

THE BETA BEAT

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON • UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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FALL 2008

MONTANA BETA BEGINS NEW TRADITIONS WITH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Building Corporation Prioritizes Chapter Projects

It's hard to believe it has been a whole year since we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Montana Beta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. A lot has happened in the last year and important initiatives are underway to ensure Montana Beta will be a strong and positive presence at the University of Montana for at least another 80 years.

ADVISORY BOARD ASSISTS CHAPTER IN PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Eminent Archon **Jacob Byrne '10** and his officers are holding regular executive committee telephone meetings with Alumni Advisory Board Chairman **Dick Ford '64** and Chapter Advisor **Scott Johnson '81** to plan activities involving recruitment, new member education, house maintenance and operation, alumni coordination, and fraternity rituals. The joint efforts of undergraduates and alumni have already resulted in a strong fall new member class of seven men.



Bob Haynam '65 resting after a fly fishing event with his ΣAE brothers.



John Krutar '66, Don Cowles '66, Bob Haynam '65, and John Greener '79 at the 2008 Homecoming Breakfast.

LONG-TERM FINANCES

The building corporation's highest priorities are to pay back our loan from the major renovation project, build an endowment fund to facilitate future maintenance, routine repairs and upgrades, and increase the amount of scholarship funds available to help recruit talented students.

I hope Montana Beta holds a special place in your heart as it does mine. Please join me in reconnecting so undergraduates and alumni can realize the promise of a lifetime of brotherhood.



In the Bonds,
Jim Mountain '81
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Building Corporation President
(212) 436-4742
jrmountain@aol.com

NEW TRADITIONS FORMED

The Montana Beta Alumni Association Homecoming activities—fishing, golf, and the parade breakfast—are quickly turning into traditions. Another tradition in the making is the May luncheon to honor graduating seniors and welcome them as alumni.

NEW TREASURER TAKES ROLE AS RON COLE '81 STEPS DOWN

Tom Ross '62 replaces **Ron Cole '81** as building corporation treasurer. Ron has accepted a job in Billings, Montana, and leaves after 30-plus years on the building corporation. His service has been invaluable.

NEW CHAPTER HOUSE PARKING LOT

The house has never looked better, and the actives show their pride by keeping up the building. Over the summer, the dirt parking lot was paved and striped and it looks fantastic. Top priorities are finishing the kitchen to support a meal program and adding fire safety sprinklers to the building.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE '60S CLASS REUNION

Are you a Montana Beta alumnus from the 1960s?
Come join us for a class reunion!
August 21-22, 2009, Big Fork, Montana
Join us Friday at the Garden Bar at 7 p.m.
and Saturday 1-4 p.m. at the Swan River Inn for lunch

For more information,
contact **Dick Ford '64** at (925) 933-4940,
Bill Beecher '63 at (406) 899-0277,
or **Gordy Smith '64** at (406) 857-3510.

Get on the Montana Beta e-mail list by sending your e-mail to umsaea@dls.net today!

BRIGHT, BOLD FUTURE FOR MONTANA BETA

The True Gentleman Initiative Loyally Upheld

This fall pleasantly surprised me. I used to sometimes find myself hoping our chapter could do more, care more, or try harder. And with all our chapter has accomplished lately, I was overjoyed when all of my hopes came true this fall. My brothers came to bat, and I can honestly say the chapter at 1120 Gerald has improved greatly since I joined nearly three years ago.

STRATEGIC RECRUITMENT

There have been a lot of changes this fall in how the chapter runs as a cohesive whole. **Cody Knowlton '10** and I tackled recruitment from a strategic standpoint. Our initial new member class consisted of nine men; eight were fall pledges and one was from spring. Unfortunately, the total dropped to seven. Due to overflow in the dorms, five of our seven new members are living in the house, helping fulfill the financial obligations of the fraternity.

ACTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Notable accomplishments from fall are the efforts of Inter-Fraternity Council Treasurer **Alex Anderson '11**, who is also treasurer of the active chapter. This is the first time in three years a member of SAE has sat on the Inter-Fraternity Council and we are very proud.

COUGAR KINGDOM PHILANTHROPY

Our philanthropic efforts extended past Missoula's borders when we volunteered our time at the Cougar Kingdom playground in Clinton, Montana. All the brothers enjoyed giving back and doing something positive for the Clinton community.



Undergraduates after a chapter meeting.

BROTHERS HELPING BROTHERS

Another change we are hoping will make a noticeable difference is posting all the actives' class schedules around the chapter house. Members are encouraged to, and actually do, wake their brothers up for class. We can succeed academically by having brothers take an active role in each other's education.

Montana Beta is taking a new direction. We want to be bigger, bolder, and the best chapter on campus. We started this semester with a large new member class but still maintained our guidelines of The True Gentleman and asked a few to leave the fold. Montana Beta will persevere into the future, and our legacy will be great.



In the Bonds,
Jacob Byrne '10
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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Acton, Mass.

Eminent Treasurer
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Benjamin Jensen '11
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Samuel Goodwin '10
Powell, Wyo.

New Member Educator
Alex Segal '10
Lake Forest, Ill.

Scholarship Chairman
Nicholas Tarter '10
Bangkok, Thailand

RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATION

Prospect's Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Does prospect have an ΣAE relative? _____

Reference submitted by _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Alumni, we value your referrals. Please submit prospect recommendations to **Cody Knowlton '10** at ck123626@grizmail.umt.edu or mail to P.O. Box 3343, Missoula, MT 59806.

WEB SITES

Montana Beta Chapter

www.umsae.net

ΣAE National

www.sae.net

University of Montana

www.umt.edu

MEET THE SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON BUILDING CORPORATION

Jim Mountain '81 PRESIDENT

Jim lives in South Orange, New Jersey, with his wife, Bonnie (Alpha Phi '80). They have three daughters: Alica, a junior at Barnard University; Rebecca, a freshman at Vassar College; and Jamie. Jim joined the building corporation to make sure Montana Beta always has a home at the University of Montana. He works at Deloitte & Touche in New York City.

David Hafer '64 VICE PRESIDENT

David's role is to oversee construction on the Montana Beta chapter house. He is retired and lives in Dayton, Montana, with his wife, Bobbie.

Col. Kenneth R. Lawrence '63 SECRETARY

Kenneth is a retired Air Force colonel and special education teacher. He and his wife, Dianne, have a grown son, Ryan, and live in San Antonio, Texas. Kenneth joined the building corporation so he could help Montana Beta become the best fraternity on campus.

Tony Wertz '65 DIRECTOR

Tony has always had a love for Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Born and raised in Missoula, Montana Beta allowed him to meet people from all over

the U.S. "When you get to my age, you start to feel that you would like to give back to the institutions that meant something to you. That's why I'm a member of the building corporation." Tony and his wife, Grace, have four grown children: Michael, John, Elizabeth, and Garrett. Tony is retired and splits his time between homes in Mexico, California, and Missoula.

Dick Ford '64 ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dick took on the role of chairman because he wanted to be more involved with the chapter and reconnect with old friends. Dick is retired and lives in Walnut Creek, California, with his wife, Maureen.

John Greener '79 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

After a 25-year absence from Missoula, John realized being an Σ AE at the University of Montana was a very pivotal and important time in his life that has paid great dividends over the years. He is thankful for his experience and decided to give back to the chapter. "I had forgotten the feeling of brotherhood and love feeling it once again!" John is a real estate broker with RE/MAX Unlimited Northwest in Crystal Lake, Illinois. He and his wife, Gail (Kappa Alpha Theta '79), have three children: Mike, a 2006 graduate of UM; Eric, a 2006 graduate of

Southern Illinois University; and Katie, a junior at UM majoring in wildlife biology.

Scott Johnson '81 CHAPTER ADVISOR

Scott joined the building corporation shortly after he graduated from college to stay involved with the chapter. He felt a need to give back to the organization that meant so much to him during school. He has served in many capacities over the past 27 years but feels this recent position is the most important effort he has been involved with for the fraternity. "It has been a way to rekindle old friendships and develop new ones." Scott has been married to his wife, Maribeth, for 24 years. They have three children: Ryan, a student at UM; Corbin, a student at Notre Dame; and Kealey. Scott works in the insurance and financial services industry, where he owns Scott Johnson Insurance Agency.

Jacob Byrne '10 CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Jacob decided to become chapter president because he knew it was his time. "I had been preparing for the position since I joined the fraternity and I was ready to lead the chapter." Jacob is an English major and plans on teaching middle school English and coaching swimming after graduation.

THE SUCCESS AND TIMES OF A TRUE GENTLEMAN

Alumnus Spotlight—Kenneth C. Mlekush '60

Kenneth C. Mlekush '60 was born and raised in Big Timber, Montana. He continued his time in the Treasure State when he decided to attend the University of Montana just three hours from home. Kenneth majored in English and was initiated into Montana Beta in 1958. Becoming a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon was a profound experience for Kenneth. "The fraternity had an enormous impact on my life. The leadership skills and relationships gained have served me well my entire life."



After serving as president of Universal Guaranty Life and Southland Life, Kenneth joined Jefferson Pilot Life Insurance Company where he was senior vice president individual in 1993. He went on

to become one of only two inside members of the board of directors and, in 2004, retired as president of Jefferson Pilot Life and vice chairman of Jefferson Pilot Corporation. Kenneth now serves on the corporate boards of National Financial Partners and Pan-American Life, plays tennis three to four times a week, walks five miles every day, reads a book per week, and spends time with his family.

Kenneth and his wife, Paula, were married in 1970 and they have enjoyed 38 wonderful years of marriage. They split their time between homes in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Naples, Florida. Kenneth and Paula have one son, John, who graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is an executive

at Wells Fargo Bank and gave Kenneth and Paula their first granddaughter in June.

"The fraternity had an enormous impact on my life. The leadership skills and relationships gained have served me well my entire life."

Members of Montana Beta must be excited to know their chapter produces such successful alumni. Kenneth certainly sets the bar high for Montana Betas everywhere and is living proof that true gentlemen will succeed. E-mail Kenneth at kmlekush@comcast.net.

MONTANA BETA BROTHER FOLLOWS PASSION, CREATES DREAM BUSINESS

Alumnus Spotlight— Donald C. Cowles III '66

Donald C. Cowles III '66 has a past peppered with bold career changes driven by an entrepreneurial spirit. Originally from Livingston, Montana, Don received his bachelor of arts in business administration from UM. He continued his education and obtained an MBA from Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania.

After working in San Francisco for a couple of years, Don wanted a change and returned to Montana. He decided to develop the t-shirt business he started in college. Excited to grow his business, Don took on the t-shirt industry and expanded into a retail clothing store, Shirtworks, in Bozeman. As if owning one business wasn't challenging enough, Don started a second endeavor, a wholesale screen printing business, Wildwest Shirt Company.

"The breadth of experiences I gained by living with diverse brothers in the house stimulated my intellect and stayed with me throughout my life."

One Shirtworks retail store led to 16 and the heavy volume led to a second screen printing plant, which opened in Seattle in 1975. They are now one of the largest suppliers of imprinted sportswear to national parks and resort areas. Don is very proud of his companies and remains active in his treasured businesses.

Don remembers the effect ΣAE had on his life. "The breadth of experiences I gained by living with diverse brothers in the house stimulated my intellect and stayed with me throughout my life. The lifelong friends I made are the greatest people I have known and we have remained friends all these years." Maybe it was the intellect Don gained from his ΣAE brothers that drove him to become such a successful entrepreneur. Montana Beta is proud of the accomplishments of Brother Don.

Don and his wife, Patty, have two children. Their daughter, Kalani, graduated from Bucknell University and works for PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City. Their son, Donald, is a sophomore at Miami University in Ohio. Don can be e-mailed at cowles117@aol.com.



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Attention:

This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Montana, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

MONTANA BETA LAUNCHES NEW ALUMNI RELATIONS PROGRAM

Upon graduating from the University of Montana, we all leave ΣAE with high hopes of keeping our fraternal bonds intact. Unfortunately, we quickly find that many new interests—careers, families, and civic activities—can create valid diversions. The day-to-day activities of life take over and, before long, we fall out of touch and begin to wonder what happened to our brothers. Without a solid alumni relations program in place, our members lack the means for staying connected to the fraternity.

With this in mind, our annual alumni relations program is designed to help our members stay in touch and to cultivate awareness and involvement in Montana Beta. There are several elements that are key to the program's success.

We will mail two newsletters each year containing alumni news, information on upcoming events, reports on various chapter activ-

ities, and current lists of undergraduate and alumni officers.

Once a year, we will send out a biographical update that allows alumni to update the information we have on record. These updates also provide the information for one of the most popular features in the newsletters, the "Alumni News" section. We recently sent this to you, so please fill it out and return it. Altogether, the updates are a vital tool in maintaining our records and our ties with one another.

We hope that through the Montana Beta annual alumni relations program your fraternal bonds are regularly renewed and strengthened. We are always interested in hearing from you, so if you have any suggestions, alumni news, or ideas for articles, please submit them to Montana Beta of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 1120 Gerald Avenue, Missoula, MT 59801.