

BETA CHI COLUMNS



KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY AT MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | SPRING 2021

A RETURN TO NORMALCY

As We Near the End of the Pandemic, Alumni Events Are on the Horizon

Things are finally getting back to normal at the Missouri University of Science & Technology, with more and more classes being held in person. While the university still has COVID-19 protocols in place that must be followed, they began holding live recruiting events in February. There have been no reported positive cases of COVID-19 at Missouri S&T for several weeks. I look forward to getting back to our regular alumni events, having a Homecoming celebration, our Christmas happy hour, and the annual golf tournament.

Our recruiting team is working hard to fill the Chapter House with quality members. They have been doing

interviews and events almost every weekend. If you know of any young men heading to Rolla who would make a good fit for the Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma, please pass their names along to **Michael Crane '19**, our vice president of recruitment, at mac6ky@mst.edu or (314) 805-0480

As many of you know, Brother **Jim DeVous '72** passed away earlier this year. Jim had been a recruitment chairman and was a dedicated Brother throughout his life. Members of his class and several other Brothers donated to the Beta-Chi Educational Foundation in his memory. These donations will go toward helping undergraduate members in financial need. A special thanks to

Jim Pelger '72 for organizing these donations.

Again, I want to congratulate the undergraduate members for winning the prestigious Founders Award for Chapter Excellence. This award is the national benchmark in Kappa Sigma, recognizing the very best undergraduate Chapters.

Please stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you at one of our events in the near future!

A.E.K.Δ.B.,
Robert Hoffman '78
Alumni House Fund Association
President

Going All in at Kappa Sigma

Greg Raymer '83 Shares Some of His Poker Strategies with Beta-Chi's Collegians

Whether it's marrying the love of your life or celebrating the birth of your child, there are likely some common grand events that many of us have been blessed with in our respective lives. For **Greg Raymer '83**, marrying his wife, Cheryl, and welcoming his daughter, Sophie, into the world certainly qualify for two of the grandest events in his life.

Greg also realizes that there are grand events in life that only a seldom few are fortunate to celebrate. His life changed forever on May 28, 2004, when he won the Main Event of the 35th Annual World Series of Poker. He has accrued a plethora of poker accolades since then, including winning a record fifth Heartland Poker Tour Main Event in 2020.

"When one of those times happens, try to be in the moment as much as possible, and really get all you can from the experience," Greg said. "It is those moments of our greatest joy that can sustain us later when things aren't going as well."

Throughout the pandemic, Greg has competed virtually in some of the game's most prestigious tournaments. With Greg's travel schedule significantly reduced, he graciously took the time to meet with Beta-Chi's collegians over Zoom to share some of the lessons he's learned from playing poker professionally.



Above: Greg Raymer '83 with Jason Alexander at the 2009 Main Event. **Below:** Greg wins the 2004 World Series of Poker.



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Going All in at Kappa Sigma

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"I had fun and I hope they did as well. It was a good hour-and-a-half tutorial with me teaching them some of the important fundamentals of poker strategy, and especially tournament strategy," Greg said. "I do a lot of poker teaching, having done about 100 live group seminars and many hours of private lessons. I have also put out the best book on poker tournament strategy yet to be written, in my not-so-humble opinion, FossilMan's Winning Tournament Strategies."

Greg didn't start playing poker at a competitive level until about six or seven years after he graduated from Rolla. Nevertheless, some of his favorite undergraduate memories are from the nickel-dime-quarter games he played with his Beta-Chi Brothers.

"Those games were all about the fun," Greg said. "We all probably thought we were brilliant poker players, but we were all horribly bad at the game. It was a great example of the Dunning-Kruger effect in action."

While Greg's poker skills weren't quite top-notch yet when he lived in the Kappa Sigma house, his grades were among the best in Beta-Chi from the start. Greg remembers one night as a new

member when he needed to go to bed before study hours ended at 11 p.m. He recalls Pledge Master Paul Demzik '80 being none too pleased about him going to bed early. Paul called what he thought to be Greg's bluff about not needing to study, but Greg went all in and won in the end.

"At one point, Paul asked me 'What do you mean you didn't need to study more? Are you going to get straight A's?' I simply and bluntly replied, 'Yes. Yes, I will,'" Greg said. "He was so dumbfounded by this answer he walked off in a huff. Fortunately, I followed through on that statement and got A's in all my first semester courses."

Due to moving frequently over the years for his postgraduate jobs and poker career, it has been difficult for Greg to stay in touch with many of his college friends, including his Beta-Chi Brothers. As Greg hopes to reconnect with some of his Brothers, he's enjoyed looking back on his Kappa Sigma experience. It's reminded him that several small memories he's made with his Brothers can culminate in a grand experience.

"There are hundreds of memories of small events, and those are the things that really make



Above: Greg with his daughter, Sophie, and the showgirl puppies. **Below:** Greg with Kevin Dillon and Verne Troyer.



up your life," Greg said. "There was just so much camaraderie, brotherhood. We teased one another all the time, but also helped one another get through college life successfully."

You can connect with Greg at greg@fossilmanpoker.com.

THANK YOU, LOYAL BROTHERS

\$37,330 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)

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the Pledge Class of 1952
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Jason L. Schroeder '96
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Tom Dell'Orco '11
Jackson Pence '15

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(Up to \$249)
David L. Harbaugh '53

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tinyurl.com/BetaChiFoundation



Left: Brothers participate in White Columns Cleanup on White Columns Drive and Route 63. **Middle:** Troy Siebert '17, Jack Hausman '17, Gehrig Bristow '17, Joe Distler '17, Joey Galczynski '17, and Phil Daugherty '17 attending the Grand Conclave in Las Vegas, Nev.

Right: Kyle Kiefer '20, Padrig Quinlisk '20, Gary Yerby '18, Jake Schroeter '19, Richmond Tran '18, Connor LeCroix '17, Jack Wrocklage '18, Jacob Davis '17, and Sabri Safi '15 place flags in the grass in front of Havner on Veterans Day.

Moving Forward

Beta-Chi Actives Find Success Despite Adversity

As the third semester dealing with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is underway, Beta-Chi Chapter continues to show just how strong of a brotherhood we have created. The challenges of online learning have been prevalent, especially for our new members. However, our scholarship chairman has created a new tutoring system where older members help our new members in their studies. This effort has created a positive outlook for this semester's GPA to rise as in previous semesters.

Our service chairman created a link among other campus houses to boost service opportunities for within the Greek community. This has resulted in a rise in service hours for our members this semester. With event planning more complicated than ever, our philanthropy chairmen successfully constructed a COVID-safe plan for our 2021 Fish Fry event this semester. As with service, many other chapters have begun contributing financially to each other's philanthropies to ensure continued success.

Although we cannot hold brotherhood and social events like before, our committee has resorted to weekly tournaments held within the house. Whether it be floor hockey in the basement, a nine-hole in-house mini golf tournament, or a Call of Duty tournament, in-house competition is keeping members busy and keeping the camaraderie alive.



Alex Drake '18, Kyle Kiefer '20, Jason Martin '19, Gary Yerby '19, and Michael Wright rock climbing with friends.



Greg Raymer '83 hosted a poker training session and tournament for undergraduates, held virtually for safety.



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Along with everything else in our lives, recruitment has changed drastically. Our recruitment team continues to plan Zoom calls and recruitment events with potential new members, and our partnership with Phired Up has given our team the tools it needs to succeed via mostly online recruiting.

The Brothers of Beta-Chi look to the future with positive attitudes and look forward to the day we can allow alumni and their families back into our home with open arms. I am very proud of our members for supporting one another and everyone's determination to keep the brotherhood alive.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Fraternally,
Phil Daugherty '17
 Chapter President
 psdzq7@umsystem.edu



Above: Brothers approaching the task of getting the new cudgel transported back to the Chapter House for preparation. **Below:** Michael Muehlberger '18, Joey Schultz '18, Dallas Larsen '18, Joe Distler '17, and Phil Daugherty '17 celebrate their 4.0 GPAs at Matt's Steakhouse.



LEADERS ON CAMPUS

4.0
Phil Daugherty '17
Joe Distler '17
Dallas Larsen '18
Michael Muehlberger '18
Joey Schultz '18

iGEM PR Committee

Ben Huinker '17

Kappa Sigma SLA Award

Joe Distler '17

Alex Drake '18

KMNR Radio Station, Fraternal Order of Leaders

Sabri Safi '15

Tennis Club President

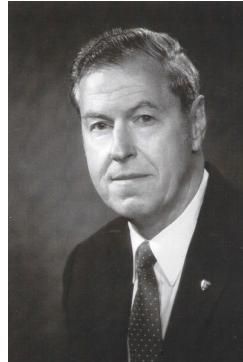
Troy Siebert '17

Army ROTC Cadet Company Commander Executive Committee

Dawson Satterfield '17

CHAPTER CELESTIAL

Dr. Robert D. Bay '44 entered Chapter Celestial on November 15, 2020, at his home in Chesterfield at the age of 94. Bob was a professional engineer, soldier, and community leader. His distinguished career in engineering included serving as president of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1986. His military service began in World War II, spanning many years before rising to the rank of major general in the Corps of Engineers for the Army Reserve. Bob served as national president of the Missouri University of Science & Technology Alumni Association and was a founding member of the Alumni Alliance. In 2011, Missouri S&T named him as an inaugural inductee in its Alumni of Influence, the highest honor bestowed upon an alumnus from Rolla for outstanding contributions to the campus, profession, and the world at large. Bob will be missed by his friends, family, and Kappa Sigma Brothers.



James E. DeVous '72 entered Chapter Celestial on December 5, 2020. Jim was well known for his tremendously warm and gregarious personality and held a deep love for his family. He was truly larger than life, and he had a unique ability to connect with nearly everyone he met, leaving a lasting impression. Jim served as recruitment chairman and was a dedicated Kappa Sigma Brother and alumnus throughout his life. He will be missed by all who knew him. Brothers in Jim's pledge class came together and donated to the Beta Chi Educational Foundation in his memory. Thank you to the following Brothers for your gifts:



Bill Burnett '72
Randy Collins '72
Neil Frankenber '72
Dwight Gookin '72

Fred Grass '72
Jim Griese '72
Bill Kroeger '72
Don Lange '72

Darrel Ludwig '72
Jim Pelger '72
Paul Sneed '72
Bill Wagener '72