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Welcome to all of our new brothers!

- Kyle Swain
- Daniel Hanson
- Brennen Shaw
- Alex Nusbaum

Greek Banquet Awards

Spring 2013 Executive Members

- Mike True  President
- Corey Schmidt  VP Programming
- Ben Solomon  VP Member Development
- Josh Carter  VP Recruitment
- Daigen Afdahl  VP Finance
- Matt Sherick  Chaplain
- Eric Vann  VP Communications

Virtue, Diligence & Brotherly Love
Balanced Leadership Scholarship

By Riley Shearer

This spring Sigma Phi Epsilon awarded their biannual Balanced Leader Scholarship. The scholarship committee had to choose from and extremely competitive group of about 30 motivated and dedicated finalists. Applicants’ interests ranged from volunteering to help underprivileged kids with academics and athletics to involvement in 4H. In addition to reviewing applications and awarding 4 finalists with a scholarship, Sigma Phi Epsilon hosted a series of events to engage and meet the finalists in an informal setting. The week started with a conversion of the house into 9 hole course of mini golf complete with strobe-lights and a ramp in the form of a large Φ. On Wednesday, brothers and finalists traveled to the local ice rink for a night of broomball. Despite broken brooms and bruised bottoms everyone left that night with a smile. The next day the brothers invited finalists to the house for a casino themed game night. Playing games such as black jack, Texas hold’em, and craps finalists had the opportunity to go home with some great prizes. The week of events concluded with a day of sledding in the beautiful Hyalite Canyon. Those in attendance were witness to high speeds and daring stunts. Not only was fun had by all this week, but the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon had the opportunity to meet high achieving Montana State students. As a result of this exposure we are happy to announce that an invitation to join our fraternity was extended to and accepted by Brennen Shaw and Kyle Swain.

Fall Rush

By Nathaniel Wilson

This past fall, recruitment for MT Beta was a great success. Part of that success is due to our chapter’s first organized, informal Fall Rush in recent years. Working in tandem with Fall BLS, we had additional events and reached out to a wider variety of potential new brothers (PNB’s). “The whole fraternity really got involved with Fall Rush and made it possible”, said Cody Howell, Rush Chairman. “The collective effort from everyone was amazing.”

We kicked off our series of Rush events with an open house/house tours, which happened to coincide with tours of all the fraternity houses sponsored by IFC during the first week of classes. After that, we had a “color party” at our Lodge; our brothers wore red clothing, rushes/PNB’s wore yellow and we informally invited members of the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, who wore purple – attendance for that event was unbelievable.

At the same time, Fall BLS was well underway as well as IFC’s formal Rush. Recruitment for our chapter was designed so that PNB’s from Rush were able to attend our BLS events, and we also made sure SigEp was in strong attendance at IFC’s Rush events. This addition of a Fall Rush helped us sign a total of 14 as part of MT Beta’s new year-round recruitment plan, and if our recent recruitment successes are any indicator, we can only continue to improve.
Thoughts from Alumni

Jason Lowry, ’97, recently moved from the wind swept prairie outside Fargo, ND to the Mackay area of Australia where he is the operations manager for the second largest sugar milling company in the country.

Bill Schell, ’97 has been back in Bozeman for just over six years. He and Melanie welcomed their third child, Griffin, in July 2010. Bill continues to actively support the local undergraduate chapter as counselor and work with the national fraternity. He began a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Industrial Engineering at MSU. In his spare time he still enjoys triathlon and skiing. This winter has been a blast watching all three kids ski at a level beyond their ages. Go to vimeo.com/60462981 to see the littlest one in action.

Steve Crossen The reunion every two years means alot to myself in that i get a chance to return to MSU, see the sights, and swap memories and stories with the Sig Ep Brothers i made longtime friends with--the reunion has become a tradition for myself to get back to MT and remember the good ole days of college life!!

Alumni BBQ
Senior Spot Light

- Colter Wiggs
- Hometown- Roundup Montana
- Major- Construction Engineering Technology
- Hobbies-snowboarding, camping, doing whatever involves good friends
- Plans After Graduation-Got a job in Billings with Castlerock Excavating as an estimator and Project manager
- What thing(s) have you benefited from while being a SigEp? People skills and branching out. SigEp really got me to step out of my comfort zone and experience new great things.
- What aspect about SigEp has helped you succeed in other aspects in your life-showing me that there are truly great people in this world. It just so happens a lot of them joined SigEp
- Best advice for new members? Take advantage of every opportunity that SigEp provides. You won't realize how great you have/had it until you look back on your SigEp years.
- Favorite Memory of SigEp-Impossible to pick just one
Craig Kohring, oh Craig, where should I even begin!!! Well normally you start at the beginning so I guess that's where I will start. I first met Craig in North Hedges, I walked by his room peered in and saw several hunting coats and jackets and I thought to myself this might be a person I want to get to know. After the first few weeks of school we became friends, this is when I then joined Sig Ep. At this time Craig was not interested in joining but over several long weeks of convincing he then decided to join the fraternity. Once in the fraternity he was a very active member bringing a can do positive attitude to the house. He was also a wonderful asset to the fraternity with his vast knowledge in mechanical engineering. He was always very welling to help out the younger with anything from English to vibrations. Over the past four years I got to know Craig quite well I know he will go many places in life, in a few years I can't wait to see him at my wedding and share the stories of our first few years in the work world. Craig, you were a great friend and more importantly brother, I wish the best for you now and for the rest of your days.
Carson Yahvah graduated this past December, completing his bachelor's degree in music education, as well as an honors degree with highest distinction. A talented cellist, pianist, vocalist, and conductor, Carson contributed his wide array of musical talents to MSU’s Orchestra, Chorale, and a number of smaller musical ensembles.

Carson joined SigEp as a freshman in the Fall of 2007 after winning the chapter's Balanced Man Scholarship. He has since served as the Chapter's President the year that it received its charter, Vice President of Member Development, challenge coordinator, and greatly improved the sound of SigEp's singing endeavors.

Carson has returned to his native Helena, where he is substitute teaching and looking for a permanent position as a music teacher. Best of luck Carson, we'll miss you!
By Aaron Wipf

For the 2012-2013 school year I was officially listed as an “inactive” member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Thankfully this wasn’t due to any disciplinary action or a waning of interest in the fraternity, but came about because I was spending the year studying abroad in Germany. For these two semesters, the town of Tübingen in the southwestern German state of Baden-Württemberg has been my home. With a population of around 90,000 (and about 28,000 students), Tübingen is a classic university town, situated along the beautiful Neckar River. Although I had the opportunity to study in larger cities, and even Berlin, I thought I’d enjoy living in the relaxed, student-filled environment of Tübingen. Being centrally located in Europe, I also figured there would be plenty of travel opportunities.

Both of these presumptions turned out to be true, as I’ve loved living in Tübingen and have been able to make some incredible trips within Germany and throughout Europe. By participating in an international language course before the first semester, I was able to meet and make friends with a great group of students from across the world. Interacting with people from Japan, Italy, Finland, Iran, Spain, and Belgium, to name a few of the countries of origin of this group, was an incredible experience. Along with this international experience, I obviously soaked up plenty of German culture. There were definitely a few things to get used to in everyday German life, ranging all the way from the big things, like using a different language and figuring out their public transportation, to the little things, like sorting trash in to 4 different categories, bagging your own groceries, and figuring out how the windows work (it sounds ridiculous, but they’re tricky at first!). But living here instead of just visiting gave me a feel for the culture that I never got from previous vacations or trips.

That’s not to say that trips to other countries aren’t a fantastic way to broaden your horizons and have a great time. Although I’ve mostly travelled within Germany, I have been lucky enough to visit the Czech Republic, Poland, and Switzerland as well. Spending New Year’s in Prague with my family was incredible, and snowboarding in Zermatt, Switzerland right next to the Matterhorn was an experience that I won’t forget any time soon! Around Germany, I found Banksy street art in Berlin, went to the Canstatter Volksfest (which is similar to the Oktoberfest in Munich) in Stuttgart, and walked up 768 stairs to the top of the world’s tallest church, the Ulm Minster. Before my year in Germany finishes, I’m planning to visit Hamburg, walk a portion of the Way of St. James in Spain, go snowboarding in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and visit the nearby Zugspitze, the tallest peak in Germany.

Even with so many exciting experiences during my time abroad, I still found myself missing my family and friends, both back home in Washington and in Montana. Luckily, Facebook, Skype, and email has made it possible to stay in touch with many of them. The designation as an “inactive” member of SigEp is quite misleading, as I’ve been able to keep up with the chapter’s activities and many of my brothers, thanks in part to technology but also thanks to their efforts to keep me involved and in the loop. Of course, I still haven’t been able to meet our new brothers face to face, so I’m excited to get to know everyone and see how the chapter has grown when I get back to Bozeman in the fall!
One Land, Two Stories

By Ben Solomon

On October 8, 2012, the Montana State University Leadership Institute hosted two professors, Dr. Shaul Gabbay and Dr. Amin Kazak, from the University of Denver to speak the Israel-Palestine conflict. Dr. Gabbay, a native Israeli, and Dr. Kazak, a Palestinian refugee, both teach together and are very good friends. This event was very exciting, especially for me as I have been a long family friend of Dr. Gabbay. In fact, it was this relationship that brought these professors to Montana State University and brought SigEp to be a co-sponsor of the event.

Last summer, I travelled to and volunteered in Israel with my aunt and became intrigued by the conflict of the two nations sharing one land. It drove me to learn more about the history of the land and the origin of this dispute by speaking with my aunts close friend and colleague, Dr. Gabbay. I read the book “One Land, Two Stories” that he and Dr. Kazak wrote. Upon my return to Bozeman in late July, I shared the book with Dr. Diedre Combs, one of SigEp’s faculty fellows and director of the MEPI (Middle Eastern Partnership Initiative) program in Bozeman. She shared the book with Carmen McSpadden, the director of the Leadership Institute and she worked to bring the two professors to Montana State.

As co-sponsors of the event, SigEp was invited to a master class with the professors, a private dinner with the professors, as well as a private meet and greet after the event. In addition, our letters were displayed at the event and on all advertisements. As the student bringing the professors to Montana State and a SigEp, I was invited to introduce the professors and share how SigEp’s policies paralleled the concepts taught at the event. In addition, I brought the professors to the chapter house and introduced them to our faculty fellow Dr. Brian Kassar as well as our president and other brothers at the house.

The event itself was delightful. Over forty brothers attended the main event and were actively engaged. After the opening remarks, each professor gave a 15-minute presentation on their respective sides of the conflict, followed by 30 minutes of questions and answer from the audience. During the closing remarks by Carmen, she commended SigEp for our hard work on campus and involvement programs such as this.

Looking back at the event, it was great to have brothers get out and learn about different perspectives of a topic that commonly escapes everyday conversation, especially in Montana. We were very proud to be a part of an event that was so beneficial to our brothers and for the community and we are excited to do similar events in the future.

For more information on the professors, the book, or the event, please contact myself at Benjamin73192@gmail.com or at 720-280-8589. Also, additional photographs and a video of the event are available. Please contact Sigep.msu.communication@gmail.com for more details. Thank you for your support!
Bryan Vadheim

From MSU News Service

Bryan Vadheim of Miles City, who plans to combine his academic interests of chemical engineering and economics to benefit the environment on a global scale, has become Montana State University's first Marshall Scholar.

His selection as a Marshall Scholar, one of the most selective scholarships awarded to American students, means that Vadheim will receive two years of education in the United Kingdom. He plans to earn a master's degree from the London School of Economics as well as a master's degree in engineering specializing in water science and governance from King's College, also in London.

"I'd been looking at the Marshall Scholarship for some time because it allowed for two degrees, which was perfect for me," said Vadheim, who is a man of varied yet deep interests. In addition to majors in chemical engineering and economics, he will graduate in May with minors in statistics, mathematics and business administration. He credits an assortment of mentors at MSU with encouraging the development of his interests.

The youngest son of an internist and a nutritionist, Vadheim was born and raised in Miles City and has a deep passion for the outdoors fostered by summers spent in a family cabin in Silvergate, Mont., and hiking in the Beartooth Mountains. He knew he would like to study chemical engineering, his interest in chemistry encouraged by Brenda Martin, his chemistry teacher at Custer County High School. He said while he looked at a few other engineering programs across the country, MSU's excellence in chemical engineering as well as its proximity to a world-class environment and outdoor activities appealed to him.

As part of MSU's award-winning Engineers Without Borders, Vadheim spent an earlier summer in Kenya as the leader of a five-person team that designed and implemented a composting latrine and installed a well for an elementary school in the Khwisero District of western Kenya. He has also served as treasurer for that group, overseeing an annual operating budget of $100,000 and assisting with writing grant proposals, one of which was funded by the Koch Foundation.

In addition, Vadheim has been involved in a long list of campus activities. As president of MSU's Alpha Delta Lambda Honorary, he has organized activities include ushering for the Bozeman Symphony, participating in the Relay for Life, and regularly visiting a local retirement home. He is active in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the student group "Men Stopping Rape," the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Network of the Environmentally Conscious Organizations. He also volunteers at the Museum of the Rockies as an exhibit guide.

"But I love Montana and I can't imagine being away from it for very long," Vadheim said. "I will always find time to come back to hike every summer." Vadheim said if there was advice that he would give to other students coming behind him, it would be to ask for help.
RLC Update

By Dayton Cooney

In the spring of 2011, SigEp Nationals recognized Montana Beta as a chapter committed to academic excellence. With this acknowledgement the Chapter was named a Residential Learning Community, or RLC. With the guidance of faculty fellow Brian Kassar and past RLC chairmen, Joe Yakawich and Patrick Tate, we have continued to live on our mission to strive towards academic success and achievement.

This past spring showed the continuation of the SigEp Lecture Series. We were honored to welcome Dr. Ilse-Mari Lee to give her riveting presentation “Why Music?” on the importance, power and uses of music in our lives. The lecture series continues to grow with our largest two turnouts being these past two segments of the series.

This spring the RLC Committee has been very busy working on the “Pay it Forward” RLC Grant Application presented by Illinois Alpha RLC chapter at University of Illinois. If we get the pleasure and honor to receive this grant, and after receiving matched funds from our AVC, we will have up to $10,000 that we hope to put towards seed money for a renewable, annual RLC Fundraiser, installation of a permanent projector system, and improvement of the library. The recipients of the grant will be revealed at Conclave this summer.
The Brother Mentor challenge is the fourth step in SigEp's Balanced Man Program. To reach it, brothers must complete the Epsilon challenge and go through the Brother Mentor ritual. The Epsilon challenge focuses on leadership and service and requires attendance of bi-weekly meetings as well as activities to be completed on one's own. In the history of our recently re-chartered chapter, few brothers have completed the Epsilon challenge.

In March of 2013, however, four brothers participated in the Brother Mentor ritual: James Pallardy '13, Ethan Perry '14, Patrick Tate '14, and Mike True '14. The ritual was performed wonderfully by AVC President Bruce Zignego, Chapter Counselor Bill Schell, and Montana Beta's own Brother Mentor, Bryan Vadheim '13.

The completion of this ritual by these four brothers, three of whom will still be here for the 2013-2014 academic year, has spurred the development of a Brother Mentor challenge program for our chapter. In other chapters, the Brother Mentor challenge generally assists the Brother Mentors in putting to practice their skills as servant leaders and mentors, specifically for the younger brothers of the chapter.

Speaking personally, I am very excited to have completed the Epsilon challenge and been able to take part in the Brother Mentor ritual. It is a very meaningful achievement to me, as SigEp has certainly been one of the most significant and beneficial aspect of my college career. I very much appreciate Bruce, Bill, and Bryan taking the time to make it a special ritual for those of us going through. I also am grateful to have shared the experience with very close friends of mine; these brothers are ones with whom I have lived, gone through the other SigEp rituals, served on Exec Board, and served on the ritual team. It was certainly a memorable experience.
Spring Retreat 2013

By Ben Solomon

The first weekend of March was a great few days to be a SigEp. We held our semester retreat at alumni Steve Liebmann’s ranch outside Sheridan, Montana. The weekend was a fun mix of meaningful discussions and free time allowing brothers to get a restful and fulfilling escape from the busy semester.

The first car left Bozeman around 2 PM and by 7 PM all brothers were present at the ranch. Dinner was served around 7:30 and activities began right after. The retreat started off with a chapter favorite—cross the line. In this activity general statements are announced to the chapter and a brother can step forward if it applies to him. This led to a meaningful discussion on the trust and support network that SigEp has established. Afterwards, brothers enjoyed the game sardines on the ranch or board games back at the main lodge.

Saturday morning started out with a demanding workout put on by our Sound Body coordinator, Ethan Perry and other volunteers. Meanwhile, a lucky group of brothers stayed back and cooked breakfast for the group. Upon returning from the work out, brothers enjoyed a hot breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, and fruit. After breakfast brothers cleaned up and gathered for the next activity. Brothers were divided into groups of 10 to 12 and they acted as “founding fathers” to a fraternity and they brainstormed cardinal principles and a foundation to a fraternity, without using any of SigEp’s ideals. Different ideas were presented, but all shared a unifying theme very similar to what SigEp stands for. This transitioned nicely into a discussion of why we joined SigEp and where would we be had we not made the decision to go Greek.

We then had a nice lunch and another team building activity. Afterwards, brothers had a few hours of free time to explore the land, play games, or fish in the Ruby River. This was a very relaxing time up until dinner. After dinner, brothers prepared for the burning heart ritual. The ritual was beautiful with snow on the ground and, for me, was one of the most meaningful I have witnessed. At the bonfire afterwards, Michael Townshend led a heartfelt discussion on the ritual and Sean Henley led a big little ceremony where new brothers Dayton Cooney, Andrew Wheeler, Alex Nusbaum, Kyle Swain, Brennen Shaw, and Dan Hanson were welcomed to existing families. Brothers celebrated the new family additions with laughter and s’mores until brothers decided to head back to go to bed. The next morning, brothers cleaned the house and came back to reality.

Although it seemed short, the weekend was an excellent escape from school and work. A trusting and carefree environment were established which was welcoming to new brothers, rejuvenating for older brothers, and relaxing to all.
Retreat Pictures
State of the Chapter

By Mike True

A constant buzz of hard work, dedication and service has been among the chapter since this school year began in August. Kicking off the school year, the chapter successfully recruited 13 new members in the fall, which pushed our total manpower to over fifty brothers! Since their joining, the new brothers have pushed the chapter to become better and many have stepped into numerous leadership positions within chapter.

Later that fall semester, the chapter put on our SigEp Rose event, which involved the whole Greek system, to support the local Food Bank. After a restful break between semesters, the new Executive Board hit the ground running by attending the Carlson Leadership Academy in Santa Clara, California. At CLA, Montana Beta was awarded several awards. Our Faculty Fellow, Dr. Brian Kassar was awarded Volunteer of the Year award for our district and Senior, Brian Vadheim was awarded the J. Edward Zollinger Outstanding Senior Award. In addition, Montana Beta RLC was also recognized for our academic success on campus. Upon our return, the Executive Board created new goals and ideas to implement into the chapter. A large goal for the chapter was to apply for the Buchanan Cup for this upcoming Conclave in Dallas, Texas (July 31-August 4, 2013). The whole chapter and the AVC played a direct role in completing this lengthy application. In 2011, Montana Beta was designated as a Residential Learning Community and since then, we have been making strives to increase educational programs through different activities, like our SigEp Lecture Series and bringing Professors to the house to help brothers in specific classes. This year, we are pushing to expand our RLC even more and have applied for the Pay it Forward RLC Grant, which University of Illinois has partnered with Sigma Phi Epsilon to offer grants to RLC Chapters. Grants will be awarded at this upcoming Conclave in Dallas, Texas.

In addition to applying for the Buch Cup and the RLC Grant, the chapter has been heavily involved with service to the community this year. We partnered with United Blood Services to host a blood drive on Montana State University’s campus. Again this year, the chapter is working with Eagle Mount, a local organization that strives to provide recreational therapy to children and adults with disabilities, in our 200,000 Pushup Challenge. Currently, the chapter is working towards adopting a highway for cleanup. In addition, this April the whole Greek community will be coming together for Greek Week to increase awareness of Greek Life on campus and to work together to participate in several different activities, including community service.

In these past semesters, Montana Beta RLC has grown to be a strong, positive influence on campus and for the other Greek houses. I am very excited to see where Montana Beta will be in the next five years. However, we would not have had such great success if it was not for our volunteers. We are so thankful for all of the support we have received throughout the years from all of our Alumni Volunteers. Alumni Volunteers have proven to be an integral part to our success and for that we are truly grateful for all of the hours they dedicate to making our SigEp experience fulfilling and great.
CLA Spring 2013

By Eric Vann

On February 14th, instead of spending time in the usual festivities associated with that day, the Executive Team of the Fraternity, along with three alumni and another brother ventured to beautiful and warm Santa Clara, California for CLA. We left two days before the academy so that we would have time for sight-seeing. We arrived on Thursday in San Francisco and meandered over to Pier 39 for dinner. After eating so fresh and tasty seafood with seagulls flying all around us trying to steal our food, we rented some bikes and rode the 4 miles to the Golden Gate Bridge. We rode over the bridge at sunset which was quite a stunning scene. We rode back and stopped at a chocolate factory and then some brothers stayed in the hotel while others went to Little Italy.

The next day we were back a Pier 39 by 9 am and took the ferry to Alcatraz. Once there we looked at the bird sanctuary and got a guided audio tour of the prison block. It was quite surreal. From Alcatraz one could see stunning views of the city and the bridges that surround. Alcatraz is literally a few miles from shore and prisoner’s routinely complained how the allure of freedom was always in sight but always just out of reach. We took the 12 pm ferry back to the mainland and made our way to the train station for our early afternoon train ride to Santa Clara. Once there we checked in, got settled, and met for our evening introduction session. Then off to bed. In the morning breakfast was followed by a regional session and then position-specific, break-out sessions. Lunch was tasty and featured a rather sobering and engaging risk management session. Instead of the more traditional lecture style approach, alumni who is also an attorney put a volunteer brother in the hot seat and role played a fabricated story about a brother’s death. It really hit the message home and although serious was a good way to explain the need to care for all our brothers. More sessions in the afternoon and we had a chance to collaborate with other chapters. Dinner and then close.

The next day we traveled back to San Francisco and made our way to Chinatown for lunch. In the afternoon we visited Haight-Ashbury (fulfilling Ben’s hipster needs) and had a rad drum session in the park. We closed that evening with a dinner in Little Italy. The next morning we were up super early but did get back in time for a few brothers to go skiing.

Overall CLA, was a mix of fun and learning. I know personally that one of the best parts of the trip was meeting SigEps from across the US and seeing how their chapters operate. Brain Kassar won Volunteer of the Year Award, we won an award for academics, and Bryan Vadheim won the outstanding Senior Award. It was an incredible experience and I enjoyed getting to know my brothers better.
Alumni,

The brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon greatly appreciate the support of our alumni. Want to help out, but don’t know how? We can always use additional mentoring support for undergraduate brothers; find out more by contacting our chapter counselor, Bill Schell ’97 at wjschell@hotmail.com.

Donations of time not an option? We welcome financial support, which is generally used to fund travel to leadership programs put on by Sigma Phi Epsilon’s national organization, and award scholarships. SigEp at MSU continues to be a nationally recognized chapter, and recently won 7 of the 11 available awards at MSU’s Greek Banquet, including Fraternity of the Year. Such excellence is a testament not only to our undergraduate members but also to the ongoing support of our alumni. Donations can be made online through www.tinyurl.com/paymsusigep. Any and all contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Thanks!

MT Beta RLC has a newly formatted website! Check it out at www.montana.edu/sigep. Thanks!

Do you have any alumni-related news that you’d like to see in the next newsletter? We’d love to hear from you! Submit any articles and/or pictures to sigep.msu.communication@gmail.com and we’ll do our best to include it!

"This Fraternity will be different; it will be based on the love of God and the principle of peace through brotherhood... its purpose shall be to intensify and perpetuate friendship and promote happiness among its members, to encourage literature and education, and to create such sentiments, mold such opinions, and perform such deeds as shall conduce to the building of a noble and pure manhood."

VP of Communications – Eric Vann