

# BETA-CHI COLUMNS

KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY AT MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | SPRING 2013

## MEMBERS ENJOY THE NEW HOUSE AS BETA-CHI CELEBRATES 110 YEARS

### ALUMNI OUTLINE NECESSARY UPGRADES TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE COMING YEARS

This year marks the 110th year of the Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma. We will celebrate our anniversary on Saturday, October 19, during Homecoming. If you have not seen the new house, Homecoming is a great opportunity to reconnect with your brothers and see what we have accomplished.

The Beta-Chi Chapter House is the 11th largest fraternity house in the country, the second largest fraternity house (by a few hundred square feet) at Rolla, and the second largest Kappa Sigma house in the country. It is 28,500 square feet and houses 96 men; it is truly a gem. It is not only big, but is also beautiful and built to withstand the rigors of fraternity living. Additionally, the undergraduate Chapter is proving themselves to be worthy stewards of such an impressive Chapter House. The undergraduates are an enthusiastic and motivated group and have been excelling in academics, athletics and campus-wide competitions like Greek Week and St. Pats. They have a chapter GPA above the all-men's average and 16 members have a 4.0. Kappa Sigma has been first or second in recruitment the last several years, and there are more than 100 active members. I am proud of our Chapter and what we have accomplished. We are truly the pride of Rolla, and representatives from Kappa Sigma national have consistently pointed to Beta-Chi as an example for other chapters to emulate.

Although we spent over \$4 million on the new house, there were some projects our budget did not allow us to complete that we hope to soon:

1. We need to expand the irrigation system. Rolla has been in a two-year drought and it has been difficult to get anything to grow. Watering two acres by hand when most of the members are gone over the summer has not been successful. Additionally, now that construction is finished and the water drainage patterns are known, some additional trench drains need to be installed.
2. Install the Kappa Sigma letters and the crest on the house, modeled after the signage on the International Memorial Headquarters of Kappa Sigma in Charlottesville, Virginia.
3. Our electrical service is original and will need to be replaced soon.

4. Upgrades to the Chapter House's Internet have proven necessary.
5. We are investigating replacing the original sand volleyball court with a sports court where you could play tennis, volleyball, basketball, or roller hockey.
6. To finance the construction costs that were not covered by donations, we have a 20-year loan that we would like to pay off early to save on interest payments.

There are two educational foundations that provide scholarships to Beta-Chis who excel academically. The Kappa Sigma Endowed Educational Fund is managed by the university, and the Beta-Chi Educational Foundation is managed by Beta-Chi alumni. If you give to the university you can specify our foundation so Beta-Chis will benefit. Both are tax deductible and directly benefit worthy undergraduate members of the Chapter. If you would like more information about these programs, please contact Brother **Rich Manning '78** at [kshousefund@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kshousefund@sbcglobal.net).

Finally, we at the Alumni House Fund Association strive to keep our alumni involved and informed. We are working on a new [www.beta-chi.com](http://www.beta-chi.com) website and are interested in hearing from Beta-Chi alumni on other ways we can improve. If you have any suggestions or are interested in getting involved in the Alumni House Fund Association, please contact me at the e-mail address below.

We appreciate all the support given by our alumni for the construction of the Chapter House, as well as the ongoing support that our alumni provide, allowing us to keep the Chapter House looking new and to continue the projects outlined above. The dedication of the new house was a great event, and many alumni got a chance to reconnect. I hope to see you all at the 110th.

A.E.K.Δ.B.,

**Robert Hoffmann '77**

Alumni House Fund Association President  
[roberth@hoffmannbros.com](mailto:roberth@hoffmannbros.com)

*Spring 2013 Beta-Chi undergraduates with house dog Ace.*



*Beta-Chi undergraduates pair up with Missouri S&T women's volleyball team for head shaving in support for the mother of a volleyball player undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.*

## BETA-CHIS SHOW LEADERSHIP ACROSS CAMPUS

### Members Have Success in Recruitment, Greek Events, and Academics

The Beta-Chi undergraduates experienced post-renovation success into the spring 2013 school year. This semester brought us great achievement in all areas of fraternal life, including academics, brotherhood, and campus involvement.

We have a spring pledge class of two men that followed an impressive 27-man class in the fall. Recruitment Chairman **Ross Hoover '11** emphasized the importance of recruitment within the organization and has already handed out multiple bid cards to qualified young men for fall 2013.

Internally, we have experienced great success in brotherhood improvement. In the fall, Beta-Chi took second place behind Pi Kappa Alpha in the 50th annual Greek Week by less than 10 points. We competed in the 105th St. Pats celebration to ensure the first place trophy stays in the Chapter House foyer.

In early February, Beta-Chi had the privilege to hold a special initiation for Urban R. Cartier, a pledge from the 1948 class, who was forced to leave school for financial reasons before his initiation. It was truly

incredible to see how the brotherhood we share spans generations.



*GM Ben Prueter '10 presents initiation certificate to special initiate Urban R. Cartier, along with Chuck Anderson '48, on February 9.*

Beta-Chi hosted the Missouri District Conclave for the first time in five years in March. Undergraduates from all over the state came to Rolla for sessions on brainstorming and chapter development.

Last semester, Beta-Chi achieved an impressive 3.01 Chapter GPA, which was above both the all-Greek and all-men's averages. On

campus, members of Beta-Chi hold many leadership positions in various organizations. In fact, almost 35% of our members hold an executive position in an organization outside of Kappa Sigma.

Going forward, I could not be more pleased with the successful direction that the Chapter is headed in. I look forward to meeting many of you in October for the 110th Beta-Chi Homecoming celebration.



A.E.K.Α.B.,  
**Ben Prueter '10**  
Grand Master  
bdp27f@mst.edu



*Ben Prueter '10, Mike Worms '08, and Bryce Phillips '11 participate in Beta-Chi's first-place Greek Sing performance.*



*The ninth annual Fish Fry was co-sponsored by the ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha.*



**Beta-Chi Website**  
[www.beta-chi.com](http://www.beta-chi.com)

**Beta-Chi Facebook Page**  
[facebook.com/beta-chi-of-kappa-sigma](https://facebook.com/beta-chi-of-kappa-sigma)

## Alumnus Rekindles Ties to Kappa Sigma

**Ken Staab '76** lives by the motto “do what makes sense and what feels right.” The bonds he felt with the active brothers during recruitment gave him the sense that Kappa Sigma was the right place for him. “Just being associated with a great group of people and living with them, I was proud of all the things we accomplished collectively.”

Ken graduated with a degree in civil engineering. A job opportunity with Exxon allowed him to move to west Texas. After working there for a couple of years, he then joined a start-up company as an engineer in 1985 called XTO Energy. The company began with seven people and grew into the largest natural gas producer in the United States. “I was fortunate as a young engineer to be offered the opportunity to work with the company.” In 2009, the company was sold to Exxon. Ken stayed on for three more years, working as the senior vice president before his retirement. In his retirement, Ken is a part owner in a classic car dealership, Hardway Classic Cars.

He appreciates the life lessons he learned in Kappa Sigma and acknowledges that the fraternity played an important role in his career success. “It taught me the ability to work with people, create goals and priorities, and how to blend them together to have a successful organization.”

Ken’s advice to undergraduates is to find a balance between the academics and social experiences. “Make your studies a priority and find a balance so you can attend every party, float trip, and activity. You usually know when those activities are happening, so you can plan your studies around them. It gives you the best college experience and teaches good time management.”

Admittedly, Ken has not stayed close to the Chapter since graduating, but not by intention. He says the natural progression of everyone spreading out after graduation and him moving to Texas contributed over time to the distance with the Chapter. He has kept up with brothers sporadically and says they always pick up where they left off and the bond remains as if they still saw each other every day. Recently he has reconnected with **Ed Jantosik '76**, and he is hoping to help plan the golf trip and return to the campus this summer.

Ken lives in Southlake, Texas, with his wife, Kerry, and they have two sons, David (25) and Michael (22). In his free time he enjoys skiing, golfing, classic cars and spending time with friends. E-mail: kstaabhcc@yahoo.com

## BARRY SHELDEN '78 SHARES HOW KAPPA SIGMA HELPED HIS CAREER PATH



**H**eading off to college, **Barry Shelden '78** decided to join a fraternity with a friend from high school. He says he chose Kappa Sigma because of the quick friendships he made with his pledge brothers.

“We had a lot of brothers in leadership positions in campus organizations, and we had the best parties, hands down!”

Barry earned a bachelor’s degree in petroleum engineering, while serving as the Beta-Chi assistant treasurer, treasurer, and GM. He has been in the oil and gas business since graduation. He is the business unit manager for Noble Energy’s Appalachia Business Unit, where he develops Marcellus Shale (natural gas) in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Through his career Barry has lived in Alaska and overseas for 24 of the last 32 years.

Barry recalls graduate student **Larry Peck '72**, who lived in the house while he was a pledge. “Larry took on a project that required every pledge to prepare a resume. This was back in the days before PCs were invented, so we had to type them. Larry was a real stickler, and we had to retype them several times. At the time, we were not happy with him for making us do this; however, when my resume was completed,

Larry suggested that I turn my resume in at the placement center for a summer job with Amoco. I was an undecided engineering major at the time, but I got the job offer from Amoco Production Company. After I got that job, I declared my major in petroleum engineering.”

He also appreciates the help he received from the Kappa Sigma faculty advisor, **Lenn Koederitz '64**, who was the head of the petroleum engineering department at the time. “He was my advisor, and he was tough on the Kappa Sigs (he didn’t want to show favoritism), but he was a great professor and teacher, and he really had a tremendous impact on my career path.”

Barry’s advice for the undergraduates is the same advice he gave to his three daughters when they went off to college: go to class. “No matter what, go to class! No matter how late I stayed up, I almost always made it to class. I remember going over to the Chi Omega house at six in the morning for a breakfast party. It was fun, but I still made it to my eight o’clock class.”

In addition, he says it is important to get involved and study. “Get involved, both in Kappa Sigma and in campus organizations. This really helped me when I was interviewing for jobs, and I know it is still important today with recruiters. The forced study hours when we were

freshmen was the best thing ever. I don’t know if I would have made the transition from high school without this. After I was initiated, I kept up with these hours and it paid off. I learned how to study more efficiently as the years went on, so I was able to have plenty of fun.”

Barry says, along with the career success he has experienced, Beta-Chi helped him become who he is today. “As pledges, there were several sophomores who were tough on the freshmen. This taught me that you may not always like your boss, but you have to learn to make the best of a bad situation. As GM and treasurer, I had to make some decisions that may not have been popular, but they were the right thing to do. I learned the value of diversity. We had a lot of different types of guys in the house; however, we all came together in Kappa Sigma and each person was able to make a great contribution. Finally, the friendships I made in Kappa Sigma have been lifelong. Even though I’ve been out of touch for several years, my Kappa Sigma brothers have always supported me.”

Barry has stayed close with his pledge brothers. When he moved to Alaska four Beta-Chis were also living there: **Gerry Suellentrop '78**, **Steve Suellentrop '71**, **Mark Drumm '74**, and **Andy Simon '71**. “We did a lot together and had a

*(Continued on page 4)*

## RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Beta-Chi is always looking for new members to join our fraternity. We count on our alumni to make recommendations for those who they think would uphold our Kappa Sigma ideals. If you know of a potential new member, please mail this form to Recruitment Chairman **Ross Hoover '11** at P.O. Box 31611, St. Louis, MO 63131-1611 or [rehd4f@mst.edu](mailto:rehd4f@mst.edu).

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

(E-mail)

(Phone)

(Parent or guardian)

(Reference submitted by)

# BETA-CHI COLUMNS

The Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma  
The Alumni House Fund Association  
P.O. Box 31611  
St. Louis, MO 63131-1611

*Address Service Requested*

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LAWRENCE, KS  
66044  
PERMIT #570

**ATTENTION:** *This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your Kappa Sigma son is still attending Missouri University of Science and Technology, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. Please e-mail all permanent address changes to Ed Jantosik at [ecjirpe@miner.mst.edu](mailto:ecjirpe@miner.mst.edu). Thank you.*

## BETA-CHI CHAPTER OFFICERS

Grand Master  
**Ben Prueter '10**  
[bdp27f@mst.edu](mailto:bdp27f@mst.edu)



Grand Treasurer  
**George Mausshardt '11**  
[ghm455@mst.edu](mailto:ghm455@mst.edu)

Grand Procurator  
**Braxton Hoenes '10**  
[bghtzc@mst.edu](mailto:bghtzc@mst.edu)

Inner Guard  
**John DeMartino '10**  
[jd3b6@mst.edu](mailto:jd3b6@mst.edu)

Grand Master of Ceremonies  
**Jeff Fritzmeier '10**  
[jdf5g4@mst.edu](mailto:jdf5g4@mst.edu)

Outer Guard  
(Recruitment Chairman)  
**Ross Hoover '11**  
[rehd4f@mst.edu](mailto:rehd4f@mst.edu)

Grand Scribe  
**Kevin Flaker '11**  
[kmfcfb@mst.edu](mailto:kmfcfb@mst.edu)



*Beta-Chi undergraduates participate in an intramural volleyball game against Pi Kappa Alpha in the fall.*

## SAVE THE DATE

GOLF TOURNAMENT  
JUNE 1  
PARADISE VALLEY IN ST. LOUIS

110TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
AT HOMECOMING  
OCTOBER 18-20

## BARRY SHELDEN '78

*(Continued from page 3)*

of fun. Mark and his wife, Marieta, are the godparents of our three daughters, and they have done an outstanding job in helping us raise them.”

Barry and his wife, Kathy, live in Houston, Texas, and have three daughters: Stacy (25), Kelly (23), and Amy (21). In his free time he enjoys cycling and rode in the Houston to Austin MS-150 the weekend of April 20-21, raising money for multiple sclerosis research. E-mail: [sheldenjb@gmail.com](mailto:sheldenjb@gmail.com)