

# Missouri State SIG

## NOW IS THE TIME TO STEP UP FOR SIGMA CHI

Capital Campaign Enters Critical Phase with Chapter House Construction on the Horizon

**T**hinking back on our own experiences from our days as undergraduate members of Eta Kappa, we draw on the lifelong friendships that began there and the positive influence that Sigma Chi has had on our personal and professional lives.

We thank the Eta Kappa alumni who have supported our chapter by volunteering their time and providing financial support. Now, the clock is ticking as we enter a critical phase of our drive to reach our \$1.5 million capital campaign goal. That goal must be attained to keep our project on pace for summer 2021 construction start-up.

So far, the *Foundation for the Future of Eta Kappa* campaign has been remarkable in two ways. First, the personal level of commitment from a core group of our alumni has been extraordinary, representing an average of more than \$13,000. Also remarkable is the low number of total Eta Kappa alumni who have committed to the campaign. To date, we are well below the 20% average typically found with fraternity fundraising campaigns. We must do better by expanding that level of support!

Now is the time to take action to commemorate your Eta Kappa experiences and, at the same time, pay it forward for current and future Eta Kappa Sigs! Please join your Eta Kappa brothers by supporting a bright future for our chapter. Pledge/donate right away to the House Corporation or to Eta Kappa Education Fund either by mail or online at [SigmaChiMOSState.com](http://SigmaChiMOSState.com).

This month, we will be launching a new Eta Kappa Sigma Chi website to provide updates on our active chapter and keep alumni communications on track. Please act now to make our project a reality as we celebrate 50 years of Sigma Chi at Missouri State.

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

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

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### A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE OF ETA KAPPA



**\$971,394 Raised**

**\$1,500,000 Goal**

### THE DECADES SHOWING THE MOST SUPPORT

Alumni per Decade	Number of Donors
<b>1970s</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>1980s</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>1990s</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2000s</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2010s</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Donors: 72</b>	



# A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE OF ETA KAPPA

## Thank You, Loyal Brothers, for Your Generous Contributions!

You Can Secure Sigma Chi's Future at Missouri State with a Gift Today

**W**e are deeply grateful to the following brothers and friends for making early commitments totaling \$971,394 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.

### 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 '73  
Jim Griggs '71

### Founders Circle (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Anonymous  
In memory of  
Brian Conner '91  
Randy Seiner '71  
In memory of  
John Curtis '73 and  
Terry Poelling '75

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

In honor of  
The D Squad  
Glenn Siler '74  
Mark Nelson '77  
Ross Family Gift  
Kenny Ross '77  
David Ross, Arkansas '03  
Andy Ross, Arkansas '05  
Doug Schmidt '78  
David Hall '79  
Dennis W. Tompkins '87  
Troy Branch '88

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

Stephen P. Conner '75  
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  
Timothy J. Loudis '80  
Rob Thornhill '81  
In memory of  
Robert Thornhill Sr.,  
St. Louis '10  
Greg Pontious '86

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

Richard Cocos '70  
In honor of  
Rik C. Haalboom '72  
Paul D. Grosse '73  
Gary R. Riechers '73  
Richard MacDonald Jr. '74  
Dennis L. Tyrl '74  
Patrick Barr '77  
C. M. Doolittle '78  
Jeffrey Alderman '79  
In memory of  
Rick Wellman  
and Tom Cies  
David Harris '79  
Robert Maple Jr. '79  
Arch W. Watson Jr. '88  
The Bickel Family  
Steven A. Bickel '93  
Thomas D. Bickel '94

Paul Beeman '01  
Ben Gabbard '04  
TJ Dunavant '05  
Mark A. Hanes '16

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

Anonymous  
Donald P. Mignerone '72  
In honor of  
Spring Pledge Class 1971  
Otho Keran Lemons '73  
In honor of  
Spring Pledge Class 1971  
Frank Marshall '73

In honor of  
The D Squad  
Charles McDonough '73

In honor of  
Chuck and April  
McDonough  
Stephen M. Smith '73  
Robert Holtkamp '74  
Daniel E. Noteis '74

In honor of  
Spring Pledge Class 1971  
Gerald W. Tucker '74

In memory of  
John Jasczack '76  
John Allison '79

In memory of  
Mark "Monty  
Montgomery" Blacksten '76

Chip Sheppard '80  
In memory of  
Bruce Wills '80

### Campaign Status

#### At-a-Glance

*As of March 10, 2021.*

**Campaign Goal**  
**\$1,500,000**

**Current Funds**  
**\$971,394**

**Total Donors**  
**72**

John Glickert '85  
Jeffrey D. Toedtmann '85  
Paul Elmer '92  
Bob Benn '01  
Adam M. Dunavant '06  
Dustin Keyhill '17

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

Anonymous  
Vicki Vienhage Meyer  
James T. Felkerson '71  
Randal Freese '73  
Jerald D. Richards '73  
Steve Richardson '73  
Tim Swan '73  
Gail L. Amos '74  
In memory of  
Boris M. Martin '56  
David B. Anderson '75  
Steven W. Scherer '75  
Todd W. Siler '75  
Mark D. Preston '79  
In memory of  
Greg Tibbs  
Montgomery" Blacksten '76  
Glen Gammill '85

## Donate Today

We have a large cash down payment due in June of this year. Your support today will make this project possible. Please fill out the enclosed pledge form and join us in securing *A Foundation for the Future of Eta Kappa*.

**Average Pledge Size: \$13,000  
Representing per year: \$2,600**

# A Message from Sigma Chi's Executive Director

**O**n behalf of the Sigma Chi International Fraternity, I write to offer my sincerest congratulations to you on the marking of the 50th anniversary of the founding of your chapter. Setting a lofty \$1.5 million fundraising goal to celebrate this milestone is emblematic of the earnestness of the lifelong commitment felt by many men who have had the privilege of becoming Sigma Chis through Eta Kappa. What's more, having already raised almost \$1 million, the chapter is closer than ever to starting the next 50 years on even better footing.

When we think about the things that connect us to our fraternal experience, we most often think first of our initiation experience and the magic we felt that connected us to an incredible network of other men through common values, principles, and experiences. Perhaps second to the feelings engendered in us by our initiation are the lifelong friendships and bonds built through the camaraderie we shared with each other during our college days and beyond. If we think about where the foundation of those bonds was formed, we can track the perpetual nature to the times when we learned, laughed, and loved together under one common roof. This is the importance of housing and why it matters in the fraternal construct. Providing future generations of Eta Kappa Sigma Chis with an opportunity to appreciate the close communion of kindred souls is a gift worth considering.

As members of Sigma Chi, we have an opportunity to ensure that Eta Kappa stays relevant and thriving well into the next 50 years and beyond. Sigma Chi is a reflection of those who give to it. If every brother contributes to Eta Kappa's capital campaign, just imagine how much impact that will make. Brothers, thank you for all you have done and will do to make Sigma Chi the most well-respected and honored fraternity in the world. I am blessed to stand by your side as we forge a pathway into the next 50 years and beyond.



In Hoc,  
**Michael Church, Illinois '05**  
Executive Director, Sigma Chi Fraternity

# A Solid Sigma Chi Foundation

*Paul Beeman '01 Shares Life-Shaping Eta Kappa Experience and Why He Gives Back to the Brotherhood*

**W**hen Paul Beeman '01 looks at his life, he sees how much Sigma Chi has shaped every bit of it since he joined. "From meeting my wife to my kids being a result of that, and from all of my closest friends being from the fraternity to some of my best college memories being with those men, I realize how much of an impact it's had on my life," he shared. As an alumnus, he has stayed committed to Sigma Chi and wants to provide the same kind of life-shaping experience for the young men following in his footsteps.

"It's important for them to have the best foundation, whether that's a house or scholarships—something to keep the chapter going," he said when explaining why he chose to contribute to *A Foundation for the Future of Eta Kappa* campaign.

Paul also believes it's important for alumni to step back and realize how their own lives have been shaped by the relationships and the experiences they received in college because of Sigma Chi. "Once you realize that, I think the giving part just comes naturally," he shared.

Alumni who were influential during Paul's time at Eta Kappa Chapter include **Chuck Champion '74**, **David Grey '73**, and **John Bickel Jr. '91**. Paul recognized and appreciated that they were willing to give up their time to help who he considered to be "just a bunch of crazy college kids."

"It did help show that, for them, Sigma Chi was a lifetime commitment," he stated. "It helped me realize it would be for me as well."



*Paul Beeman '01 and his brothers attended the Daytona 500 together.*

The experiences Paul and his brothers shared at Eta Kappa have led to lifelong friendships, which has been the most rewarding aspect of his Sigma Chi membership. He's stayed connected to all four of his high school best friends who joined Sigma Chi alongside him: **Bob Benn '01**, **Ryan Eilermann '01**, **Steve**



*Paul Beeman '01 with his wife, Christy, and their children, Cael and Rylee.*

**Bohrmann '01**, and **Kevin Shipley '01**. Paul went on to add pledge brothers and other members to that group of best friends.

"I'm most proud that all of us are still literally best friends. When we get together, we don't skip a beat and there's no awkwardness. It's just like we were living together yesterday," he said. "When I look at my group of friends, it's 90% of the guys who were in the house with me."

Some of Paul's favorite Eta Kappa memories are spring formal, where he and his brothers would go to Table Rock Lake and rent places at the lake, and Homecoming, which was always a blast. He also enjoyed their annual brothers-only Christmas party, which always ended with caroling outside sorority houses.

Greek life also led Paul to meet his wife, Christy (a Delta Zeta), in college while on an IFC leadership trip. They've been married for 17 years and have two children, Rylee (14) and Cael (11).

The leadership experiences he was afforded through Sigma Chi and Missouri State's Greek system also prepared Paul for his career. He took on numerous roles, including president of Eta Kappa Chapter, president of the Junior Greek Council, and vice president of IFC, allowing him to learn effective management skills.

"Seeing how those different personalities need to be communicated with and how certain leadership styles affect different people kept me motivated and wanting to achieve more," he stated.

Paul has been a financial advisor since he graduated from Missouri State; he is currently vice president and a Premier Advisor at Wells Fargo. Paul and his family live in Eureka, Missouri. You can connect with him at [beemanpr@gmail.com](mailto:beemanpr@gmail.com).

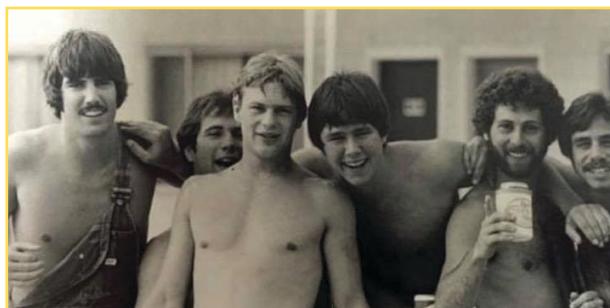
# Helping Future Brothers Find Friendship

*Mitch Holmes '80 Lends Eta Kappa His Support*

If you ask **Mitch Holmes '80** what drew him to Sigma Chi his answer is simple: he felt more at home with the Sigma Chis than any other fraternity he visited. This was due to the young men that were members of the fraternity, each with individual and unique backgrounds that blended together to make a home away from home, and also provided experiences and other points of view that were new to Mitch.

All of these experiences and his new brothers and friends propelled him throughout his time at Missouri State and the rest of his life. This led to decades of friendship, great memories, and unforgettable experiences.

Since graduating from Missouri State, Mitch has enjoyed over 35 years with Edward Jones as a financial advisor. His greatest pride, however, is the family he has built with his wife, Jennifer Johnson, who was a Little Sigma in his Eta Kappa years.



*Blast from the past. From left: Mitch Holmes '80, Kevin Haberberger '80, Mike Merrick '79, Steve Kiely '80, Ben Pettis '78, and Tim Loudis '80.*

When Mitch looks back on his college years, few memories are from school itself: "Almost all of them are from the fraternity and the great friends." These positive experiences and memories were his motivation to support the *Foundation for the Future of Eta Kappa*.

"I'd like to play a part in helping young men have those same great memories from when we were at MSU," he said. "I wouldn't be where I am today if not for the experiences I had and the people I met that helped mold me, and because of that I

am honored to be able to give back and provide the same opportunities to other young men. From my point of view, it's not how much you donate; it's that we all give our support."

Mitch and Jennifer live in Branson, Missouri. They have two grown children and two grandchildren. Mitch enjoys playing golf, traveling, and coaching his grandson's football and basketball teams. He can be reached at [mitchell.holmes@edwardjones.com](mailto:mitchell.holmes@edwardjones.com).

## Eta Kappa Education Fund Scholarship Updates



**Sigma Chi**  
*Founder's Fund for Scholarship*

### FOUNDERS FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

We are excited to announce the four active members who were awarded scholarships this spring from the Sigma Chi Founders Fund Scholarship. These scholarships are funded through the Missouri State Foundation. The recipients are **Aaron Luhm '22, Brayden Venatta '21, Spencer Vreeland '24, and Devin Moyer '22**.



**Eta Kappa**  
Education Fund

### ETA KAPPA FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

Eta Kappa alumni are pleased to announce the schedule for awarding the scholarship awards for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a minimum of 13 credit hours for the fall 2021 semester at Missouri State University. The Board of Directors of the Eta Kappa Education Fund will evaluate applications and determine scholarship award recipients. We will award \$2,500 scholarships to three active members this fall.

## ALUMNI FORM MSU STUDENT HOUSING ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

This new IRS-recognized charitable fund was established in 2020 with the express intent of raising funds for the specific purpose of offsetting housing costs and thereby reducing Sigma Chi student loan balances by making subsidy payments to the Sigma Chi Housing Corporation of Springfield, Missouri.

In hoc,

**John Schekorra '73**  
President

**Doug Schmidt '78**  
Treasurer

**Keran Lemons '73**  
Secretary

**Dustin Duckworth '15**  
Director

**Tim Loudis '80**  
Director

# EXCITEMENT ABOUNDS AT ETA KAPPA

Collegians Find Success Despite Pandemic, Look Forward to New Chapter House



Brothers host a food drive on campus.

Hello, brothers! It is my honor and pleasure to serve at Eta Kappa's Consul for 2021. I hope that with the help of my brothers I can lead this chapter to new accomplishments.

Last fall brought Eta Kappa a lot of success in its own right. Despite the restrictions that we had for in-person interaction due to COVID-19, we initiated 16 new members in October. Being the new member educator, I was worried about my abilities to do in-person sessions, along with arranging backup plans for members who had to quarantine. However, to our fortune, we ran into these cases rather seldom throughout the semester for our new and active members. For the most part, everyone stayed healthy and well, which led to a very successful new member education process and initiation.

The fall semester also provided a lot of amazing growth for our chapter, and we have kept that momentum this spring. We are focusing on keeping everyone engaged with more brotherhood events and relationships with other Greek organizations on campus. We are extremely excited for Derby Days, which will be held March 22-26. We have very high expectations for this signature event. Previous Consul **Brayden Venatta '21** has been diligently leading Derby Days preparation as our recently elected annotator.

As excitement builds for the new chapter house, it's important to us to show our appreciation

to the alumni who are making it possible and build relationships with you. While we can't wait for more opportunities to safely see alumni in person, we're committed to showcasing all of Eta Kappa's successes with you on social media. Please make sure to follow Eta Kappa on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay up to date with all of the active chapter's latest happenings. One of our biggest highlights this spring has been initiating two more brothers in February after they completed the Preparation for Brotherhood program.

We are so excited for the events and opportunities that we have in our future. It is important that the alumni know what is going on with Eta Kappa, so don't hesitate to reach out to me or Tribune **Devon Moyer '22** at (816) 550-4524.

Thank you all for continued support and trust in our chapter. It leaves me in awe of the amount of love that the alumni have for Sigma Chi and that has encouraged me during my undergraduate experience and especially as Consul. I hope everyone is staying safe and well.

In hoc,  
**Aaron Luhm '22**  
Consul  
(314) 717-4678  
aar22@live.missouristate.edu



Brothers get in the swing of things on the first day of recruitment week at Swing Right Golf.



***"This new house will bring us a competitive advantage for recruitment and allow us to host social events with other chapters. Thank you for your generous support over the years. The chapter truly appreciates it." - Previous Consul and current Annotator Brayden Venatta '21***



Brothers spend a Saturday doing a street cleanup.

# Save the Date

If you thought Eta Kappa's 45th anniversary celebration was a great time, wait until you experience what is in store for our 50th anniversary. Mark your calendars, make your reservations, and check the website for updates.

**When:** April 1-3, 2022

**Where:** University Plaza in Springfield, Missouri

**Reservations:** Call the hotel at (417) 864-7333 to make your reservation. Rates are \$109.

Please email **Timothy Loudis '80** at [tjloudis@gmail.com](mailto:tjloudis@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Connect with Us Online



**Sigma Chi  
At Missouri State**



**@SigmaChiMOSState**



**@SigmaChiMSU**



**[sigmачимостате.com](http://sigmачимостате.com)**



## SIGMA CHI

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

*Address Service Requested*

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MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 66044  
PERMIT #570

## 2021 Executive Board

### Consul

**Aaron Luhm '22**

(314) 717-4678

[aar22@live.missouristate.edu](mailto:aar22@live.missouristate.edu)

### Magister

**Griffin O'Neill '22**

**Kustos**  
**Scotty Rice '22**

### Social Chairman

**Brad Eatherton '24**

**Tribune**  
**Devon Moyer '22**

### Historian

**Spencer Vreeland '24**

**Pro Consul**  
**Avery Reed '23**

**Risk Manager**  
**Christian Crone '22**

**Annotator**  
**Brayden Venatta '21**

**Recruitment Chairman**  
**Clay Froelich '24**

**Quaestor**  
**Brian Pilon '22**

