



The Bobcat Sig



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

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alumni officer advisors. This group of advisors is collectively known as the Advisory Board. More information about the Advisory Board can be found on our website www.bobcatsigs.org.

We are having monthly conference calls with most of the alumni officer advisors and their respective chapter officers to identify actions necessary to improve chapter operations. One thing is clear, a chapter with 25 members cannot accomplish what a chapter with a 100 members could. If we attempt to do so, we will do a poor job at everything. Therefore, we are setting priorities and identifying not only what needs to be done, but also what will not be done.

Our objective for the next several years is to increase both the quantity and quality members (80-100 members with 25-30 members living in the house) through continuous recruiting effort throughout the year rather than just a focus on recruiting during rush. Our recruiting task force is laying out a plan of attack, but we need alumni help. Contact Recruitment Chairman Dennis Brown (cell = 715-490-0536 or dennis.brown1@myportal.montana.edu) to submit potential members. You can also visit our website at www.bobcatsigs.org to submit any contact information you have on a potential member who will be or is currently attending MSU. We need your help to achieve our top objective of increasing the quantity and quality of our undergraduate chapter.

To date our major accomplishments have been (1) to recruit alumni officer advisors for the chapter officers who will be proactive in assisting the active chapter and (2) to draft the Beta Rho Financial Operating Procedures to ensure that we have the internal accounting controls in place to provide accurate and timely financial statements of the chapter.

At this time we are looking for alumni volunteers to replace our current Quaestor Advisor and our Editor Advisor. The Editor Advisor is responsible for coordinating and issuing the Bobcat Sig semi-annually. The Quaestor Advisor should be a CPA or have an accounting background.

YOU CAN HELP – Give recruitment referrals to dennis.brown1@myportal.montana.edu. Also, we are in search of an alumnus to produce future publications of the Bobcat Sig. Further we are in search of a Quaestor Advisor. Contact Duane Ray at dray@bobcatsigs.com if interested. **NOT NECESSARY TO LIVE IN BOZEMAN!**

RETURN TO EXCELLENCE

During the 2007-2008 school year many changes have happened and will be happening at Beta Rho. From Beta Rho's 90th birthday celebration observed during homecoming to the newly created Advisor Board the year has been full of action.

Last December Chapter Advisor Mike Gilkerson resigned due to his increase in demand at his work. We would like to thank Brother Gilkerson for his contribution as Chapter Advisor and wish him success in his new venture.

In the past, the Chapter Advisor ended up being the advisor for virtually all of the chapter officers. As a result, the position of Chapter Advisor has been a huge time commitment. Unfortunately, the daunting time commitment has caused many worthy brothers to decline the position. Therefore, we have taken a different approach to the position of the Chapter Advisor and his many job responsibilities. Starting spring semester, we have paired several chapter officers with

New Beta Rho Officers

Consul	Kyle Palagi	kjpalagi@hotmail.com Phone: (406) 498-1615
Pro Consul	James Bradley	james.bradley1@myportal.montan.edu Phone: (406) 600-0075
Quaestor	John Harrison	Missoulajohn@aol.com Phone: (406) 546-1047
Magister	Justin Mito	jmito@montan.edu Phone: (206) 335-2911
Annotator	Andrew Garber	agjump@hotmail.com Phone: (970) 879-3646
Recruitment	Dennis Brown	dennis.brown1@myportal.montana.edu Phone: (715) 282-5206
Risk Manager	Christopher Naeseth	naeseth_bomb@hotmail.com Phone: (406) 622-3746

HOUSE CORPORATION REPORT

Our major accomplishment this year has been the formalization of the relationship between the House Building Corporation, the Active chapter and the occupants/members living in the house. We now have the following written documents in place (1) an annual lease agreement between the House Building Corporation and active chapter that requires a \$2000 upfront deposit to be used for any damage to the house and lease payments which total \$34,000 (2) live-in agreements for all occupants/members which require a room deposit of \$200 for any damage to a room, agreement to a payment schedule for the house bill amount and agreement to abide by the House Building Corporation rules and regulations (3) check-in/check-out procedures and room assessment form to determine if there has been any damage by the occupant/member to the room.

Annual expenses (disbursements) by the HBC include the property tax (\$7,000), property and liability insurance (\$13,000), alumni chapter dues (\$150), the Bobcat Sig mailing cost, minor house repairs during the year (\$6,000), repayment of the boiler debt (\$3,000) and a contribution to the major house repair or addition account (\$5,000).

During the weekend of June 7th & 8th, we will be doing our annual house repair projects. Please contact me at (406) 570-6360 or email at pboylan@theglobal.net if you wish to join in. We always have a good time and it is a great chance to meet the undergraduate brothers.

We had a Risk Management Foundation safety inspection of the house in August 2007 and only had a couple of items that needed attention. The large hole in the parking lot and fire alarm system has been repaired as recommended. Also, it should be noted that the insured value of the house is \$1.7 million. This includes the cost of tear down, clean up and rebuilding a similar replacement structure.

The remaining boiler debt is \$11,500 and we would welcome additional alumni contributions to retire this debt. The form can be found at the bottom of this page.

YOU CAN HELP - Consider making a contribution to help pay the remaining debt of \$11,500 for the boiler that was replaced for safety reasons two years ago! Contribution details can be found at the bottom of this page. Join our alumni and undergraduate brothers as they join forces on June 7th and 8th for the annual house repair project. Contact Paul Boylan at pboylan@theglobal.net for specific details!

BETA RHO HOUSE BUILDING CORPORATION CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name:
Home Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Preferred Email Address:

Contribution Amount:

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

Contributions Payable to:

Beta Rho Sigma Chi House Building Corporation
Attention: Brother Rick Dissy
6651 Leyland Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95120

HOUSE MANAGER ADVISOR REPORT

The condition of the house determines what Alumni like you and I give to the chapter. With that in mind, several alumni like myself have the unique privilege to advise our undergraduate brothers during their tenures as chapter officers. I assumed the role of House Manager Advisor at the request of Grand Praetor Duane Ray at the beginning of the Spring '08 semester. Working with house manager Matt Darfler I have realized the importance of the role I have filled. Matt and I have met on two occasions already and we are trying to maintain a bi-weekly meeting schedule.

Our meetings have consisted of touring the house, discussing the gun safe being built by the chapter, making project lists for the summer build day, room check-ins, lease agreements between brothers and the chapter, chapter rules and their enforcement just to name a few. Matt and I are making a book that will include by-laws, duties, chapter rules, standard operating procedures, contractor lists, and how much space each occupant receives for his belongings.

We are hoping with a manual such as this, we will help create a continuity between house managers and eliminate the tendency of them making up their own rules, and help those who follow know how much work is ahead of them. I am excited to see what we can do, but know it will involve a lot of work.



CONGRATULATIONS to the HONORABLE CHARLES “CHIP” ERDMANN '68 for being selected as a Beta Rho Significant Sig by the Sigma Chi International Fraternity. Brother Erdmann has been a judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces since January 2003. The award ceremony will take place during Homecoming 2008 so please join us to celebrate this Sigma Chi milestone.

PRO CONSUL ADVISOR REPORT

We conducted our second Pro Consul conference calls this week so are just getting started with this advisory. So far we (Rick and I) have become better acquainted with the active chapter landscape and reviewed the chapter bylaws with the Consul, Pro Consul and Chapter Advisor. The bylaws include chapter officer job descriptions, which was a good starting point. I will soon be initiating one-on-one bi-weekly communications with the Pro Consul to discuss emerging matters, such as disciplinary actions, and have started a list of short term and long term Pro consul action items which will serve as the basis of further discussion. Most of the short term action items are basic administrative in nature such as discussion of an upcoming chapter officer retreat and using the chapter website more effectively. Longer term we are looking at developing a one page business plan for the chapter, reviewing officer turnover notebooks and renewing the prominence of the Judicial Board as a tool for adjudication disciplinary matters.

QUAESTOR ADVISOR REPORT

Just as a person's finances can be a window into a person's life, so can chapter finances be a window into a chapter's "life." Chapter's that excel in chapter finance tend to do significantly better in other areas of chapter operations. Improved financial accountability usually translates to improved accountability across the board including better meeting attendance, better officer accountability and better academics to name a few.

Brother Rick Dissly and I have been working closely with current Quaestor John Harrison to improve Beta Rho's finances and financial procedures. Because of the yearly officer turnover. We've opted to have a bookkeeper for the chapter to ensure that the books are kept sufficiently and aren't inadvertently lost during the officer transition. Currently, Brother Dissly is serving as the chapter's bookkeeper until another alumni bookkeeper can be identified.

Brother Dissly is utilizing his past experience as CFO and his involvement with the finances of other non-profit organizations to help create a Financial Operating Procedures Manual that we hope to have implemented for Fall 2008. This manual outlines most of the Quaestor's responsibilities from check writing to billing/collection policies and procedures. With a significant decline in membership from just a few years ago (translates into a decline in chapter's income), it's no secret that the finances of the chapter have been strained. However, with the proper procedures in place, the chapter will be able to succeed through this decline and be positioned to excel as the membership numbers begin to increase again.

CAREER MENTOR PROGRAM REPORT

Brother Rick Dissly and I have developed a list of approximately fifty (50) Beta Rho Alumni who have had successful careers in a wide variety of professions: engineering, accounting, medicine, sales, military, aviation, architecture, computer fields, farming and ranching, self-employment, and many more. It is our thought that these people will be available to help undergraduates in several ways during their undergraduate years.

First, mentors are a source of knowledge as to what employers are looking for in a new graduate. They can help undergraduates develop goals and strategies for a successful college career. They can help undergraduates decided where their interest lie and help them get started on a career. Finally, they can help them job search.

We believe this program will help the chapter in its recruitment efforts. A program such a this will attract more potential pledges and thus strengthen the chapter. I have not yet presented the program to the chapter officers, but hope to do so in the coming weeks.



“All Honor To Their Name.”

Brothers that entered the chapter eternal:

Thomas Christie '67

James “Jim” Bartron '62

Duane Douglas '65

Kenneth Spain '68

CONSULS CORNER

The semester began with a bang! The newly elected top five officers began shaping a house that we felt most exemplified Sigma Chi and would assist in our recruiting efforts. In the first week of classes we effectively advertised, carried out interviews, and ultimately ended up hiring a cook. Thus far the addition of a cook has been a success in building brotherhood and unity through the dinners provided on Monday through Thursdays of each week.

With the guidance of Brother James Bradley, the once keg room of our house has been converted into a secure gun locker. This will provide a place for brothers to store their fire arms and assist in keeping the house a safe and liable place for everyone. All brothers living in the house will be required to check their fire arms in with the house manager and will have to go through the house manager or Pro Consul to check in/out all weapons.

Beta Rho displayed it's willingness to lend a hand in volunteer services on Friday, March 28th. We made up 2/3 of the total student volunteers that assisted the city, county, state, and campus emergency response training seminar. Three of our brothers (Matt Darfler, David Cavanaugh, and Jordan Hennessy) volunteered to be processed as "victims" by the various emergency response teams; while many other Sigma Chi volunteers assisted with additional training operations.

In the next few weeks our spring semester will be winding down as the dark cloud of finals approaches. We will be having our annual Sweetheart dance on April 12th in Big Sky and initiation of the spring pledge class during the following week. Spritis are high and brotherhood is strong. We thank all the alumni for their continued support.

BETA RHO 90th ANNIVERSARY "GIVE BACK" CAMPAIGN

You can see that a lot of activity is taking place to return the chapter to excellence through the Advisor Board and the House Building Corporation. While a lot can be accomplished without obtaining funds, securing Beta Rho's future will depend in large part on the success of the 90th Anniversary fundraising campaign.

The purpose of the fundraising campaign was to create a competitive advantage whereby we would provide leadership & academic awards to Beta Rho members and ensure that the chapter house is maintained at a level which would be a plus in our recruiting efforts within an annual budget.

Thus an endowment fund has been established with the Sigma Foundation such that only the profit on the principal can be spent annually which would only begin when we are close to reaching our goal of \$1,000,000 in funding.

We announced the 90th Anniversary Fundraising campaign at Homecoming last year and I am happy to announce that we have made significant progress. To date 10 heavy hitters have pledged \$135,000 and a total of \$163,000 has been committed. Below is a listing of brothers who have contributed.

up to \$249	\$500-\$999	\$1K-\$4,999	\$5K-\$9,999	\$10K-\$24,999	\$25K+
James Barton 62 Wilbur Kukes 62	Doug Moulton 65	Chester Brown 59 Frank Brown 30 Rick Buckingham 65 William Erwin 63 Doug Skoog 66 Walter Smith 85 Stephen Spencer 79 Gerald Steinbrenner 81	John Wishman 04	Active Chapter Norman Achen 66 Ryan Donahue 04 Bill Johnstone 66 David Kem 66 Brian Loucks 64 Wilford Poppie 60 Duane Ray 00 John Wagoner 65	Rick Dissly 66 Tristan Renz 79

Our objective in 2008 is to get another 15 heavy hitters. To accomplish this we need volunteers who graduated in the 50s, 80s and 90s to join the fundraising committee. You will notice that most of the heavy hitters are from the 60s & 2000s and that is because we have brothers on the fundraising committee for those decades. Please contact Rick Dissly at 408-348-4337 or dissly@aol.com if you are interested. As a minimum you will renew your friendship with long lost brothers.

For more information and a pledge form see our website www.bobcatsigs.org. **Pease note that putting a provision in your will is an excellent why of making a contribution or an annual commitment. Thank you for your support of Beta Rho.**

Please send subscription requests to newsletter@bobcatsigs.org or call 608-225-7639.