

BETA-CHI COLUMNS

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

ALUMNI REMAIN FOCUSED ON IMPROVEMENT TO CHAPTER HOUSE



We are winding down one of the greatest years in the history of the Beta-Chi Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity and I am proud to be a part of the success. Last semester we had the highest GPA in the history of our Chapter, won numerous awards from the National Kappa Sigma Fraternity that are only given to the top chapter, won Greek Week, and the members showed their leadership on campus by holding executive positions in multiple campus organizations. We not only have the best Fraternity on campus, but we are one of the best in the country.

Although we spent over \$4 million renovating the Chapter House we could not do everything we wanted to do, and we continue to work on additional projects as our resources allow. We recently completed the irrigation system and placed our Greek letters and crest on the house. The electrical service is 30 years old and likely won't last much longer. We are currently budgeting for its replacement. About half the money used on the project was lent from a local bank. Paying down the debt is a high priority for the Alumni House Fund Association.

One of our biggest needs is assistance for members who can't afford to stay in school. When a parent loses his or her job it impacts our members. They no longer have the money to stay in school. It is our hope to develop a scholarship fund for those in need in conjunction with the Beta-Chi Educational Foundation. Any help you can give for any of these projects would be appreciated.



110TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETA-CHI CELEBRATED

This year marks the 110th year of the Beta-Chi Chapter. We celebrated the anniversary at Homecoming on October 19 with roughly 230 alumni, undergraduates, and guests in attendance. During the event we inducted five Brothers into the Beta-Chi Hall of Fame: **Walter Knecht '45**, **Bill Turner '61**, **Jeff Melcher '79**, **Ed Bradley '81**, and **Pete Joyce '92**. We applaud each of them for their successful careers and dedication to Kappa Sigma. Congrats!



During the event we also inducted **Bill Kirchoff '60** into the Beta-Chi Men of the Century Club for his dedication and commitment to our Chapter. He is only the fifth member to receive this award. Bill has served 57 years on the Alumni House Fund Association, including serving as its president, and continues to serve as a director today. After receiving the award he was asked to give a few words. Bill said he had no idea he would receive this honor. After a moment of complete silence, while Bill regained his composure, the only thing he could say was, "I love this place." We all love Bill. It brought a tear to my eye and many others. It was a beautiful way to end the evening.

A.E.K.Δ.B.,
Robert Hoffmann '77
Alumni House Fund Association President
roberth@hoffmannbros.com



www.beta-chi.com

Beta-Chi Website Gets a Facelift

You may have noticed recently that our website looks different from before. Rest assured that we still have the same enhanced technology capabilities in order to improve communications.

You can still enjoy the following features from Beta-Chi's improved website:

- Stay up to date on undergraduate and alumni news
- Update your contact and profile information directly
- Search our password-protected online database for your long-lost Brothers (password: AEKDB)
- Submit career and life updates
- Make online contributions to the Beta-Chi Educational Foundation safely and securely
- Receive invitations and communication about Chapter activities via e-mail
- Connect with Brothers and participate in conversations via Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter



The undergraduates celebrated another first place Greek Week win this fall. This was the second time Kappa Sigma has taken the trophy home in the past three years.

CHAPTER HAS RECORD-BREAKING SEMESTER

Members Succeed in Academics and Campus Leadership

What a wonderful opportunity it was getting to meet all of you alumni at the 110th annual Homecoming celebration this October. It was truly a privilege to see the history and tradition that still exists in our great Fraternity.

Beta-Chi has experienced yet another remarkable semester so far this fall. With the leadership of Recruitment Chairman **Ross Hoover '11**, 31 young men were formally pledged into the Chapter at the beginning of September; we look forward to initiating them.

Last semester also marked significant improvement in scholarship for the Beta-Chi undergraduates as the Chapter obtained a GPA of 3.15, which was higher than the all-men's, all-Greek, and all-student averages. This also marked the highest GPA in recorded Beta-Chi history.

The Beta-Chi undergraduates were also awarded a wide array of recognition at the 69th Biennial Grand Conclave in Las Vegas this summer. Along with various other awards including excellence in campus involvement and pledging programs, Beta-Chi was awarded the John C. Boyd Award for the second year in a row. This award is given annually to the nicest chapter facility across the United States and Canada.

With the leadership of Greek Week Chairman **Tommy Davis '09**, the Beta-Chi undergraduates took home yet another first place Greek Week win this September. It was a great privilege to witness the drive and motivation from all of the Brothers in the Chapter during this time.

Beta-Chis continue to be proven leaders on the Missouri S&T campus as well. Brother **Steve Ludwig '11** proudly represents the St. Pat's Board as president, and Brother **Tom Dell'Orco '11** serves the Greek Community as president of the Interfraternity Council. In fact, almost 20% of Beta-Chi undergraduates serve in executive roles of other organizations outside of Kappa Sigma.

I'm ecstatic about the record-breaking semester Beta-Chi is on track to achieving this fall. I look forward to the vision that the new executive leadership team will bring to the Chapter in December, as well.

Thank you all again for your continued support and generous financial contributions; much of our success can be accredited to our loyal alumni.

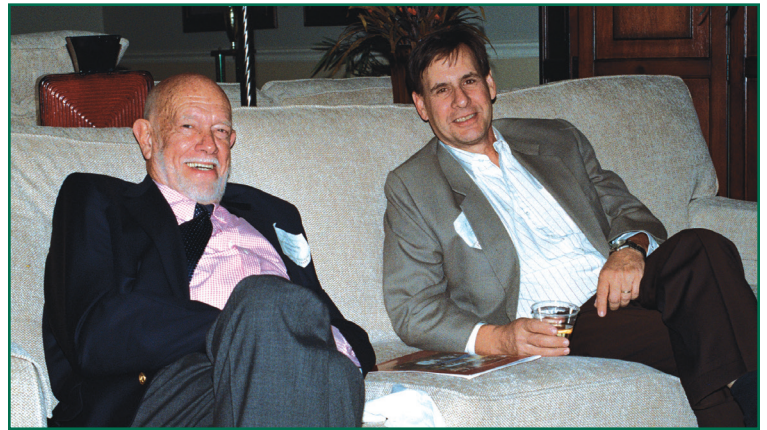
A.E.K.Δ.B.

Ben Prueter '10, Grand Master
(913) 909-1904 / bdp27f@mst.edu



Ben Prueter '10, Kyle Dibler '10, Caleb Rogers '10, Braxton Hoenes '10, Jared Backues '10, Eric LaPietra '10, and John DeMartino '10 celebrate fellowship at the 110th Homecoming celebration.

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETA-CHI CELEBRATED

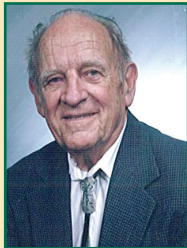


2013 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Walt Knecht '42

Before attending Missouri School of Mines, **Walter Knecht '45**, along with three others from his high school, was asked to visit the campus by two Beta-Chi members. "After our meeting we were asked to pledge, and we all decided it would be a great organization. It also provided one of the lowest costs of living accommodations."

He says Beta-Chi helped develop the hard work ethic he inherited from his father. Walter earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1949 and his master's in engineering administration from Washington University in St. Louis in 1963. After graduation from MSM he stayed involved with Kappa Sigma, becoming president of the Beta-Chi Chapter House



Fund Association and grand master of St. Louis Kappa Sigma Alumni Chapter.

Walter began his employment at Mallinckrodt, which had a contract with the Atomic Energy Commission for developing uranium, as a development engineer, then plant superintendent and data processing manager. While there, he was awarded a patent in 1960 for direct ingot process for producing uranium. In 1965, he became the plant data processing manager at Food Machinery and Chemical Co. He then became the EDP coordinator, group MIS manager, and developed corporate long-range systems plans. From 1979 until his retirement in 1991, Walter was the senior staff analyst for Union

Carbide, where he developed and implemented an international sales information system for multiple divisions of Union Carbide.

One of his favorite memories in the Chapter is a lesson in teamwork. "One of our members' cars needed a new transmission. He found one at a used parts store and ended up installing it upside down, resulting in three speeds in reverse and one forward. A few of us helped him take it back out and install it properly."

Walter and his wife of over 60 years, Shirley, live in Sun City West, Arizona, and have one son, Keith. Walter has written his autobiography and learned to fly. He is an active volunteer in the community and enjoys gardening, travel, and reading.

2013 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Ed Bradley '81

For **Ed Bradley '81**, being a member of Kappa Sigma meant always having a friend around and someone to talk to. "Some of my favorite memories are just of hanging out at the house listening to music." It also provided him with a support system while earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. "Going to school at UMR was difficult. Being in a Fraternity made it much easier and helped me enjoy it."

After graduating in 1984 he became an assistant engineer at Union Electric Company. Ed then began working in the T&D Standards Group as an engineer in their underground section developing standards for underground construction and approving materials to be used on underground systems. In 1992, he transferred to the service test group of the distribution operating department and worked with field service men to investigate voltage complaints. In 1995, he went to work as the customer service engineer for the Underground District. While there he was responsible for construction projects in the downtown St. Louis underground system and was the Union Electric representative to the City of St. Louis for all customer business.

In 1997, Ed returned to the Distribution Standards Group as a distribution standards engineer, which is his current position. "I have been involved in the consolidation of standards and materials for all of the Illinois companies that have merged to become Ameren Illinois. I visit headquarters locations to discuss construction issues and to train construction crews on new underground items." Ed is also a member of the Ameren Storm Team that goes out into the field after a major storm to assess damage and provide information on what materials are needed to repair damage prior to the arrival of the line crews.

He completed his master's degree in business administration at St. Louis University and is a registered professional engineer in Missouri and Illinois. He is a member of the Engineer's Club of St. Louis and the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers. Ed was inducted into the MS&T Electrical Engineering Academy in the spring of 2011.



Outside of his career, Ed dedicates a lot of his time to leadership roles with the Boy Scouts of America. He is an Eagle Scout and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award for notable scout leadership in the St. Louis area, the St. George Award for outstanding Catholic scout leader, and the Venturing Leadership Award for working as a crew advisor with the coed teen scouting program. "I have a deep belief in the role of scouting in the success of young men and women.

I have taught basic AC/DC electric concepts to scouts at the Electricity Merit Badge courses held at Union Electric/Ameren for the last 25 years and have taught similar concepts with IEEE members from around the nation to scouts at two national scout jamborees."

He is also active in his local Catholic parish as a member of the Men's Club and a eucharistic minister. He is a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus. In 2012, he was awarded the Ameren President's Performance Leadership Award for service to the community.

Pete Joyce '92

Pete Joyce '92 found Kappa Sigma through his friend, **Mike Marino '88**. "We had been friends since junior high, and he invited me to visit the house and go through recruitment."

For Pete, his undergraduate experience was about learning new things. "I learned the value of team work and the value of being able to count on others to be there for you. I also learned the value of being the one that people could count on. The Fraternity experience was the most important part of my education. It was a great environment to learn the basics of leadership and to cement the value system that would form the foundation of future success. I definitely wouldn't have made it through Rolla without the help of my Brothers. Kappa Sigma has been an important cornerstone in my life."



Pete was very active in Beta-Chi, serving as the house manager, grand procurator, and grand master for two years. He was a member of Theta Tau Omega and Knight of St. Pat's in 1995. "It was a great way to try my hand at leadership in a low-risk environment and work with a variety of personalities. I had to figure out how to motivate a group of people that may not have all had the same goals; it prepared me for those leadership opportunities that would come later in business."

Looking back on his time with Kappa Sigma, Pete said he has many fond memories. "Work weekend was always a favorite of mine. Kappa Sigma is where I realized my calling was in construction. I learned more outside the classroom than I ever did inside the classroom, and those things have been much more influential in my life beyond Rolla."

After earning his bachelor's degree in engineering management, he began working at Marino Concrete, owned by Brother Marino. Then he accepted a position at GNH Services Inc., where he has been a superintendent, field operations manager, safety director, senior project manager, construction operations manager, account executive, and now the director of operations.

"Real success comes not from being the smartest person in the room, but from leveraging the power of a team toward the accomplishment of a goal or vision. The Fraternity is one of the best environments for hands-on learning and leadership development."

Pete lives in the St. Louis area with his wife, Jenny, and their four children: Ian, Jack, Benjamin, and Jillian. In his free time he enjoys working on projects around the house and activities with his family and church.

2013 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

William Turner '61

There are many reasons to choose to join a fraternity, and for **William Turner '61**, he was looking to develop leadership and social skills. "I knew some individuals from Springfield who joined Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Rolla and I felt that it would offer me the kind of fellowship I was looking for. I had always been on the quiet side and felt that being in this Fraternity would help me immensely."

Looking back, Bill says it was the overall brotherhood experience that he cherishes most, "knowing that everyone was willing to help each other, and we always enjoyed our time together no matter what we were doing."

Bill earned a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from MSM and later an MBA degree from Xavier University. After graduating from MSM, he accepted an entry-level position as an analysis engineer at the Arnold Engineering Development Center. While there he participated in tests for the Air Force and aerospace industry on a number of NASA and Air Force rocket engines. From there he went to work for GE Aircraft Engines in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he held a multitude of positions.

When working as the manager of military marketing he coordinated the first Air Force Value Engineering repair contract ever awarded to GEAE for repair of spare parts. He was also responsible for organizing and negotiating the first commercial spare parts catalogue to be utilized on a military contract with the Air Force. This eliminated a multitude of lengthy and costly individual contract negotiations for each single part.

Throughout his leadership positions in his career, he acknowledges the role Kappa Sigma played in his success. "Kappa Sigma gave me the foundation I needed. As you get out into life and work you realize the importance of having learned good leadership skills. In order to be successful in whatever you want to pursue, you have to learn how to deal with people and organizations. Being able to use your leadership skills to complete projects is very gratifying, especially when it is beneficial to others. I learned that being a doer is much more satisfying than just simply participating."

Bill learned firsthand how being a leader can help

benefit others. In the late 1970s through the early 1980s he led the effort to organize a citywide youth soccer program in Cincinnati. He was able to expand the program to include one-third of the elementary school system. "I'm proud that even when I moved away the program continued. Within a few years the city recognized the soccer program's positive benefits and added it as a new sports program within the school system."



He has also stayed connected to Beta-Chi. "I support the Chapter through the annual dues, contributions to the house fund campaign, and provide an annual contribution to Kappa Sigma at the national level." In recent years he worked with his Beta-Chi Brothers in the Springfield, Missouri, area to organize reunions for '50s and '60s graduates every two or three years.

Bill and his wife, Kay, live in Springfield and have two sons, Sean and Tracy. He enjoys playing golf and has a small business doing golf club repairs. He also likes to collect and repair antique sewing machines.

Jeff Melcher '79

Jeff Melcher '79 found an immediate connection with the members of Kappa Sigma during recruitment. Being able to learn from and share new experiences with his Brothers made a lasting impact. "Being in the Fraternity was a great basis for future learning of how to work with people. We always had fun when we spent time together, whether on float trips, St. Pat's, Greek week, and just being around like-minded engineering majors."



After earning his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Jeff began working at General Motors, where he was awarded a scholarship to the General Motors Institute to pursue a master's degree in manufacturing management and business and administration. He left General Motors in 1987 and has been an entrepreneur since. He is the CEO of

NetStandard Inc., a technology company that provides IT departments for businesses; owns and operates an Internet data center; and has a cloud computing platform that hosts about 50 different applications. He is also the president of Accutype Medical Services, which provides medical record documentation for hospitals and physicians.

Jeff is also a Kansas senator. "I want to make Kansas the best state to live, work, and learn in. I was faced with potentially moving my company to Texas, and I decided instead of that I would run for senate and try to get things done here to become a more competitive state."

He serves on several local chamber of commerces in the Kansas City area, is on the board of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, Johnson

County Charter Commission, and was appointed by the governor to the board of directors to the Johnson County Research Triangle. Jeff is also the founding advisor for Generation Tech, a workforce development initiative dedicated to strengthening and growing the region's technology workforce. From his experience, Jeff has learned the value of developing leadership skills. "Leadership skills are vital. As a member of the board for Generation Tech, one of the things we value the most is leadership skills and critical thinking skills, and that is something that we have found most lacking in graduates today. I believe Kappa Sigma taught me those necessary skills."

Jeff lives in Leawood, Kansas, with his wife, Kris, and their two children, Isabella and Jack. He enjoys auto racing, flying, boating, and discussing and debating public policy.

THE ALUMNI HOUSE FUND ASSOCIATION

President

Robert Hoffmann '78

(314) 537-3193

roberth@hoffmannbros.com

Vice President

Stephen Hoffmann '02

Secretary

Grant Mabie '02

Treasurer

Rich Manning '78

kshousefund@sbcglobal.net

Directors

Bill Kirchoff '60

Ron Acker '75

Ed Jantosik '76

Aaron Prewitt '02

David Vorhies '03

Chad Brenton '05

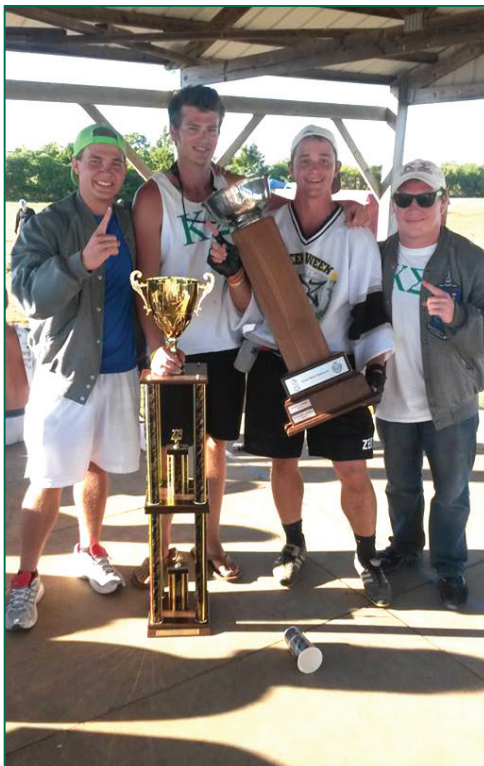
BETA-CHI COLUMNS

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

Address Service Requested

PSRST 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 ecjrpe@miner.mst.edu. Thank you.*



*Tom Dell'Orco '11, Tommy Davis '09,
Braxton Hoenes '10, and Chris Carlton '12
pose with two first place Greek Week trophies.*

BETA-CHI CHAPTER OFFICERS

Grand Master

Ben Prueter '10 / bdp27f@mst.edu

Grand Procurator

Caleb Rogers '10 / cjr8f8@mst.edu

Grand Master of Ceremonies

Jeff Fritzmeier '10 / jdf5g4@mst.edu

Grand Scribe

Tim Dillion '12 / twdgk4@mst.edu

Grand Treasurer

Charles Moore '11 / ctmg28@mst.edu

Inner Guard

Scott Peth '11 / scpw8@mst.edu

Outer Guard

(Scholarship Chair)

Tom Dell'Orco '11 / tadwx3@mst.edu

Save the Date

**Founders' Day Banquet
Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Maggie O'Brien's Restaurant
2000 Market Street in
Downtown St. Louis**

- Cash bar starts at 6 p.m.
- Buffet dinner starts at 7:30 p.m.
- Please bring a prize for the raffle
- \$30 for alumni in advance and \$35 at the door
- \$25 for undergraduates

RSVP by November 29 and send your check payable to Greater St. Louis Area Alumni Association, c/o Matt Foresman, 1452 Red Oak Plantation Dr., St. Louis, MO 63021. Contact Matt with any questions at (314) 604-6356 or matthew.r.foresman@monsanto.com.