Duane Ray and myself attend Balfour Leadership Training Workshop (BLTW) at Ball State University this summer. It was a great time to meet Sigs from all over the country, to build our leadership skills, and for some awesome brotherhood. Beta Rho was able to work on our game plan for the coming school year and came away with the decision that we need to uphold our standards. For example, any brother with unpaid house bills by January 1st 2007 will not be allowed to live in until those bills are current.

Rush is ongoing, but we currently have 14 pledges with 5 lined up for spring semester pledgship. We are taking

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Mission 365's Recruitment program seriously and I think we can look forward to continued growth in the House. The Chapter cleaned all of the accumulated junk out of the hallways and the house looks quite impressive. We have also instituted a Room Check In/Out procedure and \$200 deposit to provide more accountability for damage and removal of personal property when a brother moves out of the house.

I appointed two Alumni Brothers to serve as mentors to our actives; Jeremy Devries will mentor the Magister Jackson Demler, and Duane Ray will coach our Quaestor. That means until I find other local Alums I will be mentoring the other top five officers. If you are interested in mentoring one of our top five officers on at least a monthly basis, please give me a call at 406.579.2467 or an email at mgilk@qwest.net to discuss the commitment.

Now for the bad news: We have discovered financial theft by 2 brothers, Mike Jessop (alumnus) & Justin Jessop (former Quaestor), in our House. Irregularities were noted in the chapter's statements and after investigation we discovered serious problems. Duane Ray (Grand Praetor), Greg Halbert (Consul) and myself sat down with each brother and asked them what was going on. After some denial, they both admitted to theft/embezzlement (Justin) and forgery (Mike).

Both brothers expressed remorse and a desire to repay what they had stolen. Mike took checks from his brother Justin's room (without Justin's knowledge), forged signatures and deposited the money in his personal account for approximately \$920. Mike also owes the house \$4,000 to \$5,000 in unpaid house bills. Justin wrote checks to three family members and to various local food

vendors (mainly Papa Johns Pizza), etc. and credited his house bill on the Omega collection system. Justin's total misappropriation and unpaid house bills is roughly \$7,000 to \$8,000. We will have a repayment schedule/loan finalized very soon. Both people have been instructed to move out of the house immediately. Both brothers were also informed that prompt repayment and vacating the house were required to prevent us from taking legal action.

In response to this issue, we are making changes in the following areas: Two signatures required on all checks and a

weekly meeting with the Alumni Quaestor Mentor Duane Ray. Matt Barnes has been appointed our new Quaestor. I believe that this will prevent any further financial problems.

I see the job of the Chapter Advisor to advise and mentor the Active Chapter and also to keep our Alumni informed of the positive as well as the negative events taking place at the chapter. It is with a heavy heart that I have to report this serious issue to you at this time. I have tried to provide a summary of sorts and am available to answer any questions or concerns that you may have. I can be

reached via email or at 406.579.2467. Rest assured that we have thoroughly investigated these matters and believe that we have rooted out all of the corruption. Both brothers were told if anything else surfaces then the next step is a call to the sheriff. I expect to have details of the repayments for you very soon.

Your comments, questions, and concerns are welcome.

Mike Gilkerson, Chapter Advisor
mgilk@qwest.net

MSU Greeks Under New Leadership

Beta Rho Sigs will be meeting some new faces at the MSU administrative level this fall. Major changes have taken place in the Office of Student Affairs that should prove to have a very positive effect on the Greek system. Dean of Students Courtney Stryker accepted a position in the United Arab Emirates and departed campus on August 31. Her interim replacement is Associate Dean Glenn Puffer who will be responsible for overseeing all Greek activities. Puffer has assisted in a variety of programs involving Greeks in past years and will maintain his new post until a new Dean is hired.

Over the past four years, the vital position of Greek Coordinator has seen five individuals rotate through the system and the position is currently vacant. The good news is...Erin Macdonald Peck has come on board as a Greek consultant to assist

the Panhellenic and Inter-Fraternity Councils, as well as train a student intern, A'Lynn Schields, a Pi Beta Phi, who will take on more administrative duties upon graduation in December. Erin is a Alpha Xi Delta from Eastern Washington U who has worked for several years as a leadership consultant to 23 chapters within her sorority as well as advisor to 13 sororities at Oregon State. Her experience includes coordinating recruitment efforts, promoting academic achievement, member development and providing resources to alumni volunteers.

With many changes taking place within the Greek system at MSU, administratively and among the houses, Erin and A'Lynn are welcome additions that will be working hard to build the Greek numbers and help formalize goals to strengthen the combined efforts of all

MSU chapters. Look for a progress report in the next Beta Rho Sig.

In response to a shrinking Greek system (most recently the closing of Lambda Chi's chapter), MSU has agreed to fund a visit by Jon Williamson from NIC (National Interfraternity Council). This visit will take place January 15-18, 2007. Jon will conduct an assessment of the Greek community. It will be pro-active and is focused on solutions to current campus/cultural issues (recruitment, alcohol, dysfunctional behavior, communications, teamwork, leadership, community service, etc.) and is dedicated to the growth of the Greek community.

Bill Gum, Alumnus
bgum@whidbey.net

MSU Greek Fast Facts			
Fraternity	Active Members	New Members	Live-ins
Alpha Gamma Rho	23	N/A	20
Kappa Sigma	8	6	7
Phi Sigma Kappa	13	9	9
Pi Kappa Alpha	17	10	17
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	9	13	4
Sigma Chi	27	14	21
Sigma Phi Epsilon	20	8	N/A
Sorority			
Alpha Gamma Delta	23	10	24
Alpha Omicron Pi	28	7	28
Chi Omega	28	16	28
Pi Beta Phi	22	9	23

House Corporation Report

In an effort to keep our alumni better informed and to give you the current status of our financial obligations we have developed this report. The main responsibility of the HBC (House Building Corporation) is for the renovation, maintenance and repair expenses of the Chapter House and for expenses related to the publication of *The Bobcat Sig*. All HBC Board members volunteer their time and efforts so there is no payroll or benefit expense. The net worth statement for HBC as of August 31, 2006 is listed below, however, I also wanted to provide an overview of where we currently stand.

Just a quick comment on the income and the expenses of HBC. The active chapter pays all the operational expenses related to the Chapter House, except the property taxes and property and liability insurance which are paid directly by the HBC. The active chapter pays \$17,000 per semester to the HBC to cover the property taxes and the property & liability insurance plus minor maintenance and repair expenses at the house.

Other than income from the chapter, HBC's only source of income is from the annual contributions from Beta Rho Alumni. At this point the HBC needs approximately \$30,000 to pay off the

Boiler Loan of \$15,000 and to repair the deck which will cost \$15,000. I would like brothers who have not contributed to the boiler project thus far to join me in a donaton for this cause. Contributions can be mailed to me at the address listed below. I will start it off with a \$1000 contribution. Thanks for your generosity and I will see you at Homecoming.

Rick Dissly, House Corp Member
6651 Leyland Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95120
Dissly@aol.com

HBC net worth statement as of 8/31/06

Cash	\$10,435
Chapter House (FMV)	\$1,000,000
Total Assets	\$1,010,435
Mortgage	\$0
Boiler Loan	\$15,000
Total Liabilities	\$15,000
Total Equity	\$995,435
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,010,435



Beta Rho Sigma Chi Cruise – April '05: Front row: from left: Bill Breeden '65, Dave Seibel '64, Norm Achen '65, Bill Gum '66, Frank Schulz '66, Rick Dissly '66, Brian Loucks '64. **Back Row:** Chuck Brastrup '75, Joe Zeiler '66, Bob Gum '63, Jim Schwend '65, Larry Ferguson '65

Beta Rho House Building Corporation - Contribution Form
(Please print all information)

Please update your contact data even if you can not make a contribution this year. Note that future newsletters most likely will be via email.

Name _____
Home Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____
Preferred Email Address _____
Class _____

Contribution: \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____

Please consider an annual contribution of \$50 to fund the Bobcat Sig Newsletter and maintain the Beta Rho contact list. Contributions over \$50 are used to fund renovation projects at the house.

Contributions should be payable to: **Beta Rho Sigma Chi House Building Corporation**
Attention: Brother Rick Dissly
6651 Leyland Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95120

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