

# THE BETA BEAT

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON • UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Campaign for  
**MONTANA BETA**  
Preserving a Lifetime of  
Brotherhood

SPRING 2012

## ALUMNI CONTRIBUTIONS AND PARTICIPATION HELP STRENGTHEN MONTANA BETA

More Than \$611,000 Raised to Ensure Chapter's Success

We have been diligently working on rebuilding Montana Beta for the last eight years. To recap and show the progress that Montana Beta has made, we wanted to show you the improvements that we've accomplished. The following assumptions are made based on our continuing participation in the process. We break them into four different categories: undergraduate membership growth, alumni participation, physical structure improvement, and capital campaign success.

### UNDERGRADUATE MEMBERSHIP GROWS

For the last two years, the undergraduate chapter has made great strides in recruitment. The men are motivated, hard working, and dedicated to making Montana Beta one of the premier fraternities on campus. Through recruitment efforts this year, they have almost tripled the number of members in the chapter. Over the past few years, the men have learned recruitment strategies and we believe they will continue to seek recruitment success.

### ALUMNI PARTICIPATION ESSENTIAL TO MONTANA BETA'S SUCCESS

We are encouraged to see that alumni participation and interest in the chapter continues to grow. This is especially evident during the alumni functions at Homecoming as they are increasing in size and popularity. The undergraduates understand the importance of alumni relations and are always ready to greet alumni that stop by 1120 Gerald. Local Missoula alumni **John Greener '79** and **Tom Ross '62** have begun monthly gatherings on the second Thursday of each month at the Press Box restaurant. Please join them if you are in the area.

### KITCHEN IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

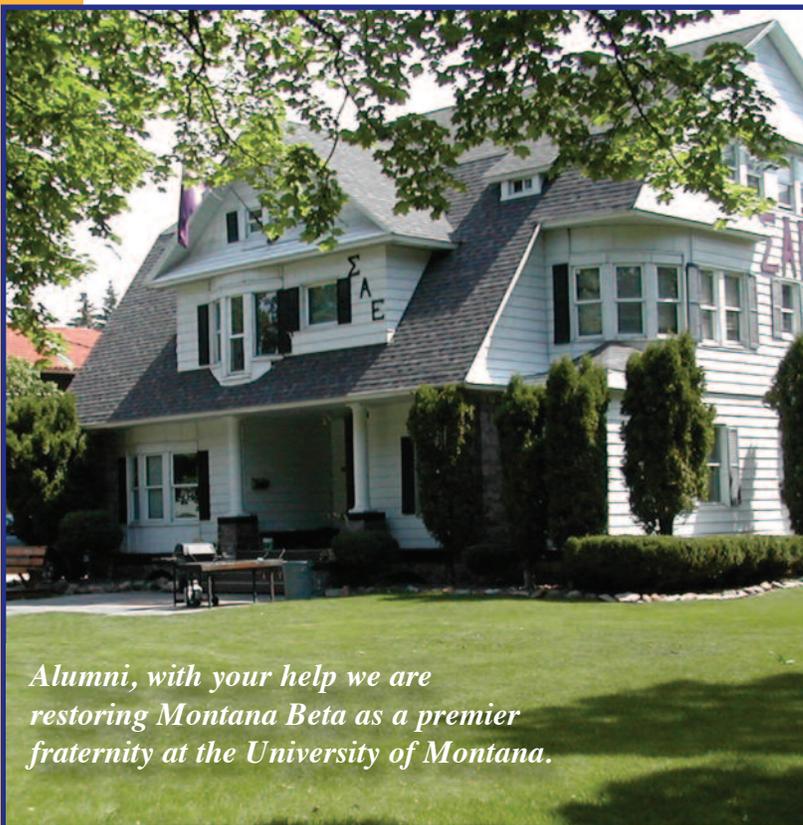
The renovations completed in 2005 and 2006 at the chapter house have held up very well. We are incredibly pleased with the care and respect in which the undergraduates have treated the chapter house. These improvements were a sound investment by alumni and they have definitely impacted the chapter's recruitment efforts. **The kitchen renovation has not been completed due to lack of funds and this remains a priority. The chapter is unable to provide meals or an adequate meal plan without completing the kitchen.**

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

The capital campaign has allowed many brothers to reconnect and rekindle their brotherly ties. It has been truly rewarding for us to work with the chapter, meet and bond with new brothers, and see the maturing of the undergraduates. Montana Beta's presence at the University of Montana is strong. We will continue to enjoy this success as long as we have the support of our alumni. We encourage you to consider making a pledge for the future of the chapter. If you have already made a pledge, we thank you and ask you to consider extending your pledge. The campaign was tailored to allow for a five-year pledge program, and we encourage you to take advantage of this program. **Included in this newsletter is a pledge form and reply envelope. Please return it today with a pledge that will ensure the future of Montana Beta.**

In the Bonds,  
**Dick Ford '64**  
(925) 933-4940  
richard\_ford@sbcglobal.net

**Tony Wertz '65**  
(530) 848-3657  
tony\_wertz@msn.com



*Alumni, with your help we are  
restoring Montana Beta as a premier  
fraternity at the University of Montana.*

# CAMPAIGN FOR MONTANA BETA: PRESERVING A LIFETIME OF BROTHERHOOD

## THANK YOU, LOYAL BROTHERS AND FRIENDS, FOR COMMITTING MORE THAN \$611,000

We are deeply grateful to the following brothers for committing \$611,321 to the *Campaign for Montana Beta: Preserving a Lifetime of Brotherhood*. These alumni recognize the importance of ensuring the future of Montana Beta and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. Commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni to achieve our goal of \$1 million to complete renovations.

All donors contributing a minimum of \$2,500 to the campaign, over a five-year period, will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the chapter house. 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 **Dick Ford '64** at Montana Beta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, P.O. Box 3343, Missoula, MT 59806.

### Archon Society

(\$100,000 and more)

James R. Mountain '81

### Minerva Society

(\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Lawrence A. Wertz '65

Donald C. Cowles III '66

### Phoenix Society

(\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Lyle M. Glascock '62

John L. Olson '62

In memory of

Earl Bouse '64 and

John Hughes

In honor of

Dick Ford '64

Richard L. Ford '64

Brent D. Beckley '03

### Phi Alpha Society

(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

W. Stan Halverson '41

George D. Caras '46

John W. Northey '62

Thomas P. Ross '62

In memory of

Louise Johnson Ross,

Little Sister of Minerva

Col. USAF/RET

Kenneth R. Lawrence '63

David K. Voight '63

Dennis L. Stevens '64

James A. Willits '64

In honor of

Dick Ford '64

Robert B. Clark '66

Robert S. Jackson '68

John D. Streich '83

Thomas B. Wenz '98

### Alumni Circle

(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Richard J. Barney '58

Robert Higham '58

Rex K. Lincoln '60

Kenneth C. Mlekush '60

Harold B. Gilkey '62

Ronald A. Long '62

William J. Beecher '63

William L. Bouchee '63

Wyley P. Good '63

Robert T. Haynam Jr. '65

James Tecca '65

Ronald D. Cole '81

Scott D. Johnson '81

Scott Thompson '83

David A. Bell '96

Peter Barovich '00

### Active Member Circle

(\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Warren Wilcox

James H. LaRue '42

In memory of

Donald E. LaRue

Zane G. Murfitt '50

In memory of

Walter S. "Howdy" Murfitt

George Fox '51

Skulason Moe '54

In memory of

Peder Moe '27 and

Peder Moe Jr. '51

Alan Thayer '56

Gregory H. Wallander '56

John O. Ferro '58

David H. Nelson '58

Donald W. Nelson Jr. '58

In memory of

Donald W. Nelson '29

Gerry Livesey '59

Robert Romek '59

In memory of

Sandy McCullough '59

and Art Buls '60

Leonard H. Sargent '60

Robert B. Swanson '61

Robert P. Carlberg '62

Louis J. Garcia '62

Wayne A. Hinrichs '62

David G. Shultz '62

Ed Hale '63

David A. Graham '64

Donald M. Krumm '64

H. Thomas Lehrkind '64

John D. Bailey '65

Don A. Labar '65

Gary H. McKinley '65

In memory of

Dan Larson '64

Arne R. Mysse '65

In memory of

Dan Larson '65,

Rod Lincoln '65,

Dick McKean '65,

Bob Crippen '65,

Holt Corette '65, and

Ken McDonald '67

Bob Anderson '67

In memory of

Jim Anderson

Bill Thompson '68

In memory of

Merry Ann Thompson

John R. Greener '79

In honor of

Gail D. Greener '79

Bill Griffiths '80

In memory of

Kevin Larson

Timothy Borchers '84

In honor of

George Borchers '29

Jacob Byrne '10

MacKennon Klink '10

Cody Knowlten '10

Alex Segal '10

Alex Anderson '11

Benjamin Jensen '11

Nicholas Tarter '12

David Doney Jr. '13

### True Gentlemen Society

(Up to \$999)

Georgia D. Makeever

In memory of

Lt. Col. Derald D.

Dokter '42

## CAMPAIGN STATUS

### AT-A-GLANCE

As of April 10, 2012

\$1 Million Goal

117 Contributors

\$611,321 Total Contributions

735 Mailable Alumni

Nancy Hurd McCullough

In memory of

Sandy McCullough '59

M. Volkman '45

W. Wyman Andrus '50

Oliver D. Burgan '51

Jack LeClaire '52

Glen D. Burton '53

Park Densmore '53

Donald Gerlinger '53

Joe Root '53 CDR

USNR-R

Thomas W. Durant '54

Donald O. Enebo '54

Ron Faust '54

Robert McGuire '55

Charles W. Bloom '57

Bill Bradford '57

In memory of

Tom Fraser '57

Jerry R. Hayes '57

In memory of

Tom Fraser '57,

Bob Engle '57, and

Monte Brammer '56

Earl R. Lory '57

Howard B. Ness '57

Rae Young '57

In memory of

Jim Young

Gerald Ashmore '58

In memory of

Paul Nordstrom '60

Dwayne Brigham '58

Lawrence P. Mooney '58

Howard E. Hansen '60

Conrad Colby '61

Larry C. Eichhorn '61

Stephen L. Johnson '63

Michael C. Baker '64,

COL, USA (Ret.)

Kenneth A. Osher '64

Gordon H. Smith '64

James R. Griffith '66

Thomas B. Swain '66

Gregory L. Ulmer '66

James R. Beery '67

Walter E. Presser '68

James W. Redmond '68

Rodger D. Young '68

Damon L. Gannett '69

Dennis J. LaBonty '71

John H. Grant '72

Tom Barnett '79

In memory of

Tom Bird

Thomas E. Lee '79

Edward Fisher '82

# GEORGE FOX '51 SHARES LEADERSHIP AND LIFE EXPERIENCES

## *Contributes to Make Chapter House Competitive on Campus*

**G**eorge Fox '51 attended the University of Montana on the GI bill and decided to join Sigma Alpha Epsilon, "because I liked the people there the best," he says. Some of George's favorite memories were the fellowship and friendships he made as an undergraduate. "I liked the men I took my meals with at the chapter house and having the fellowship before and after dinner with them. As a Montanan, I could probably go into any community in the state and know someone very well through my fraternity."

George graduated with a bachelor's degree in business and finance. He went on to work at J.C. Penney and was hired by Mr. Penney himself. Later, he decided that merchandising was not his forte and joined Piper Jaffray, a full service investment firm, as a stock broker in Billings, Montana. He was later transferred to Minneapolis and named sales manager. George worked at the firm for 25 years and was made the youngest partner in the history of the firm. When the firm incorporated, he was elected president. After retiring from Piper Jaffray, George was hired as chief operating officer of Twin Cities Federal Savings and Loan, the largest savings and loan between Chicago and the west coast. During his career, George also was vice chairman of an energy company in southern California. George later started his own consulting firm.

While at Piper Jaffray, George was the governor of the American stock exchange in New

York and the Midwest stock exchange in Chicago. He also served on the board of the Investment Bankers Association and the Securities Industry Association, among other investment organizations.



George learned about leadership and people skills during his career and offers some advice to young alumni. "Get along with people and learn how to get people to perform for you. Surround yourself

with the best you can find, and they will bring you along." He also advises younger alumni on their career paths. "Pick a field and try to be the best in that field. The competition is horrendous, so in order for you to compete, you have to work hard. Hard work and ethics in business are the key to success."

George was motivated to give back to the fraternity by donating to the capital campaign because he "knew that the house was not in good shape and had deteriorated since I had lived there. It needs to be updated in order to be competitive."

In his free time, George is active in financial circles, his church, and charitable organizations. He has been married to his wife, Helen, for 61 years. Helen is an Alpha Phi from the University of Montana and lived across the street from ΣAE while George attended the university. George and Helen live in Naples, Fla., and have two daughters and two grandchildren. You can contact George at [gfox1252@embarqmail.com](mailto:gfox1252@embarqmail.com).

## Montana Betas in the Military

Written by **Jim Redmond '68**

**I**n 2011, the Montana Beta in the Military project began to document the military service of Montana Beta ΣAEs and enrich each other's lives with the stories of survival. We are still missing a lot of accounts from people we know served. Please go to our website, [www.umsae.net](http://www.umsae.net), to read about the project and the bio collection. We encourage all members who have served in the armed forces to contribute their bios. Please see below for a form to fill out and return. This is a continuing and vital project on the history of our generation.

For most of us, the military wasn't a choice—it was ROTC, enlistment, or the draft. Some did their minimal time and never looked back while others had military careers. We have received 33 bios of brothers, and out of those 33 men, one was in the public health service, five were in the Navy or Marines, and the rest split about equally between the Air Force and Army. Nearly three-quarters served as officers, with 27% retiring from the military on active duty or through the reserves. Final rank attained spans the military system from private or airman E-2 to brigadier general. Together, with the WWII killed in action that we know about, there are two Silver Stars, six Bronze Stars, six Distinguished Flying Crosses, five Legion of Merits, 17 Meritorious Service Medals, 74 Air Medals, at least eight Commendation Medals, three Achievement Medals, and a multitude of other campaign and service ribbons. A number of bios list few or no awards while others are detailed.

For veterans, the military is typically described as a fundamental and life-changing experience. Military service drums into you a sense of mission, attention to detail, and self-discipline. It is typically full of highs and lows, triumph and tragedy, exuberance and frustration. It is like nothing else. It gives you a much deeper appreciation of life, a confidence in yourself, and memories that can at once be hilarious or dark and troubling.

It was a long time ago when we were at the university, dealing with the draft and making choices about the military. There was a lot of stress and angst then, before so many brothers honorably served and life worked its way out for all of us. Perhaps the great American author Louis L'Amour described it best when he wrote, "people only talk about how wonderful youth is when they have forgotten how hard it was."

## Alumni, Recommend a Man for Recruitment

Alumni, we value your referrals. If you know of good men on campus who have not joined a fraternity or high school seniors headed to Missoula, please recommend and impress upon them the values of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

You may submit prospect recommendations to:

Rush Chairman

Montana Beta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

P.O. Box 3343, Missoula, MT 59806.





# Sigma Alpha Epsilon Triples Membership

## Brothers Dedicated to the Future of Montana Beta

I am pleased to report that Montana Beta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon has 23 active members and four new members. Since this time last year, our membership has nearly tripled. Montana Beta is committed to expanding the numbers of our chapter. We have verbal commitments from the new members that they will be moving into the chapter house in the fall. We hope the revitalization of the chapter house's living quarters will continue to attract new men and lift the financial burden from the chapter. The success of ΣΑΕ at the University of Montana and the ability for our chapter to thrive in Missoula is our number one priority.

### Philanthropy Priority for Undergraduates

The undergraduates have been involved in various philanthropies throughout the semester. We organized the Hospice Ball, which generated tens of thousands of dollars for end of life care in Missoula. The chapter also volunteered for the Missoula Parks and Recreation Harvest Festival, which helped create a positive image for us throughout the community. Our brothers are constantly looking for new opportunities for philanthropic events or volunteer service.

### ΣΑΕ Builds Float for Greek Week

The brothers and the ladies of Alpha Phi built a great float for Homecoming. We also participated in the first Greek Week celebration held by the University of Montana in years. This year has been incredibly successful for Montana Beta, and we look forward to continuing to improve.

As alumni and undergraduates witness this positive momentum, we are excited to see what the rest of the semester holds. Grades and recruitment are on a positive upswing, and we are steadily improving in all areas. We have the recruitment numbers, involvement, and dedication to the chapter that has not been seen in years. The next time you are near the chapter house, please stop by and visit with the undergraduates. We would enjoy giving you a tour of the chapter house and hearing your Montana Beta memories.



In the Bonds,  
**Devin Irving '14**  
Eminent Archon  
(509) 710-1279  
swerving.irving509@gmail.com



*Recruitment efforts are going well for the chapter; we have nearly tripled our size in the last year.*

## HEARTBREAKING PLAY OVERCOMES OBSTACLES

This article featuring Brother **Dan Miller '12** appeared in the *Montana Kaimin* in February 2012, written by Lindsay Sanders.

Cast and crewmembers of *The Last Five Years* describe senior Dan Miller as overworked, passionate, and crazy—that's what it takes to be the first University of Montana undergrad in living memory to obtain the rights to perform an off-Broadway production.

Miller worked with School of Music Professor David Cody to purchase the rights to the two-person musical. While Miller is using the University's account with Musical Theatre International (which owns the rights), he is solely responsible for footing the \$1,200 bill.

"This is a big undertaking for a student," Cody said. "But this musical is proof that a show doesn't have to be huge to be great theatre." *The Last Five Years* is a small-scale musical recounting the relationship between a man and a woman. It goes from their first date to the

end of their divorce, but it uses an unconventional timeline.

The show begins with the wife, Cathy, played by sophomore Maria Miller (no relation), singing the number "Still Hurting" at the end of their divorce. After Cathy's scene, Jamie (played by Dan Miller) takes the stage, elated at the end of their first date. The rest of the show's shape takes this form, jumping across time as Cathy moves back in time and Jamie moves forward.

Dan Miller fell in love with the musical two-and-a-half years ago when his friend, and now music director, gave him the CD. "It was one of those rare times I sat down and listened to the whole thing," Miller recalled. "Every track blew my mind."

He began brainstorming how to bring the play to Missoula, but every aspect of the production was too specialized for any local production company. It was too small of a production for the University, too simple for the School of Music, and too risky for Missoula Children's Theatre.

But it was too perfect for Miller to pass up. In his last semester, Miller spearheaded the project with a now-or-never mindset. With a nearly complete accompanying orchestra, a \$2,250 budget and the efforts of volunteers (a director, co-star, and backstage crew), Miller's dream of producing *The Last Five Years* is coming true—but not without its obstacles.

MCT has provided costumes, props, and the set as well as agreeing to share its stage with Miller's show. But that doesn't mean Miller has exclusive use of the stage. The children's theater production of *Winnie the Pooh* is also running this weekend at MCT's. Miller was only able to secure the venue for his show by taking responsibility for the disassembly and reassembly of the *Winnie the Pooh* set before and after every rehearsal and performance of *The Last Five Years*. As a result, an hour of every evening's rehearsal has been spent "pushing the Pooh," or striking the Hundred-Acre Wood.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

- Curtis E. Flint '38**
- James H. Larue '42**
- John H. Fisher '46**
- Douglas R. Drysdale '49**
- Frank Burgess '50**
- Vernon K. Johnson '52**
- Donald O. Enebo '54**
- William (Bill) W. Wertz '67**
- John R. Gilbert '70**

We try to keep a record of all brothers who have passed away. If you know of someone we've missed, please let us know. Send the information to P.O. Box 3343, Missoula, MT 59806.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**Gordon E. Swanson '43** and his wife, Ina, have been married for over 60 years. They have three children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. His grandchildren and great-grandchild have a "great interest in U of M."

**Donald C. Woodside '50** and his wife, Virginia, live in Fair Oaks, Calif. Since Donald retired, Virginia and he have been involved in a learning retirement program at Sacramento State University. Donald has served as president of the organization, which now has over 1,400 members. E-mail: dcwoodside@sbcglobal.net

**George J. Mansinger '51** has enjoyed retirement for over 20 years. He and his wife,

Kwon, live in Renton, Wash., in the Fairwood Golf and Country Club community. E-mail: georgemansinger@comcast.net

**Harry F. Manuel '55** retired after teaching for 32 years in Montana and Oregon. During the first 10 years of his retirement, he and his wife spent most of their summers traveling in their motor home. They visited national and state parks in the West and Midwest. They visited 30 states, including Alaska, and even spent two weeks in eastern Australia.

**Gregory H. Wallander '56** and his wife, Shirley, live in Billings, Mont. After retiring from banking, Shirley and Gregory decided to move to Billings to look after their grandchildren and granddogs.

**Donald W. Nelson Jr. '58** and his wife, Mary, live in Florence, Mont. They traveled to England and Ireland earlier this year to visit their daughter, Denise, and family.

**Gerald G. Livesey '59** keeps busy around the farm and continues to help out around the community. He reports that "golfing has become a frustrating pastime." His goal is to return to Missoula each year and continue traveling.

**Len H. Sargent '60** and his wife, Monica, are both retired and formerly high school principals in Minnesota. He reports that Monica is a Minnesota native, but has fallen in love with Montana. They are looking for a retirement

spot in Bitterroot Valley, which is close to their children and grandsons. Len reports that time has flown since he lived at ΣAE, but he hopes to stop by when he's in Montana next. E-mail: sarge988@frontiernet.net

**Gary G. Fish '62** is retired and lives with his wife, Alaete, in Livingston, Mont. He is enjoying life and has been doing a lot of acting in local theaters. In his spare time, Gary manages their vacation rental house. E-mail: frizzfishes@wisptest.net

**Dr. Robert E. Morgenstern '63** and his wife, Valerie, have three children: Robert, Juli, and Mara. During Robert's retirement, he has been a national park ranger and a sculptor. He reports he had a good career as a professor of psychology. Robert and Valerie live in Port Angeles, Wash.

**Rick A. Ashworth '71** has spent 32 years in education, with 18 as a principal. He has three grandchildren and enjoys spending time with his family. Rick and his wife, Linda, continue to travel and are north end zone ticket holders for Griz football.

**Matthew B. McLaughlin '93** lives in Phoenix and reports that "it's hot." He hopes all is well with his ΣAE brothers.

## Help Complete Chronicle of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Brothers

### *Submit Names of Military Members Who Served*

We are compiling a list of brothers who have served in the armed forces. Our goal is to have information on every brother that served during peacetime or wartime. Please include any military honors that those individuals received, photos, or experiences. All of this information will be placed in a book that will be on display at 1120 Gerald. This history is important and worth documenting. We hope all of our brothers who served in the military will help with this project.

Please use the questions to the right as a guide but feel free to elaborate on a separate sheet and submit to: Montana Beta, P.O. Box 3343, Missoula, MT 59806.

Name and Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Where and When You Served: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Honors Received: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Duties: \_\_\_\_\_

Anything Else to Add? \_\_\_\_\_

MONTANA BETA CHAPTER OF  
SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

P.O. BOX 3343  
MISSOULA, MT 59806

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LAWRENCE, KS  
PERMIT #570

## HEARTBREAKING PLAY OVERCOMES OBSTACLES

*(Continued from page 4)*

Miller's crew also isn't allowed to alter the lighting design for *Winnie the Pooh*, so they have figured out how to work within those constraints. The music arrived three days late, a technician dropped out without notice, everyone has school or full-time jobs to work around, costumes aren't fitting, and the orchestra is one cello shy of complete. But the show will go on tonight.

"Every facet of this production is coming together in the 11th hour, said volunteer director and UM Professor Creighton James. James is a testament that the bumps and potholes have only made the cast and crew more passionate, having canceled his classes this week to dedicate his evenings to rehearsals. The process has been "life-affirming" for Miller. "I'm sure this is what I want to do with my life," Miller said. "This show is something I've loved as long as I've known it."

*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.*

## SAVE THE DATE

1960s Alumni Reunion  
August 17-18, 2012

All Montana Beta alumni from the 1960s  
are invited to join us at Big Fork, Montana, for a reunion.

### Friday August 17

7 p.m.: No Host Get Together  
Garden Bar, Big Fork

### Saturday, August 18

TBD: Brunch at the Marina Cay

If you haven't received our invitation, please send your address  
via e-mail to [richard\\_ford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richard_ford@sbcglobal.net) or post to:

**Dick Ford '64**  
2268 Gladwin Drive  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596