

December 2018



A newsletter from Beta Delta Chapter
at University of Montana

ALUMNI BOARDS

Sigma Chi Building Foundation:

Sigma Chi Building Foundation (SCBF) owns the chapter house at 1110 Gerald, services debt, oversees fund raising for scholarship and major capital needs and manages the Beta Delta scholarship endowment.

Walt Kero '73

President

waltkero@msn.com (2019)

Nathan Cranston '03

Treasurer

ncranston@bennettlawoffi-cepc.com (2019)

Dan Cederberg '75

Secretary

dcederberg@cederberg-law.com (2019)

Rich Thompson '73

Director

rich@regenesiis.net (2019)

Dave Trimmer '76

Director

davetrimmer1@gmail.com

(2020)

Stewart Hansen

Director

shansen@everlogs.com

(2020)

Mike Schruth '68

Director

jmschruth@gmail.com (2020)

Matt Cavanaugh '03

Director

matt@fivevalleysrestoration.com (2020)

Committees

Scholarship

Walt Kero

Dan Cederberg

Dave Trimmer

Fundraising & Communication

Rich Thompson

Beta Delta House Corp:

Beta Delta House Corporation (BDHC) leases 1110 Gerald from SCBF, rents to active chapter members and oversees routine maintenance on 1110 Gerald.

YEAR END GIVING

Heart of the House Fund



1110 Gerald's room named Boyles is known as the "Heart of The House." It bore a heart on its original oak entry door. But there is a much bigger heart in The House. Beta Delta has a long history of philanthropy. In the past 20 years alone, brothers have given over \$2,200,000 to renovate 1110 Gerald, build both Wilcox Annex (2007) and New Ski Shack (2017) and create a \$1,200,000 scholarship endowment that provides \$60,000 a year to worthy Beta Delta undergraduate and graduate school brothers.

There are few Sigma Chi chapters that can match Beta Delta's ongoing generosity. In fact, Beta Delta is used as a model for other Sigma Chi chapters as to what can be accomplished. We stand on the shoulders of visionaries like Professor Frederick Scheuch who established the Greek system at University of Montana. His vision relied on brothers yet to be born. This is at the heart of Beta Delta's success: Investing in future brothers.

The House is now well over 110 years old, and keeping it in good repair is expensive. Also, 1110 Gerald is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, so we have an obligation to protect and maintain this national treasure.

With this in mind, Beta Delta's Sigma Chi Building Foundation is growing the Heart of The House Fund. This \$500,000 endowment will help pay for repairs and renovations to our beloved 1110 Gerald. 20% of donations (up to \$10,000/year) will go to Missoula Alumni Association to underwrite Captain's Cup Golf Tournament, Homecoming events, active and alumni activities.

While cash is always appreciated, you can also donate appreciated stock and real estate. This kind of donation is sold and you receive a tax deductible receipt for the full appreciated value without having to pay federal taxes on the increase. It's a Win-Win for you and Beta Delta! If you are interested in donating stock or real estate, contact Walt Kero waltkero@msn.com

PASSING THE TORCH

Thanks for Your Service

John Bennett '88 has served on the Beta Delta House Corporation and Sigma Chi Building Foundation (SCBF) for over 15 years. In spite of being initiated at Beta Rho at

Montana State, his heart lives at Beta Delta. John and wife Molly built a home across the street from 1110 Gerald so closely monitor "the lads", for better or for worse. John's

board service has been a true blessing. This fall, he decided to step off the SCBF board to make way for **Matt Cavanaugh '03**, **Stewart Hansen '94?** and **Mike Schruth '68**.

WHEN PIGS FLY

A Beta Delta's Life-Changing Adventure

It was the year 1974 when Brother **RJ Brewer '74** set off on a life-changing and life-filling adventure. He and a few partners cobbled together the down payment for 800 acres on the west shore of Flathead Lake near Dayton Montana which they dubbed Hog Heaven Cattle Company. Keep in mind that in 1974 RJ was still a student (of sorts) at University of Montana and living at 1110 Gerald in Backshack. But the lure of land, lake and development was too powerful. What started as a way to make big and easy money turned out to be a lifetime of hard work riding the ups and downs of the Montana real estate market like a wild bucking hog. And what a ride it was.



brothers in singing the "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi". Over the years, RJ has hosted Mission Mountain Wood Band many times for rehearsals and recording sessions.

which were sold from a land office just off the main highway. As a natural wheeler-dealer, RJ accepted money, cars, cattle or you-name-it to make a deal using a Contract for Deed arrangement (deed to the property was held until all payments were made).

In 1999, RJ and girlfriend Suzy Q held an unforgettable wedding at Hog Heaven overlooking magnificent Flathead Lake. The wedding followed an equally memorable bachelor party at **David "Moose" Miller's (Beta Delta '52)** Saloon in Kalispell. At that party, **Don "Bam Bam" Bennett '78** harnessed RJ with the ball and chain that many Beta Deltas suffered in their time. At the wedding, special guest and friend Steve Riddle of Montana's Mission Mountain Wood Band lead a large contingent of Beta Delta

In 2006, RJ began construction of a massive 8000 square foot lodge constructed from logs he harvested from Hog Heaven then hand stripped and finished. The lodge has a commanding view of the Mission Mountains and Flathead Lake to the east. The phrase "jaw-dropping" comes to mind.

The Hog Heaven Cattle Company experience just celebrated 44 years in the making (and counting). The ranch currently comprises 200+ acres and the lodge. It is for sale with terms "negotiable." For details and pictures, see www.hogheavenc.com Call him at 406.250.9740 and make him an offer he can't refuse.

By Rich Thompson - Beta Delta '70

After selling off the back 360 acres, a road had to be cut to access it and the remaining twenty acre plus parcels which were subdivided. Custom built "Log Heaven Homes" complimented house/land packages

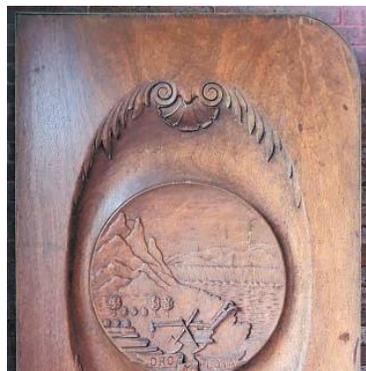
BETA DELTA HISTORY

The Galley Doors

Two of 1110 Gerald's proudest possessions are the two galley doors gifted to Beta Delta by Professor Frederick Scheuch. They came from the USS Montana, an armored cruiser launched in 1906 (also the year of Beta Delta's chartering) and commissioned in 1908. Montana was armed with a main battery of four 10-inch guns and capable of a top speed of 22 knots (25 mph).

Montana spent her active duty career in the Atlantic Fleet. She made two cruises to the Mediterranean Sea to protect American citizens in the Ottoman Empire, the first in 1909 in the aftermath of the Young Turk Revolution and the second during the Balkan Wars in 1913. Montana was also involved in political unrest in Central American countries, sending landing parties ashore in Haiti and in Mexico during the Occupation of Veracruz, both in 1914.

After the United States entered World War I in 1917, Montana was tasked with convoy escort and training ship duties. With the end of



the war in November 1918 came a new task, transporting American soldiers back from the battlefields of Europe. She made six round trips to France and carried back a total of 8,800 men. Montana was then transferred to the Puget Sound Naval Yard in Washington State, where she was decommissioned and renamed Missoula. She remained in the reserve fleet until 1930. The ship was

eventually sold for scrap in 1935 and broken up.

In the 1930s, Prof Scheuch requested "a small memento" from the Montana from his friend the Secretary of War and received the one ton ship's bell and the two massive galley doors. One galley door is carved with the Great Seal of the United States and the other with the Great Seal of the State of Montana. They hang with honor on the front porch of 1110 Gerald. Curiously, there is an identical set of galley doors owned by University of Montana Law School. It's unclear if this set came from Montana or the Missoula.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Nate Cranston '03 Honored

By Rich Thompson Beta Delta '70 - Montana '73

Based on 15 years of continuous service to Beta Delta House Corporation, Beta Delta's Sigma Chi Building Foundation and Sigma Chi's Missoula Area Alumni Association, Nate was recognized recently with one of Sigma Chi's highest honors, the **2018 William T. Bringham House Corporation Award**. Nate has served as treasurer and property manager. He dealt with maintenance issues, budgeting, bill payments and finances. He meets frequently with Active Chapter officers to deal with tenant issues. He oversees Beta Delta's new House Director **Dock Blastic '98**. He organizes Beta Delta's annual Captain's Cup Golf Tournament.

And all of this volunteer effort began the year he graduated in 2003. At a time in



life when most brothers are launching their work careers, marriage, kids and other life absorbing events (Nate did too), he found

a way to include Beta Delta in a full time way. He has been tireless in his service to the chapter. He advocates for the active brothers and keeps the older Beta Delta volunteers sensitive to their point of view. As he wisely understood, young brothers see life through different eyes and understanding. Older brothers can fall prey to thinking "the older I get, the better I was." Nate helps keep generational attitudes in perspective by forging a closer working relationship between the two.

Nate has been a rock star volunteer for Beta Delta and Sigma Chi. Let him know that you appreciate him as much as those of us that are privileged to serve with him. His email is nathan@c2technow.com

CHAPTER ETERNAL



The thoughts of Beta Delta are with the following Brothers' friends and families:

John Lepley '50

Daniel D. Kilbride '51

James Tidyman '54

Maurice R. Colberg, Jr. '57

Donald D. Blumfield '60

D. Bruce Carmichael '61

Leon C. Odegaard '61

E. Parke Frizelle, Jr. '63

Thomas L. Cross '70

CONSUL'S CORNER

Here's To a Great 2019!

Greetings brothers! Where did the year ago? With only a few weeks of school remaining, the brothers at 1110 Gerald are putting their noses to the grindstone to solidify those final grades. The house GPA at the end of Spring 2018 was a 2.8, which wasn't bad, but we always strive for better! The executive team this year has set a goal to improve on last year's GPA by implementing some new policies and setting expectations higher for all brothers. With help from our outstanding Scholarship Chairman Blaik Hopewell, I'm sure that Beta Delta will be among the academic leaders at UM this year.

Despite the various policy changes handed down by Sigma Chi Headquarters, fall semester has been a great success! The new five week pledge program called Preparation for Brotherhood (P4B) was certainly a change of pace, but our Magister Patrick Waterston adapted well and led an awesome group of ten guys through the process to brotherhood. We were incredibly fortunate to have some alumni brothers join us on October 20th for initiation and to help welcome their sons and grandsons into the ranks of Sigma Chi Beta Delta.

Currently, the active chapter is preparing to host the 2019 Big Sky Province Conference here in Missoula. We are scheduled to host all



the Big Sky Province chapters on April 5-6 for a grand Sigma Chi gathering. The conference will include a reception at 1110 Gerald on Friday night and a full Saturday of brotherhood bonding and breakout sessions relating to: strategic planning, ritual talks, leadership/recruitment/

marketing strategies, philanthropy and community service ideas and various other useful topics such as personal finance and resume building. If you have an interest in participating in this event in any capacity, please reach out to me or our Chapter Advisors **Tom Stockburger '74** tom.stockburger@gmail.com or **Bob Rowe '80** bobrowe@montana.com. This is a great opportunity to show the rest of the Big Sky Province what Beta Delta is all about!

I am hoping to set a precedent for effective communication between the active and alumni brothers. If you ever have any questions, concerns or requests for what's happening at 1110 Gerald, feel free to contact me. We are always excited to talk to you!

I hope you have had a great year and here's to another in 2019!

In hoc,
Garen Teders teders.garen@gmail.com
Consul, Beta Delta

BADGES FOR BETA DELTA

Valuable Property Returns Home

Bruce Carmichael '61 loved Sigma Chi and Beta Delta in particular. When he went to Chapter Eternal in April 2018, he left instructions to pass on a treasure he had kept for 60 years, two Sigma Chi badges. One of the badges was adorned with pearls and a jeweled Beta Delta guard. The other badge was standard issue. They both were given to **Hal Woods '63** who, in turn, presented them to **Brad Cederberg '06**, president of the Missoula Sigma Chi Alumni Association, for further disposition.

Brad conferred with **Consul Garen Teders '20** and it was agreed that the jeweled badge



would be given to the current Pro Consul who would pass it on to the next Pro Consul, etc. This seems fitting as Sigma Chi is about tradition, giving back and passing on. Bruce Carmichael carried his badges and

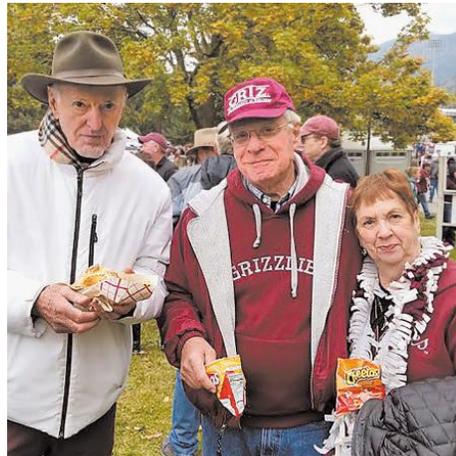
love for Sigma Chi his whole life. We hope that all Sigma Chis enjoy the gift of brotherhood. If you have something of value (property, securities, cash, etc.) that you would like to pass on to Beta Delta, our current **Heart of The House Campaign** would be happy to accept it. This fund raiser goal is to accumulate a \$500,000 endowment to maintain the ongoing and expensive repairs to 1110 Gerald Avenue. For details, visit www.betadelta-sigmachi.org and click donate. If you are interested in gifting appreciated real estate or securities, contact **Walt Kero '73** waltkero@msn.com

HOMECOMING 2018

See you next year!

This year was bitter-sweet: The sweetness of Beta Delta brothers from near and far gathering in Missoula to renew bonds of brotherhood and the bitterness of the Montana Grizzlies losing to Portland State. The Missoula Alumni Chapter sponsored the traditional tailgate with setup and cooking done by Active Chapter. Following the game, food and beverages were provided at 1110 Gerald for brothers, friends and sweethearts.

If you didn't make it this year, we'll send you a reminder for 2019.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Toad Mobile



Brother **Bill "Toad" Todd '57** was popular at 1110 Gerald. When he enrolled at the University he brought with him a 1931 Chevy. He soon pledged Sigma Chi and the Chevy became a popular method of transport for the brothers. The "Toad Mobile," as it was affectionately known had a colorful history. According to Bill: In 1953, "I bought it from my cousin Larry Todd for \$50. I took it with me to college where it became a fixture at the Sigma Chi House. In

1958, I joined the Navy and my Uncle Larry stored it for me at their ranch.

In 1963, I gave it to my cousin Bruce Wilson who later restored it and gave it back to me in 1985. I kept it in a garage in Livingston MT. My wife and I drove it to our 40th Homecoming celebration at Montana and then on to our Lake Tahoe home. In 2017, my son-in-law sold it to antique car collector near Chico CA."

Do you own an interesting piece of Beta Delta history to share? Email rich@regenesi.net with the details.