



# The Bobcat Sig



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Sigma Chi Fraternity at Montana State University

## Greetings From Your House Corporation President

Greetings from Bozeman!! We have had a year of growth by degrees. By that I mean that we have taken many small steps over the last six months that continue to "shore up our foundation" at Beta Rho.

Our second annual Beta Rho Build Day is a prime example. With the help of twelve brothers and alumni we installed a cabinet in the dining room to cover the hole left from the hardwood floor remodel. We also painted several of the rooms; repaired and replaced ceiling tiles in the hallway and individual rooms; and spent significant time replacing sink fixtures and shower heads. We replaced a sink on the second floor that has leaked for at least a couple of years. This is a partial list of what we accomplished and I personally would like to thank those that gave of their time and energy to improve Beta Rho from the inside out.

**As you all know, we had to replace our boiler, which cost approximately \$30,000 for the entire project. I am proud to tell you that we only had to borrow \$20,000 as we had donations that covered the balance! Thank you to the many brothers that donated for this project!** We still owe \$20,000 and your continued support will be

appreciated as we retire this debt and move on to other worthy projects. Please stop by Beta Rho and see what we have been able to accomplish with your generosity. I would also like to thank Western Plumbing for all the help they have provided us over the years and for the professionalism with which they installed our boiler.

As a board we are looking at what opportunities are available to Beta Rho regarding our property at 722 S. Willson. We have engaged the services of Intrinsic Architects to explore if it makes more sense to sell our current structure and purchase property on campus (Greek way) or if we should undertake a major renovation and what would that entail. I expect to have answers to those questions and a plan for discussion at our Homecoming meeting the Friday before the Homecoming football game. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

I have been privileged to have spent considerable time at the house over the last 18 months and in that time have seen our active chapter become stronger and rebound from a period of decline. I have seen our young men at their best and at their worst,

and I have shared many happy ours of brotherhood with them. I hope we as alumni will get to know these young men first and then offer encouragement and direction to them. Our undergraduate brothers need to hear your experiences from Beta Rho, life, family, and career. Several of the brothers have expressed a desire for the chapter to raise \$3,000 to \$5,000 to repair the deck which I think is a fine example of the changes and leadership that is beginning to become more evident at our beloved chapter!! Perhaps, we could commit to doubling or tripling whatever funds the actives raise.

Your House Building Corporation will continue to improve the physical structure of the house and will try to think ahead and solve the problems of tomorrow before they become the disaster of today.

*Michael Gilkerson '96  
HBC President  
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## Province Updates from the Grand Praetor

The Big Sky Annual Province Conference took place last February. Kappa Lambda – Albertson hosted the conference. To help our chapters strengthen their recruitment, Mission 365 was introduced briefly to the chapters at the Province Conference. Mission 365 is Sigma Chi's recruitment program. It is a weekend retreat where the chapter learns about effective recruitment techniques. Chapters that have had this program previously have had significant improvement in recruitment. Last school year, after the program was introduced at our conference, it was brought locally to

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Beta Rho – Montana State, Beta Upsilon – Washington State, Gamma Eta – Idaho and Kappa Lambda.

The Big Sky Province has had a busy summer participating in Grand Chapter, the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration, Balfour Leadership Training Workshop and numerous recruitment activities. During Grand Chapter, Rich Thompson, Beta Delta '71, was elected to the position of Grand Trustee for a six year term. Rich will be the Grand Trustee for 2-4 provinces including the Big Sky. Future developments in the Big Sky include securing Alumni Chapter status in Bozeman, bringing Mission 365 to

Beta Delta – Montana and Gamma Epsilon – Whitman and celebrating Beta Delta's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. Also, current Grand Consul Keith Krach has agreed to attend our Province Conference hosted by Beta Rho. The conference is tentatively scheduled for February 3-4, 2006.

*Duane Ray '00  
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Big Sky Province  
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## Chapter Advisor's Perspective

Last Semester was very busy for the undergraduate chapter. **Our brothers had 24 brothers living in and this is an increase from the semester before. We started off in arrears with HBC and are now current on our account.** Mike Gilkerson has come up with a great plan to make the house living arrangements more responsive to damage that is over and above normal wear and tear. He will be checking brothers in to their rooms and charging a small deposit against any mishaps that may occur over the course of the semester. A great idea I think you will agree. The bottom line is that the more brothers living in the better the brotherhood, finances, recruitment, and everything else that goes into making a great fraternity. To that end the brothers also changed the by-laws last semester to more firmly state that the standard is that

once eligible all brothers are required to live in the chapter house. Good job brothers!  
We had three legacies become brothers including Barrett and Jackson Demler and Derrik Stensrude. We have added seven new members to our numbers and summer recruiting is going on right now. If you know of a young man who meets the Jordan Standard coming to MSU you will be doing him a disservice if you don't make two phone calls: one to the young man, urging him to go Sigma Chi and the second, to either our recruitment chairman Paul Bloch 579-7095 or to our Pro Consul Chris Laraby (406) 579-5777. The fall is traditionally our biggest pledge class and we are going to pick the best!  
Times have changed for our fraternity, there is now not a single weekend in a semester where there is not something

scheduled for the men to participate in. I will just mention a few from last semester by name, most of which you should recognize: Sweetheart weekend, Logger days, Province workshop, Greek week, Derby Days (\$3,500 raised for CMN), Recruitment 365, Graduation and Parents weekend, Initiation and Recruitment. Grades fit into this mix as well and the house overall GPA was a 2.59 down from the semester before of a 2.89. The bright side is that the new member GPA was a 2.9 average. Our focus is to improve our overall GPA by continuing to focus on scholarship for new members. See you at our next big event-- Homecoming!

*Gerrit Van Ommen '90*  
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## We're Not Rebuilding... We're Reloading!

### A Magister's Perspective on the Past Year

#### re·build

Pronunciation: ( " ) rE-'bild

Function: *verb*

**1 a :** to make extensive repairs **b :** to restore to a previous state <*rebuild* inventories>

**2 :** to make extensive changes in.

Take a trip back in time with me. It is a time we all remember, a time crowded with e-mails, blogs, gossip and glory; a time that was deemed by many to be our chapter's finest hour.

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002. 30+ Alumni and 40+ Active Brothers from all over the United States crowded the Beta Rho Chapter Room, watching with pride as Magister Andy Martin and company placed shiny new Badges on a marquee class of 27 New Initiates...a number unheard of since the early 1990's.

At that moment, there was no sultry gossip between officers, no bitter disappointment from alumni, no sense of failure from the Brotherhood. That chilly December morning, there was only the deepest sense of

achievement...enthusiasm...and most importantly...**MOMENTUM!**

Sadly, it took no more than six months for that feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment to slide away, leaving behind an attitude of underachievement and helpless frustration. Classes got smaller and smaller, GPA's got lower and lower. "We're the Best!" suddenly gave way to "...we're rebuilding..." A time of change is upon us gentlemen, a fact I will readily announce to any brother who cares to listen. The word "rebuilding" is dead. It is no longer welcome within the walls of the Beta Rho Chapter House. Should you feel a need to associate a single word with the goings on in Bozeman, the *only* appropriate word is "RELOADING!" As I write this article, I sit mid-way through what is shaping up to be a recruitment that would be the envy of the largest chapters in our sacred order. Seventy-Two hours prior to the official kick off of "Recruitment 2005" 20+ recruits regularly attended nightly functions at the Chapter house, several even hanging around to help us get

things neat and tidy for the annual "Freshman Inspection". Several legacy's have been in contact with Recruitment Chair Paul Bloch (2008) since the early stages of the summer, and more find their way to the house every night.

Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 is Bid Day at Beta Rho, and let it be heard once and for all, we are NOT rebuilding, we ARE RELOADING! *Reloading* a chapter house that has been deemed outstanding by International Headquarters since the day it chartered. We are *reloading* a brotherhood that has been the model for fraternities all over Montana State Universities' Campus, as well fraternities all over the United States, and most importantly, we are *reloading* the energy, enthusiasm and drive that led to a building that housed 50+ brothers in the 70's, 80's and early 90's.

A year ago, we *re-loaded* our academic approach. The result? The 2<sup>nd</sup> highest GPA in the Greek system, men and women in Spring of 2005. We have *re-loaded* our Recruitment Program. The last three formal recruitment cycles, we

have not fallen below 20 pledges on Bid Day. We have *re-loaded* our officer program. Chapter Advisor Gerrit VanOmen contacted alumni all over the state, asking them to advise and mentor each top five officer, a gigantic step in modernizing the workings of our Chapter.

And finally, we come to our pledge program. As mandated by the 2005 Grand Chapter, "Sigma Chi Pledgeship shall last no longer than eight weeks, including the duration of the initiation proceedings." Previously, Beta Rho had run a program lasting between 8-10 weeks, not including Initiation. With this new mandate, we were forced to shave roughly 4 weeks off our pledge program in just under one month. Our attitude? BRING IT ON! With the unending help of Magister Adviser Jeremy Devries (Beta Rho, 1995) we have RE-LOADED our pledge program. A new pledge manual (complimented by Sigma Chi's Grand Consul himself) will be handed out to our new Pledge class Friday morning. Within this manual is a complete study guide to the Norman Shield...the book we live by and call our "bible".

Despite our time limitations, we will be more thorough than ever before. Each Monday night there will be a Pledge meeting, consisting of in-depth discussion of events surrounding Sigma Chi and the Greek world, intimate analysis of the History of both the Beta Rho Chapter and Sigma Chi in general,

and weekly quizzes pulled straight from the material discussed the previous week.

We will hold weekly Brother/Pledge activities. Some of these will be light hearted; others will be gravely serious.

Participation by both Pledges and Brothers will be required, and enthusiasm within the house is contagious right now.

We are *re-loading* our big brother program. The days of simply choosing a little brother because you "think he's a cool guy" are behind us, never to be seen again. There is a pledge committee charged with over-seeing the general welfare of the Pledge class. This committee will assign little brothers to big brothers based on needs, common characteristics, and general compatibility. However, it doesn't stop there. Each big brother/little brother pair will be grouped with several other pairs and assigned an "Alumni big brother." This will be a member of the Alumni Chapter charged with the task of overseeing the success of several big/little brother pairs throughout the duration of pledgeship and beyond. Allow me to remind you all that this is only the beginning. All of these changes have been implemented within the last year. Growth is not only essential; it is inevitable. The question is no longer "Will we win a Peterson Award?" but "Why didn't we get 100% of the points possible in the Peterson Polling?"

I will boldly regard this piece as the informal mission statement of our beloved Beta Rho Chapter. I would encourage all you alumni, most of which I have never met, to do the same. Let us not focus on "the way things used to be", the simple fact is, change is one of life's few certainties. Rather than fight change, let us embrace it. Let all of us work together to make our house not "as good as it used to be" but greater than it has ever been! The time has come, Brothers, tomorrow is too late. Today, we are not the class of 1952, 1967, 1989 or 1995, but we are all one under the same White Cross, the symbol that has helped each one of us through a dark time in our personal lives. Call YOUR Magister, Consul or Big Brother. E-Mail YOUR best friend, mentor or guide, and do it today, because you will find as you are dialing, your phone too will ring. The Future doesn't yield to those who hesitate, scrutinize or judge, but only satisfies those who embrace and excel through the twists and turns it consistently brings. So, with that said, I ask each one of you right now...are you content rebuilding something you think was ONCE great...or are you ready to RE-LOAD something that has never ceased to be THE BEST?

*Rodger Hulbert '06  
Magister  
Beta Rho Chapter*

## Sigma Chi Celebrates 150 Years

*More than 1,700 Sigma Chis, sweethearts and friends flocked to Cincinnati during June 24-26, 2005 to celebrate the Sigma Chi Fraternity's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. John Waggoner was one of the Beta Rho brothers that attended the Grand Chapter leading up to the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration as well as the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration itself. He gives the following comments.*

Grand Chapter was pretty much as expected, the normal hoopla with elections and voting on the Grand Officers. There was a lot of discussion on the new activation fees, with some heated debate before being passed. Basically, the up front money will be

more, but the overall cost to the undergrads should be less.

Rich Thompson, the President of the Beta Delta HBC was elected to the position of Grand Trustee. Rich has done a tremendous job with fund raising and is actively involved in Beta Delta even though he lives 550 miles away in Portland. He will be a good voice on the Board.

The major emphasis in Grand Chapter was to make Sigma Chi the "preeminent leadership organization" on campuses, everywhere. The \$40 million capital fund drive is well on its way to fruition and will be used to develop leaders and promote the Fraternity membership growth with additional staff and

outsourced leadership programs around the US & Canada.

There was also a lot of discussion about the future alcohol policy within the Fraternity. I sensed there will be a major emphasis on establishing a policy which will make the Chapter Houses dry within the next few years. The deaths and the consequences of alcohol abuse have given the Greek world a black eye and needs to be controlled in order to attract the quality young men the Fraternity needs in the leadership roles. It would relieve the Chapter Houses of some of the distress that increases the maintenance costs and detracts from the appearance. The campus housing issue mandates that Sigma Chi offer a clean

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and decent living environment in order to attract the new members they need. The 140<sup>th</sup> was a great affair! The Friday night reception and fireworks display was superb! The functions on Saturday went by quickly and were capped off by a magnificent evening of entertainment and Brotherhood. It was a very special 150<sup>th</sup> for my wife and me, her cousin

Senator Mike Enzi was one of the Hall of Fame Significant Sigs and we enjoyed our time there with Mike and Diane. We went to Oxford with Brother Bob Lund, BP 65, and his wife to view the founders Site and Alpha Chapter. Bob's son Willard is an alumnus of Alpha and Willard's roommate, Dustin Buecker is the Warden of the Founders Site as well

as the Pres of Alpha HBC. We spent the whole day wandering around Oxford and Miami University. It reminded me of MSC 40 years ago.

*John Waggoner'65  
jonwag42@yahoo.com*

## Sigma Chi International Updates

**Sigma Chi Foundation Launches \$40M Capital Campaign** The Sigma Chi Foundation is Proud to announce the launch of the *Making a Difference* campaign. The campaign kick-off coincided with the celebration of the Sigma Chi Fraternity's Sesquicentennial. During the next five years the Foundation plans to raise \$40 million dollars, three times the amount ever raised by a Greek organization. J Thanks to the generosity of our members and the hard work of our volunteers, we are halfway there. To date, Sigma Chi has raised \$20.3 million. The funds raised will support the expansion of our value-based leadership programs to every chapter in North America. These programs will allow the Sigma Chi Fraternity to make a difference in the lives of every young man in our membership. Through this campaign, the Sigma Chi Foundation is working to establish our Fraternity as the

preeminent collegiate leadership development organization-aligned, focused and living our core values.

**Policy Change Mandates Eight-Week Pledge Program** On January 31, 2005, 63<sup>rd</sup> Grand Consul Lee Beauchamp, Texas A&M-College Station 1975, held the first-ever Fraternity-wide conference call to officially announce the Zero-Tolerance Policy for hazing and the eight-week pledge program requirement. The policy states that "the pledging process including pledging and initiation, must be completed within one academic semester/quarter, unless authorized in writing by the Grand Praetor," and that "under no circumstances may any pledge program extend beyond eight weeks, Sigma Chi recommends six to eight."

The decision was the result of a May 2004 meeting that focused on Imperative 7 which was to *ensure individual and chapter accountability to the leaderships*

*experience.* This imperative, chaired by John Horn, Gamma Pi 1989, began the research of Sigma Chi's leadership programming to determine if the policies and procedures on which the Fraternity is based were consistent with the values and teachings found in the Ritual. Throughout the review process, Imperative 7 sought recommendations and input from Sigma Chi brothers and outside experts who have devoted their lives to the elimination of hazing within other Greek organization. The information varied, but the results were clear – the practice of hazing has reached epidemic proportion at our colleges and universities and there is an opportunity for Sigma Chi to be the leader in the eradication of this harmful and demeaning practice.

*Information taken from  
www.sigmachi.org*

**Beta Rho Embraces Mission 365** In the Fall 2004 edition of the Bobcat Sig we announced a Strategic Plan for Beta Rho. Part of that plan included the formation of a Retreat Advisor responsible for the coordination of retreats offered by the International Fraternity. Thanks to the help of Brother **Curt Biller'87**, Beta Rho was selected as one of forty chapters in the nation to receive the Mission 365 programming offered by the General Fraternity. The objectives of this retreat included:

- A focus on teaching undergraduate Brothers and Alumni Advisors a recruitment process guided by Sigma Chi values and ideas
- Serve as a strategic platform to introduce a strategic planning

## Beta Rho Briefs

process for a Chapter-wide 365-day recruitment approach integrating all available Sigma Chi resources

- To provide essential recruitment tools that will help Chapters identify and recruit men of character, and to introduce new recruitment materials to support our Chapters' Mission 365 plans.

Brother Bob Wilson (Grand Praetor for the Rocky Mountain Province) conducted the retreat. "I was very impressed with the quality of men that attended the retreat. Seventeen out of twenty-four brothers were present and they were an attentive audience. The Pro Consul helped organize the ideas of the chapter into a list of goals to help the chapter focus on recruiting quality

members throughout 365 days of the year as opposed to one week or rush. This program will help the chapter determine the quality of a man's character prior to pledgship as opposed to using the pledging period as a weeding-out process. I have every confidence that Beta Rho will be successful with their recruitment efforts in the upcoming years."

**Bozeman Alumni Association** Brother Jeff Broyles who was spearheading the creation of an officially recognized alumni association recently accepted a job in Portland, OR. As a result, we are currently seeking someone to spearhead this attempt. On April 21<sup>st</sup> the General Fraternity sent word that the Beta Rho alumni association was recognized as a



“chartering group” seeking to establish official status with the General Fraternity. As such, the infant chapter will have several of the rights of active chapters, however, need to complete the requirements of the General Fraternity prior to receiving the capability to vote at Grand Chapter. We want to extend a special thanks to Jeff for helping progress the process of the Bozeman Alumni Chapter.

**Bobcat Sig Newsletter** Acting on requests of the Beta Rho House Corporation and Alumni Advisory Board Brother Ryan Roseleip '97 contacted University Publishing to dissolve our relationship with them. The donations from our alumni that were sent directly to University Publishing were to go towards the costs of printing the newsletter. Additional funds were to be sent directly to the chapter. Average costs to edit, print, and send the newsletter were approximately \$1500 - \$2500 per issue; therefore, utilizing most of the money contributed by our alumni. By bringing this process in-house, we are able to print and distribute the *Bobcat Sig* for approximately \$600 per issue. We ask that all alumni receiving the Bobcat Sig consider a \$50 donation per year to help cover the cost of publication as well as direct support for

Beta Rho. We want to extend a special thanks to all alumni that have contributed thus far and hope that this process will help ensure your financial contribution directly benefits both the alumni and undergraduates of Beta Rho. Please send donations directly to Michael Gilkerson, House Building Corporation President 115 Virginia Way Bozeman, MT 59718

**Curt Biller '87 takes charge at Balfour Leadership Training Workshop** Beta Rho can take pride in Brother Curt Biller's involvement with this workshop. The Balfour Leadership Training Workshop is the largest in the Greek world and trains over 1200 undergraduate leaders annually. The theme for this year's workshop was an intense look at the meaning of Friendship, Justice, and Learning and how a chapter incorporates these ideals into daily practice. Curt serves as a consultant to the Sigma Chi Fraternity and also donates countless hours of volunteer time to several of the Fraternity's leadership program. He is often recognized as one, if not the, main contributor to the Balfour Leadership Workshop.

**Improving Communication** In hopes of improving communication and reducing mailing costs we are asking

ALL Beta Rho alumni to forward their e-mail address to [Egranrud@cmlavoi.com](mailto:Egranrud@cmlavoi.com) Brother Eric Granrud '98 is responsible for compiling this information into an updated data-base of Beta Rho alumni which will not be distributed to outside sources.

### **Beta Rho to Celebrate 90 Years in 2007**

We hope you will make plans to attend Beta Rho's 90-year celebration in 2007! Discussions are already underway as to how to make this a memorable event for our alumni! If you are unable to make Homecoming this year, mark your calendars for 2007!!!!

**Beta Rho Wants to Meet You** The undergraduate brothers are asking all alumni to stop by the chapter house at 722 South Willson **2 hours prior** to home football game kick off. The brothers will be serving a light lunch to brothers and their spouses. **1 hour prior** to home football game kick off brothers will be gathering for a tailgate near the stadium. If your around...let's help make this a tradition for many years to come!!!!

## Former HBC President Receives Award



Marty Crennen '57 recently received the Medal of Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA). This award is given to individual members of the AIA Northwest and Pacific Region who have consistently demonstrated excellence in design, the practice of Architecture, Architectural education, or service to the profession that has promoted public understanding of Architects and Architecture and who have made notable contributions unique to the AIA Northwest and Pacific Region.

A native Montana, Marty grew up in Bozeman area and because of a love for drawing, chose to enroll in the School of Architecture at Montana State University, graduating in 1957. He apprenticed in a Great Falls firm, was licensed to practice in 1960 and in 1964, and entered into a partnership with Joe Campeau in Helena. Marty retired from the firm in 1994 and continues to live in Helena.

## HOME COMING – October 1, 2005

If you haven't made plans already to attend Homecoming 2005, we hope you will reconsider. Keeping with the spirit of last year's Homecoming festivities we are asking all Beta Rho alumni and Significant others to attend a gathering at the chapter house located at 722 S. Willson immediately following the game. This promises once again to be a memorable event! The goal is for our alumni to gather at the chapter house to meet some of the active brothers, re-ignite brotherhood, and receive the latest updates regarding Beta Rho in an organized setting.

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## Two Brothers Enter the Chapter Eternal



It is with sad heart that I write to inform many friends and brothers that Tate Hess '99 died in a vehicle accident on his way to Bigfork, MT to be with his family for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He was only 20 minutes from the Rivers Edge (the Hess family home on the Flathead) when his Chevy truck hit a tree. Tate fought for four hours before he passed to the Chapter Eternal while en route to the Kalispell Hospital. Brothers from all across the country attended services as we celebrated this modern day outlaw's life in a way that I have never experienced. In memories and stories Tate Hess's legacy will continue forever. We will miss him greatly around the campfire, at work and on the river.

Per the request of Brother Jim Hess, memorials can be sent to help Tate's sister Brittany fight her cancer. The best recipient would be The Alliance Against Alveolar Soft Part Sarcoma, who's website is:

[www.alveolarspsarcoma.net](http://www.alveolarspsarcoma.net)

**Jeremy Devries '95**

Jim, Bonni, Colby, and Brittany Hess

138 Ranchetts Road, Bigfork, Montana 59911



Robert Lance (Lanny) Moline '68 died unexpectedly of heart failure at his home on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Lanny lived life to the fullest at every opportunity, enthusiastically looking for "adventures" and interesting things to learn. He loved nature, fishing, grouse hunting, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and recently took up curling. He became an accomplished woodworker, birdhouse builder, author (editor of the monthly Moline Chronicle, part truth and part embellished fiction) and constantly sought out the history of areas he visited. His daughters were his pride and joy and he was an extraordinary husband. Lanny made everyone he met feel important and his positive, go-for-it attitude will be greatly, greatly missed.

Memorial Day weekend brought many, many dear friends and family to Cook-town to say goodbye to Lanny; many more have called to express their sympathy and talk about the good times. We (the girls) have been inundated by fruits, cheeses, bars, hot dish, "splenda" desserts and, of course, lots and lots of beer. Thank you for your work with Lanny, your play with Lanny, your support of Lanny.

Erin Moline

1940 Pierce St. NE

Minneapolis, MN 55418

Angie Moline

824 W. Mulberry St.

Ft. Collins, CO 80521

Judy O'Donnell Moline '68

8780 Raps Road

Cook, MN 55723

### What Information Do You Want to See?

Have you ever had a question regarding Beta Rho that you want answered? Was there a tradition at Beta Rho that you remember most and want to share with some of the readers? Do you want to update brothers regarding your whereabouts and events in your life? Please write or e-mail your questions, stories, or whereabouts along with any pictures to:

The Bobcat Sig

C/O Ryan Roseleip

670 Stonehaven Drive

Sun Prairie, WI 53590

[rroselei@ibius.jni.com](mailto:rroselei@ibius.jni.com) or 608-225-7639

**Special Congratulations to Beta Rho for their Fall Rush efforts. We have 12 new pledges which was the largest of any fraternity on campus!!!!**

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