



# The Bobcat Sig



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

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<u>From the Chapter Editor: Manny Hoag, '66</u>		
<p>It is clear that that we have a group of dedicated alumni who give much of their time and talent to helping Beta Rho Chapter to succeed. We are calling on all alumni to help in the recruitment of new members with a focus on students from Montana. As you read the following articles, please spend time discerning how you can best help in this effort. Many of you live in towns in Montana in which many high school graduates plan to go to MSU. We can find out who they are and become involved in bringing them to the next Pledge Class at Beta Rho. This is the call we are making to all Beta Rho Alumni. Thank You.</p>		

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

It is clear from the national statistics that the active chapters which have active alumni support are doing well and growing. This compares with the chapters with little alumni support. These chapters are declining, slowly going out of existence and are ultimately suspended by national.

To have a successful chapter in today's environment there must be an effective Chapter Advisor Board and House Building Corporation. In addition, it is necessary that alumni attend chapter meeting & initiations, do house inspections and participate in the recruiting process on some routine and periodic basis.

While we have made significant progress over the last couple of years in several areas we have a long way to go to get more alumni involved. We can not expect that a few alumni to carry the entire load. We have more than enough Beta Rho alumni such that an alumnus should not have to spend over 3 to 4 years supporting the active chapter after graduation. However, if only a few brothers volunteer then the alumni that do volunteer will ultimately burn out as has been the history at Beta Rho. This has certainly been a contributing factor in the decline of the membership at Beta Rho.

There is no question that your career and family take priority, but we are now at the point where the alumni job definitions are clear and limited such that it should only require a maximum of 4 hours per month. Also, with email and conference calls many of the alumni jobs do not require that you be in Bozeman to make a contribution. Clearly, alumni who have retired should be able to find the time and I can not think of a more rewarding feeling knowing that you have contributed to the turn-around of the chapter. We need alumni to identify what areas they would like to make a contribution in and when they would be available. We have alumni with significant talents, so please let either myself or Rick Dissly know of your interest. The following positions are currently open: We need a brother to head up the Bozeman alumni group and a board advisor to take over the career advisor responsibility.

This newsletter is focused on using alumni to assist of the chapter in their number one objective which is the recruitment of additional quality members. We need each alumnus to recommend Beta Rho to their network of friends and indicate the positive effect that the fraternity had both during college and in their career after graduation. To me several alumni have not made recommendations to their network of friends in the past because of the condition of the house or other negative factors. The only way to get things turned around is to focus on the positive aspects. By creating a large number of prospective candidates the active chapter will have a much better opportunity to select more pledges and a higher quality of pledges.

We will be selecting an alumnus in each town in Montana with the charter to identify 2 or 3 quality candidates who will be attending MSU this coming Fall from their town in the next month. Please consider this recruitment assignment when asked. We believe this could make a significant difference in the number of prospective candidates for Beta Rho. See a further description in the Recruitment Report on this initiative.

Recruitment Report: Andrew Wharton '06

In the Fall 7 pledges went active and this spring we have 3 pledges which we expect to go active. On top of that there are 3+ potential pledges that did not pledge due to personal reasons this semester but have committed for the Fall. We have a total active chapter membership of 21 as of the end of February.

As you know the Greek system has been in decline for over 30 years. In those days the active chapter and alumni did not have to recruit because of the high interest in the Greek system. Today it is a totally different story, if the active chapter and alumni do not actively recruit the chapter will slowly cease to exist. Hopefully the interest in the Greek system will improve, but there is no guarantee of that.

During the fall semester we held a Mission 365 Recruitment seminar for the active chapter. This is a national program which was developed to encourage active recruitment 365 days per year and we plan to hold this seminar every other Fall semester until we get our membership total back to at least 50.

Another initiative we will start this Spring is to select an alumnus in each town in Montana with the charter to identify 2 or 3 quality candidates who will be attending MSU this coming Fall from their town. In several towns we have from 10 to 25 Beta Rho alumni and we believe we should be able to tap their local network to identify quality candidates for Beta Rho. Even if each town only identified one candidate, this would provide approximately 20 candidates and would be an improvement from the total candidates we have attracted to date. Hopefully we will be able to review the year books and talk to high school counselors and identify candidates who have good grades and have demonstrated leadership qualities in several of their high school activities. If we can get the candidates' contact information in addition to their names, we will send them our Beta Rho Brochure and start the recruiting process before they arrive at MSU.

The Recruitment Chairman, Jason Jones, has been doing an outstanding job of organizing events and has brought the motivation that is needed to the role. In preparing for next Fall semester we have decided to have several alumni sponsored recruitment events around Bozeman. The focus of these events will be to have activities away from the house (where brothers are most comfortable and potential pledges are least comfortable), and to show potential recruits that Sigma Chi is not just something you do in college but is a life long commitment. These events will range from BBQ's in a city park to a "Career Night" where brothers and potential pledges can talk with area Sigma Chi alumni about career options that different majors afford. Notifications for these events

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will be emailed out at least a month prior to the date of the events. We are looking forward to finishing the school year out strong and focusing on recruiting high quality pledges for the Fall.

If you know of any MSU bound high school seniors that are men that embody the Jordan Standard please send their contact information to Jason Jones, at [jones.jason.w@gmail.com](mailto:jones.jason.w@gmail.com).

House Manager Report: Jake Range & R.J. Waggoner '01

What does the Beta Rho Chapter House have to do with recruitment of new members? That is a question we have been asking ourselves for quite awhile. In past years, a common complaint from Alumni has been the general downward slide the house seems to take, quickly at times, slowly at others. This is cause for some to "turn the other cheek" from the house, saying they cannot recommend the house due to its condition. We can all agree that the house is the centerpiece of our chapter, and an overall indicator of the health of the chapter. Where are we going with all of this? We, as alumni, need to put the extra effort into recruiting quality members to become Sigma Chi's, not only MT brothers, but all members from far and wide. We also need to help the potential brothers understand this is a life-long commitment, one day they will be expected to take the reins just as men have done before them. So, where does the house come into play? We need to put work into this house, just as we do to our own personal homes. If we cannot offer a living environment that gives an advantage or is attractive to prospective members; then how do we change what the perception is? We change it by offering an attractive living environment that will make our organization stand out. We can help recruit members by making the house a quality environment in which to live and study. Getting them here is half of it, but making it a quality, memorable experience is another matter all together. Let's all work toward getting the quality members we need to ensure the chapter is around for years to come, both structurally and otherwise.

In addition to recruiting new members, the house is always in need of some help; structurally, mechanically, electrical, and plumbing. Electrical work still needs to continue in some rooms. The air compressor that is used to operate the heating system for the south (Kitchen) end of the house is at the end of its useful life and is in need of replacement. Beyond the main issues in the house itself, the chapter is also in need of furniture; both in the mausoleum and the chapter room. Please contact the chapter for specific needs. We thank you for your generosity over the years and hope you continue your support. We look forward to seeing you back at Beta Rho to reminisce about those glory days.

Thank You all for your continued support.

**House Building Corporation**

**Accomplishments for Prior Fiscal Year**

**Status**

Implement lease agreement between the HBC and active Chapter .	Done
Implement live-in agreements with all occupants of house.	Done
Post the Sigma Chi Code of Conduct and House Building Corporation rules on the Bulletin Board.	Done
Ensure active chapter implements check-in and out procedures.	In Progress
Ensure that active chapter pay rent when due.	Done
Hire a commercial house cleaning service to do an annual house cleaning between August 1 and August 15 of each year.	Done
Revise the Beta Rho HBC bylaws based on the draft HBC bylaws received from national.	Done
Have over \$150,000 in the endowment fund.	Done
Recruit more alumni to help HBC	In Progress
Fund Raiser for 1970 decade	
Fund Raiser for 1980 decade	
Web site administrator	
Data Base manager	
Have HBC Treasurer attend training workshop	Done
Get house in a livable condition for the Fall 2008 semester.	Done
Do a house inspection at homecoming to ensure house is still in a livable condition.	Done

**Objectives for Current Fiscal year**

- Have live-in committee monitor the live- in agreements and check-in - check-out procedures each semester.
- Have live-in committee take over the management of the house during the summer, including the approval of who lives in the house and collection of rent.
- Investigate selling the house or other alternatives if active chapter can not ensure that 18 members are living in the house each semester. 18 members is the minimum financial breakeven point.
- Recruit more alumni to help with HBC activities.
- Repair of major items to ensure house is in a livable condition.
  - Heating system
  - Plumbing System
  - Lighting System
- Have periodic House Inspections to ensure house is in a livable condition.
- Recruit more alumni to help with fund raising.
  - Fund Raiser for 1970 decade
  - Fund Raiser for 1980 decade
  - Fund Raiser for 1990 decade
- Have over \$300,000 in the endowment fund.

## Alumni Advisor Board

### Accomplishments for Prior Fiscal Year

	<u>Status</u>
Hold a quarterly conference call with advisor and all major active chapter officers.	Done
Take notes and action items for all conference calls.	Done
Establish a Quaestor “ how to” manual and begin implementation.	Done
Have top 5 officers attend BLTW in August.	Done
Establish a membership review committee and review all active chapter members.	Done
Take action (move out of house, suspend or expel) members where considered necessary.	Done
Prepare and publish a Beta Rho recruiting brochure.	Done
Prepare and publish a listing and contact information for alumni career advisors.	Done

### Objectives for Current Fiscal Year

- Have national present 365 Recruiting Seminar in November 2008 for active chapter.
- Have several alumni attend the 365 Recruiting Seminar so that local alumni can do similar seminars during the Fall Semester of every other year .
- Hold one-on-one, face-to-face Advisor-Alumni Advisors meetings with all officers during Homecoming each year to agree upon plans for the next year.
- Hold an all hands meeting with all Advisor-Alumni Advisors and Executive Committee officers of active chapter during Homecoming each year to agree upon plans for the next year.
- Continue holding quarterly conference calls with advisors and all major active chapter officers.
- Establish an alumni schedule such that at least one alumni is in each active chapter meeting every Monday during the school year.
- Get each Alumni Advisor to be proactive in assisting their active chapter officer or find a replacement.

#### Beta Rho Contribution Form

**Name:**

**Address:**

**E-mail:**

**Contribution Amount:**

**\$25** \_\_\_ **\$50** \_\_\_ **\$100** \_\_\_

**\$250** \_\_\_ **\$500** \_\_\_ **Other** \_\_\_

**Beta Rho Sigma Chi House Bldg. Corp.**

**Attn: Bro. Rick Dissly**

**6651 Leyland Park Drive**

**San Jose, CA 95120**

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For those Alumni who receive the “Bobcat Sig” via mail, we would appreciate a contribution to give us an additional cushion and to continue to fund this newsletter, or send us your preferred email address to save on the cost of mailing newsletters. Thanks.

This will be the first summer the Live-in-Committee will be managing the house during the summer. While members will be living in the house this summer, we plan to make significant improvements and are just beginning our planning process. If you are in the area, have repair skills, and would like to help, please send an e-mail to Bro. Rick Dissly or Bro. Paul Boylan.

House Building Corporation Report: Rick Dissly, '66

We have 14 active members living in the house this spring semester. As we mentioned last newsletter this is below are financial breakeven point of 18 occupants. I would like to thank the following alumni who responded to my email to make a contribution to keep the house operational while we attempt to recruit additional quality members. We raised \$3800 and I now believe we have sufficient funds to give us a chance to recruit additional members next fall and get back to our breakeven point. Thank you to those brothers who have so generously donated since the Fall edition of the "Bobcat Sig" was published:

**\$25 to \$99**—Doug Allan "66", Bill Breeden "65", Erik Bostrom "2001", Joe Brookshier "59", George Clemow "40", Lorn Hardie "53", Leland Holstine "58", Henry Hofeldt "66", Dave Kalberg "69", Jack Kanalz "54", Norman Kamhoot "56", Wayne Minshall "60", Paul Nordstrom "91", Tom Overturf "64", Merle Raph "82", Douglas Skoog "66", Robert Woodmansey "58".

**\$100 to \$249**—Norm Achen "66", Robert Byrtus "80", Bill Grabow "50", Kevin Greteman "87", Bill Gum "66", Robert Jursnick "67", Brain Loucks "64", Dale Peterson "68", Bill Poppie "61", Dennis Osgard "62", Tristan Renz "79", Walter Thieme "41", John Waggoner "65".

**\$250 to \$499**—Rick Dissly "66", William Johnstone "66".

**\$500**—Dave Kem "67", Bill Yunck "66".

Pro Consul Report: Will Holm & Mike Langohr, '73

The Pro Consul position is playing an increasingly key role in the affairs of the chapter - especially as the driving force behind the weekly Executive Committee. Our aim is to not only build on the progress of the recent past, but to seize the opportunity presented by a new slate of officers, at the start of Spring Semester, to revisit the undergraduate chapter planning process and fine tune chapter planning aims. The main tool we are using is the One Page Business Plan concept as outlined in the book "The One Page Business Plan." This concept brings chapter-wide focus to such terms as mission, vision, strategies, objectives and plans by providing a clear framework for creating a foundation for future success. The book is worth the read for alumni if you haven't done so already. The intent is to have each Top 5 officer in the house build a One Page Plan for his time in office and then to consolidate and integrate the resulting individual plans into a larger overall chapter working plan. Of course, recruiting new members is our number one priority at this point so the centerpiece of the planning effort must revolve around creation of conditions in the Beta Rho chapter operating environment that will be attractive to prospective new members. The Mission 365 recruitment training last fall provided an excellent starting point. Our core objectives include keeping the house clean and well maintained at all times, running effective ritual based chapter meetings, increasing our presence in clubs and organizations on campus, embracing good business practices, encouraging more brother/pledge participation in chapter events, raising the chapter GPA above the all men's average, proactively getting the word out about the benefits of Sigma Chi, encouraging alumni participation and having some fun while we are doing it. The Recruiting Chairman definitely has a key role to play in increasing our membership numbers but the whole chapter must pull together if we are to reach our membership goals. To stay focused, we will continually revisit the Mission 365 lessons and leverage the Executive Committee forum to enhance the level of discussion and debate as we turn planning into execution for the good of the health of our chapter. In order to help hold ourselves accountable, we are also putting increased emphasis on planning with a longer view. This is a key area of continuity/sustainability in which we have been deficient in the recent past. We greatly appreciate the current higher level of alumni involvement in our daily affairs and we feel we are taking the right steps to return the chapter to a new era of fiscal solvency, self reliance, and personal responsibility.

Quaestor Report: John Harrison & Duane Ray, '00

Our major accomplishment during the semester has been the implementation of Quick Books for the active chapter. This allows the entry of statement charges, cash receipts and deposits and the down loading of bank transactions and the timely sending of members statements via email from multiple locations . Now the time required to perform the bookkeeping functions is significantly reduced and the accuracy greatly improved. The monthly financial statements and amounts due from member’s reports are readily available and can be printed by bookkeeper, Quaestor advisor or Quaestor. This should help in the recruitment of personnel for the Quaestor and Quaestor Advisor positions in the future because you really do not have to be an accountant. We still need an alumni to volunteer as the Quaestor Advisor position. You do not need to be located in Bozeman and this position should take no more than 3 hours per month now that Quick Books and the Financial Operational Manual are in place. If interested please contact Duane Ray.

Internet Connections and New Web Site Report: Jason Jones & Daniel Conway, '96

The HBC has purchased a new router which was installed in February. This has significantly improved the speed and uptime of wireless internet connections.

The development of the new Bobcat Sig website is progressing nicely and should be rolled out very soon. Jason Jones has been working diligently on implementing many new features that will benefit undergraduates and alumni alike. It is always a challenge to develop a functionality that appeals to those “who’s badges slant in either direction” as the needs of alumni are usually vastly different from those of undergraduates. However, our main focus has been to target the undergraduate user as this site is intended to be a major communication hub for chapter activities.

In addition to general news and information about Sigma Chi and Beta Rho, the new site will include a secure members-only section that features web-logs (“blogs”), chapter meeting notes, event calendars and the ability to sign-up for your own email account, just to name a few. Once the user access levels are established the test site will migrate to the live environment. You can visit our work in progress at: [www.betarhosigs.org](http://www.betarhosigs.org). Once the site is fully implemented it can be found at it’s permanent address: [www.bobcatsigs.org](http://www.bobcatsigs.org).

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