



SigEp Badger Beat

Wisconsin Beta | University of Wisconsin–Madison | Fall 2025

Wisconsin Beta Is Back

Our Chapter Lives On

After years of determination, rebuilding, and brotherhood, Wisconsin Beta has officially returned to the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Since reestablishing in fall 2024, a new generation of SigEp men has stepped up to carry the torch. The past year has been defined by progress, pride, and purpose—and we're just getting started.

A LEGACY REKINDLED

Founded in 1920, Wisconsin Beta has long stood for leadership, character, and lifelong bonds. When the doors closed at 237 Langdon Street, it was only a pause—not an ending. Thanks to your unwavering support, that Chapter has reopened. Today's brothers are living our values and building a future worthy of the legacy you helped create.

LEADING THE WAY

The revitalized Chapter is already setting the standard on campus. Among our proudest accomplishments this year:

- Top GPA among fraternities and sororities (3.6 average, fall 2024)
- Strong recruitment with 38 new members across fall and spring
- Meaningful service, including fundraising for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and awarding \$5,000 in academic scholarships

These milestones reflect more than success; they reflect a values-driven culture that's thriving.

HOMECOMING—LITERALLY!

In the biggest step yet, we're returning home to 237 Langdon Street in fall 2026. Thanks to collaboration between the AVC and SigEp National Housing, our historic Chapter House will once again serve as a hub for brotherhood, leadership, and growth.

The significance of this move is hard to overstate. The halls of 237 Langdon hold generations of memories—of friendships formed and leaders shaped. Soon, they'll echo once more with the voices of brothers continuing that story.

THIS IS YOUR VICTORY TOO

This moment isn't just about current undergraduates—it's a celebration for every Wisconsin Beta who wore the letters and believed in our return. Your support made this possible.

Join us to celebrate during Homecoming 2025 at Union South before the Wisconsin vs. Iowa game. Reconnect with old friends and be part of what we've rebuilt—and what comes next.

THE FUTURE BEGINS NOW

Our return is about more than restarting a Chapter. It's about doing it right—with purpose, values, and a commitment to excellence. Today's SigEps are building a brotherhood rooted in scholarship, service, and personal growth—just as you did.

We've come a long way. And we're just getting started.

Virtue. Diligence. Brotherly Love. See you at Homecoming, brothers.



Fraternally,
AVC Vice President of Housing
Kevin Koerner '84

The Chapter is moving into 237 Langdon in fall 2026!



ALUMNI VOLUNTEER CORPORATION

AVC President
Bryan Kirschbaum,
Wisconsin-Platteville '11

Chapter Counselor
David Haug '99

Mentor for Finance
Brett Gladish '84

Mentor for Balanced Man Scholarship
Zack Pfeifer '11

AVC Secretary
Ken Tetzke '84

Balanced Man Steward
Brad Polzar '07

Mentor for Recruitment
Zack Pfeifer,
Louisville '11

General AVC Members
Rick Collins '79
Michael Tetzlaff '82
Rick Epstein '93
Tom Shorter '93
Mike Bauhs '96

AVC Treasurer
Brett Gladish '84

Mentor for President
David Haug '99

Mentor for Chaplain
Ian Seidler '23

Jeff Pietruszynski '96
Jason Vanderpoel '97
Shawn Briquetel '98
Zack Pfeifer '11
Dominick Perry,
Wisconsin-Platteville '22

AVC Vice President
Randy Boldt '81

Mentor for Programming
Jason Vanderpoel '97

Mentor for Communications
Randy Boldt '81

VP of Housing
Kevin Koerner '84

Mentor for Learning Communities
Brad Polzar '07

Brett Gladish (left) and Bryan Kirschbaum (right) represent Wisconsin Beta at Conclave 2025.



BUILT WITH PURPOSE

A Message from Two Undergraduate Leaders

Bringing SigEp back to life at Madison wasn't just about restarting a Chapter; it was about reigniting a purpose. When we joined, there was little more than a name and an idea. No house, no manpower—just a fresh start and the belief that we could build something better. From late nights mapping out recruitment strategies to early morning meetings with FSL administrators, everything we've accomplished was built from the ground up with heart, hustle, and a clear vision.

Reviving Wisconsin Beta meant asking ourselves, "What kind of Chapter do we want to be?" We weren't interested in doing things the way they'd always been done. We set out to build a Chapter genuinely defined by virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. The Balanced Man ideals aren't just a philosophy to us; they're the foundation of our culture and guide everything we do.

As officers, we've seen firsthand how far we've come and how far we're still aiming to go. Our brothers are committed to becoming the best version of themselves, not just for their own growth but also for the legacy we're creating together. That means showing up in the classroom, in our relationships, and in the way we support one another. Accountability is key, and we hold each other to a high standard every day.

Each new brother isn't just joining a Fraternity. He's entering a culture of excellence, growth, and purpose. Wisconsin

Beta is thriving again because we refused to settle for average. We built this together, and we're only getting started.

The upcoming return to the SigEp house marks a powerful new chapter in our journey. None of us have lived at 237 Langdon before, which makes this next step even more meaningful. It's not just about moving into a house—it's about building a home where our brotherhood can continue to grow stronger.

This house stands as the result of years of effort, dedication, and vision. Now it's up to us to shape what it becomes. It's a blank canvas, ready to be filled with tradition, connection, and pride. Living together will mean tighter bonds, deeper trust, and daily support that will make this brotherhood truly lasting. We're not just stepping into a house; we're stepping into a new era.

Together, we'll turn this space into something special and a home future brothers will look to with the same pride and excitement we feel today. This is the beginning of something far greater than any one of us. And we're proud to be building it together, as we put Wisconsin Beta back on the map!



Fraternally,
Steven Shorter '27
Refounding Chapter President

Jack Evans '28
Refounding Vice President
of Recruitment

Equipped to Lead Wisconsin Beta

**BROTHERS ATTEND 2025
RUCK LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

Since its inception, Ruck has empowered countless brothers to develop leadership skills, embrace personal growth, and foster meaningful connections. Held at the University of Richmond, the place of SigEp's founding in 1901, the 2025 Ruck Leadership Institute was no different, thanks to participation from brothers like **Steven Shorter, Jack Evans, and Aarav Barde** from Wisconsin Beta.

These three brothers received invaluable leadership guidance from executive-level SigEp alumni mentors and forged bonds and connections with brothers nationwide. Thanks to the support of generous SigEp alumni and donors, brothers leave Ruck feeling empowered with a skill set that will enable them to lead chapters like Wisconsin Beta and foster personal growth for years.

Strong leaders can change the lives of thousands, and SigEp builds leaders at scale. Congratulations to Steven, Jack, and Aarav! We look forward to seeing their impact at Wisconsin Beta.

Your Time Is the Greatest Gift to Wisconsin Beta

Make an Impact Today

Brotherhood isn't just about the years we spent in college; it's a lifelong bond that grows stronger with time. One of the most valuable ways to give back to our Chapter isn't through donations, but through something even more meaningful—your time.

Whether attending an alumni event, mentoring an undergraduate, or volunteering a few hours to support the Chapter, every moment you invest strengthens our brotherhood and preserves the legacy of Wisconsin Beta.

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to mentor our undergraduates, lead

professional workshops and seminars, and provide their expertise and guidance for life during and after graduation.

Why Your Involvement Matters

When alumni show up, stay engaged, and give back in any capacity, we create opportunities for the next generation of brothers to succeed. A few ways you can make a lasting impact:

Be a Mentor: Share career advice, connect undergraduates with job opportunities, or offer guidance based on your experiences.

Attend Events: Whether it's Homecoming, a networking night, or a Chapter celebration,

your presence alone inspires and strengthens the brotherhood.

Offer Your Time: Serve on the AVC board, help with recruitment, or simply reconnect with brothers to keep our network strong.

It doesn't matter if you give two hours a week, a month, or a year. Every minute you invest in our Chapter makes a difference. Your involvement is not only appreciated but essential in keeping Wisconsin Beta thriving for generations to come. Join us in making an impact. Submit your interest at sigep.org/about/get-involved/volunteer today.



Blueprint for **SUCCESS**

HOW SIGEP SHAPED RICK COLLINS '79

From his time on the UW–Madison campus to

his recent retirement after 40 years in commercial real estate, **Rick Collins '79** made his mark by pursuing opportunities and taking on challenges with foresight, boldness, and skill. In the fall of 1975, when Rick accepted his bid to join Wisconsin Beta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, his decision was not without trepidation. At the time, the Chapter had only six active members and was struggling financially. It was a time of rebuilding, and Rick was up to the task.

During his time in the SigEp house, Rick held numerous roles, ultimately serving as president. His leadership led to many successes for the Chapter, including a fivefold increase in membership, numerous successful fundraising drives, and a stronger financial position. Not only was learning to lead young men a great educational experience, but it also became the foundation for many future successes throughout Rick's long and impressive career.

After graduating with his accounting degree in December 1979, Rick moved to Minneapolis to work for a "Big Eight" accounting firm that is now KPMG. This opportunity allowed Rick to interact with customers and coworkers at all levels, up to C-level executives. While getting his feet wet in the business world, he also passed his CPA exam.

In 1982, Rick was looking for a new challenge and accepted a position with IBM as a marketing representative. Although the skills he gained there were valuable, the best part of working at IBM was meeting his wife, Anne.

Rick's marketing experience at IBM led him to his first job in commercial real estate with the Trammell Crow Company in the Twin Cities. He had wanted to get into commercial real estate because he believed it would allow him to leverage his financial and sales skills while working on large, complex projects. All of that proved true.

After gaining experience at Trammell and other commercial real estate firms, in 1999, Rick joined Ryan Companies, a national, privately held commercial real estate construction and development firm. He started as a Vice President, leading the development team in Minneapolis. Based on his work there, he was selected for the Midwest Real Estate Hall of Fame in 2014. That was also the year that Rick transitioned to President of the Southwest Region in Phoenix, leading Ryan's efforts to grow new

offices in San Diego, Seattle, and Denver as Division President. When he retired in early 2024, his offices were responsible for more than \$700 million in annual revenue.

Throughout his career, Rick took advantage of opportunities to give back to the communities where his businesses were located. It was during his time at KPMG that Rick became involved in his first community organization, the Minneapolis Aquatennial, a civic festival. Rick was an active volunteer in the Aquatennial for more than 25 years, developing his management skills and achieving the positions of President in 1988 and Grand Admiral in 1992.

In total, Rick served on 15 non-profit boards and chaired five, including the Minnesota Chapter of the Commercial Real Estate Development Association and the Children's Cancer Research Fund, which supports research into childhood cancers at the University of Minnesota. Rick also led Make-A-Wish Foundation chapters in both Minnesota and Arizona.

Since moving to Phoenix in 2014, Rick has been involved in public education and legislative advocacy as part of Greater Phoenix Leadership, a group of Phoenix-based CEOs, business owners, and senior executives. He

also continues to mentor some of the CEOs of organizations he worked with during his career.

Looking back on his many business and volunteer roles, Rick credits the experience he gained at SigEp—leading productive meetings, engaging and motivating volunteers, and managing through change—with giving him the tools he needed to be an effective leader. Numerous organizations have benefited from his expertise in strengthening boards, engaging leaders in succession planning, and encouraging volunteers to figure out how they can best contribute to a worthy cause.

Rick and Anne have been married for 41 years and have two adult daughters. When Rick is not busy volunteering, they enjoy traveling in the U.S. and abroad, relaxing at their summer home with family and friends, and especially enjoying time with their five grandchildren. Not content to just sit back and embrace retirement, Rick has recently taken on a new opportunity: joining the Wisconsin Beta AVC to share his insights on how to grow a successful Chapter on the Madison campus. "I feel lucky and blessed in so many ways," Rick said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to add my expertise and elbow grease to the reestablishment of SigEp on the campus of the University of Wisconsin."

Full Circle

An Update from Our Chapter Counselor

When I first walked through the Red Door at 12 Langdon Street as an undergraduate, I was struck by the incredible diversity of the men inside. We came from different backgrounds, hometowns, and experiences, but were united by a shared drive for personal greatness. Every conversation left me inspired. I knew I had found a group of high achievers, and I wanted to be part of that journey.

Fast forward to 2025, and that same spirit is alive and well in today's Wisconsin Beta Chapter. Our newest brothers come from around the country and across the world, each bringing their own story but all sharing the same ambition. They've set bold goals and are working hard to meet them together.

The results speak for themselves. In their very first year back on campus, these young men earned the highest GPA among all fraternities and sororities at UW–Madison. That academic success isn't just impressive—it's proof that this new generation means business. They're honoring our legacy by building something extraordinary.

Proud to be part of the journey,
David Haug '99
Chapter Counselor

Wisconsin Beta Is **BACK**

After years of determination, rebuilding, and brotherhood, Wisconsin Beta has officially returned to the University of Wisconsin–Madison!

See page 1 for all the details, then be sure to mark your calendar for our Homecoming celebration on **October 11, 2025**.



SigEp Badger Beat

Sigma Phi Epsilon - Wisconsin Beta Chapter
310 S Arthur Ashe Blvd
Richmond, VA 23220-5706

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KANSAS CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 5264

CONTACT US!



Website: wisconsin.sigep.org



Email: avc@wisconsinbeta.org

Get Your Game Face On!

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING 2025

The time-honored Wisconsin Beta tradition continues on October 11, 2025, as the Wisconsin Beta Alumni and Volunteer Corporation invites you to a pregame tailgate at Union South. The UW Badgers will face the Iowa Hawkeyes in their 2025 Homecoming game at Camp Randall Stadium. This marks the 117th Homecoming game in UW history. The game will be a battle for the Heartland Trophy, a trophy the Badgers will be looking to win back after recent losses.

Come reconnect with fellow alumni and meet our new undergraduate brothers! Learn

about Wisconsin Beta's successful return to campus and our plans for moving back into our SigEp House at 237 Langdon Street in fall 2026. All proceeds will support our efforts over the upcoming year.

The cost is \$50 per person and includes traditional tailgate food and non-alcoholic drinks; a cash bar will also be available. Game time is still TBD, but updates will be sent once those details are announced.



To register and order your tailgate tickets, please visit our website at wisconsin.sigep.org/homecoming today. RSVP by Friday, September 27! If you have any questions, please reach out to AVC VP of Alumni Relations **Randy Boldt '81** at rasujema@comcast.net or AVC President **Bryan Kirschbaum, Wisconsin-Platteville '11** at kirschbaumb@gmail.com.

2025 WISCONSIN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 28 – vs. Miami (OH), 8 p.m.
Saturday, September 6 – vs. Middle Tennessee, 3 p.m.
Saturday, September 13 – at Alabama, 11 a.m.
Saturday, September 20 – vs. Maryland, time TBA
Saturday, October 4 – at Michigan, time TBA
Saturday, October 11 – vs. Iowa, time TBA

(All times
subject to
change)

Saturday, October 18 – vs. Ohio State, time TBA
Saturday, October 25 – at Oregon, time TBA
Saturday, November 8 – vs. Washington, time TBA
Saturday, November 15 – at Indiana, time TBA
Saturday, November 22 – vs. Illinois, time TBA
Saturday, November 29 – at Minnesota, time TBA