

# *SigEp Montana Beta*



## Spring 2021 Newsletter

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## *Chapter by the Numbers:*

Number of Members: 33

- Average GPA: 3.85
- Awards: 18
- Graduating Seniors: 8

Brothers by Major:

- Engineers: 21
- Photography and Film: 1
- Education: 1
- Kinesiology: 1
- Biochem: 1
- Biology: 1
- Physics: 2
- Animal Science: 1
- Health and Human Performance: 1
- Computer Science: 1
- Paleontology: 1
- Business: 1
- Montana Born: 13

Brothers by class:

- Sigmas: 15
- Phis: 4
- Epsilons: 13
- BM: 1

## Philanthropy and Events:

Over the past year, the men of Sigma Phi Epsilon have been devoting themselves to philanthropy and giving back to the community of Bozeman.

Each semester, the chapter has been involved in three MSU Service Saturdays, volunteering their valuable Saturday mornings to do some fun community service. Last fall, brothers helped out Adopt a Sox by writing holiday cards for military personnel stationed overseas, cleaned-up the Irving Elementary school garden, and did some sex trivia and outreach with Bridgercare.



*Brothers at the Adopt-a-Sox event*



*Cole S and Nick B after winning sex trivia*

Outside of working with the university, brothers teamed up with Circle K, a Kiwani's based community service organization, to help clean up campus and pick up trash and leave the university a better place than they found it.



*Brothers posing for the camera after a successful trash pick-up for Circle K*

This semester, brothers continued to give time to the university and got involved in three more service Saturdays. During these Saturdays, brothers made sure to spread themselves out across a variety of events, with some brothers working for Habitat for Humanity cleaning up and organizing their facility, others helping package food at the Gallatin Valley Food Bank and others building reusable bags out of newspaper for the Valley of the Flowers Non-Profit.



*Brothers showing off their reusable newspaper bags from the Valley of the Flowers Service Saturday*



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When brothers weren't giving time to the community, they often were spending time with each other through a variety of events led by the Programming Committee and Member Development. To start the Spring semester, brothers gathered for some recruitment events by going sledding at Pete's hill, having some snowball fights and a bonfire at Hyalite Canyon. These events stoked the SigEp fire, and events such as Broomball and a Super Bowl watch party were a scorching success. As the semester progressed, brothers involved themselves in events such as broomball and Friday morning coffees. In addition to fun and casual programming, brothers also had plenty of Member Development programming to focus on growth and building their commitment to the virtues of Sigma Phi Epsilon. For the Sigmas who joined in the fall, coordinator Max Yates took them on a snowshoeing trip near the Lamar valley to reflect on their experience thus far. For Phis, coordinators Austin Zuehlke and Kyle Stoppelcamp took them camping at Revenue Flats near Norris Montana. For the Epsilons, they spent a night at the house focusing on how they can make a positive impact on our chapter through the rest of their college experience. In addition to this, the Epsilons spent plenty of time bonding over board games and some tasty food.



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# Executive Team Positions:

Chris Timm - VP of Member Development

Hey Guys, this Fall I will be a junior studying Electrical Engineering. I'm from Indianapolis, Indiana, and Salt Lake City, Utah. I lived in Indiana until I was 17 but I graduated high school in Salt Lake, where I call home now. I joined SigEp because my brother was a SigEp at Purdue university and I saw that the challenges he faced as the house manager there really set him up for success after undergrad. I ran for Vice President of Member Development because I feel like since I've joined the chapter I have had a really strong grasp on the values of the Balanced Man Program. I wanted all the new members I would interact with to have a really high chance of passing on those values. This meant that I could hold myself and my coordinators as the people responsible for whether that mission failed or not. I also loved the idea of planning a retreat. Back in the Fall of 2019 when I joined Sam Lapenta really ran an amazing retreat and to this day inspires me to make the chapter the best version of itself that it could be. Even with Covid this Spring I thought we had a pretty good one and I can't wait for next Fall where we can hopefully go back to the Sheridan Ranch and create some more memories there. After my time at Montana State is over, I hope to go to law School and become a patent lawyer. Hopefully this summer I will be able to study for the LSAT and put some time doing some more research about schools and different programs across the country.

Nick Fitzmaurice - VP of Programming

I'm a Sophomore studying Industrial and Management Systems Engineering with a minor in Sustainability Studies. I grew up in Mazama, Washington where I learned to appreciate the outdoors and all they have to offer, which brought me here to MSU. I ran for VP Programming last fall because I was excited to further involve myself in the chapter and I felt my skills and past experiences would be well suited for leading our chapter's programming. From this position, I've had the opportunity to lead the programming committee, while simultaneously participating as a member of the executive meeting, both of which are providing valuable experiences to my future in the professional world. Upon the completion of my term, I will be equipped with teamwork and leadership skills that will stay and benefit me my entire life.



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Nik Gier - VP of Communications

I am from Libby, Montana and am currently a Senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Aerospace. I ran for VP Comms to fill the vacancy after the last election as the position had not been filled. However, since I started VP Comms, I have learned quite a bit about myself and the chapter. I have learned about my own personal leadership style through working on the newsletter, I have learned about what it means to be a leader in the chapter as a member of Exec. In addition, being VP of Communications has also shown me how important the core values of SigEp are to my college experience as I use them daily in my position. Mostly though, I have realized the importance of communicating with others effectively, especially with other members of my Executive team. As a future engineer, being able to concisely get your point across and having a productive discussion are very powerful and important qualities and I think VP of Communications has really helped me practice this. SigEp is full of engineering majors, and my brothers have shown me a wide array of career paths and the different perspectives that are possible with engineering that I hope to use in the future.

Jack Larson, President:

My name is Jack Larson, and I am the current President of the Montana Beta chapter. I am originally from the breathtaking hills of Rapid City, South Dakota. Before President, I served as the RLC Chairman and a BMS Co-chairman. I am a sophomore studying Mechanical Engineering and spend most of my time listening to music or being with friends and brothers. I jumped into this role last November and it has given me insight and experience that I do not think I could have received from any other organization. Being in this role so far has been incredible because of my amazing executive board that has been supportive and devoted to our mission. I ran for President because I have seen the impact that SigEp has on the Bozeman community and I wanted to make sure that our chapter remains a prominent and outstanding representation of what it means to be a SigEp. After attending the Carlson Leadership Academy and online Ruck Leadership Institute last year, I am stoked to serve in my position to make sure that Montana Beta is a diverse group with a shared vision. This next semester I hope to increase our involvement with the community by reigniting the old "Rocking with the Eagles 5k" and hopefully hosting an awareness week for a cause we choose.



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Reese Campbell, Chaplain:

I came to MSU right after high school to pursue a degree in Secondary English Education. I left behind the flower farm that I was raised on in Sunnyside, Washington in exchange for the beautiful mountains and amazing fly-fishing that Bozeman has to offer. I am currently starting my senior year at MSU. With only one semester of student teaching left before I graduate, the light at the end of the tunnel is becoming more and more evident.

I decided to run for Chaplain because I felt as though the skills which I hope to learn while in the position will greatly benefit my career path. I also wanted to give back to SigEp as much as I could during my last year as an undergraduate and I felt as though being on the Exec team would amplify my influence on the organization. Thus far in the position, I have already gained more knowledge and experience than I had expected I would. My ability to plan, coordinate, and execute events has been positively impacted. It has been an amazing experience to be able to plan and conduct the various rituals that brothers of SigEp go through. As Chaplain, my ability to be a leader and contributing member of a team has been largely influenced.

The skills and relationships that I gained while in SigEp will aid me in many ways during my journey throughout life. Many of the management skills that I learned as Chaplain will directly correlate to my future career as a teacher and administrator. Having the ability to fully and fluidly execute a vision will someday assist me in my dream of owning and operating a coffee shop/bookstore.

Cole Schultz, VP of Scholarship (formerly RLC Chairman):

My name is Cole Shultz, and I am a freshman double-majoring in both Paleontology and Organismal Biology. I'm from Bellevue, in Washington state, and I was excited to get away from home and come to the lovely town that is Bozeman. I decided to join the executive team by running for the Vice President of Scholarship position, because I personally felt a disconnect from the Lecture Series during my first semester and wanted to add some additional academically oriented programming to the chapter. Since starting in my role as VPS, I have gained a newfound appreciation for the importance of balanced programming, by not overloading the schedule while managing to keep it full. I also have learned the importance of valuing the feedback of other people, and I know that the executive team discussions have helped prepare me to be a better leader in future endeavors. Ultimately, the experience of being the first Vice President of Scholarship has been very rewarding, and I look forward to building off of the lessons I learned this semester to develop an even better schedule for next semester.



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#### Josh Lester - VP of Finance

I am the eldest of three and was born in Wheat Ridge Colorado which is immediately west of Denver. Both of my parents are from Montana and they decided to move back to the Gallatin Valley when I was three or four since my grandfather was dying of cancer. I am a third year studying Financial Engineering and Computer Science. I originally resented coming to MSU since an unfortunate health situation with my mother forced me to give up attending my dream school of Stanford University so I could stay close to home and take care of my disabled younger brother. I enrolled with the mindset that I was here to graduate and leave with my degree as fast as possible, not to make any friends. I am very thankful the BMS popped into my email one day and I decided to apply for it. SigEp is what changed my perspective and saved my college career from excessive loneliness and isolation. Since joining I have done my best to attend every event I am able to, give back however I can, and build strong lifelong friendships. I have served as VPR, VPMD and now as VPF. I decided to run for VPF because I was excited for the young incoming Exec team and their goals for the chapter. I thought they would be in need of someone to help guide them and offer advice on the problems that someone who had been on Exec for two terms had seen before. I also think VPF should be an older brother who is comfortable having the difficult conversations that come with money and who has seen the different ways the chapter's money has been allocated in the past. I have enjoyed watching the new team find their stride and gain confidence this semester but I am even more excited to see what we will do this coming school year.

#### Beck Moniz - VP of Recruitment

My name is Beck Moniz, and I'm originally from Alexandria, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. I am Currently majoring in Photography and Media based journalism here at Montana State as a sophomore in school. I decided to run for the Vice President of recruitment due to the fact that I wanted to have a personal role in how the chapter grew, as well as coming up with some new ideas that I believed would benefit the chapter, in order to see it grow to its ideal size. So far, I have gotten a fantastic sense of leadership and responsibility from the role, through the day to day duties of the role, and from the challenges I have faced while in the position. Overall, I have loved my time, and I cannot wait to continue our progress as a chapter! The leadership aspect of SigEp has given me valuable experience in the field, as I hope to eventually join the military after college, and the leadership skills that I have gained in SigEp will follow me throughout my career.



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# Senior Advice

Noah Jakovac:

*What changes have you seen over the years in SigEp?*

"I think it's really cool to see all of us go from really enthusiastic beginners through the paces to become the mentors we are now. A lot of the discussions we have are always the same, which I also think is interesting to see it repeat year after year. We are an organization that has turnover from every single graduating class, so it's pretty expected. With different people there are always going to be, as there should be, different conceptions of what should be in the bylaws. The recruitment discussion is always there, always ongoing, as it should be. If we don't keep recruiting, we wouldn't exist, which is the case for most organizations. I would say even though we have a short turnover, recruitment is even bigger in the real world. That discussion is always there, but who has led it and how effective it is has changed as well. Some vice presidents of recruitment have more of a specific approach, some more widespread, and then the amount of time and energy the chapter is willing to put into recruitment throughout semesters is always differing. I don't know an antidote for that, there really isn't one. It is really interesting, where one semester we put a heavy emphasis on numbers, and we kind of saw the opposite of that. Which is really what I expected, the more you talk about numbers, the more stress that exists behind that. Semesters where we talked more about quality we almost seemed to get better numbers... I don't know. There may be some correlation there, not causation. It seems wherever the discussion is steered, you do get different results."

*Do you have any advice for Freshmen, Sophomores, etc.? Or any advice for the chapter overall?*

"I'll start with my favorite quote, which is a Samuel Beckett quote, 'Ever tried, ever failed, no matter. Try again, fail again, fail better.' That's what I try to live by, because if we don't learn from failure, we won't go. Especially being a big endurance athlete, that's the whole base, having to go out and beat yourself up just a little bit and slowly get better. If you don't put in the effort, if you don't push yourself to the point of failure, you're never going to know what the boundary is, within reason of course. When it comes to something like biking for example, if you're in a really controlled scenario, push yourself to the point of failure. Then you really know where you need to work. I'd say that applies to everything in life. Some things are going to have more constraints than others, of course. I'd just say overarching, that's the way I try to live. That's the best advice I could give to anyone else. Continue to fail, continue to fail better. Continue to set goals that will allow you to do that."

Will Stukaloff:

*What changes have you seen over the years in SigEp?*

"First is the chapter size, from 60 to roughly 30. However, what you notice the most is the brothers around you and their interactions with SigEp. This changes how you split the workload, the more manpower you have the more funding and motivation you have."



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*Advice for the chapter?*

"I'd emphasize it's never too early or too late to take a leadership role in SigEp, whether it is a committee position, executive position or even just being a role model in the chapter. Leadership comes in many forms, and the sooner you get into it the more ownership you take for the chapter and you learn how you can affect both yourself and your brother's experience. This is the best way to make positive changes in the chapter, and SigEp will always evolve as we gain new brothers. However, it is important to not let yourself be overwhelmed by SigEp, it must be something you choose to incorporate into your life, and never let it be a burden. Accept the challenge and give as much of your time commitment, energy and interest as you can. SigEp must be something you want to be a part of and most importantly take ownership of your SigEp experience."

Taylor Blossom

*Advice for the chapter as a whole?*

"Make sure to engage in SigEp in a way that is beneficial for yourself, and this will always be unique to every individual. Do not force yourself to engage if you are unable to, as intentional engagement always improves organizational health and does not cause burnout."

*Advice for underclassmen?*

"Get to know other guys in the fraternity, the personal relationships and experiences are sometimes worth more than the formal programming in the fraternity. That has been my biggest benefit from my SigEp experience, so always take advantage of our community."

*Impactful experiences?*

"My best memories in SigEp are family dinners and the close bonds I formed with my family. It is super important to utilize your big-little and family relationships!"

Max Yates

*Important takeaways from your experience?*

"It is easy to succumb to the "bigger is better" mentality and compare ourselves to larger chapters across the nation, and in the process it is super easy to lose your chapter identity. Nevertheless, there is no other MT Beta, we must figure out what is best for our chapter, and make sure we stay authentic to our unique and awesome chapter. This caution applies to every brother, be it Executive board members or our newest brothers. I have also noticed we have leaned towards brotherhood instead of a professional society of engineers. This is always a balance as we must still continue to grow and follow our fraternal values, but we are now able to have very authentic and profound friendships, and this is a great trajectory to be following. Lastly, keep enjoying the ritual, it is one of the most important and sacred parts of our fraternity and it has reinforced why joining SigEp was one of the best decisions I have made in my entire life!"



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*Any meaningful experiences?*

“The Burning Heart ritual. Going through as a freshman and watching my big (Connor Hoffman) read the president portion, later organizing it as chaplain, and then last semester going through it as a senior and watching my little (Jack Larson) read the president portion. My family has been the most important part of SigEp for me and has made my experience so tremendous, and to see this full circle rotation around this impactful time of burning heart has been very special. I hope everyone in the chapter can have a similar experience with the brothers they are close to. I have plenty of great stories with my family: Connor, Will Mans, Brendan Pelkie and Taylor Blossom doing dumb stuff, staying at various cabins and the boiling river in Yellowstone, in addition to this how terrified I was of Will Mans as an ROTC man, but he has now become one of my lifelong friends. Lastly, the national experiences that are possible through SigEp (Carlson, Ruck, Tragos though virtually) which are all independent of the Montana Beta chapter, but show SigEp is truly a national brotherhood. I can now say I have friends in all corners of the US that I would have otherwise never known and that is all due to SigEp. To know I have friends and family all around due to this organization which truly is so much more than an organization, has been pretty spectacular.”

Kyler Maharg

*Advice for brothers?*

“Stay involved especially on campus and in the community. With my experience with programming, while limited by COVID, I noticed the perspectives of fraternities in the community (Bozeman itself and nationally) is not great and however our fraternity can change that positively is very important to the future of Greek Life. Always strive to work together with the other parts of Greek life as that is the only path forward. For our chapter, events with families involved should continue to improve in both quality and quantity and I think we have already started working on this. Make sure to use the family structure to keep brothers in this fraternity, to focus on building smaller and more personal connections. We always have a connection as a chapter, but small and meaningful connections are important moving forward”

*Underclassmen?*

“Don’t be afraid to take leadership roles. Try and get older members’ perspectives as you’d take on leadership roles, they often have really valuable experience. Use AVC, who also have great perspectives and experience.. Lastly, keep brothers together and keep events intentional. I want brothers to want to be apart of this fraternity, not “have to” be apart of this fraternity”

*Impactful experiences?*

“Tons, there are so many memorable events, being able to go to Carlson and talk to long time national alumni. As an AG major I felt somewhat of an outsider but I was able to find my niche with the many engineers. The rituals are some of my favorite experiences in the whole chapter, they have shaped my life, and as a religious man have connected things in life I had really never thought about. Going back to Carlson, traveling down to Los Angeles early and staying in Hollywood, being able to travel through the Hollywood walk of fame and going sightseeing. The first morning, myself and BK were up earlier than the rest, and we went and had a great breakfast. We also went to the



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beach and had a great time. I learned a lot about insurance and consequences. Once Carlson started we broke up into small groups by Executive position, and it was neat meeting brothers from other chapters and learning about shared experiences, previous position experiences, position goals from around the nation. This is actually where I got some of my event ideas, including family events.”

#### Connor Riley

##### *Advice for the chapter?*

“Leadership is always emphasized and is available to members outside of Executive positions. I spent 2 years on the Standards board, which is often overlooked as a leadership position. Standards board has been hard to fill in the past, but it still teaches you the skills it takes to be a good leader. You are always working with others and working on issues in the chapter, you always have to think quickly but at the same time still must be empathetic and understand a brother’s position and perspective. You have to consider everybody’s viewpoints and come from different perspectives to come to any conclusions and make change in the chapter. If you have the opportunity, join the Standards board, to both involve yourself in the chapter and develop your skills.”

##### *Underclassmen?*

“Get involved in any way on campus! Take the opportunity to understand what you want to do and pursue that relentlessly. It can be overwhelming when you first arrive on campus, but take advantage of any opportunities that come your way, be it a club, a different organization or even an internship. When I joined standards, I was asked to take a bigger role as junior marshall by Max instead of being an alternate, but say yes to any opportunities you are presented with. While it is often easy to use the excuse of homework, however you will limit how much holistic development you get out of your college experience. Get involved with what you’re passionate about (could be running club etc.), it doesn’t have to be scholastic at all, and always network!”

##### *Impactful experiences?*

“Every SigEp ritual improves and gets deeper in experience and intentionality as you progress through the Member Development program. So make sure to always cherish the rituals and take them seriously, think about the deeper meaning. In addition, as you both participate and watch them take place, keep an open mind, live in the moment and enjoy them for what they are. There is a lot of work put in by the ritual team that should be appreciated.”

#### Austin Zuehlke

##### *Changes you have seen in the chapter, advice for those going into leadership roles.?*

It was a different feel when I first joined, the chapter was larger but more divided and there were more different groups of people. We were not a cohesive chapter, which was not necessarily a bad thing, it was still a great time. What really changes as you get older and are in SigEp longer is when you start to see the inner workings of SigEp, and how there is a lot of work put in by the chapter leadership. This teaches you what it means to fully be a part of SigEp and that it is important to fulfill your oath of obligation and you must give what you can to the chapter.”



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### *Advice for underclassmen?*

“Get involved! This doesn’t have to be in SigEp, and keep SigEp an important part of your life, but find your passions and pursue them. College is absolutely what you make of it, never expect things to come to you, you have to go out and pursue them. Personally, I love the outdoors, and as a freshman I didn't find people who shared this passion or I was not involved with them. So, I made it my goal to make a club so anyone with that passion can network and pursue it, and I made the club what I wanted it to be. We are all Balanced Man, that is part of why we join, and it is key to determine how we can strengthen our skills and develop ourselves to the best of our abilities. Everyone in SigEp has that desire for leadership, so go out and see what you can do as a leader, college is a safe place to do that, because if you fail, it is not the end of the world, as opposed to the professional setting and your brothers will always back you. As I said earlier, being involved with SigEp and learning about how the chapter functions, you will realize how important being a leader is. As these leadership skills are imbued in you, focus on how you can give it back to others in the chapter and make space for everyone to grow and in the process form a brotherly bond. In addition, join the ritual team! The rituals are very important and special, and we have an incredible privilege to have these experiences. The SigEp programming at Montana State University is very special and unique, and will stay with you through your life. I am always learning something from every ritual.”

### *Impactful Experiences?*

“The best and most important experiences are smaller events with brothers and not necessarily formally affiliated with SigEp. As an example, in 2019 as I stayed in Bozeman for the summer, I planned a 4th of July trip to Glacier with two other brothers. Before the trip, I didn't know them super well outside of the chapter setting but after backpacking we spent a lot of time getting to know each other and it was a great experience. Stuff you do outside of SigEp with your brothers really can strengthen your relationship.”



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## President's State of the Chapter:

As the Gallatin Valley begins to warm up, the men of Montana Beta are working to finish out the semester strong. Brothers are facing a mixture of in person and virtual classes; however, the future's looking bright! On April 1<sup>st</sup>, anyone 18 or older in Montana became eligible for a Coronavirus vaccine. Between that and the increased leniency in the Bozeman area, our chapter is able to return to the many activities and pastimes that have previously been canceled.

For the first time since the fall of 2019, brothers of Montana Beta got together for a retreat that resembled the typical Sheridan excursion. On March 6th, everyone spent their morning volunteering at Habitat for Humanity. Then the rest of the day was spent at Steve Liebmann's Abigail Ranch for an afternoon of conversation, board games, kickball and grub. The night featured a special Burning Heart Ritual which took place in the rain. While extremely cold and wet, it remains to be an important moment in our chapter's history. Throughout all that happens in the world around us we are able to come together and practice one of our most sacred rituals together.

SigEp HQ has done their best to provide nationwide programming despite the need for virtual events. Originally, the Ruck LEadership Institute was meant to be in person but was later switched to a virtual modality late in the summer of 2020. This session was 6 weeks long with one meeting every week. Headquarters saw value in the virtual Ruck and had a second four-week session in the Fall. Three members of the executive board attended the summer session and two additional brothers participated in the fall. Although not necessarily ideal, the online Ruck LEadership Institute allowed more brothers than usual to participate as there was no travel requirement and sessions were once weekly.

Apart from that, members of Montana Beta are excited for the summer. Grand Chapter Conclave is set to take place in Denver on July 28 through August 1. We are hoping that we will be able to take a large crew of brothers down for the weekend. A small group of guys have just finished up our application for the Buchanan Outstanding Chapter Award and we are hoping to win our fourth "Buc Cup" this summer!

All in all, the heart of Montana Beta is still beating strong. We are all excited for the recruitment season in the fall and want to welcome a large new group of Bobcats to our fraternity. In the fall we hope to capitalize on events such as Catapalooza and MSU Debut to showcase our group of guys and what we are about.



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# Alumni Spotlights:

## Cody Howell

I am originally from Helena Montana and got my degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology from Montana State University in 2015. I joined Sigma Phi Epsilon because I knew I wanted to be able to be involved on campus in an impactful way. SigEp was still relatively new on campus but had a HUGE reputation for being leaders in so many ways. I was immediately welcomed by the brothers. Throughout my time I met some of the best people. The chapter challenged me to be a better student, supported me in my extracurricular endeavors, and even helped me develop my own sense of leadership. Without SigEp I wouldn't have had the encouragement to try so many different things such as student government, holding a position on IFC, and working on the board of a local nonprofit agency.

After graduation, I worked as an education coordinator for a sexual and domestic assault resource center in Livingston, Montana. Following that, I moved to Iowa to work as a violence prevention specialist at the Women's Resource and Action Center at the University of Iowa, where I have been for four years. I design and implement anti-violence curriculum to students, faculty, and staff for the entire university. I also serve as the Chair for the Men and Masculinities Coalition here at the University of Iowa. We strive to develop ways to shift masculinity norms to be better and safer for all through education and activism. My time in SigEp greatly influenced my passion for authentic and healthy masculinity and helps me frame my work today. I am currently working on completing my master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs and am excited to continue to support the local chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon.



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## Senior Farewells:

Austin Zuehlke

Every chapter, activity, and volunteering event, Austin brings a sensation of adventurism and goofy demeanor that levels the atmosphere for all that are involved. Never giving anything below 110%, he has always been determined to not only enjoy the outdoors, but enable others to do so as well. Austin's little, Nicholas Fitzmaurice, has offered insight as to how thoughtful Austin is of his brothers, taking the time to discuss life beyond MSU, offering a valuable elder's perspective on how pursuing one's ambitions will drive the path forward. A fond memory the two share involves Austin's comic-relief attitude, wearing brightly colored and loud outfits to set the mood for events.

Nicholas Fitzmaurice

Kyler Maharg

Kyler is a man nothing short of hard-working. Consistently offering the leadership and expertise needed through the hard times of the pandemic currently changing our world, he has acted as SigEp's programming chair for the last two semesters. Kyler remains one not to be discouraged from keeping the fraternity to the highest standard. Despite his professional and serious aptitude, he also makes sure to uphold morale, and does so by bringing his dog, Daisy, to the house and events to heighten his brother's spirits.

Reese Campbell

Noah Jakovac

I have only been in the chapter for one year with you, and we have only really gotten to know each other this last semester. Despite this, I can say with the utmost confidence that you have become the gold standard for what it means to be a Balanced Man, and that you have left an immeasurable impact on the chapter, a legacy that I will continue until I graduate. When I first reached out to you to go on a run, I was nervous and afraid that I wouldn't be able to keep up with you, but you didn't mind slowing down for me. That day I saw you exemplify all of SigEp's cardinal values, of diligence, virtue, and brotherly love. Your ambition in pursuing a Masters' program and taking graduate level courses alongside working on your capstone and still making the time to maintain excellence in your body astounded me. Perhaps what astounded me most however was how interested you were in getting to know me, eschewing the opportunity to talk about your accomplishments for the 35-minute duration of our run, something I'm certain you have the resume to do. After that run I looked forward to every opportunity I had to meet up with you, whether to burn calories on another run or consume them at a wonderful family dinner with your delicious fried churros. I'm sad to say farewell to you as you graduate soon, but I'm extremely grateful for



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getting the opportunity to have met you in the first place and I know that you'll do great things, both in Bozeman and beyond.

Farewell, Cole Shultz

Sam LaPenta

When I think of my time in SigEP you have always had the best timing. You have often shared advice at the right time when I needed to hear it. Whether it was the formal I was invited to Freshman year when I was deciding between that and Retreat or whether it was last fall when we got taco montes and talked about the state of the chapter. You have always been a gleaming shine of light that shows the way forward. Yet, you always have managed to stay humble, and optimistic. One time Lester mentioned you to be the eternal optimist and I think that is true. My love and gratitude towards can't be done justice in a short senior farewell but just know that without people like you the chapter wouldn't be here today. When I think of the Giants whose shoulders I stand on in my SigEP experience my thoughts immediately jump to you. You are a man to exemplify what it means to be a balanced man. You are the kindest person I know. You manage to stay extremely fit while being ungodly busy. You always make time for brothers and always are on to reach out to see how others are doing. All of these things and more show how committed you are to being a positive change in this world. I will cherish every moment I shared with you these past two years and I wish we had more time together. In my mind you define what it means to be a good brother and if there were more Sam Lapentas in the world it would be a much better place. I know where ever life takes you people will be made better for knowing you. I love you and I wish you luck in wherever life takes you next. I know you'll make it amazing.

With Love and VDBL,

Chris Timm

Connor Riley

Connor has succeeded immensely in his time here at MSU. His diligence has carried him through a challenging degree with nearly flawless grades, and he still finds the time to engage with brothers and support the fraternity. I am so happy that I was able to forge such a strong friendship with him during our time here, as we both served on the Standards Board for two years. He has grown immensely in his time here and helped others, along with myself, grow along with him. He will be dearly missed by me and all the brothers, and we're excited to watch his success continue!

Nick Buenz



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Will Stukaloff

Will has been my big for the three years I have been a part of this wonderful chapter, and I could not have asked for a better pairing. He always has a smile on his face no matter the circumstances. Even when he is stretched thin with class work or other obligations, he still maintains one of the most positive outlooks that I have ever witnessed which I think is indisputable proof of what a balanced man he really is. One of my favorite memories was having dinner with him and a few other brothers. We all worked together on separate ideas of the dish and enjoyed our finished meal over great conversation and great music with some great friends. Will's attitude and dedication towards all of his obligations and endeavors has proven his worthiness as a role model, and his kindness and compassion are what make him a great friend and brother. I haven't a sliver of doubt in my mind that he will continue to approach life with confidence and virtue as he begins yet another one of life's many chapters. Will, if you are reading this, I want to thank you for being such a great role model and big brother. You have never failed to inspire me and I am confident that whatever challenges life may bring will pale in comparison to the strength that you answer them with.

Good luck and until next time,

Mack Fangmeier

Taylor Blossom

Taylor is the man who never fails to keep the chapter updated. Slack is the essential lifeline of our fraternity, ranging from information on upcoming events, the agenda for a chapter, or a simple brotherpost asking if anyone wants to go out for coffee. Whenever I find myself checking slack to make sure I'm not missing anything important, Taylor has made an announcement involving certain events, usually along with a persistent (but much needed) reminder to keep everyone involved. I myself have a few fond memories of Taylor, the first being his enormous contribution to the Super Bowl party, bringing a variety of homemade ribs and wings for everyone, clearly going above and beyond the call of duty. At the time, I didn't know a lot about him, and his work really opened my eyes to how Taylor is not one to stop at "just enough". However, a more recent memory I have involved a simple visit to international coffee traders. It had been a little bit since I had seen him outside of a major gathering, and while he had his own work to complete, he didn't hesitate to ask the other brothers there, along with myself, how we were feeling about the semester winding down. It is the little things like these that set a daily reminder of how proud I am to be a part of this fraternity, and even more fortunate to have such kind and caring brothers like Taylor

With love and respect, Cole Kennebeck



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Max Yates

To say that writing this farewell is daunting would be an understatement. The impact that Max has made on not only me but everyone around him cannot be easily iterated. His passions, influence, and impact make him an exemplary Balanced Man.

Max believed in his community and always made time to give back. He worked with the American Indian Center at MSU to create a volunteer tutoring program that was accessible five days a week from 8 am to 8 pm. When the AIC required more tutors Max swiftly recruited a handful of more tutors to aid. Max was also an active volunteer and ski instructor in Eagle Mount, an adaptive recreational program in Bozeman. Max also maintained a weekly commitment as an advocate at the VOICE Center on campus, an office dedicated to supporting survivors of interpersonal violence.

In addition to on campus, Max was a prominent leader in Montana Beta. Max began his leadership in SigEp as the Vice President of Communications his freshman year. Pushed by his mentors, such as Connor Hoffman and Will Mans, Max became the Chaplain in the fall of his sophomore year. Throughout his term he maintained the standards of our chapter and but also loved to bore brothers with readings from a LROB.

In February of 2020, Max was named a Tragos Quest to Greece Scholar. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the actual quest portion was cancelled, and a virtual option was held instead. In the summer, Max was named a 2020 Truman Scholar, proving his passion for public health and servant leadership. One day, Max hopes to address inequality in healthcare, especially for those rural areas. This fall he is moving to Sitka, Alaska to be a College and Career Guide at Mt. Edgecumbe High School.

My big brother has accomplished many impressive feats and some of my favorite memories with him will live in my heart forever. He never fails to make me laugh with his impressions of celebrities or interpretations of Saturday Night Live skits. When I have needed him the most, he has always been at my wayside. He is one of the most humble, selfless, and genuine people I have ever met. His laughter and smile are infectious and have always made my day better.

Max's commitment to others is incomparable. I am honored to have ever gotten to know him. He has left an indelible legacy in Montana Beta – one that will not be rivaled for years. To me, he is a leader, a total goofball, an athlete, a scholar, a mentor, and my brother for life.

Love,

Jack Larson



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## Donations:

*As a growing and evolving chapter, our needs and expenses continue to follow. As a result, we need money in order to continue to deliver the pursuit of the balanced man for men at Montana State for years to come. Please help us by donating.*

Contact Josh for donation information!

[sigep.msu.finance@gmail.com](mailto:sigep.msu.finance@gmail.com)

-VDBL