



SPRING
2026

BOBCAT SIG

THE BETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY



Initiation morning with the class of 2026.

MAKING OUR HOUSE A HOME

Move-in Process and First Steps

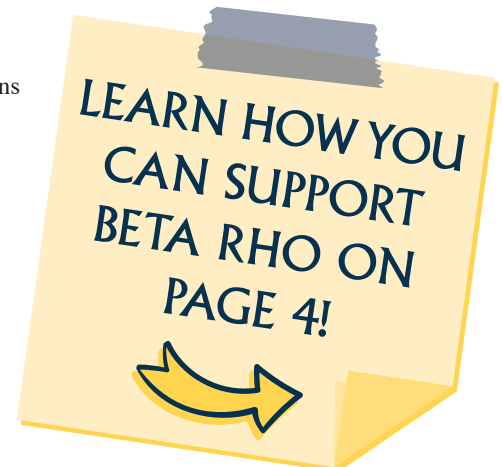
Since our last *Bobcat Sig*, the physical construction of the renovated chapter house has been completed. The building was inspected by City of Bozeman inspectors and the fire marshal, and a Certificate of Occupancy was issued. The beds and desks for the dormitory rooms were delivered, unpacked, and assembled, and kitchen cabinets and equipment were installed.

The master lease between the House Company and the active chapter was drafted, agreed, and signed. Funds donated to the House Company and the Sigma Chi Foundation were completely disbursed, and a drawdown of the line of credit from our bankers was commenced to complete payments to Martel Construction. The house was deemed “ready” for move-in on January 7, although there were still a few final construction items to be completed.

In the second week of January, brothers started to move in prior to the commencement of spring semester classes on January 13. Given the short timeframe between final construction completion and move-in, there was no real opportunity to commission the new operating components or systems before the arrival of the brothers, so this was done on a “live” basis during the early days.

Of course, there were issues ... Hobart was not fully working, and dishes had to be cleaned by hand! There were problems with a water leak in the second-floor bathroom and door locks to the chapter room. Most of the problems seemed to involve the newly installed electrical breakers to some of the dorm rooms, which kept tripping as electronics and small appliances got plugged in. We are working with the contractors and the breaker manufacturer to solve these issues.

The House Company has hired a cleaning service to supplement the brothers’ assigned cleaning duties. There are still many lessons to be learned by the chapter and the House Company to responsibly manage the new facility. We expect that all the kinks will be worked out by the end of the summer.



SPRING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GROWTH

The Sigma Chi Standard

This spring, Beta Rho Chapter completed a successful recruitment season. Recruitment began in mid-January with events to engage potential new members. Recruitment Chairman **Ryan Karlsgodt '27** conducted 47 interviews, resulting in 21 bids being extended.

The pledgship lasted five weeks, with a condensed yet impactful educational experience for new members. Magister **AJ Pera** did an excellent job teaching the class what it means to be a Sigma Chi. On February 28, 13 men were initiated into Beta Rho Chapter. With diverse temperaments, talents, and convictions, this class has already made a strong impact. Their immediate involvement in public relations and philanthropy has brought renewed energy and growth to the house.

Academic Success

Beta Rho Chapter has been consistently putting in study hours this semester, with both the campus library and chapter house library frequently full. With most members pursuing business and engineering-related majors, the chapter has maintained a GPA of 2.78. This foundation will help us build momentum for next semester and continue improving academic performance.

Philanthropic Efforts

We reached an ambitious milestone in philanthropy this year. After raising more than \$50,000 for Huntsman in 2024-25, Philanthropy Chairmen **Tristan Hansch '28** and **Dylan Marciano '28** have already raised \$28,954 toward our \$60,000 goal. Through events like date auctions, the Call-A-Thon, "Shave It or Save It," and car washes, we raised nearly \$30,000 this semester alone. The "Shave It or Save It" fundraiser—where donations determined whether brothers shaved their heads or kept their hair—was a standout success.



Beta Rho gathers for our annual highway trash cleanup.

Alumni Connections

Beta Rho Chapter has made meaningful strides in strengthening alumni engagement under the leadership of Consul **Mark Lebrini '27**. This semester, Mark took the initiative to begin organizing and establishing an official alumni chapter, creating a stronger connection between undergraduates and alumni.

Mark's efforts focus on building relationships, increasing communication, and laying the groundwork for long-term alumni involvement. This initiative will provide valuable mentorship opportunities, expand our network, and help ensure continued success and support for Beta Rho for years to come.

Public Relations

Beta Rho has remained actively engaged in serving the local community. From our semesterly highway cleanup in the Gallatin Canyon to volunteering at Fork & Spoon in Bozeman, as well as hosting a Red Cross blood drive at the chapter house, our members have consistently shown up to give back. These efforts reflect our commitment to making a positive impact and strengthening community relationships.



Brothers attend Chi Omega's formal.

Chapter Achievements

We have made significant strides this year within the fraternity and the broader community. One of our most notable accomplishments was raising \$28,954 for the Huntsman Cancer Institute, reflecting our continued commitment to philanthropy and campus leadership.

Our recruitment efforts led to the initiation of 13 outstanding new brothers this spring and 19 in the fall. These members have already made a meaningful impact, and their participation in service events and philanthropic initiatives has brought fresh perspectives and a strong sense of dedication to our brotherhood.

Looking Forward

As we move into the next academic year, Beta Rho will build on recent success by expanding philanthropic efforts and strengthening alumni connections. We are especially excited about the upcoming renovation of our chapter parking lot this summer, which will enhance our living spaces and create a more welcoming environment for current members and visiting alumni.

Stay tuned for updates, future philanthropic events, and opportunities to stay engaged with the chapter in the months ahead.

In Hoc,
Jack Lackey '26
Tribune

Reflecting on Brotherhood

Sigma Chi's Impact on These Senior Brothers

"This chapter had a huge impact on my college experience. Sigma Chi gave me brothers, unforgettable memories, and lessons I'll carry with me long after graduation. I'm excited for the future and thankful for everything this chapter gave me."

Brendan
Faulkner '26

"Being in Sigma Chi was one of the best parts of college. It helped me grow, gave me lifelong friends, and made my experience way more meaningful. I'm looking forward to what's next, but I'll always be grateful for this chapter."

Mateo
Liau '26

"Sigma Chi gave me some of the best memories and strongest friendships of my college years. My favorite moments were the simple ones with the guys that made the chapter feel like home. After graduation, I'm excited to start my career and take those memories with me."

Tristan
Shanks '26

"Sigma Chi shaped a big part of who I am today. From great memories to great friendships, this chapter gave me a college experience I'll never forget. My favorite part was just being around the guys and making the most of every moment."

Aiden
Waller '26



Who Will Carry the Torch?

SEND US
YOUR MEMBER
RECOMMENDATIONS



Beta Rho members volunteer at Fork & Spoon, a local soup kitchen.

From one generation to the next, our brotherhood endures through those willing to continue our Beta Rho traditions. Who do you know with the resilience, leadership, and honor to carry our brotherhood's torch into the next generation?

Help us find the young men who will honor our past and shape what comes next. Send their info, including how we should contact them, their hometown and year in school, and why you think they'll fit right in with Sigma Chi, to **Ryan Karlsgodt '27** at rjkarlsgodt@hotmail.com.

YOUR SUPPORT SHAPES OUR FUTURE

Beta Rho Alumni Updates

Working with Beta Rho alumni over the past 10 years of campaign fundraising has taught us valuable lessons.

WHAT WE LEARNED

We learned it is incredibly hard to organize and raise a large amount of money for a major renovation in a short period of time. In effect, it had been almost 60 years since we had organized and approached alumni with the goal of raising more than \$2 million for capital renovation. We had no funds available in the capital fund piggy bank when we started, and our alumni contact database was in pitiful form. With great perseverance and your incredible generosity, we made it...but barely.

We also learned that capital investments should be made in the chapter house over the years, and trying to do a major renovation every 60 years as an all-in-one project is extremely difficult.

Third, we learned that we should raise money from the active chapter each year for the capital investment fund so there is always funding available for major repairs or smaller improvements.

STREAMLINING PROCESSES

We are currently renovating our information, communication, and capital raising processes so that:

1. Our alumni contact database stays up to date;
2. We continue regular communication with alumni through this newsletter and other periodic communications;
3. The active chapter contributes each semester to a capital fund, which can be used to accelerate payments on any mortgage and/or to support a capital fund investment account;
4. We encourage alumni to contribute regularly to our mortgage reduction and/or the capital investment fund;
5. We offer alumni multiple donation channels, including tax-efficient means, to support the House Company and the chapter; and
6. We have periodic, capital-specific "mini campaigns" to deal with designated projects (e.g., parking lot resurfacing, mortgage reduction, roof replacement, etc.) to permit alumni to support projects they relate to.

We have already instituted a parlor fee for all active brothers each semester to pay down the mortgage and thereafter to invest in a capital fund for future renovations.

We will be revising bobcatsigs.org to make it easier for alumni and parents of members to regularly donate in various ways. We will share more details in the coming months.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

There is a short-term need to raise at least \$200,000 in 2026 to pave the parking lot (the final piece of the current capital improvement puzzle) and begin an early paydown on the bank mortgage. Rick will be in contact with key alumni to accomplish this soon.

For brothers interested in a tax break for their donation, those will continue to be available. For older brothers who want to avoid the ordinary tax on their Required Minimum Distribution, donating to the Sigma Chi Foundation (earmarked for the **Beta Rho Renovation Project**) is an excellent way to do that.

Contact **Rick Dissly '66** at (408) 348-4337 or rdissly@comcast.net for details on donating to the Foundation and assistance with other methods to donate in a tax-efficient manner.

DONOR RECOGNITION

We plan to have various plaques throughout the house to recognize donors but will delay putting these up to give brothers the opportunity to increase their contribution to the next recognition level. You can see your current donation level at bobcatsigs.org/donor-list.

Plaques will be at the entrance, bedrooms, study rooms, the chapter room, and the living room depending on donation level. Brothers who donate at least \$5,000 will be listed on a plaque at the house entrance.

ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

Sigma Chi International Headquarters keeps reminding alumni that chapters with significant alumni involvement and support thrive and prosper, while those that do not eventually fail.

Brothers who have been involved with active chapters find it rewarding to ensure chapter success and to mentor young men, creating a strong bond to the fraternity and each other.

Following the fall 2025 *Bobcat Sig*, we communicated with a few alumni about getting involved with supporting the active chapter.

Brother **K. Tom Vaughn '69** joined the House Company and takes the lead as principal director in the Bozeman area to liaise with the chapter regarding occupancy and house management.

We have four brothers on the House Company board from the 1960s, and we need brothers from the 1970s-1990s to step into their shoes. To operate effectively as a director, you can live anywhere in North America as most communications take place using technology like Zoom. We are restructuring the House Company board and seek alumni interested in the following positions: President, Secretary, and Alumni Relations. Job descriptions are available for each position.

Contact Rick Dissly or **Norm Achen '66** at (289) 242-2551 or norm@normanachen.com for additional information.

WE NEED YOU NOW. Step up to begin or restart your active involvement with the House Company and the chapter.

An Honor to Serve

Erik Bostrom '01 on Fraternal Devotion, Order of Constantine Recognition

Sigma Chi changes every brother's life in a different way, yet there are common threads that will always tie us together.

Erik Bostrom '01 took immense pride in his membership, and his unforgettable Beta Rho experience motivated him to remain deeply committed to the fraternity beyond college.

Early Development

Erik thought about the opportunities he regretted not taking as a young man when he received his bid to join Sigma Chi. Though he didn't fully comprehend the organization's history and goals, he knew he didn't want to miss his chance to join such an impactful brotherhood.

"We had great events and did a lot of community service," Erik said. "The times I cherish the most were the random weeknights walking around the house and talking to friends. That's very hard to do outside of college, simply because you don't have those opportunities."

Career Experiences

Erik's role as Beta Rho treasurer taught him how to manage an organization's budget and make important financial decisions. That experience helped him prepare for the financial world beyond college and operating his own business for the past two decades.

"The biggest benefit I've had from Sigma Chi is the experience in building interpersonal relationships and applying that to situations in leadership roles. That's been extraordinarily valuable in terms of being able to do strategic planning, set goals, create a shared vision, and to drive that through an organization."

Fraternal Leadership

After graduation, Erik moved to Fort Collins and started attending Beta Tau Chapter meetings at Colorado State University. He was glad to be welcomed with open arms and eventually served for nearly a decade as chapter advisor.

Beyond Beta Tau, Erik served as president of the Denver alumni chapter while also joining the Sigma Chi Workshop faculty and serving as a Horizons guide. He recently became the chapter advisor for Delta Iota Chapter at the University of Denver.

Erik's years of fraternal commitment have earned him the Order of Constantine Award, an honor he was humbled to receive. He credits fellow recipient **Duane Ray '00** as a model of dedicated service. "I revere the folks I know who are Order of Constantine members. I still feel like I don't deserve to be in the group, but I appreciate the opportunity to associate with the leaders in our organization."

Alumni engagement is a vital part of the Sigma Chi experience that Erik encourages more brothers to consider. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available that require only a modest time commitment, and he values the meaningful impact alumni involvement has on undergraduate members.

Erik and his wife live in Castle Rock, Colorado, with their two young daughters. They plan to relocate to the suburbs of Nashville, Tennessee, in the spring. You can connect with him at erik.bostrom@gmail.com.



"There really are opportunities where alumni can be engaged in very finite tasks that are extremely helpful. Many hands make light work!"

CHAPTER ETERNAL

**CHARLES W.
WILLEY '54**

December 21, 2022

**WAYNE J.
DALEY '59**

January 23, 2024

**CURTIS O.
ZOOK '62**

January 13, 2026

**ROBERT L.
JURSNICK '69**

October 28, 2017

**CARTER
HERNE '20**

August 28, 2023

**JOSEPH M.
VIRAG '54**

February 2025

What's Inside!?



BOBCAT SIG

Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi

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Move-in and Renovation Updates



Spring Semester Highlights



Beta Rho Fundraising Updates



Spotlight on Erik Bostrom '01



bobcatsigs.org



[betarho.sigmachi](https://www.facebook.com/betarho.sigmachi)

**Welcome,
New Members!**

**ALBERT DE
HOYOS '28**

**SEBASTIAN
HICKS '28**

**EMMET
KIHLMSTROM '28**

**BRAD
APPLEGATE '29**

**MATTHEW
BRUYA '29**

**KAHLER
CARDONE '29**

**TOMMY
CULLIGAN '29**

**SAM
DOW '29**

**WYATT
MARTINY '29**



The spring class of 2026.

**CANON
OGDEN '29**

**ERIK
OGREN '29**

**CAYDEN
STEVENS '29**

**DUNCAN
STEVENS '29**