



Missouri State SIG



Left: The front view of our future home from Kimbrough Avenue.
Middle: The side view of the building. Right: The south side of the building.

INSIDE:

Thank You,
Loyal Alumni
and Friends **2**

Alumni
Spotlights
2 & 3

Chapter
Report
3

Connect with Us Online



SigmaChi
AtMissouriState



@SigmaChiMOSState



@SigmaChiMSU

A New Home for Eta Kappa

Sigma Chi Announces \$1.5 Million Capital Campaign

For nearly half a century, Eta Kappa has built generations of brothers who embrace friendship, justice, and learning. When we look back on our own experiences in the chapter, the countless memories and forged friendships remind us of the truly irreplaceable experience we shared together. We will never forget our years as actives or the center of our brotherhood.

Greek life at Missouri State University is transitioning with large renovations already taking shape at other fraternities. While we each know the quality of our membership, our chapter house must reflect the strength of our chapter and keep our competitive edge. Evaluating the long-term needs of Eta Kappa and its members has been at the forefront of our minds with safety, academics, and recruitment being key focuses. Through careful assessment and discussion, alumni leadership has determined that a new house will be the best way to remain competitive in the MSU fraternity system and meet the ever-changing needs of today's students.

To begin this new phase for Eta Kappa, we are excited to launch *A Foundation for the Future of Eta Kappa* campaign. Our new, more than 10,000-square-foot facility will accommodate 16 men and is expandable as the chapter grows. This new chapter house will not only provide ample space for our undergraduates to gather, but will serve as a communal space for alumni returning

to campus. We have a strong vision for the future of our chapter, and we will need the support of each and every brother to make this home a reality.

The Sigma Chi House Corporation is ready to take on this vital project, but we cannot do it without you. Early commitments from 31 alumni have already raised \$737,000. This is an impressive start, and now we need your assistance to reach or exceed our campaign goal of \$1.5 million. In the coming weeks, you will receive additional information detailing the project, the campaign, and ways in which you can help.

This is a time to reflect on your Sigma Chi experience. Remember the impact this brotherhood has had on you and imagine how this chapter will affect future brothers. Eta Kappa has given each of us an unforgettable experience; it is our duty to honor our membership and invest in the future of Sigma Chi at MSU. In keeping with our motto—*In Hoc Signo Vinces*—we look forward to conquering this campaign with your support.

In hoc,
Chuck Champion '74
Campaign Co-Chairman
cchampion@kalo.com

Glenn Siler '74
Campaign Co-Chairman
grsiler@gmail.com



A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE OF ETA KAPPA

Thank You, Loyal Alumni and Friends, for Your Generous Early Contributions

Soon You Can Join Your Brothers and Add Your Name to the Donor List

We are deeply grateful to the following brothers and friends for making early commitments totaling \$737,000 to *A Foundation for the Future of Eta Kappa* campaign. These donors recognize the importance of ensuring the future of Eta Kappa. Thank you!

Each donor who contributes \$2,500 or more will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the chapter house. Those who give \$1,000 or more will be recognized in campaign publications. Donors are listed by graduation year in their appropriate giving levels. If an error has been made in recording your gift or name, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 to make any corrections.

Constantine Trust (\$250,000 and above)

Anonymous

White Cross Legacy (\$100,000 to \$249,999)

Patty and
Chuck Champion '74

Significant Sig Tradition (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Anonymous
Jim Griggs '71

Founder's Circle (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Paul L. Redfearn '73
John W. Schekorra '73

Glenn Siler '74
Mark Nelson '77

Ross Family Gift
Kenny Ross '77

David Ross, Arkansas '03
Andy Ross, Arkansas '05

Doug Schmidt '78
Troy Branch '88

Eta Kappa Guardian (\$15,000 to \$24,999)

Kirk D. Reid '80

Life Loyal Heritage (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

Donald O. Brinker '73
In honor of

The Spring 1971
Pledge Class

Jennifer and
Mitch Holmes '80

Jordan Standard Reserve (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Richard Cocos '70
In honor of

Rik C. Haalboom '72
Paul D. Grosse '73

Patrick Barr '77

Arch W. Watson Jr. '88

TJ Dunavant '05
Mark A. Hanes '16

Norman Shield Order (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Anonymous
Donald P. Mignerone '72
Frank Marshall '73

In honor of
The "D Squad"

Daniel E. Noteis '74
In honor of

The Pledge Class
of Spring '71

Paul Elmer '92

Campaign Status

At-a-Glance

As of September 14, 2020

Campaign Goal
\$1,500,000

Current Funds
\$737,000

Total Donors
31

Blue & Gold Society (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Tim Swan '73
Gail L. Amos '74
In memory of
Boris M. Martin '56

Sustaining the Eta Kappa Brotherhood

Arch Watson '88 Offers His Support to the Capital Campaign

Much has changed on Missouri State's campus since **Arch Watson '88** was an active member of Eta Kappa Chapter, but Sigma Chi's traditions have remained as strong as ever. Arch wants to ensure these traditions continue for new generations of brothers. This is why he supports *A Foundation for the Future of Eta Kappa*, the capital campaign to build a brand-new chapter house.

"At some point in time a group of alumni brothers stepped up and gave us a chance to experience living in a fraternity house," Arch said. "I believed it was my turn to step up and do the same."



As an active member, Arch gained strong, loyal friendships with his brothers, which made it easy to stay connected and involved with Sigma Chi. He serves on the house corporation board of directors and represented the house corporation in the acquisition of the grounds adjoining the current property. "The memories I generated in the house I lived in will never leave me," Arch said. "I hope the same for generations to come in our new and improved chapter house!" One of his favorite memories was the 1985 I-70 Series as most of the brothers were either from Kansas City or St. Louis. "We were divided into two sections during the Cardinals and Royals series and there was plenty of friendly banter going on during the week," Arch said. *(Continued on page 4)*

Shaping the Future of Eta Kappa

Why Doug Schmidt '78 Supports the Campaign

The parties and social events Doug Schmidt '78 attended at Sigma Chi made for a fun first impression, but he soon found that Eta Kappa was so much more than that. "The brothers gave you a good feeling about yourself and each other," he recalls. "They were there to support each other and celebrate success. College is more than just book-learning—it's the maturity and how you grow that will truly shape you." That's why Doug gives back to Eta Kappa today.

Doug's undergraduate years overlapped with an interesting period for Eta Kappa, including moving the chapter house from National to Walnut and significant changes to initiation week. These coincided with his roles as house manager, quaestor, and consul. "Those experiences gave me confidence and courage and taught me everyone needs to learn to



compromise and that you have to learn how to build consensus." Those values have served

Doug well in a legal career of more than 35 years at the same firm, Husch Blackwell, where he has served in significant leadership roles as the firm has grown from 50 to over 700 lawyers.

Doug works in insurance and professional liability, liquidating insolvent insurance companies and often consulting with clients regarding their insurance coverage. Some of his biggest cases were related to the Affordable Care Act and dealing with the Department of Justice; one even involved chasing diamonds and gold around Europe. "Cases come and go, but what is important is learning to address a crisis and making clients feel comfortable and confident that they'll get through it and you will get the job done." Doug also credits his success to Sigma Chi teaching

him that a person's word means everything. "You can't play fast and loose with a judge, your clients, or your adversary."

All those reasons and more inspired Doug to contribute to *A Foundation for the Future of Eta Kappa* campaign. "Sigma Chi was instrumental in my career success, and I wanted to make sure that opportunity exists for other young men." When speaking to fellow alumni about the campaign, he discusses the fun and positive experiences they shared and how they helped them grow. Doug has enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with people he hasn't seen in years in addition to the brothers with whom he has remained close.

In his free time this year, Doug has enjoyed spending time at Lake of the Ozarks with his family and friends. To reconnect with Doug or talk to him about the campaign, you can reach him at douglas.schmidt@huschblackwell.com.

Brothers Involved on Campus

Cooper Barnhill '21 is the vice president of judicial affairs for the IFC board.

Jerad Daniels '21, Aaron Luhm '22, and Scott Rice '22 worked as MSU SOAR leaders this summer.

CJ Moore '23 is on the MSU debate team.



Congratulations to Brother Jerad Daniels '21 on being named the Outstanding Campus Leader for 2019-20.

Hoping for the Best, Preparing for the Worst

Eta Kappa Embraces Strict Safety Precautions

The executive committee held Zoom meetings over the summer to ensure we are prepared for the fall semester. Our biggest focus has been recruitment. Recruitment Chairman Devan Stagner '22 and his team reached out to more than 300 potential new members during the course of the summer.

For two weeks beginning July 6, members of our executive committee attended the virtual Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop, which we all found beneficial in terms of conducting business during a pandemic. We learned new ways to engage and interact with our chapters in a safe manner in the year to come.

The biggest obstacle that we face this semester is that everything can completely change on us in any given moment, so we have to be flexible with what the university instructs us to do.

We have taken proper precautions with our chapter house for the fall. Unfortunately, only residents of the chapter house will be allowed inside. We are asking that all non-residents—students and alumni alike—respect this tough decision to ensure that our brothers can stay

healthy and reduce the risk of an asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19 spreading the virus in our home.

In accordance with this, I have appointed a COVID-19 Task Manager, **Christian Crone '22**, who will help enforce these new rules. In addition, Christian will make sure that any brother who does test positive has an adequate living space in the basement of the chapter house. He will also be in charge of receiving shipments of cleaning supplies from the generous **Chuck Champion '74**.

We at Eta Kappa feel that we have prepared as best as we can for the upcoming semester. We are ready to embrace these serious challenges while enjoying every moment we can. We thank you for all of your support during these times, and we ask again that you respect our decisions about securing the chapter house until the pandemic is under better control.

In hoc,
Brayden Venatta '21, Consul
(636) 236-1813
brayden311@live.missouristate.edu

Campaign Webinar Video Call

Thursday, October 15

at 7:00 p.m. (CST)

Email MissouriStateSigmaChi@gmail.com for more info.

SAVE THE DATE

Eta Kappa's 50th Anniversary April 9-11, 2021* Springfield, Mo.

If you thought the 45th anniversary celebration was a great time, just wait until you experience what is in store for the 50th anniversary celebration of Eta Kappa!

We booked the last remaining conference rooms at University Plaza Hotel in Springfield for what will be by far the largest celebration Eta Kappa has ever seen! Call (417) 864-7333 to reserve your room; tell them you are with Sigma Chi to get the \$109 rate! Mark your calendars, make your reservations, and check the website for more details. We can't wait to see you all there!

*Plans subject to change for health and safety reasons.

Sustaining the Eta Kappa Brotherhood

(Continued from page 2)

Arch wants to take the opportunity to recognize **Chuck Champion '74** for his vision and passion for the capital campaign. "No project ever becomes reality without someone taking on the task of exploring the possibilities and pushing through to the end," Arch said. "Keep pushing, Chuck!"

Outside of his involvement with the house corporation, Arch is a senior advisor at SVN/Rankin Company, a commercial real estate company based out of Springfield, Missouri. In this position, he advises clients through both sales and purchases along with the leasing sides of commercial real estate transactions. Arch has been able to work with a few brothers in the Springfield area and stays in touch with a group of guys in the Kansas City area. He and his wife, Miriam, have three children. You can reach Arch at arch.watson@svn.com.



SIGMA CHI
Missouri State University
P.O. Box 7291
Overland Park, KS 66207

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 66044
PERMIT #570

READ ETA KAPPA'S EXCITING NEWS ON PAGE 1!

2020 Eta Kappa Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2020 scholarships. Each year, two active members of Sigma Chi are awarded a \$2,500 scholarship, plus a new \$2,500 scholarship for a selected undergraduate.

Brandon Gaffney '21 and **Nathan Piche '20** received the Eta Kappa Education Fund Scholarship, and **Aaron Luhm '22** received the Undergraduate Scholarship. All three men are being recognized for their achievements in both academics and leadership activities at Missouri State University.



Brandon is from St. Louis, Missouri, and is majoring in elementary education with a 3.66 GPA. He is in the MSU Pride Band, is a MSU First-Year Program Peer Leader, and has held the annotator and philanthropy chairman positions for Eta Kappa. Brandon was also named 2019 Brother of the Year and Officer of the Year.



Nathan is from Branson, Missouri. He is majoring in political science with a minor in marketing and has a 3.75 GPA. Nathan has been involved in MSU Student Government and the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Fraternity and has held the positions of risk chairman and Homecoming chairman for Eta Kappa.



Aaron is from Springfield, Missouri, and is majoring in conflict and interpersonal communications with a minor in psychology. He has a 3.5 GPA. Aaron has participated in the Bear Service Team, the Emerging Leaders Program, the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Fraternity, Leaders in Community Service, and as a campus SOAR Leader.

For questions, please email missouristatesigmachi@gmail.com.