



Alumni and guests relax before the banquet.



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ALWAYS BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Homecoming Highlights and House Updates

This year's Homecoming celebration featured the induction of two esteemed Brothers into the Beta-Chi Hall of Fame: **Todd Oppeau '90** and **Jason Holschen '94**. The ceremony was expertly led by Master of Ceremonies **Fred Niemeier '92**.

Both Todd and Jason attribute their professional success in part to the foundational experiences gained through Kappa Sigma. Grateful for their induction into the Beta-Chi Hall of Fame, both Brothers continue to value the lifelong connections forged during their time in the Fraternity and are featured in depth on pages 4 and 5.

Fundraising Efforts

The weight room has been expanded to a total of 1,200 square feet. The new free weights, cable machines, and treadmills, are all adorned with Kappa Sigma colors and logos etched into the steel framing. This first-class facility surpasses offerings from other fraternities and even the university itself, making it an excellent recruitment tool. Special thanks are extended to **Brian Grant '79**, **Tom Sonderman '82**, and **Stephen Hoffmann '02** for their contributions.

Looking ahead, our next major project involves replacing the showers in the West Wing, with an estimated cost of approximately \$65,000.



Emcee Fred Niemeier '92 addresses the audience at Homecoming.

The Beta-Chi Educational Foundation has provided vital financial aid scholarships to Brothers in need while also addressing the educational requirements of Beta-Chi Chapter. This year, a total of \$28,000 in scholarships (the Brother Hart, Brother Becker, Brother Ricketts, Kummer/Beta-Chi Scholarships, and the Beta Chi Educational Fund Scholarship) was awarded, alongside an additional \$13,000 invested in enhancing the computer room.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all alumni for your unwavering support. A special acknowledgment goes to the house corporation members who diligently work to improve the Chapter as well as to the alumni whose financial

contributions enable us to provide the outstanding experiences we enjoyed for future generations.

Fraternally,
Robert Hoffmann '78

President | Alumni House Fund | (314) 537-3193



Dakota Duran '22 and Jack Parker '23 win against Sigma Nu during the Greek Week Spikeball semifinals.

BROTHERS RAISE THE BAR

RECENT BETA-CHI EVENTS AND PROGRESS

Beta-Chi Chapter has once again had a successful year in 2025. This summer, five Brothers went to Las Vegas for the 75th Biannual Grand Conclave. There, **Jack Holm '22** won Outstanding Grand Procurator and **Jack Parker '23** won Outstanding Grand Master of Ceremonies. Congratulations to them for their outstanding work leading the house!

FACILITY UPDATES AND GROWTH

The Chapter House is in fantastic condition, remaining as the best house on campus! Last year, alumni generously donated to finance a state-of-the-art weight room. This increased the room's floorspace by more than 50% and added dozens of pieces of equipment for Brothers to use. The computer room also had a major revamp, upgrading all six stations with modern equipment, including dual 4K monitors. These improvements have contributed greatly to our recruitment efforts.

We had another successful year of recruitment, adding 23 new members. Congratulations to **Jake Buchanan '23**, **Nolan Bohannon '24**, and the rest of the recruitment team on their hard work. Their efforts contributed to having more than 90% occupancy during the fall 2025 semester. Thank you for your hard work!

ACADEMICS AND INVOLVEMENT

The spring 2025 pledge class had a campus-leading new member GPA of 3.63, in addition to the house having 12 members achieving a 4.0. During the fall semester, our midterm new member GPA rivaled that of last fall at 3.35. Congratulations to Scholarship Committee Chairmen **Samir Patel '23** and **Costa Bikilie '25** for great work!

We earned second place among big houses and third overall during Greek Week. Chairmen Jack Parker, Samir Patel, and **Ethan Schrader '23** did a fantastic job organizing practices for the critical sports of soccer, flag football, and basketball. Although we didn't achieve the results we wanted, I am proud of the Brothers for coming together to focus on our goals and fellowship during Greek Week. I have full faith and confidence we will be on track to win next year!

Beta-Chi has done a fantastic job of serving the Rolla and Missouri S&T community, showing the positive face of our fantastic organization. Shortly after the tragic Rolla St. Patrick's Day tornado, more than 20 Brothers helped in cleanup efforts supporting the Rolla Red Cross. In addition, we teamed up with the university police in the fall to give a valuable presentation on mental health and crisis situation training, in which more than 200 people attended!

Thank you, alumni, for everything you do for us. We hope to see you at the Chapter House again soon!

Fraternally,
Henry Wilson '22
Grand Master



Brothers enjoy the fall 2025 4.0 steak dinner at Sybil's.

CHAPTER GOALS



WIN FACE IN 2026.



ACHIEVE A GPA ABOVE THE ALL-MEN'S AVERAGE.



FILL THE HOUSE IN 2026.

FS15 CELEBRATES 10-Year Homecoming

This year marked a special milestone for the FS15 pledge class as we returned for our 10-year Homecoming celebration—a weekend filled with nostalgia, laughter, and the unmistakable feeling of slipping right back into the Brotherhood that shaped us.

No trip in Rolla would be complete without visiting the local staples that once fueled our college days. We kicked things off by grabbing a late lunch at our old favorites, including the legendary Tater Patch, where the familiar menu sparked just as many memories as the stories we shared around the table.

Between meals, we found ourselves drawn back to the simple traditions that once filled countless late nights. Dusting off the card games we used to play, we quickly rediscovered the competitive spirit and inside jokes that defined much of our time at S&T together.

The official Homecoming dinner at Beta-Chi brought everyone together, offering a moment to reflect on the impact FS15 has had on each of us. It was also a chance to get to know more of the new significant others of our pledge class, whose presence added warmth and new connections to the weekend.

One highlight of the night was heading down to the basement to meet the new Brothers. Seeing the next generation carry the torch reminded us how far the Chapter has come, and it was invigorating to see how the Fraternity continues to grow.

A walk through campus gave us a glimpse of just how much has changed in the last decade. New buildings, renovated spaces, and evolving student life made the visit feel both familiar and fresh—proof of how much time has passed since we were students ourselves.

Throughout the event, we crossed paths with alumni from many different classes, each conversation adding another layer to the shared history that binds us all. It was a powerful reminder that our Fraternity experience extends well beyond our own years in school.

As the weekend wrapped up, one thing became clear: even after 10 years, the senses of belonging, camaraderie, and Brotherhood remain as strong as ever. Even as our class composite moves down the hall to the places that seemed unimaginable while in school, the memories remain perfectly in place. Here's to FS15—and to many more years of memories, milestones, and Homecomings.

Fraternally,
Jackson Pence '15



BETA-CHI *Educational Foundation Updates*

Our five campus endowments (Freshman, Ricketts, Hart, Becker, Kummer) issued a total of \$17,000 in scholarships this year. We issued another \$4,000 for White Columns and \$7,000 for EC. Then, we invested \$13,000 in essential computer room upgrades out of the education fund. Prior to that, we had \$20,000 in contributions directed to the weight room project.



Is Your Info Up to Date?

Beta-Chi Chapter wants to make sure you're in the loop! Please take a minute to complete the biographical update inserted in this issue and mail it in so that we have your correct contact information.

You can also submit updated information by emailing updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com with the subject line "Kappa Sigma MS&T Update." Thank you for helping us stay connected!

THANKFUL FOR HIS BROTHERHOOD

TODD OPPEAU '90 JOINS THE BETA-CHI HALL OF FAME



Looking back on his college years, **Todd Oppeau '90** was honored to join a Kappa Sigma pledge class that led to Beta-Chi Chapter's resurgence at Missouri S&T. Here, he reminisces on his fraternal development and the Brotherhood's impact on his life ahead of his induction into the Beta-Chi Hall of Fame at Homecoming 2025.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

"I originally joined because of positive impressions during recruitment with members like **Bob Fischer '87**, **Dan Lumma '86**, and others," Todd said. One of his favorite Kappa Sigma memories came from walkout weekend with a younger pledge class, visiting New Orleans for a fun but exhausting few days of Brotherhood. "I am certain we had more fun on the trip there and back more than the actual things we did while there."

Todd's service in undergraduate leadership roles helped him gain a better understanding of Fraternity operations. He learned lessons in accountability and personal responsibility that have stuck with him for life, and Todd credits Kappa Sigma for helping to prepare him for challenging situations in his career after graduation.

CAREER VENTURES

Todd worked as a project engineer for St. Louis Bridge Company upon graduating college, then worked for a mechanical contractor under the management of former alumni advisor **Phil Corbin '80**.

"I chose to make my long-term career at Black & Veatch Corporation in Kansas City. From starting in 1999 as a design engineer to discipline lead, engineering manager, then project manager and now director of the PMO and a position as an executive officer, it has been a journey."

Todd enjoys having a career that rewards him based on knowledge learned over the years and applied through project execution and he also values the career connections made along the way.

"The college experience has changed dramatically since I graduated, and consequently, so has the business world. But there is no substitute for hard work, and there has probably never been a better time to be able to showcase yourself and stand out amongst your peers."

FRATERNAL HONORS

Reflecting on his induction into the Beta-Chi Hall of Fame, Todd is grateful for the Kappa Sigma alumni who have provided excellent examples of leadership and lifelong devotion. Through his Fraternity connections, Todd recognized importance of forging meaningful relationships and having a positive impact on others in his life.

"I admire how Brothers can remain such good friends over the years and over great distances. Some pledge classes stay very close to each other, and I know they would do anything for each other or a Brother—I have seen it in action."

Todd is grateful for his Beta-Chi Hall of Fame honor and continues to cherish his connection with the Chapter at Missouri S&T. He and his wife, Amy, live in Spring Hill, Kansas. They have two children, August and Gracie, who are attending KU. You can connect with Todd at tsoppeau@gmail.com.

"Enjoy your time at the house in Rolla, because they really are the best times to make memories and lifelong friends."

THANK YOU, LOYAL ALUMNI

We appreciate the generosity of these alumni donors who have contributed to our annual fund in 2024-25. Your selfless contributions are a testament to your personal Beta-Chi experiences and a commitment to Kappa Sigma's future at Missouri S&T.

Anonymous
Anonymous
Luca Arias
Donald L. Kummer '52
Norman E. Hart '53
Philip S. Roush '54
Gerald W. Fox '56
James O. Murray '57
W. Dave Phelps '57
William L. Sullivan III '57
Dick Phillips '58
J. William Ricketts '58
William S. Kirchoff '60
M. Thomas Barber '61
Richard L. Schmidt '61
Robert B. Bridges '62
William J. Trejbal '63
Timothy M. Handlan '64
Donald L. Cordes '66
Dr. William D. Webster Jr. '66

Donald W. Bourne '67
John G. Cizek '67
Daniel C. Dugan '67
Steven J. Malcolm '67
Timothy M. Vicente '67
Richard A. Heppel '68
David L. Krueger '68
Dr. Robert L. Ward '68
William P. Balaz Jr. '69
Peter J. Belsha '69
R. George Calkins Jr. '69
In honor of the
1968 Pledge Class
Gary Forsee '69
Lance M. Killoran '69
Donald E. Neely Jr. '69
In honor of the
1968 Pledge Class
R. John Pepper '69
Rick M. Rule '69
Anthony G. Bommarito '70

Mark A. Kassing '70
Craig L. Payken '70
Gary L. Abernathy '71
Gary Leemann '71
Mike J. Meyer '71
Dennis B. Wehmeyer '71
James C. Griesse '72
Frank P. Allen '73
David R. Breece '73
Michael W. Fugate '73
Paul Vetter '73
T. Mark Drumm '74
David L. Perry '74
Gary E. Roebke '74
Kent S. Springer '74
William P. Alt '75
Mark R. White '75
Thomas R. Gredell '76
Edward C. Jantosik Jr. '76
Glenn J. Mabie '76
Thomas B. Shilling '76

Frank V. Danzo '77
Andrew Tayon '77
Brian J. Grant '78
Robert J. Hoffmann '78
J Barry Shelden '78
Timothy L. Uebele '79
D. Phillip Corbin '80
In memory of
Bill Demzik '55
Michael J. Lally '80
Edward J. Bradley Jr. '81
John M. Remmers '81
H. John Vetter II '81
William L. Kovacich '82
David J. Vitale '82
Richard T. Bradley '84
Steven R. Sieckhaus '84
W. Alan Hopkins '86
Daniel H. Lumma '86
Shane Mitchell '90
Todd S. Oppeau '90

Peter A. Joyce '92
Kenneth J. Quirin Jr. '92
Jason Holschen '94
Matthew E. Hopkins '94
In memory of
Ketan Patel '00
Brian A. Lowry '96
Grant Mabie '02
William R. Davis '14
Daniel S. Ederle '14
Collin J. Hanneke '14
Ryan C. Howe '14
Tyler J. Howe '14
Brandon Konarik '14
Nicolas P. LeBlanc '14
Tyler S. Recker '14
Jacob D. Rein '14
Ryan J. Ristau '14
Michael B. Evers '15
Blaine Hrovat '15
Jackson Pence '15

Andrew T. Petschel '15
Brad Stetson '15
Nicholas Swanson '15
Lukas J. Virden '15
Brandon Whyte '15
Connor Costello '19

If there is an error in your listing, we sincerely apologize. Please reach out to our communications coordinator at cmoore@penningtonco.com to submit a correction.

The Importance of Connections

JASON HOLSCHEN '94 DISCUSSES CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

When **Jason Holschen '94** was recruited to Kappa Sigma by **Jason Hudson '91**, he appreciated the diversity of thought and backgrounds in Beta-Chi. As a new member, Jason had the opportunity to be a part of the 90th anniversary celebration.

"I still remember all the work it took to get the house looking great, socializing with alumni, and getting the house chores done the next day to make sure the house looked great once again."

Jason began his leadership journey at Rolla and Kappa Sigma, serving as Chapter president, IFC president, and leadership roles in several other organizations throughout his collegiate years. Becoming the university's first Homecoming king near the end of his college career was the culmination of his years of leadership and involvement.

The lessons Jason learned through these opportunities shaped him to be a strong leader later in life. "I was able to experiment and fail many times and learned how difficult it is to keep everyone happy. It is impossible, so the next best path is to stay true to your principles and lead from a place of understanding, empathy, and humility."

Early in his career, Jason and his wife had the opportunity to live and work in the UK for two years when the company they worked for decided to open a new office. "Despite neither of us having a passport, we raised our hands and became two of the six people selected to open a London office."

After receiving his MBA, he worked in a corporate strategy role at Emerson Electric before transitioning into operating roles in a few divisions of the company. Later, Jason reached out to his best friend from Beta-Chi, **Fred Niemeier '92**, who put Jason in contact with some key contacts within IDEX, where Jason continued his career.

"It came from knowing Fred, having that personal relationship as well as the professional capabilities that came with working for a large company like Emerson that set me up on the path I am now." Knowing Fred also played a role in Jason joining his current company, Arrowhead Engineered Products.

Jason is honored to be inducted into the Beta-Chi Hall of Fame during Homecoming. "I had no idea how I got nominated. Who put my name up? There was somebody, somewhere along the way, who I've made an impact on their life, or at least a very positive impression, who thought I was worthy of this honor."

Jason and his wife, Valerie, a Kappa Delta whom he met through the Interfraternity Council, have been married for 26 years. They have two daughters, Catrina, who will be attending Ole Miss this fall, and Audrey, who will be a high school senior.

"A pivotal experience we had as a family took place in 2020," Jason shared. "For five years, we planned to take a year off work and homeschool our daughters as we traveled the world. Unfortunately, COVID interrupted those plans, but we were still able to travel. We purchased a truck and travel trailer and managed to camp in 45 of the 50 states during that year away from home."

In his free time, Jason enjoys traveling, CrossFit, and being involved in his daughters' club and high school soccer. You can connect with him at jholschen@gmail.com.



JASON'S ADVICE

- **Surround yourself with good people.**
The quality of people around you will shape your life in meaningful ways.
- **Who you marry makes a huge difference.**
Your life partner choice is a critical factor in your overall success.
- **Take risks, especially in your 20s.**
Learn from failures and successes early – they'll pay off in unexpected ways later.

Alumni Updates

Richard Schmidt '61 lives in Marblehead, Mass. He recently visited Borneo to observe orangutans and traveled to the Antarctic to learn about the continent while observing the wildlife.

Email: herefordview@verizon.net

George Stegner '70 shared that his wife, Joy, passed away unexpectedly in spring 2024. George lives in Kearney, Mo.
Email: gdstegner@hotmail.com

Greg Weeks '77 is enjoying life in Rogers, Ark., after his retirement in September 2024. He often visits St. Louis to see his grandson.
Email: gregweeks25@gmail.com

Mike Wrob Jr. '78 has been retired since 2022. He spends winters in Terlingua, Texas, and lives next door to pledge Brother **Barry Shelden '78** on Table Rock Lake during the summer.
Email: mikewrob@gmail.com

Chapter Celestial

Philip S. Roush '54
October 30, 2025

Larry J. Cain '56
December 2022

Roger T. Martin '58

Ed Kopaskie '60
June 25, 2025

STAY ENGAGED WITH BETA-CHI

This issue contains Beta-Chi alumni updates, special feature articles on recent Hall of Fame inductees **Todd Oppeau '90** and **Jason Holschen '94**, undergraduate highlights, and more!



Brothers from the pledge class of 2015 gather for a 10-year reunion.

BETA CHI COLUMNS

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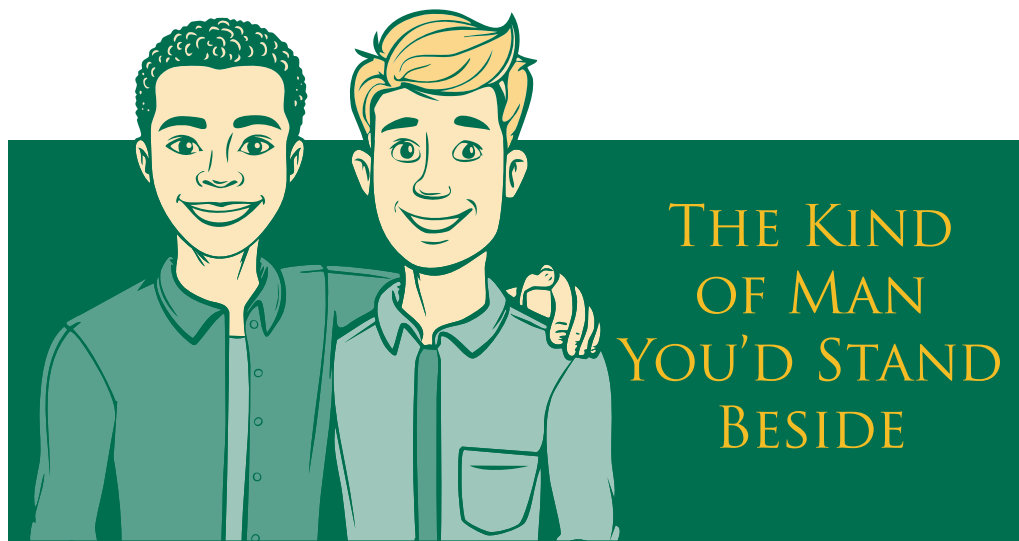
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tinyurl.com/BetaChiFoundation



Think of the men you'd trust in your corner—the ones who...



SHOW UP



LEAD BY EXAMPLE



MAKE OTHERS BETTER

That's the kind of man we're looking for to join Beta-Chi.

If you know a young man who fits that description, we want to meet him! Please send his info to **Costa Bikilie '25** at cb7tf@mst.edu or (314) 425-9860 so we can get in touch and show him what our brotherhood is all about. Be sure to include his full name, contact information, and reason for the referral.

Help Kappa Sigma Thrive at Missouri S&T

Alumni contributions are the best way to make a direct impact on Beta-Chi Chapter's future at Missouri S&T. By scanning the QR codes below to support the annual fund at betachihc.causevox.com or the Educational Foundation at betachifoundation.causevox.com, you can help us promote an exceptional college experience for today's Beta-Chi Brothers. We appreciate your support!



Annual
Fund

Educational
Foundation

