



# Missouri State SIG

Brothers in 2013  
when we rechartered  
at Missouri State.



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## “Strength of Character Makes a Comeback”

Those words represent the call-to-action statement used in our colony's 2012 membership recruitment brochure as a select number of Missouri State students, led by legacy alumnus **Chris Wolf '14**, set out to bring Eta Kappa Chapter back to Missouri State. It was a message that resonated among all the young men, who were already working to start a Sigma Chi Omega colony, and this same call was the foundation to re-establish our good standing with the university and recharter Eta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at Missouri State.

### *Lessons Learned Through Adversity*

We've been able to grow as a Chapter and are as strong as we've ever been. That six-year hiatus from campus taught us an important lesson that we continue to learn from today.

The health of Sigma Chi is not limited solely to what's happening at undergraduate chapters. There are nearly 245,000 living alumni who proudly carry the ideals of Sigma Chi and live their lifetime commitment, always remembering the influence that Sigma Chi has had on their lives. This holds true for hundreds of Eta Kappa Sigs who benefit from the lifelong friendships that were formed during our college years and carried through to today.

### *Brotherhood Persists*

Much has been said about how different the fraternity experience is these days as well as the challenges that Greek organizations face with public opinion and with their host universities. While it's true that the process involving membership has changed, the heart of the fraternity experience remains the same.

Sigma Chi Headquarters is working diligently to be the leader in transforming fraternity life by investing heavily in character and leadership development programs for its members. Alumni and actives alike should take time to read the winter 2019-20 edition of *The Magazine of Sigma Chi* or visit [www.sigmachi.org](http://www.sigmachi.org) to learn about bold and ambitious initiatives that are being undertaken.

Those 2012 undergraduates who worked to give Eta Kappa Chapter its second chance are now alumni in their late 20s. As such, they are focused on experiences typical of their place in life: finding their niche with developing careers, celebrating a new marriage, settling down in a new home, and starting a family.

Those of us who are many years their senior know what lies ahead for these young men and what influence our fraternity experience will have on their lives. Those friendships that originated perhaps randomly at Eta Kappa will flourish to earn a special place in their hearts, just the same as it has for all generations of alumni.

(Continued on page 2)

# As Life Changes, Sigma Chi Remains

## Larry Dramann '75 Reflects on His Life of Serving

**“W**e rolled 400 feet down a steep, 700-foot ravine. Father Jesse broke his back, Bob (driver) busted most of his ribs, and I bloodied my head badly, suffered a concussion, and still deal with back issues today. Authorities, unable to determine the cause of the accident, say it was an absolute miracle that we survived,” **Larry Dramann '75** said as he recounted his life-changing car accident in 1978.

At that time, Larry was a carpenter and bartender in Salida, Colo., not ready to settle down, but after surviving the car accident he devoted his life to something more. “I was unable to remember much for about two weeks, but suddenly, it all came back, and I remembered my one-way conversation with God,” Larry said. “At that point, I was overwhelmed with my personal sin, realized that hypocrites or not, I wanted God more than anything I’ve ever wanted before.”

Within a year Larry became a salesman in Denver, Colo., married his wife, Jonda, got involved in church, and enjoyed a lucrative business career until 1985 when he and his family decided to begin their journey as missionaries. Larry and his family spent the next 15 years in Africa helping the community in various ways.

From business manager/treasurer in Zambia to purchasing coordinator and business manager/vehicle fleet manager in South Africa, Larry and Jonda helped Mozambican refugees, established new villages, and led Bible studies in the surrounding communities. Larry’s unique ability to combine his passion for God with his talent in business helped thousands of people in need. Although they faced machine guns pointed at them, cases of malaria and more, Larry says, “In prayer time God guided us and felt like we should stay.”

Larry continued his passion for helping others in the United States as a pastor for the next 18 years in Boulder, Colo. He inherited a dysfunctional church that was about to split over doctrine and power struggles. After five years, Larry successfully brought the church together again. During this time, he also led disaster relief work in Colorado when the forest fires and the catastrophic flood of 2013 hit. “I can’t say I’m proud of anything yet am so completely humbled that God still allows me to invest in the lives of so many people in so many cultures, both here and abroad. I am truly the beneficiary of serving others,” he said.



Whether serving as a missionary or a pastor, Larry never viewed these as jobs. “It is a calling; it is truly a calling. The calling is still with me in a different capacity, coaching business leaders, helping them with their teams.” Now retired, Larry is a professional coach and church consultant. He helps anyone from church leaders to CEOs achieve their goals. “Coach is a transportation term that describes getting you to the destination you need to be,” Larry said.

Despite religious changes, career changes, and location changes, Larry has been able to stay in touch with his brothers of Sigma Chi. “I truly value the genuine friendships and the respect we have for one another, and even the sacrifices we are still willing to make for each other. Genuine brotherhood never dies.”

He describes his Sigma Chi experience as life-molding and life-changing. Although his brothers are politically and spiritually different, they embrace this diversity and maintain their bond as true Sigma Chi men. As proof through Larry’s journey, life can change quickly but brothers will always be there. You can reach Larry at [larrydram52@gmail.com](mailto:larrydram52@gmail.com).



*Alumni at Bear Lake in Washington, Mo., for their annual poker party.*



*Alumni tailgating at a Chiefs game last September.*

## “Strength of Character Makes a Comeback”

*(Continued from page 1)*

### Board Update

At the recent meeting of the board of directors of the Eta Kappa Education Fund, the decision was made to expand yearly scholarship opportunities for undergraduates effective immediately. There are now \$7,500 worth of scholarship awards each fall semester for qualifying Sigma Chi undergraduate students. In addition, our Sigma Chi Founder’s Fund for Scholarship places \$5,000 in scholarship awards each spring semester, bringing the academic year alumni-funded scholarship total to \$12,500.

The board also funded our first alumni and active chapter leadership workshop this past November. This full-day event took place at Plaster Student Union and featured breakout sessions on a range of leadership topics such as new member education, fraternity life at

Missouri State, recruitment plans, ritual history, and alumni communications. This leadership forum was made possible through the efforts of our active chapter officers, Faculty Advisor Darren Wienberg, and Chapter Advisor **Greg Pontious '86**. We will build on the success of this first leadership workshop and make this an annual event.

In hoc,  
**Chuck Champion '74**  
President, House Corporation  
[cchampion@kalo.com](mailto:cchampion@kalo.com)

**Glenn Siler '74**  
President, Eta Kappa Education Foundation  
[gsiler@gmail.com](mailto:gsiler@gmail.com)





## Executive Committee

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Annotator  
**Dillon Fisher '22**

Quaestor  
**Austin Hardy '21**

Magister  
**Aaron Luhm '22**

Kustos  
**Devon Moyer '22**

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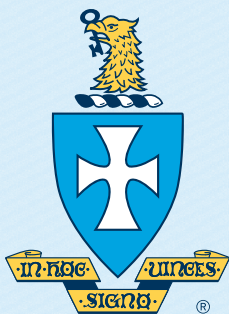
Tribune  
**Ben Martin '21**  
  
Social Chairman  
**Connor Wiest '22**

Scholastic Chairman  
**Dominic Schneider '22**

Risk Manager  
**Oscar Buesking '21**

Historian  
**Joe Emery '23**

House Manager  
**Harrison Hall '21**



## RENEWING OLD TRADITIONS ETA KAPPA STARTS THE DECADE STRONG

The Eta Kappa Chapter is in a state of growth and rebuilding. Our new executive committee has set forth prestigious goals for the sake of continued chapter development. Our 2019 GPA between spring and fall semesters averaged to 3.00. Well above the all fraternity GPA on campus. We are extremely proud of all our members for their strong efforts toward success in the classroom.

When you read this newsletter, it will almost be time for our March philanthropic event, Derby Days. This is a weeklong series of competitive events between the sororities on campus in which we raise awareness and money for cancer research with our philanthropy, the Huntsman Cancer Institute. This will be our first time hosting Derby Days since our rechartering, and we are excited to continue this Sigma Chi tradition in the future.

Our social chairman has been hard at work planning various events for Mom's and Dad's Days and our formal, and he is also trying

to start a new annual brotherhood event. By popular choice, we hope to have a paintball outing at least once a year in the warmer weather. This will be a time that brothers can get together for the day and bond with one another. We are excited to host recruitment events this summer at a Kansas City Royals game on Tuesday, June 30th and at a St. Louis Cardinals game on a TBD date. Feel free to reach out if you'd like to attend.

It is an honor to keep building the Sigma Chi legacy at MSU, and we are truly grateful for all the support alumni have shown—be it attending events, contributing to the scholarship fund, or simply sending well-wishes and good vibes. If you ever find yourself in Springfield, please don't hesitate to stop by 832 South Kimbrough Ave. and knock on the door. We would love to have you!

In hoc,  
**Brayden Venatta '22**, Consul  
(636) 236-1813  
brayden311@live.missouristate.edu

**2019 GPA: 3.00 • Service Hours: 589.75 • Chapter Size: 54 Members**

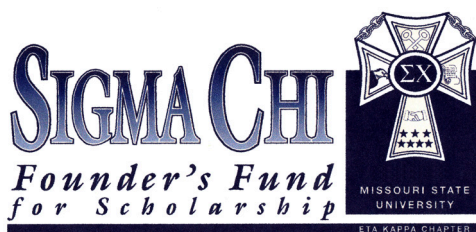
**2020**

## ETA KAPPA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This spring, the Eta Kappa Foundation was pleased to present each of the following brothers with a \$1,500 scholarship:

**Jerad Daniels '21**  
**Brandon Gaffney '21**  
**Brayden Venatta '22**

The Eta Kappa Chapter Founder's Fund for Scholarship—not to be confused with the Eta Kappa Education Award—is administered through Missouri State University Foundation and is an endowment fund.



Did you know you can support your alma mater and your fraternity at the same time? Consider making an end-of-year, tax-deductible donation in support of our Founder's Fund for Scholarship. This endowment fund was

established in 1995 and is solely for the benefit of Eta Kappa brothers and alumni family members who are students at Missouri State.

### DONATE BY MAIL

Missouri State University Foundation  
c/o Sigma Chi Founder's Fund  
300 South Jefferson Avenue, Suite 100  
Springfield, MO 65806

### DONATE ONLINE

Tax-deductible online donations can be made here: <https://ws.missouristate.edu/giving/pledgeSearch.aspx?search=sigma+chi>

## SAVE THE DATE

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

## Alumni Update

### Chapter Eternal

Bill Davis  
Mike Emery '72  
Earl Nielson '73  
John Boullear '74  
John Curtis '74  
Rick Brown '85  
Christopher Elley '89  
Michael Soendker '19

### Alumni News

**Jim Barnes '80** shares that his favorite Eta Kappa memories are from Derby Days, exchanges with sororities, brotherhood parties, and gift exchanges. He lives in St. Louis, Mo.

**Paul Horstmann '83** remembers winning the Peterson Award, Derby Days, and the initiation ceremony. He lives in St. Louis and is the owner of Horstmann Brothers Landscape. Email: phorstmann@horstmannbrothers.com

**Chris Darnell '04** reports that since graduating he has owned a successful internet business and has driven the world's fastest truck: Shockwave. His favorite memory of Eta Kappa is meeting his wife at the Sigma Chi house. They live in Springfield, Mo., and have two children.

**Welcome,  
Greg Pontious '86  
New Chapter Advisor**



Contact Greg  
at [paragonprops@gmail.com](mailto:paragonprops@gmail.com)



# Missouri State SIG

### SIGMA CHI

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**Attention:** This newsletter is intended for Sigma Chi alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Missouri State University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he is no longer in school, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.



*Alumni gather for lunch before the chapter workshop in November 2019.*



*Rich Cocos '70, Glenn Siler '74, and John Schekorra '73 on a hike while vacationing.*



*This January, we hosted a broomball rush event with potential new members.*