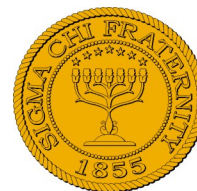




# The Bobcat Sig



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

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## Chapter Editor Report

Presented in the following articles is a strong message—one that shows a spirit of cooperation and generosity not seen in several years. A few years ago, our fraternity was declining, both in membership and in physical condition, leading to a loss in membership to the point where the Chapter could not be sustained. A small group of alumni—led by Bros. Paul Boylan and Rick Dissly stepped in and began to put it back on its feet. They, along with many others, have worked hard and long, and we are now seeing great improvement. There are strong leaders in the undergraduate class who have stepped up and taken over many responsibilities that once were handled by the HBC, allowing those brothers to assume more of an advisory role, which is where they should be. The undergraduate members clearly understand the value of our founder's ideals of Friendship, Justice, and Learning. We again are seeing strength and growth, even though there is a long way to go.

Manny Hoag

A significant part of the building success of our fraternity is the recruitment program. There are now 20 Active members and 16 Pledges. 17 men are living in the House at present, and the overall Chapter GPA is 2.71.

Take a moment to study the chart on the right of the 2009 Pledge Class. Note the diversity we have, not only in academic major, but home town as well. We owe a great number of thank-you's to all who have brought this about. See the following articles in this newsletter.

## The Fall, 2009 Beta Rho Pledge Class

Nick Ames	Franktown	CO	Construction Eng. Tech.
Ben Bertalino	Billings	MT	Political Science
Zach Coffill	Pine Bush	NY	Secondary Education
Dylan Drake	Gresham	OR	Political Science
Krayson Gates	Wenatchee	WA	Architecture
Blake Harbour	Sheridan	WY	Film & Theater Arts
Austin Larsen	Billings	MT	Political Science
Bryan Loner	Brea	CA	Architecture
Jake Mahan	Bozeman	MT	Graphic Design
Tom McCombs	Annandale	VA	Business Marketing
John Newell	Newburg	OR	Political Science
Derek Nickelson	Bozeman	MT	Economics
Steve Pederson	San Fran.	CA	
Shawn Rambo	Great Falls	MT	Secondary Ed. Science
Zach Smith	Medina	WA	Business Management
Kent Vernon	Lakeview	OR	Architecture

**Chapter Advisor Report:** John Wishman' 04

As a follow-up to my prior report, it is clear from the national statistics that active chapters which have active alumni support are doing well and growing. Chapters with little alumni support are declining, slowly going out of existence, and are ultimately suspended by national.

At Beta Rho, we are starting to see good news on a variety of fronts. The current highlight is a substantial increase in the Fall 2009 pledge class to 16. More on this under the recruitment report. But a big **thank you** goes to Andrew Wharton' 06, Ryan Donahue' 06, Jason Jones, the recruitment chairman, the entire active chapter who returned a week early to focus on this vital area, and the alumni who responded to our request to identify quality freshmen attending MSU from their home towns in Montana.

Currently we are looking for alumni for the following Chapter Advisor Board Members: House Manager Advisor, Quaestor Advisor, and Career Mentor Advisor. These positions have clear job descriptions and should not require more than 3 hours per month. The only advisor that needs to be from the Bozeman area is the House Manager Advisor as this position requires joint inspections of the house with the House Manager.

In addition, we are looking for a couple additional House Building Corporation members. Such members do not have to be from Bozeman as we will be having periodic conference calls. Please contact myself or Rick Dissly' 66 if you have interest in any of the above positions or another position that may open in the future. We can benefit from your experience and talents. If you are retired, even better.

For other alumni there are a variety of ways to assist us in the continuous improvement of Beta Rho that take very little time and effort, but make a big difference:

- Promote the Beta Rho Chapter to your friends and your friends kids.
- Notify the Chapter of quality students going to MSU that meet the Jordan Standard and send a Beta Rho brochure to them.
- Agree to review the list on incoming freshman from your town to identify the top candidates we should focus on.
- Attend a chapter meeting periodically.
- Attend an initiation periodically.
- Attend an alumni luncheon. Better yet start an alumni group in your town.
- Drop by the house when you are in town. After all, you own the house.

**Recruitment Report:** Andrew Wharton' 06

Clearly our focus on this critical area is beginning to pay off. We have 16 pledges and all 16 will be going active on December 5, 2009. There are several reasons for our success which are identified below:

- Focus, focus, focus
- The active chapter revised their bylaws to require that all members return to school one week before school starts to focus on cleaning the house and recruitment of prospective candidates.
- Having an organized and driven recruitment chairman. A big "thank you" goes to Jason Jones who did an excellent job leading this effort on behalf of the active chapter
- Last year we held a 2 day Mission 365 Recruitment seminar for the active chapter. This is a national program which was developed to encourage active recruitment 365 days per year. From this seminar Ryan Donahue, '06 and myself established a mini 365 (3 hour) seminar that we presented to active chapter the week before school started.
- We identified prospective candidates by town planning to attend MSU and enlisted the assistance of alumni in these towns to help qualify candidates. These alumni made a clear contribution. Can you help us next year???
- The members of the active chapter spent the time and effort necessary. Their enthusiasm at Catapalooza (the main freshman orientation event) and other functions made a big difference.
- The local alumni held a barbeque at the house doing all the planning, food prep and clean-up. This allowed the active chapter members to really understand the potential candidates to ensure that we only sent bids to quality students who were serious about their education, career and leadership potential at Beta Rho.

So what is next? Do it again. We need to clearly document what we have done and put the infrastructure in place to continue this momentum. In reality, we need at least 60-75 quality members to effectively run the fraternity. Our membership will be at 36 after the fall initiation. So we need several more back to back successes in the recruiting area.

Again "thank you" to the active chapter for your efforts. This may prove to be the turning point that will lead to the continuation of the proud history of Beta Rho.

Have you been to an initiation lately? This would be a good one to attend. Mid morning on Saturday December 5, 2009. See you there.

"We do hereby form ourselves into an association for the development of the nobler powers of the mind, the finer feelings of the heart, and for the promotion of friendship and congeniality of feeling."

The Founders of Sigma Chi  
Preamble to the Constitution, 1856

**House Building Corporation and House Manager Report:** Paul Boylan '63 and Alex Kaul

Over the last couple of years the HBC has focused on the establishment and implementation of an infrastructure between the active chapter and House Building Corporation. This infrastructure mainly consisted of a formal lease agreement, a live-in agreement with each occupant, the HBC House Rules and Regulations and the Check-in and Check-out procedures. With these procedures now in place and the success of our recruitment efforts this fall, it is time to focus on the living conditions in the house. Certainly the living conditions are and will continue to be a factor in how well we do in our recruitment efforts. Currently our house environment is better than most of the Fraternities but lower than all of the Sororities on campus.

I'm sure that many alumni think that keeping the house clean and looking good is the responsibility of the active chapter, but that is not entirely true. The fact is that the HBC-alumni need to provide a structure that is suitable to rent like any landlord. Thus, the condition of the house at any point in time is really the joint responsibility of the HBC and active chapter. The HBC needs to ensure that the basic systems of the house are functional, i.e. the heating systems, plumbing, drainage, electrical and computer network systems while the active chapter needs to ensure that the house is not damaged beyond normal wear and tear and is maintained in a clean condition.

Both parties have failed to live up to their responsibilities in the past. Below is what we are doing to ensure that the living condition of the house improves in the future and is at least similar to the dorm environment in the future.

The active chapter is changing the responsibility of the House Manager to become more of a planner and inspector. Although, he will provide the supplies and equipment to keep the house clean, the three oldest members living in the house will be responsible for keeping assigned areas of the house clean by managing and scheduling actives and pledges assigned to their groups.

The HBC has made significant improvements to the quality of the house during the last year. For accomplishments and objectives, take a look at the insert. However, the basic living conditions are still not acceptable. Thus, we have recently hired a part-time handyman to focus on several areas in need of repair and to properly maintain our existing systems. To fund this, we need all alumni to pay their dues each year. A form and instructions for paying on-line are contained in the next column. **Thank You!**

**Pro Consul Report:** Will Holms

The progress that the Beta Rho undergraduates and alumni alike have made in the last year and a half is astounding. The overall house cleanliness has greatly improved. Both active brother and alumni participation have increased vastly. My personal favorite is that the relationship between the undergraduates and the alumni has changed dramatically. When I first pledged the house, there was pure tension between alumni and active chapter. It was a constant blame game where nothing got done. Due to the alumni intervention two summers ago and active brother reorganization, that relationship has changed dramatically. We are now on the same page with a common goal in mind: to insure the longevity of the Beta Rho Chapter. The most integral part of this plan is getting new brothers and I am happy to say that this fall we have a pledge class of 16 good guys. High credit is due to the recruitment chairmen Brother Jason Jones. He has taken what we learned in Mission 365, the national continuous recruitment strategy written by HQ, and really pushed for its use. Much credit goes to Brother Andrew Wharton '06 and Brother Ryan Donahue '06 as well. A lot of work has been put in by the current undergraduate chapter and a very important lesson to make sure and pass on the incoming freshman is just how much work we had to do in order to save the house. We need to make sure the pledges know where we were at so that the house will not go back to the state that it was in. I look forward to training the next Pro Consul so that he may build upon what has already been put in place.

**PAYING YOUR DUES**

To pay your dues on line, go to the Beta Rho Website at [www.bobcatsigs.org](http://www.bobcatsigs.org), click the "Members" tab, then "alumni", then "dues". To pay by check, cut-out and use the form below.

Dues are \$50 biannually, and \$500 lifetime.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to "**Beta Rho Sigma Chi HBC**"  
 Send to: **Bro. Rick Dissly**  
 6651 Leyland Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95120

**Quaestor Report:** Matt Darfler  
And Duane Ray '00

This semester has been extremely smooth and trouble free from the Quaestor's aspect. The monthly financial statements and amounts due from member's reports are readily available and distributed to the Quaestor, Quaestor Advisor and Chapter Advisor at the end of each month. House bills are being paid on time per the payment terms of the member's live-in agreement. We are making financial preparations for spring semester, forecasting twenty plus members living in the chapter house. We are in good financial shape and may hire a cook beginning in the Spring 2009.

**Consul's Report:** Dennis Brown

The Beta Rho house has changed immensely in the past 2 years. Gone are the days of a dirty house and low pledge classes. This could not have happened without the joint effort from the alumni and undergraduates. Great thanks is owed to all the alumni who participated in any shape or form. Although much progress has been made, our work is not over by any means. Some of our goals for the upcoming semester are; have a pledge class of 10 or more, maintaining a clean house, and making sure that the incoming officers are given every opportunity to succeed in their new office. We are working to improve our image on campus through Derby Days and all Greek functions.

**Magister's Report:** Justin Mito

This semester we have 15 pledges going into initiation. I have been working with them on a weekly basis to prepare them for their final exam and for initiation. I have been impressed this semester with their dedication and hard work. I look for-  
(continued in next column.)

("Magister", continued from previous column.)  
ward to what they will offer the house once they become brothers. This semester I am putting Magister materials into electronic form and using Google Documents to store them in an easy to access location. I hope I can work with my successor this December to transition him into the position that I have enjoyed taking on the last two years.

**Derby Days:** Justin Mito

Derby Days this year raised close to \$3000 for the Huntsman Cancer Institute (visit [huntsmancancer.org](http://huntsmancancer.org) for more information). Jon Huntsman Sr., a Sigma Chi from University of Pennsylvania matches every dollar that we donate. With the help of all four sororities on campus, this week long event went smoothly and was a great deal of fun for everyone. This year our Derby Doll is Katie Rehberg from Pi Beta Phi and the winner of Derby House was Chi Omega.

**Brothers Who Have Departed for  
The Chapter Eternal**

John Woodmansey: Beta Rho, 1957

Rollins Martin Fisher: Beta Rho, 1961

Richard Beem: Beta Rho, 1965

"One, and the main, aim and object of Sigma Chi has been and is, to develop and train broad-minded men who can recognize the wholeness of things and who are not bound down to a contracted, eight by ten notion of exclusiveness. There is an absolute necessity for such men."

Founder Benjamin P. Runkle

"Sigma Chi has given me something I couldn't find elsewhere on campus: a collection of role models."

Doug Lieblich Yale, 2008

**Active Chapter**  
**Accomplishments for 2009 and Objectives for 2010**

Accomplishments

- Changed the Chapter Bylaws to require that all members return to school one week before classes start to move in, clean the house, and recruit new pledges.
- Developed and executed the recruitment plan and implemented the 365 recruitment process.
- Recruited 16 pledges in Fall, 2009; 14 are expected to go active in 2009.
- Current house bills are prepared and being paid on time per the applicable live-in agreement.
- Chapter GPA was above the all men's average.
- Increased members living in the house from 14 to 17.
- General improvements made in keeping the house clean.

Objectives

- Duplicate and institutionalize the successful recruiting system and procedures implemented in the Fall of 2009.
- Recruit 10-12 new pledges for the Spring Semester, of which 8 will go active.
- Recruit 15-20 new pledges for the Fall Semester, of which 12 will go active.
- Have 20 members living in the house in the Spring Semester, and 25 in the Fall Semester.
- All past officers are expected to train current officers during Spring Semester.

As part of the above, ensure that the following officer manuals are updated and posted on the Beta Rho Website:

- Consul
- Pro-Consul
- Magister
- Recruitment Chairman
- Quaestor
- House Manager
- Implement the House Manager policies that are included in the House Manager Manual.
- Ensure that all 5 of the top Officers and the House Manager attend the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop. Seek financial assistance where necessary.
- Improve the Beta Rho chapter GPA per the Peterson Award criteria.
- Exceed an average GPA of 2.75.

Note: For information on the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop and Peterson Award, go to the Sigma Chi National Website. ([www.sigmachi.org](http://www.sigmachi.org))

**Alumni Advisor Board for Active Chapter  
Accomplishments for 2009, and Objectives for 2010**

**Accomplishments**

- Have National present “365 Recruiting Seminar” in November, 2008 for Active Chapter.
- Have several local alumni attend so that they can do similar recruiting seminars each Fall Semester going forward.
- Hold an all hands meeting with all Alumni Advisors and Executive Committee Officers of the Active Chapter during Homecoming of each year to agree upon plans for the following year.
- Establish a schedule for Active Chapter meetings such that at least one alumnus is in attendance at each Active Chapter meeting during the school year.

**Objectives**

- Continue to focus on the recruitment effort and have local alumni involved on the Recruitment Committee.
- Continue to hold a mini “365 Seminar” for one evening prior to the beginning of Spring and Fall Semesters.
- Continue to hold an alumni barbecue each year prior to the beginning of Spring and Fall Semesters. Have selected alumni talk about why they joined Beta Rho of Sigma Chi.
- Require that each Alumni advisor have at least one face-to-face meeting with his applicable officer during the year, hopefully during Homecoming.
- Have an agreed upon agenda for the all-hands meeting with Alumni Advisors and Active Chapter Executive Committee Officers during Homecoming each year to agree upon plans for coming year.
- Hold quarterly conference calls with selected Advisor and applicable Chapter Officer. Focus on recruitment for the coming year.
- Continue to have at least one alumnus at each Active Chapter Meeting.
- Encourage each Alumni Advisor to be proactive in assisting his Active Chapter Officer in recruiting his replacement.
- Notify local alumni in advance of the dates when initiations will take place.
- Have Career Advisor become proactive in getting jobs for Juniors and Seniors via the Beta Rho network.
- Review and agree upon the Chapter Alcohol Policy.

**Beta Rho House Building Corporation**  
**Accomplishments for 2009, and Objectives for 2010**

Accomplishments

- Require that the Live-In Committee take over live-in agreements and check-in, check-out procedures for Fall and Spring Semesters.
- Periodic House inspections being done by HBC members.
- Repair and improvements to House to ensuring it remains in a livable condition.
  - Heating System—Installed new compressor and repaired heating units & motor.
  - Plumbing System—Cleaned drainage pipes and rerouted where necessary.
  - Parking Lot—Repair and repave larges holes.
  - Fascia Boards below roof line—Installed and painted.
  - New kitchen floor installed.
  - Deck and carport roof—Removed deck and repaired leaking roof.
- New procedures to be implemented before beginning of each Fall Semester.
  - Commercially clean all bathrooms and showers.
  - Test all smoke alarms, and replace batteries.
  - Test all fire extinguishers.
- Implement awarding of scholarships to House Manager, Quaestor, and Recruitment Chairman.

**Beta Rho House Building Corporation**  
**Objectives for 2010**

Objectives

- Quaestor to begin getting signed Live-In Agreements signed one month before the end of each semester. HBC Treasurer will continue to monitor.
- House Manager to take over from the Live-In Committee the check-in and check-out procedures. HBC Treasurer will continue to monitor.
- Prepare the Beta Rho House Manager Operating Procedures Manual.
  - House Manager to ensure House is clean by doing monthly inspections with the House Manager Advisor.
  - House Manager Advisor should be from Bozeman.
  - 3 oldest members living in the House to be responsible for keeping their assigned areas of the House clean.
  - Remaining members living in the House will be assigned equally to the 3 oldest.
  - Each Pledge will be assigned to his Big Brother's cleaning group.
- Ascertain a way to prevent property tax assessment from increasing by a factor of 3—perhaps having the House approved as an historical site.
- Ascertain a way to reduce property insurance from current rate of \$9k per year.
- Must increase rent in 2010 to cover property tax, liability, and improvement costs, and:
- Minimum of 25 members to live in house.
- Necessary repairs and improvements:
  - Repair Hobart, replace ceiling tiles in Chapter Room, repair fireplaces in living and dining rooms for more effective heat, install window screens on all windows, purchase new drapes for living and dining rooms, repair lighting system.

### Significant Sig Wally McRae

In recognition of his remarkable career as longtime owner and operator of a 30,000 acre cattle ranch and poet who has helped lead the rebirth and expansion of modern Cowboy Poetry by authoring four books of poetry, a book of non-fiction short stories, and a stage play, Brother Wally McRae (Beta Rho 1958) was honored as a “Significant Sig “ in Bozeman on September 12 of this year. Wally has appeared in each poetry reading at the Elko, Nevada Cowboy Poetry Gathering since its founding, and presented his work at readings in 21 states, Scotland, and Japan.

He has been featured at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, the national Folklife Festival, the C.M. Russell Gallery, Portraits of U.S. Poets, and the Border Folklife Festival; TV appearances on “Sixty Minutes,” “The MacNeill-lehrer Report,” and “The Bob Edwards Show”; and features on NPR, XM Radio, and National Public Broadcasting System.

Wally was also recognized for his public service as co-founder of the Northern Plains Resource Council which was successful in gaining environmental legislation at the state and federal levels concerning the reclamation of strip mined coal areas on western range lands in the 1970’s.

Born in 1936, Wally is a 3rd generation rancher, and runs his ranch in Rosebud County, near Colstrip. He has raised three children, still works his ranch, and finds time to write. He has donated two of his books, autographed, to the Beta Rho Chapter: “Stick Horses and Other Stories of Ranch Life,” and “Cowboy Curmudgeon & Other Poems”. We thank Wally for these treasures and for the exemplary life he has led.

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