

# BETA CHI COLUMNS



KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY AT MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | SPRING 2024

## A RISING TIDE IN ROLLA

### *Let's Lift Our Beta-Chi Boats*

**I**t is exciting to see all the changes on the Missouri S&T campus. The \$300 million donation by June and Fred Kummer is transforming the university with new buildings dedicated to research, an upgrade in appearance, and scholarships for STEM and computer science students. The Beta-Chi Educational Foundation, funded by our alumni, put in \$50,000, and the Kummer Institute Foundation matched it with another \$50,000. The proceeds will go to Beta-Chi freshmen or sophomores in these fields of study who have financial need.

One great benefit of the Kummer donation is the growing enrollment. Enrollment is a challenge at every university due to the declining population of high school graduates. Fortunately, this increase at Missouri S&T is helping the Greek community. Kappa Sigma is recruiting record numbers of quality students! If you have any referrals, please reach out to the Recruitment Chairman **Tyler Trueman '22** at (314) 332-5070 or [tdtvcp@umsystem.edu](mailto:tdtvcp@umsystem.edu).

#### WHAT'S NEW AT HOME?

Scholarship and good grades are important to Kappa Sigma. Last semester, the Chapter had 11 members with a 4.0 GPA—amazing, and congratulations! I also want to give a shoutout to our Grand Master, **Tim Guccione '21**. Tim is a great leader; having someone of his caliber makes our job easy.

The house fund's main responsibility is to keep the facility in shape, and every year we spend tens of thousands on maintenance, repairs, and upgrades. We recently replaced the geothermal unit for the dining room, replaced the hot water piping in the main mechanical room, purchased new chairs, and upgraded electrical panels. This summer, we plan on replacing the dining room ceiling and will begin renovation of the weight room. Special thanks to **Ron Acker '75** for his leadership on these projects!

#### SEE YOU SOON

If you are thinking of planning a reunion, now is the time to get started. We have a database of alumni contact information and can help you reach out to your pledge Brothers. It was great to see five classes hosting reunions last year. Three of these reunions happened over Homecoming and two occurred earlier in the year at other locations. If you are planning a reunion, I recommend doing it around Homecoming; the undergraduates love seeing alumni at the Chapter House. **Please let me know your plans so we can be ready for you.**

I hope to see you all at Homecoming and/or the annual Alumni Golf Tournament on June 1 in St. Louis.

Fraternally,

**Robert Hoffmann '78**

Alumni House Fund President  
[roberth@hoffmannbros.com](mailto:roberth@hoffmannbros.com)  
(314) 537-3193



*Beta-Chi's intramural floor hockey champions!*



### *Are you getting our email blasts?*

We are missing emails for over 400 alumni. Email [updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com](mailto:updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com) with "KS MS&T Email Update" in the subject line to be sure you're being included!

# NOWHERE LIKE ROLLA

## THOMAS SONDERMAN '82 ON LEARNING TO LEAD

**A**s an only child, **Thomas Sonderman '82** experienced quite a change when Kappa Sigma gave him a family of 100 Brothers. Tom previously planned to pursue his chemical engineering degree at Washington University in St. Louis before his close friend **Martin Berutti '81** invited him to a summer pledge party at the Beta-Chi Chapter House. "I knew immediately it was the place to go."

Tom believes the fraternal experiences at S&T are truly unique compared to other schools. When he visited campus last year and walked down Pine Street, the thrilling memories of St. Pat's with his Brothers came flooding back. Tom spent much of his college years between campus and Monsanto, where he worked as part of a generous scholarship. Coming home to Kappa Sigma gave him camaraderie while teaching him to work with different personalities and learn first-hand how an organization functions.

"The Navy SEALS have a term called extreme ownership: when you sign up, you deliver," Tom said. "Or when you're young and in a Fraternity, you learn the consequences if you don't." The parties and projects Tom and his Brothers worked on together provided a truly foundational experience as they prepared to graduate and do great things in the world.

### FILLING A NEED

At Monsanto, Tom discovered his interest in semiconductors and went on to work in manufacturing at AMD. He worked his way up through leadership, including when AMD's manufacturing operation transformed into GlobalFoundries. As that industry started moving overseas, Tom saw a need for American-based skills and resources; this brought him to SkyWater Technology, where he has served as CEO since 2017.



SkyWater is a U.S.-based, investor-owned "pure play" semiconductor business, creating tech for diverse domestic tech fields including the biomedical industry. Competing with overseas sources was an uphill battle before the pandemic drove the need for domestic manufacturing. Tom and his colleagues were also major advocates for the CHIPS Act (signed into law in 2022), which helped reverse a decades-long decline in American chip manufacturing.

When Tom gave S&T's commencement address in December, he shared one of his favorite pieces of advice: never be satisfied with where you are in life. "I say that even now as a CEO, having never imagined I'd be here." Tom is excited to see how SkyWater grows with the world around it as tech such as AI continues to evolve. "You can't ever rest on your laurels in this industry."

### BROTHERS FOR LIFE

Tom's son, also an only child, is in a fraternity at the University of Minnesota; Tom is glad to see him, too, build his own lifelong relationships. He's also proud to have his close friend **Paul Fleischut '82** as his son's godfather, as he keeps Tom updated on all things Beta-Chi and S&T. Always eager to help a fellow Brother, Tom is in regular contact with **Jeff Heger '82** and helped mentor his son through his graduate degree. "When it comes to the brotherhood, I never have to think twice," he said. "Those college years were some of the best of my life."

Tom lives in Apple Valley, Minnesota, and can be reached at [thomas.sonderman@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.sonderman@gmail.com).

## THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS

**\$20,360 DONATED SINCE FALL 2023**

Nicole Robles  
John M. Sowle '51  
Norman E. Hart '53  
W. Dave Phelps '57  
Rosario J. Sidoti '57  
William S. Kirchoff '60  
M. Thomas Barber '61  
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William A. Turner '61  
Robert B. Bridges '62  
Ronald F. Crawford '66  
Donald W. Bourne '67  
John G. Cizek '67  
Gary Forsee '69  
Rick M. Rule '69  
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T. Mark Drumm '74  
David L. Perry '74  
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Kent S. Springer '74  
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Thomas A. Smith '77  
Greg A. Weeks '77  
Robert J. Hoffmann '78  
J. Barry Shelden '78

Timothy L. Uebel '79  
D. Phillip Corbin '80  
James K. Von Behren '80  
Edward J. Bradley Jr. '81  
John M. Remmers '81  
Richard T. Bradley '84  
Steven R. Sieckhaus '84  
W. Alan Hopkins '86  
Fred W. Niemeier '92  
Lloyd H. Gholson IV '94  
Brian A. Lowry '96  
Grant J. Mabie '02  
Benjamin D. Prueter '10  
Edward Landreth '12  
Austin Lohr '13

## Chapter Celestial

**Lloyd G. Gabbert '56**  
October 28, 2023

**Terry L. Mills '58**  
September 23, 2023

**Gene Foshage '63**  
June 9, 2022

**George F. Koob '63**  
September 23, 2023

**June C. Thomason Jr. '64**  
May 22, 2021

**Benjamin D. Yenicek '97**  
December 28, 2023

# STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS

## Brothers Take Pride in Our Home

This spring semester has been a busy one for the Brothers of Beta-Chi, who aimed even higher in service and philanthropy. Chapter events included selling hot cocoa, "Pie a Kappa Sig," Super Bowl Squares, and more to generate money for the Military Heroes Campaign. Our service events have been focused on mental health, and Brothers are earning their "STEP UP!" certification on campus. We even partnered with Student Well-Being for a therapy event open to everyone at S&T.

As always, St. Pats was an eventful one; we appreciate all the alumni who came to visit! Brother **Brock Riddle '23** had his whole family down, and his uncle, **Rich Bradley '84**, made sure to join in on the festivities! We are already looking forward to Homecoming in the fall when we aim for a full Chapter House (and hopefully even more alumni than at St. Pats).

Our house man, **Otto Ottiger '22**, has done an incredible job with our various Chapter House projects. We got a new lifting platform decal, new pool table felt, a new TV in the basement (with a new case), and more. With Otto's help, the executive committee submitted many proposals for much-needed items to the House Corporation. We're proud to say that nearly every proposal was approved, and you can already see the results in and around our home.

One of our most anticipated updates is a weight room renovation with new equipment (as well as expanding it into the current project room). *This will happen if we secure 25 recruitment signees by August 1, 2024, so please send us your referrals ASAP!*

Enjoy the *Beta-Chi Columns*, and we hope to see you for golf and Homecoming this year!

Fraternally,  
**Tim Guccione '21**  
 Grand Master



*A brotherhood outing to a St. Louis Blues game.*



*The Beta-Chi scholars who earned a 4.0 in fall 2023.*

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

Grand Master  
**Tim Guccione '21**

Grand Procurator  
**Dakota Duran '22**

Grand Master of Ceremonies  
**Nate Dalton '22**

Grand Scribe  
**Caleb Greiner '21**

Grand Treasurer  
**Glen Wohlgemuth '22**

Inner Guard  
**Carson Nieders '22**

Outer Guard and Recruitment  
 Chairman  
**Tyler Trueman '22**  
 tdtvcp@umsystem.edu  
 (314) 332-5070

# Welcome, New Brothers

**Nolan Bohannan**  
*O'Fallon, Mo.*

**Sunil Gangasingh**  
*St. Louis, Mo.*

**Connor Hamilton**  
*Barnhart, Mo.*

*"I wanted a good, supportive group of guys to help me out with school.*

**Matt Harmon**  
*St. Louis, Mo.*

**Tyler Wyre**  
*Olathe, Kan.*

## GRADUATING SENIORS

**Lucas Arias** | Aerospace Engineering  
**Alec Brinkmann** | Aerospace Engineering  
**Angelo Colombo** | Mechanical Engineering  
**Howard Conaway** | Computer Science  
**Connor Costello** | Mechanical Engineering  
**Michael Crane** | Electrical Engineering  
**Austin Dixon** | Mining Engineering  
**Joshua Eickhoff** | Nuclear Engineering  
**Evan Venegoni** | Mechanical Engineering  
**Eric Wilhelm** | Mechanical Engineering  
**Gary Yerby** | Aerospace Engineering

## Chapter Goals for Fall 2024

**1** Have a full Chapter House.

**2** Achieve a GPA above the Greek all-men's average.

**3** Win Greek Week.



## Help Us Fill the Chapter House

We need your recruitment referrals! Please send names, contact info, intended major, hometown, and high school to **Tyler Trueman '22** at [tdtvcp@umsystem.edu](mailto:tdtvcp@umsystem.edu) or (314) 332-5070.

## NEW ONLINE GIVING FORM!

Support Beta-Chi scholarships at [betachifoundation.causevox.com](http://betachifoundation.causevox.com) by using the QR code.



-  [beta-chi.com](http://beta-chi.com)
-  [Beta-Chi of Kappa Sigma](#)
-  [@BXKappaSigma](#)
-  [@kappasigma\\_mst](#)
-  [tinyurl.com/BetaChiFoundation](http://tinyurl.com/BetaChiFoundation)

## IT'S ALMOST TIME! 2024 Kappa Sigma Golf Tournament

**WHO:** Kappa Sigma Alumni and Undergraduates

**WHERE:** Paradise Valley Golf Club; Scramble Format

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 1; *Shotgun Start at 1 p.m.*  
(Arrive no later than 12:30 p.m.)

**COST:** \$90 for Alumni, \$70 for Undergraduates  
(Mulligans are \$5 each with two max)

**INCLUDES:** Golf, Cart, and Catered Barbecue after Round

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

**Check:** Write a check for "St. Louis Kappa Sigma Alumni Association" and mail it to:

Ryan Carson  
832 Plymouth Rock Drive  
Des Peres, MO 63131

**PayPal:** [ryandcarson@gmail.com](mailto:ryandcarson@gmail.com)

**Venmo:** @RYAN-CARSON-37

### RSVP/QUESTIONS

[ryandcarson@gmail.com](mailto:ryandcarson@gmail.com) or (314) 288-6389

Please gather your foursomes and have one member provide name(s) by **Thursday, May 23!** (Volunteers will *attempt* to match up single golfers at the event.)

# BETA CHI COLUMNS



## BETA CHI CHAPTER OF KAPPA SIGMA

University of Missouri Science & Technology  
P.O. Box 442100  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

*Address Service Requested*

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*A photo only does so much justice for our new pool table felt;  
come play for yourself!*