

BETA CHI COLUMNS



KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY AT MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | FALL 2020

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BEST OF THE BEST

Beta-Chi Chapter Receives FACE Award

Congratulations to the Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma for winning the prestigious FACE award. FACE is the Founders Award for Chapter Excellence and is the national benchmark award in Kappa Sigma recognizing the best of the best undergraduate chapters. FACE is the highest award given to a chapter. We are so proud of our undergraduate Brothers.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for the Missouri University of Science and Technology, the undergraduate Chapter, and its members. Classes went fully virtual last semester, and most members moved home. As a result, the House Fund issued rent refunds, which led to the fund losing tens of thousands of dollars in revenue. Recruitment was also a challenge, as PRO days and Greek recruiting days were canceled. Numbers were down for most Greek organizations, including Beta-Chi.

Fortunately, campus reopened this semester with classroom teaching. Every organization was required to develop a COVID-19 plan under the guidance and approval of the university medical staff. To this point, COVID-19 has not been prevalent at MS&T, with only a hand full of cases active at any one time. As of this writing, Beta-Chi has not yet experienced any positive cases. A lot of other Greek houses have had cases, but we have done our due diligence and so far, it has paid off.

COVID-19 has also financially impacted many of our undergraduate members and their families. The House

Fund has received calls from several members requesting financial assistance. As a result of these requests, the Beta Chi Educational Foundation is going to double the total amount of financial aid scholarships that are available to our undergraduate members. We would appreciate any financial assistance you can provide in support of this effort. We also have an arrangement with the university where they will match our donations. Last semester, we provided \$14,000 in financial aid to members in need, along with thousands of dollars in other scholarships. This semester, we plan on providing an additional \$14,000 in financial aid scholarships. This is not expected to cover all our members' financial needs, but your donations that fund these scholarships are greatly appreciated by our undergraduate members.

Regarding facility improvements, last semester we hard-wired the entire Chapter House to provide internet connections in every room. Next semester, we plan to upgrade all IT infrastructure to get the necessary bandwidth needed by our undergraduate Brothers.

I want to thank all of you for your past and future support. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated and loyal alumni to team with our amazing undergraduate Chapter.

A.E.K.Δ.B.,
Robert Hoffmann '78

Alumni House Fund Association President

Congratulations, Scholarship Recipients

MINER MATCH SCHOLARSHIP

This year, the Missouri University of Science and Technology offered us a matching scholarship program to help active Brothers who are struggling financially, some of whom may even face the possibility of dropping out of school. Our generous alumni donated nearly \$9,500 to the cause, and the university matched, giving us nearly \$19,000 to distribute to members in need. Our matching scholarship program with the university will be in place the next four years. If you would like to help, you can donate to the Beta-Chi Educational Foundation and add the footnote "Miner Match" to your check. Your donation will

be doubled and benefits a good cause. The recipients of the 2019-20 Miner Match Award (Spring 2020 semester) are: **Cameron Billings '18, Daniel Naranjo '19, Galo Naranjo '19, Evan Venegoni '20, and Gary Yerby '19**. The recipients of the 2020-2021 Miner Match Award (Fall 2020 semester) are: **Lucas Arias '20, Michael Wright '19, Padraig Quinlisk '20, Richmond Tran '19, and Seth Franke '19**.

WHITE COLUMNS and FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

White Columns Scholarship and Freshman Scholarships are awarded to young men who

exemplify the characteristics of the Four Pillars of Kappa Sigma: Scholarship, Leadership, Fellowship, and Service. Thanks to alumni support, Beta-Chi is able to offer \$14,000 to qualified students. This is an example of our Fraternity's dedication to academic excellence. This year's scholarship award winners are **Brenden Bebie '19, Benjamin Colench '20, Gehrig Bristow '17, Jacob Davis '17, Austin Dixon '17, Joseph George '18, Patrick Hatfield '19, Chan Hlawnceu '20, Kyle Kiefer '20, Jack Knepler '17, Cameron Mitchell '19, Jose Padron '18, Alan Sanchez '19, Collin Skaggs '20, and Evan Venegoni '20**.

GENEROUS ALUMNI, WE THANK YOU

\$18,290 RAISED IN 2020

We wish to thank all those who continue to support the annual program. Alumni who contributed to the 2020 appeals to date are listed by initiation year under the appropriate giving levels. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please send corrections to the Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma, University of Missouri Science & Technology, P.O. Box 442100, Lawrence, KS 66044. Thank you, again, for giving back to the Chapter—it truly does make a difference!

Benefactors of Beta Chi (\$250 and above)

Alan P. Ploesser '42
Norman E. Hart '53
James O. Murray '57
W. Dave Phelps '57
William L. Sullivan III '57
Bill Ricketts '58
Wayne B. Ruck '58
Dennis G. Dreyer '60
William S. Kirchoff Sr. '60
M. Thomas Barber '61

Richard L. Schmidt '61
Theodore M. Fiedler '62
Timothy M. Handlan '64
June C. Thomason Jr. '64
Michael A. Perkins '65
Barry R. Romine '66
Gary Forsee '69
Jerry W. Kiel '69
Lance M. Killoran '69
Don Neely '69
Mike J. Meyer '71
Stewart A. Scott '71

James C. Griese '72
David R. Breece '73
Michael W. Fugate '73
Paul R. Vetter '73
Gary E. Roebke '74
Kent S. Springer '74
Bruce A. Bowermaster '75
Mark R. White '75
Greg A. Weeks '77
Robert J. Hoffmann '78
J. Barry Shelden '78
Michael W. Smith '78

M. David Madonna '79
Edward J. Bradley Jr. '81
John D. Campbell '83
Richard T. Bradley '84
W. Alan Hopkins '86
Daniel H. Lumma '86
Dwayne R. Doshier '93
Grant J. Mabie '02
**Friends of Beta Chi
(Up to \$249)**
David L. Harbaugh '53

Rosario J. Sidoti '57
Paul C. Gerhardt Jr. '61
Robert B. Bridges '62
William J. Trejbal '63
Daniel C. Dugan '67
Dr. Robert L. Ward '68
William P. Balaz Jr. '69
R. George Calkins Jr. '69
Robert D. Simpson '75
David A. Ederle '81
H. John Vetter II '81
Joseph P. Shukys '85

The Value of Service

Scotty Black '02 Discusses His Marine Corps Career and Kappa Sigma Brotherhood

Growing up as a self-described “military brat,” **Scotty Black '02** always wanted to fly jets for the Air Force. He joined the Air Force ROTC in college, but as he got to know his Kappa Sigma Brothers, he was exposed to many other rewarding career paths. He planned to go into engineering after college—then 9/11 happened.

“Because of those events, I felt I absolutely needed to serve our country,” Scotty recalls. He soon joined the Army Reserves, followed by the Marine Corps after graduation, where he proudly serves to this day.

Scotty is thankful for the brotherhood he shared with Kappa Sigmas in his formative college years. While he deeply appreciated the Fraternity’s history and values, it was ultimately about the Brothers themselves, how they lived, and how they continue to live their lives. “Beta-Chi taught me what true brotherhood and real friendship was all about. You could not go it alone; you needed your Brothers to excel,” he said. “That stuck with me as I joined the military, which further reinforced the importance of teamwork, fellowship, leadership, and service.”

A REWARDING CAREER

In the Marine Corps, Scotty serves as an F/A-18 Weapons Systems Officer (“Think Goose in *Top Gun*”) and has had five deployments in his career—the most recent being for Operation Inherent Resolve, in which they executed

combat missions against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. His most rewarding experience to date was serving as the training officer for Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224; he trained the group for his fifth deployment in what he considers the most complex mission sets since the Vietnam War. Scotty’s service has also afforded him excellent educational opportunities, such as earning his M.S. in modeling and simulation at the Naval Postgraduate School, as well as a Ph.D. program that he will begin in the summer of 2021.

“My career has been extremely rewarding, and I never cease to be amazed by the quality of individuals who volunteer to serve our country, often at great sacrifice to themselves and their families,” Scotty says. “It has been a truly humbling experience to serve alongside some of our nation’s finest.”

WHAT MATTERS MOST

Speaking of family, out of all his successes, Scotty is most proud of his wife, Jess, and their young twins, Ellison and Ellie. He was away for long stretches of Jess’s pregnancy and the twins’ first year, and when not deployed he has often traveled or worked long hours. But the twins, now 4 years old, are happy and healthy, and Scotty’s family is the highlight of his life. “Despite all of the great things the Marine Corps has afforded me, nothing comes close to the excitement of coming home to two kids who don’t have a



care in the world, and who never fail to put a smile on my face.”

While Scotty has admittedly struggled to keep in touch with people, moving around for the military all his life, he has done a better job connecting with a group of Kappa Sigma Brothers. He was fortunate to meet with some of them again during a work trip to St. Louis, and it felt as though they had picked up right where they left off. His most recent trip back was for a Brother’s funeral, and despite the tragic circumstances, he was grateful to catch up with them again. “I know that if I lived in the area, I would absolutely attend all the events and hang out more often.”

Scotty resides in Montclair, Va., and enjoys spending as much time with family as possible. He also enjoys long-distance running events, which help him unwind and clear his mind. Scotty can be reached at scotty.black@gmail.com.

Safety First

Beta-Chi Chapter Returns to Campus Amidst Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

After a strong semester last spring, Beta-Chi Chapter looks forward to bringing our past success into the new school year. Last year, we broke numerous philanthropy fundraising records with the help of our alumni and undergraduates. We implemented an enhanced scholarship program and saw a vast increase in the overall Chapter GPA. Great leadership from our service chairmen last year helped us achieve our goal of over 80 hours per Brother for the school year. All of this work resulted in Beta-Chi winning Kappa Sigma's Founders Award of Chapter Excellence this past summer.

This year has been heavily impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and many groups have had to adapt to remain successful. Beta-Chi has enforced numerous safety practices to stay healthy. We have implemented mandatory mask wearing in hallways and common rooms, installed multiple hand sanitizing stations around the house, reduced capacity in various locations, created a check-in procedure that includes checking temperatures and a screen test, and assigned more cleaning duties. As of this time, we have not had any positive cases



Active members and friends stop for a photo in front of the Kappa Sigma sign during White Columns Cleanup. Brothers participate in this cleanup a few times each semester for service hours to clean White Columns Drive and Route 63.

within our Chapter House because of these efforts.

Our recruitment team recently partnered with a third-party recruitment service, Phired Up, who helped us adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19. Rather than holding large events, we hosted smaller and more personal encounters with potential new members. With the help of Phired Up, Beta-Chi is looking forward to crushing spring and fall 2021 recruitment. We also found that golf and Frisbee golf tournaments along with scheduled outdoor activities are a perfect way to continue building the foundations of brotherhood while adhering to COVID-19 safety guidelines.

While brotherhood continues to persevere, so does our commitment education and campus involvement. As most members have moved to online classes, we have become accustomed to using Zoom. From groups watching online lectures together to pre-exam late nights in the study room, we help each other grasp the complex curriculum provided by the Missouri University of Science and Technology. While classes are online and social events are on hold, it is difficult for members to obtain the same social interactions as years prior. It is impossible to say how we would have taken these tough social changes alone, but it is times like these that we rely on our brotherhood and look forward with positivity.

Fraternally,
Charlie Dienstbach '16
 Chapter President
 charliedienstbach@gmail.com



Brothers Troy Siebert '17, Hunter Hughes '17, Joey McEvoy '17, Jameson Corrigan '17, Alex Andrews '17, and Joe Distler '17 visit Fort Leonard Woods Veterans Cemetery in December 2019 to place wreaths on the headstones of fallen soldiers.



Congratulations to Alex Drake '18, Joey Schultz '18, Jose Padron '19, and Joe Distler '17 for achieving a 4.0 GPA in spring 2019.

WELCOME, NEW INITIATES

Initiated on September 6, 2020

Angelo Colombo
St. Louis, Mo.
 Mechanical
 Engineering

Joshua Eickhoff
Troy, Mo.
 Nuclear Engineering

James McPhee
St. Louis, Mo.
 Civil Engineering

Evan Venegoni
St. Charles, Mo.
 Mechanical
 Engineering

YEAR-ROUND RECRUITING

Beta-Chi Chapter has recently changed our approach to recruitment. We have developed a year-round system that creates a more sustainable method of recruiting. Over this past summer, we partnered with recruitment coaches from Phired Up, a third-party recruitment service. They have been training our recruitment teams using an incredibly useful website called Chapter Builder.

Chapter Builder has allowed us to further organize our recruitment by providing a profile of each potential new member. Each profile includes contact information as well as important information about extracurricular activities. Also, every member of our recruitment team can update the status of each potential new member and document the interactions we have had with them. Finally, the most valuable aspect of Chapter Builder is that each potential member is given a letter grade from A+ to F. This allows us to determine their current status and interest in the Chapter and track our progress toward our recruitment goal each semester. Chapter Builder has the ability to create notifications for our recruitment team that will ensure we are staying in touch with potential new members.

This system also enforces accountability within the recruitment team by showcasing the action points of each recruitment team member as well as the daily actions. Our partnership with Phired Up has significantly improved our approach to recruitment and helped us lay the foundation for the future. These efforts aim to ensure the longevity of the Beta-Chi Chapter for many years to come.



**Beta Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma
University of Missouri Science & Technology
P.O. Box 442100
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On September 11, Brothers extended a thank-you to the Rolla Police Department and the Rolla Fire Department for their service on the front lines.



Brothers Gary Yerby '19, Connor Howe '19, Cameron Mitchell '19, Connor Costello '19, Michael Schwetz '19, and Eric Wilhelm '19 participating in the tradition of beating fake snakes with shillelaghs during St. Patrick's week.

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ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER CELESTIAL



Sean Macrorie Weisenfels '18 of Kansas City, Mo., sadly passed away on June 13 at the age of 20. Sean had a passion for reading, animal welfare, wrestling, and martial arts. He held deep respect and admiration for our military and hoped to serve his country one day. His loyalty and respect toward his friends and family was unwavering.

Those who loved Sean will miss his sharp wit. Through intellectual discussions, it was clear that Sean had a perspective on life, death, honor, loyalty, and friendship that showed maturity beyond his years. No matter the degree of his personal success, Sean gave credit to his friends, family, teammates, instructors, coaches, teachers, and superiors.

Sean will be missed by his friends, family, and Beta-Chi Chapter Brothers.



ALUMNI NEWS

George Calkins Jr. '69 shares that his highlight of 2020 has been the 50-year new member class reunion in Naples, Fla. Snowbirding in Florida worked out well for George last winter, but he will try Arizona this time. He has enjoyed helping his granddaughter with teaching virtually during the pandemic. George lives in St. Louis, Mo. Email: gcalkins2227@gmail.com

Richard Leifield '70 retired in December 2017 after 42 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His last position was chief of the engineering division. Richard and his wife, Vivian, are enjoying retirement and their grandchildren. He has fond memories of Beta-Chi and wishes all his Brothers well. Richard lives in La Crescenta, Calif. Email: rleifield@earthlink.net

Tom "The Giant" Gredell '76 lives and works in Jefferson City, Mo. His wife, Carla, retired in May, but Tom is still working with no firm retirement date in sight. They have eight grandchildren, and they enjoy deer and turkey hunting and fishing when the opportunity arises. "If you are ever nearby during the week, stop by and see me! We're harder to find on weekends!" Email: tomg@ger-inc.biz