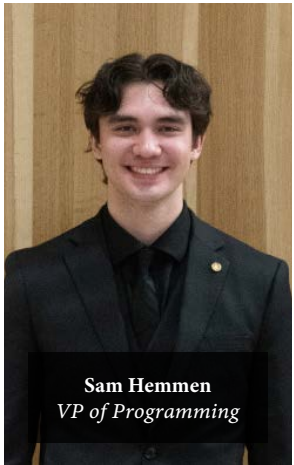




Aiden Christy
President



Michael Menuey
Chaplain



Sam Hemmen
VP of Programming



Zac Stoneman
VP of Member Development



Chance Abbey
VP of Recruitment



Cole Spence
VP of Finance



Cooper Libby
VP of Communications



James Pitassy
*VP of SigEp Learning
Communities*

Montana State University
SigEp

Spring 2025 Newsletter

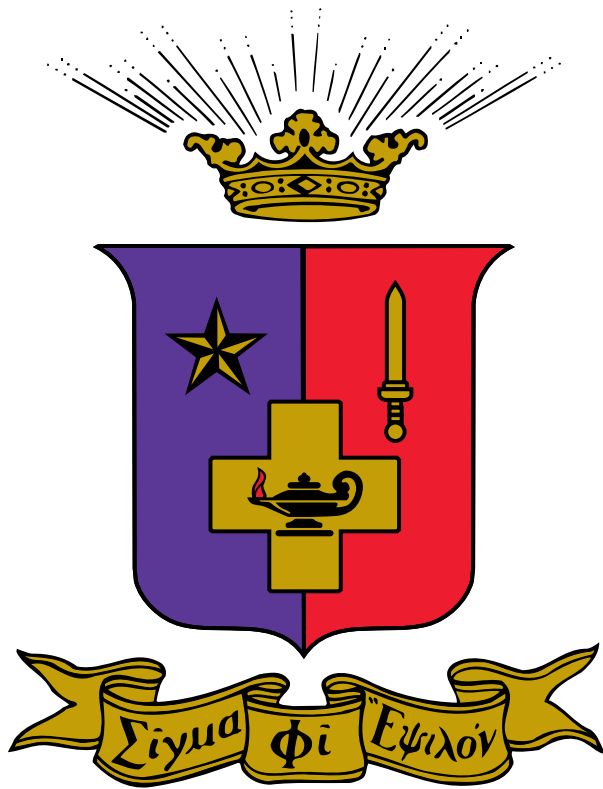


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President	sigep.msu.president@gmail.com
Communications	sigep.msu.communication@gmail.com
Local Website	https://montanastate.sigep.org/
National Website	https://sigep.org/

This fraternity is different. The challenge to present ourselves without sounding cliché continues. Where else can you find a group of men who stand up for their values, approach the world passionately and lovingly, and regularly practice respect and healthy masculinity?

Virtue. We hold the profound, humanitarian belief that our lives have a purpose. **Diligence.** We strive for excellence in all endeavors. **Brotherly Love.** Unconditional trust and support. **Balanced men.** We prioritize health and academics, remaining substance & hazing free.

State of the Chapter

by Aiden Christy, President

I am incredibly proud of the state of the chapter and the outstanding ability our executive team has been able to demonstrate thus far. The chapter has shown an incredible increase in involvement on campus as well as a desire to continue our outreach to the community around us. We have been honored to be able to volunteer a fantastic amount this semester both on campus and around the Bozeman community. Along with that we are showing fantastic academic prowess and I am confident that we will continue to raise our bar of what a fraternity can achieve academically. Past this I am beyond proud of the new members and their ability to step up and lead in SigEp, we are sending two freshmen to Ruck, sent five to Carlson, and I anticipate we will send several to Conclave this summer. The Montana Beta Chapter is looking up and I am so excited for where we will go throughout the rest of the Spring Semester and into the Fall.



Welcome, New Members!

by Chance Abbey, Recruitment

This Spring semester's recruitment week was a huge success! We were able to recruit seven fantastic young men, all of whom have already made a positive impact on the chapter. Our first event was the Meet and Greet BBQ, where we welcomed several potential new brothers (PNBs). We provided dinner for everyone who attended, offered house tours, and enjoyed some intense games of ping pong. This casual and inviting atmosphere allowed us to connect with PNBs and introduce them to brothers. Next, we hosted a broomball event at the Southside Park ice skating rink, which was a fun and energetic way to bond with PNBs. Afterward, we drove back to the house to our recurring biweekly event, Tea Time. Tea Time is a great opportunity for anyone to get involved with SigEp, and it's hosted by our Vice President of Communications and Vice President of Finance. It's a great time to socialize, unwind, and even finish up homework in a relaxed setting. Our third event was the Bozeman Scavenger Hunt, an engaging team competition that takes teamwork and creativity. As we explored Bozeman, PNBs completed various tasks such as snapping fun group photos and recreating classic Western skits on Main Street. This event brought out plenty of laughter and memorable moments. Casino Night was our fourth event, and it was a hit! Several people showed up to the fraternity house dressed to impress, ready to play Blackjack, Texas Hold'em, and roulette. The lively atmosphere and friendly competition made for an unforgettable evening. Our final event, the Hyalite Campfire, was an invite-only gathering held at the Hyalite Reservoir. This special evening was dedicated to handing out bids and celebrating our new brothers. Despite the chilly weather, we enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, and warm conversations around the fire, creating memories that will last for years to come. Even though recruitment week has ended, SigEp's 365 Recruitment program allows us to continue welcoming new brothers into the chapter throughout the year. Once recruited, our new brothers will begin the Sigma Challenge, a program designed to teach them about the rich history of our nationwide fraternity while strengthening their understanding of our core values. We're incredibly proud of the success of this semester's recruitment week and look forward to seeing our new brothers grow within the chapter!

The Balanced Man Scholarship

by James Pitassy, SigEp Learning Communities

This semester, I had the honor of hosting the SigEp Scholarship Banquet, where we recognized outstanding students who embody our fraternity's values of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love. After interviewing numerous impressive applicants, we selected four deserving winners whose academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to service stood out. Our winners this semester were Noah Oaks, Gabriel Gillman, Brock Hyatt, and Peyton Bichah. The banquet was made even more special by the presence of SigEp alumnus Tim Wilson, who shared his experiences and insights on how SigEp and living a balanced life shaped his personal and professional journey. His words were an inspiration to both the scholarship recipients and our undergraduate brothers. It was a great evening celebrating the next generation of leaders and the lasting impact of our fraternity.



Carlson Leadership Academy

by Sam Hemmen, Programming

The 2025 Carlson Leadership Academy in San Jose, California, was an incredible experience for our executive team and rising leaders. From receiving invaluable leadership guidance to networking with brothers from chapters across the West Coast, CLA ignited our passion for making SigEp Montana Beta one of the most impactful chapters in Sigma Phi Epsilon nationwide.

Each officer on our executive team attended a specialized track tailored to our respective roles. I participated in the Programming track, where I developed essential skills in organizing meaningful events, fostering relationships with other fraternities and sororities through mixers, engaging with local philanthropic organizations, and inspiring enthusiasm within our chapter. I look forward to applying these skills as I lead the revival of the Eagle Mount Olympus 5K, a traditional event our chapter is bringing back after a six-year hiatus. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 27th, and stay tuned for more details!

Beyond the lessons in leadership, the experience brought our executive team closer together. It was only natural that tension existed within our team with such strong personalities and diversity of thought. However, through these challenges, we emerged stronger. As we learned what it truly means “to lead” at CLA, we improved our communication, embraced humility, and deepened our trust in both ourselves and one another.

Exploring San Jose and San Francisco was especially meaningful to me because of my love for travel. Aside from a trip to Disneyland, I had never been to California before, and CLA gave me the perfect opportunity to experience it. Some of my favorite memories include riding in a driverless Waymo car, meeting Chance's cousin, a software engineer who helped develop the technology used in Waymo cars, and taking in the breathtaking views of San Francisco from Twin Peaks.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to speaking with you all once more!

Epsilon Challenge

by TJ Dubler, Epsilon Coordinator

This semester, the Epsilons (3rd-year students) have been exploring the ideas of “know thyself” and “eudaimonia.” These are two pieces of wisdom that I was able to begin absorbing in depth during my time in the Tragos Quest to Greece this past summer. I personally define Eudaimonia as the lifelong pursuit of happiness, and I can’t define what it means to know thyself – I have my own ideas, but I think it is only up to the individual’s perspective.

Our monthly discussions have been centered around questions such as “who are you?” and “what makes you happy?” and “what steps can you take right now to live your happiest life?”. These questions turned into goals that every Epsilon has been making progress on through the semester. Their goals have ranged from anywhere from figuring out a goal, to developing specific career skills, or even a healthy mindset of appreciating silence.

During my Brother Mentor ritual in Delphi, Greece, I made a promise to take what I’ve learned during my quest back home to the Montana Beta brothers. Since I made that promise, it’s been very refreshing seeing newfound motivation and engagement from the Epsilons. The most rewarding part has been re-connecting with many people I have not been able to keep in touch with since I joined as a freshman, and I know that many of the Epsilons would share that sentiment.

With Eudaimonia being a lifelong pursuit of happiness, the momentum that the Epsilons have begun will not stop here – keep an eye out for these brothers, the world is in their hands!



The Epsilons at their first Epsilon Meeting

Carlson Leadership Academy and the Talent Power Award

by Zac Stoneman, Member Development

In January I had the opportunity to attend the Carlson Leadership Academy which was held in San Jose, CA. This was my second year attending and after having a great time last year I had been looking forward to this trip ever since I got elected to this year's executive board. I'll try not to bore you too much so here are four brief highlights. Each night after we finished what we needed to, we went to the closest restaurant to our hotel, a Denny's. That Denny's was the site of a lot and I will forever remember it. Another highlight was the train rides we took, mainly because of the time with my brothers talking, playing board games, and watching California out the window. Then in my VP of Member Development track one of our rising leaders, Caleb Lelachuer, joined me for the day. I couldn't have been more proud of him or Montana Beta after seeing him actively participate and contribute such great ideas. The best part was watching all the other VPMDs pay attention so closely when he would contribute. The biggest highlight though, came at the award banquet at the end of Carlson. Last year our chapter set a record for recruitment in our recent history, and had the best recruitment on campus which led to us being in the running for the Talent Power award for the best recruitment in the region. When they announced us as the winners it was like closure on how much work we put into recruitment. After having spent a bunch of 50 hour weeks and seeing all the brothers put in so much work as well on top of school and other commitments I still can't put it into words how proud of our chapter I was and how glad I was for Montana Beta to get this recognition. I can't wait for our chapter to continue to have such good experiences at Carlson and see how it impacts more brothers.

Carlson Leadership Academy

by Caleb LeLaucher, Rising Leader

Carlson was a great experience, it was incredible spending time with brothers from across the country, and the volunteers at the event were some of the coolest people I've met. Carlson Leadership Academy was a great place to learn how to best run a chapter, and I can't wait to take what I've learned there to any exec roles I get in the future.

Carlson Leadership Academy and the Tragos Quest to Greece

by Aiden Christy, President

I was honored to be selected to be one of the Tragos Quest to Greece scholars for the 2025 summer. This trip has been something I have aspired to go to since I learned of it my freshman year. Being selected was only built on by all of the SigEps who came before me, every friend I have learned from, and every brother who has loved me throughout this. I am beyond honored to be following in the footsteps of such titans of brothers like Jack Larson and TJ Doubler. I hope to spend this trip getting to know myself and my goals better while surrounded by brothers and facilitators in SigEp. I am so beyond excited to embark on the quest this summer and to return with so many stories and lessons for the Fall 25 semester.



Carlson Leadership Academy

by Chris Nice, Rising Leader

As a Rising Leader, I took the programming track where I learned about how to properly plan events and be more involved with the community around SigEp. This was a great opportunity for me to learn more about something I'm passionate about but also an opportunity to become a better leader to my chapter and community. This experience was a great way for me to start to understand where I see my place in the chapter and how I'm able to make impactful changes to the chapter. During the trip, I was able to see where I want my experience with SigEp to lead and the opportunities I'm able to be a part of. After Carlson, I'm hoping to apply my learnings to an executive position or even apply my leadership skills to bolster my chapter.



Carlson Leadership Academy

by Cole Spence, Finance

At Carlson, I was a part of the finance program, where I was taught many important skills on how to properly operate as VP of Finance. While I learned many things like how to file taxes, how to record expenses, and how to properly budget, I would say the most important takeaway from that weekend was how other chapters ran their finances. It was interesting to hear what other chapters struggled with compared to what we struggle with financially. Our mutual role as VP of Finance made it easy to talk and bounce ideas off of each other on how we could improve our chapter. I found it interesting that no matter the size of the chapter, no chapter ran finances perfectly and everyone had something to improve upon. Overall, my experience in San Jose was super fun and I would love to go back next year.

Ruck Leadership Institute

by Cooper Libby, Communications

Being selected for Ruck is a huge honor. I was told by Zac Stoneman, who went to Ruck as a student last year and is now going as a Rucktern, that I would gain a lot from the experience. I spent a while reviewing my application and sent it off. I figured if I got selected, great! But if not, someone more deserving would take my place, and I was more than happy with that. I am truly honored to be selected and am glad to keep our chapter's Ruck streak alive. I look forward to the leadership skills I will learn at Ruck, and I hope to bring them back to Montana Beta so I can continue to make our chapter the best on campus and nationally!

Ruck Leadership Institute

by Chance Abbey, Recruitment

I feel incredibly honored to be chosen as one of the Montana Beta Ruck Scholars this year! I joined SigEp because I wanted to surround myself with people that would benefit me in college, and the brothers around me have done just that. They have helped me grow as a leader, and have encouraged me to keep moving forward. Making it into the Ruck Leadership Institute is a direct result of the incredible brotherhood at Montana Beta, and I can't wait for what I learn at Ruck this summer to be reflected back into the chapter. I look forward to building strong connections with brothers across the nation. I want to give you a huge thank you for making this opportunity possible for me through donations and support of our chapter.



Remembering Our Alumni

by Cooper Libby, Communications

The following are the words of Jayson Nissen, a new member of our AVC at Montana Beta.

I'm returning to Bozeman and Montana State University (Class of 2010, Physics) after 14 years as an Assistant Professor in Physics. Montana State provides a nice blend of a research-intensive university surrounded by the mountains and recreation that enable me to pursue doing the best work and being the best person that I can be. My work focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the sciences using critical quantitative methods to understand how to make science courses support excellence for all students. Growing up rather poor and serving on a submarine in the navy, which excluded women, allowed me to see how the structures and systems in society have dramatic impacts on who gets which opportunities. Working with Dr. Kasser in Men Stopping Rape expanded my understanding of how to create just systems. Physics gave me the mathematics and concepts to understand how the inputs to a system determine the probability of outcomes from that system. For example, most college science instructors use lecture-based instruction where they spend the vast majority of the time talking at their students. But extensive research shows that students learn 25-100% more in student-centered, collaborative courses. Imagine an educational system where every course produced 25% more learning, compound that learning over 12-19 years of education. My work seeks, in small ways, to build that system.

(Continued on next page)

Remembering Our Alumni (Continued)

by Cooper Libby, Communications

While work brought me back to Bozeman, my family motivated the move. I've been married nine years to my wife Kerstin. We met backcountry skiing at Bridger Bowl and the Crazy Mountains are carved into our wedding rings. Since then, we have lived in Maine and Oregon for graduate school. Climbing, skiing, and mountain biking have played a central role in our lives. I used the leadership skills I developed in SigEp to establish a non-profit in Maine that bought and protected a climbing area, Eagle's Bluff, that helped get me through graduate school. In Oregon, my wife and I developed a climbing area called The Garden Wall. We left Oregon in 2021, about nine months after my daughter was born. When she turns five this year, she will have lived in five states: Oregon, Alaska, Louisiana, California, and Montana. They have all provided us with many wonderful opportunities for adventures. She turned one while backpacking in Denali. We biked with her along the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina, and she climbed her first route at Horseshoe Canyon in Arkansas. Now we are all enjoying skiing at Bridger Bowl and looking forward to many more adventures to come.



See you soon!

by Cooper Libby, Communications



Thank you for reading this newsletter! As always, we are continuing this semester with high hopes and ambitions for our chapter. I humbly ask you to consider donating to help us in doing everything we stand for and love. Our official PayPal is @sigepmtb and a check can be made to Sigma Phi Epsilon and mailed to 1717 Greek Way Apartment A, Bozeman MT 59715. Thank you for your continuous support; we are all incredibly grateful.

Fraternally,

Cooper Libby